Title: Follow-up of TB cases failing or defaulting the first TB treatment, in Romania

Ms. Nicoleta 14313 Cioran nico_cioran@yahoo.com MD *Marius Na, Mr. Horia 14314 Cocei hcocei@yahoo.com *Marius Na and Mrs. Elmira 14315 Ibraim ielmira2000@yahoo.com MD *Marius Na. 1 Central Coordination Unit of Romanian National Tuberculosis Program, "Marius Nasta" Institute of Pulmonology, Bucharest, Romania.

Body: Introduction: New pulmonary smear positive TB patients who fail or abandon the first treatment have a high potential to develop drug resistance, to become difficult to cure and to spread resistant mycobacterium strains for a long time. Aim: To follow-up the new pulmonary smear positive TB cases registered in Romania in 2009, failing or abandoning the first treatment. Methods: Retrospective, descriptive, observational study of the new pulmonary smear positive TB cases registered in Romania in 2009, who failed or defaulted the first treatment, followed-up for a 3 years period. Information has been extracted from the electronic National TB Register. Results: Out of 9,111 new pulmonary smear positive TB cases notified in Romania in 2009, 4.4% failed and 6% abandoned the first treatment. Of these, 62% have been retreated (92.3% of failures and 39.7% of defaulters). Most were males (82.5%), in 40-44 years age group (16.3%), living in rural area (55.6%). More than half (52.4%) had no occupation, 27.9% have been tested for HIV and of them 3.65% found positive. Out of 97.4% culture positive cases, 9.7% were MDR-TB (57 cases). The outcome rates of the first retreatment were: 48% success, 8.3% decease, 11.9% failure and 23% default; 8.8% are still continuing treatment. Of 205 cases failing or abandoning first retreatment, 129 (63%) restarted a second retreatment regimen, with 17.8% success rate and 34% still continuing treatment. Conclusions: The patients failing or abandoning TB treatment should be closely followed-up in order to retreat and cure as much as we can.