

## II. ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT – 2016

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), an independent body with legal personality established by law – Law no. 9/1991, is the first national human rights institution created in Romania after 1989 and the only national institution in our country that has been recognized as having this quality by the Coordination Committee of National Institutions for Human Rights of the UN system. The Institute is also a member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the Association of Francophone Human Rights Commissions, the European Law Institute in Brussels and the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

In its entire activity, the RIHR complied with the Principles of Paris stated in 1991 at the Conference devoted to national human rights institutions, that later became an official document of the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. The principles refer to: an “as broad a mandate as possible” that should be based on the universal standards of human rights and include the double responsibility to promote and protect human rights, while covering all the rights; independence from the Government; independence guaranteed by the Constitution or by the law; adequate power of investigation; pluralism, including the structure of the personnel and/or effective cooperation and adequate human and financial resources. At the same time, the Institute also evolved in compliance with the requirements laid down by the Council of Europe in its Recommendations (79) 16 and (97) and Resolution (97) 11 of Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

Focusing its preoccupations on the actual realities of each time period, each stage, the Institute had permanently in mind the organization of an adequate framework and the creation of adequate means for the effective application and observance of human rights, for better familia-

rization with and awareness of these rights, both by public institutions and by natural persons, so much more so that Romania is a member country of the UNO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

As always, the Institute’s mission was considered to be that of acting as an important player so that the fundamental rights should become a reality for all, both in Romania and at European level. Under the circumstances, the Institute focused its activity laying particular emphasis on programmes and partnerships that best fit the international and the national requirements concerning the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the training of persons responsible for the protection thereof.

Collaboration with public institutions the academic community, non-governmental bodies concerned with human rights, etc., and the experience accumulated in time provided the Institute with increased capacity to take action in its efforts to fulfill the powers conferred by Law No. 9/1991, in its capacity as national independent institution promoting human rights, to act as an interface, a bridge between these public institutions and the civil society.

The Institute’s activity was rewarded in time with a number of international and national prizes awarded by such institutions as the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, the Union of Jurists of Romania, the Mediation Council, etc. In 2015, on occasion of the United Nations 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Romanian Association for the United Nations awarded the Institute the Outstanding Merit Award for the promotion of the ideals laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When the Institute’s Programme of Activities for the year 2016 was developed, such documents were taken into account as the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the

promotion and the protection of human rights, the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights – Vienna<sup>1</sup>, the Declaration of Durban, the Action Plan of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, General Assembly Resolution 59/113 on the UN goals for 2015, the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 21/14 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan 2013-2017 and the Multi-Annual Framework 2013-2017 of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, as well as the main goals established by the European Commission to be achieved by 2020 through “Europe 2020” Strategy, which became national objectives for every EU member country (employment, research and development/innovation, climate change/energy, education and poverty/social exclusion), the European Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015), the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), the Action Plan of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (2014-2016), the Institute’s Strategic Plan, as well as the Action Plan of the Francophone Association of National Human Rights Commissions.

The Plan was based on the contribution of the RIHR General Council and the RIHR staff, as well as on consultations with representatives of FRA, the Council of Europe, OSCE, organizations with powers in the field of human rights, the academic community and other segments of the civil society having powers in the field of human rights.

The Institute’s capacity to elaborate adequate responses in the field of fundamental rights remains, just like in the case of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, a

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<sup>1</sup> It is worth reminding that the RIHR organized in Bucharest the International Colloquium of 15-17 March 1993, in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights of Vienna, 1993. The final Declaration of the Colloquium on “The reform of the international human rights protecting institutions” was acknowledged and considered an official UN document under United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add8, 27 April 1993, while the Colloquium itself was acknowledged by the Preparatory Committee as a satellite reunion of the World Conference of Vienna.

development area to be compensated by the need to plan research for the long term, a pertinent and opportune contribution to a policy based on attempts that should guarantee a fair balance between the response to emergencies and polarization a long-term research while analyzing the time-evolving trends.

Aware of the importance of knowing human rights, in the year 2015 the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued to take efforts in such activities as training, information, documentation, research and consultancy, making its contribution by training persons in public structures and institutions with powers to protect and promote human rights, by systematically informing the citizens as to the rights guaranteed by the legislation or laid down in the international documents where Romania is a party. In this respect, the Institute organized in 2016 a great number of scientific events, symposia or seminars or roundtables, debates, training courses, exchanges of experience, etc. The Institute elaborated research works, published and disseminated works in the field as well as reports meant to provide better understanding of the international standards, the instruments and mechanisms promoting and protecting human rights at international level to which Romania acceded, while also taking efforts to facilitate their rapid and correct implementation at national level.

In a synthetic presentation, the activities performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights could be structured as follows: ensuring better knowledge of human rights issues and the way these rights are guaranteed in member countries of the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union; informing international institutions about the way human rights are promoted and guaranteed in Romania; performing research in relation to new human rights, such as the right to happiness, new violations of human rights or important facts with the promotion and the respect of human rights in our country and at international level; organizing and achieving training and education programmes in the field of human rights and finding new methods and methodologies; promoting issues of interest, on initiative by the United Nations or other international or regional organizations (for instance, business and human rights); association,

on proposal by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, with various projects (projects regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, women, children, domestic violence, etc.); publishing activities; publishing legislation, documents, studies and research works

in the field of human rights recently published at international and national level; promoting the activity of the Institute's Documentation Centre; providing consultancy; organizing conferences, seminars, international symposia in collaboration with Parliament's commissions and universities.

## **I. RESEARCHES DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION AND THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA AND AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

Investigation of the various aspects related to the promotion and the observance of human rights is one of the main elements of the Institute's activity. In the approach to this activity, provided by the law, the Institute had in view the "Paris Principles"<sup>2</sup> on the status of National Human Rights Institutions, the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of Vienna (1993), the United Nations Millennium Goals, the United Nations Goals for the year 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Declaration of Durban (2001), the Action Plan of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, United Nations Resolution 59/113, the Annual Programme of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Commission's European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), the European Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015), as well as Recommendations R (79) 16 and (97) 14 and Resolution (97) 11 by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, which proves that the investigation of human rights and the learning of human rights are adequate means for respecting human dignity and provide increased respect for human rights and the human person's value to ensure the necessary conditions for the implementation of justice and respect for the obligations coming from treaties and other sources

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<sup>2</sup> The fundamental principles established on the first international meeting of the National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which took place in Paris on 7-9 October 1991, known as the "Paris Principles". Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly under its Resolution 48/134 on 20 December 1993.

of international law, for the promotion of social progress and, obviously, the creation of better living conditions in greater freedom.

Aware of its mission to contribute to the establishment of a culture of human rights in our country, the Institute performed researches presenting general aspects related to the history and the evolution of human rights at international and domestic levels, the philosophy of human rights, the science of human rights, codification in the field of human rights, as well as special fields related to the various generations of human rights. Thus, the researches dealt with both the first generation rights – the civil and political rights, and the second generation rights – the economic, social and cultural rights. The topics dealt with also included third generation human rights, such as the right to peace, the right to sustainable development, the right to a healthy environment, as well as rights considered by some specialists to belong to the fourth generation of rights. Thus, new topics were dealt with, or older researches were updated/continued/deepened on such topics as the right to happiness as a fundamental human right (according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/309/2011) or business and human rights (according to the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework and the implementation document of 2008 – DOC A/HRC/8/5), the right to dignity, annual researches on human rights in EU and the legislation of Romania, the comparative study of human rights in the annual reports of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The accumulated experience and the professional training of the Institute's researchers, as well as of its voluntary collaborators – researchers, personalities of the scientific community or young researchers – made it possible to approach recent issues in the field, through extensive papers, extending over more than one year and achieved by teams made up of in-house researchers who worked in partnership with associated voluntary researchers, which allowed for thorough studies dealing with vast, important topics. At the same time, there were research works devoted to specialized fields, usually achieved by one author. The results of these studies were made available by publication in either the Institute's quarterly "Drepturile Omului", the monthly Info IRDO, in volumes or in extended reports, RIHR's publications or the publications of other well-known publishing houses, presented at the scientific events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and/or by various bodies at national and international level, from the academic community or from among non-governmental organizations, with which the Institute has been collaborating. The great majority of the studies and research works achieved in the framework or with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights fall into this category. Also, the researches were presented in the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the International University of Human Rights.

The researches achieved in the year 2016 were based on the national legislation in the field of human rights and the international and the regional documents that have become part of the domestic legislation as a result of their ratification by Romania. For the sake of illustration, we should mention: the Human Rights Charter, the United Nations Charter; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by Romania in 1974); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified by Romania in 1974); the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by Romania in 1993); the Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified by

Romania in 1970); the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified by Romania in 1990); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (ratified by Romania in 1981); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by Romania in 1990); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified by Romania in 2011); the European Convention on Human Rights (ratified by Romania in 1994); the European Social Charter revised (ratified by Romania in 1999); the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ratified by Romania in 2006); the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified by Romania in 1994); the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ratified by Romania in 1995), as well as others.

**In terms of the topics dealt with, the following types of research were performed:**

- a) researches dealing with a general topic;
- b) researches devoted to the instruments and mechanisms for the protection of human rights and their evolution in time;
- c) researches related to the protection and the promotion of human rights;
- d) researches referring to fundamental freedoms and human rights of the three generations, unanimously acknowledged: the civil and political rights; the economic, social and cultural rights; the right to peace, the right to sustainable development, the right to a healthy environment, but also new human rights considered by specialists to belong to the fourth generation of human rights.

