

Press Release

September 19, 2025

110,000 Romanian donors are registered in the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donor Registry, offering others a chance at life

The **World Marrow Donor Day** is celebrated worldwide in September.

Today, **110,000 Romanian donors** are enrolled in the **National Registry of Voluntary Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors** and are ready to help their fellow human beings. **56% are men, 44% are women, and 71% are between 26 and 45 years old.**

Since the establishment of the National Hematopoietic Stem Cell Registry in **April 2013**, **over 560 Romanian patients** have benefited from transplants from **unrelated donors**. Of these, only **29 patients** have found compatible donors in Romania; the rest found them abroad. Additionally, **35 Romanian donors** have donated stem cells to benefit foreign patients. In the **first half of 2025**, **270 donor search services** were carried out for **88 foreign patients**.

The Romanian registry is part of a **global network of more than 43 million potential donors**, significantly increasing the chances for Romanian patients to find a compatible match. However, identifying a compatible donor remains difficult — **compatibility indices range from 1 in 200,000 to 1 in 500,000**, and for **30% of Romanian patients, no donor can be found**. Currently, **47 Romanian patients** are waiting for a compatible donor.

“Each registration in the Registry represents a ray of hope for those fighting severe illnesses. The 110,000 people who have already taken this step offer not only a chance at life but also a true example of solidarity, responsibility, and love for others. Through the digitalization of processes within the RNDVCSH — a project funded by the European Union and the Romanian Government through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan — we bring patients in urgent need of a transplant closer to healing. Every act of involvement becomes a real chance to save lives”, said **Dr. Traian Laurian Arghișan**, Public Health and Management Specialist, General Director of the RNDVCSH.

Globally, **every three minutes**, someone is diagnosed with **blood cancer** and, for many patients, **a stem cell transplant is the only chance for survival**. This procedure can treat **over 70 serious blood diseases**, ranging from **leukemia and lymphoma** to rare hereditary disorders.

The registries of the **World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA)** include **over 43 million potential donors** across **110 registries in 60 countries**, representing only **0.5% of the world’s population**. Every year, **more than 30,000 hematology patients** need a donor. In **46% of cases**, compatible donors are found in other countries, while for **6% of patients**, no match can be found.

In 2024, the **National Registry of Voluntary Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors of Romania** received the **Benchmark L2 certification**, confirming its alignment with the international standards of the **World Marrow Donor Association** for unrelated donor registries. After completing a **four-year supervision cycle**, the RNDVCSH will be eligible to apply for **Full Standards certification**.

World Marrow Donor Day will be celebrated on **September 20, 2025**, in Romania and 60 other countries across all continents, to express gratitude to all hematopoietic stem cell donors worldwide — both those who have already donated and those who are waiting to save lives.

Romania joins the global movement with the campaign **“Donate a Chance at Life!”**
In **Bucharest**, several awareness and appreciation events will take place:

September 20

- **Flash mob – Dinamic Dance Group (Children’s Palace) – Revolution Square, 3:00 PM**
~30 children (ages 6–14) will perform a thematic dance inspired by the campaign.
- **Illumination of the Bucharest City Hall Building, 8:00 PM**

September 23

- **SANOFI Awareness Activity – SANOFI headquarters, 10:00 AM**
Awareness campaign on hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) donation and registration in the national donor registry.

September 27

- **BEACTIVE Event – National Sports Authority (National Arena), 10:00 AM**
Promotion of the campaign through athletes (custom campaign shirts), a dedicated stand in the Sports Village, broadcasting of RNDVCSH spots and messages and the participation of a BeActive Ambassador.

We thank our partners for their contribution and support: Romanian Radio Broadcasting Society, “Open Streets – Bucharest Urban Promenade” (a program organized by the City Hall through the Directorate of Culture, Education, and Tourism, together with ARCUB – Bucharest Cultural Center and PROEDUS – Educational and Sports Project Center of Bucharest Municipality), the Medical Students’ Association, Bucharest Lighting Company, the Intercommunity Development Association for Bucharest–Ilfov Public Transport and METROREX.

The **“Donate a Chance at Life!”** campaign is supported by the **Ministry of Health** under the national health program **“Transplantation of Peripheral and Central Hematopoietic Stem Cells.”**

The role of the **RNDVCSH** is to identify and provide, according to international standards, **unrelated compatible hematopoietic stem cell donors** for all Romanian patients who need a transplant and do not have a related compatible donor.

Enrollment in the **National Registry of Voluntary Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors** can be done in two ways:

- **Offline** – at a donor center
- **Online** – from anywhere, without needing to visit a center. So far, **4,400 people have registered online.**

More details about how someone can become a voluntary donor can be found on the Registry's websites:

👉 www.registru-celule-stem.ro

👉 www.rndvcsh.ro

and on its social media channels.

The stories of the “heroes” can be read here: <https://www.registru-celule-stem.ro/povesti/>

Information about online registration in the Registry can be found at: <https://registru-celule-stem.ro/formular-de-inscriere-in-registru/>

For more details, the contact person is:

Dr. Laurian Traian Arghișan,

General Director of the National Registry of Voluntary Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors (RNDVCSH).