

EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY 2014

*Epilepsy
is more
than
seizures*

10 FEBRUARY 2014
eed
EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY



**ANDREI
from
ROMANIA**

**I moved town
just to hide
my epilepsy;
I am alone.**

If you have epilepsy, life in Romania can be very difficult according to Andrei (not his real name). Stigma is rife and people with epilepsy have no chance of finding a job - or keeping it - if their epilepsy is discovered. While basic epilepsy medication is available free of charge, Andrei has not applied for this because then his condition would be documented and his job might be compromised. He is a salesperson in a store in Bucharest and is determined to keep his employment.

Andrei was diagnosed in 1993 and, with medication, has been seizure-free since 1997. He doesn't attend any doctor to have his condition monitored.

According to Commission Directives on Driving 2009/113/EC and 2009/112/EC, people with controlled epilepsy should be entitled to drive if certain criteria are met. In practice, according to Andrei, the law is not clear and neurologists are therefore unwilling to provide certification.

His hobby is photography; his vision on epilepsy is captured in the photos below. He has no great hopes for the future, other than to keep his job and to develop his hobby. "I moved town just to hide my epilepsy", he says. "I am alone; I live by not telling the truth about my condition; no one can ever know that I have epilepsy. For me the biggest fight is to hide my epilepsy. It is a question of survival."

Photograph Titles
Right: "Help"
Below: "Trapped"



 European Advocates for
epilepsy

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European Epilepsy Day is organised by Epilepsy Advocacy Europe Task Force,
European Advocates for Epilepsy MEP special interest group,
and by national epilepsy associations across Europe