An illustrative presentation of each category of researches proves the diversity of the approached topics.

**a) Researches dealing with a general topic:**

- Continuous education, everyone's right and responsibility of all
- The social contract and human rights issues face to face with post-modernity
- Prevalence of the fundamental human rights and the citizen's rights as opposed to the

collective rights of minorities in the context of globalization

- An accessible Romania in a barrier-free Europe
- Democracy and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development
- Education and welfare

**b) Researches devoted to the instruments and mechanisms for the protection and the promotion of human rights and their evolution in time:**

- Analysis of several constitutional and legal regulations on protection of the environment
- Present regulations on non-discrimination
- Issues related to the administration of justice as a public service in Romania
- An accessible Romania in a barrier-free Europe
- Codification in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new Romanian Civil Code
- Constitutional issues related to the regime of the evidence in a criminal trial

**c) Researches related to the protection and the promotion of human rights:**

- Rule of law, human rights, the citizens' safety and the state of emergency
- UN mechanisms and the rights of elderly persons

**d) Researches devoted to the fundamental freedoms and human rights: civil and political; economic, social and cultural; the right to peace, the right to sustainable development, the right to a healthy environment:**

- The student's rights and the digital textbook
- The economic and social rights of immigrants
- The presumption of innocence and the controlled society
- Issues related to the reform of healthcare services in Romania's hospitals
- Issues related to the violation of the right to the respect of private and family life and of the domicile in the jurisprudence of ECtHR

## **II. TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights education is focused on the human being. Human rights cannot be defended and promoted by the mere existence of legal instruments, while human rights education is essential to understand, make known, support, protect and respect these rights at all levels and in all fields of activity. This form of education is definitely needed in a democratic society and should be a general and permanent preoccupation for consecration of principles and norms in the field is not enough, they need to be understood, assimilated and respected. To be acknowledged rights also means to acknowledge duties, duties of individuals to themselves but also to society, with no form of intolerance, no discrimination and no negative competition.

It is this vision that inspired the initiatives, programmes and projects achieved by the RIHR in the field of education and trainers' training in the year 2016, activities by which the Institute tried to effectively make a contribution to the creation of a universal culture of human rights in Romania. The activities performed in this respect (see **Appendix A**) pursued one of the major objectives laid down in the constitutive law of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights: *organization of training programs, particularly addressing those categories of persons having special responsibilities for the protection of human rights or to ensure awareness of human rights issues amongst large categories of the population.*

Bearing in mind **UNESCO Post-2015 Education Programme**, the Romanian Institute

for Human Rights organized its activity in consonance with its provisions and paid particular attention in the year 2016 to intensifying and diversifying the activities conceived for the development of education in this field. The aim was to shape those civic attitudes and behaviours characterizing a democratic society and increase interest in and competencies of participation in the public life of an as large as possible number of citizens from all social-professional categories, both young and old.

To be more specific, the Plan of action of the Specialists Training Department included, among other objectives, the following:

- Promoting education in the field of human rights;
- Training adults and young people in human rights and the rights of the child;
- Training trainers in the field of human rights;
- Training educators: members of the teaching staff in the university and pre-university system;
- Training those professional categories that are directly involved and have responsibilities with the promotion and protection of human rights and the rights of the child;
- Consolidating the partnership and cooperation with institutions belonging to the Romanian educational system, as well as other institutions, associations, NGOs in various fields;
- Monitoring and supporting the existing educational programmes in the field of human rights in order to highlight the good practices while stimulating the measures meant to continue, improve and further develop such practices.

The development and the organization of activities devoted to human rights education were based on the feedback received from representatives of Teachers' Training Centres, from teachers in various schools and high schools.

The target groups of the activities organized by the Training Department of the RIHR included persons working in such fields as education, research, public administration, justice, healthcare, as well as persons from vulnerable categories: women, children, pensioners, minorities, persons with disabilities, etc.

The RIHR's training activities were conceived by and organized on initiative of the Institute and its various partners, on request by the central and local authorities or by social-professional groups and knew several forms:

- Long term training courses accredited by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research;
- Short term "contact" training courses;
- Activities pursuing familiarization with the core instruments related to the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Activities aiming to raise awareness of certain social groups about the need to know and respect human rights and the rights of the child;
- Symposia, seminars, roundtables, debates, etc.;
- Dissemination activities;
- Releases of books edited by the RIHR.

The events and the activities devoted to human rights education were meant to prevent violations of human rights by informing the citizens about their rights and duties, about the means available to them to defend their fundamental rights and freedoms, and also to form positive attitudes and behaviours.

The activities of 2016 were performed together with partners from among NGOs mainly concerned with human rights education, public institutions, as well as higher education institutions, religious cults, professional associations, etc.

Out of the educational and training activities achieved during this time period, the first worth mentioning are the scientific events characterized by continuity:

- The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the summer courses of the *International University of Human Rights*, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Victor Dan Zlătescu" Club of Cheia;
- Debates, training courses, roundtables, seminars, conferences, book releases, etc., organized in collaboration with other non-governmental institutions and organizations (see **Appendix A**);
- *Coordination of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and*

*Tolerance* by the RIHR and the North University of Baia Mare, **a permanent activity that includes Master Degree courses, the only ones of the kind in Romania;**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of students' national contests "*The Education and Civic Culture Olympics*" and "*Democracy and Tolerance*";
- Debates, symposia, colloquia devoted to the promotion of human rights in various fields (see **Appendix A**), etc.;

**1. Education of the younger generation in the spirit of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, for dignity and tolerance, for free exchange of opinions** is an objective that has been the object of a partnership between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, materialized in 2016 in the form of several activities that have become traditional: the national school contests "*The Civic Education and Civic Culture Olympics*" and "*Democracy and Tolerance*", continuous training courses for teachers and primary school teachers; colloquia, symposia and debates (see **Appendix A**) on topics related to various aspects of the human rights education activity and, last but not least, the *Didactic Creativity Contest on achieving auxiliary materials to be used in human rights education and a National Contest on literary creation and plastic creation for primary school students*.

## **2. National school contests**

As result of an initiative by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in 1994, the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research included disciplines *civic education* (grades III-IV) and *civic culture* (grades VII-VIII) into the category of those disciplines for which annual contests were organized, with stages up to national level.

These contests, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, also known under the name of "Olympics", respond to the need for education meant to shape the role and the status of citizens of a democratic society, to train and develop competencies for participation in the public life, a social critical spirit and tolerance capacity.

## **a) The National Olympics on social human sciences**

The national stage of the National Olympics on social human sciences was organized in April 2016 in Tulcea by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. This is an excellence contest addressing students with skills in the field of social human sciences, whose objective is education meant to make students know and experience the fundamental values of human rights, to shape behaviours that respect these essential rights and also competencies to participate in the public life.

The contest disciplines are: civic education, civic culture, logics, psychology, sociology, economy and philosophy. The students participating in the civic education contest are organized in teams made up of two students from the III or the IV grade, while those participating in the civic culture contest are organized in two-student teams as well, but the students are VII or VIII grade students of the same school. The Head of the Training of Specialists Department of the RIHR participated in the Olympics in his capacity as President of the Civic Education and Civic Culture Commission.

As usual, at the 2016 edition the best papers achieved by the participating teams were awarded diplomas and prizes by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

## **b) The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the final stage of the "Democracy and Tolerance" National Contest**

The contest initiated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research is a complex form of civic education involving students in primary and secondary schools. The general objectives of the contest refer to assuming the role and the status of citizens in democratic society, training and developing a constructive civic spirit.

In an explicit manner, the contest purposes are: familiarization with such essential concepts characterizing a democratic society and a state governed by the rule of law as democracy, tolerance, human rights, rights of the child; familiarization with the national and the international regulations referring to these concepts; give the students the opportunity to practise democratic, tolerant attitudes, behaviour

and a civic spirit; train and develop skills to participate in the educational community's life; nourish motivation for the promotion and the defence of human rights and the rights of the child.

The contest was organized in three main dimensions: a theoretical dimension (consisting of written paper), a practical-applicative dimension (elaboration of a project meant to solve a problem of the school or the community to which the students belonged, the project having the form of a portfolio), and an artistic dimension (achievement of a plastic art work – drawing, graphics, painting, collage, sculpture, etc., illustrating how the problem presented in the project prepared for the practical-applicative test was solved), with teams made up of three students, one of which from a primary school grade.

The experience accumulated with the contest reveals constant qualitative improvement of the materials presented, in all its three dimensions, as well as increased interest in the issues involved. The president of the “Democracy and Tolerance” National Contest Central Commission is the representative of the RIHR. Evaluation of the theoretical papers, the portfolios and the plastic art works was made by three separate sub-commissions made up of specialized teachers, while the president of the Central Commission is the Head of the Training of specialists department of the RIHR.

The contest, whose 2016 edition was organized in Târgoviște, aimed to develop cooperation competencies at group level, while stimulating interest in the promotion and the observance of human rights. Once the results of the three contest tests were established, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights awarded the “Human Rights” special prizes and honourable mentions.

**c) The National Contest on didactic creativity in the field of auxiliary materials devoted to education for human rights, democracy and a culture of peace in the pre-university educational system**

The contest is organized every two years by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and Teachers' Training Centres, and enjoys large popularity amongst teachers from all over the country.

