



**GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
SECRETARIATUL GENERAL**

Materiale pentru:

- *ședința de guvern;*
- *eventuale observații și propuneri:*

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MINISTERUL AFACERILOR EXTERNE

Nr. D1-1/4648

29 decembrie 2020

Către: Domnul Dragoș Condrea
Secretar General al Guvernului

Inițiator: Ministerul Afacerilor Externe

Titlul documentului: Memorandum cu tema *Transmiterea Raportului național periodic privind implementarea Convenției internaționale pentru eliminarea tuturor formelor de discriminare rasială*

Stimate domnule ministru,

Conform prevederilor art. 28 din Regulamentul privind procedurile, la nivelul Guvernului, pentru elaborarea, avizarea și prezentarea proiectelor de documente de politici publice, a proiectelor de acte normative, precum și a altor documente, în vederea adoptării/ aprobării, aprobat prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 561/2009, vă transmitem, alăturat, Memorandumul cu tema *Transmiterea Raportului național periodic privind implementarea Convenției internaționale pentru eliminarea tuturor formelor de discriminare rasială*, în vederea includerii pe agenda reuniunii de lucru pregătitoare, lit. a).

Conținutul dosarului:

- Memorandum – 3 pagini.
- Proiect de Raport național - 39 pagini;
- Lista abrevieri – 1 pagină;
- 10 Anexe – 44 pagini.

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GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
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Persoana în măsură să ofere relații cu privire la acest document este dna Ruxandra Stănescu, ministru consilier, tel. 0374 344 062, e-mail: ruxandra.stanescu@mae.ro

Documentul în format electronic a fost transmis de la adresa de e-mail anamaria.nicola@mae.ro către adresa de email dpsg@gov.ro .

Cu deosebită considerație,

Mihaela Cămărașan
secretar general

The image shows a circular official stamp of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania. The stamp features the coat of arms of Romania in the center, surrounded by the text "ROMANIA" at the top and "SECRETARIATUL AFACERILOR EXTERNE" at the bottom. Below the coat of arms, it says "Secretar general" and "M". A handwritten signature, "MC", is written over the stamp.



MINISTERUL AFACERILOR EXTERNE

Nr. D1-1/4648

24 decembrie 2020

Aprob,

Florin-Vasile Cițu,
Prim-ministrul României

MEMORANDUM

De la: Bogdan Lucian Aurescu, ministrul afacerilor externe



Tema: Transmiterea Raportului național periodic privind implementarea Convenției internaționale pentru eliminarea tuturor formelor de discriminare rasială

1. România a aderat la Convenția internațională pentru eliminarea tuturor formelor de discriminare rasială (în continuare Convenția), prin Decretul nr. 345 din 14 iulie 1970.

În temeiul articolului 9 din Convenție, revine fiecărui stat parte obligația de a prezenta Comitetului pentru eliminarea discriminării rasiale (în continuare Comitetul), mecanism de monitorizare creat prin instrumentul convențional, rapoarte periodice asupra măsurilor luate pentru punerea în aplicare a Convenției și asupra progresului făcut în această privință.

2. Ultimul raport periodic prezentat de partea română a fost examinat de către Comitet în sesiunea sa din 2-27 august 2010, iar Concluziile conținând recomandări au fost publicate la 13 septembrie 2010. În paragraful 29 al acestor Concluzii s-a solicitat părții române să prezinte următorul raport periodic până la data de 15 octombrie 2013.

3. Pentru elaborarea raportului, au fost solicitate mai multe rânduri de contribuții instituțiilor naționale competente. În baza contribuțiilor primite, a fost elaborat, la



nivelul MAE, un proiect de raport. Comparându-se informațiile transmise cu cele primite în contextul elaborării altor rapoarte periodice în cadrul mecanismelor convenționale și instituționale ale Organizației Națiunilor Unite (privind Pactul internațional relativ la drepturile civile și politice, Examinarea Periodică Universală), precum și ale Consiliului Europei (ECRI), a reieșit necesitatea actualizării informațiilor din proiect, precum și o nouă evaluare a acestora, față de măsurile de progres implementate între timp de autorități.

4. Proiectul de raport național periodic a fost construit pe baza informațiilor furnizate de Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale, Ministerul Lucrărilor Publice și Administrației Publice, Ministerul Afacerilor Interne, Ministerul Justiției, Ministerul Educației și Cercetării, Ministerul Sănătății, Avocatul Poporului, Consiliul Național pentru Combaterea Discriminării, Departamentul pentru Relații Interetnice, Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii, Institutul Național al Magistraturii, Parchetul de pe lângă Înalta Curte de Casație și Justiție, Consiliul Național al Audiovizualului, Agenția Națională a Funcționarilor Publici, cu instituțiile aflate în subordonare sau coordonare, după caz.

Documentul răspunde celor 14 recomandări substanțiale formulate în 2010 de Comitet, privind rezultatele concrete ale implementării strategiilor anunțate prin rapoartele periodice anterioare, impactul crizei economice asupra persoanelor vulnerabile, în special refugiați, imigranți și persoane de etnie romă, combaterea discriminării prin mijloace penale, combaterea discriminării persoanelor de etnie romă.

De asemenea, sunt prezentate reformele la nivel legislativ și de politică publică, precum și programele și proiectele dezvoltate de instituțiile naționale pentru prevenirea și combaterea discriminării rasiale. Informații detaliate cu privire la aceste aspecte, precum și date statistice, au fost ordonate în cele 10 anexe care însoțesc proiectul de raport. De asemenea, documentul este însoțit de o listă de acronime / abrevieri.

Având în vedere extinderea perioadei de raportare, proiectul anexat acoperă anii 2010-2018; pentru raportul aferent perioadei 2019-2020, apreciem că este utilă folosirea unei formule mai practice de raportare, respectiv raportarea simplificată, care presupune transmiterea de către Comitet a unui set de întrebări, răspunsurile la acestea constituind raportul periodic. Aceasta cu atât mai mult cu cât Convenția stabilește unul dintre cele mai scurte termene de raportare, de 2 ani.

De altfel, Comitetul a transmis o invitație în acest sens statelor părți la Convenție, cu termen de răspuns până la 31 decembrie a.c.



5. Printre comentariile finale ale Comitetului se regăsește și recomandarea de a implica organizațiile non-guvernamentale și alți membri ai societății civile în procesul de dezbateri la nivel național anterior prezentării următorului raport național periodic. În aceste condiții, proiectul de raport periodic, împreună cu anexele, s-a aflat în consultare publică, pentru o perioadă de 10 zile, pe site-ul MAE.

6. Propuneri:

Aprobarea transmiterii proiectului de raport național periodic al României privind implementarea Convenției internaționale pentru eliminarea tuturor formelor de discriminare rasială în intervalul 2010-2018, împreună cu cele 10 anexe la acesta, respectiv cu lista de abrevieri (proiectul și anexele sunt anexate prezentului Memorandum).



Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Report submitted by Romania covering the period 2010-2018

Introductory remarks

In its 2010 concluding observations, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (hereinafter “the Committee”) requested Romania to submit its twentieth to twenty-second periodic report in a single document. As a result of the delay in its submission, the present national report covers the period 2010-2018. The statistical data run to the end of December 2018.

In accordance with the common guidelines¹, the report focuses on the developments of the situation in Romania since the last review and on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the 2010 concluding observations of the Committee. As the Common Core Document for Romania, lastly updated in 2011, is under review, the present report is divided into two parts:

Part I: “General Information”, contains general information on the amendments and development of the domestic normative framework of interest to the present reporting exercise;

Part II: “Progress on the implementation of Articles 1 to 7 of the Convention”, addressing also the response to the recommendations contained in the 2010 Committee’s concluding observations.

The information selected and compiled by the experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was provided by the various Romanian institutions, as indicated within the sections below. The report was put in public debate before being adopted by the Romanian Government.

I. General Information

The constitutional and legislative framework was described in details in the country’s previous national report. Consequently, the present Part will only emphasize the amendments brought to that legislative framework after the period covered by the last reporting exercise.

I.1. As of 2010, several legislative and institutional changes with impact on the aspects covered by the Convention entered into force, as follows:

I.1.1. During 2011-2014, an extensive legislative reform process was finalized, through the entry into force of new Civil, Civil Procedure, Criminal and respectively Criminal Procedure Codes. In criminal matters, a complex legislative package entered into force (containing, beside the new Criminal and respectively Criminal Procedure Codes, special criminal legislation, criminal procedure and executorial legislation), on February 1 2014.

¹ CERD/C/2007/1

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The new Criminal Code penalizes the crime of *Inciting to hatred or discrimination* (understood as inciting the people, by any means, to hatred or discrimination against a category of persons) and stipulates a punishment by imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years or fine.

Moreover, the Code provides under art. 77, let. h), as an aggravating circumstance, *the infliction of a criminal offence on grounds of race, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political opinion or affiliation, wealth, social origin, age, disability, chronic non contagious disease or HIV/ AIDS infection or on any other similar circumstances, considered by the perpetrator as causes of one's inferiority as compared to other persons*. In addition, the rules with respect to the instigator (art. 47) and accomplice (art.48) apply if the circumstances of the case so require.

As far as the acts of violence are concerned, these are punished by art. 193 (*Battery and other acts of violence*), art. 194 (*Bodily injury*), art. 195 (*Death-causing battery or injuries*) or art. 206 (*Threat*) from the Criminal Code, read together with the aggravating circumstance provided under art.77 let. h). In addition, the rules with respect to the instigator (art. 47) and accomplice (art.48) apply if the circumstances of the case so require.

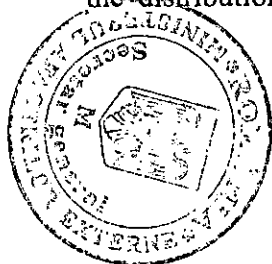
At the same time, the acts of torture for a reason based on any form of discrimination are punished by imprisonment of 2 to 7 years and prohibition of exercising certain rights; the crime of misconduct in public office which limits the exercise of one's rights or puts that person in an inferiority situation on grounds of race, nationality, ethnical origin, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, wealth, age, disability, chronic non contagious disease or HIV/ AIDS infection is punished with imprisonment from 2 to 7 years and prohibition of the right to occupy a public position.

It is also worth mentioning that the definitions retained in the new criminal legislation for the crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity follow the universally accepted description of these exceptionally severe crimes.

I.1.2. Law no. 217/2015 extended the scope of GEO no. 31/2002, introducing in the sphere of the interdictions the GEO already proscribed the promotion of legionary movement's doctrine, the establishment of any organizations praising or glorifying this movement. Moreover, the Law defined the Holocaust on the Romanian territory as the systematic persecution and annihilation of Jews and Roma people during 1940-1944, actions that the Romanian State's authorities and institutions supported in the territories they administered.

Law no. 187/2012, on the implementation of the Criminal Code, had already modified GEO no. 31/2002, by extending the modalities under which the crimes punished through it could be perpetrated and included the internet environment.

In 2018, Law no. 187 on certain measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism was adopted by Parliament; the legislative forum appreciated that a distinct normative act was necessary in order to strengthen the action for the prevention and combating anti-Semitism, especially in the online environment. However, the adoption of a distinct law should not be regarded as isolating the fight against anti-Semitism from the fight against intolerance, discrimination, racism and xenophobia. The provisions of the law follow the lines of GEO no. 31/2002, as subsequently modified, with a focus on combating anti-Semitism. Thus, the law incriminates the promotion of anti-Semitic ideas, the distribution and dissemination of anti-Semitic materials, as well as the initiation and the



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creation of an organization with an anti-Semitic character. The legislation was based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism, adopted by the 31 member States of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, in Bucharest, in May 2016. Romania has been a Member Country of the IHRA since 2004 and held the chairmanship of the organization in 2016.

I.1.3. Law no. 1/2011 on national education repealed Law no. 84/1995; reaffirming the principles expressed in the former law on education, the current piece of legislation develops the exercise for the rights of the persons belonging to the national minorities – the right to preserve, develop and express their ethnical, cultural, linguistic and religious identity; therefore, a whole Section (Section 12) of the above mentioned law is dedicated to education for persons belonging to national minorities, stipulating the right to study in their mother tongue at all levels and forms of education, forms of support for students, proportional representation of the persons belonging to a national minority in educational management structures.

I.1.4. Several legislative amendments brought to GEO no. 137/2000 aimed at clarifying the exception to a discriminatory treatment, by expressly stating that a difference of treatment under one of the ground listed in the normative act does not constitute discrimination if, given the nature of the professional activity or the context within which it takes place, such a characteristic represents a genuine and decisive professional request, if the objective pursued is legitimate and the request is proportional to this objective. Moreover, the amendments eliminated all the references to possible exceptions in the definition of illicit acts manifesting discrimination (selling or renting a housing place, awarding a bank loan or concluding any type of contract, access to theatrical, cinematographic, librarian, museum or expositional services, services offered by stores, hotels, restaurants, bars, other service providers, irrespective of the private or public nature of the property of the said locations, access to public transportation). The new provisions allowed NCCD or the tribunal to order the party found in breach of the non-discrimination legislation to publish the summary of the decision in media.

Through one of the amendments, adopted on 26 February 2013, a relative presumption was instituted, for the person who produces facts based on which one may assume that a discrimination act has taken place. Hence, within the procedure in front of the court or in front of NCCD, “the person shall present facts from which it may be presumed that there is a direct or indirect discrimination, and the person against whom the complaint was made has the burden of proof that there has been no breach of the principle of equal treatment. Any means of evidence may be brought in front of the court, in compliance with the constitutional regime of the fundamental rights, including audio and video recordings or statistical data”.

I.1.5. According to Law no. 9/2018, modifying the Law no. 35/1997 regarding the organization and functioning of the Ombudsman's Institution, the Ombudsman is a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, as established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (UN) 48/134 of 20 December 1993, adopting the Paris Principles.

By the aforementioned law, a new field of activity was also established, namely the Child's Ombudsman, coordinated by an Ombudsman's Deputy. The Child's Advocate works to promote and protect the rights of children under the age of 18, supports and encourages the observance and promotion of children's rights. It can also make applications for summons or criminal complaints

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and can represent the child concerned before a domestic court when she has been a victim of physical or psychological violence from parents, legal guardian or legal representative, abuse, violence and sexual exploitation, exploitation through labour, trafficking in human beings, neglect and exploitation, as well as any form of violence against the child, provided and sanctioned by the domestic and international legislation to which Romania is a party.

Moreover, as of 2014, the National Preventive Mechanism, an Ombudsman's department for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment in places of detention was set up, in accordance with the Optional Protocol, adopted in New York on 18 December 2002, to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted in New York on 10 December 1984.

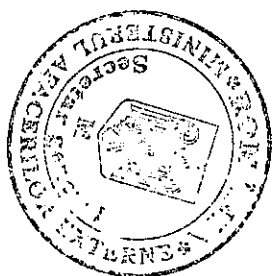
I.1.6. Legislation in the field of unemployment insurance and employment stimulation has been amended and supplemented several times during the reference period, in order to make it more flexible to grant active measures and increase their attractiveness for employers and jobseekers.

The amendments also aimed at improving the procedure for granting unemployment benefits, by clearly and completely defining all categories of unemployed persons who can be insured in the Unemployment Insurance System, both compulsory and optional, as well as improving services for people looking for a job.

I.1.7. GEO no. 18/2017 on community health nursing represents an important milestone within the efforts to ensure access to basic integrated healthcare and community services for disadvantaged people, including persons belonging to Roma minority; besides regulating, in a law level act, the activity of community medical assistance (through community medical nurses, sanitary mediators and midwives) along with basic social services (through social workers), it also introduces the concept of integrated community centres. Integrated community centres are financeable through Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 complementarily to the project concerning integrated community services financeable through Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020.

I.1.8. Although not in the direct line of action in the fight against racial discrimination, but playing an essential role in combatting discriminatory treatment that can include a racial component, are worth noting the creation of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between women and men (NAEO) and that of the Council for Monitoring.

Thus, the legal framework on equal opportunities and equal treatment between women and men, as introduced in the country's previous report, was improved through Laws nos. 229/2015, 178/2018 and 232/2018; the principles of legality, respect for human dignity, cooperation and partnership between public authorities and NGOs, as well as those of transparency and of transversal actions are expressly asserted. The administrative structure for the implementation of the said law was amended and NAEO was created in 2015; subsequent amendments aimed at further structuring the administrative framework, as a National Commission for Equal Opportunities between women and men and corresponding departmental ones were also established, in order to ensure that all administrative public authorities, at the central and also at the departmental level, are involved in evaluating, through data collecting and analysis, of the situation of women and men in different areas of activity.



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Law no. 8/2016 establishing mechanisms provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities enabled the creation of the National Monitoring Council. The Council, an autonomous administrative authority, is mandated to monitor, through scheduled or announced visits, public or private residential facilities, as well as psychiatric hospital units, in order to examine the respect of the rights of persons with disabilities residing or hospitalized in these public or private residential facilities or psychiatric hospital units and to make recommendations regarding the observance of these rights. The Council is also empowered to verify the legality of a person's presence in a residential facility or a psychiatric unit, to receive and to verify the decease notifications the above mentions facilities and units are obliged to transmit upon death of a resident or patient, facilitate the participation of the civil society, in particular or the persons with disabilities and the NGOs representing them in the monitoring process, as well as the access of NGOs representatives in these facilities and units.

The whole activity of the Council is governed by the principles of legality, respect for individual dignity, non-discrimination, equal chances as well as impartiality and objectivity of its personnel.

I.2. In 2015, the Government approved the National Strategy for social inclusion and poverty reduction 2015-2020², following a Background Study³ elaborated with the support of IBRD and WB, in partnership with MoLSJ. The current strategic document builds on previous efforts for social inclusion, namely the Anti-Poverty National Program and for the promotion of social inclusion.

The Strategy established nine key interventions (defined as a package of measures and initiatives designed to combat one cause of those that create or maintain poverty): employment, social transfers, social services, education, health, housing, social participation, area-based policies and strengthening capacity to promote poverty reduction and social inclusion; nine components of these key interventions were considered flagship initiatives for 2015-2017.

A first synthetic report assessing the progress towards the implementation of the measures of the Strategy analyses a selection of data collected to extract overview findings regarding the situation and progress at the sectoral level:

- both activity and employment rates have increased since 2015, reaching 67.8% and 64.8% respectively in 2018;
- in social services' sector, the development of an instrument to identify poor villages and marginalized rural communities (the Atlas of Rural Marginalized Areas and of Local Human Development in Romania, WB, 2016);
- efforts to improve health equity and financial protection can be observed during the analysed period. The number of persons per family doctor/GP has increased from 1,607 in 2015 to 1,619 persons in 2018;

² Available online at

http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/Documente/Familie/2016/StrategyVol1EN_web.pdf

³ Available online at

http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/Documente/Familie/2016/SF_BancaMondiala_EN_web.pdf

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- in the area-based policies, the Strategy's general objectives are focused on reducing the disparities by area of residence or region and on increasing the quality of life in rural and small urban areas.

I.3. The National Strategy for Employment 2014 – 2020 was based on an integrated vision on the relevant policies, from the perspective of both demand development and supply management on the labour market. The measures envisaged for the implementation of the Strategy for the period 2014 - 2020 were gathered around 4 specific objectives: increasing the employment for young people and extending the active life of the elderly; improving the occupational structure and participation in the labour market among women and people belonging to vulnerable groups; development of high qualified human resource with competencies adapted to the labour market's requests, and improving the mechanism for substantiating, implementing, monitoring and review of policies impacting the labour market.

I.4. The 2014-2020 National Health Strategy aims at increasing access to health care services for all, particularly for the vulnerable and disadvantaged ones; the document is patient-centred and strives for a more efficient allocation of financial resources through management decentralization and transfer of competencies towards the local communities, but also through awareness raising within the population as to the illnesses' main determining factors and the importance of adopting healthy behaviours.

Specific objectives of the strategy are aiming at improving the situation in areas like health and nutrition status of mothers and children, safe pregnancy, reduction of mortality and morbidity caused by the main infectious diseases (e.g. diseases that can be prevented through vaccination, TB, HIV, hepatitis), blood safety, improving health promotion interventions aiming at main causes of disease, prevention of most frequent cancers, mental health, environmental health, access to treatment of rare diseases, provision of transplants, improving access to health services at all levels (focusing on community health, primary health care, specialist ambulatory care, integrated emergency services, regionalized hospital services, palliative care).

I.5. The National Strategy for the protection and promotion of Children's Rights aimed at ensuring children's access to quality services, adapted to their specific needs, reducing social disparities between various categories of children, and the number of those belonging to categories currently considered vulnerable (children from poor families, children from rural areas, Roma children, children with disabilities, children victims of violence, etc.), encouraging children's participation in decision-making. The Strategy also rose the minimum age for institutionalization of children and laid the groundwork for the closing of old type residential institutions.

The strategy shifted the emphasis from passive assistance to building individual social protection measures around family protection and individual responsibility to focus on the child and family, inclusively by increasing coverage of services at the local level, for an early identification of vulnerable children and a quick intervention. The changes brought by the implementation of the strategy aimed at coordinating the social measures with those in other fields responsible for children's rights, especially education and health.

I.6. The National Strategy for Prevention of Early School Leaving 2015-2020 was adopted as part of the MoNE efforts to reduce school drop-out and early school leaving and consequently, to reach



both the national targets as well as those of Europe 2020 Strategy; the Strategy ensures the coordination of all national policies and combines a series of prevention, intervention and compensation measures, focused on school and student-level interventions. It rests on four strategic pillars:

1. fostering access to education and the provision of quality education to all children by developing and consolidating the early childhood education and care system;
2. ensuring that all children complete compulsory education with the support of early warning and intervention mechanisms;
3. the reintegration in the educational system of the early school leavers by means of specially tailored programmes (Second Chance programmes);
4. the development and the provision of adequate institutional support.

I.7. In 2014, the 2012-2014 Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority was revised and a new strategic document for the period 2015-2020 was adopted. The new document⁴ seeks an active involvement of local and central public authorities, as well as the active participation of Roma civil society in the activities aimed at increasing the socio-economic inclusion.

II. “Progress on the implementation of Articles 1 to 7 of the Convention”

The section that follows present the evolution, in terms of legislative amendment, administrative practice and institutional design, as well as domestic case-law, registered in the period under reference in the implementation of the Convention, with an emphasize on the impact, in practice, of the measures already adopted and announced in the previous report, as requested by the Committee in its concluding observations adopted at its 2024th meeting (CERD/C/SR.2042), held on 23 August 2010. Moreover, the sub-sections also contain targeted responses to the specific concluding observations and comments indicated by the Committee in the above mentioned document.

As a general preliminary remark, as concerns the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, Romania regards its commitment to combating racism, antisemitism and xenophobia as a permanent one, as reflected in the measures and projects described in part I and bellow. However, it considers that the reporting obligation under ICERD relates to the Convention itself. Still, relevant parts of frameworks and resolutions are of course taken into account when implementing the substantive provisions of ICERD.

II.1. Aspects pertaining to the general implementation of the Convention and the scope of the Convention (article 1)

II.1.1. Data-collection methods as concerns Census (para. 8 of the Concluding Observations)

⁴ Presented in greater detail in the periodic report on the implementation of ICCPR, paras. 36-40, available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2fROU%2f5&Lang=en

In 2011, the Population and Housing Census (hereinafter “2011 PHC”) took place in Romania. While general usual population registered a decrease with 7.2% in 2011 compared to 2002, three ethnic groups recorded an increase of their number: Macedonians (81.9%), Roma (16.2%) and Csangas (21.3%). Each individual participating had the possibility to assume each particular subgroup he/she belonged to, to adequately reflect the existing diversity within the group. A nationwide campaign in Roma communities contributed in creating public awareness around the population’s census. As a result, the number of self-declared Roma ethnics slightly increased from 535.140 (2002) to 621.573 (2011)⁵.

DIR and NAR representatives were members of the Central Commission for 2011 PHC, the body entrusted by Law with organizing and conducting the 2011 PHC. Census takers with the same ethnicity were preferentially selected in areas where several ethnic groups were concentrated, in order to facilitate the comprehensive participation and the free expression of ethnicity.

In order to ensure data completeness, statistical method of partial imputation⁶ was applied for some variables. This method was not used for the ethnic group, religion, mother tongue, so, for that part of population who refused to give an answer on these variables, these three variables remained with no answer, being aggregated under the category “Information not available”.

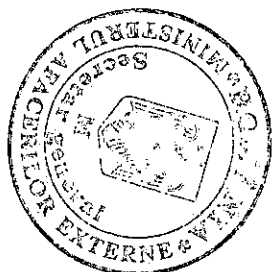
The next Population and Housing Census is to be conducted in 2021. It is designed as a mixed census, where the CAWI (computer-assisted web interviewing, consisting of online self-completion of data on census forms) and CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing) collection methods will be used, proceeded by the taking over of data from administrative sources.

