

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ROMANIA* – CONDENSED REPORT –

The Report on the „Rights of persons with disabilities in Romania” is part of an ample project developed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in its capacity as independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, according to art. 33.2 in the Convention.

The Project, which includes other researches on the same topic as well¹, is intended to depict the way the rights of persons with disabilities are observed in Romania, while objectively analyzing how the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are reflected by the national legislation and also how they are observed, based on the Institute’s self-conducted researches, investigations made by NGOs and data made available by certain institutions.²

On the one hand, the document reflects the legislative modifications operated in the course of the year 2014 and, on the other hand, it points out a number of issues that need the decision makers’ increased attention.

Thus, in the year 2014, several normative acts were amended resulting in reorganization measures taken at the level of the central public administration, which led to the development of the institutional architecture. Three new institutions were established: the National Authority for the Protection of the Child and Adoption³, the Department on Equal Opportunities for Men and

Women⁴ and the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities, as specialized bodies of the central public administration, subordinated to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, by taking over from the latter the activities in the fields of protection of the rights of the child, equal opportunities for men and women and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The establishment of an independent body for the rights of persons with disabilities had also been encouraged by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights who, in his report elaborated following a visit to Romania, pointed out that such a mechanism could in the future usefully assume the role of contact point and coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁵

It was also established that the Advocate of the People institution⁶, through its powers in the field of preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in places of detention, fulfils the specific tasks of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture at detention places, in the meaning of 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 1984.⁷

In accordance with paragraph (4) art. 7 in OUG 86/2014⁸, the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities was designated to fulfil the obligations provided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while the administrative and the operational capacity has still remained uncovered.⁹

⁴ Ibidem art. 4.

⁵ See the Report written by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, following the visit he paid to Romania between 31 March – 4 April 2014, p. 9.

⁶ See OUG No. 48/2014 on amending and supplementing Law No. 35/1997 on the organization and functioning of the Advocate of the People institution, and on amending and supplementing other normative acts as well.

⁷ Ratified under Law No. 109/2009, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, No. 300 of 7 May 2009.

⁸ Published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, No. 920 of 17 September 2014.

⁹ See Annex to Government Decision 50/2015 on the powers, organization and functioning of the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities.

* This is a condensed English version of the “Report on the rights of persons with disabilities” for the year 2015, elaborated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in its capacity as independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, according to art. 33.2 in the Convention. The English version is based on the Romanian original – **Irina Moroianu-Zlătescu (coord.)**, *Evoluția protecției și promovării drepturilor persoanelor cu dizabilități în România*, Editura IRDO, 2015, ISBN 978-606-86-50-03-6 – and mainly focuses on what is new in comparison to the year 2014.

¹ See **Irina Moroianu Zlătescu** (coordinator), *Rights of persons with disabilities in Romania. Recent developments*, IRDO, 2014.

² IRDO’s Reports have also been made available at both international level – the United Nations and regional European level – the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe.

³ See art. 5 OUG 11/2014 on the adoption of certain reorganization measures at the level of the central public administration and the amendment and supplementation of several normative acts.

On 31 December 2014, 737,885 persons with disabilities were registered in Romania, which represented a 5.85% increase of the number of persons with disabilities for the time period 2013-2014, from 697,169 at the beginning of 2013 to 737,885 at the end of 2014. This increase was mainly owed to the modification of the criteria for inclusion in one or another grade and type of handicap.

According to the data issued by the National Institute of Statistics, the disabled persons ratio, calculated in relation to Romania's population, was 3.47% on 31 December 2014, representing a decrease as compared to the last few years, mainly owed to the demographic regression and in spite of the increase of the number of persons with disabilities.

The majority of persons with disabilities – 97.7% (720,683) – live with their own families or independently, while the remaining 2.3% (17,202) receive assistance in public residential centres.

Of 737,885 persons with disabilities at the end of the year 2014, 393,600 (53.34%) were women and 59,775 were children.

