

## II. ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT – 2014

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), an independent body with legal personality, established under Law No. 9/1991, is the first national human rights institution created in Romania after 1989 and the only institution in our country to have been acknowledged as such by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions in the United Nations system.<sup>1</sup> In addition to its capacity as member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the Institute is also member of the Association of Francophone Human Rights Commissions, member of the European Law Institute of Vienna, alongside the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and member of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights complies with the Paris Principles set up in 1991 at the Conference devoted to National Human Rights Institutions, which became an official document of the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 and refer to: an “as broad as possible” mandate, based on the universal standards of human rights, including the double responsibility to promote and to protect human rights, while covering all the rights; adequate power of investigation; pluralism, including the structure of its staff and/or effective cooperation; and adequate human and financial resources. At the same time, the Institute also complies with the requirements set forth by the Council of Europe in its Recommendations R (79) 16 and (97) and Resolution (97) 11 by the 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 familiarization 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

<sup>1</sup> It should be mentioned that the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

Council of Europe and the European Union.

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 governmental and non-governmental bodies with powers in the field of human rights and the experience accumulated in time were particularly important for the Institute 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.

Aware of the particular importance of being familiar with human rights, in the year 2014, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued its training, informing, documenting, researching and advising activities contributing, by its entire work, to the training of persons in the public structures and institutions with such powers as protect and promote human rights, systematically inform the citizens about the rights guaranteed by the legislation or laid down in the international documents where Romania is a party. In this respect, in 2014 the Institute organized a large number of scientific events, symposia, seminars, roundtables, debates, training courses, exchanges of experience, etc. The Institute made researches, published and disseminated works and reports in the field in an attempt to contribute to better understanding of the international standards, the instruments and mechanisms for the international protection and promotion of human rights where Romania is a party, so that they should be fast and correctly applied at national level.

When the Institute’s Programme of Activities for the year 2014 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 Declaration of Durban, the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights – Vienna, the Action Plan of

the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, General Assembly Resolution 59/113 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education for the period 2005-2009 and the second phase of the Action Plan for the period 2010-2014, the United Nations Millennium Objectives, the United Nations Objectives for the year 2015, Human Rights Council Resolution 21/14 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Strategy and Multi-Annual Programme 2013-2017, as well as the main objectives established by the European Commission to be attained by 2020 under the “Europe 2020” Strategy, which became national objectives for each 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 Commission’s European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), the Action Plan of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (2014-2016).

To accomplish its task of promoting and disseminating human rights, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights concluded new partnerships and continued the old ones with governmental and non-governmental institutions and bodies, both domestic and international.

Synthesizing the activities performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the year 2014, they could be grouped into the following directions:

- Achieving better knowledge of human

- rights issues and how these rights are guaranteed in the member countries of the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union;

- Informing international institutions about the practical ways human rights are promoted and guaranteed in Romania;

- Making researches in relation to new human rights, such as the right to happiness, new violations of human rights or important aspects in the field of promoting and observing human rights in our country and at international level;

- Organizing conferences, seminars, international symposia in collaboration with the parliamentary commissions and universities;

- Organizing and achieving training and educational programmes in the field of human rights and finding new methods and methodologies;

- Promoting fields of interest, on initiative by the United Nations or other international or regional organizations (for instance: business and human rights), joining various activities on proposal by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Project CLARITY, or projects related to the rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, women, children, domestic violence, etc.);

- Editorial activities;

- Publishing recently released international and national regulations, documents, studies and researches in the field of human rights;

- Improving the activity of the Institute’s Documentation Center;

- Providing advisory opinions.

## **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 Objectives, the United Nations Objectives for the year 2015, 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

<sup>2</sup> The fundamental principles established on the first international meeting of the National Human Rights Institutions, 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.

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 through better familiarization with these rights.