The way in which the census is organised, namely through the online self-registration component, gives individuals the total freedom to fill in the census forms with the answers they want to give, which eliminates any possible interpretation, action or registration error on the part of another person, namely the census enumerator.

The future census is to be accompanied by a transparent and integrated communication and promotion campaign, which will run over a long period of time and whose aim will be to provide all persons, through various channels and a multitude of tools, with the most important information on its purpose of the census, its organization and usefulness. An important part of the campaign targets ethnic groups, through advertisements, posters, radio and TV programmes and other promotion tools in minority languages. Certain elements of the campaign will be prepared in English and in sign language.

⁵ Detailed information can be seen on the website www.recensamantromania.ro, Results section, Volume II: Stable (resident) population - ethnic and confessional structure

⁶ Statistical partial imputation – insertion of an artificial but plausible value regarding a certain variable, in an existing individual record from a database, in the case that the record did not contained a value at all or it contained a non-plausible value.



II.1.2. Requested information on bill on national minorities (para. 9 of the Concluding observations)

The draft law is pending on the docket of the Chamber of Deputies, after being examined and rejected by the Senate. The debates and discussions on the draft law were held in five parliamentary committees: the Committee for Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues (the body mandated to draft a report on the legislative proposal), the Committee for Legal Affairs, Discipline and Immunities, the Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sport, the Committee for Equal Chances between women and men and the Committee for Culture, arts, mass-media (the later four bodies being requested to draft an opinion on the proposal). The Chamber of Deputies, in its plenary, decided to resubmit the draft to the Committee for Human Rights for a supplementary report. The Chamber, as the parliamentary decisional chamber in the matter, will consider the approval of the draft law on the status of national minorities, with or without amendments recommended by the Committees.

II.1.3. Social inclusion and effects of the austerity measures (para. 10 of the Concluding observations)

During 2018 (according to the latest data available from EUROSTAT), the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion dropped to 6,360 thousand people from 9,115 thousand people in 2008.

The adopted public policies contributed significantly to poverty reduction, e.g. according to data published by Eurostat, the impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty reduction increased from **14.2% 2016 to 16.1% in 2018** (see *Annex I*).

During September 2018 – May 2020, an operational system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the measures provided for in the National Strategy on social inclusion and poverty reduction 2015-2020 is under implementation (especially those targeting Chapter 2-Social benefits and Chapter 3-Social services) within the project *"Increasing of efficiency of the interventions at the level of the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, as well as of the structures that are in its coordination"*.

Regarding the strategic actions at the national level for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion, the most important phases achieved during the reference period include:

- Approval of the Social Assistance Reform Strategy in 2011, which contained a series of key objectives that have acted as guiding principles for the government in the past few years, namely: (i) targeting social benefits to low-income people; (ii) reducing the costs of access for the recipients of social benefits; (iii) reducing system error and fraud; (iv) reducing the number of working age people who are dependent on social assistance; (v) consolidating social assistance benefits; and (vi) increasing capacity for forecasting, strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Approval of the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015-2020 and of its corresponding Action Plan.
- The adoption of the National Strategy on Active Aging and the Protection of Elderly for 2015-2020, which in 2018 reached the following results:

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- the active employment measures programs supported maintaining 27,750 persons over 55 years of age on the labor market;
- 23,008 persons over 45 years old and 505 persons who, within 5 years from the date of employment, fulfilled, according to the law, the conditions for applying for partial early retirement or granting the old-age pension, were employed by granting subsidies to employers;
- 43,388 persons over 55 years benefited from personalized counseling and career guidance or mediation services during period January - December 2018;
- starting from 2018, the project "Creation and implementation of integrated community services (SCI) for poverty reduction and social exclusion" with European funds and national budget, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of National Education, is under implementation;

Between 2016 and 2018, grants amounting to 55,790,953 lei (approx. 11,623,115 EUR) were granted to non-governmental organizations, associations, foundations and cults that develop social services, benefiting 53,086 beneficiaries belonging to vulnerable groups.

In 2018, MoLSJ started the implementation of 2 programs of national interest (to be completed in 2020) to strengthen the capacity of public social assistance services municipality, city, commune who have not developed home care services, community assistance services, through the establishment of 20 home care units, for 1000 elderly beneficiaries and the supporting the salaries for 1,000 social workers.

Moreover, MoLSJ developed 4 projects aimed at increasing the infrastructure and the quality of life for the elderly (by developing support services and financing schemes, a methodology of continuous monitoring of the quality of care in institutions providing long-term care services, by increasing the social inclusion of the elderly).

In the same time, the legislative framework was improved by approving measures that focused on the regulation, operation and financing of social services such as: developing new minimum quality standards for all types of social services, approving cost standards for social services, the creation of the Social Services Nomenclature, the improvement of the accreditation procedure for social services providers and the licensing procedure, the improvement of the organization and functioning regulations of the public social assistance services, the continuation of the social services financing programs (the grant award scheme for Romanian associations and foundations with legal personality that establish and manage social assistance units, national interest programs, projects with European funds).

The vulnerable persons are benefiting from measures and social protection actions without any restriction or preference of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, social status, opinion, sex or sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, chronic illness or belonging to a disadvantaged category. Therefore, all the social assistance programs are also addressed to the refugees, immigrants and minorities, including Roma population, and can be accessed without discrimination, if the persons fulfill the eligibility conditions required by law.

Annex 1 describes all the programs currently implemented in order to reduce the poverty and promote the social inclusion of all vulnerable groups; *Annex 2* details the administrative data regarding the number of beneficiaries and the monthly amount paid annually for each social



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assistance benefit. During 2011-2018 the amounts of the most of the social assistance benefits were reviewed in order to ensure an adequate standard of living for recipients and their families. These changes are visible when we look at the evolution of the amounts of these programs which are described in this document.

Recently, in 2018, activation measures for the beneficiaries of the social aid were adopted, in order to strengthen the link with the employment policies, based on the *Law no. 192/2018 for amending and completion of the Law no. 416/2001 regarding minimum income guaranteed*. The most important provision of the law refers to the entitlement to social aid in the case of those beneficiaries who refuse a job offer or the participation in a vocational training course for employment, qualification/retraining courses etc. Also, the new provisions want to encourage the persons able to work who are entitled to social aid to be involved in seasonal activities. The incomes from occasional work/seasonal activities are not taken into account when establishing the right to social aid can be cumulated to the social aid.

The legal framework on asylum, amended in December 2015 and January 2016, provides that:

- during the asylum procedure, the protection seeker has the right to receive access to the labour market under the conditions provided by law for Romanian citizens, after the expiry of a period of 3 months from the date of submission of her application, if no administrative decision has been taken and the delay cannot be imputed to him, as well as during the judicial phase of the asylum procedure.

Asylum seekers who, when submitting an asylum application, have a right of residence on the territory of Romania and are legally employed, can continue to carry out their lucrative activity.

- the protection seeker who does not have maintenance means, has the right to benefit, upon request, for the entire duration of the asylum procedure, of material reception conditions, which guarantees the subsistence and protects her physical and mental health.

Persons who obtain a form of international protection and register in the integration program may benefit, if they do not have their own financial resources, of a non-refundable financial aid for a period of maximum 12 months.

II.1.4. The ratification of international human rights treaties (para. 21 of the Concluding Observations)

Regarding the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, we note that the basic principles expressed in the text are comprised in the existing national legislation which is in line with EU regulations in this area. Romania remains fully committed to the protection of rights of members of all vulnerable groups, including migrants.

II.1.5. Dissemination of the concluding observations

The Concluding Observations from 2014 had been disseminated to the national authorities, and, as indicated in the first part of this report, a large range of institutions contributed to this report.

II.2. Competences and effectiveness of the domestic bodies combating discrimination (paras. 11 and 12 of the Concluding observations)

The areas of competence of the three Romanian institutions promoting and protecting human rights and combating discrimination - the Ombudsman, NCCD and the Romanian Institute for Human rights are described in *Annex 3*. As it transpires from their description, this overlapping of competencies is only apparent, as these institutions have roles and competencies covering the different facets of human rights protection (protection, promotion, monitoring and sanctioning) and complementing each other.

As concerns the NCCD and the Ombudsman, their competencies do not overlap, one of them working on special grounds, the other on general grounds. Unlike the Ombudsman, NCCD has jurisdictional administrative attributions, it follows the principles of adversarial and fairness in its procedure and its goal is to issue an administrative legal act liable to the control of courts in the administrative litigation procedure. Thus, the NCCD is qualified to investigate, but in comparison with the Ombudsman, the NCCD can also establish and sanction cases of discrimination. At the same time, the Council elaborates and applies public policies in the field of non-discrimination.

RIHR's mandate is focused on the promotion and awareness raising components, without ignoring other aspects, as research or domestic and international cooperation, reporting and information.

Following the adoption of Law no. 9/2018 (see point *II.1.5* above), the Ombudsman's Institution initiated the demarches to register for accreditation as a national human rights institution, before the Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

II.3. Combatting racial segregation (article 3) within education system (para. 14 let. (b) of the Concluding observations)

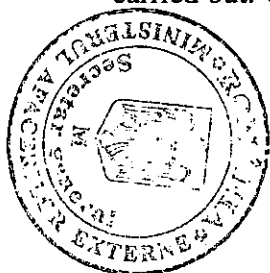
As announced in the previous Report, the domestic authorities continued their monitoring in order to prevent segregation and also took preventive steps.

MoNE acknowledged the existence of school segregation of Roma children in the education-wide system, especially of the cases of residential segregation, and as a result, constantly directed its efforts to provide support to relevant initiatives, such as: drawing a map of school segregation cases, which originated within the project "*School for all*" and is now operational in 5 counties, but also to actions of the County School Inspectorates.

In order to prevent cases of school segregation in the communities with a Roma majority, MoNE pays particular attention to implementing the integrated set of prevention, intervention and compensation measures, with a special focus on interventions at the level of the school and pupils, considering the fact that segregation requires interventions at both the central and local levels, but also the involvement of civil society representatives.

Thus, during the reporting period MoNE submitted every year in the education network (namely to CSIs) official notices for the prevention of segregation in kindergartens and schools, while preserving the minority languages survey / study of the native language. These notices insisted on the necessity to adequately structure the beginning level groups / classes " (preparatory, first fifth and ninth grades).

In 2016, the reform of the legal framework concerning school inclusion and desegregation was carried out. One of the outcomes was the adoption of the *Framework Order no. 6134/2016 on the*



prohibition of school segregation in pre-university education, amending the previous ministerial regulation in this field.

The Order provides for the interdiction of all forms of school segregation, that is segregation based on educational performance, the socio-economic status of families, residence, disabilities, special education needs, besides the ethnical criterion. The order also supplemented the existing legal framework by introducing relevant indicators on quality education and specific and relevant sanctions and stipulates the elaboration and the approval by ministerial order of the *Methodology on the monitoring of school segregation* for all the criteria mentioned above and of the *Methodology for the prevention and intervention in school segregation cases*, respectively.

The Order no. 6134/2016 set up the *National Committee for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion* - a specialized structure of MoNE, whose general aim is to prevent school segregation and whose task, among others, is to endorse the two above mentioned methodologies.

The Order also strengthens the role of county school inspectorates in preventing and eliminating all forms of school segregation, as well as the role of the *Commissions for the prevention and elimination of violence, corruption and discrimination in the school environment and for the promotion of interculturality*, which function in each educational establishment. These commissions are laid down in the *Framework regulation of the organization and functioning of pre-university educational establishments*, and function on a permanent basis since the school year 2016-2017.

Affirmative measures implemented on an ongoing basis include: the creation of mixed groups / classes in pre-primary, primary and lower secondary school (the creation of Roma groups/classes/schools on grounds related to the study of Romani language and/or the Roma history and traditions is prohibited); the collaboration with school mediators or other community representative for carrying out school censuses, while encouraging Roma parents to enroll their children in school each year; the reservation of a number of places in all classes, in order to accommodate the late school enrolment of children; the prohibition of enrolling Roma pupils in special education groups/classes and special integrated education schools, by means of abusive and unprofessional diagnosis of Roma pupils as having learning difficulties; the sharing of school premises and facilities by all students, regardless of their ethnicity.

From the school year 2017-2018, the methodology concerning the enrolment of children in primary education provides that CSIs may decide upon the reconfiguration of school districts to eliminate the possibility of school segregation based on the place of residence.

The authorities continued the implementation of *the school mediation program*, dedicated to facilitating vulnerable/Roma children in education. In order to ensure the necessary number of such professionals, about 30 to 60 mediators are trained each year by MoNE, through the Teacher Training Houses or in partnership with established NGOs. Currently, there are about 450 school mediators (from whom 75% are of Roma ethnicity) working annually in the educational system, in all counties.

Over the last years, MoNE has actively participated in the national strategies on improving the situation of the Roma population and has continued to pay particular attention to extending the best practices established in the PHARE Multiannual Programme – “*Access to education for disadvantaged groups*” to the education system-wide level.

Based on a protocol concluded with UNICEF in June 2018, MoNE will develop a *Pilot Methodology Project for monitoring school segregation*. During the piloting of the Methodology, the data on school segregation will be uploaded on the electronic platform provided by UNICEF. The methodology will contain both an integrated *Framework of indicators for monitoring school segregation*, as well as the detailed method of collection, uploading and processing data on school segregation and calculating school segregation risk scores. In addition to these initiatives, schools and CSIs will have the responsibility of analysing all the situations that indicate a low level of Roma children school enrolment compared to the number of school children identified upon the census carried out by the administrative-territorial unit and of establishing a desegregation plan.

II.4. Measures against the promotion and incitement to racial discrimination (article 4 of the Convention) and response to recommendations contained in paras. 13 and 17 of the Concluding Observations

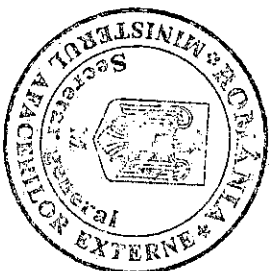
The Romanian **criminal legislation** provides for sanctions against the perpetrators of racism, xenophobic and other related crimes both through the provisions of the Criminal Code, as well as other special legislative provisions (Government Emergency Ordinance no. 31/2002 prohibiting the organizations and symbols with fascist, legionary, racist and xenophobic character and the glorification of those found guilty of genocide, against humanity and war crimes and Law no. 187/2018 on certain measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism).

Thus, article 2 of GEO no. 31/2002, as presently in force, defines an **organisation with fascist, legionary, racist or xenophobic character** as every group of three or more individuals, acting on temporary or permanent basis, with or without legal personality, with the goal of **promoting racist ideas, conceptions or doctrines (...), such as hate and violence on ethnic or racial grounds, the superiority of some races and the inferiority of others, incitement to xenophobia**. Political parties, associations and other nongovernmental organizations, commercial entities, as well as any other legal persons are included in this definition. At the same time, the piece of legislation stipulates that **creating such an organization, adhering to it or supporting its activity**, under any modality, constitutes a crime punishable by imprisonment from 3 to 10 years and accompanied by the ancillary penalty of prohibition of certain rights. Moreover, in accordance with 2¹ paragraph of article 4 from the abovementioned piece of legislation, **distributing or making available to the public, in any manner, through an IT system, of racist or xenophobic materials** also constitutes a crime punishable by imprisonment from one to five years. The deed of an individual **promoting in public racist or xenophobic ideas, concepts or doctrines** is punishable by imprisonment from 3 months to 3 years, accompanied by the ancillary penalty of prohibition of certain rights, according to article 5 from EOG no. 31/2002.

The Criminal Code, in its article 369, prohibits **all instigation to hatred or discrimination against a category of persons**, and prescribes a punishment of imprisonment from 6 month to 3 years or criminal fine.

The Criminal Code also prohibits public servants:

- i. to provoke to an individual serious physical or psychic suffering, on any discriminatory ground, qualifying such a behavior as a crime of torture;
- ii. to abuse their office through illegitimately restricting or limiting the exercise of an individual's right or freedom or by placing an individual in a situation of inferiority on



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ground of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political allegiance, fortune, age, disability, chronic non-contagious disease of HIV/AIDS infection.

It must also be underlined that, under Romanian criminal legislation, a legal person is criminally liable for committing deeds prohibited by law and qualified as crimes, for acts perpetrated to fulfil the object of its activity, or in its name or its interest. Besides the penalty of criminal fine, applicable to a legal person for committing a criminal deed, the court can also apply an ancillary penalty of dissolving the said legal person, if the legal person was constituted with the goal of perpetrating criminal deeds.

The legislation of associations and foundations (nongovernmental organizations), namely Governmental Ordinance no. 26/2000, confirms that these types of non-governmental entities must be at all time compliant with the legislation in force, or the court will reject any request for registration, should their statutes proclaim goals contrary to the law or public order; moreover, any person can request their dissolution by a court, if their goal or activity has become illicit or contrary to public order or when their goal is followed through illicit means.

Similarly, the Law on political parties bans political parties that violate the constitutional prohibition on incitement to national, racial hatred, to discrimination; in case a political party adopts, after establishment, such a behavior, it can be dissolved by the Bucharest Tribunal, following a finding in this respect made by the Constitutional Court. Moreover, a political party can be dissolved following a judicial procedure, if its activity has become illicit or contrary to public order.

Additionally, as the directions provided under the introductory part of article 4 do not state explicitly that such measures should be of a criminal nature, condemning discriminatory acts may as well be achieved by adopting any measure which has a dissuasive effect. To this end, the Romanian legislation provides for special measures as administrative sanctions that aim to discouraging any discriminatory acts, namely GO no. 137/2000 on preventing and sanctioning all forms of discrimination. As already mentioned above, in Part I, an important amendment brought to the above mentioned normative act is the modification of the provisions on the burden of proof, as a relative presumption was set up in favor of the person who presents facts on the basis of which one can assume that a discrimination deed has been committed.

II.5. Prohibition of racial discrimination under all its forms and enjoyment of rights – Article 5 of the Convention

II.5.1. General elements of progress at the legislative, administrative and judicial level to guarantee equality before the law and the enjoyment of rights and responses to paras. 14, 15, 16, 17 of the Concluding observations)

As indicated in Romania's previous report, the legislative framework (partially maintained in force with some amendments during the period under review) put in place affirms and recognizes the principle of non-discrimination as a fundamental constant of all the authorities' policies. As such, the present subsection deals with administrative measures adopted in order to enforce the principle of non-discrimination.

On a preliminary note, it is to be noted that, constantly, over the reporting period, the number of complaints registered before the National Council for Combating Discrimination, as well as those registered in courts have moderately increased; as well, in 2013, the dissuasive effect of anti-discrimination legislation was reinforced, as the amount of fines to be applied in case of infraction to legislation increased 12 times (now ranging from RON 1,000 to 30,000, when discrimination is targeting an individual; and from RON 2,000 to 100,000, in cases where discrimination acts were targeting a group of persons or a community).

Preventing and combating the discrimination in audio-visual and media programs

As indicated in the previous report, the National Audiovisual Council (NAC) is the regulatory body for public and private audiovisual media which oversees the compliance of the Audiovisual Law and the Regulatory Code of Audiovisual Content. Articles 11 and 47 of the Regulatory Code forbid broadcasting discriminatory or defamatory statements in the audiovisual programs against a person as well as pejorative references to race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender and sexual orientation.

In carrying out the functions and tasks assigned by the audiovisual law, the Council issues decisions, instructions and recommendations. The sanctions that can be applied by NAC, for the noncompliance of the legal provisions in the matter, can be individualized from warnings to fines or license withdrawal, taking into account the gravity of the deed, its effects, as well as the previously sanctions.

Moreover, following a request from NCCD, NAC decided to send a recommendation to television and radio stations to support the broadcast of a campaign “Children do not see the differences where differences do not exist”, as part of a broader campaign unfolded by NCCD, “Children and youth at risk and local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and promote social inclusion”, within the European Financial Economic Area Mechanism for 2009-2014.

During the period of 2010 – 2018, for the noncompliance of audiovisual provisions regarding the discrimination and xenophobia, after analyzing in public sessions the monitoring reports of the Monitoring Department, NAC applied 30 sanctions, of which 4 warnings and 26 fines.

As regards the Internet, a cybercrime unit was established in the police; under a project expected to start at the end of 2019 - “Integrated action for combating hate crimes, particularly against Roma communities, and ensuring a high quality standard of police service” -, proposed for financing through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, the operationalisation of a unit dedicated to combating hate crimes, as well as hate speech in the online environment is foreseen. The main project activities will consist in expertise transfer (training, study visits and professional stages), antivictimization campaigns in Roma communities and awareness campaigns for specialized audiences and general public.

At the same time, specialized police servants in the criminal investigation and public relations structures attended, in 2018, the second monitoring exercise, initiated by the European Commission, for testing the reactions of IT companies (Facebook, Twitter, Google-YouTube and Microsoft) in connection with the removal of online hate-instigator content.

In the period 2012-2018, NCCD applied 10 sanctions for discriminatory statements made by journalists (a more detailed description of this case-law in *Annex 4*).



Preventing and combating the discrimination in the political sphere

Upon their validation as members of Parliament, every lawmaker takes an oath, swearing to respect the Constitution and the laws, the democracy and the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens; this obligation is stipulated in the Constitution and reiterated in the MPs Statute, adopted through Law no. 95/2006, with subsequent amendments. Moreover, the Statute underlines the commitment of every MP to respect towards individuals and not to display attitudes or to use injurious, offensive, discriminatory or slanderous language. The disrespect of these provisions constitutes disciplinary offence, if it was not committed in such a manner as to be qualified as criminal offence; the president of the working session of the Chamber to which the MP belongs to can apply various sanctions, from verbal warning to removal from the session room or written warning.

The Code of conduct for deputies and senators adopted in October 2017 reinforces the obligation to refrain from offensive, indecent or slanderous language. The notification concerning the violation of the Code of conduct by a MP will be examined by the Legal Committee of the Chamber to which the MP belongs to; in 30 days the Legal Committee will forward its report, containing also, if it reaches a conclusion on the violation, the proposal for a sanctioning measure.

In 2011-2018, NCCD applied 12 sanctions for discriminatory statements made by politicians (a more detailed description in *Annex 4*).

Combating racism in sport

According to article 10 letter r) of Law no. 4/2008⁷, with a view to organizing sports activities, the organizer of sports contests or games is required to prohibit the display in the sports arena of symbols, slogans or texts which are obscene or incite to the disparagement of the country, to xenophobia, to national, racial, class or religious hatred, to any kind of discrimination and to violence, irrespective of the support on which they are imprinted. With a view to combatting violence in sport, all entities competent in the field of organization and conduct of sports contests and games and also in the area of safeguarding order in their unfolding are required to establish measures in order to inform and educate the audience, to promote the spirit of fair play and a civilized behavior.

Given the past occurrence, during sport events, of several violence and/or discriminatory acts, and in line with the preventive – educational programs carried out by MIA through the General Inspectorate of Romanian Gendarmerie, representatives of this structure participated in working groups aimed at developing “*The anti-discrimination strategy in Romanian football*” and in other training activities regarding the speech inciting to hatred and crimes inspired by hatred organized by the Inter-regional Research Institute of the United Nations in the field of criminality and justice.

At the same time, the Romanian Gendarmerie organised working sessions with the demonstrators’ representatives in order to present them the legal requirements for the conduct of sport events and their obligations, as organisers, in preventing a possible infringement of the rights of other individuals.

⁷ on the prevention and combatting of violence in sports contests and games;

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All MIA personnel benefits from training sessions on the requirement to always adopt a fair, impartial, non-discriminatory behaviour, without distinction of race, gender, religion, nationality, political affiliation, wealth or social origin, with the full observance of the internal and international provisions regarding human rights; moreover, the Gendarmerie management ensures the training of all personnel involved in performing public order and safety missions on the legal framework regulating the use of force, as well as on the means stipulated by law and the method of acting in various circumstances.

Dialogue teams were established for a permanent communication with the civil society to prevent infringing individual rights and freedoms, paying special attention to the prevention and friendly settlement of possible tense situations, thus avoiding degeneration into conflicts.

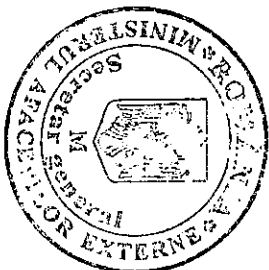
RFF has made great efforts in recent years to combat discrimination, racism and hate speech through a structured approach in the measures undertaken, based on a Strategy for Combating Discrimination in Football 2016 - 2020. In order to ensure that the implementation of the Strategy would generate consistent and sustainable results, the RFF created, along with several stakeholders from civil society, academic environment and administration, a joint platform and several projects designed in various forms of collaboration pursuing common goals.