The exhibition organized in the framework of this edition of the contest exhibited works belonging to teachers from such counties as Arad, Bacău, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Dâmbovița, Hunedoara, Ilfov, Mureș, Bucharest and Iași. Like the precedent editions of the contest, the 2016 edition was benefic and constructive, and took place in the spirit of education for human rights, democracy and a culture of peace.

Human rights education has a key role in any educational process. By the efforts they took and the passion that motivated them, the teachers assisted their students in their activities meant to stimulate the assimilation through practice of the values of active and responsible citizenship, as well as of the behaviour needed for the achievement of a harmonious environment in the society they live in. In this respect, the auxiliary materials referred to the various objectives of human rights education and supported the active participation of the children, who thus become familiar with human rights issues, while acquiring and developing attitudes of respect for human dignity.

**d) The plastic creation contest for pupils in primary schools** was organized in the framework of the events devoted to “The Human Rights Day” in partnership with College “Mihai Viteazul”, and national College “Jean Monet” of Ploiești.

**e) The contest of essays, fairy tales and plastic works** for pupils in primary schools whose topic is “Human Rights – Universality or Privilege” was an event organized in partnership with School “Ion Vișoiu” of Chitila, Ilfov County.

*3. As far as the continuous training of pre-university teachers achieving human rights education is concerned*, in the year 2016, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Teachers' Training Centre of Bucharest continued the training programme “Education for Human Rights and the Rights of the Child”. This programme is accredited by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and had as target public teachers and auxiliary personnel in the pre-university educational system.

Created as a result of a large number of requests by teachers training in the field of human rights, the Programme was meant in 2016 as well to assist students increase awareness about and become familiar with human rights and the rights of the child, and also the national and the international legislation in the field.

#### ***4. Activities devoted to the training of practitioners and public servants***

The courses of the *International University of Human Rights* join together specialists and experts in an attempt to renew and improve training programmes in the field of human rights. The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International University of Human Rights on: “Human Rights: realities and prospects”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association, with the assistance members of AIDC, ELI, IDEF and with participation of representatives of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, the Legislative Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Secretariat of the Government.

The 2016 edition of the International University of Human Rights joined together experts, researchers, representatives of international organizations, representatives of governmental institutions, university professors, magistrates, candidates for a Doctor’s degree and for a Master’s degree. The participants were presented the Institute’s latest publications as well as the latest information related to human rights.

#### ***5. Other specific forms of training and education in the field of human rights:***

**a) Elaboration of special programmes devoted to important events and appreciated as such by the United Nations Organization, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, etc., with resonance for the protection and the promotion of human rights, such as:**

- The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Global Education Agenda (Education 2030);

- 66 years since the adoption of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- 22 years since Romania’s ratification of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- 49 years since the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights came into force;
- 61 years since Romania acceded to the United Nations Organization;
- 42 years since the OSCE was established.

#### **b) Coordination of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance.**

The Chair functions based on an agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – Paris and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the North University of Baia Mare. It is a centre of research, debate and training at post-university level whose master degree programmes, the only of the kind in Romania, integrate, keeping pace with the developments and the progress in this scientific field, the results of the national and the international research. In the year 2016, a new class of students obtained their Master Degree in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance.

**c) Organization of training courses and participation in debates on various aspects related to the observance and the promotion of human rights** in the framework of scientific events, symposia, colloquia, debates, roundtables, etc., or in the media (see **Appendix B**)

In fulfilling its mandate, the Institute took efforts to attract public institutions and non-governmental organizations by means of partnerships in the field of human rights. The year 2016 was no exception to this policy and so a number of partnerships were concluded or renewed, with remarkable results in terms of the activities performed. Of these, it is worth mentioning:

- Conference on “Education for tolerance”;
- Conference on “5 years since the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on

- preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence”;
- Symposium on “Digital accessibility – a big step towards digital inclusion”;
- International conference on “The efficiency of legal norms”;
- Symposium on “Universal, regional and national instruments related to the traffic in persons”;
- Conference on “The rights of refugees in present-day European context”;
- Symposium on “Linguistic diversity – the cultural heritage of the European Union”.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES DEVOTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS**

Organization of seminars, symposia or roundtables, together with the Institute’s other activities of research, education and training, make up a harmonious approach to human rights issues, reflecting the importance of their promotion and protection.

The reports and the studies presented on occasion of various events were the outcome of the research activity performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. Whether events organized by the Institute alone (see **Appendix A**) or events organized in partnership, the exchange of experience, the opinions expressed and the conclusions drawn paved the way for approaching new research topics, finding new methods to deal with the various aspects related to training and educating in a spirit of respect for human rights.

The fact that foreign or domestic organizations and bodies taking interest in the field of human rights requested the Institute to participate with studies, presentations, reports, etc., in events they organized (see **Appendix B**) illustrates the good name the Institute enjoys both at national and at international level, a prestige gained through the rigour and the consistency with which the Institute got involved with the protection and the promotion of the fundamental freedoms and human rights.

It is worth mentioning that the Institute has constantly attracted in the events it organized participation and involvement of a large number of actors in the field of human rights from Parliament, the Government, governmental and non-governmental bodies, or international and

regional organizations. By getting these actors involved, making them contribute with works, documents, presentations, dissertations or expertise or reports on behalf of the institutions and the organizations they represented, the Institute endeavoured to achieve better communication and closer collaboration for finding and implementing more effective solutions to improve the status of human rights in Romania.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a large number of meetings and debates devoted to the assertion, the promotion and the protection of human rights (see **Appendix A**) attended by personalities in the field of human rights from Romania and from abroad acknowledged for their contribution to popularization and promotion of human rights.

#### **Non-Discrimination**

The profound understanding of the universal character of human rights involves unconditioned and restriction-free acknowledgement of human diversity, of the civilizational elements which, whatever the differences between individuals belonging to different races, ethnicities, age groups, religious or other communities, offer no argument for attitudes of exclusion and discrimination or forms of intolerance and aggressiveness.

Pluralism and diversity should be regarded as a contemporary form of advance towards peace, tolerance and understanding among peoples. Diversity and the culture of diversity is not the

mere presence of different groups, but also acceptance of the differences existing within the same group.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, as usual joined the campaign organized by the United against Racism Network on occasion of the European Week against Racism (12-21 March), by organizing debates that resulted in several concrete recommendations on combating racism and multiple discrimination.

It is worth mentioning in this respect the symposium on “Don’t blame immigrants and refugees for all the problems challenging the European Union”, organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – North University of Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM), IDEF, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (ARDOVT). Also, under the coordination of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Foundation “Adolescența” organized an essay contest on “Roots of a poisonous plant – discrimination”.

The RIHR initiated a debate on the draft decision approving the programmes of national interest for the protection of the rights of the child in the period 2016-2018, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly. The debate was organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum.

The RIHR’s monitoring activities in relation to the rights of elderly persons and their long term caring in healthcare centres in Romania were also related to the topic of non-discrimination. Elderly persons belong to a vulnerable category facing increased risks of abuses or discriminations. These monitoring activities covered the time interval February-March 2016.

On 6 May 2016, on occasion of the National Day of Equality of Opportunities, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a conference on “Equality of opportunities for men and women – a fundamental principle of human rights”, in

collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – North University of Baia mare, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Fourm”, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights.

The participants in the Conference on “5 years since the adoption of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence”, organized on 11 May 2016 by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia, debated aspects related to multiple discrimination and the risk to be discriminated against faced by vulnerable population categories, particularly women and girls belonging to minorities or seeking asylum.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research organized the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the final stage of National Contest “Democracy and Tolerance” in the spirit of continuous education for respecting and promoting human rights. The event took place in Târgoviște between 25-28 July 2016.

The symposium of 1 August 2016 on “Zero tolerance for violence against women and domestic violence”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum marked the second anniversary of the Convention of Istanbul on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

At the same time, it is worth mentioning the International Conference of Non-Discrimination and Equality of Opportunities – NEDES 2016, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

On request by Parliament's special commissions, the Institute expressed viewpoints in relation to several bills, including the bill on acknowledgement by the law of the civil partnership in Romania, modification of punishments provided for offences against sexual freedom and integrity.<sup>3</sup> In this respect, the RIHR referred to the international and regional documents on human rights, dignity, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, etc.

### **Rights of the child**

The increased interest for the rights of distinctive categories of population, such as the rights of the smallest and most vulnerable human beings – children – is one of the priorities on the agendas of national and international institutions created to protect the promotion and the protection of the fundamental human rights.

In this respect, the RIHR organized several events, debates and discussions both with representatives of the public institutions having powers in the field and with representatives of the academic environment and non-governmental organizations. The meetings referred to aspects related to the improvement of the legislation in the field, the right to education, non-exploitation of labour, non-discrimination of certain categories of children (Roma, refugees, children with disabilities).

In consonance with this year's topic proposed by the United Nations Organization on occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day, the RIHR organized on 1 April 2016 a Conference on "Autism and the 2030 Agenda. Inclusion and Neurodiversity", in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare, and the Romanian Association for Women's Rights.