Aware of its mission to contribute to the establishment of a culture of human rights in our country, the Institute elaborated 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. At the same time, new topics were also dealt with, such as the right to happiness as a fundamental human rights (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), 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, volumes or in reports presented at the scientific events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and/or by various national and international bodies 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.

The researches achieved in the year 2014 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. In this respect, the documents referred to by the Institute’s studies and reports include, among others: the United Nations Charter; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Romania signed it in 1955, when it became a Member State of the United Nations Organization); 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 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, one may distinguish:**

- 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: the civil and political rights; the economic, social and cultural rights; the right to peace, the right to sustainable development and the right to a healthy environment.

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

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

- Promotion of a culture of human rights;
- Human rights in the documents of the United Nations Organization;
- Disability – a human rights issue;
- Multiple discrimination and fighting against it;
- Evolution of the juridical academic education at European level;
- Health – a human rights issue;
- Evolution of the secretary general institution in the parliamentary system.

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

- Issues related to migration and the law in Romania's legislation;
- Freedom of conscience and freedom of expression in the Constitution of Romania;
- Religion-related provisions applicable in Romania according to the national legislation;
- Special techniques of criminal supervision or criminal investigation and the importance of observing the rights and the fundamental freedoms;
- Immigration and the integration of migrants. The Member State responsible for the examination of an international protection application and the effective access to a

procedure in the European Union;

- Regularization of the lawsuit application – a key element for free access to justice;
- Aspects from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights related to free access to justice;
- Aspects related to the regulation of the status of the permanent public servants in the EU Member States.

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

- Promotion and protection of the fundamental rights in the European Union;
- Promotion and protection of human rights by the legislative authority;
- The role of jurisprudence in the unitary application of the law;
- Execution of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights;
- Aspects related to the regulation of the rights of the child in Romania;
- Freedom of conscience the religion classes in schools;
- Human rights in correlation with the absorption of the European funds;
- Policies related to the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities.

**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:**

- Issues related to the acknowledgement of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;
- Issues related to the participation of persons with disabilities in sportive activities;
- Evolution of the economic and cultural rights after 15 years since ratification of the European Social Charter revised;
- The economic crisis and the economic human rights in Romania;
- The right of persons with disabilities to an independent life and integration within the community;
- Orientations of the public health system reform in Romania;
- The right to sustainable development;
- The right to a healthy environment in light of UN Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- Re-interpretation of the right to peace.

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

As former Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, said “Human rights education is a never-ending task, which has to be renewed from one generation to the next. This does not make it a labour of Sisyphus, though. The history of recent decades makes it quite clear that, if tended and shielded, the seed of human rights will ultimately germinate, albeit in a chill wind and on stony ground”.

The activities performed in the field of education and trainers’ training (see **Appendix A**) targeted one of the main objectives provided by the Law on the establishment 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.*

Taking into account United Nations Resolution 59/113 of 10 December 2004, which instituted the World Programme for Human Rights Education for the years 2005-2015, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights acted in conformity with this Resolution and in the year 2014 took particular interest in intensifying and diversifying the activities devoted to education. The aim pursued was to train those civic attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a democratic society and to increase interest in and competencies of participation in the public life of an as large as possible number of citizens from all socio-professional categories, both young and old.

In order to continuously adapt its activities, the RIHR included in its Plan of Action the following objectives, among others:

- Promote human rights education;
- Make human rights education a priority at national, regional and international levels;
- Train adults and youngsters in relation to human rights and the rights of the child;
- Train trainers in the field of human rights;
- Train educators – teachers in the pre-university and university educational units;
- Train certain professional categories that are directly involved and have responsibilities in the promotion and the defence of human rights

and the rights of the child;

- Consolidate partnership and cooperation with the institutions belonging to the Romanian educational system as well as other institutions, associations, NGOs in various fields;
- Monitor and assist educational programmes existing in the field of human rights, point out good practices and stimulate measures meant to continue, improve and develop those practices.