At the same time, with the support of UEFA, FIFA and international organizations dedicated to promoting a better football (CAFE, FARE Network, Supporters Direct, etc.), we can mention concrete results such as:

- the introduction for the first time in 2016 in the Match Delegate report of a special column dedicated to reporting discriminatory incidents of hate speech or racist behavior;
- organizing an annual football tournament entitled "Diversity Cup", an event that brings together football teams representing national minorities (minimum 14 out of 19 minority organizations present);
- organizing the Unified National Championship in 7 players in collaboration with Special Olympics;
- providing support for organizations such as the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, Down Plus Association, Foundation for the Development of Peoples, ESCO + Foundation etc., to address the risk of social exclusion of children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

At the same time, RFF has successfully implemented two projects financed with EU funds, through which it has managed to create jobs for disadvantaged people. Particular attention was paid to countering the incidents concerning professional ethics of journalists with regard to respect for human dignity, ensuring prompt referral to the competent authorities in cases where the victims of unethical behavior were Romanian and foreign football players alike. The RFF's commitment in combating discrimination in the future will surely record consistent results, due to the strategic vision and partnerships with relevant organizations in this field, on a platform of common values and purposes.

NCCD has also implemented several projects to support non-discrimination in and through sport events, as detailed in *Annex 4*.



II.5.2. Enjoyment of rights

(a) The right to equal treatment before the courts and all other organs administering justice

The adoption of the new Codes in the civil and criminal matters, as indicated in the first Section, confirmed the importance attached to the principle of non-discrimination.

a.1. As for the access to justice and the equal treatment in judicial proceedings, these new pieces of legislation confirm the right of Romanian citizens who are members of national minorities to speak in their maternal tongue before courts, while procedural acts shall be written in the Romanian language. Moreover, foreign citizens and stateless persons who do not understand or who cannot speak Romanian are entitled, free of charge during criminal proceedings, to learn of all the acts and documents in the file, to speak and argue in court, using a certified interpreter, unless provided by law. In criminal cases, where legal assistance is mandatory, the suspect or defendant shall be provided, free of charge, with the possibility to communicate via an interpreter with their counsellor so as to prepare the hearing, the filing of an avenue of appeals, or any other motion that has to do with the resolution of the case.

MoJ issues the certified translator/interpreter authorization, so that the requesting person/persons should provide his/her services as certified translator/interpreter. Such authorization is issued based on a formal application filed by the interested party who has to comply with the legal requirements in the field. If such an application is not lodged with the MoJ, the latter may not issue the respective authorization.

For the period 2010-2018 the following data were obtained as regards the languages for which the authorization for an interpreter or translator was issued:

No.	Language	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bulgarian	6	10	10	7	2	2	3	4	2
2.	Croatian	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Czech	5	3	4	5	3	-	-	-	-
4.	German	586	407	370	215	150	155	51	10	7
5.	Hungarian	164	177	112	67	68	36	14	2	2
6.	Russian	68	63	54	27	31	27	14	6	4
7.	Serbian	9	8	5	-	2	2	2	-	1
8.	Slovak	14	10	7	2	5	2	1	-	-
9.	Turkish	14	5	8	3	8	4	2	4	2
10.	Ukrainian	13	7	5	3	4	2	4	-	2
	TOTAL	883	691	576	330	273	230	91	26	20

Furthermore, starting from April 2012 MIA, through its GIRP, has implemented the project titled "Promoting the concept of proximity police in rural areas, focusing on Roma communities or other socially disadvantaged communities" financed through the Romanian-Swiss Cooperation Program. The project is foreseen to come to an end in September 2019.

Within the mentioned project, training courses aiming at building specific linguistic skills in the Romani language were organized; the Romanian police officers are expected to develop competences on Roma Culture and Language and inter-cultural relation skills – by becoming familiar with elements relating to Roma norms, traditions, customs and history.

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a.2. Given the comprehensive legal framework, the authorities concentrated their efforts, in the period dealt with in the present report, on its implementation and dissemination.

As regards the dissemination of the legislation on combating racial discrimination, one of the most important projects is „*Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups*”, implemented during 10 March 2014 – 30 April 2017, by the SCM as Project Promoter⁸. The general objectives of the project aimed to improve the access to justice for vulnerable groups, with a focus on the Roma population, by providing direct legal aid and by organizing related activities in order to raise the level of awareness on fundamental rights and liberties.

The following activities were carried out within the project:

- A *Study on the access to justice of the vulnerable groups (between June – December 2014)*⁹; it represents a thorough documenting material on different dimensions of vulnerabilities, as it details the fundamental elements and legal landmarks on national and international level as regards the access to justice of vulnerable groups, it depicts the local perceptions and attitudes on that matter, as well as the actual situation in Romania related to the access to justice in general, and especially the access to justice for Roma and other vulnerable groups.

The document was devised as a realist start for identifying mechanisms on awareness and improving the access to justice, a part of those being valued within the project, in the second stage of implementation of it. The study was edited and printed in 531 pieces in Romanian and 50 pieces in English that were distributed to the institutions of judiciary and to the central local public authorities, NGOs and project partners.

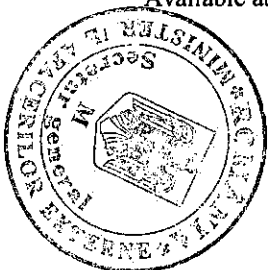
- **5 professional training activities on fight against discrimination** were organized during March – June 2015, with 139 participants of the target groups – judges, prosecutors and lawyers.
- **7 regional offices for providing direct legal aid to vulnerable groups** through lawyers contracted by the project promoter were set up. The activity of assistance was carried out in the special spaces provided for by the Tribunals of Buzău, Mureș, Dolj and Cluj, the Courts of Appeal of Oradea and Iași and by the First Instance Court of 3rd District Bucharest. The activity of direct legal assistance was delivered to a number of 796 beneficiaries belonging to vulnerable groups and the commission of reception (set up at the level of SCM) endorsed the activity delivered for 762 persons.
- **An informative package**¹⁰, designed as an informative tool for the vulnerable groups, consisting of 11 sections that provide answers to a series of problems such as defining the concepts of vulnerability and vulnerable group, the conditions for providing legal aid, social services provided by local authorities, protection against discrimination and domestic violence, protection and rights of persons with disabilities, family/marriage, health insurances, social security; 5000 pieces of the informative package were edited and printed as well as 3000 pieces of the audio version in Romanian and Romani.

⁸ In partnership with National Courts Administration of Norway, NIM and NAR.

⁹ Available online at:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y3NtLmNzbTE5MDkucm98bm9yd2F5Z3JhbnRzfGd4OjNjMmM5YTm5NWNmNWY3YjM>

¹⁰ Available at <https://sites.google.com/a/csm.csm1909.ro/norwaygrants/pachet-informativ>



- **7 regional workshops were organized** in the locations where the centers for legal assistance were set up, in order to present the informative package, with the participation of 234 representatives of local and central authorities (*members of the mixt working groups – MWGs – set up by the order of the prefect in order to monitor the implementation of the measures of the Romanian Government Strategy for inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma, for 2015-2020, of the county offices for Roma (CORs), members of the local initiative groups (LIGs)*), representatives of NGOs acting in the social vulnerable area, representatives of Roma community, local experts for Roma, educational and health mediators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and probationary personnel.
- **An awareness campaign**, in order to distribute the informative package and to make known within the vulnerable groups, local and central authorities and NGOs the information on setting up and functioning of the centers for legal aid (March – April 2017).

The awareness campaign was carried out in seven counties within the country under the slogan „*I want to know my rights so that I would not remain vulnerable*”, being focused on 3 types of activities: **devising, distributing and displaying 150 roll-ups with relevant information on the centres for legal aid and informative package** at the premises of local and central authorities, courts, probationary services, penitentiaries and NGOs of the 7 locations; **publishing 3 articles in the local printed media of the 7 locations**; the published press sets „*Each citizen has a guaranteed access to justice!*”, „*7 centres for legal aid set up at national level*” „*I want to know my rights so that I would not remain vulnerable*” were devised in a logical order and included information on setting up the legal assistance office for the certain location, information on similar centres set up within the project and information on the informative package devised within the project; **organising door-to-door activities for Roma communities of the 7 counties** (14 missions in the Roma communities). Within the campaign were distributed 4000 printed pieces of the informative package and 2700 pieces of the audio version of the informative package in Romani and Romanian. In order to increase the impact on the target group, at the level of project promoter measures were adopted in order to distribute to NGOs and local authorities the rest of 1000 pieces of the informative package and 300 pieces of the audio version.

- **10 sessions of professional training** on fight against discrimination were organised, with the attendance of 236 representatives of public central and local authorities, of the courts and prosecutor`s offices, of the bar unions and NGOs.

(b) *The right to security of person and protection by State against violence and bodily harm*

b.1. The conduct of police officials is governed by the law (which criminalizes torture and ill-treatment and precludes using evidence obtained as a result of such acts) and by a Code of Ethics and Deontology, which provides in particular that the use of force must meet the requirements of absolute necessity and proportionality. The *legal framework governing the conduct of police officers* is accompanied by a broad range of training activities to ensure that law-enforcement officials foster commitment to the fundamental rights of persons placed under their responsibility. The impact of these measures is encouraging: in 2014, on the occasion of its last periodic visit to Romania, the CPT noted that the frequency and seriousness of allegations of physical ill-treatment inflicted by law-enforcement officials had decreased since 2010, in particular in the Bucharest region.

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The law guarantees to persons deprived of their liberty by the police and formally remanded or placed in pre-trial detention the right of access to a lawyer and a medical doctor as well as the right to inform a third party of their choice. A medical examination is mandatory upon admission to police detention facilities. During pre-trial detention, detainees also benefit from periodic medical visits. Persons placed in police custody/pre-trial detention have the right to be examined by a doctor of their choice, in addition to the examinations that must be conducted by the doctors practicing in such facilities. When signs of violence are found or when they allege having suffered abuse, the doctors practising in the detention facility must make a record and notify the prosecutors. At their request, these persons then undergo a forensic medical examination. On the occasion of the above-mentioned visit, the CPT thus noted that persons placed in police detention facilities can henceforth obtain forensic reports without depending on the authorisation of the investigating authority.

The department for the coordination of these facilities, whose activity was also positively assessed by the CPT, monitors closely the implementation of these safeguards by the police and by the medical staff practicing in these facilities. This will enable the authorities to improve further the legislative framework governing these safeguards as well as its implementation, in line with the commitment they undertook in this respect.

To ensure that these provisions are adequately implemented, MIA adopted in 2018 a Regulation for the organization and functioning of the detention and pre-trial detention centers and for the measures necessary to ensure their security; moreover, it prepared and disseminated a Guide on medical service in police detention facilities and is in the process of recruiting additional medical staff to serve in these facilities.

Regarding the policy for the recruitment of persons belonging to national/ethnic minorities within MIA, attracting members of these national minorities to a career in the organizations of public order and safety and their training in fields and issues regarding minorities constitute a priority in the field of the human resources activity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as shown in *Annex 6* to the report.

The implementation of the positive discrimination principle has been extended at the level of the entire further MIA education system, therefore if in one of the schools remain un-filled places following the entrance exam (from those expressly allotted to young Roma), the candidates of the same ethnicity who initially chose another institution (the schools for police agents / border police / firemen non commissioned officers) will have priority in filling these places.

Campaigns encouraging young people belonging to minorities to choose a career within the police structures were also promoted (see *Annex 6*)

b.2. The amendment in 2016 of the Law no. 17/1996 regulating the use of firearms and munition enhanced the quality of the legal framework as regards the use of firearms and to ensure conformity with the standards flowing from the Court's case-law in this field. Thus, the cases when an authorized person can make use of a firearm have been modified, in order to limit the hypothesis were such a recourse is legitimate.

The law also specifically describes the actions needed to be performed right after the use of the firearm. As such, each situation of firearm use is urgently notified in a hierarchal manner. As soon



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as possible, a written report will be drafted. In case of death or physical injury, the facts will be immediately notified to the competent prosecutor by the authority to which the person who used the firearm pertains. The obligation to ensure first aid and proper medical assistance of the injured remained enacted.

Lastly, the law now expressly stipulates that the authorities with attributes in the aforementioned fields are obliged to train the personnel authorized to bear and use firearms as regards the conditions of firearm use as well as to organize theoretical and practical assessments periodically.

The entire legislation governing the use of fire-arms is taught to police officers and agents within programs of initial training and sessions of in-service training, by theoretical and practical methods. As far as the initial formation of the police staff in educational institutions is concerned, special schemes are provided for in view of the instruction on the field and a great importance is paid to practical schemes as simulations. All training institutions within MIA teach a number of themes that prepare future police officers and agents in the effective use of firearms: military training, individual measures to be used during interventions, summoning, tracking and apprehension of persons, use of fire-arms in different situations, legal procedure to be respected when using fire-arms.

As for the in-service training, the frequency of training for police officers and agents that are already in the field of work are established according to their division into three categories: special police forces, operational police forces and non-operational police forces. Police officers and agents that do not comply with the compulsory scales undergo supplementary training. Following the entry into force of the amendments to the legal regulation, in October-November 2016, theoretical training sessions were organized at the level of all central and territorial police units, on the use of firearms. The evaluation of the theoretical knowledge in November –December 2016 covered a number of almost 42,000 police officers and agents; for those police officers and agents who obtained the “Unsatisfactory” qualification, additional training measures were taken.

The mandatory in-service training, covering 40% of the working hours and dedicated to professional, physical and shooting training, completed with a minimum of 12 days of tactical and intervention training each year, ensures the adequate professional and practical preparation of the members of the special interventions groups.

b.3. Following the demilitarisation of the Romanian police in 2002, investigations concerning police officers and officers in the rapid intervention forces fell into the province of the civil prosecutor’s offices and courts; military prosecutors and courts remain competent to conduct investigations concerning officers of the gendarmerie; amendments brought to the status of military judges and prosecutors in 2004 henceforth guarantee their institutional independence.

Considering that the present legislative framework is capable of ensuring the adequacy and thoroughness of such investigations, the authorities have mainly focused on strengthening their practical independence and effectiveness. In October 2015, POHCCJ adopted a Strategy in this respect, thus deciding that these investigations would henceforth be carried out exclusively by prosecutors in the offices attached to the superior courts (county courts and courts of appeal).

The heads of these offices must designate prosecutors who will handle mainly this type of cases. A monitoring and reporting procedure has been put in place in order to detect and advice the General Prosecutor, but also the investigating prosecutors, about the mistakes and errors committed during

such investigations and provide remedies. The body charged with that mission is the Service for Advice and Control, within POHCCJ. Furthermore, a second POHCCJ Order designates an individual prosecutor's office, namely the Prosecutor's Office attached to Bucharest Court of Appeal, for the criminal investigation regarding police officers (including those who do not belong to the judicial police corps) and the NAP employees, in the most serious cases (when the victim was in custody at the time the crime has been perpetrated and the victim presents traumatic lesions, proven by a medical or forensic certificate). A similar rule was instituted for the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Bucharest County Court, regarding the police agents. By attributing the task of criminal investigation in the most severe cases of ill treatments perpetrated by State agents only to the abovementioned Prosecutor's offices, the General Prosecutor followed the idea of containing the criminal investigations in such cases with a view to raise the degree of responsibility of the prosecutors and facilitate the quality control over their work.

Following these orders, the Service for Advice and Control within POHCCJ conducted a total number of 7 activities of evaluation and control, regarding the prosecutor's activities in the relevant areas: 2 in 2015, 1 in 2016, 3 in 2017 and 1 in 2018. Concrete measures have been taken on these occasions for the correction of the defaults observed:

- the examination by the General Prosecutor or by Prime-Prosecutors of certain solution adopted by subordinated prosecutors;
- measures destined to speed-up procedures;
- unification of the prosecutor's offices practice concerning mentioned offences;
- specialization of the prosecutors.

POHCCJ also requested NIM to organise targeted training activities for the prosecutors thus designated.

b.4. Racial profiling is by no means used by the police, prosecutor's offices or courts of law in Romania.

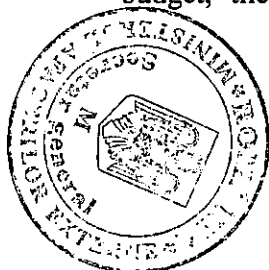
II.5.3. Measures implemented in order to combat discrimination against Roma

The latest strategic document adopted for improving the inclusion of Roma is the Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens belonging to the Roma Minority (hereafter the Strategy) 2014-2020 (last revised in 2015). The Strategy was adopted following broad consultation of public central and local administration entities, civil society organizations, academics, experts of UN institutions and the World Bank, diplomatic offices in Bucharest.

The Strategy is covering four crucial areas - education, employment, health and housing - as well as other fields such as social services and culture. The National Roma Contact Point (NRCP) and NAR coordinate the process of Roma inclusion at the national and local level and the Inter-Ministerial Committee, which involves all central institutions, ensures implementation by the various relevant ministries and local authorities.

II.5.3.1. Access to education of Roma children (para. 14 lett. b) of the Concluding observations)

The Law of national education introduced a minimum level for financing of the national education, set at 6% of the annual GDP, which was to be assigned yearly by Law. However, given the imperative of a maximal budget deficit and the need to balance all the expenses from the state budget, the implementation of this provision was postponed until 2021; the amounts have



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constantly grown, as indicated in the table in *Annex 7*. Additionally, the educational establishments (both of preuniversity and university level) may obtain and use autonomously their own revenues.

The financing of the national education is made both from the State budget and the budgets of the local public administrative authorities. The funding of the pre-university educational establishments has three components - basic, complementary and additional. The funding is made on the basis of the standard cost per pupil/ pre-school child, which is determined for each level of education, route and specialization/field; the value increase during the reference period, as well as details on the content of the 3 types of funding are shown in *Annex 7*.

The increases in teachers' salaries between 2014/15 and 2018/19 were of 181 % for pre-primary and primary teachers and 164 % for secondary teachers¹¹ (one of the highest percentages in EU).

Access to free and quality education for all children

The Education Law clearly prescribes that public education is free of charge (Art. 9) and that pupils and teachers in public education benefit from school textbooks free of charge, both for education in the Romanian language and for education in the languages of the national minorities, pursuant to law.

The *Framework Regulation on the organisation and functioning of pre-university educational establishments* provides that the committee of parents may decide to support financially the class or the school; this decision is not mandatory for the parents and can be put in practice only through the parents' legally constituted association. Moreover, the Regulation forbids the involvement of the pupils or the school staff in fund raising/management; the violation of the prohibition shall be considered a disciplinary offence.

A survey from 2018 conducted by Save the Children Romania¹² showed over 81% confirmation from the respondent parents that contributing to the school or class money is not mandatory; 72% of the parents were not making any voluntary payment to the school money and 44% to the class money.

Law no. 1/2011 provides that the education establishments may extend the educational activities for pupils through *School after school* programmes. The activities offered through this type of services include activities for strengthening the acquired competences or for accelerating learning, as well as remedial teaching activities. It also provides pupils with a safe space as an alternative to spending their free time in environments with harmful potential.

The funding of this program can be ensured from multiple sources, including from local authorities' budgets, and in the case of pupils from disadvantaged groups, from the State budget (Details are presented in *Annex 7*).

Access to primary and secondary education for all children, and measures to guarantee access for disadvantaged children, particularly Roma children and children with disabilities

¹¹ See https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/sites/eurydice/files/teacher_salaries_2018_19.pdf. The gross amount includes the contribution to the health system, social security and pension scheme.

¹² <https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/sci-ro/files/7d/7da9f60a-0725-43a7-b04b-a717ca489210.pdf>.

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Additionally to the social support measures previously started, devoted to vulnerable groups¹³, the authorities identified new incentives to increase access and school attendance. These measures include:

- *social vouchers* to stimulate the participation of children from underprivileged families in preschool education (kindergarten), starting from 2015 (50 lei / month, for a school attendance greater than 50%);
- *free school supplies* for children from socio-economic disadvantaged families: the project *School supplies for preschoolers and pupils - equal opportunities to education*, offered school supplies packages to preschoolers and school backpacks to pupils in primary and gymnasium education (grades II-VIII). in view of the allocation by the European Commission, of the amount of 27 million euros for education by 2023, MoNE will submit annually a request for funding for student and pre-school supplies; 571,108 beneficiary students in the 2015-2016 school year, 55,234 beneficiaries in 2016-2017, 337,001 beneficiaries in 2017-2018;
- from 2016, MoNE implemented, in 50 State pre-university education units, a pilot program *Hot meal for students*, providing food support for preschoolers and students, with 54.709 beneficiaries in the 2018-2019 school year.

Affirmative measures targeting the Roma pupils and youth previously launched have been continued, such as: the annual granting of distinct places for Roma pupils/students for admission in high schools / universities; the annual training of school mediators (generally, Roma ethnics); initial training of Roma youth through open distance learning / reduce frequency courses in order to become teachers in Roma communities, the annual training through intensive courses of teachers in the field of Roma history and language with UNICEF's support; annual support for providing education in Romani language in pre-primary and primary schools, as well as the teaching of History, Culture and Romani language at primary and secondary level.

Among the measures meant to boost the inclusion process, it should be mentioned the increase in the share of Roma pupils who receive support within the programmes "*School after school*" or "*Second chance*"; annually, around 5,000-7,000 adolescents, young people and adults, 60% of whom are Roma) participate in courses for school recovery of the second chance type.

Within the EEA Grants 2014-2021, the programme Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships, Youth Entrepreneurship Programme – ESAYEP, which includes a component targeting Roma pupils (with a total budget of EUR 1,411,756) allowed for the funding of 7 projects on inclusive school and education, tolerance, multicultural environments, anti-discrimination and democratic citizenship, as well as training of teachers on related issues. Each of the funded projects includes the following activities which are to be carried out in the partner schools:

-
- ¹³ - free transportation (by school buses) for students from isolated communities to school / reimbursement of transportation expenses for student shuttle for distances up to 50 km;
- financial incentives for pupils who cannot receive education in their home towns;
 - daily snacks for children in pre-primary, primary and lower secondary schools consisting of fruits, vegetables, milk and dairy products to preschoolers and to the students from the educational units;
 - special scholarships for children from disadvantaged groups for stimulating the attendance of high school (180 lei/month); special scholarships for children who attend professional schools (200 lei/month);
 - special financial support for children from disadvantaged groups to purchase a personal computer (200 lei);
 - classes with reduced number of students in rural areas and in communities with minority population.



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- the training of teachers working with Roma children on how to facilitate the inclusion of these children (pupil-centred teaching approaches, the inclusive school and the teaching in a multicultural environment, democracy and active citizenship education, human/ child's rights, tolerance, anti-discrimination);
- the elaboration of curricula and educational materials on multicultural and inclusive environment;
- learning and awareness activities on the issue of anti-discrimination, as well as awareness and skills development activities on inclusion, jointly organised with the Roma and non –Roma parents.

The authorities continued the implementation of *the school mediation program*, dedicated to facilitating vulnerable/Roma children in education. In order to ensure the necessary number of such professionals, about 30 to 60 mediators are trained each year by MoNE, through the Teacher Training Houses or in partnership with established NGOs. In the last four years, for example, 284 persons have been trained as school mediators. Currently, there are about 450 school mediators (from whom 75% are of Roma ethnicity) working annually in the educational system, in all counties.

Moreover, teachers, irrespective of their specialization, are offered yearly accredited trainings and courses on topics such as equal chances in education, interculturality and inclusion in and by education, human rights and child's rights. These courses and trainings also approach the topic of how to prevent and combat the discrimination and segregation of Roma people in education.

Annex 7 details the projects carried out by MoNE during the relevant lapse of time.

Education in minorities' mother tongue and preservation of cultural diversity, including Romani language, history and culture in teaching approach

As indicated in Section I, the legal framework recognizes the right of every person belonging to a national minority to study in their mother tongue at all levels and forms of education; amendments brought to the law in 2018 consolidated the organisation of education for pupils studying in their mother tongue or studying their mother tongue as a school subject. In this respect, the standard cost per pupil/ pre-school child used when granting the basic funding to the pre-university education establishments where the teaching is done the languages of national minorities, is calculated according to an increased coefficient based on correction factors which take into account the teaching in the national minority language or of the national minority language.

The reorganisation or the dissolution of any study groups, including those belonging to the education in mother tongue, can only take place with the approval of MoNE, the Education Commission of the National Minorities' Council and the organization representing the national minority in the Romanian Parliament.

Within the national curriculum reform started in 2012, the school syllabus for the discipline History for the 4th grade (primary education) was revised in order to better reflect the different dimensions of diversity, including the ethnic one and includes topics such as: "*Peoples yesterday and today: "Dacians, Romans, Greeks, Gauls, Slavs, Turks, Romanians, French, Hungarians, Germans, Russians, Serbs, Bulgarians"*."

At the same time, the school syllabi for the school subject History, studied during the lower secondary education (grades 5-8) was also revised and now include history elements related to the national minorities: "*Ethnic and religious diversity in Romanian territories*", "*National minorities in Romania*", "*Holocaust in Romania: Jews and Roma*". Pupils learning in schools/sections teaching in their mother tongue, or who study their mother tongue as a school subject in schools where teaching is provided in Romanian, have in the core curriculum for grades 6 and 7 the school subject *History and Traditions of Minorities*, corresponding to each national minority.