Obviously, the rights of the child also include the right to education, which is a key element for harmonious development and social integration. Literacy is one of mankind's greatest achievements. However, globally 860 million adults continue to be illiterate, while more than 100 million children do not attend any school. On occasion of the International Literacy Day, 8 September 2016, the Romanian Institute for

Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", organized a roundtable on "Illiteracy – a social plague. Causes and countermeasures". The event joined together experts, researchers, representatives of the authorities, academic and university institutions, civic associations, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The dissertations and the debates pointed out that education, in general, is an important agent to promote peace and tolerance. A literate person can more efficiently fight against poverty, health problems and prejudices, can improve his/her income, can develop harmonious relationships with other people and, most important, can become aware of his/her own rights. The year 2016 was also the first year for the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, and in this context activities devoted to increase literacy mean inclusion, a fair education quality and learning opportunities throughout one's life, but particularly for young and adult people.

### **Access to justice**

Dispensation of justice, in any type of society or political regime, is indissociably linked to the idea of rule of law, which means not just to proclaim some values and general principles, but also to consistently implement the law. Apart from the actions that transpose the legal order into reality, it is imperatively necessary that a fundamental human right should be acknowledged and respected – access to justice, without limitations and restrictions.

In 2016, the RIHR organized several conferences, seminars and debates devoted to access to justice as a fundamental right. These include:

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Conference on "Efficiency of the legal norms – interpretation and application of the law" focused on prospects regarding interpretation and application of the law as a main topic for discussion. The event was organized by Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir", the Faculty of Law of Cluj Napoca, in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, "George Barițiu" History Institute of the Romanian Academy, the Socioal-Human Research Department, the Romanian Association

<sup>3</sup> PLx 8/2016.

of Penal Sciences, and the Institute of Administrative Sciences in the Republic of Moldova. The Conference was devoted to the challenges of the present decade. In this respect, the participants were briefed during the two days with topical issues related to the interpretation and the application of the law. It was pointed out that the magnitude and the multiplication of social activities demand all over the world for a set of legal norms. So, such aspects as protection of the data, international trade, environment issues, international military conflicts as well as family relations, property or the fundamental human rights are regulated at various levels.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the annual International Conference on “Justice and administrative law in an interdisciplinary approach”, organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration, University “Magna Graecia”, Cantazaro, Italy, and University “Petru Maior”, Târgu Mureș.

Conference on “Stand up for someone’s rights today”, organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Romanian Association for the United Nations. The event was devoted to the evolution of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in international and regional context, and the topics debated upon dealt with such issues as the functioning of democratic institutions, the efficiency and the independence of the judicial system, new human rights and their protection through international mechanisms.

The RIHR is a member of the Legal Working Group of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and took active part in the discussions related to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights as well as the promotion of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

### **Family**

Family will be at the core of social life. It provides the welfare of its members, contributes to the education of the young and takes care of elderly persons. The central goals of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development focus on the eradication of poverty, promotion of economic prosperity, social development and the population’s welfare and the protection of the

environment. Family policies contribute to the fulfilment of Goals 1 and 5 in Agenda 2030, which refer to the fight against famine and poverty, provision of a healthy life and welfare for all ages by means of continuous education and achievement of gender equality. As in previous years, in 2016 the RIHR was active to promote and consolidate family supporting policies, while intensifying its research activities with a view to provide a theoretic basis for such policies, the emphasis being laid on combating and preventing poverty and social exclusion.

The activities devoted to the International Day of Families<sup>4</sup> included a debate on “Education and welfare”, organized in collaboration with the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM), the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights.

The purpose of this roundtable was to increase the public awareness about the role of families in society, to promote the latest social-economic and demographic trends affecting the family nucleus, as well as to identify the key problems confronting contemporary families and find possible solutions to them. It was pointed out that the national family policies, which refer to various aspects of family life, though having potential, most often are not implemented properly so that they might actually contribute to the fulfilment of many national sustainable development goals.

The issue of reconciling personal and professional life in the family was debated and analyzed in order to identify the most efficient proposals and solutions in the framework of a Conference on “Opportunities and obstacles against the achievement of a reconciliation between family and professional life”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and Association Family Forum.

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<sup>4</sup> The day of 15 May was declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the International Day of Families, by means of a resolution adopted in 1993. On proposal by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and with the endorsement of the Romanian Patriarchate, the day of 15 May officially became the Romanian Family Day as well.

Also devoted to the topic of family rights was the roundtable of 11 July 2016 on “Investing in teenage girls” – which was also the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of the World Population Day. The event was organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”.

### **Combating trafficking in persons**

An equally important topic on the agenda of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is the respect, promotion and protection of the rights of persons who become victims of trafficking in human beings. In a context where the migration phenomenon is escalating, teenage girls, children, particularly those living in poor environments are facing this risk more and more frequently. By means of both its quarterly and the events organized on this topic, the RIHR presented to all those taking interest in the field (specialized governmental institutions, representatives of the legislative and the civil society) an analysis of the regional and the national instruments for preventing and combating trafficking in persons. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the Symposium on “Universal, regional and national instruments on trafficking in persons”, organized to celebrate 65 years since the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others has come into force, by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity.

### **Asylum and migration**

Guaranteeing human rights through the documents adopted at international, regional and national levels also means protecting the rights of the persons who leave their country of origin. Fundamental rights have to be acknowledged to all persons, irrespective of their status: asylum seekers, refugees or immigrants. In this respect, the RIHR, by the researches it accomplished, the debates it organized and the viewpoints submitted to various parliamentary committees, has always tried to emphasize on the international and the

regional regulations in the field and see them transposed into the national legislation.

In a context where migration has become an acute phenomenon, the RIHR organized in the year 2016 several events devoted to the refugee crisis and its handling. Thus, on 9 May 2016, a roundtable on “Europe 2016 and the handling of the most difficult challenge – the refugee crisis” took place. The event was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare and the Romanian Association for the United Nations. At the same time, in the context of the efforts and the research activities the RIHR devoted to this topic, on invitation by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, representatives of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights participated in the debates on a dissertation on “Towards a reform of the common European asylum system and enhancing legal avenues to Europe – COM(2016)197” (8 June 2016).

The human rights clinic on migration was inaugurated on 10 June 2016 by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, which represented an important achievement with the RIHR’s activity in the field of asylum and migration. Also, on 17 June 2016, the RIHR organized a symposium on “The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention relating to the status of refugees”.

On occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Resolution 55/76 of the United Nations General Assembly, which provides that 20 June shall be celebrated as the World Refugee Day, on 21 June 2016, the RIHR hosted a roundtable on National and regional instruments on the rights of refugees”, an event organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Association Clubul de la Cheia.

The RIHR is member of the Working Group on Asylum and Migration of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, member of the Institute of European Law and member of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

### **Right to health**

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the

Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, and with the participation of the Centre Public Law and Administrative Sciences at SNSPA and of the Academic Society of Administrative Sciences, organized the debate on “World Health Day – Let’s beat diabetes”. The participants in the event were presented several essays on topical issues in the field: education for health, guarantee of children’s right to health, immigrants’ right to health, etc. The speakers emphasized on the importance of reducing inequalities in the field of healthcare, increasing the effectiveness and the quality of medical services, as well as the need for balance between financing and performance of healthcare services.

### **Rights of persons with disabilities**

Promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities will be a topical issue at national, regional and international levels. The main topics approached by the RIHR in 2016 referred to such issues as disability seen in terms of human rights, acknowledgement of the legal capacity, independent life and integration in the community, the rights of women with disabilities, the right to work, etc.

In this respect, the RIHR organized as number of meetings and debates. These include: the debate on “International and national regulations on the rights of persons with disabilities”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences at University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași; the debate on the draft government decision approving the programme of national interest on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities “Inclusion through assistive technology”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations.

Aspects of the rights of persons with disabilities and the fight against discrimination were also analyzed in the framework of the Conference on “Autism and Agenda 2030. Inclusion and neurodiversity” which took place on 1 April 2016 and was organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare,

Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity.

The Institute, together with other three European national human rights institutions, joined the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) project on identifying good practices with the implementation of the assisted decision making system, with reference to art. 12 in the CRPD. At the same time, the RIHR is member of the ENNHRI Working Group on the implementation of the CRPD, and the main topics for discussions in the framework of the Working Group on CRPD meetings in 2016 referred to issues related to the application of art. 12 of the Convention, the dialogue with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recent ECtHR jurisprudence in the field, etc.

Also, the participants in the meeting of the EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of UN CRPD at EU level with the national human rights institutions discussed aspects related to the role of monitoring mechanisms in the evaluation process of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The RIHR also participated in the Working Forums annually organized by the European Commission on the implementation of art. 33 of the UN Convention.

### **Rights of elderly persons**

The Institute participates, alongside other five similar national institutions in the European Union in the project “Human Rights of Older Persons in Long-Term Care” (2015-2017), coordinated by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). The project aims to promote an approach on caring older persons in Europe in terms of human rights, to clarify the international and regional standards applicable in the field and to formulate recommendations for the decision-making actors at European level to optimize the protection of these persons and increase acknowledgement of the role of national human rights institutions in the field. In the year 2016, the Institute monitored eight national caring centres, 4 in the urban area and 4 in the rural area, 6 belonging to the public system and 2 to the private one, which resulted in a report. Also, the Institute’s representatives participated in a number

of meetings and discussions devoted an analysis of the international and the regional regulations on the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, while organizing interviews with representatives of the central and the local authorities with powers in the field, and also interviews with representatives of non-governmental and professional organizations.