The activities devoted to the training of trainers and human rights education were conceived and organized based on the feedback received from representatives of the Teacher Training Centers and teachers from various schools and high schools.

The groups targeted by the activities organized by the Training Department of the RIHR included persons in such fields as education, research, public administration, justice, health, as well as persons belonging to categories with special problems: women, children, pensioners, minorities, persons with disabilities, etc.

The Institute’s training activities were initiated by the Institute itself, by partners, on request by the central and the local authorities or by certain socio-professional groups and took various forms:

- long-term training courses, accredited by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research;
- short-term “contact” type training courses;
- activities meant to raise awareness of certain social groups about the need to know and respect human rights and the rights of the child;
- symposia, conferences, seminars, roundtables, debates, etc;
- dissemination activities;
- presentations of books published by the RIHR.

Important activities were achieved in the year 2014 together with old and new partners from among non-governmental organizations mainly interested in the field of human rights education, with public institutions and also institutions belonging to the higher education system, religious denominations, professional

associations, etc.

The first to be mentioned out of the educational and training activities are the continued scientific events that have been enjoying popularity at national level and are also known at international level:

- The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the summer courses of the *International University of Human Rights*, 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 and the the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia;

- Debates, training courses, roundtables, seminars, conferences, book releases, etc., organized in collaboration with other institutions and non-governmental 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 also includes the Master Degree courses, the only ones of the kind in Romania** (a new class of Masters graduated in 2014), debates, training courses, roundtables, seminars, conferences, book releases, etc., organized in collaboration with other institutions and non-governmental organizations (see **Appendix A**);

- The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of students’ national contests “*The Civic Education and Civic Action Olympics*” and “*Democracy and Tolerance*”, respectively;

- 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 object of a partnership between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, materialized in the form of several activities that have become traditional: the national school contests “*The Civic Education and Civic Action 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 are 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 concept of fundamental freedoms and human rights originates in people’s need and desire for a life where everyone’s dignity and value should be respected and protected. In this respect, the final stage of the National Olympics on social human sciences was organized in April 2014 in Timișoara by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. This is an excellence contest addressing students with skills in the field of social human sciences, which responds 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. 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 Vice-President of the Civic Education and Civic Culture Sub-commission is the Head of the Training of Specialists Department of the RIHR.

As usual, at the 2014 edition the best papers achieved by the participating teams were awarded diplomas and prizes by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

**b) *The 20<sup>th</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 concepts 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 was 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 was the Head of the Training of specialists department of the RIHR.

The contest, whose 2014 edition was organized in Oradea, aimed to develop cooperation competencies at group level, while stimulating interest in the promotion and the observance of human rights. Based upon a system of universal values asserting human dignity and equality, human rights education is absolutely necessary in a democratic society. This should be a responsibility not just of governments but also for each individual within a society. 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 7<sup>th</sup> edition of 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. It is also worth mentioning the increased interest shown by some Teachers' Training Centres for organizing future editions of the contest.

The Institute's partners for the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the contest were the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the Teachers' Training Centre of Cluj. The Contest Exhibition exhibited works from several counties, auxiliary didactic materials devoted to the activity with the students, printed works, reviews, CDs, etc.

The exhibits included works achieved by teachers from such counties as Arad, Bacău, Bistrița-Năsăud, Botoșani, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Dâmbovița, Hunedoara, Mureș and Bucharest, which were all appraised as

beneficent and constructive, in the spirit of education for human rights, democracy and a culture of peace, an obvious indication of the permanent preoccupation for the free expression of human rights.

Human rights education has a key role in any educational process. In this process, the teachers' role is evident: by the efforts they take and the passion that drives them, they assist their students to become responsible and active citizens, capable and ready to contribute to the creation of a harmonious environment in the society they live in. Moreover, the educational process is based on the active participation of the children, who learn about human rights and come to understand the issues of this phenomenon, while acquiring and developing attitudes of respect for human dignity.