The *Intercultural education* school subject was introduced in the 6th grade curricula, focusing on the values and principles of an intercultural society and classroom practices that enable students to capitalize on their own culture and of appreciating other cultures (minorities, migrants, etc.).

Pupils also have the opportunity to choose from the Curriculum at the school's decision (CDS) for secondary education level, disciplines as: *Oral history - Lived History - Narrated History, Intercultural Education, History of National Minorities, and History of Jewish People. The Holocaust, etc.*

According to the Law, teachers who teach in the language of national minorities have the right to training and development in the language of instruction, in the country or abroad.

The continuous training of teachers is ensured by means of trainings provided by school inspectorates, Teacher Training Houses, universities, as well as with the support of national minority unions or national minority teacher unions. In 2018, the *Continuous Teacher Training Centre in Hungarian* was set up in Oradea, providing upgrading activities and continuous training for teachers and auxiliary staff teaching in Hungarian.

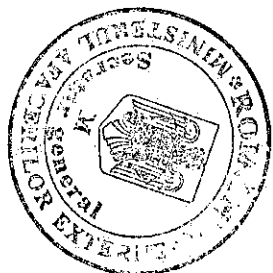
Within the CRED project, one of the guidelines for the implementation of the new curriculum is dedicated to the History and traditions of minorities. In order to support history teachers teaching this optional course, a teacher handbook was elaborated, at the initiative of *Project on Ethnic Relations* and of DIR.

DIR developed projects to support the training on multicultural education for teachers as well – a guide on intercultural education for trainers and teaching staff, interactive training sessions approaching non-discrimination, human rights.

Moreover, DIR partnered with MoNE and with the national minorities' organisations in an online campaign to facilitate access of parents and students to education in a language of a national minority and to develop the communication skills in the mother language. Thus, practical information on necessary documents, enrolment schedule, the educational units teaching in mother languages are posted on the Department and on the MoNE sites.

Regarding the learning of Romani language and of the specific history and traditions as factors enabling inclusion, Roma pupils have the possibility to study in the Romani language (primary and lower secondary level, further providing 3-4 teaching hours / week of Romani native language lessons for 1st to 12th grades, respectively 1 hour / week of Roma history and traditions, for grades 6th and 7th) in certain counties, as well as the possibility to study the Romani language, history and culture, as additional school disciplines, in 39 counties.

MoNE supports, where required, teaching in Romani language in pre-school education. In the last five school years, a variable number between 18-22 kindergartens functioned with teaching in



native Romani language. MoNE also supports, where required, teaching in Romani language in grades 1st to 4th (4 hours / week of compulsory Romanian language and literature).

In addition, within the current curricular reform, new school syllabus for Romani language and literature (for 5th-8th grade) and for Roma history and traditions (for 6th-7th grade), respectively have been elaborated.

Regarding the teaching of Romani language, courses on Romani language and their corresponding teaching methodology took place constantly, as well as teaching the Romani language or in this language, including the Romani History and the Traditions school subject. The courses for romanipen on education are constantly offered by the Teacher Training Houses.

Furthermore, in the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma inclusion, DIR started in 2016, in cooperation with MoNE, a project platform focusing on the Romani language: *The Romani mother tongue, Roma history, traditions and customs in the intercultural educational context of the undergraduate education*.

DIR also co-organised the National Conference of Roma Youth, an event offering to young Roma students the opportunity to get acquainted with the Roma history, traditions and ethos, and to familiarise themselves with modern leadership knowledge, in order to stimulate young representatives of the community to assume the position of community representative at local/county/national level.

II.5.3.2. Access to housing for Roma people (para. 14 lett. c) of the Concluding observations)

Ensuring both access to adequate housing and standard living conditions is a permanent objective of the Romanian authorities, expressed constantly in their strategies for social inclusion and fight against poverty.

This objective is implemented through different programmes that the MoRDPA has started or has continued during the reporting period, respectively:

a. the social housing construction program (carried out according to Housing Law)

Access to renting social houses is granted to families or persons having a monthly net revenue below the average wage established at national level; the law provides the benchmarks in establishing the criteria by the public local authorities and explicitly prohibits segregation on any grounds, including race, and forbids forced evictions without due guarantees. Given that the implementation of the eligibility criteria, which is decentralised at the local administration level, can encounter inconsistencies, the reform in this field is also focusing on revisiting the eligibility criteria.

The amount allocated between 2010 and 2018 was 237,929,287 million RON, for a total of 67 blockhouses built or to be built in several Romanian towns.

b. construction of rental housing units for persons under 35 years,

c. social housing construction program for the tenants evicted from nationalized houses;

d. The pilot program "Social housing for Roma communities", funded from the State budget for building 300 housing units for the Roma people in 11 localities from all eight development regions of Romania;

e. Investments in housing units for vulnerable persons.

Details about these programmes are presented in *Annex 8*.

In the programming period 2014-2020, fighting against poverty and social inclusion has become much more pragmatic. Thus, the Regional Operational Program (ROP) 2014-2020, managed by MoRDPA as management authority, implements the Local Development under the Responsibility of the Community (Community-led Local Development - CLLD) mechanism, which finances investments in housing infrastructure, social economy, integrated community centres, education and degraded urban territory equipment for disadvantaged communities from the urban marginalised areas. The types of actions financed include building/rehabilitation/modernization of social houses. The budget allocated to Priority Axis 9 (ERDF + national contribution) is 79,05 million EUR.

In 2013, the Government initiated the NPLD, coordinated by MoRDPA; the programme offers the legal framework for the implementation of projects of national importance, respectively projects supporting the regional development by carrying out infrastructure works, including water supply and sewage. (See *Annex 8*)

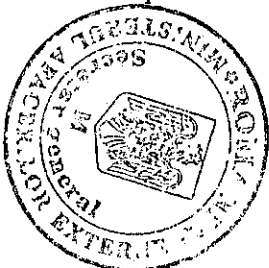
The program has covered, until present, two stages:

- i. the first stage was initiated in 2013, and starting with 2015 the investment objectives were financed by a multiannual programme; 1,629 investment projects, with a financed investment value of 5,574 million lei (over 1,230 million EUR) covered the areas of water supply, sewage or integrated projects (for water supply and sewage). From them, 976 are already finalised.
- ii. in 2017, a second stage of the programme was launched, with new investment objectives (separate from the first stage) and a larger financial envelope. 1,319 projects, with a financed investment value amounting to 8,578 million lei (over 1,842 million EUR) are being developed in the areas of water supply and sewage, from which 116 are already finalised.

According to statistics provided by MoRDPA, for the territorial units where the Roma population represents or exceed 20%, the funds allocated through NPLD for the period 2013-2020 (phase I) are 661,188,076 RON for 206 objectives and for the period 2017-2020 (phase II) 988,624,869 RON for 270 objectives.

Currently in internal approval process within MoRDPA, the draft National Housing Strategy proposes, among other things:

- i. the adoption of a general legislative framework, clarifying the eligibility criteria for accessing a social house (taking into account the income of the beneficiary);
- ii. the use of public funds to aid those with insufficient income to cover their housing needs ;
- iii. the regulation of a minimum mandatory percentage of dwellings suitable for persons with disabilities and the elderly, from the total number of dwellings built by the local authorities;
- iv. the prohibition of forced evictions from public property buildings without prior consultation of those evacuated and without the provision of alternative housing;
- v. strict and transparent regulation of the modalities in which local public administrations can benefit from financial support from the State budget in order to ensure access to adequate housing for socially marginalized persons;
- vi. clarification on the obligations of the local administrative authorities to ensure the access to adequate housing for the socially marginalized persons, including by positive measures;



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vii. rulemaking necessary to establish a system for collecting periodic data by MoRDPA (transmission, collection, analysis) in order to substantiate the future policies and programs for financing social housing;

viii. monitoring the need of different categories of people for different housing solutions.

To the latter end, MoRDPA will create a monitoring platform in the field of housing, which will oversee public investments in the housing sector as well as data on the existing housing stock and housing needs.

The authorities of the local public administration will have the obligation to make public, by displaying in a place accessible to the public, and / or on the institution's website, data on the number of dwellings that they own and manage, according to their destination, their degree of occupation, as well as the decisions by which the lists of the applicants who benefit of the respective public houses was approved.

Forced evictions

Under civil law, unless otherwise provided by law, the eviction of the tenant is carried out according to a court decision, following an adversarial procedure. While the law distinguishes two cases for evacuation (namely the situation where a lease contract is, at least apparently, ongoing from the case where there is no or not anymore a title for the use of the immovable), and the procedure is simplified in the second hypothesis, for all the situations, the eviction can be decided only by a court, and an opposition to execution can be lodged. The former tenant can request the suspension of the eviction (in the simplified procedure, only after depositing a financial guarantee).

Regarding the eviction of tenants from the buildings dedicated to housing, according to the Civil Code, *no evacuation from the buildings dedicated to housing can be made from 1st of December until 1st of March of the next year, unless the creditor makes the proof that, for the purposes of the provisions of the housing legislation, he and his family do not have an adequate housing or that the debtor and his family have another suitable housing where they can move right away.*

This provision does not apply to the evacuation of persons who abusively occupy, without title, housing or of those found to put in danger the relations of cohabitation or seriously disrupt the public order.

In both hypotheses of eviction of tenants and former tenants, a judicial review is performed and judicial guarantees against an abusive eviction are stipulated.

In case a dwelling, shelter or other improvised structure is erected without any authorizations on land pertaining to State property, the said erection is to be demolished, without prior judicial authorization and other formalities, upon decision of the local administration. The decision to demolish the said erection can be challenged before the tribunals, in accordance with the law on administrative disputes.

Should a complaint be lodged against an administrative act, the interested party can request, from the moment she has challenged the act before the issuing authority, the suspension of the said act. Such a request can be presented before a court even before a judicial complaint is lodged.

The prefect of a county, as representative of the Government at local level, is empowered to verify the legality of the administrative acts of the county council, local council or of the mayor; to this

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effect, the decisions of the local council are communicated immediately to the prefect and to the mayor, but no later than 10 working days from the adoption date.

The prefect has the possibility to challenge before a court for administrative disputes the legality of the decisions of the local public administration; the formulation of such a challenge has an automatic suspensive effect.

Moreover, as the case-law of the ECtHR confirms, the domestic legal system offers access to justice and due process guarantees in case of a forced eviction from an informal settlement, from alternative housing following an eviction of an informal settlement or from risky buildings¹⁴.

Special measures are taken by the local authorities in case of such an eviction:

- Providing solutions that offer the possibility of reasonable housing terms (keeping families together, preventing school dropout of children), in case the evacuation is caused by the necessity of demolishing building (and using the land for a different purpose).
- The inclusion of several provisions in local county decisions in order to establish measures to be taken in this type of cases and allocating a necessary budget for rent payment/financial support for families/evicted persons.
- Early communication of such decisions and facilitating dialogue between authorities and civil society through the active organisations in this field.

Moreover, efforts were made in order to support the registration of properties. Thus, under the Government Decision no. 294/2015, NACLRL implements a cadastral program for the period 2015–2023. It is envisaged the completion of the systemic registration of properties in the land registry in 2337 administrative urban and rural units. Particular emphasis was given to vulnerable groups, especially the Roma ethnics.

The Romanian Government, through NAR, has funded, between 2014-2015, under annual calls for proposals - “The Year of Citizen’s participation and responsibility” - a number of 30 projects all across the country, amounting to 1 million EUR from the national budget, to support the legalization and issuing of the ID and property-related documents for the inhabitants in informal Roma communities. These complex and technical projects resulted in more than 4,500 direct beneficiaries of the NAR funding. Also, starting with 2016, the projects were scaled up and taken over by the NACLRL.

Moreover, an amendment brought in 2016 to the Law on cadastre and real estate provided the legal framework for allowing policy interventions in informal settlements for the benefit of inhabitants. These new provisions introduced the gratuity of the initial registration in the Land Registry (which is free of charge) and the possibility to register the possession over an immovable property, in the absence of a formal title. This amendment created the legal framework necessary for formally considering, in technical documents, the possession right of buildings and/or land, including those in urban and rural informal settlements. Thus, legal mechanisms and steps are

¹⁴ Decision on admissibility in the cases of :

Cazacliu and others v. Romania

Farkas and others v. Romania [and](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{)

Memet and others v. Romania



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available, by which informal settlers (that lack the legal right of ownership), that meet the legal requirements, can become formal possessors of land/buildings and ca afterwards request access to public utilities.

II.5.3.3. Access to health care and health mediators for Roma (para. 14 lett. d) of the Concluding observations)

Health represents one of the main intervention areas of the *2015-2020 Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority*. The Strategy seeks to improve the access to basic, preventive and therapeutic medical services; to prevent sickness situations contributing to the morbidity and mortality levels affecting the Roma population and the diminution of risks thereof; to improve the local authorities capabilities in order to identify the needs and to address them; to prevent the discrimination of Roma in the health system.

Furthermore, the Strategy includes a component of information campaigns, in order to increase the use of family planning, especially by young Roma women and to implement women and child health interventions.

Every year, within the framework of the National Health Promotion Program of MoH, with the occasion of World Day of Contraception in 26 August, dissemination activities were carried out by the Public Health Directorates and implemented in collaboration with local partners. Through the support of community nurses and health mediators those activities targeted also women from vulnerable population.

Starting with 2016, each year the community nurses and the health mediators were trained for healthy eating and nutrition in vulnerable Roma communities; 4,500 kits, containing methodological instruments and covering 7 health promotion themes implemented in Roma population communities were distributed and 108,500 persons belonging to Roma minority benefited from a project developing the inter-sectoral collaboration for a better health status of the population, especially vulnerable groups.

The **Roma health mediators** are also contributing to the dissemination of basic notions on a healthy lifestyle, of information on the access of community members to health care and medico-social services and on public health campaigns (such as immunisation programmes, identifying transmissible diseases).

Another important vector in dissemination the essential information on the basics of child care and the benefits of breast feeding and vaccines, the advantages of the health insurance system, on healthy eating, in presenting the benefits of family planning and facilitating the communication with healthcare professionals is **the community team**. This team, consisting of a community nurses and a health mediator, monitors and supports, for medical or/and social issues, the most vulnerable persons.

The number of health mediators grew from 391 in 2014 to 456 in 2019 and of community health nurses from 982 in 2014 to 1694 in 2019.

These professionals assisted a constantly growing number of beneficiaries, as the table below indicates.

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Year	Total number of beneficiaries, out of whom:	Pregnant women and recent mothers	Children (aged below 18 years)
2017	618,380	31,750	135,500
2018	665,412	30,950	147,443

In order to consolidate this tool, MoH implemented several projects, complementing the national health mediation program, in 84 communities from 7 counties; these communities received support from a team composed of a health mediator and a community nurse, employed by the local authorities; their activity made possible an accurate assessment of the basic health needs of the community. Within the project already finalised, almost all the community teams were employed by the local mayorality with salaries paid by MoH, securing the sustainability of the project and the community health centres were equipped with IT and basic medical equipment.

MoH implemented a project delivering guidelines for healthy nutrition and physical activity for children in schools and kindergartens, implemented through the community nurses, schools nurses and Roma health mediators who received special training. These activities were further implemented annually within the framework of the National Health Promotion Program.

Also, through a project ongoing until 2022 in 139 rural and small urban communities, with medium or severe marginalisation, persons affected by poverty will benefit, for 28 months, from medical-social-educational services, tailored to their identified needs (health, social assistance and protection, education, employment, housing and identity documents). The project is interrelated to another financing program, aiming at regional development, as the later one will finance the building or renovation and the equipment of the integrated community centres, the headquarters for the integrated community teams.

More details are presented in *Annex 9*.

II.5.3.4. Access to labour market for Roma (para. 14 lett. e) of the Concluding observations)

NAE continued to promote employment among the Roma population through an integrated approach, aiming at an active social inclusion. Measures for employment stimulation envisaged both the job mediation in order to facilitate the direct access to a job and active employment measures, including labour market information, career counselling, assessment and certification of professional skills acquired in other ways than formal ones and vocational training, all of them provided with a view to combating the risk of poverty and social exclusion of Roma. NAE has organized Job Fairs for Roma every year and implemented a special program designed for localities having a large number of Roma.

During 2010-2018, a special attention was given to measures to encourage participation in training programs for Roma job-seekers registered at the territorial agencies for employment of the National Employment Agency (NEA). A number of 7,227 Roma people participated in free training courses, as follows:



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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of Roma people registered at NEA who were employed based on the services/measures provided by the Public Employment Service	6,696	5,492	5,274	4,655	5,925	6,925	3,490	4,196	3,971
No. of Roma people registered at NEA who participated in vocational training activities organized by the Public Employment Service	677	898	1,227	946	759	1,083	504	438	695

The downward trend of the results regarding the participation of Roma people in the vocational training corresponds to constantly decreasing number of unemployed registered in the NAE records.

In the period 2010-2018, through the stimulation measures applied by NAE, a number of 45,994 Roma people were employed.

DIR is currently in a partnership within the transnational project “Changing the discourse, changing the practices: Roma people as a human resource – RARE”(project code DTPI-1-4.1). The project was ongoing until June 30, 2019 (it started on January 2017) and was part of the transnational programme the Danube 2014-2020, financed through the European Fund for Regional Development. It comprises 6 countries – and in Romania the pilot project is targeting the Orko neighbourhood from town Sfântu Gheorghe.

II.5.3.5. Access to places and public services for persons belonging to Roma community (para. 14 lett. f) of the Concluding observations)

The NCCD case-law shows that, during the relevant period, the number of complaints on its docket was relatively constant (annex 4).

II.6. Effective protection against any acts of racial discrimination (Article 6 of the Convention)

II.6.1. Measures taken to collect statistical relevant data (paras. 16, 18 and 19 of the Concluding observations)

The MoJ communicated that starting from 3 April 2015 the application ECRIS (the electronic tool for court statistics) enables the collection of statistical data concerning criminal cases in which the court held the commission of the offence on grounds of hatred, as regulated by Article 77 letter h of the New Romanian Criminal Code (the NRCC). As such, the ECRIS system comprised the statistical attribute of “hate crime” for 50 offences regulated by the NRCC, situated under the following categories: crimes against the person, crimes against the patrimony, malfeasance while in office, forgery, crimes against public health, crimes against public order, crimes against religious freedom and respect for deceased and the crime of attempt against a community.

In December 2016, MoJ initiated the procedure for obtaining through OPAC (the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity), the necessary financing for implementing a project envisaging the performance of an analysis which will determine the technical characteristics and features, the hardware infrastructure and the costs required for the development, by means of a subsequent future project (also financed through OPAC), of the enhanced and extended ECRIS application, so as to correspond to the latest requirements of the judiciary system, both technologically (e.g., improving the architecture of the application) and functionally (e.g., data flow, including for judicial statistics). The partners in this project comprise the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the National Anticorruption Directorate, the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism, Bucharest Court of Appeal and Bucharest Tribunal, the Judicial Inspection and the National Probation Directorate. The financing contract for the analysis project was signed in November 2017 and its implementation is estimated to cover a period of 25 months.

Also, MoJ announced the implementation of the necessary steps so as to make the attribute of "hate crime" more detailed, composed of distinct sub-attributes, corresponding to all circumstances regulated by Article 77 letter h of the NRCC, including sexual orientation, in the present ECRIS application.

At the same time, following internal consultation during 2017, POHCCJ agreed on modifying the collection of statistical data at the level of the Public Ministry; by Order of the General Prosecutor, disaggregated data concerning the application of art. 77 lett. H Criminal Code started to be collected. Thus, such data are available only from the second semester of 2018.

GIRP communicated that tertiary legislation regulating the records on criminal files comprise the obligation to insert information about the aggravating circumstances, encompassing the motives of hatred/discrimination (Article 77 letter h of the Romanian Criminal Code – RCC). Also, within the project financed through Norwegian Funds and dedicated to combating hate crimes, particularly against Roma communities, the development of a module dedicated to the collection of data on "hate crimes" and operating in the statistical applications already in use within the Romanian police is foreseen.

II.6.2. During 2014-2018, the prosecutors' offices registered 440 case files concerning the alleged perpetration of the incitement to hatred and discrimination, out of which 154 were solved – in 3 files through indictment, in 5 by dropping charges and 146 were closed.

As far as the offences to GEO 31/2002 are concerned, from a total of 257 case files registered during 2014-2018, 85 were solved, through indictment in 6 cases, by dropping charged in 11 cases, while 68 cases were closed.

II.7. Education, culture, information (Article 7 of the Convention) - *Progress in the implementation and positive response to para. 20 in the Concluding observations*

As already indicated in the previous report, all law enforcement officials benefit from initial and/or continuous human rights training.



II.7.1. Initial and continuous training for magistrates

Starting with 2006-2007, the 1st year NIM trainee magistrates are introduced to the concepts of prohibition of discrimination and that of an effective remedy and relevant international case law on these matters; the studies are complemented in the 2nd training year with the course "Fight against discrimination". In 2016 a total number of 302 judicial trainees (142 in the first year and 160 in the second year) benefited from the training sessions referred to above, whereas in 2017 a total number of 331 judicial trainees (189 in the first year and 142 in the second year) were trained in the field.

Judges and prosecutors admitted into magistracy following a direct contest also undertake an initial training in discrimination and hate crimes in the Human Rights Module and also at seminars on criminal law. In 2016 a number of 52 magistrates were trained in the above mentioned matters. A total of 90 judges and 27 prosecutors attended the training program organized in 2017. In 2018 a total of 125 judges and 56 prosecutors attended the training program.

Special training events (conferences, seminars) are also constantly organised on the topic of non-discrimination, some of them within programmes or projects implemented in partnership with NCCD or/and with Romani CRISS.

The Public Ministry organized, autonomously, two training programs for the prosecutors targeting exclusively or partially the hate crimes, discrimination and antisemitism issues, as follows:

- *Combating fascism, racism, xenophobia and the cult of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity*, Bucharest, 15 October 2014, in partnership with the National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania "Elie Wiesel";
- *The human rights and fundamental liberties protection in the criminal investigation phase of the criminal trial* series of training sessions (15 November 2017 – 22 May 2018).

II.7.2. The National Institute for Lawyers' Training and Professional Perfecting is offering an initial two-year professional training; the 2nd year includes the study of human rights protection. Also, within the continuous training system, conferences and seminars on human rights protection are offered to lawyers within projects co-implemented by the Institute and governmental or non-governmental organisations.

As an example, in February 2017, within the framework of JUST/2014/JTRA/AG/EJTR programme on *The advancing knowledge on fundamental rights for lawyers*¹⁵, 2 seminars on issues related to hate crimes, racism and rights and principles recognized by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, particularly from perspectives affecting the Roma population and 2 seminars regarding the effective and coherent application of EU law in the area of fundamental rights within the project were organised.

II.7.3. In the curriculum of *education institutions within MIA*, topics aimed at ensuring the development of necessary skills in the relations with citizens were introduced, in order to ensure the observance of their rights and interests and their promotion according to legal rules.

¹⁵ Implemented by Romani CRISS in partnership with the Centre for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance "Amalipe" Bulgaria and the National Institute for Lawyers

The training includes the cases concerning ill-treatment and involving policemen in which the European Court of Human Rights stated that Romania had failed to observe the provisions of ill-treatment prohibition.

Over 2,350 students graduating the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Police Academy in the period 2014 – 2019 and over 11,595 graduates from the police and gendarmerie non-commissioned officers' schools benefitted from human rights training.

IPOS organizes training courses in the field of human rights, attended by police officers from public order structures, criminal investigations, transport police. The purpose of these training programmes is to prevent discrimination/abuse in the interaction between the police worker and the persons belonging to groups at risk of discrimination. In 2014-2019, 2,100 police personnel from public order, criminal investigation and transportation departments participated in these courses.

More details on these training programs are presented in *Annex 10*.

II.7.4. Training of prison personnel

Taking advantage of international expertise, 3 training curricula were developed and employed for the continuous prison staff training within the project called *Strengthening the capacity of the prison system in the area of human capital development at the level of prison staff*: "Human Rights – ways to prevent discriminating minorities, especially Roma population", "Radicalization as a prison phenomenon" and "CPT Rules". These curricula, which approached, from different perspectives, human rights protection and elimination of all forms of discrimination, were adapted and used within the initial training courses organized for the junior prison police officers working in various fields. Complying with human rights is also debated during the law courses organized within different educational institutions training prison staff.

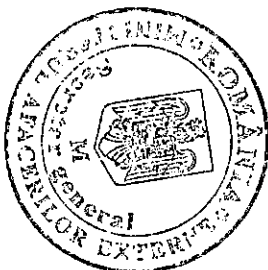
II.7.5. Training provided by NCCD

NCCD also continues its training activities (see *Annex 10*); the Council is implementing, from October 2018 to March 2020, the project "10 Years of Implementation of the EU Framework Directive on Racism and Xenophobia in Romania: Challenges and New Approaches to Hate Crime Actions" - NoIntoHate2018¹⁶.