As regards the programme of national interest on “Increasing life quality of older persons in old

persons homes”, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights initiated a debate in partnership with the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu” and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights.

#### **IV. PUBLICATION OF REGULATIONS, DOCUMENTS, STUDIES AND RESEARCHES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights promotes training and information in the field of human rights for the benefit of public bodies, non-governmental organizations and natural persons, in relation to respecting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights through domestic and international regulations, institutions and mechanisms, practices and customs. It assumes the role to inform all those interested about the most recent scientific researches in the field of human rights, the international commitments assumed by Romania and the way they are accomplished. The Institute translates and publishes international documents which, by their topical nature, should be known by governmental and non-governmental institutions for the promotion and the protection of human rights.

##### **Periodic publications**

The quarterly “Drepturile Omului” includes studies, researches, articles and reports. The editors’ area of interest extends to also include texts of national or international regulations of major significance in the field of human rights, which is not limited to a mere reproduction of the text but also offers an interpretation of the text; also, it includes jurisprudence in the field of the European Court of Human Rights and/or the national courts; finally, it includes articles devoted to several important institutions in the field of human rights.

The quarterly presents scientific and diversified analyses of the fundamental human rights, with emphasis on the relationships between the latter and the values, the principles, the norms and the standards to which the institutions, the mechanisms, the terms, the concepts and the methodological and technical trends are related. These should be added the news about various events in the field of human rights, notes and comments, book reviews in the field of human rights, the Institute’s recent publications and brief presentations of the activities organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights or to which the Institute made a contribution.

**Info IRDO**, the monthly bulletin of information addressing a very large public, presenting topical news about events related to human rights, organized at national or international level. It also presents cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights and also before the Court of Justice of the European Union, in an attempt to meet the present-day needs of the civil society, of institutions, students, etc. It is also worth mentioning the columns devoted to recently adopted international documents.

##### **Researches and volumes published in 2016**

New compilations of documents and new research works were published under the patronage of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

### **Dreptul la fericire: drept fundamental al omului**

The volume is part of a project devoted by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to the right to happiness as a fundamental human right and includes, along with relevant international documents, the fourth *Report on the distribution of world happiness*.

The first report on the distribution of happiness in the world was published in April 2012, in supporting the summit on happiness and welfare organized by the United Nations based on General Assembly United Nations resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011.

This Report, an update of the 2015 Report on the distribution of world happiness, is organized into four chapters: Setting the Stage; The Distribution of World Happiness; Promoting Happiness Ethics: The Greatest Happiness Principle; Happiness and Sustainable Development: Concepts and Evidence.

The study is an analysis of inequalities in the world in terms of welfare based on the distribution of happiness levels within societies and among them, showing that people do care for the happiness of others and showing how happiness is distributed; it refers to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), showing that the SDG Index helps to account for cross-national patterns of happiness even after controlling for GDP per capita and unemployment.

### **Educație, dreptul la educație și educația pentru drepturile omului**

The right to education is a fundamental human right belonging to the second generation of human rights, consecrated at international, regional and national levels. It is closely correlated to the other human rights while being essential to each individual's development according to the principles of interdependence and indivisibility and ultimately being responsible even for the sustainable development of society.

As shown in the first part of the study, the interdependence between the right to education and the other human rights is nowhere more evident than in the educational process. This is the reason why the right to education should be

regarded as a right exercised both individually and collectively, in a group. This implies that the individual has both to be familiar with his/her fundamental rights and to acquire competencies and behaviours that allow him/her to enjoy these rights, to make use of them and also to contribute to their promotion, protection and observance.

The second part of the study is a presentation of the main international documents in the field and the measures aiming to encourage, facilitate and promote human rights education activities, such as the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004); the International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010); the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014); Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, etc.

The last part of the study points out the role of national institutions for the promotion of the right to education and human rights education, while making a presentation of the activity of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

### **Jus est ars boni et aequi**

The volume, coordinated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Institute of Juridical Research "Acad. Andrei Rădulescu" of the Romanian Academy, is a most important collection of studies and researches relevant for the field of human rights. Thus, the first part is devoted to the general theory of law and deals with aspects related to the science of law, its defining features, as well as component elements of the system of juridical sciences, etc.

The chapter devoted to the international law presents and makes an analysis of important topics such as a historical view of the concept of common heritage of mankind, the role of the International Law Commission and the advance towards an international rule of law, the international protection of human rights in the context of the State's sovereignty.

The link between the part devoted to the international law and the one referring to the European law is provided by the study dealing with

the codification of human rights, the science of human rights being undeniably connected to all branches of law: international, comparative, constitutional, criminal, civil, administrative, etc. The very language in which human rights and the fundamental freedoms are expressed is the juridical language, for first of all they are notions of law. As pointed out in the study, there is a close connection between the science of human rights and the constitutional law, because the latter includes the constitutional laws which lay down human rights, that is, after all, rights which define the relationship between the State and the individual seen as a citizen. These laws define the area where the State may not interfere, where the State is bound to guarantee their observance and promote them, and it is also here that citizen's duties in his relationship with the State are laid down.

As far as the European law is concerned, the volume deals with aspects related to the responsibility of international organizations. The topics include: the European Union, the establishment of the law applicable in international civil lawsuits, theoretic and practical aspects related to the exceptions to the application of the principle of free circulation of goods, persons, services, capitals and payments, etc.

### **The right to healthcare and the reform of hospital medical services in Romania**

The right to healthcare depends on the healthcare system. The way the healthcare system is organized is a decisive element for the health of the individual and the community, one that lays its imprint over man's entire lifespan, ever since birth (the safety of birth hospitals) down to the specific healthcare for old persons. A healthcare system's performance is given by the way healthcare funds are raised as well as the way they are distributed to the suppliers.

The first part of the study, entitled "The right to healthcare in light of human rights", presents the basic concepts and their evolution in time. The population's health issue is approached in terms of human rights as the effective right of every citizen to the protection and improvement his/her health which should be guaranteed by the State. The study goes through the institutions,

mechanisms and instruments that guarantee the right to healthcare both at international level and in the European context.

The study analyzes the consecrated structural models of healthcare systems in the world that were the basis for the other systems developed by various countries. It also analyzes the development of the most important indicators that reflect at macro level the evolution of the population's health, and how the Romanian sanitary system proves its efficiency.

The quality of the medical services hospitals offer to the population and the latter's expectations is the topic of the third part of the study. The analysis is oriented now to the main suppliers of medical services, the various systems quality management for the medical services offered to the population as well as the accountability of the medical-sanitary personnel from a civil, material and criminal point of view, the latter in cases of malpraxis. One cannot speak about high quality services unless the limits of the professional accountability for each and every supplier of services are clearly defined.

The last part of the study includes proposals related to the modification of certain legal provisions adopted by the sanitary system, the increased role of the State's authorities in the administration of the public healthcare system, greater involvement of the civil society with the process of monitoring and improving the quality of the medical service, as well as sanctioning those suppliers of medical services for the population who fail to conform to the legal provisions.

### **Reports**

- The annual report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for the year 2016 (Romanian language);
- The annual report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for the year 2016 (English language);
- Report on the evolution of the legislation in the field of human rights in the European Union and in Romania – 2016;
- Report on monitoring observance of the rights of old persons in healthcare centres in Romania.

## V. THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The activity of the Documentation Centre of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, established under Law No. 9/1991, continued in the year 2016, the Centre providing documentation in the field of human rights to students, candidates for a Master Degree or a PhD title, researchers, representatives of governmental institutions and of the civil society. The Documentation Centre library stores a book inventory structured in 251 areas of research and interest, including specialized documents in the fields of law and human rights, national, regional and international instruments and mechanisms, as well as legal texts, documents belonging to the European law and legislation, history of law, comparative law, studies, publications as well as bibliographic references and volumes from various related fields.

Like in the previous years, the Documentation Centre of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights had an active exchange of information with international organizations, higher education institutions, NGOs and other organizations involved with the field of human rights.

The documentation Centre continued its collaboration with consecrated partners by renewing the existing contracts and partnership protocols. At the same time, new partners were co-opted, which allowed for a constant promotion of the activity of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and its Documentation Centre, on the one hand, and the activity of the respective partner on the other hand. Thus, by means of these partnerships, the RIHR's Documentation Centre offered information, consultancy and professional advice in the field of human rights. Old partnerships were continued while new ones were concluded as well, including such partners as: Copy Ro – a company of collective copyright management, theoretical college Tudor Vladimirescu in Bucharest, Agroiintelligence SISA, general school "Professor Ion Vişoiu" in Chitila. The partnership with Foundation Adolescența was renewed. In the framework of the partnership with the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (ANPD) informative documentation was disseminated and several

activities meant to promote the principles and the desiderata of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities were organized in cooperation with the RIHR in its capacity as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the Convention. As far as the access to education for all is concerned, a collaboration Protocol was concluded between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Association for the Deaf with a view to actively support policies related to the rights and freedoms of persons with hearing disabilities, and to better convey information to the public and the representatives of deaf people organizations and associations.