The best works were awarded diplomas by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. The organizers also made available a catalogue of the works participating in the contest.

**3. As far as the continuous training of pre-university teachers achieving human rights education is concerned,** in the year 2014, 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", accredited by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. The target public of the Programme consists of 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, in future the Programme will assist students in the process familiarization with and increasing awareness about 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* are an opportunity to bring together specialists and experts with the purpose of renewing and improving the training

programmes in the field of human rights; the courses were attended by magistrates, university teachers, representatives of public institutions, experts and specialists in human rights.

The Institute's role in the promotion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as well as the other universal and regional human rights instruments where Romania is a party was pointed out by Mr. Morten Kjaerum, Director General of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. In his address at the international Conference on "The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Assessing and Responding to the Training Needs of Legal Practitioners and Public Officials", the section devoted to the role of national human rights institutions and equality bodies in training in the field of human rights, he particularly emphasized the annual training courses of the International University of Human Rights, which bring together practitioners, public servants and scientific researchers.

**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 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015);

- the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

- the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania's ratification of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

- 48 years since the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights came into force;

- the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania's accession to the United Nations Organization;

- the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OSCE;

- 2014 – Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe.



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

The Chair was established and 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 pilot centre of research, debate and training at post-university level. In the year 2014, a new class of students obtained their Master Degree in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance; this training form assimilates the results of national and international research, while keeping pace with the progress and the developments in its specific field. It should be mentioned that the Institute is the first national institution to coordinate, in the system of UNESCO partnership programmes, the activity of a Chair for 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 2014 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 “The right to citizenship in Romania: history, practice, legislation and ethics”, organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance with the purpose of promoting and develop the Romanian society on the basis of respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms that derive from the Romanian citizenship. The event provided training for practitioners, to enrich their knowledge about and understanding of the rights and the duties deriving from the status of citizen of this country;

- Seminar devoted to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day whose objective was the recommendation of training programmes on the lessons be learned from the genocide to convey to future generations a clear message about the importance of promoting and protecting human rights. Based on a universal system of values that asserts human dignity and equality, human rights education is absolutely necessary in a democratic society. This should be a responsibility not just of governments but also for each individual within a society. There is a lot of everyday talk about human rights, yet most people have only a vague understanding of their importance. Reality has shown that there are even less people who take a genuine interest in these rights or are aware that each one of us has duties as well. One of these duties of ours is to learn from the mistakes of the past so as not to repeat them in future. The event was organized in collaboration with the Ecological University of Bucharest, the UNESCO Chair and ANUROM;

- Conference on “European mechanisms for the protection of human rights” organized together with the Ecological University – Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration. The European norms and standards as well as the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights is one of the Institute’s permanent preoccupations. A number of debates focused the civil society’s attention on the observance of the European Convention and the application in Romania of the decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights. At the same time, the RIHR made available for those interested a number of documents and books in the field, gathered in its capacity as depository library of the Council of Europe;

- Seminar devoted to the “International Mother Language Day”, whose topic for the year 2014 selected by UNESCO was “Local Languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science”, organized by the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Romanian Association for the United Nations. The discussions focused on the role of

multilingualism, the impact it has upon intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and prosperity and the importance of lifelong learning;

- Training course on “Non-discrimination and equality of opportunities”, organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration, a course whose purpose was to make young students and MA students aware about the efforts the European Union takes to combat discrimination and promote equality of opportunities. The course was also organized as a result of a contemporary challenge, that is, the insufficient awareness of the public, particularly the youth, about the rights they have and the importance of reporting any case of discrimination;

- The training course on “Consecration and guarantee of the fundamental human right to a healthy environment” responded to an absolute need in terms of social development. Reality has shown that lack of education is closely connected to a healthy and civilized life. The precarious social wealth and ignorance of some families led to school abandonment. Promotion of the right to a healthy environment is a noble purpose and a responsibility as well. Campaigns against the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, drugs should be a permanent preoccupation;