The project seeks to use the expertise of some institutional working groups to review the legislative framework by proposing amendments if they are required. Increasing institutional capacity will be achieved by organizing training courses for people directly involved within the process of recording and reporting hate crimes. Between August 2019 and February 2020, experts from NCCD, IPOS and an international expert in hate crime will hold 12 training sessions (8 sessions for the professional category of magistrates and 4 sessions for professional police and gendarmerie categories).

II.7.6. During 2010-2019, the National Agency for Public Servants implemented 15 projects with a training component, focusing on equal opportunities and gender equality, as well as sustainable development. The Agency also implemented or participated in projects including human rights training (see *Annex 10*).

¹⁶ In partnership with IPOS and funded by the EU Program "Rights, Equality, Citizenship 2014 - 2020", according to the Grant Agreement no. 809349 - NoIntoHate2018 - REC-AG-2017 / REC-RRAC-HATEAG-2017



II.7.7. Training for human rights and non-discrimination within the primary and secondary education and for teachers

From the curricular perspective, Human Rights Education, as well as Education for Democratic Citizenship, have been developed extensively, both topics being approached in multiple ways: as distinct compulsory subjects, as thematic clusters included in various Social Studies courses and as optional school subjects from a trans-disciplinary approach.

At primary education level, the syllabus for Civic education for the 3rd and 4th grades have been restructured, while the newly approved school plan for lower secondary level offers particularized social science subjects for each grade, as follows: Critical Thinking and the Child's Rights for the 5th grade, Intercultural Education for the 6th grade, Education for Democratic Citizenship for the 7th grade, Economic and Financial Education for the 8th grade. Regarding the related optional subjects provided at national level, it is worth mentioning the following courses: Education for Society (for preparatory and 1st grades), Philosophy for Children (for primary school), Intercultural Education and Humanitarian International Law, respectively (both for high school).

Besides the formal approach to the Human Rights Education, a wide range of local, county, and national extracurricular contests, competitions, and programs have been established in order to enable and encourage the practice and promotion of social competences.

Regarding the training of teachers in the field of human rights education and child's rights education, Teacher Training Houses provide a wide offer of in-service trainings and within various extracurricular programs. Starting with 2013, Teacher Training Houses, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, offered a four year formation course for all pre-university teachers on human rights and, in particular, children's rights.

In 2016, Romania contributed to the Council of Europe (CoE)'s initiative regarding the elaboration of a Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture. In addition, through the Ministry of National Education's support, the Framework was piloted in Romanian schools.

The entire Romanian language curriculum promotes the empathetic cultural and intercultural behavior. The new syllabus specific to the lower secondary school put forth updated perspectives on: personal, national, cultural and linguistic identities, cultural differences, European cultural and linguistic contacts, all of which are included in a compulsory component called "Intercultural Elements" – part of the Romanian language syllabus.

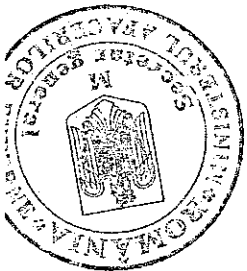
The curriculum of Romanian language for minorities extensively develops the component of personal development within the social – cultural framework. In this respect, the syllabus focuses on students' acknowledgement of the multicultural and inter-cultural environment, promotion of ethnic, national and universal values and on students' involvement in projects specific to international days (e.g. International day of tolerance).

Regarding students' factual behavior, all schools have the possibility to promote and initiate extracurricular projects and activities meant for children and teenagers to practice non-discrimination competences, values and principles. Most of these activities are developed in partnership with the School Committee for intercultural promotion and violence, corruption and discrimination prevention and elimination in the school environment.



Abbreviations list

COM	EU European Commission
CSI	County School Inspectorate
DIR	Department for Interethnic Relations
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
GD	Government Decision
GEO	Government Emergency Ordinance
GO	Government Ordinance
GIRP	General Inspectorate of Romanian Police
GP	General Practitioner (medical)
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IPOS	the Institute for Public Order Studies
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSJ	Ministry of Labour and Social Justice
MoPF	Ministry of Public Finance
MoRDPA	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration
NACLRL	National Agency for Cadaster and Land Registration
NAEO	National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men
NAP	National Administration of Penitentiaries
NAR	National Agency for Roma
NARPDCA	National Authority for Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption
NCCD	National Council for Combating Discrimination
NEA	National Employment Agency
NIM	National Institute for Magistracy
NPLD	National Programme for Local Development
POHCCJ	Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice
RFF	The Romanian Football Federation
RIHR	Romanian Institute for Human Rights
ROP	Regional Operational Program
Romani CRISS	Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies
SCM	Superior Council of Magistracy
SIIR	Integrated informatics system of education in Romania (Romanian acronym used)
WB	World Bank



Statistical data and information on social assistance benefits programs in Romania

The budgetary allocation for all the social assistance benefits programs, during 2011-2018

The budgetary allocation for the social assistance benefits from the budget of the MoLSP, during 2011-2018:	Billion lei	Billion EUR*
2011	8,4	1.98
2012	7,9	1.77
2013	7,9	1.79
2014	8,1	1.82
2015	9,9	2.22
2016	11,7	2.60
2017	13,4	2.93
2018	14,7	3.16

* This is an approximate value resulting from the reference of the official amount to the official annual average currency exchange.

The impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty reduction

Romania EUROSTAT	At risk of poverty and social exclusion(%)	At risk of poverty after social transfers (%)
2011	40.9	22.3
2012	43.2	22.9
2013	41.9	23.0
2014	40.3	25.1
2015	37.4	25.4
2016	38.8	25.3
2017	35.7	23.6
2018	32.5	23.5

The programs currently implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice in order to reduce the poverty and promote the social inclusion of all vulnerable groups, are the following:

1. State allowance for children:

a) **Type of program:** universal benefit

b) **Eligibility conditions:** state allowance for children is a form of protection granted by the state to all children, without discrimination. Are entitled to the child allowance for children also the children of foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in Romania, if they live with their parents. The program is targeting all children of up to 18 years old and young people over 18 years old who attend classes of high school or professional school, organized according to the law, until their completion.

c) **Legal framework:**

- Law no.61/1993 on state allowance for children, republished with subsequent amendments;
- Government Decision no. 577/2008 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 61/1993 on state allowance for children, as well as to regulate the establishment and payment of state allowance for children;

The evolution of the amounts of state allowance for children during 2011-2018:

Type of benefit	Age of the children	July 2011 - 2014 (lei)	2015 (lei)	2016 – End 2018 (lei)
State allowance for children (amounts increased starting from June 2015)	children > 2 years	42	42/ 84 (June 2015)	84
	Child with disability > 3 years	42	84/200 (June 2015)	200
	children < 2 years	200	200	200
	Child with disability < 3 years			

2. Parental leave and child raising benefit and monthly insertion incentive:

- a) **Type of program:** monthly benefit for raising the child
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** starting from July 2016 the child raising indemnity and the insertion incentive are granted to the persons who, during the last two years prior to childbirth, earned for 12 months incomes subject to taxation according to the Fiscal Code (incomes from wages, self-employed activities and agriculture activities, including from similar periods, according to the law). The child raising indemnity is a compensation, paid from the state budget, for the parents who interrupt their professional careers and take parental leave to raise children under the age of 2 years or, if a disabled child, up to 3 years.

The amount of the child raising indemnity has been established to 85% of the average professional net income earned by the parent during the last 12 months from the last two years prior to the childbirth. The minimum amount of child raising indemnity has been increased from 1.063 lei to 1.250 lei starting from January 2018. The maximum amount of the indemnity has been established to 8.500 lei starting from September 2017.

People who are entitled to receive child raising indemnity, but still work, earning professional incomes subject to income taxation, will receive a monthly incentive insertion. The monthly insertion incentive is granted until the age of 3 years old, if the parent decides to come back to work 60 days before the child fulfils the age of 2 years old (3 years, in case of disabled child).

Has the right to the child raise indemnity and to the insertion incentive, optionally, any of the parents and also one of the persons who adopted the child, who has a child entrusted for adoption, who has a child in placement or in emergency placement, excepting the foster care person, and also the guardian person. The two benefits are granted for each birth or, as the case may be, for any of the situations aforementioned.

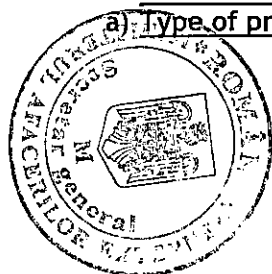
According to Romanian Labor Code (Law no. 53/2003) the employee has the right to ask for the suspension of individual labor contract in order to benefit from the parental leave. According to GEO no. 111/2010 the parental leave is approved by the employer at the request of the person who is entitled with and the employer has the obligation to establish the length of the leave in agreement with the employee.

The legislation regarding parental leave stipulates also other measures of job protection for persons who are entitled to this leave.

- c) **Legal framework:**
- Government Emergency Ordinance no.111/2010 on parental leave and child raising benefits, with subsequent amendments;
 - Government Decision no. 52/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no. 111/2010.
- d) **Monthly amounts:** minimum 1.250 lei, maximum 8.500 lei, monthly insertion incentive 650 lei.

3. Benefits and aids for raising the children with disability:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit (children with disability)



- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the benefits are granted to the persons/parents who take care of their children with disabilities and also to the persons with disabilities who take care of their children.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- articles 31 and 32 from Government Emergency Ordinance no.111/2010 on parental leave and child raising benefits, with subsequent amendments;
 - Government Decision no. 52/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no. 111/2010.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**
- **monthly benefit for raising the child with disability**, in amount of 1.250 lei, granted to the persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who benefited from the rights established by GEO no. 111/2010 and who choose to continue with the parental leave until the age of 7 years old of the child.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of 563 lei (45% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who don't earn any income besides the social assistance benefits for disabled persons.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of 438 lei (35% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who don't earn any income besides the social assistance benefits for disabled persons.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of 438 lei (35% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of 188 lei (15% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child**, in amount of 563 lei (45% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children aged between 0 and 2 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
 - **monthly aid for raising the child**, in amount of 188 lei (15% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei), granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children aged between 2 and 7 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.

The evolution of the amounts of child raising benefits and of the aids for raising the children with disabilities, during 2011-2018:

Type of benefit	2011 - 2012 (lei)	2013 - 2015 (lei)	2016 (lei)	2017 (lei)	2018 (lei)
Child raising benefit	75% from the average of the professional net incomes earned in the last 12 months before the child birth date, which cannot be less than 600 lei and more than 1.200 lei or 3.400 lei. (from October 2012 85% according to Law no.166/2012)	85% from the average of the professional net incomes earned in the last 12 months before the child birth date, which cannot be less than 600 lei and more than 1.200 lei or 3.400 lei.	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 85% of the minimum gross wage(1.063 lei until 30 January 2017)	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 85% of the minimum gross wage (minimum amount 1.233 lei from 1st February 2017) Maximum amount 8.500 lei from September 2017)	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 1.250 lei minimum amount from January 2018) Maximum amount: 8.500 lei
Benefits and aids for raising the children with disabilities (granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities or for persons with disabilities who take care of children)	150/300/ 450	150/300/ 450	159/372/ 478/531	185/432/ 555/616	188/438/563/625
Insertion incentive	500	500	532	616/650 from 1st April 2017)	650

4. Accommodation leave and benefit:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit (granted for accommodation with the adopted child);
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the adoptive person or, optionally, any of the spouses from the adoptive family, who earn incomes subject to income taxes, according to the provisions of the Law no. 227/2015 on Fiscal Code, as subsequently amended and supplemented, from wages and assimilated incomes, from self-employed activities and agricultural activities, can benefit from an accommodation leave of up to one year, which may include also the period of custody of the child for adoption, as well as a monthly allowance.
- c) **Legal framework:**
 - article 50 from Law no. 273/2004 on adoption procedure;
 - Government Decision no.579/2016 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 273/2004 on adoption procedure, for the modification and completion of the Government Decision no. 233/2012 regarding the services and activities that may be performed by the Romanian private bodies in the framework of the internal adoption procedure, as well as the methodology for their authorization and for the modification of the Government



Decision no. 1.441/2004 regarding the authorization of foreign private organizations to carry out activities in the field of international adoption.

d) **Monthly amounts:** 1.700 lei.

5. Benefits for persons with disabilities:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** granted to the adults with disability regardless of their income, depending on the degree of disability, and to the family or legal representative of the child with high disability; high, pronounced and medium. Granted also to the family or the legal representative of the child with disability, regardless of their income.
- c) **Legal framework:**
 - art. 58 from Law no. 448/2006 on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**
 - **Monthly indemnity granted to persons with disabilities:**
 - 350 lei, granted to the adult with high disability, regardless of their income;
 - 265 lei, granted to the adult with pronounced disability, regardless of their income.
 - **Monthly complementary budget for persons with disabilities:**
 - 150 adults/300 for children, granted to the adult with high disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with high disability, regardless of their income;
 - 110 adults/175 for children, granted to the adult with pronounced disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with pronounced disability, regardless of their income;
 - 60 for adults and children, granted to the adult with medium disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with medium disability, regardless of their income.

6. Family support allowance:

- a) **Type of program:** income tested benefit
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** granted to families made of husband and wife who take care of their children, those being up to 18 years old, living and contributing to the household together and earning net monthly income per family member up to 530 lei. The right to family support allowance is established by taking into account the incomes and the assets of the family referred to in the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011. The program increases the children's education by introducing the school attendance conditionality for school children from beneficiary families; the amount of the allowance can be adjusted or diminished based on their school absences.
- c) **Legal framework:**
 - Law no. 277/2010 on family support allowance, with subsequent amendments;
 - Government Decision no.38/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 277/2010 on family support allowance.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**

Levels of incomes	Type of family	Number of children	Monthly amounts
monthly net income per family member up to 200 lei	Two-parent family	with 1 child	82
		with 2 children	164
		with 3 children	246
		with 4 children or more	328
monthly net income per family member between 200 lei and 530 lei		with 1 child	75
		with 2 children	150
		with 3 children	225
		with 4 children or more	300
monthly net income per family member up to 200 lei	Single-parent family	with 1 child	107
		with 2 children	214
		with 3 children	321
		with 4 children or more	428
monthly net income per		with 1 child	102

family member between 200 lei and 530 lei	with 2 children	204
	with 3 children	306
	with 4 children or more	408

7. Child placement allowance:

- a) Type of program: categorical program;
- b) Eligibility conditions: Granted from the state budget for each child or young person who benefits from the measure of placement to a person, family, guardian, foster parent or to residential care organized by an authorized private body. Thus, the families are encouraged to take in placement abandoned children, providing a family climate that is so necessary for growth and harmonious development. This allowance is paid until the age of 18 years old of the child and after 18, if the measure of placement is continued after this age.
- c) Legal framework: article 128 from Law no.272/2004 on protection and promotion of the children rights;
- d) Monthly amounts: 600 lei; for children with disabilities this amount is increased by 50%, reaching to 900 lei.

8. The educational incentive:

- a) Type of program: categorical program;
- b) Eligibility conditions: this program addresses to children from disadvantaged families, in order to stimulate their participation to preschool education. Is granted as a social ticket for increasing their access to education. The educational incentive is granted to the disadvantaged families if the following criteria are met:
- the child is in the evidence of a preschool unit according to National education Law no.1/2011;
 - the monthly income per family member is up to twice the level of minimum income guaranteed for a single person, namely 284 lei;
- c) Legal framework:
- Law no. 248/2015 on stimulating the participation into preschool education of the children from disadvantaged families.
 - Government Decision no.15/2016 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of no. 248/2015.
- d) Monthly amounts: 50 lei/monthly for each child enrolled at the kindergarten.

9. Social aid:

- a) Type of program: income tested benefit
- b) Eligibility conditions: granted to families or single persons with low or no income, in a state of social need, in order to overcome the situation he/she is in. It is established as the difference between the monthly net income of the eligible family or single person and the monthly level of the guaranteed minimum income provided by the law. The right to social aid is established by taking into account the incomes of the family and also the assets of the family referred to in the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011.
- c) Legal framework:
- Law no. 416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income, with subsequent amendments;
 - Government Decision no.50/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no.416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income.
- d) Monthly amounts: monthly levels of the guaranteed minimum income:
- a. 142 lei for single person;
 - b. 255 lei for family with 2 persons;
 - c. 357 lei for family with 3 persons;
 - d. 442 lei for family with 4 persons;
 - e. 527 lei for family with 5 persons;

37 lei for each additional person exceeding the number of 5 who is a family member, according to law.



10. House heating aids:

Type of program: income tested benefit

- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the house heating aids are granted in order to compensate part of the costs with house heating during the cold season. These social protection measures are granted to single persons and families whose monthly net medium incomes per family member are up to a certain threshold established by law. The right to house heating aid is established by taking into account the incomes of the family and also the assets of the family referred to the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- Government Emergency Ordinance no.70/2011 on social protection measures during the cold season, with subsequent amendments;
 - Government Decision no.920/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no.70/2011 on social protection measures during the cold season;
- d) **Monthly amounts:** the levels of incomes and the amounts of house heating aids:

Levels of incomes lei	Percentage compensation for house heating in centralized system	
	Families	Single persons
up to 155	90%	100%
155,1 - 210	80%	90%
210,1 - 260	70%	80%
260,1 - 310	60%	70%
310,1 - 355	50%	60%
355,1 - 425	40%	50%
425,1 - 480	30%	40%
480,1 - 540	20%	30%
540,1 - 615	10%	20%
615,1 - 786	5%	15%
786,1 - 1082		10%

Levels of incomes lei	Monthly amounts house heating with natural gas	Monthly amounts house heating with electric energy	Monthly amounts house heating with wood, coal and oil
	lei	lei	lei
up to 155	26	240	54
155,1 - 210	19	216	48
210,1 - 260	15	192	44
260,1 - 310	10	168	39
310,1 - 355	90	144	34
355,1 - 425	70	120	30
425,1 - 480	45	96	26
480,1 - 540	35	72	20
540,1 - 750	20	48	16

11. Emergency aids:

- a) **Type of program:** income tested benefit;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** according to the national legislation, families and people in need, as a result of natural disasters, fires, accidents or any other special situations due to health or other causes that may lead to the risk of social exclusion, can benefit from emergency aids established by Government Decision.
- c) **Legal framework:**

- Law no. 416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income, with subsequent amendments;
- Government Decision no.50/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no.416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income.

d) Monthly amounts:

Emergency aids are granted within the limits of the amounts allocated to this purpose in the budget of Ministry of Labor and Social Justice, in order to cover basic needs, especially maintaining housing and ensuring living conditions, access to medical services and/or recovery health or work capacity, tackling the causes that can lead to school dropout, as well as any other causes that can induce to the risk of social exclusion.

12. Non-reimbursable aid for refugees:

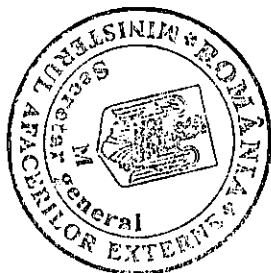
a) Type of program: categorical benefit;

b) Eligibility conditions: According to Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions, establishes during the asylum procedure, the foreigner who are requesting a form of protection in Romania, has the right to social assistance, according to Law no. 292/2011 on social assistance, with subsequent modifications and completions. According to the provisions of article 20 from Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, acknowledging refugee status or granting subsidiary protection offers the beneficiary the right to benefit from social assistance measures under the conditions stipulated by law for Romanian citizens and also the right to receive on request, within the limits of the disposable finances of the state, a non-reimbursable aid for a period of maximum 9 months if, due to objective reasons, one does not have the necessary financial means of existence. This aid can be extended for another period of maximum 3 months.

c) Legal framework:

- Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions.

d) Monthly amounts: 540 lei.



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS		Monthly average number of beneficiaries							
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1.	State allowance for children	3,869,184	3,825,080	3,793,117	3,727,859	3,691,195	3,662,793	3,635,792	3,610,503
2.	Placement allowance	42,697	40,810	40,352	39,165	40,033	40,735	41,039	40,083
3.	Child raising indemnity	196,680	160,028	142,170	139,572	138,350	141,151	159,369	174,328
4.	Insertion incentive	10,288	18,885	30,506	33,659	37,384	41,334	74,593	90,427
5.	Special allowances to raise a disabled child	6,703	6,995	7,873	8,497	8,566	8,644	8,999	9,389
6.	Accommodation benefit	-	-	-	-	-	189	415	473
7.	Social aid	186,704	192,713	217,109	240,617	245,545	244,814	233,966	202,976
8.	Allowance for family support	325,120	301,586	260,416	247,620	277,624	273,337	257,538	224,437
9.	House heating benefits, of which:								
	heating in centralized system	178,060	260,182	206,205	154,649	118,697	87,193	71,012	45,837
	heating with natural gas	330,420	280,097	239,397	186,430	157,971	115,475	90,782	53,897
	heating with electric energy	-	-	290	8,795	8,838	8,370	6,774	4,360
	heating with wood, coal and oil	923,417	730,844	546,536	323,563	406,494	358,543	288,274	159,885
10.	Benefits for persons with disabilities, article 58 from Law no, 448/2004	661,311	658,677	671,143	681,279	716,566	739,794	763,338	777,344
11.	Non-reimbursable aid for refugees	38	42	152	295	222	202	256	513
12.	Emergency aids	903	63	732	1,655	2,409	1,779	1,507	1,860



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS		Amounts paid - lei -							
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1.	State allowance for children	2,834,784,038	2,762,798,774	2,718,491,547	2,684,862,102	3,541,590,789	4,415,501,616	4,396,915,235	4,365,541,008
2.	Placement Allowance	53,300,776	53,002,893	51,833,331	71,387,819	317,207,573	324,894,200	328,009,871	320,335,669
3.	Child raise indemnity	2,176,419,025	1,760,287,099	1,534,501,939	1,552,480,562	1,578,567,510	2,060,157,591	3,409,347,828	4,009,423,904
4.	Monthly insertion incentive	20,198,058	98,023,210	189,548,710	207,874,711	230,358,988	263,932,900	575,599,491	704,224,547
5.	Special benefits/aids for raising a disabled child	30,601,744	31,760,431	34,900,103	37,356,001	36,238,816	48,060,642	77,321,616	87,813,482
6.	Accommodation benefit	-	-	-	-	-	986,284	8,335,108	9,388,957
7.	Social aid	390,394,482	417,791,486	536,012,185	663,544,373	676,486,058	814,735,863	783,876,013	665,982,297
8.	Allowance for family support	223,287,221	216,861,399	215,061,950	260,682,745	535,518,000	525,919,920	501,271,395	443,539,554
9.	House heating benefits, of which:								
	heating in centralized system	76,809,651	100,223,753	84,721,327	50,383,876	42,904,969	26,538,635	22,942,914	13,309,111
	heating with natural gas	147,244,711	121,142,825	103,716,908	80,588,652	72,019,403	50,994,126	42,651,904	27,907,593
	heating with electric energy			28,896	4,465,526	4,559,277	3,835,468	3,175,225	2,233,654
	heating with wood, coal and oil	219,190,673	145,232,270	179,992,583	91,165,291	78,300,426	67,197,722	52,807,849	33,412,165
10.	Benefits for persons with disabilities, article 58 from Law no. 448/2004	2,012,881,772	2,032,407,801	2,091,199,929	2,155,801,063	2,584,952,474	2,797,100,904	2,888,606,237	3,857,423,502
11.	Non-reimbursable aid for refugees	207,360	244,080	795,960	1,836,000	1,273,860	1,194,480	1,490,400	1,677,780
12.	Emergency aids	6,875,900	182,800	2,046,350	3,866,050	7,885,103	9,499,395	6,604,787	9,901,580



The Romanian institutions promoting and protecting human rights and combating discrimination

A. The Ombudsman, an autonomous and independent public authority, stipulated in the Constitution, has as purpose the protection of individuals' rights and freedoms in their relations with public authorities, and exercises its duties *ex officio* or at the request of persons whose rights and freedoms have been infringed, within the limits established by law. The Constitution stipulates the obligation for the public authorities to provide the necessary support to the Ombudsman for fulfilling its duties. The Ombudsman is elected by the two Chambers of the Parliament, for a mandate of 5 years, renewable only once. The Ombudsman is only responsible before the Parliament, which is examining its annual report of activity.

The Standing Bureaus of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate appoint the Deputies of the Ombudsman, specialized in the following activities:

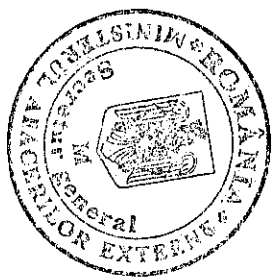
- ✓ human rights, equality of chances between men and women, religious cults and national minorities;
- ✓ protection and promotion of the rights of the child – the Child's Ombudsman;
- ✓ family, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities;
- ✓ army, justice, police, prisons;
- ✓ property, labour, social protection, taxes and fees;
- ✓ prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments in places of detention – the National Preventive Mechanism.

