

PROJECT FOR IMPROVING MEDICAL DEVICE MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

G. Gorceag¹, Y. Umemiya², A. Kaneko², H. Yoshino², K. Tateno², C. Stratan²

¹Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova

²Project for Improving Medical Device Management in the Republic of Moldova

*E-mail: gheorghe.gorceag@ms.gov.md

Management of Medical Devices (MDM) is a field which stated its development quite recently in the Republic of Moldova due to the collaboration of the local Government with the foreign donors, and especially due to the implementation of the projects in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) within the Official Development Assistance offered by Japan.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) in cooperation with JICA has previously implemented a project in which 5 public medical institutions of the secondary and tertiary level were equipped with a wide range of sophisticated medical devices (MD). Together with the implementation of this project, the need of a good medical device management system in the healthcare sector has arisen. Thus, the Project for Improving Medical Device Management was initiated in the same 5 pilot institutions (Republican Clinical Hospital, Mother and Child Institute, Institute of Emergency Medicine, Oncologic Institute, Clinical Municipal Hospital „Sf. Treime”) by the above mentioned implementing partners.

To evaluate the current situation of the MDM in Moldova, MoH in collaboration with the Japanese expert team implemented a national level assessment study which concluded that the MDM field needs consistent support in order to reach full scale development. In order to improve the situation of MDM, the Project chose a systemic approach. The activities have been initiated at both policy and field levels. From the point of view of policy MoH took appropriate measures for the improvement of the legal framework concerning MD, creating the necessary basis for the establishment of the MDM structures, and strengthening of the necessary mechanism to monitor the implementation of MDM at first in the 5 pilot hospitals.

The Guidelines on the Establishment Criteria, Roles and Responsibilities of the Departments/Sections of Biomedical Engineering in the Public Healthcare Institutions were developed during the V4+Japan Cooperation Workshop with the input from the foreign experts and was later on approved by MoH through the Order No. 262 as of April 12th 2016. The same MoH Order also approved the establishment of the Departments of Biomedical Engineering in the 5 pilot institutions of the Project. Following the Order No. 262 the pilot institutions already started the process of establishing of the above mentioned departments.

MoH in collaboration with the Japanese expert team performs monthly monitoring visits in order to support the process of implementation of the Guidelines in the MDM field in the pilot institutions. The monitoring activities also serve as means of assessing the current challenges that the pilot departments encounter, so that this information can be further delivered to the management of the institutions and assist in solving the problems using appropriate measures.

Besides on-site activities, the Project has organized 2 study visits to Japan (January 17-27th and July 24th-August 3rd, 2016) for the technical and medical staff of the pilot institutions. The trainings were focused on the MDM in Japan and also on studying the cutting edge Japanese medical technologies and were delivered in the offices of the leading Japanese hospitals and MD manufacturers in Tokyo and other cities.

The Project continues its activities with the next series of trainings for the technical and medical staff of the pilot institutions.