As usual, the RIHR Documentation Centre paid special attention to the partnership and collaboration with national libraries as well as specialized institutions from other countries, or belonging to international organizations of the kind, including: the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), whose trimestrial activity is constantly presented and illustrated in RIHR's quarterly "Drepturile Omului". It is particularly worth mentioning the partnership with Library Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt. The free dissemination of quarterly "Drepturile Omului" stirred the interest of law students and readers of Library Alexandrina due to the English and French abstracts of the articles. Other constant partners and collaborators of the Documentation Centre include: the Library of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law – Lausanne, Switzerland; the Institute of European Law; the Library of the University of Leicester, Great Britain; the Library of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration; AIDC; Library of the Law Faculty, University of Strasbourg, France; Library of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium; Library of the University of Potsdam, Germany; Library of the University of Padua, Italy; Library of the University of Luxembourg; Library of the University of European Studies, Republic of Moldova; Library of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights; The Human Rights Centre in Finland; The Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland.

As usual, there was a constant exchange of information and of publications with the UN Library of Geneva, New York and Vienna; The Library of Congress in Washington DC, USA; The National Library of the Czech Republic; The National Library of Madrid, Spain; and The National Library of Vienna, Austria.

At local level, the Institute's Documentation Centre is always in touch with the national county libraries, which receive the scientific review "Drepturile Omului" every three months, as well as the Institute's latest publications, all free of charge.

The Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Issues in the Senate, as well as the ministries with powers and tasks in the field of human rights, particularly the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, asked the Documentation Centre for copies of the review "Drepturile Omului", publications published under the aegis of the RIHR as well as other special materials. This goes also with teachers' training centres, courts of appeal, first instance courts, tribunals as well as representatives of the General Parquet.

At the same time, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized several events devoted to the United Nations Day and Human Rights Day, on which occasions all participants in the events had the opportunity to pick copies of several issues of the scientific quarterly "Drepturile Omului" edited by the RIHR, whose contents could be used to assist the debates and the researches following these symposia and conferences.

The volumes and the reviews published by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights were disseminated in compliance with the legal provisions, that is, free of charge, to: The National Library of Romania, the Metropolitan Library, The Romanian Academy, The Central University Library, The Senate of Romania, The Chamber of Deputies, The Constitutional Court, The Superior Council of Magistracy, The High Court of Cassation and Justice, The Legislative Council, The Government of Romania, ministries and national institutions, The National Council of SANITAS

Federation, and also to: universities taking interest in the field of human rights, Ecologic University "Dimitrie Cantemir", The National School of Political and Administrative Studies, University Ovidiu of Constanța, University Alexandru Ion Cuza of Iași, The UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare, The Teachers' Training Centre in Bucharest, The Teachers' Training Centre in Cluj, etc.

In addition, the scientific review "Drepturile Omului" was distributed free of charge to those taking interest in the field of human rights who participated in the events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights during the year 2016: the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the European Action Week Against Racism (14-22 March), the United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, etc.

The Documentation Centre continued its collaboration in terms of information and documentation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations: UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO and WHO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, as well as the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Social Charter Secretariat, the European Court of Justice, the International Academy of Comparative Law, the Centre for International and European Studies the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland, the Institute of European Law, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

In 2016, the number of readers who attended the Documentation Centre increased as compared to the preceding year, going up to nearly 3000 readers. The Centre's Library was used by members of the teaching staff, magistrates, lawyers, candidates for a Doctor's Degree, candidates for a Master's Degree, students taking interest in the scientific literature devoted to the national and the international law, in the field of human rights or other related fields. The book inventory was enriched with extremely useful publications, of the latest generation, which assist the comparative study of several disciplines in light of human rights, such as: „Noul cod de

procedură civilă”; „Elemente de dreptul urbanismului în România și Uniunea Europeană”; „Dreptul tratatelor”; „Drept penal social”; „Analiza infracțiunilor din domeniul muncii și securității sociale”; „Liberarea condiționată în noile coduri”; „Procesul legislativ”; „Marea divizare. Societățile inegale și ce putem face în privința lor”; „Donația în dreptul european. Aspecte de drept comparat”; „Comunicarea judiciară eficientă. Ghid practic de metodologie a cererilor persuasive în instanță”.

The RIHR also provides a virtual library available to those interested, partners from abroad, or persons with motion disabilities and cannot come to the Documentation Centre. The virtual library can be easily accessed on the Institute’s webpage – [www.irdo.ro](http://www.irdo.ro), active since 2007, and includes most of the specialized publications in the field of human rights issued under the auspices of the RIHR, the collection of the scientific quarterly “Drepturile Omului”, as well as jurisprudence, which offers a wide range of particular cases solved by the European Court of Human Rights. Unfortunately, both for circumstantial reasons and also due to the fact that Law No. 9/1991, regulating the functioning of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, provides for no IT position, the Institute’s webpage has become inactive in the second half of the year 2016. At present, it can still be accessed but cannot be updated, while facing the risk to become inoperative in case of some technical disorders, which means that both the Institute’s webpage and the internet connection and the e-mail service become inoperative.

An important aspect of the Documentation Centre’s activity refers to documentation, information and dissemination, catalysts facilitating the organization and running of conferences, symposia, debates and roundtables, as well as the collaboration with national institutions and the civil society. The documentation Centre is an important link for the Institute’s contribution to a modern, scientific and responsible approach in terms of the protection and respect of human rights and to better awareness about these rights at national, regional and international levels, by constantly providing information about the hottest problems challenging human rights at all levels.

## **Public Relations**

As mentioned above, the RIHR Documentation Centre kept its Library open for the public, the year 2016 scoring approximately 3000 readers.

Also, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was contacted in 2016 by citizens from all over the country, either by means of direct hearing at the Institute’s headquarters, or by phone calls asking for consultancy, or by sending petitions by means of the regular mail. The citizens’ petitions and complaints referred to a wide range of issues related to the violation of human rights, the RIHR being asked to recommend the most effective methods of clarification, as well as details about the procedure to be followed for filing formal complaints and petitions to the authorities, requesting solutions for those violations.

The Institute’s representatives replied to these numerous applications, guiding the petitioners towards solutions, offering legal opinions on how to formulate memoranda and complaints and how to submit them to the competent bodies.

The most frequent complaints and petitions referred to the poor living conditions offered in penitentiaries to persons deprived of liberty. Many petitioners, who had exhausted all actions at law, were advised with regards to the procedure of filing petitions to the European Court of Human Rights. The most frequent aspects to be found in the complaints was failure to respect the right to property, the refuse to vest in possession in relation to certain pieces of land, non-compliance with certain court orders, complaints related to the recalculation of pensions, denial of social aid, intimations related to the failure of the competent authorities to partially or fully honour certain pecuniary rights derived from the social protection legislation (the aid for various disadvantaged categories, children’s allowances, etc.), violations of the rights of the child, malpraxis, violations of the labour legislation, complaints coming from natural persons related to the evolution of trials or failure to conclude them within a reasonable period of time. There also were petitions or complaints referring to the execution of punishments in penitentiaries, petitions pertaining to the violation of equality of opportunities, violations of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities or religious cults; both the persons who came themselves to the RIHR headquarters and the 500 persons who contacted

us by phone were offered advice and guidance. The petitioners were provided with documentation on the domestic legislation in force in the respective field of interest. In approximately 80% of the registered cases of written petitions, RIHR was able to assist the petitioners guiding every person toward the competent body or making a recommendation as to what institution the petitioner should apply to. Most petitions were redirected to the institutions and bodies authorized to solve the respective problem or petition, including: the Ministry of Justice, the National Authority for the Restitution of Properties, the Public Ministry, prefect's offices, local councils, mayor's offices, penitentiary directorates.

Commitment to human rights issues, responsibility and professionalism contributed to RIHR's increasing prestige in the eyes of the beneficiaries and the human rights institutions from Romania and from abroad.

The Institute's activity entirely devoted to the protection and promotion of human rights, its fruitful collaboration with national and international human rights institutions, contributed to RIHR's great prestige amongst consultancy seekers with regard to the means of appeal in cases of human rights violations.

As a result, a large number of domestic and international bodies invited the Institute to become, through representatives of its staff, a member of their working or steering structures.

Here are a few examples: RIHR is member of the National Bioethics Commission of UNESCO; it acted as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, collaborating with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the NGOs in the field.