The Ombudsman's attributions in order to fulfil its mission of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms include: solving petitions lodged by individuals on alleged violations of human rights by the authorities of the public administration; involvement in the constitutionality examination of a legal provision (through legal opinions, requests to the Constitutional court for a constitutionality examination); the possibility to propose, through its annual reports, amendments to the existing legislation. It can also draw the Government's attention to any illegal administrative act of fact of central administration or of the prefects, and in case the government does not adopt within 20 days the necessary measures to correct the illegal act of fact, it notifies the Parliament.

The Ombudsman adopts recommendations for the attention of domestic administrative authorities following the examination of a petition; in case the administrative authority does not redress the violation, the Ombudsman will notify the hierarchical superior authority and subsequently, the prefect.

According to law no. 9/2018, the Ombudsman's Institution is a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, as established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (UN) 48/134 of 20 December 1993, adopting the Paris Principles. The institution initiated the demarches to register for accreditation as a national human rights institution, before the Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

B. As already indicated in our previous Report on the implementation of the Covenant, the **National Council for Combatting Discrimination** (here after NCCD) is a public authority with legal personality, acting as the guarantor of enforcement and substantiating the observance of the



principle of non-discrimination, assuring the prevention of all forms of discrimination, under parliamentary control.

The institution is exercising its duties in accordance with its mandate established by GO no. 137/2000, which also specifies its composition and its sphere of competence (prevention of all forms of discrimination, mediation of discrimination deeds, investigation, ascertaining and sanctioning of discrimination deeds, monitoring the discriminatory cases and providing specialized assistance to victims of discrimination).

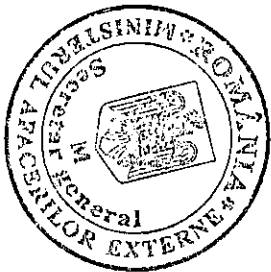
The autonomy and independence of this specialized institution were two criteria specifically requested by the European Union and expressed by:

- the autonomy in the administration of the institution's annual budget - the president of the institution is a main budget administrator; there is a transparent system of appointing the members of the Steering Committee. NCCD's Steering Committee members are appointed by the Romanian Parliament for a mandate of 5 years following a public procedure, which entails the publication of applications, the possibility of contesting candidates, the public hearing of candidates and the vote of the Romanian Parliament; moreover, in 2018, two members of the Steering Board were supported by the civil society.
- there is a determined term of the mandate of the Steering Committee members and there are express provisions for their dismissal. The members of the Steering Committee can be dismissed and released of office only in the following cases: resignation, expiry of the mandate, incapability to work according to the law, if they were definitely condemned for a deed stipulated by the criminal law, if they do not fulfil anymore the requirements stipulated in par. 3, upon the substantiated proposal of at least two thirds of the members.
- The Council must present an annual report before the Parliament; a possible rejection of such a report does not lead to the dismissal of the Steering Committee members.
- The Council's documents are entirely subject to the control of courts through their attack to administrative contentious matters courts.

The Council has the competence to exercise its legal authority not only based on petitions and complaints from individuals or legal entities, but also *ex officio* when it detects the infringement of non-discrimination laws. NCCD is a member of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), participating actively at trainings and meetings among other Member States Equality Bodies.

NCCD receives and reviews petitions and complaints regarding violations of the legal provisions concerning the principle of equality and non-discrimination from individuals and groups of persons, NGOs active in human rights protection, other legal entities and public institutions. The Steering Committee of NCCD, exercising its decision-making role, analyses the petitions and complaints received, and adopts, by decisions, the appropriate measures, following investigations carried out by the specialized staff of the Council (the Inspection Team).

The Council thus fulfils the criteria established by Paris Principles as it is an autonomous public institution, with legal personality, under parliamentary control (its annual report is debated and approved by the Parliament); it is empowered to guarantee and supervise the implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination among citizens, being qualified to investigate and establish sanctions in cases of discrimination (through its Inspection Team); it elaborates and



applies public policies in the field of non-discrimination; the members of its Steering Board are appointed, in plenary session, by the Parliament.

C. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) is an independent organism under parliamentary control; its mission is to raise the awareness of public entities, non-governmental organisations and individuals on the human rights issues as well as to contribute, by publicly informing the international organisms and the interested entities abroad on the practical aspects of the way human rights are respected and guaranteed in Romania. In order to achieve its mission, the Institute has created a centre for documentation; it also contributed to the translation of main international – universal and regional – conventional instruments. It can organize training programs for those categories of public servants with particular responsibilities in the human rights field or for improving the knowledge in the human rights sphere. It can provide the Parliament background information on the projects of law on the docket of its commissions, and dedicated to various research projects on different aspects of the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide and in Romania.



The practice of the National Council for Combatting Discrimination

A. Cases concerning alleged discriminatory treatment based on Roma ethnicity against individuals:

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Complaints concerning access to places and public services	7	20	9	15	11	20	19	14	11
Roma complaints	54	62	61	66	42	61	81	53	52

B. Case-law concerning discriminatory statements from journalists and politicians.

In the period 2012-2018, NCCD applied 10 sanctions for discriminatory statements made by journalists:

- **2012** – sanctioned the journalist G.C. and A. newspaper, by a fine amounting to 1,000 lei for discriminatory statements against Roma in the editorial "Gypsy putsch". The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2014** - sanctioned the journalist C.T.P., by a fine amounting to 2,000 lei for the publication of an article in the newspaper G., that undermined the dignity of Roma people and created an atmosphere degrading and offensive to Roma people. The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2014** - sanctioned the TV presenter, M.R., by a fine amounting to 3.000 de lei for inciting to hatred against sexual minorities; the penalty came after Mrs. R. posted, in April, on her blog, a text demanding homosexuals to stop showing in public, because they are not "normal". The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2014** – sanctioned the TV presenter, R.B., by a fine amounting to 5,000 de lei for statements made regarding the citizens of the Republic of Moldova; in a show of 20 January, broadcasted by B.TV, Mr. B launched a series of accusations against the Republic of Moldova, stating that this country is "European leader" in terms of alcohol consumption, prostitution and illiteracy; in addition to the fine of 5,000 lei, the TV producer was forced to publish the summary of NCCD's decision in two national newspapers; The NCCD decision was upheld by the Bucharest Court of Appeal.
- **2014** – sanctioned the TV presenter R.D. by a fine amounting to 1,000 lei, for a series of unfounded, degrading and humiliating accusations brought to the mayor of Baia Mare; moreover, NCCD decided that the show performed by Mr. D. "exceeded the limits of freedom of expression and created a degrading and humiliating atmosphere" to Baia Mare mayor. The NCCD decision was upheld by the Cluj Court of Appeal.
- **2016** - Sanctioning with a warning and also recommending to avoid the use of such language in the future, the newspaper K. for articles published on the website, entitled "The 1000 psychopaths who were at Antena 3's protest, are not representing the old people in Romania!" and "Live from Antena 3: 10 things from the most embarrassing protest in Romanian history ". The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2016** – Sanctioning by fine amounting to 10,000 lei the moderators M.M. and D.B. for comments on the performance of national football team Romania's representative in the

- friendly match with Congo, which created a hostile, degrading, demeaning atmosphere to persons of a different color. The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2017** – NCCD sanctioned a journalist with a fine in the amount of 5,000 lei for the discriminatory statements: “Hungarians would have entered Europe, fraudulently, they are not Europeans, they are not loved by others and Romania would be fine without Hungarians.” The NCCD decision was upheld by the Bucharest Court of Appeal.
 - **2018** – NCCD decided that the association created by the journalist C.T.P., during a TV show, between the prime-minister V.D. and the pavian monkey, represents harassment and violates the right to dignity. The behavior of the show's moderator, C.P., as well as its lack of reaction, represented discrimination. The facts of the two journalists exceeded the freedom of expression in accordance with the Romanian legislation and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. They were sanctioned with a fine in the amount of 1,000 lei each. The NCCD decision was annulled by the court.
 - **2018** – NCCD decided that the article posted on the internet page www.timesnewroman.ro with the title “ D.’s whore, assaulted by PSD, ...”, creating a hostile, degrading, humiliating atmosphere for women PSD members is discrimination and violates their right to dignity. The sanction of the contravention fine in the amount of 5,000 lei was applied for I. M. SRL, which administers the publication, 5,000 lei for the author of the article, 3,000 lei for the chief editor and 3,000 lei for the administrator of I. M. SRL and the obligation to publish on www.timesnewroman.ro a summary of the judgment in this case (for a period of 30 days) as well as in two national newspapers. The NCCD decision was upheld by the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

In 2011-2018, NCCD applied 12 sanctions for discriminatory statements made by politicians:

- **2011** - Sanctioning by warning the former President of Romania for the claim concerning the monarchy "If anyone with disabilities would win the elections, what would you do? Stay with him head of state? ". The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2013** - Sanctioning by warning the senator G.V.F., for statements made in the press conference at the headquarters of the Social Democratic Party, "(...) You are not complete without raising a child (...) "I will honestly say that I have family friends who could not have naturally biological children for health reasons and have adopted (...) a parent is more attentive, more sensitive to life of others because he is thinking of her own children (...); the NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2013** - Sanctioning by fine amounting to 8,000 lei the independent deputy G.B., for discriminatory statements about the religious belief of persons belonging to Christian Baptist Cult; the NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2013** - Sanctioning by fine amounting to 3,000 lei C.V.T. (member of the European Parliament) for offenses against A.C, a former party member, which created a degrading, humiliating atmosphere on gender and ethnic grounds; the NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- **2014** – Sanctioning by fine amounting to 600 lei the then President of Romania, for the statement made about roma people "very few want to work" and "many of them traditionally are living from stealing", given the statement’s discriminatory and undermining effect on the the right to dignity of Roma people; the NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;



- 2015 – Sanctioning of a fine amounting to 2,000 lei the politician G.F. after he said during a TV program that Hungarian is "horse language" and can not be used in Romania; the NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- 2018 - The statement of the former prime-minister M.T. "If that flag [hungarian] is waving in the wind, all those responsible for it are waving next to it," represents discrimination and violates the right to dignity, NCCD applying the sanction of the contravention warning, considering that Mr. M.T. apologized publicly for these statements. The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- 2018 - The statement of the Senator Ș.N., addressed to the deputy C.C. "I have a picture in which you have anal sex", represents discrimination and violates the right to dignity. NCCD applied the sanction of the contravention warning against the senator, considering the mitigating circumstances of the crime: there was a challenge from the lady deputy, and the sanctioned statement intervened in a dialogue in which the two sides brought mutual accusations and offenses. The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- 2018 - NCCD decided that the statement of the prime minister V.D., during an interview: "I think these people are autistic and do not see and hear what is visible to all people of good faith" was within the limits of freedom of expression and does not constitute discrimination. The NCCD decision was not appealed in the court;
- 2018 – NCCD sanctioned with a fine in the amount of 2,000 lei the president of Romania, for using the term "criminal", as it represents discrimination and violates the right to dignity of persons who are in judicial proceedings without being convicted. The use of the term "defendants' festival" by the chief prosecutor of the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) does not exceed the freedom of expression, according to the ECHR jurisprudence in this field. The NCCD decision was appealed and it is pending;
- 2018- NCCD sanctioned V.D.B. with a fine in the amount of 2.000 lei for posting on his social media page a video material representing a montage that suggested that the German Democratic Forum in Romania is a Nazi organization. Also, the video montage suggested that the president of Romania was the leader of a Nazi organization. Another politician, L.P.. was sanctioned with contravention warning for stating that the German Democratic Forum might be the successor of a Nazi organization. The NCCD decision was appealed and it is pending;
- 2018 – NCCD sanctioned the mayor and the Local Council of Alba Iulia with a fine in the amount of 5.000 lei for the eviction of 200 people from a block in Alba Iulia, without providing them with alternative living conditions. The NCCD decision was appealed and it is pending.

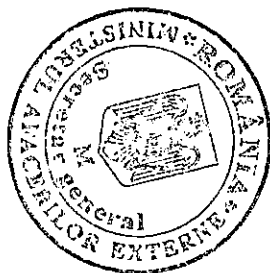
C. Projects to support non-discrimination in and through sport events:

- In 2011 NCCD, in partnership with the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, the Romanian Federation Sport for All, the Municipal Association Sport for All, the National Authority for Sport and Youth, Bucharest City Hall, the Bucharest CSI, Romanian Basketball Federation and the Municipal Department for Youth and Sport of Bucharest organized in Bucharest a running of diversity „Vivicitta”, under the slogan „*United through sport*”.

- In 2011, on the International Day of fight for the elimination of racial discrimination, NCCD in partnership with the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, MFA, the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, RFF and the Dutch Embassy organized a friendly football game in order to increase the level of awareness on the issue of racism, discrimination and violence; over 50

representatives of civil society, of central government and diplomatic members accredited in Bucharest, of the mass-media, of Romanian politicians and the Romanian Football Federation which were joined by a group of eight children from School no. 136 from Ferentari.

- On 9 November 2018, the Conference "*Tools to combat racism and racial discrimination and ensure the equality in sport – ECRI GPR 12*", attended by representatives of the Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Enlarged Sport Agreement, UEFA, FIFA, FIFPro (International Union of football players), CIO, sports federations, Youth and Sports Ministry, NCCD, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities, as well as well-known specialists in Sport Law, represented an opportunity to present the ECRI General Policy Recommendation no. 12 on Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination in the Field of Sport, as well as some examples of good practices in Romania and Europe.



Information concerning the protection of asylum seekers and recipients of international protection

The legal framework on asylum provides that the protection seeker, who does not have maintenance means, has the right to benefit, upon request, for the entire duration of the asylum procedure, of material reception conditions, which guarantees the subsistence and protects her physical and mental health.

Material reception conditions consist of accommodation, food, maintenance and hygiene materials, clothing and footwear, transportation, which may be granted in kind, in the form of financial allowances or vouchers or through a combination of these 3 elements.

At present, the food allocation is in amount of 10 lei/person/day and the clothing allocation is in amount of 67 lei/person/summer and of 100 lei/person/winter; the allocation for other expenses (such as local transport, cultural services, press, repair and maintenance services, personal hygiene products) is 6 lei/person/day. The accommodation is either offered in one of the 6 regional centres for the reception of asylum-seekers or subsidised in the amount of 450 lei/person/month (the maintenance expenses are also subsidised in the amount of 120 lei/summer month and 155 lei/winter month). These amounts are subject to periodical indexation, based on data on the quality of life provided by the National Institute for Statistics.

Persons who obtain a form of international protection and register in the integration program may benefit, if they do not have their own financial resources, of a non-refundable financial aid for a period of maximum 12 months. This assistance is granted monthly by local Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection and depends on the degree of participation of the person concerned in the activities included in the individual integration plan, part of the governmental integration program. An exception to the obligation to participate in the activities included in the individual integration plan shall be made to persons classified in the category of vulnerable cases.

Regarding the number of applicants for international protection in the territory of Romania who, not having material means of maintenance, benefited from material reception conditions, the latest statistical data shall be presented as follows:

Material reception conditions				
		2017	2018	
No. of beneficiaries	of	Compared to a total no. of presented asylum applications	No. of beneficiaries	Compared to a total no. of presented asylum applications
3,938		4,819	2,183	2,138
Non-refundable financial aid				
		2017	2018	
No. of requests		Compared to the total no. of granted asylum applications	No. of requests	Compared to the total no. of granted asylum applications
783		1,330	1,146	665



A. During 2014-2018, within the educational institutions such as the Police Academy „A.I. Cuza” and the schools for police agents, separate places for Roma, Hungarians and other minorities have been allotted, which have increased from year to year.

Allocation of separate admission seats for the MIA professional initial training institutions					
Year	“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy			Non-commissioned officers’ schools	
	Persons belonging to Roma minority	Persons belonging to Hungarian minority	Persons belonging to other minorities	Persons belonging to Roma minority	Persons belonging to other minorities
2014	11	8	6	20	12
2015	10	9	5	19	11
2016	11	11	7	33	17
2017	13	13	8	31	17
2018	13	13	8	61	40

Concerning the Romanian Border Police, at the end of 2018, 10 border police officers of Roma ethnicity were employed within this structure.

Furthermore, during 2014-2018, 2 seats/year were set aside for Roma ethnics at the Border Police Faculty of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy. At “Avram Iancu” School of Border Police Agents, Oradea, seats were allocated for applicants of Roma ethnicity as follows:

- 2014 - 2 allocated seats - 1 filled;
- 2015 - 3 allocated seats – 3 filled;
- 2016 – 1 allocated seat – 0 filled;
- 2017 – 3 allocated seats – 0 filled;
- 2018 – 13 allocated seats – 6 filled.

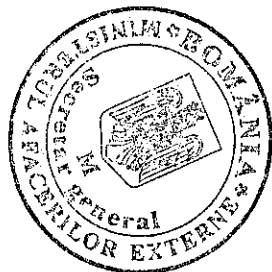
B. The „Mission Possible” project was implemented, between 2014 and 2016 and in 2018, by the Research and Crime Prevention Institute (RCPI) within GIRP, jointly with the Centre of Resources for Ethnical and Cultural Diversity Foundation – Cluj and „Septimiu Mureşan” School of Police Agents Cluj-Napoca. Its four editions promoted ethnical diversity and ethnical and cultural equality by means of encouraging young minority people to choose a career within the police structures.

It was funded by the Romanian Government, through DIR. Its activities were conducted in Bihor, Braşov, Cluj, Covasna, Harghita, Mureş, Satu Mare, Sălaj and Sibiu counties and consisted in:

- producing support materials (posters, flyers, leaflets) and distributing them to their intended recipients;
- running information campaigns, among national minorities teenagers, aimed at advertising and promoting a career in the police and the educational offer of the specialized training institutions, as well as at strengthening the link between police and

multi-ethnic communities. Over 5000 tenth- and eleventh-grader high-school students took part in the activities;

- organizing four career guidance camps at „Septimiu Mureşan” School of Police Agents Cluj-Napoca, attended by over 200 young students, selected based on their performance in their educational establishments. At the information sessions, topics such as human rights and preventing discrimination were also tackled;
- creating a project Facebook page and producing a video clip and a photo album presenting the camp, both posted on the above-mentioned Facebook page.



Measures to improve effective access to primary and secondary education for all children

A. General notes on financing the education system

Table illustrating the evolution of the percentage of the annual GDP allocated to education

Year	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	%GDP	Billion lei	%GDP	Billion lei	%GDP	Billion lei	%GDP	Billion lei	%GDP	Billion lei
	3.1	20.64	3.2	23.03	2.8	21.67	2.9	24.07	3,1	28,9

The funding is made on the basis of the standard cost per pupil/ pre-school child, which is determined for each level of education, route and specialization/field. The standard cost per pupil/preschool child corresponding to each of the two types of expenses is determined based on the value of the cost corresponding to coefficient 1, which is calculated using a specific calculation methodology and whose value has constantly increased during the reference period.

Illustrating the evolution of the standard cost per pupil/ preschool child between 2014-2018

Year	The value of coefficient 1 corresponding to the standard cost per pupil/ preschool child for expenses on salaries and amounts of other benefits	The value of coefficient 1 corresponding to the standard cost per pupil/ preschool child for expenses on training, regular assessment of pupils and the expenses with goods and services
2014	2,492 lei	306 lei
2016	2,520 lei	312 lei
2017	3,043 lei	321 lei
2018	4,413 lei	355 lei

The basic funding of a certain pre-university educational establishment results from multiplying the standard cost per student/ preschool child by the coefficients specific to the respective educational establishment and by the number of enrolled children.

The complementary funding covers the capital expenditures (investments, capital repairs, consolidations), the social expenditures (grants for boarding schools and canteens, expenditures on pupils' scholarships, pupils' transport or teachers' commuting expenses, etc.) and other expenditures associated with the state pre-university education process which are not covered by the basic financing of school units (expenses for pupils' regular national evaluation, expenses for school competitions and extracurricular educational activities, etc.).

The complementary funding is provided from the local budgets of the administrative-territorial units to which the pre-university educational establishment belongs to and from the amounts deducted from the value added tax, approved annually by the state budget law for this purpose.

The additional funding is granted as a fixed global amount from the budget of the MoNE for awarding state pre-university educational establishments with outstanding results in the field of inclusion or in the field of education performance. The local and county councils and the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest, respectively, contribute to the additional financing, offering grants to the educational establishments, based on their own methodology.

B. Access to education

B.1. In order to stimulate the access of children from disadvantaged groups to preschool education, MoNE implemented the following programmes:

- *Inclusive Early Childhood Education Project (P.E.T.I.)*

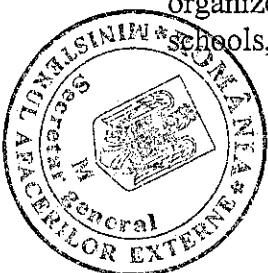
Funded by the World Bank (6,1 million EUR) and the Government of Romania (1,7 million EUR), the project was part of the Social Inclusion Programme which was carried out in the period 2007-2013. The project aimed to increase the degree of access to pre-school education for children between the ages of 3 and 6, including children from disadvantaged groups, to increase the efficiency of the educational system by introducing alternative community-based solutions for children in isolated rural areas (through the construction, extension, rehabilitation and furnishing of ECE infrastructure in communities with a large percentage of Roma), the improvement of the teaching staff (including managers) based on special training modules in order to raise awareness of the disadvantaged groups and to determine a change of attitude towards the Roma population (in order to promote social inclusion, the development of alternative solutions for interventions in the field of early education, based on community and of training and counselling programs for parents) for 2,000 children from different categories endorsed, especially from the Roma communities (access to improved infrastructure and educational services), 2,500 trained persons (teachers, medical and assistance staff, directors) from the selected kindergartens and from the neighbouring communities and 1,500 parents of the children from the participating kindergartens at training courses; also, 8 kindergartens from the disadvantaged communities were rehabilitated, 19 new buildings and 8 resource centres for parents were built and endowed in the identified disadvantaged communities.

- *"All in kindergarten, all in first class! - Integrated programs to increase access to education and the educational level of children in deprived communities, especially rroma - Social European Fund - HRD / 8 / 2.2 / S / 3, ID 2194.*

The project's overall objective was the prevention and correction of early school leaving among children aged 5-8 years in 420 disadvantaged communities with a high percentage of Roma, especially in rural and small urban areas in Romania by implementing alternative education for preschoolers and their parents. The overall objective of the project directly contributed to achieving one of the operational objectives for the AP2, DMI 2 on preventing early school leaving, particularly for the disadvantaged and communities / Roma population, poor and rural areas and for children with disabilities.

As a result of the project activities, over 8,400 children from rural areas, at risk of early school leaving, with a high proportion of Roma participated, in the summer of 2010, in the activities of the 423 summer kindergartens. In the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 6,400 children from all those who attended the summer kindergarten participated, during the first class period, in the "School after school" program. An important component of the project was the involvement of parents in children's education. Thus, over 10,000 parents or guardians benefited from information and counseling, of which 5,000 were involved in the "School of parents" program.

- For Roma students, who did not attend kindergarten, General school inspectorates organize annually - where appropriate - pre-class summer kindergartens, together with schools, town halls, NGOs (Save the Children, OvidiuRo Association, etc.).



- A new legislative initiative was related to the promotion of Law no. 248/2015 on stimulating the participation in the preschool education of children from disadvantaged families, which took over and extended at national level the important experiences of the program "Every Child in Kindergarten" (piloted) between 2010-2015, by the OvidiuRo Association in partnership with MoNE), respectively the social ticket for the kindergarten. In figures, the situation of monitoring the implementation of the measure to stimulate the participation in the preschool education of children from disadvantaged families (Law 248/2015) is illustrated as follows: in February 2016 - 49,633 children (45% of the 111,396 children estimated at national level) were admitted to the SIIIR; 29,981 children (60% of those introduced to SIIIR) had regular frequency; 1342 children (2.8% of the 49,633 eligible students introduced in SIIIR) newly enrolled in kindergarten; in June 2016 - 67,205 children (60% of the 111,396 children estimated by the MMFPSPV at national level) were admitted to the SIIIR; 34,831 children (52% of those introduced to SIIIR) had regular frequency; 2,164 children (3.2% of the 67,205 eligible students introduced in SIIIR) newly enrolled in kindergarten.

B.2. Law no. 1/2011 provides at article 58 that the education establishments may extend the educational activities for pupils through *School after school* programmes. The activities offered through this type of services include activities for strengthening the acquired competences or for accelerating learning, as well as remedial teaching activities. In support of the educational establishments, the MoNE issued in 2011 the Order no. 5349 on the approval of the Methodology on the organization of the *School after school* program, subsequently amended and supplemented by order no. 4802/2017.