- The training course on “Institutions and legal instruments specially devoted to migration and asylum”, organized in partnership with the NSPAS – Faculty of Public Administration, the EUB – Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences and the UNESCO Chair, was intended to familiarize the students with the migration phenomenon, which is quite hot in the context of globalization, to make the students understand the humanitarian nature, the need to accept migrants and get involved to help people who migrate for various reasons;

- Conference on “The human rights protection system instituted by the European Convention – 20 years since Romania’s ratification of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Judicial, Discipline and Immunities Commission, Sub-commission monitoring the European Court’s decisions pronounced against Romania. At the same time, the RIHR made

available for those interested a number of documents and books in the field, gathered in its capacity as depository library of the Council of Europe. A number of debates focused the civil society’s attention on the observance of the European Convention and the application in Romania of the decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights. Also, the promotion of human rights protection instruments and mechanisms was an important item with the educational and training-for-trainers activities<sup>3</sup>;

- The training course on “Rights and facilities for persons with disabilities in Romania”, organized in collaboration with ANUROM, pursued promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities among the youth. The course laid emphasis on the guarantees for effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as presentation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe;

- Training course on “The United Nations Week”, at “Constantin Angelescu” Gymnasium School of Constanța, on 27 October 2014. The training courses were intended to motivate the youth increase their awareness about their rights, as well as the fact that, beside rights, they also have duties and become active in a democratic society where human rights are observed and protected. During the debates, students were encouraged to express their opinions and were offered volumes published by the RIHR. Human rights education should be an integrated component of any educational undertaking, and this event was one of many others entered in the 2014 Action Plan on training and education in the field of human rights. The purpose pursued was to make the young students get actively involved, offer their talent and energy to assist others and thus contribute to the development of our country’s society. The participants decided Gymnasium School “Constantin Angelescu” together with other educational units in the county of Constanța should organize additional events meant to develop the youth’s respect for human

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<sup>3</sup> The courses were organized for various professional categories: magistrates, lawyers, people working in the administration, the police, penitentiaries, specialists in the field of international relations, teachers.

values;

- Training course on “Children’s rights and duties for dummies”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with “Marcela Peneş” Gymnasium School. The event was attended by students from the Students’ Council, teachers from the respective school, representatives of the School Inspectorate and representatives of the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO. The course promoted respect for human rights among the students, provided an optimum level of information, adequate to the students’ age, on the importance of human rights and the need to respect and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms. The organizers wanted the event to be a “window of opportunity” to strengthen respect for the human being and human dignity, encourage positive behaviours, make the students acquire knowledge and correct skills likely to lead to a correct attitude based on respect for human and spiritual values;

- Conference on “Human rights – 365 Days”, organized at Parliament House by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) together with the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies, to mark the International Human Rights Day. Every year, on December 10, the international community celebrates Human Rights Day. The importance of this day is that the UN General Assembly proclaimed that all human beings are equal in rights and these rights should be protected by the State in which these people live their life. Romania has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and celebrates Human Rights Day together with the other signatory States. A delegation of the National Association of the Deaf in Romania (ANSR), who participated in the debates, presented the participants the views of the National Council of the ANSR on the international instrument for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

- The International Conference on “The European culture of human rights – the right to happiness”, organized in partnership with “Dimitrie Cantemir” University of Bucharest,

the International Institute for Human Rights and the Academy of Romania on 11-13 December 2014, had the following objectives: a theoretical and philosophical foundation of the right to happiness as a constitutional right; the culture of happiness in a non-equal world; equality of opportunities; tolerance and social solidarity; social happiness as a result of human solidarity; stimulation of interest to get involved with the respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms in a society committed to respect each individual’s dignity and personality; development of the capacity to know and understand the role of the law as norm-creating factor of social behaviour. The event was also an opportunity to scrutinize the level of pupils’ and students’ awareness about their rights and duties, as well as that of the teachers; it was also an opportunity to increase the awareness the youth and adult persons about the need to respect human rights and their correlative duties;