At international level, in recognition of the efforts taken by RIHR to promote human rights, the Institute or its representatives were elected as members of various structures of international bodies, such as: member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations; member of structures belonging to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; member of the Steering Committee of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration (IDEF); member of the working groups on justice, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on migration and education, in the framework of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

RIHR's scientific researches are members of the working groups of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and some of them were designated experts of UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union, in this capacity participating as rapporteurs or section moderators at scientific events devoted to human rights.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SELF-MANAGED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION**

Conference on "Opportunities and obstacles against the achievement of a reconciliation between family and professional life", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and Association Family Forum (14-15 January 2016)

Seminar on "The International Holocaust Remembrance Day", organized by the Romanian

Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare, (26 January 2016)

Conference on "The Holocaust and Human Dignity" – the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization for the remembrance activities organized on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day,

organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Ecologic University of Bucharest (27 January 2016)

Conference on “The technological progress and the new challenges for the right to data protection”, organized on occasion of the European Data Protection Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (28 January 2016)

Conference on “Education for tolerance”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young on occasion of the School Day of Non Violence and Peace (29 January 2016)

Debate on the draft decision approving the programmes of national interest for the protection of the rights of the child in the period 2016-2018, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (5 February 2016)

Conference on “A Just Transition – environmentally sustainable economies and societies”, the theme proposed by the United Nations for the World Day of Social Justice, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (20 February 2016)

Symposium on “The mother language – an indestructible structural element of education”, organized on occasion of the International Mother Language Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (21 February 2016)

Monitoring activities related to the rights of older persons and long term caring in the domestic caring centres, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (25 February 2016)

Debate on “Increasing life quality of older persons in old persons homes”, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu” and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (29 February 2016)

Monitoring activities related to the rights of older persons and long term caring in the domestic caring centres, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (2-4 March 2016)

Presentation of volumes edited by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and information on human rights at the Teachers’ Training Centre of Bacău (7-8 March 2016)

Monitoring activities related to the rights of older persons and long term caring in the domestic caring centres, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (8 March 2016)

Meeting of the General Council of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (15 March 2016)

Presentation of volumes edited by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and information on human rights at the Teachers’ Training Centre of Focșani (16-17 March 2016)

Debate on the European Platform Tackling Undeclared Work, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecologic University and the Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest (17 March 2016)

Essay contest on “Roots of a poisonous plant – discrimination” and a questions-and-answers session organized by Foundation “Adolescența” and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the European Action Week Against Racism – 12-21 March (19 March 2016)

Symposium on “Don’t blame immigrants and refugees for all the problems challenging the European Union”, organized by the Romanian

Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – North University of Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, IDEF, Association Clubul de la Cheia, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 2016)

Monitoring activities related to the rights of older persons and long term caring in the domestic caring centres, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (21-23 March 2016)

Roundtable on “Water and human activities”, organized on occasion of the World Water Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia (22 March 2016)

Conference on “Autism and the 2030 Agenda. Inclusion and Neurodiversity”, the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization for marking the World Awareness Autism Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (1 April 2016)

Conference on “Let’s beat diabetes” – the logo chosen this year by the United Nations Organization for celebrating the World Health Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Chamber of Deputies – Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, Romanian Association for the United Nations, with the participation of the Centre Public Law and Administrative Sciences at SNSPA and of the Academic Society of Administrative Sciences (7 April 2016)

Course on “Interpretation and implementation of the Convention and its additional Protocols. Jurisprudence of the ECtHR”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (11-12 April 2016)

The social-human sciences Olympics, national stage, organized by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Teachers’ Training Centre of Tulcea (18-22 April 2016)

Debate on “Issues related to the author’s right, the copyright and human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with COPYRO – Collective Management Organisation for Copyright on occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day (21 April 2016)

Roundtable on “Trees for the Earth!”, the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization to celebrate Earth Day 2016, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Ecologic University and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment (22 April 2016)

Inauguration of FRA Information Centre at the Ecologic University of Bucharest, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ecologic University (27 April 2016)

Symposium on “Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms: This Is Your Right!”, the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization to mark the World Press Freedom Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (4 May 2016)

Conference on “Equality of opportunities and treatment for women and men – a fundamental principle of human rights”, organized on occasion of the National Day for Equality between Women and Men by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – North University of Baia Mare, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights - Family Forum, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom

and Human Dignity and the Romanian Association for Women's Rights (6 May 2016)

Roundtable on "Europe 2016 and the handling of the most difficult challenge – the refugee crisis", organized on occasion of Europe Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (9 May 2016)

Conference on "5 years since the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia (11 May 2016)

Conference on "Families, healthy life and sustainable future", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights, and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young on occasion of the International Day of Families and the National Day of Romanian Families (16 May 2016)

Symposium on "Digital accessibility – a big step towards digital inclusion", organized on occasion of the Global Accessibility Awareness Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights, Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (19 May 2016)

Fifth edition of the International Conference "The Efficiency of Legal Norms" on "The Science of Law – In the Vanguard or the Rearguard of Social, Political and Economic Phenomena?" organized by the Faculty of Law at Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir" of Bucharest in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, "George Barițiu" Institute of

History of the Romanian Academy, the College of Doctors Cluj Napoca, the Romanian Society of Authors and Publishers of Scientific Works, the Intellectual Property Rights Scientific Association, the Institute of Administrative Science of the Republic of Moldova, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, the National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, Eco Foundation Romania, the National Institute for Training and Improvement of Lawyers – Cluj Territorial Centre, and Alumni Association "Dimitrie Cantemir" at Christian University Cluj (26-28 May 2016)

Inauguration of FRA Information Centre at the Faculty of Law of Cluj-Napoca of Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir" of Bucharest, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ecologic University and the Faculty of Law of Cluj-Napoca (28 May 2016)

Debate on "Zero tolerance for the illegal wildlife trade", a theme recommended for this year's World Environment Day by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and devoted to the World Environment Day (3 June 2016)

Roundtable on "Sustainable use of components of biological diversity", organized in the framework of the events devoted to the World Environment Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu" (6 June 2016)

Inauguration of the human rights clinic on migration at the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the NSPAS (10 June 2016)

Symposium on "The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention relating to the status of refugees – Refugees' rights in Romania", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian

Association for Women's Rights, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and Association Clubul de la Cheia on occasion of the World Refugee Day (17 June 2016)

Roundtable on "National and regional instruments on for the rights of refugees", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia on occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 55/76 providing that 20 June shall be celebrated as the World Refugee Day (21 June 2016)

Roundtable on "Investing in teenage girls" – which was also the theme proposed this years by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of the World Population Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu" (11 July 2016)

Debate on "The value added tax in Romania. Practical issues regarding the tax collection system", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (14 July 2016)

Roundtable on "Normative blueprints in the European Union regarding the compliance framework for public institutions", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, and Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu" (20 July 2016)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the final stage of National Contest "Democracy and Tolerance", organized at Târgoviște by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (25-28 July 2016)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the courses of the International University of Human Rights with the theme "Human rights: realities and prospects", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian

Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, and Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", with the participation of members of IACL, ELI, IDEF (23-27 July 2016)

Symposium on "Universal, regional and national instruments on trafficking in persons", organized to celebrate 65 years since the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others has come into force, by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (25 July 2016)

Conference on "Business and human rights", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", and the Romanian Association for Women's Rights (28 July 2016)

Conference on "The rights of refugees in the present-day European context", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia "Victor Dan Zlătescu", and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity on occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees the celebration of 15 years since Romania has ratified the Convention (28 July 2016)

Symposium on "Zero tolerance for violence against women and domestic violence", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for Women's Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum to mark the second anniversary of the Convention of Istanbul on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (1 August 2016)

Roundtable on "Let's build a better world by involving the youth", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations on

occasion of the International Youth Day. The event was meant to examine the complex situations young people are facing in present-day society (10 August 2016)

Debate on the draft government decision on approving the programme of national interest for the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, “Inclusion through assistive technology”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (11 August 2016)

Roundtable on “Illiteracy – a social plague. Causes and countermeasures”, organized on occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Literacy Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia (8 September 2016)

Debate on “Democracy in the prospect of the year 2030”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity on occasion of the International Day of Democracy and the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (15 September 2016)

Debate on “Traditional craft – its contribution to the preservation of the cultural heritage”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Family Forum, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights on occasion of the European Heritage Days (16 September 2016)

Conference on “The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace”, the theme proposed this year by the United Nations Organization for celebrating Peace Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (21 September 2016)

Debate on the draft government order approving the bio-psycho-social criteria for assessing the degree of disability and the methodology of their implementation launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, Association Clubul de la Cheia, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (22 September 2016)

Symposium on “Linguistic diversity – European Union’s cultural heritage”, organized on occasion of the European Day of Languages by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (26 September 2016)

“Multilingualism and intercultural understanding in the European Union” was the theme of the roundtable organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia on occasion of the European Day of Languages (27 September 2016)

Roundtable on the Project launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly regarding the establishment of the monthly support contribution owed by disabled adults assisted in public residential centres for adult disabled persons or by their guardians and the methodology for establishing the amount of such contribution, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia, Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (29 September 2016)

Conference on “Take a Stand Against Ageism”, the theme proposed this year by the United Nations Organization to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (3 October 2016)

Roundtable on “Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status”, the theme chosen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark the World Teachers’ Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, and the Ecologic University (5 October 2016)

Symposium on “Decent work – the essence of sustainable and fair development”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (7 October 2016)

Roundtable on “Psychological first aid and the support people can provide to those in distress”, the theme proposed by the World Federation for Mental Health to mark World Mental Health Day 2016, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (10 October 2016)

Roundtable on “Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms” – this year’s theme proposed by the United Nations Organization for the International

Day for the Eradication of Poverty, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (17 October 2016)

Conference on “Trafficking in persons – trends and challenges in fighting this phenomenon”, organized on occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, and Association Clubul de la Cheia (18 October 2016)

18<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Symposium on “The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for values”, organized by University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina, the Roman-Catholic Bishopric and the Lifelong Learning Institute (20-22 October 2016)

Symposium on “The 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and the 17 Goals of Agenda 2030 for the eradication of poverty and sustainable development regarding education, environment, healthcare, and energy for the next years”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment on occasion of the United Nations Day (24 October 2016)

Debate on “International and national regulations on the rights of persons with disabilities”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences at University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași (28-29 October 2016)

The 2016 National Exhibition of Didactic Creativeness organized by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Teachers’ Training Centre of Cluj-Napoca (31 October 2016)

Consultation meeting on promoting and developing educational programmes and activities related to human rights in the pre-university

educational system organized by the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (10 November 2016)