The national strategy in the field of equality of opportunities between men and women for the time period 2014-2017¹⁰ identifies actions and fields considered to be priorities – education, the labour market, balanced participation in the decision making process, a gender and gender based violence integrating approach, each priority field being established several key actions such as: combating stereotypes in the educational system; promoting gender equality with policies related to the employment, the mobility and the migration of labour; increasing awareness about the application and the observance of the legal provisions in the field of equality of opportunities between men and women as well as reconciling business with family and private life; encouraging integration on the labour market of women vulnerable to discrimination; monitoring the balanced participation of women and men in the decision making process; introducing the gender

¹⁰ See Government Decision No. 1050/2014 on approving the National Strategy in the field of equality of opportunities between men and women for the time period 2014-2017 and the general Plan of action for the implementation of the Strategy for the time period 2014-2017, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, No. 890 of 8 December 2014.

perspective in the national policies; combating such phenomena as harassment and sexual harassment at the workplace; combating gender violence.

As was shown on other occasions, the legislation of our country does not yet include enough provisions to guarantee women with disabilities all the fundamental rights and freedoms provided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, even though it is acknowledged that women with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination.¹¹ At the same time, references to women and girls with disabilities in all fields are not to be found in the present statistical data.

As far as the dynamic situation of children with disabilities is concerned, on 31 December 2014 the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly announced a number of 59,775 children with disabilities¹², of which 31,970 were ranked as severely, 12,176 as strongly, 14,922 as averagely and 707 as slightly handicapped.

One of the basic principles of the 2014-2020¹³ National Strategy on the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child – participation and consultation of children in the adoption of decisions related to them – states that children with disabilities should be involved as well in the decision making process, while being provided with adequate assistance fit to the disability and the age.

One of the general objectives of the Strategy is to respect the rights and promote the social inclusion of children in vulnerable situations, where one of the main aims is to eliminate attitude and environment barriers in order to achieve rehabilitation and the social integration of children with disabilities, by: developing an integrated system for early discovery and complex evaluation of a child with disabilities; supplying integrated healthcare and educational social services that have to be friendly and accessible to children with disabilities and their families; supporting families with children with disabilities

¹¹ See Irina Moroianu Zlătescu, op. cit.

¹² http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/buletin_statistic_dizabilitati_2014.pdf.

¹³ See Annex No. 1 Government Decision 1113/2014 on approving the National Strategy on the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, No. 33/2014.

so that they should be able to raise and care their children within the family; developing positive attitudes within the family and the society towards children with disabilities; increasing the educational inclusion of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

Also, the Strategy develops priority actions¹⁴ to achieve enrolment and keeping of all children/students/youngsters with special educational needs, particularly those with disabilities, in a form of education:

1. start of the formal education of all children at the nearest mass educational unit to the child's home;

2. keep children/students in the mass education school by supplying educational services, logopaedic therapies and psycho-pedagogic advice to those experiencing difficulties with learning, adaptation and integration or having behavioural deviations;

3. transfer to the mass education school of those students in a special school who do not belong with this type of education or those who either were given a wrong diagnostic or show evident progress as a result of the educational activity;

4. orientation towards special schools only in those cases where the student cannot integrate in the class collectivity of a mass education school, so that these students might receive education as well.

At the same time, according to the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly only 7,415 children with disabilities enjoyed special protection measures in the 361 residential services (332 public residential services and 29 private residential services), which represents a decrease by 476 children as compared to the same period of the year 2013.¹⁵

According to the data published by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly¹⁶, on 31 December 2014 residential services for children with disabilities were as follows: 194 family type houses, of which 172 were public and 22 private; 62 apartments of

¹⁴ See p. 29, Annex 1, Government Decision 113/2014 on approving the Strategy for the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child 2014-2020.

¹⁵ http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/buletin_statistic/copii_2014.pdf.

¹⁶ Ibidem.

which 57 public and 5 private; 53 classic placement centres, of which 52 public and one private; 45 modular placement centres, of which 44 public and one private; 7 other services.