- Training course on “Education on human rights and the rights of the child”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with National College “Spiru Haret”. Every year on December 12, National College “Spiru Haret” celebrates Graduation Day, an opportunity to bring together yesterday’s and today’s students of the College to have an interesting exchange of experience between generations. In 2014, the event was organized under the significant name: “Learning by means of projects: Socio-Activ-Spir – education for human rights and the rights of the child”. The project involved students from 11<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades – social sciences in educational activities related human rights. The objective was to create an educational framework stimulating cooperation and thus making possible and exchange of opinions on a hot topic in contemporary society: respect for human rights. These are activities to be listed as good educational practices;

- Conference on “Law and Administrative Justice from an Interdisciplinary Perspective”, organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and University Sakarya of Turkey.

### 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.

#### **Equal opportunities**

The year 2014 was marked by the adoption at governmental level of the second National Strategy for equal opportunities for women and men for the years 2014-2017 and its Action Plan. These documents were debated by the RIHR at the meetings devoted to this field, such as the Conference on "Women's rights and gender equality", organized on occasion of the International Women's Day in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association.

Also, the latest Report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on "Violence against Women in the European Union" was a good framework to organize important debates about how women's rights were promoted and respected in Romania. These debates were organized in collaboration with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young.

It is also worth reminding the Conference on "Domestic violence and the national and the international instruments to prevent and combat it", organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association.

#### **Non-Discrimination**

Art. 14 in the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on prohibition of discrimination

points out that “the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status”. In 2014, 20 years after Romania had acceded the Convention, fight against discrimination, respect and promotion of the principle of non-discrimination were topical subjects approached by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with its partners such as the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies, the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Issues in the Senate, the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Chamber of Deputies, the Institute for the Study of National Minorities Issues, the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

On occasion of the European Action Week against Racism, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a number of events (seminars, debates, roundtables) and an ample awareness raising campaign for young students in schools and universities as well as in public institutions in Bucharest and in other cities. The debates referred to the importance of respect for diversity, particularly emphasizing on the increasing role of the socializing networks, which assist migrants and refugees by combating nationalism, racism and neofascism.

We should also remind of the International Conference on “Non-Discrimination and Equality of Opportunities – NEDES 2014”, organized in partnership by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. The event gave specialists in the field of human rights the opportunity to analyze and discuss about the way the principle of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities are observed in the Romanian society and at international level. The debates dealt with such

topics as multiple discrimination and the fight against it, harassment – theory and jurisprudence, domestic violence and its consequences upon the psychic development of the children, the role of women in the process of emancipation, of fight against discrimination and promotion of the equality of opportunities principle, application of the equality of opportunities principle in the evaluation of the individual professional performance in the local public administration, etc.

At the same time, 2014 was the year when the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance issued its fourth report on Romania – a document that was analyzed in the framework of debates organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association.

### **Rights of the child**

An important item on the Institute’s agenda is the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child, while taking into account the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and also the regional instruments on child adoption, fight against the trafficking in human beings, etc. In this respect, the Institute organized a number of events, debates and discussions both with representatives of public institutions having powers in the field and representatives of the academic world and non-governmental organizations, meeting that dealt with issues related to the improvement of the related legislation, the right to education, non-discrimination against certain categories of children.

The RIHR, in collaboration with the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Monitoring Observance of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, organized a debate on juvenile justice, getting insight about the latter’s problems in the public area and promotion of the legislative reform and

prevention of juvenile delinquency in Romania.

At the same time, the rights of the child was one of the main topics on the visiting agenda of Mr. Nils Mužinieks, Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner.