The *School after school* program is a complementary program to the compulsory school schedule whose aim is to prevent school dropout and early school leaving, boost pupils' performances, offer remedial and/or accelerated learning by means of integrated support measures, including both educational and leisure activities, personal development and social integration. It also provides pupils with a safe space as an alternative to spending their free time in environments with harmful potential.

The activities provided to primary school pupils include among other the supervision of children, support with homework, remedial teaching and support for children with cognitive difficulties or emotional or speech disorders, activities for pupils capable of higher educational performances.

Similarly, secondary school pupils can benefit of support with homework and remedial teaching, psycho-pedagogical support for overcoming learning gaps, activities for accelerating learning and higher educational achievements (including preparation for competitions and school Olympiads, sports or artistic contests), activities preparing pupils for life, thematic activities and workshops etc.

The funding of this program can be ensured from multiple sources, including from local authorities' budgets, and in the case of pupils from disadvantaged groups, from the State budget.

MoNE is budgeting annually measures of providing facilities and separate places to the youngsters who wish to attend high school, vocational training or higher education, stipulated by Law 1/2011 on national education, art. 205 (6) (*candidates coming from environments with high socioeconomic risk or socially marginalized – Roma people, High school graduates in the rural environment or cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants – may benefit from a number of guaranteed budgeted places, in compliance with the law*).

B.3. At upper secondary education level, the Romanian Secondary Education (ROSE) Project contributes, through its components and activities (remedial, counselling, guidance, and vocational orientation activities), to increasing the completion rate and improving the academic performance at the Bacalaureate exam. More details of this Project are below.

With a view to improving the quality of pre-school education and of developing the corresponding necessary infrastructure, in 2009 MoNE started the implementation of the *Project on the Reform of the Early Childhood Education in Romania* (PRET), which is to be completed in December 2021. The Project's objectives include the training of pre-school teachers and staff, and the provision with education materials and the building of new establishments for 400 kindergartens. The initial estimated cost of the project amounts to 105 million EUR and is funded by the Romanian Government with the support of the Council of Europe Development Bank.

The components concerned with the training and improvement of kindergarten staff and the enhancement of the system's capacity to provide quality services, respectively, were completed at the time this report is submitted. The outcomes achieved within these components include the training of over 39,000 pre-school teachers, 18,000 carers/ assistants/ medical personnel and 3,000 directors, the elaboration and distribution of 7 specific modules for the improvement of kindergarten staff in the education system, the setting up of a network of 325 Resource Centres for Education and Development, the provision of 12,500 kindergartens and schools where the preparatory class is carried out with teaching materials, educational games and other materials needed in the early childhood education process for children aged 3 to 6/7 years old. The component concerning the infrastructure rehabilitation and the development is to be completed by 31 December 2021. At present, 229 kindergartens have been finalized, while 139 are under construction. The construction offers for 17 kindergartens are in evaluation process and shortly, the awarding and construction procedures for the 15 remaining kindergartens will be initiated.

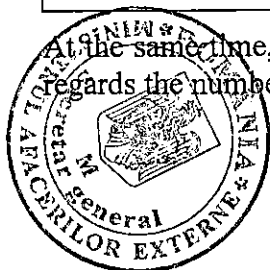
B.4. Another important moment in one's educational path is the graduation of secondary school.

Until the university year 2015-2016, pursuant to Government Decision no. 430/2001 on the approval of the Governmental Strategy for Improving the Roma situation, as amended and supplemented, were allocated guaranteed budgeted places for bachelor university studies only.

The analysis of the granted places for admission to bachelor university studies for young Roma, since university year 2011-2016, shows a high level of consistency, as follows:

University year	Total seats for admission to bachelor university studies	Granted places for admission for Roma
2011-2012	61.496	611
2012-2013	60.863	555
2013-2014	61.062	592
2014-2015	60.166	592
2015-2016	61.003	604

At the same time, a fair balance can be noticed among the most important university centres as regards the number of granted seats: Bucharest 21, 26%, Cluj 14, 83%, and Iasi 8,70%. There are



other 18 university centres receiving each around 3% and the other 22 with less than 1% (places for Roma of total seats for bachelor university studies).

The methodology for distributing the additional financing, implemented in 2016, also includes a set of quality indicators on regional orientation and social equity and aims to stimulate universities to carry out actions to support students. For piloting, an indicator was proposed to: stimulate, at university level, the completion of studies by students from disadvantaged backgrounds socio-economic. The phrase "students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds" refers to those persons with their domicile in rural areas or cities under 10,000 inhabitants, they come from placement centers, they belong some disadvantaged ethnic groups (Roma), people with disabilities and so on. In the academic year 2016/2017, MEN allocated 402 grants for young Roma with funding from the state budget for the bachelor's degree cycle and 133 grants for the master's degree cycle respectively. All the grants allocated were occupied by the competition by the young Roma.

In order to promote support measures for students from disadvantaged groups, the Ministry of National Education amended general criteria for scholarships and other forms of support for students in higher education and increased the budget for social scholarships: GD no. 131/2018 regarding the schooling figure, for the academic year 2018-2019, provides for the allocation of distinct schooling figures, such as: high school graduates located in rural areas (2000 places) - in the academic year 2017 -2018, 1,032 students of Roma ethnicity benefited from special places financed from the State budget (all years of study, bachelor, master and doctorate), of which 456 in year I.

In 2018, 2 calls were launched for competitive projects financed by EU Programmes: *Integrated measures for increasing the participation of students from vulnerable categories in entrepreneurial programs*, projects aimed at increasing access and equity by financially supporting students from vulnerable categories and *Measures to optimize the offers of higher education studies in support of employability are aimed at developing and piloting the supply of complementary courses with an application component addressed to students in the cycle of undergraduate studies*.

In order to further support the pupils from vulnerable groups, the MoNE implements, during 2015-2022, the *Romania Secondary Education Project (ROSE)* (with an estimated cost of 200 million euros, financed entirely through a loan from IBRD). The project aims at reducing the school drop-out in secondary and tertiary education and at increasing the passing rate of the Baccalaureate exam and covers two types of interventions: i. Systemic and school level interventions and ii. University level interventions (for public higher education institutions).

Within the first component, one sub-component (subcomponent 1.1) supports students' transition from upper secondary to tertiary education, targeting the increase of school attendance and graduation rate, increase of the baccalaureate passing rate, as well as the improvement of educational performances, by means of grants awarded to the less performant high schools. These high schools are entitled to 100,000 euros grants on average, which can be used over a 4 years' timeframe.

The eligible activities include: pedagogic and support activities, such as remedial activities, counselling, guidance/ coaching and vocational guidance, mediation in the Roma communities and personal development activities (at least 50% of the direct costs); extracurricular and information activities, such as visits / documentation trips, training courses, participation in

competitions and the formation of inter-school networks (up to 30% of the direct costs); minor civil works such as small interior renovation/ repairing of school spaces (for example: laboratories), without negative impact on the environment, and purchases of goods for education purposes (up to 20% of the direct costs).

The implementation of the high school grants was scheduled in 3 batches, out of which 2 are under implementation, with a total number of 728 grants - batch 1 starting the activities in June 2017, batch 2 in October 2018. The total value of the high school signed grants is 333,530 mil lei.

Around 155 projects included in the 3rd batch are expected to be signed in September 2020, with a total value of 73,171 million lei.

Starting 2017, over 143,653 students (out of which 74,801 girls) from the beneficiary high schools participated in the pedagogical, support and extracurricular activities organized in the project financed through the ROSE grants.

Overall, the project development indicators for the high schools and universities benefitting from grants have improved as compared to the baseline and, in some cases exceeded the final targets.

The dropout rate in the project-supported schools diminished from the baseline 6.5% to 3%, better than the end target of 3.5%.

The percentage of high schools with dropout rate above 7 percent diminished from a baseline of 23.1% to 15.52% in project-supported schools, which is better than the result expected for the 4th year of ROSE Project implementation. The end target of 10% seems possible to achieve.

The average graduation rate increased from the baseline of 86.9% to 95.57% in project-supported schools, better than the end target – 93%.

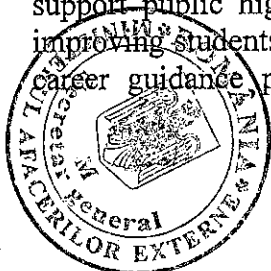
The average Baccalaureate passing rate, with a baseline of 49.6%, increased to 62.93% in project-supported high schools, better than the end target - 59%.

The sub-component targeting systemic interventions (component 1.2) supports all high schools in improving the transition rate to higher education, by reviewing the upper secondary school curriculum, training teachers and directors in the implementation of the new curriculum and in the field of evaluation, improving the quality of training activities provided by the Teacher Training Houses, reviewing the pool of exam items (tests), updating the online assessment and exam platform, developing digital resources in view of improving the teaching-learning-assessment process.

Within this sub-component, the participation of Romanian pupils to the international assessment TIMSS is to be financed. The component will also support participation of Romanian students in PISA 2022.

The component dedicated to university level interventions supports activities that respond to the needs of students at high risk of dropping out of university during their first year of study, especially those from disadvantaged groups. One non-competitive and three competitive grant schemes are financed through this component.

Within the non-competitive scheme, all eligible universities can participate and its aim is to support public higher education institutions in developing and carrying out programmes for improving students' academic performances, tutoring programmes, professional counselling and career guidance programmes, support and guidance services, coaching services or for the



development of socio-emotional competences, workshops in specific fields as well as awareness campaigns targeting students at risk of dropping out etc. The competitive Student Support grant scheme proposes the same type of activities as the non- competitive grants.

The competitive grant schemes include:

- Summer bridge programs, during which the high school students may participate in courses, seminars, counselling activities, sports competitions or social and cultural activities etc., in the university campuses;
- Learning centres, developed to improve the academic and social support mechanisms for students at high risk of dropout.

Starting with the academic year 2017-2018, within the grant schemes for universities, 298 grant agreements were signed, in total amount of 168,168 million lei: 201 grants within the non-competitive grant scheme, 59 grants for summer bridge programmes and 38 grants for learning centres. In total, 5,426 high school pupils benefited of summer bridge programmes implemented between 2017 and 2019. With respect to gender, the number of female participants has been higher, amounting to 3,331 girls, of which 1549 were in risk situations.

C. Preventing dropout and combating its negative effects

The call for projects *“Motivated teachers in disadvantaged schools”*, dedicated to highly disadvantaged schools, having large numbers of pupils in risk of school dropout and who fail to attract and retain qualified teachers. A number of 27 projects have been admitted for financing, benefitting from a EUR 28,56 million budget, who will provide 6,977 beneficiaries (teachers and support staff from disadvantaged schools) with trainings and exchange of good practices for developing the necessary competences for working with children in educational risk situations (children at high risk of school dropout - the majority being children from poor families, children with disabilities, Roma children, children from remote areas etc; hospitalized children; children in detention juvenile delinquency).

Another call for projects, *“School for all”*, launched in 2016 as well, targets the children from disadvantaged schools, those in risk of school dropout, the youth and adults that prematurely quit school and who would like to continue their studies, as well as the teachers and other specialists that need support for adapting their activity to the needs of the children. The call aims at facilitating the participation of 27,593 young children and pre-school children aged 0 to 5 years old to early childhood education and care; supporting 63,268 pupils (primary and secondary level) to attend school and lowering the risk of school dropout; bringing 8,653 youngster age 12 to 16 back to school; ensuring that 8,210 young people and adults, who have not completed the compulsory education, acquire a qualification upon graduating from a *Second chance* programme; ensuring the participation of 15,548 teachers and support staff (school mediators, school counsellors, principals and educational specialists) to training programmes and exchange of good practices; facilitating the improvement of competency for 15,709 teachers and support staff. A number of 127 projects have been selected and are under implementation, benefitting from a total funding of EUR 164,662,306.71.

D. The main outcomes and outputs of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Early School Leaving until 2019

The Strategy is based on four pillars and six representative programs (mentioned in the table below), which include prevention, intervention and compensation measures, some of which are achieved through specific projects.

PILLAR 1: Ensuring access to education and quality education for all children

Representative programme 1.1: Increasing access to early childhood education and care

This program aims to strengthen and consolidate the successful expansion of early childhood education, based on the completion of pre-school education (3-6 years) and the initiation of a rapid expansion ECEC services provision for children under 3 years of age (especially for children aged between 2-3 years).

Representative programme 1.2: Ensuring quality primary and secondary education for all

This program focuses on two main areas of intervention: the development of functional literacy and key competences and the strengthening of on-the-job teacher training.

PILLAR 2: Ensuring the completion of compulsory education by all children

Representative programme 2.1: Development of early warning systems and strengthening of remedial and support programs for pupils at risk in compulsory education

The program develops early warning and early intervention systems to detect children at risk of dropping out of school. The program also supports, strengthens and expands the various prevention and remediation programs, including the School after School program.

Representative programme 2.2: Improving the attractiveness, inclusion, quality and relevance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

This program aims to redesign TVET routes to increase the attractiveness and relevance of TVET, including by expanding learning opportunities in the workplace. The program also supports TVET curriculum reform and teacher training.

PILLAR 3: Reintegration into the educational system of persons who left school early

Representative programme 3.1: Ensuring an adequate offer for *Second Chance* educational programs

*This program aims to support, in the short term, early school leavers by ensuring access to and participation in the *Second Chance* programs, taking into consideration that the prevention and intervention programs are implemented in the medium and long term. The program also aims to improve the quality of the *Second Chance* programs.*

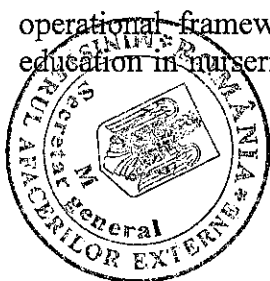
PILLAR 4: Developing appropriate institutional support

Representative programme 4.1: Strengthen the government's capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate the ESL reduction strategy

This program supports the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, focusing on consolidating the government's capacity and ability of adopting a comprehensive approach for addressing the challenges of ESL.

Outcomes achieved within Pillar 1

At Pillar 1, within the Representative program 1.1, the project *Inclusive and Quality Early Childhood Education* is implemented, having as main objective the development of the national operational framework in the field of pre-school education, in order to facilitate access to education in nurseries and / or kindergartens for children under 3 years old. Its implementation



has a delayed start, in August 2019, the implementation of the Representative program 1.1 being influenced by the financing of this project.

The outcome achieved so far under Pillar 1 include:

- the finalization, piloting and adoption by order of the Minister of the *Curriculum for early childhood education*, mentioned in section II.19.3.4 of the report;
- the steps taken in order to revise *Government's Decision no. /2012 on approving the Methodology for organizing and functioning of nurseries and other early childhood education educational establishments*, which will be continued in parallel with the activities within the non-competitive project *Inclusive and quality early childhood education*;
- the continuation of the provision of additional financial support to children (and their families) at risk of early school leaving through the annual implementation of support programs such as: *Romanian School Program, Euro 200, School Supplies, Hot Meal, Money for high school, Professional scholarship*.

The project *Relevant Curriculum, Open Education for All (CRED)*, presented in section II.19.4.2 of the report, is a very relevant element for the realization of the Representative program 1.2.

In important part of this Project is devoted to the training of 55,000 teachers in order to support the successful implementation of the new curriculum, using a learner centred approach and the focusing on the development of key competencies (the third strategic objective).

In 2018 the *Study on the analysis of the training needs of primary and secondary school teachers* was completed, within the Project's research component.

The evaluation of key competencies held by children at the end of the 4th grade was carried out for the first time, in the school year 2018-2019. This evaluation was also carried out prior to initiation of teacher training activities and it will contribute to impact assessment, by giving the possibility to compare the results obtained with those to be achieved at the end of the training activities.

At the same time, the CRED educational online platform was created, dedicated to teachers (with over 8,000,000 hits during the training sessions).

CRED's forth strategic objective addresses the urgent need to systematically and effectively reduce and prevent the phenomenon of early school leaving, a phenomenon that manifests itself mainly in disadvantaged communities. The viable intervention actions provided under this component include:

1. the piloting of complementary support interventions for pupils from vulnerable groups which focus on preventing school dropout by means of information, counselling and mentoring, as well as by means of extracurricular activities, and
2. the development and piloting of curricular adaptation strategies in order to respond to the needs of pupils from vulnerable groups, a measure to be achieved by elaborating and piloting a framework document on curricular adaptation strategies in schools in disadvantaged communities, faced with an increased early school leaving risk.

In addition, a range of relevant documents have been prepared within the CRED project, such as: the policy document *Benchmarks for designing and updating the National Curriculum*;

Methodology regarding the development of the Curriculum at School's Decision - focused on the development of key competencies; methodological guides for the different school subjects in primary and secondary education.

In order to implement the measure aimed at ensuring a curriculum that takes into account all types and degrees of disabilities and / or special needs, another specific measure within the Representative programme 1.2, in 2018 the study plans for special preschool, primary and secondary school education were approved. The progressive implementation of these plans starts in the school year 2019-2020. At the same time, in order to ensure adequate conditions for candidates with deficiencies allowing them to enjoy equal chances during exams, MoNE elaborated the normative framework regulating the sitting for national exams by pupils with visual or hearing impairments or suffering from autism spectrum disorder or specific learning disorders for the school year 2018-2019.

Outcomes achieved within Pillar 2

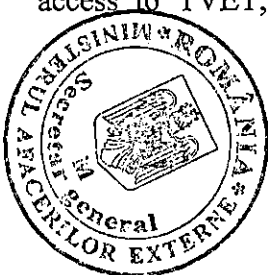
Within the Representative programme 2.1 of Pillar 2, two very important elements of progress were represented by the contracting of a technical assistance project in 2017, having as aim the assessment of early school leaving risks and the extension / connection of prevention tools in view of developing early school leaving warning mechanism and the contracting of a new technical assistance project, in 2018, with the aims of developing an early warning system for the prevention of early school leaving, including the development of a multi-annual action plan and a methodology for data collection and use, respectively.

The impact study conducted on the financing and implementation of the *School after School Programme* revealed that the measure represented by this type of program can be adopted to reduce in time, the dropout rates and the early school leaving. The impact study will be the basis for the elaboration of a public policy document, allowing the program to be financed from the State budget for children from disadvantaged categories, in line with the provisions of art. 58, point (4), of the Law of National Education no. 1/2011.

A defining project for the implementation of the Representative programme 2.2 was the implementation of the *National Program "2017 - the year of technical and vocational education in Romania"*. In this context, during 2017, the methodological steps needed for organizing the initial vocational training through dual vocational education were finalized.

In 2018, 400 study plans and 400 school syllabi respectively, were developed / revised, approved by minister's order 3500/29.03.2018 and minister's order 3501/29.03.2018. The new study plans and school syllabi are relevant for the labour market, mainly for the green economy and are correlated with the development of priority sectors at national level.

During the implementation of the Strategy, the activities aimed at increasing the attractiveness of TVET played an important role: the specific counselling and guidance activities carried out with 8th grade pupils, integrated information measures organized at county or local level such as the *Week of jobs* and fairs for educational offers (which provided information on the conditions of access to TVET, tuitions, benefits, provision of counselling activities, etc.), expanding the



implementation of the JOBS project (project that prepares gymnasium pupils in their final grade and secondary pupils on what the labour market is about).

In this context it is worth mentioning the online platform *www.alegetidrumul.ro* (choose your path), which is an essential information point on initial vocational training, both for pupils and their families, as well as for teachers and businesses.

The social inclusion component was facilitated by the continued implementation of the National Social Protection Programs *High School Money* and the *Professional Scholarship*.

In 2018, campaigns were carried out to disseminate examples of good practice and to present examples of successful careers of TVET graduates within the events registered for the European Vocational Skills Week.

At the same time, the *Compendium of good practices for increasing TVET visibility and attractiveness - Success Stories*, Volume II has been elaborated, which can be used for counselling and career guidance, especially at gymnasium (lower secondary education).

Strategy's Pillar 2 is also supported by the implementation of the Romanian Secondary Education Project (ROSE). The actions implemented at the level of educational establishments are aimed at reducing the dropout rate in high schools, increasing the graduation rate and improving performance in the baccalaureate exam. The project is presented in section II. 19.3.4.

Outcomes achieved within Pillar 3

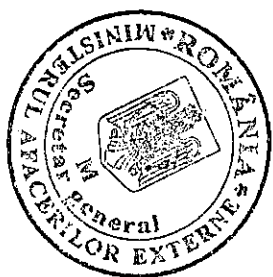
Under Pillar 3, 13,102 pupils (4,883 primary school pupils and 8,219 lower secondary school pupils) participated in the Second Chance programs in the school year 2016-2017. In the following two school years, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, respectively, the Program was implemented in all counties of Romania and the total number of participants reached 15,909 in 2018 (5,832 pupils for primary education and 10,077 for lower secondary education).

The projects contracted in 2017, within the Human Capital Operational Program 2014 - 2020, which target those who left school early are expected to have a significant contribution to the implementation of the Representative programme 3.1., namely the 127 projects selected under the *School for all* Program, presented in section II.19.4.2 and the INTESPO project - Registration of young people at the Public Employment Service, respectively, which is a project carried out by the National Employment Agency, in partnership with the MoNE, the MoLSJ, having a specific objective aiming at identifying at least 200,000 NEET's young people, and registering 160,000 of them at the Employment Service.

At the same time, through the CRED Project, improved projects of the Second Chance Programme methodologies for primary school and for lower secondary education have been elaborated.

Outcomes achieved within Pillar 4

Within the Pillar 4 of the Strategy's and the corresponding Representative programme, in 2018, the Technical Group (WG) was created having as main responsibility to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy, according to MoNE Order no. 3080 / 18.01.2018 on the attributions and composition of the Technical Groups for coordinating the implementation of the sectorial strategies.



Detailed data and statistics on infrastructure and development programs implemented by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

A. Programs ensuring access to adequate housing and standard living conditions (started or continued during the reporting period):

a. the social housing construction program (carried out according to Housing Law) aims at building social houses to be rented in exchange of a subsidised rent, below the market value; its financing is supported both from the budget of local authorities, both the State contributes with funding at the local authorities' request.

The amount paid between 2013 and 2018 from the State budget through this program was 141,190,740 million RON (approx. 27 million EUR), for a total of 1295 completed housing units.

Access to renting social houses is granted to families or persons having a monthly net revenue below the average wage established at national level; the law provides the benchmarks in establishing the criteria by the public local authorities, namely: a) locative conditions of the solicitors; b) number of children or dependents; c) health condition of the solicitors or of the members of their families; e) the date of the demand. The concrete criteria are set and monitored by committees established through a decision of the local council. All acts connected to the demands of social houses are published.

b. construction of rental housing units for persons under 35 years, carried according to Law no. 152/1998, carried out by National Housing Agency and co-financed from the budget of local authorities and the State budget; these imovables are built on land property of the local authorities and become upon completion their property as well.

c. Social housing construction program for the tenants evicted from nationalized houses;

In the period 2013-2018, 635 individual housing units were completed, funded from the State budget with 54,336,392 lei.

d. The pilot program "Social housing for Roma communities" initiated in 2008 and continuing to date; it is funded from the State budget with the necessary amounts for building 300 housing units for the Roma people in 11 localities from all eight development regions of Romania. The location proposals are made by the National Agency for Roma and the local authorities and are approved by MoRDPA.

Up to present a number of 189 housing units have been finalized and another 78 units are under construction.

e. Investments in housing units for vulnerable persons (shelters for victims of domestic violence, older persons, assisted shelters for young adults leaving the placement system or sheltered housing units for persons with disabilities).

In this programming period 2014-2020, fighting against poverty and social inclusion has become much more pragmatic. Thus, the Regional Operational Program (ROP) 2014-2020, managed by MoRDPA as management authority implements the mechanism Local Development under the Responsibility of the Community (Community-led Local Development - CLLD), which finances investments in housing infrastructure, social economy, integrated community centers, education and degraded urban territory equipment for disadvantaged communities from the urban marginalised areas. The types of actions



financed include building/rehabilitation/modernization of social houses. The budget allocated to Priority Axis 9 (ERDF + national contribution) is of 79,05 million Euros. Given the complexity of CLLD mechanism, which has a 3 step implementation and due to the fact that is implemented along with Human Capital Operational Program through Priority Axis 5, which adds complexity to the entire mechanism, there are no finalised projects (there are only contracted projects) at the moment.