According to the information available on the same date, there were 9 children with ages varying between 10 and 16 in the public residential centres for adult handicapped persons.¹⁷

In 2014, the specific legislation devoted to the protection of children's rights was modified to the effect that it prohibits *placement of a child* who is younger than 3 years old in a residential service; children younger than 3 can only be placed in the extended family, a substitute family or the maternal assistant, except for the case when the child has severe handicaps, dependent on caring in specialized residential services.¹⁸

It is worth mentioning that the European Human Rights Commissioner expressed his concern about the institutionalization of a large number of children, including children with disabilities, about the inadequacy of the caring provided in institutions, as well as the lack of programmes ensuring the transition towards adult life.¹⁹

In a position document, released on 3 December 2014 on occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities²⁰, the Child NGO Federation showed that the process of equalizing opportunities for children with disabilities should be much accelerated for numerous barriers prevent these children from receiving all support they need in order to grow up and develop as future citizens of Romania.

Society should undertake the task to raise awareness and eliminate the barriers. One of the constant objectives of communication and

¹⁷ http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/buletin_statistic/dizabilitati_2014.pdf.

¹⁸ See Law No. 131/2014 on amending paragraphs (1) and (2) of art. 64 of Law No. 272/2004 on the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child; Law No. 131/2014 was published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, No. 740 of 10 October 2014, due to come into effect on 1 January 2015.

¹⁹ See the Report of Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, p. 8 et seq.

²⁰ See the position document of the Child NGO Federation on occasion of the day of 3 December, available at http://www.fonpc.ro/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=176:document-de-pozitie-al-federatiei-ong-urilor-pentru-copil&Itemid=587&lang=ro.

advocacy campaigns should be that education of persons with disabilities be made within the community: the members of the community (including the family) should be informed about the rights of persons with disabilities.

It is worth mentioning the 2014 edition of the Persons with Disabilities Festivity on „Promote ability!”, organized as always, in collaboration with the National Television Company. The 5 categories where prizes were awarded are as follows: Open Doors (organizations, companies or institutions that got involved to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to public areas, public transportation vehicles, parking areas or public buildings); All Abilities School (mass educational units that integrated persons with disabilities and have projects to integrate children or youngsters with disabilities in the mass educational system); Ability Employers (companies, organizations or institutions employing persons with disabilities and getting involved to include the latter in the labour market); Communicate Ability (communicators who improve perception about persons with disabilities, promoting topics that help society realize the problems, the needs and the potential persons with disabilities have); and Fully Achieved People (persons with disabilities whose achievements removed the barriers imposed by society and changed mentalities about disability, becoming a model to be followed by others as well).

At the same time, it is important to mention the campaign on „It is perfect to be imperfect”, organized in Baia Mare on May-September 2014 by Association Esperando, which showed that persons with disabilities are capable to work, to show seriousness and credibility, and deserve to make their voices heard, both for themselves and for the benefit of the community in which they live. Also, the participation of persons with disabilities in the events helped eliminate prejudices and stereotypes related to these people.²¹

The campaign conducted by TVR News on „Isolated among us” supporting integration of children with disabilities presented throughout a month at „Telejurnal” how parents have to

²¹ See the movie of the campaign available at <http://asesperando.blogspot.ro/2014/04/campania-e-perfect-sa-fii-imperfect.html>.

struggle daily to make people see their children just as they are: people with normal needs.²²

It is also worth mentioning that the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in its capacity as national human rights institution, independent, preoccupied about the protection and the promotion of human rights, organized a number of conferences, seminars, workshops where the participants included both governmental representatives and persons with disabilities and non-governmental organizations representing them. These events were organized to inform about the provisions of the Convention and to initiate a cooperation essential for the implementation in Romania of the UN Convention.

IRDO's activity related to the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities was also achieved in the form of publication of specialized volumes, the most recent one being the volume entitled *Drepturi egale și mediu accesibil* (Equal rights and accessible environment), reports on the evolution of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania, articles published in the quarterly „Drepturile Omului” (Human Rights) and the monthly informative bulletin „Info IRDO”.

