

# Rural Health Information Assessment in Romania



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# Pilot study

- A pilot study unfolded in rural settings of 4 counties points out:
  - a low interest in accessing medical publication from libraries (<1%)
  - 33% of librarians don't know if they have informative medical materials
  - 35% librarians claim that they don't have any medical publications

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- 63% libraries have only books
  - In 50% of rural communities, internet is available in homes.
  - The citizens showed great interest in 55% cases of informative campaigns initiated by family doctors.

## Hypotheses of the project “Rural Health Information Assessment in Romania”

1. Access to medical information is little due to lack of medical publications;
2. Local councils disregard their obligation to purchase medical publications for the rural libraries;
3. Ethnic, religious minorities, as well as people with disabilities living in the rural parts of Transylvania have special needs which cannot be addressed by the present rural infrastructure.

# General objectives

1. Evaluate the access of the population from rural areas to medical information.
2. Identify and evaluate both favorable and unfavorable factors influencing the access to medical information.
3. Increasing the number of informative medical materials as well as their rate of access by the rural population (intervention).

# Specific objectives

- Perform a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of informative materials in the medical field.
- Evaluate people's interest towards medical materials.
- Identify special needs of minorities from the rural environment regarding the access to medical information.

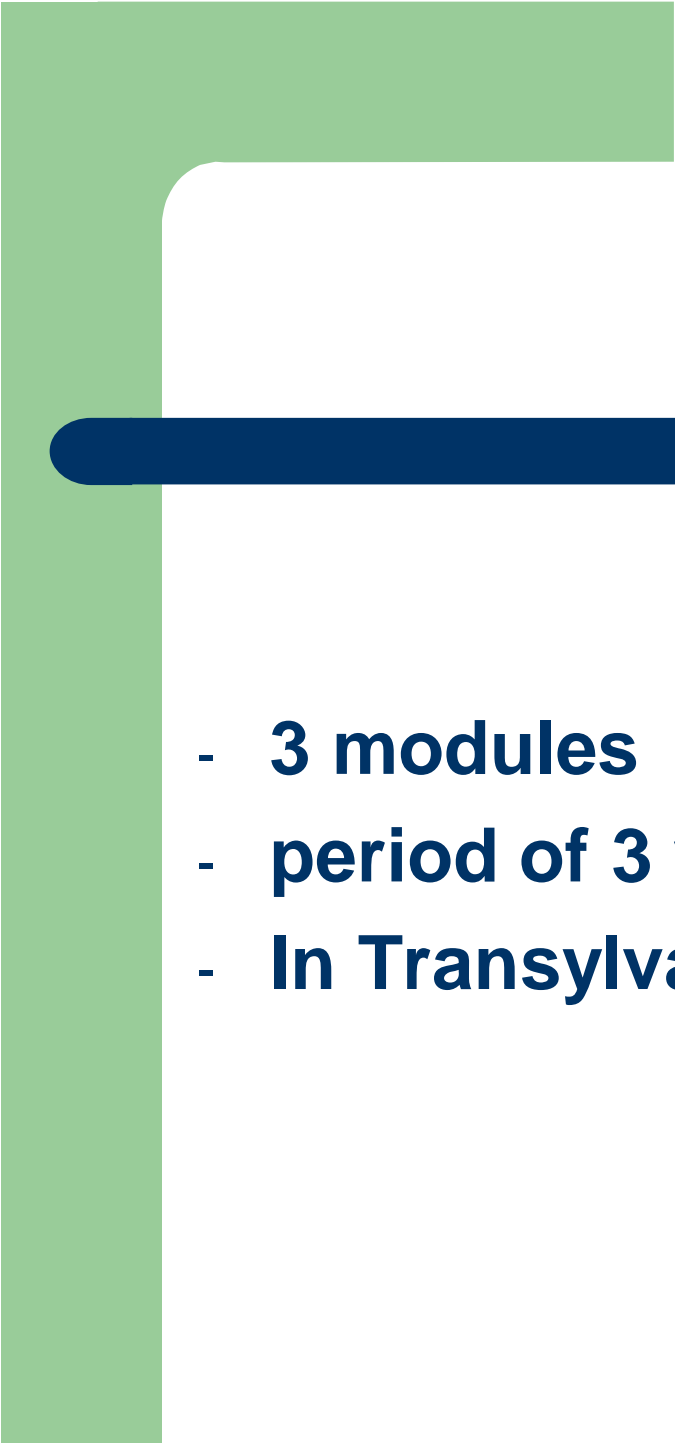
# Research methodology

## Qualitative

- Structured interviews
- Focus-groups
- Document analysis

## Quantitative

- Questionnaires

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- **3 modules**
  - **period of 3 years**
  - **In Transylvania**

# Module 1

- Interviews and focus groups with librarians, mayors and medical staff.
- Document analysis.
- Questionnaires and focus groups with rural citizens.

## Module 2

Endowing rural libraries with medical books and organizing courses on medical issues for a sample of 24 communes from Transylvania

## Module 3

- Evaluating the impact of the intervention
- Comparing the results of communes that participated in the intervention and of those that did not
- Final conclusions of the study