B. Investments financed from the State budget through the MoRDPA budget

Social and necessity housing construction program:

No.	Year	Funds allocated to the Program	Total funds required for payment from the state budget	No. of financed objectives	No. of financed apartments (individual units)	No. of completed objectives (buildings/condominiums)	Nr. completed apartments (individual units)
1	2013	10,800,000.00	10,796,425.00	14	560	4	182
2	2014	23,500,000.00	12,997,679.00	28	1,110	7	266
3	2015	50,000,000.00	22,006,840.00	39	1,743	4	203
4	2016	25,000,000.00	24,922,725.00	35	1,540	8	304
5	2017	31,539,284.88	31,082,378.00	24	1,192	4	166
6	2018	18,956,521.13	18,956,521.13	22	1,254	4	110
TOTAL		159,795,806.01	120,762,568.13	162	7,399	31	1,231

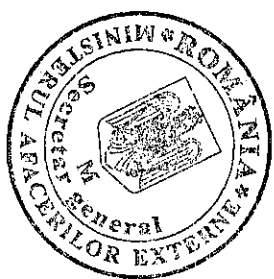
Social housing construction program for evicted tenants or those to be evicted from homes returned to former owners:

No	Year	Funds allocated to the Program	Total funds required for payment from the state budget	No. of financed objectives	No. of financed apartments (individual units)	No. of completed objectives (buildings/condominiums)	Nr. completed apartments (individual units)
1	2013	9.000.000,00	8.888.444,00	21	933	7	191
2	2014	31.500.000,00	15.598.113,00	17	780	4	93
3	2015	16.000.000,00	8.487.316,00	17	891	0	0
4	2016	17.600.000,00	9.131.573,00	14	679	6	271
5	2017	8.000.000,00	7.183.969,00	8	406	0	0
6	2018	8.767.636,32	8.767.636,29	7	346	2	80
TOTAL		90,867,636.32	54,336,392.04	84	4,035	19	635

C. the investment objectives financed through the National Programme for Local Development

National Programme for Local Development 2013-2021 Stage I - Areas receiving funding and number of specific projects per area of activity

Area	Value of investment objectives financed from the State budget (million lei)	No. of investment projects 2013-2021	No. of finalised projects
Water supply	2 298	995	654



Water supply + sewage (integrated projects)	336	48	17
Sewage	2 940	586	305

National Local Development Programme 2017-2020 Stage II - Areas receiving funding and number of specific projects per area of activity

Area	Value of investment objectives financed by the state budget (million lei)	No. of investment projects 2017-2020	No. of finalised projects
Water supply	2 229	545	55
Water supply + sewage (integrated projects)	2 298	253	13
Sewage	4 051	521	50



Health statistical data, projects and programmes

A. Minimum health services package

People not insured benefit from the minimum service package, granted depending on different medical care tiers, package which consists of and includes:

a. primary medical care: medical services for emergency medical-surgery scenarios (granted within the limit of the skills and the technical equipment of the medical practice where the general practitioner performs their activity); supervision and detection of potentially endemic diseases; family planning examinations; prevention services (preventive exam for people over 18 years of age to avoid diseases with major morbidity and mortality consequences, once every 3 years).

b. outpatient specialist medical care for clinical specialties: medical services for emergency medical-surgery scenarios; supervision and detection of potentially endemic diseases - includes, as applicable, clinical examination, presumptive diagnosis, referral to specialist structures confirmation and treatments.

c. In-hospital medical care, which can be:

- continuous hospitalization: medical-surgical emergency in case the patient's life is endangered or where this potential exists, until the emergency situation resolves; potentially endemic diseases (requiring isolation and treatment), until the case is fully resolved; birth.

- for day outpatients: medical services provided in the on-call ward (ERU) for medical-surgical emergency cases, threatened avortion; incomplete miscarriage, without complications; epidemiology for the patients needing treatment in disorders that do not require isolation for treatment.

B. Projects implemented by the Ministry of Health

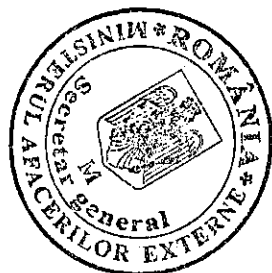
In the period 2014-2017, the Ministry of Health implemented the project RO 19.03 "Strengthening the national network of Roma mediators to improve the health status of the Roma population", funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, in 45 communities from 6 counties. This initiative complemented the national health mediation program and identified 45 communities, with at least 700 of Roma persons who had low access access to basic health services. Each of these communities received support from a team composed of a health mediator and a community nurse, employed by the local authorities; their activity made possible an accurate assessment of the basic health needs of the community for the provision of adequate health services. By the end of the project, almost all the community teams from the 45 communities were employed by the local mayoralty with salaries paid by the Ministry of Health, securing the sustainability of the project. All 45 community health centres were equipped with IT and basic medical equipment.

A new project "Strengthening the National Network of Primary Health Care Providers to Improve the Health Status of population, children and adults (including vulnerable population)", funded by the SEE financial mechanism 2014-2021, includes an important component that continues the former project RO 19.03, extending the number of counties from 6 to 7 (Botoşani,

Călărași, Dolj, Giurgiu, Gorj, Neamț and Suceava), also extending the number of selected localities from 45 to 84 (including the 45 previously selected). The project is aiming at strengthening the primary healthcare (including community care) in order to bring the health services close to the people in need, especially vulnerable population living in rural areas. This way, the project will try to reach, as much as possible, the general goal of obtaining universal access to healthcare and to reduce the social inequalities in health with emphasis on health status of vulnerable population (including Roma population).

Another project, RO 19.04 “Multi-level interventions for preventing lifestyle-related non transmissible diseases (NTD) in Romania”, also funded by the SEE financial mechanism 2014-2021, has developed guidelines for preventive interventions in 100 pilot family doctors’ practices. A specific guideline for healthy nutrition and physical activity for children in schools and kindergardens was developed and implemented through the community nurses, schools nurses and roma health mediators who received special training. These activities were further implemented annually within the framework of the National Health Promotion Program.

During September 2018 – January 2022, the MoH partenered with the MoLSP and the MoER in the project “Establishing and implementing integrated community services to fight poverty and social exclusion”; in 139 rural and small urban communities, with medium or severe marginalisation, persons affected by poverty will benefit, for 28 months, from medical-social-educational services, tailored to their identified needs (health, social assistance and protection, education, employment, housing and identity documents). Each case will be evaluated by a mixt team, composed of health, social and educational specialists, so that each person be counselled and directed to access the services she needs. The project is interrelated to another financing program, aiming at regional developement, as the later one will finance the building or renovation and the equipment of the integrated community centres, the headquarters for the integrated community teams.



The initial and continuous professional training for magistrates, lawyers, police personnel and public servants

I. The initial and continuous professional training for magistrates

Starting with 2006-2007, the auditors of justice (trainee magistrates) of 1st year of study (initial training) are introduced to the concepts of prohibition of discrimination and that of an effective remedy and relevant international case law on these matters. During the second training year, the auditors study the course "Fight against discrimination", within modules, under the guidance of experts of the National Council for Combatting Discrimination that have the capacity of trainers of National Institute of Magistracy.

Moreover, starting with the training year of 2009 – 2010, trainee magistrates also studied (within the training module on the EU law) the relevant directives on fight against discrimination and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In 2016 a total number of 302 judicial trainees (142 in the first year and 160 in the second year) benefited from the training sessions referred to above, whereas in 2017 a total number of 331 judicial trainees (189 in the first year and 142 in the second year) were trained in the field.

Judges and prosecutors admitted into magistracy following a direct contest also undertake an initial training regarding discrimination and hate crimes in the Human Rights Module and also at seminars on criminal law. In 2016 a number of 52 magistrates were trained in the above mentioned matters. A total of 90 judges and 27 prosecutors attended the training program organized in 2017. In 2018 a total of 125 judges and 56 prosecutors attended the training program.

Special training events (conferences, seminars) are also constantly organised on the topic of non-discrimination, some of them within programmes or projects implemented in partnership with the National Council for Combating Discrimination or/and with the Romani CRISS (Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies).

In this respect, since 2016 INM has concluded a protocol of cooperation with the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), and numerous continuous training activities in the field of anti-discrimination have been organised annually within this partnership. In 2017 a number of 11 judges, 6 prosecutors, 5 assistant magistrates and 3 experts assimilated to judges and prosecutors attended the training program. In 2018 a number of 31 judges, 22 prosecutors and 2 HCCJ assistant magistrates attended the training program.

Also, in the period 2013 – 2014, NIM and SCM were partners within the Project JUST/2012/FRAC/AG/2755 "*European Judicial Cooperation in the fundamental rights practice of national courts – the unexplored potential of judicial dialogue methodology*", coordinated by the European University Institute of Florence (EUI). The Project was focusing on three fundamental rights: the **principle of non-discrimination**, the right to a fair trial and the freedom of expression. The Project put in direct contact judges from the participants' countries, either personally – during workshops organized in Florence (13 Romanian judges and 1 prosecutor participated) and in the partner States (Croatia, Italy, Poland, and Romania), and online. Within the Project, NIM organized at Bucharest 2 events (the *Pilot Seminar in non-discrimination on grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, disability and race*, 10 – 11 April 2014 for 23 judges and the *Dissemination Conference – Judicial Dialogue – Present and Future*, 19-20 May 2014 for 22

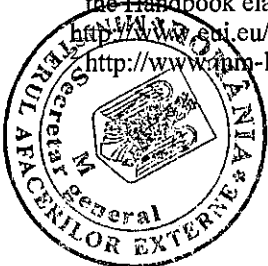
Romanian representatives). A toolkit, including Judicial Dialogue Guidelines, was finalized¹. Over 1400 copies of the Final Handbook were distributed at national level for the Romanian judges and prosecutors and the English and Romanian versions are available on the NIM website.²

Within the project „*Improving access to justice for Roma and other vulnerable groups. An integrated approach*” – financed through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, SCM organised 10 training workshops, analysing the ECJ case law on the legal protection against discrimination and vulnerable group; 41 judges, 49 prosecutors, 35 lawyers, 1 probation counsellor, 67 representatives of the local authorities, 30 representatives from non-governmental organisations and also, 2 students took part in these sessions.

Other events and training activities implemented by NIM include:

- partnering with Romani CRISS in the Project „Equal Access to Roma” (May 2011 – August 2012); this project aimed at training Romanian judges and prosecutors on national and international laws on fight against racism, mainly in criminal area, within 4 workshops of continuous training with a duration of 3 days/workshop;
- partnering with NCCD in the programme PROGRESS (2012) for the organization of 8 seminars on „*Right to equality and non-discrimination in the administration of justice*”; The workshops were carried out by NIM trainers and experts of Romani CRISS and envisaged issues of national and European legislation on fight against discrimination and also ECtHR and ECJ case law, relevant for the ethnic motivation in cases of abuses of representatives responsible for enforcement of law.
- implementation of a HELP e-learning course on „*Fighting discrimination according to ECHR case law*” (October 2013) and launch in Romania of the HELP e-learning module on „*Combating discrimination based on ECHR case law*” (2014);
- partnering with NCCD in the project “*Improving the Combating discrimination at national level through a wide involvement of specialists and civil society*”, where 3 specialized training courses on Combating corruption, for judges and prosecutors were organized;
- 5 training workshops, organized in Bucharest, on the case law of the ECJ on the legal protection against discrimination and vulnerable groups within the project „*Improving access to justice for Roma and other vulnerable groups. An integrated approach*” – financed through Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014;
- conferences organized in 2015, 2016 and 2018, in the framework of the conferences EuroQuod (The National Network of Judges - coordinators in EU law);
- the Conference *Fighting against fascism, racism, xenophobia and the promotion of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity. Specific aspects regarding extremism, antisemitism and Holocaust denial fighting fascism, racism, xenophobia and the promotion of persons guilty of crimes against humanity and peace* (9-10 June 2016), in cooperation with MFA, offering an in-depth analysis of the Romanian legislation in the field of fighting extremism, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and anti-Semitism, as well as the cases that may be brought before

¹ the Handbook elaborated within the project can be accessed to the link:
<http://www.cjci.eu/Projects/CentreForJudicialCooperation/Publications/Index.aspx>
<http://www.nim-lex.ro/displaypage.php?p=82&d=614>



the courts, in the context of the passing of Law no. 217/2015 that amends the GEO no. 31/2002 prohibiting organizations, symbols and deeds with fascist, racist, legionary and xenophobic nature and the glorification of those found guilty of genocide and war crimes. A total of 14 judges, 29 prosecutors and 2 experts attended the conference.

- hosting the the Dissemination event that took place in the framework of the Project entitled - Active Charter Training through Interaction Of National ExperienceS (ACTIONES) (3-4 July 2017); one of the themes of the activity was the antidiscrimination. At this national event participated 17 judges, 9 prosecutors and 26 lawyers;

II. The initial and continuous professional training for police personnel

The initial training of police agents and non-commissioned officers from police and gendarmes schools encompasses topics that ensure compliance with international and European recommendations regarding the protection of human rights and respecting diversity.

A mandatory topic is included in their common training module – „Tackling conflictual situations caused by multicultural diversity” which includes:

- the ethnical and religious makeup of Romania, its cultural specificity;
- causes leading to interethnic or intercultural/inter-religious conflicts;
- techniques and methods used for interethnic and intercultural/inter-religious conflicts resolution;
- hate-driven discriminatory attitudes and behaviours.

Also, within the module „Finding and investigating criminal offences” implemented within the schools for police agents, the following topic can be found: „Human rights and their observance in the context of police work. Hate crimes”, which includes:

- basic human rights regulations;
 - the observance of human rights in police activity;
 - the definition of hate crimes. National legislation regarding hate crimes;
- international obligations to investigate hate crimes.

Since 2017, the trainees of police agents schools, as well as the newly recruited police officers undertaking the initial training programs in the training centers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, receive instruction, by means of further training plans, on the issue of hate crimes.

Induction courses are being conducted in the training centers for personnel recruited from the private sector (external sources). The curriculum of these courses includes relevant topics in the fields of human rights and hate crimes – anti-semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

As regards ***the training within the Police Academy „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”***, the issues regarding the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination are tackled in the subject of study ***The legal protection of human rights***, which is studied as follows:

- at the study program of Bachelor university studies / specialization public order and safety, as an optional subject of study (14 hours lecture / 14 hours laboratory classes).
- at the study program Bachelor university studies /specialization Law, IInd year, IInd semester as a compulsory subject of study (28 hours lecture / 28 hours laboratory classes).

The curriculum of the above-mentioned subject of study includes the following topics for the specialization public order and safety:

1. *Introductory concepts and the importance of studying this subject of study for policemen;*
2. *Main documents at the UN level;*
3. *Main documents at European level;*
4. *Lecture regarding ECtHR – European jurisprudence (various cases in which policemen are involved are presented).*

For the law specialization, the curriculum includes, besides the mentioned topics, a topic for the study of the main citizens' civil and political rights and freedoms.

Also, topics that tackle the issue of „Hate crimes” are included in the Police Academy's curriculum, starting with the 2018-2019 academic year.

The training courses are designed for the police officers and gendarmes/MIA staff, based on their training needs and taking into account their professional activity inside ethnic communities or with vulnerable groups; the selection for these types of training is carried out by the general inspectorates.

The purpose of these training programs is to prevent discrimination/abuse in the relationship between the police officer and persons belonging to groups at risk of discrimination.

To cite an example, during the professional competence courses, organized in order to allow the trainees to be promoted to higher ranks, as well as during the training course *"Preventing and fighting all forms of discrimination"*, organized by the Institute for Public Order Studies, a number of topics of interest for the relevant field were addressed, including:

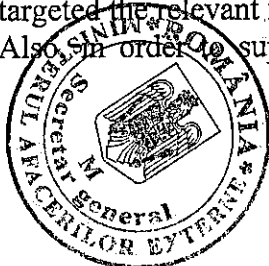
1. Specialized institutions in the field of non-discrimination, legal procedures;
2. Stereotypes and prejudices;
3. Hate crimes - case study;
4. Best practices of EU police forces on diversity management. Measures to implement ECtHR judgements.

Representatives of NAP, NCCD and of the civil society (Roma Center for Health Policy Sastipen Association, Carusel Association, Accept Association etc.) participated in delivering of lectures on the above-mentioned topics.

Regarding the ***continuous vocational training within units, on the job***, starting in 2018, in the framework of the specialized training undertaken by all police officers, the topic *"Hate crimes"* is also addressed. Consequently, in 2018, over 100 policemen from crime prevention, public order, criminal investigations, special actions and traffic police structures of the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police and General Directorate of Bucharest Police attended training sessions aimed at non-discrimination and prevention of hate crimes.

On this occasion, police commissioned officers and agents were briefed on a range of topics, such as: domestic and international legislation regulating the relevant field, European and Romanian institutions active in the human rights field, ECtHR case law, management of interethnic relations, conflict resolution, etc. Also, the policemen were involved by an expert from NCCD in solving practical cases in the matter of preventing and combating discrimination.

Prior to organizing the courses, the partners developed the Practical Guide for policemen, which targeted the relevant field and was subsequently disseminated in digital format to all participants. Also, in order to support the development of the continued vocational training of the police



officers, the guide was disseminated in digital format to all police units, by means of the internal network.

At the same time, in order to further expand vocational training programs, the Institute of Studies for Public Order has concluded a series of partnerships with non-governmental organizations whose mission is to protect and observe the rights regarding the social aspects targeted by the discrimination actions directed at various vulnerable groups.

In 2016, in the framework of **“Promoting the concept of proximity police in rural areas, especially in Roma communities or other socio-economically disadvantaged communities”** project, carried out under the aegis of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program, a Curriculum for the Romani language and culture course, accompanied by the Analytical Program and the Methodological Guide of the course were developed.

In 2016, at “Nicolae Golescu” Center for Initial and Further Police Training, Slatina, an introductory course in Romani language and culture, attended by **53** police officers, was organized.

Between May 07-25, 2018, also in the the framework of this project, at “Nicolae Golescu” Center for Initial and Further Police Training, Slatina, an advanced training course in Romani language and culture, attended by 40 policemen, was organized; **between October 1-19, 2018, an introductory course in Romani language and culture** was held.

The program is designed to develop linguistic competences in the field of Romani language, respectively to train the students in the use of Romani language, in the context of daily activities carried out within GIRP, by learning certain aspects regarding the norms, traditions, customs and history of the Roma people.

The issue of discrimination is also addressed by the "Human rights in the institutions of public order and safety" course, organized by the Center for the promotion of human rights and postgraduate studies, within the National College of Internal Affairs.

Starting with the academic year 2018-2019, the topic of *"Preventing and fighting hate crimes by means of criminal law"* was introduced in the curriculum of the above mentioned program.

Moreover, the Centre for the promotion of human rights and postgraduate studies, in partnership with IPOS, organizes training courses for MIA personnel, focused on the topic of *"Human rights - hate crimes"*.

Regarding the further training of the Romanian Gendarmerie personnel, a number of its employees attended a module of the International Higher Course, organized yearly by „Mihai Viteazul” Practical Training School for Commissioned Officers, in Bucharest. This course is certified/recertified by the Department for Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Organization. The 75-hours long module includes 38 topics on the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination.

During 2015-2017, the Romanian Gendarmerie personnel took part in a series of courses, as follows:

No.	Course title	Training institution	No. of trained commissioned officers	Year
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1.	Training course in the field of non-discrimination	NCCD	41	2015
2.	Specialist in equality of opportunity training course	National Intelligence Academy	175	2015
3.	Training course in the field of non-discrimination	NCCD	30	2016
4.	Training course in the field of non-discrimination	NCCD	4	2017

In May 2014, GIRP and MoJ signed a contract concerning the financing for the project entitled “Consolidating the capacity of the preventive detention system in aligning itself with the relevant international instruments on human rights”. In 2015, training sessions were organized for policemen within the centres for preventive detention, which included multiple aspects regarding the observance of international human rights standards.

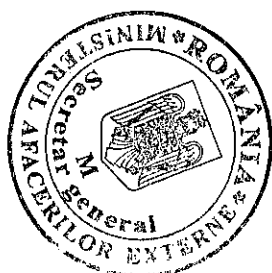
Another example consists of the activities organised within the programme entitled “Consolidating the capacity of the preventive detention system to observe the relevant international instruments concerning human rights”, financed through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. 2 best practices guides and 2 booklets (400 copies in romanian language) were elaborated, containing useful information on human rights. The best practices guides and leaflets were distributed to the detention and pre-trial detention centers and made available to Roma inmates.

Training activities involving the field of prevention and investigation of criminal offences committed for racial reasons which took place at the level of the Romanian Police, between 2014 and 2018, are as follows:

1. Between 18 and 20 December 2017, 20 police officers attended the Program of Access to Justice for Roma women – JUSTROME organized by the Council of Europe in Bucharest.
2. The project “Integrated approach for the prevention of victimization in Roma communities”, financed through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism commenced in October 2014, had an implementation period of 30 months, until 30 April 2017, and its partners are the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights within OSCE, the Institute of National Economy within the Romanian Academy and Roma Center for Social and Education Intervention - Romani CRISS.

The goal of the project consisted of increasing the awareness degree, at the level of law-enforcing institutions, into the phenomenon of victimization in Roma communities, but also the prevention and mitigation of victimization among vulnerable individuals within Roma communities, by using scientifically validated instruments. In this project, 15 training activities were conducted, consisting of educating 300 Romanian police servants in the field of preventing and fighting against hate-driven criminal offences and in the field of special techniques for interviewing the victims of such criminal offences.

The training took place in the Center for Training and Improving of Police Servants “Nicolae Golescu” of Slatina.



As regards the prevention and fighting against discrimination, in particular for the prevention and fighting against hate-driven criminal offences, in the past years, several training programs were permanently organized in MIA education institutions.

In that regard, IPOS held training sessions in the field of human rights "Prevention and fighting against all forms of discrimination" and "Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", "Prevention and fighting against gender violence", which were attended by police servants within public order, criminal investigations, transport police structures.

The purpose of these training programs consists of preventing acts of discrimination/abuse in the relationship between police workers and persons from groups facing discrimination risks. Certain topics were supported by representatives of civil society organizations, such as Accept Association. The above-mentioned training sessions were attended, in 2018, by 189 police servants within defense and public order structures.

In the Multifunctional Schengen Training Center, improvement courses were organized every year, in the field of torture and inhuman treatment for the personnel in the Coordination Service for Arrest Detention Facilities, which were attended, in the past two years, by 30 police servants.

III. NCCD Training events within the field of non-discrimination

Rome Women's Gala "Look at me as I am!"(since 2012)

The project, developed in partnership with the Center for Education and Social Development, E-Romanja Association (Association for Promotion Women's Rights Rome) and the Association for Development and Social Inclusion, promotes the Roma woman in public life, as an important contributor in the activities related to education, health, policies, work, culture, housing, etc., these being models to be followed for future generations.

Training of case managers within the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection regarding non-discrimination of children separated from their parents who have the adoption established as a purpose of the individualized protection plan (September - December 2012)

The project was carried out in partnership with the Romanian Office for Adoptions and consisted of carrying out information and training courses for the representatives of the Office and case managers - specialists who come into direct contact with children and their families, the biological and the extended, instrumenting adoption. The direct beneficiaries of the project were the 50 participants - 40 case managers from the six sectors of Bucharest plus Ilfov and 10 representatives of the Romanian Office for Adoptions. The indirect beneficiaries were estimated to be about 1500 children from the protection systems and their biological / extended families. The aim of this project was to increase the number of adoptable children and the number of adoptions, by combating discriminatory attitudes towards them through the theoretical and practical knowledge of the principles of combating discrimination, preventing acts of discrimination against children and the biological family / extended family, by reducing the level of intolerance towards categories of children with certain particularities: Roma children, older children and those with physical or mental disabilities, or by decreasing the level of

intolerance to certain biological families / extended families with certain particularities: Roma families, illiterate families and families with disabilities.

The two course modules, "Human responsibility - an ethical attitude to discrimination" and "The legal and legal framework of non-discrimination in Romania", highlighted the need for dialogue between social partners, the need for information and collaboration between institutions, between institutions and civil society.

Promoting human rights and non-discrimination in medical university education in Romania (2013), by training young doctors for an integrated and complementary approach to activities for the knowledge, understanding, acceptance and respect of national minorities, in order to improve access to quality medical services for vulnerable groups, including Roma.

V. During 2010-2018, the National Agency for Public Servants implemented 15 projects with a training component, focusing on equal opportunities and gender equality, as well as sustainable development.

The Agency also implemented or participated in projects including human rights training:

- April 2015 – April 2016, the project *Inclusive Governance* aimed at reducing the risk of social exclusion and the prevention of discrimination against disadvantaged groups in several counties reached to 300 persons from vulnerable groups, including from the Roma community, who were informed on the services and institutions providing support and assistance, 100 young persons from the rural area, who were counseled on the access to European Funds and the educational programme "The second chance", 100 representatives of unemployed persons from vulnerable groups, who were informed on the employment opportunities.
- In the period January 2017 – December 2018, the project *I.D.E.A.S. (Inclusion. Diversity. Equality. Consciousness. Success)*, including the multinational launch of the Diversity Charter in Slovenia, Romania and Croatia, comprised training seminars for public and private sector in the field of diversity;
- In the period 2017-2021, the project "Development of a unitary management system for human resources in the public administration", implemented by the Government's Secretariat General emphasises during training non-discrimination and inclusion.