Since 2014, persons with hearing disabilities have had the right to access audiovisual media services, so that, the audiovisual media services of persons with hearing disabilities, the television broadcasting services with national and local coverage are now bound to interpret in sign language and in synchronic subtitling at least 30 minutes of the broadcasts of news, analyses and debates on political and/or economic topics, while broadcasts of major importance or their summaries have to be wholly interpreted in sign language as well.

The National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) adopted a set of measures meant to ensure the access of persons with disabilities to telephony and internet services adapted to their special needs and under conditions that are the equivalent of those enjoyed by other users. Thus, the authority established the structure of telephony and internet service packages dedicated to persons with

²² http://stiri.tvr.ro/campania-izolati-printre-noi-are-efect-proiect-pentru-copiii-cu-dizabilitati-depus-la-parlament_42613.html.

disabilities and recommends suppliers of such services a certain tariff for each package.²³

Poor accessibility of the buildings is a shortcoming also pointed out by the European Human Rights Commissioner who, in his Report, firmly requests the authorities to improve the general level of accessibility to the environment and to services.²⁴

It is also worth mentioning the march „City accessible to people!”, whose purpose was to show the problems encountered by pedestrians in Bucharest, particularly persons with disabilities (locomotion, audible, visual) and those with reduced mobility (elderly, parents with children in perambulators, children), the participants militating for a sustainable and inclusive development of the city and requesting the local authorities an urban infrastructure that should encourage walking and be accessible to all categories of pedestrians, irrespective of age and mobility.²⁵

Although the new civil legislation provides for certain guaranties with regard to the prohibition of legal capacity, including the obligation of the court to hear the respective person, sometimes courts omit to do so. The law does not provide for automatic periodic reviews of the decision of legal capacity deprivation and placement under guardianship, a fact also remarked by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner who, in the special Report on his visit to Romania pointed out that the new civil legislation failed to provide abrogation of total incapacity and guardianship and replace them with measures that might provide persons with disabilities with the support they could need in the exercise of their legal capacity. He urges the Romanian authorities to elaborate laws and policies that should replace the

²³ See Decision No. 160 of 23 February by the President of ANCOM, http://www.ancom.org.ro/ancom-impune-crearea-de-pachete-de-servicii-telecom-pentru-persoanele-cu-dizabilita539i_5366.

²⁴ See the Report of Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, p. 3, <https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlob>

[Get&InstranetImage=2562406&SecMode=1&DocId=2157208&Usage=2.](http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-administratie_locala-17649867-bucuresti-mai-multe-ong-uri-organizeaza-19-iulie-marsul-or-as-accesibil-pentru-oameni-dedicat-drepturilor-pietonilor-din-capitala.htm)

²⁵ http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-administratie_locala-17649867-bucuresti-mai-multe-ong-uri-organizeaza-19-iulie-marsul-or-as-accesibil-pentru-oameni-dedicat-drepturilor-pietonilor-din-capitala.htm.

substituted decision making by a supported decision making mechanism, in order to make sure that persons placed under guardianship have real access to jurisdictional control procedures of challenging the guardianship or the way it is administrated, and to make sure that the support given to persons with disabilities respects their preferences, and is free from conflicts of interests and subject to jurisdictional control. The Commissioner also urges the authorities to take measures to make sure that persons with disabilities are acknowledged as persons with an equal status before the courts as any other persons and that they be able to challenge efficiently any violation of their right to legal capacity.²⁶

As shown in his annual report for the year 2014, the Advocate of the People, referring to the employees of a psychiatric hospital who violated the healthcare norms and the rights of persons with mental disorders by restricting their freedom of movement, immobilizing them without justification, and subjecting them to acts of violence, reminding the statements of the Ministry of Justice, mentioned that following the Decision of 17 July 2014 by the European Court of Human Rights in the case the Centre of Juridical Resources vs. Romania, on initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Governmental Agent Directorate, a working group, including representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Ministry of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy and the General Prosecutor’s Office, was established to identify general measures necessary to remedy the deficiencies found by the ECtHR in the respective case.