Meeting on activities promoting human rights at university level organized by the Faculty of Law of Cluj-Napoca at Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (11 November 2016)

Roundtable on “Education for tolerance”, organized on occasion of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day for Tolerance and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (16 November 2016)

Conference organized in the framework of the Project on “Human Rights – universality or privilege?” by General School “Ion Vișoiu” in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and Culture House “Tudor Arghezi” of Chitila (24 November 2016)

Conference on “Violence against women – a serious violation of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign – initiated by the United Nations Secretarul General, which takes place every year between 25 November – 10 December; also called “16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women”, the campaign starts on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on Human Rights Day (25 November 2016)

Jurying the exhibits presented at the national exhibition on didactic creativeness, “EXPO 2016 – Cluj”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the Teachers’ Training Centre of Cluj-Napoca (28 November 2016)

Debate on the Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development adopted by the Marrakech Climate Change Conference of 7-18 November 2016, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment (28 November 2016)

Symposium on “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want”, this year’s theme proposed by the United Nations Organization to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, and Association Clubul de la Cheia (5 December 2016)

Symposium on “National, regional and international instruments for combating all forms of violence against women and protecting the victims of domestic violence”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations in the framework of the “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” campaign (6 December 2016)

Conference on “Stand up for someone’s rights today!”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies on occasion of the Human Rights Day (9 December 2016)

Awareness raising and information campaign on human rights called “Letter to passers-by”, organized on occasion of the Human Rights Day by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest, held in Curtea de Argeș with the participation of National College “Vlaicu Vodă”, and in Bucharest with the participation of National College “Ion Luca Caragiale”, National College “Mihai Eminescu”, National College “Octav Enicescu”, Technologic High School “Mircea Vulcănescu”, Theoretic High School “Ion Barbu”, and Bulgarian Theoretic High School “Hristo Botev” (10 December 2016)

4<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Conference on “The European culture of human rights. The right to happiness”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the Romanian Academy, the International Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights 15-17 December 2016)

## APPENDIX B

### PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS

Debate on “The Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Code of Sports-related Arbitration”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” – Master’s Degree in International Law, in partnership with the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs (13 January 2016)

Course on “Labour Code 2016” organized by Expert Aktiv Group (14-17 January 2016)

Symposium on “Protection of employees’ personal data in the work relationships”, organized at Parliament Palace by the National Supervisory Authority For Personal Data Processing on occasion of the European Data Protection Day (28 January 2016)

Debate on “Elective autocracy versus parliamentary democracy”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy (4 February 2016)

Course on “The payroll manager position”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (18-21 February 2016)

Debate on “The immigrant wave – a new test for the EU Member States? The way Romania responds to the new social-political challenges!”, organized by the European Commission Representation in Romania in partnership with Liderjust Association, ARDAE Association, and Association Romania US Alumni (23 February 2016)

National Conference on “Open education – accessibility and innovation”, organized by the Association for the Promotion of Open Education, Faculty of Political Sciences at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and County School Inspectorates of Braşov and Tulcea (11 March 2016)

International seminar on “The Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and Europe – Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in collaboration with Asia-Europe Environment Forum (17 March 2016)

Workshop on “European Language Resource Coordination, ELRC) in Romania”, organized by the European Commission Representation in Romania 23 March 2016)

Conference-debate on “European Brussels. Romanian context”, organized by the Centre for EU Communication Studies at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (30 March 2016)

Scientific communications session on “The Romanian legal environment – between tradition and reform”, organized by the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences at the Ecologic University of Bucharest on occasion of the university’s 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary (5 April 2016)

Conference on the rights of elderly persons and the implementation of article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding independent life and integration in the community, hosted by the UN Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities (7-8 April 2016)

15<sup>th</sup> working session of the United Nations Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities, organized by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) in collaboration with the European Commission and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (7-9 April 2016)

Event celebrating the International Romani Day, organized by organization “Salvați Copiii” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (8 April 2016)

Banking Law Conference on “Over-indebtedness of bank loan consumers. Causes, effects, solutions”, organized by the Faculty of Law at the West University of Timișoara in collaboration with the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania (AEDBF) (8 April 2016)

Debate on “The Advocate of the People – prospects for reform”, organized on occasion of the finalization of Project “The Citizens’ Rights Defending Network – We need an efficient Advocate of the People!” by APADOR-CH, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) and ActiveWatch with the participation of representatives of the Helsinki Committee – Norway, Norway’s National Human Rights Institution, and the Norwegian Ombudsman (13 April 2016)

The OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, organized in Vienna (14-15 April 2016)

Meeting with representatives of the civil society organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (21 April 2016)

Conference on “Earth Day 2016”, organized by the Ecologic University of Bucharest (22 April 2016)

3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the event called “The EU Member States market”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on occasion of Europe Day (7 May 2016)

Roundtable on “Switzerland and European Union – challenges and opportunities for a non EU member”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies on occasion of Europe Day, having with the participation of the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, Ms Christa Markwalder, as guest of honour (9 May 2016)

2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on “The Protection of Environment through Criminal Law”, organized by the International Association of Penal Law, the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, and the Ecologic University of Bucharest (18-20 May 2016)

Conference on “Towards a European pillar of social rights”, organized by the European Commission Representation in Romania (19 May 2016)

Monthly meeting with representatives of the civil society on “Digital accessibility – a certain way to inclusion”, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities on occasion of the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (19 May 2016)

Public diplomacy event devoted to the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies and the Department for Interethnic Relations under the aegis of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in the context of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s accession to UNESCO (19 May 2016)

Participation in the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues debating on the Communication entitled “Towards a reform of the

common European asylum system and enhancing legal avenues to Europe” – COM(2016) 197 (8 June 2016)

International Conference on “Europe adrift. From unity in diversity to diversity without unity – Legal, social, political, economic and cultural effects”, organized by the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești – Centre for Legal and Social-Administrative Studies and Research, the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs (RALEA), the Society of Legal and Administrative Sciences, “Paul Negulescu” Institute of Administrative Sciences in Sibiu, the Institute of Administrative Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, and the Appeal Court of Ploiești (10 June 2016)

Forum for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an event organized every year by the European Commission in partnership with the European Disability Forum, which joins together representatives of the institutions responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the CRPD at both national and European levels (10 June 2016)

Monthly meeting with representatives of the civil society on “Assessment of the degree and type of disability”, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities on occasion of the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (23 June 2016)

11<sup>th</sup> Congress of Societas Iuris Publici Europaei (SIPE) on “Immigration: New challenges for Europe, for State Sovereignty and for the Rule of Law and the Welfare State”, organized, under the high patronage of the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, by the Faculty of Law at the University of Bucharest in collaboration with the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest and the Regional Francophone Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences (CeReFREA) (30 June-2 July 2016)

Debate on “Rights, Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today’s World”, organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (29 August 2016)

Annual Conference and General Assembly of the Institute of European Law, organized in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the University of Ferrara (7-9 September 2016)

Symposium on “Equality of treatment for male and female workers. Application of Directive 97/81/EC”, organized by the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (16 September 2016)

Linguistic Fair organized by the European Commission Representation in Romania together with members of the EUNIC Romania Network – The European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) on occasion of the European Day of Languages (24 September 2016)

Debate on the national Report on discrimination for the Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law, organized by the Romanian Association for the United Nations with the participation of Family Forum, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Association Clubul de la Cheia, APADOR-CH and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (27 September 2016)

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference “STRATEGICA 2016”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of management in partnership with the National Bank of Romania and the International Association for Knowledge Management (20-21 October 2016)

Annual scientific session on “Modernization of the Romanian law – between desideratum and reality”, organized by the Ecologic University of Bucharest – Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences (25 October 2016)

National Conference of the Romanian National Council on Disability on “An accessible Romania in a barrier-free Europe” and initiation of the procedures for the elaboration of the Civil Society Alternative Report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (26 October 2016)

Course on “Solutions with the application of the provisions in the Labour Code 2016”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (3-6 November 2016)

Course on “Bookkeeping in public institutions”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (10-13 November 2016)

United Nations Annual Forum on “Business and Human Rights”, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (14-16 November 2016)

International Conference on non-discrimination and equality of opportunities NEDES 2016 on “Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in contemporary society”, organized by Chamber of Deputies the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, and the European Centre for the Promotion of Non-Discrimination and Equality of Opportunities (15-17 November 2016)

Event on “Cultural diversity – religious diversity in Romania”, organized under the patronage of the Alliance of Civilizations with the participation of the Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania – the Mosaic cult, and of the Community of the Lippovan Russians in Romania, on occasion of the International Day for Tolerance (18-19 November 2016)

Working meeting with the civil society on “Priorities in the field of disability”, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities in prospect of Romania’s coming presidency of the European Union in the first quarter of the year 2019 (22 November 2016)

Conference on “UNESCO and partners in a jubilee year”, organized by the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO on occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s accession to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (29 November 2016)

The European Union Agencies Forum on “EU agencies working for you!”, organized by the EU Agencies Network (6-7 December 2016)

Meeting of the pilot group of project “The Human Rights of Older Persons and Long-term Care”, organized by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions 12-15 December 2016)

High level Seminar on “Freedom of expression – role and powers of National Human Rights Institutions and other national mechanism”, organized by the Council of Europe and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (15 December 2016)