In its decision in the case *Câmpeanu vs. Romania*, the European Court of Human Rights recommends the Romanian State to adopt general measures providing protection to persons with mental disabilities in a similar situation to that of Mr. Câmpeanu and the possibility of an impartial representative before a court or other independent bodies.

²⁶ See the Report written by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Mr. Nils Muižnieks, pp. 13-15 [https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2562406&SecMode=1&DocId=2157208&Usage=2.](https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2562406&SecMode=1&DocId=2157208&Usage=2)

Another extremely important issue that ought to concern the Romanian authorities, also pointed out by the Commissioner in the above mentioned Report is placement in psychiatric residential centres or hospitals. In spite of the existing guarantees, persons with disabilities often lack actual access to jurisdictional control procedures in relation to their placement in a psychiatric institution, because the law does not provide for automatic periodic re-examinations of involuntary placements to be made by courts at reasonable periods of time.

An analysis of the statistic data available on the webpage of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly regarding the situation of social assistance public institutions for adult persons with disabilities on 31 December 2014 reveals an increase of their number from 335 registered in late 2013 to 352 on 31 December 2014. This increase is owed to an increase by 8 of the number of protected homes, by 7 of the number of neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation centres and by 3 of the number of recovery and rehabilitation centres for handicapped persons, and also a decrease by 2 of the number of occupational integration and therapy centres.

At the same time, the number of persons with disabilities hosted in residential centres increased to 17,202 that is, 70 more than were registered in late 2013. Thus, the number of persons with disabilities hosted in neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation increased by 320, the number of those in recovery and rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities increased by 272, and the number of those hosted in protected homes increased by 59. Concomitantly, the number of persons with disabilities hosted in occupation integration and therapy centres decreased by 382 and the number of those in social assistance centres decreased by 174.

Almost one third of the residential institutions are caring and assistance centres, hosting 6,270 persons representing 36.45% of the total number of persons in residential institutions, while 17% (60 persons) are in neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation centres, the latter hosting 5701 persons representing 33% of the total number of beneficiaries.

As regards the situation of non-residential (daycare) centres on 31 December 2014, the

following can be said: of a total number of 720,683 persons with disabilities living independently/within their families, only 2,673 benefited from social services organized in the daycare public system – which was nevertheless and increase by 1004 as compared to late 2013, mainly owed to the number of persons using daycare centres and ambulatory services of neuromotor recovery.

The situation presented above shows the need for alternatives to institutionalized caring, one of the major obstacles to an independent life for persons with disabilities. For now, residential institutions are the only choice for the majority of those in institutions.

The Human Rights Commissioner urged the authorities to elaborate, with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, a comprehensive plan for replacing institutions by services within the community, thus inviting the authorities to prove their commitment to reform the social assistance system for persons with disabilities by shutting down the old residential institutions and allocate adequate resources for the development of alternatives within the community.²⁷

A number of Strategies, elaborated in the year 2014, include measures/actions taking into account the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Health National Strategy 2014-2020²⁸, in its General Objective 5 – *An inclusive healthcare system, sustainable and predictable through the implementation of priority transversal policies and programmes* – includes Special Objective 5.7 – *Intersectoral collaboration for improved health of the population, particularly vulnerable groups* – where several actions/measures are mentioned: development of institutional partnerships at the level of the central administration and of routine collaboration mechanisms in order to provide adequate response to the risks/threats against public health; development of common strategies/plans of action for intervention in order to manage public health issues and the needs of

²⁷ See the Report of Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights, p. 13.

²⁸ Government Decision No. 1028/2014 on approving the Health National Strategy 2014-2020 and the Action Plan 2014-2020 for the implementation of the National Strategy, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, no. 891/2014.

vulnerable groups; implementation of common/integrated national programmes with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, etc., in order to identify vulnerable groups and respond to their complex needs (e.g. development of the medical assistance network, including the psychological assistance, in educational units; development of a coherent national system for the achievement of education for health at the level of all educational units; common programmes of integration in community centres, of social assistance for patients with disabilities, etc.).

Also, General Objective 7 – *Development of an adequate infrastructure at national, regional and local levels in order to reduce the inequity characterizing the access to healthcare services* – includes Special Objective 7.1 – *Improvement of hospital infrastructure as required by the need for remodelling the network of hospitals by means of reorganization and rationalization* – includes an action/measure providing for the development and the rationalization of county hospitals, including rehabilitation meant to improve thermal efficiency and the physical access of persons with disabilities.

The National Strategy for Labour Employment 2014-2020²⁹, includes the Special Objective *Increasing employment of the youth and extension of the active life of the elderly*, which includes Action 1.1. – *Diminution of youth unemployment and of the number youth in the NEETs³⁰ category* – consisting of development of programmes, actions and measures meant to include children and youngsters with special needs in a form of education and professional training and integration on the labour market of young people with disabilities, also by creating and developing protected workshops.

Also, the second Objective of the Strategy – *Improving the occupational structure and the participation on the labour market of women and persons belonging to vulnerable groups by*

²⁹ Approved by Government Decision 1071/2013 published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, no. 75/2014.

³⁰ Editor's Note: NEET is an abbreviation for Not in Education, Employment or Training.

developing measures that combine social with activation – includes several measures such as:

- create fiscal facilities for employers to stimulate inclusion on the labour market of vulnerable persons/persons coming from the social assistance system/persons with disabilities/persons with criminal records registered with the probation services and those who are executing or have partially or entirely executed a prison sentence;

- assist employers to adapt/improve workplaces and equipments such as to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and elderly persons;

- assist employers to create and maintain workplaces for persons with disabilities;

- develop information and advisory services for persons with disabilities;

- develop assistance services addressed to persons with disabilities for finding, obtaining, keeping and also regaining a job;

- develop programmes of professional reintegration and vocational and professional rehabilitation addressed to persons with disabilities;

- reanalyze and amend or supplement the legal framework such as to encourage participation of persons with disabilities on the labour market.

The National Strategy in the field of youth addressing policies for 2015-2020³¹, a document whose strategic core is considered to be social inclusion, aims to significantly improve the situation of groups of adolescents and young people under the risk of social exclusion. Thus, the major field of action called *Health, sports and recreation* includes in the target group young people with special characteristics: young consumers of drugs and/or alcohol, young persons with unhealthy diet habits, young persons with disabilities, young mothers 15-19 years old, young people infected with HIV/AIDS, young people suffering from psychic diseases, young people whose lifestyle does not include sporting or cultural activities, developing the concept sports – a lifestyle.

One of the Special Objectives of the above mentioned field of action is *self accomplishment through sports and physical activity to help young persons to develop a healthy lifestyle, as active and responsible citizens and encourage them*

³¹ Approved by Government Decision 24/2015 published in the Official Gazette of Romania, I, no. 68/2015.

recreate themselves by practising sports and physical activities, which includes several actions such as:

- increase the number of children and young persons who practise sports also by amplifying the system of mass sportive competitions;
- provide access to the sports bases for students and children and offer them advantageous conditions for the use of the existing sports bases;
- attract young persons with disabilities to practise sports, offering adequate conditions of access, including adequately equipped youth centres and student houses.

It is worth mentioning the activity of the Romanian Paralympic Committee (RPC) that launched the project Pierre de Coubertin for the year 2014, in collaboration with the Ministry of

Youth and Sports. In the framework of this Project, RPC proposes practising of a new sportive activity – bow target shooting for persons with disabilities.

As regards life standards for persons with disabilities, it should be mentioned that, although the social services they benefited from were subject to indexation, it is necessary to further acknowledge their compensating role.

At present, the Government is developing a new national strategy and a new action plan for the rights of persons with disabilities, which is a difficult task for it has to establish a consolidated vision detailed for the long term, with priorities and measurable results, for the purpose of improving the lives of persons with disabilities.