Last but not least, the Institute, on request by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies, submitted a number of viewpoints on the bills under debate by the Commission having an impact upon the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child. In this respect, we should remind the Bill on the child's personal health book and the Bill on establishing the child's electronic medical file<sup>4</sup>, and the Bill on School Medicine<sup>5</sup>.

### **Access to justice**

Throughout the year 2014, the RIHR organized a number of conferences, seminars and debates dealing with access to justice as a fundamental right. Of these, the following should be particularly mentioned:

The International Conference on "Effectiveness of the legal norms – Challenges of the new decade", an event at its third edition, organized by the RIHR and the Faculty of Law of University "Dimitrie Cantemir" of Cluj-Napoca in collaboration with the Social and Humanist Research Department of History Institute "George Barițiu" of Cluj-Napoca, a Department of the Academy of Romania, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences and other partners as well. The studies presented dealt with such topics as human rights education in higher education units, the role of the civil society for the consolidation of democracy, international law issues related to human rights, human rights and good the governance of justice, the legal expertise in terms of the new Criminal Procedure Code, the protection of juveniles according to the Romanian legislation, the legal status of the workday, the role of the prosecutor according to the Criminal Procedure Code, the rights of persons with disabilities in the European Union, etc. Also, two workshops

<sup>4</sup> PL-x 245/2014 – Act on the Child's Personal Health Book.

<sup>5</sup> PL-x 254/2014.

were organized in the framework of the Conference, which dealt with such topics as: special surveillance and investigation techniques, and present-day trends in the legal education.

The annual Conference with international participation on "Justice and the administrative law from an interdisciplinary point of view", organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and University Sakarya of Turkey, a scientific event whose purpose was to provide new scientific research topics for specialists in law and administrative sciences and also to disseminate the results of the researches achieved so far to improve the quality governance. The researches presented and the debates that followed referred to aspects related to administrative judicial pronouncements, the influence of human rights upon the law, migration and the law, globalization and sustainable development, new frontiers in criminal justice, as well as the future administrative configuration and the law.

Representatives of the RIHR participated in the International Conference on "The national law between harmonization and euro-compatibility", organized by the Law and Public Administration Department of the Faculty of Economic, Juridical and Administrative Sciences, University "Petru Maior" of Tg. Mureș in partnership with the RIHR. The participants in the event analyzed aspects related to the evolution and the trends in Law and public administration at national, European and even international levels with emphasis on the relationship between the European institutions and the national ones in the efforts to harmonize and adapt to the changes in the field, as well as the need for a reform of the legal and the administrative system.

In its capacity as observer member of the European Law Institute (ELI), the Institute's representatives participated in the ELI annual Conference organized in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, making their contribution to the debates on such topics as: the correct application of human

rights in Europe, the relationship between the national courts and the supranational courts in the European legal order. At the same time, the participants were presented a number of projects on transnational principles with the European civil procedure norms or *how to prevent and solve competency conflicts in the criminal law*.

Also, the Institute was invited to submit a number of viewpoints in the field of justice, of which it is worth mentioning the Viewpoint on the Bill on ratification of Protocol 15 to the European Convention on Human Rights<sup>6</sup>, formulated on request by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies.

The RIHR, in its capacity as member of Legal Working Group of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, participated actively both in the discussions devoted to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, promotion of the European Convention on Human Rights and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the elaboration and presentation of the Group's proposals related to interventions as third parties in the cases pending before the Court of Strasbourg.

Project "CLARITY", achieved by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in partnership with 12 national human rights institutions from Member States of the European Union<sup>7</sup>, including Romania through the RIHR, has the purpose to offer better knowledge about non-judicial bodies (national human rights institutions, equality bodies and Ombudsman-like institutions), which may be of assistance to the victims when their rights are violated.

At the same time, the Project is intended to create an online instrument for easy identification of those non-judicial bodies with powers in the field of human rights that are most suited for a certain category of fundamental

rights. The online instrument is going to cover various fields related to human rights, including the one referring to discrimination.

This instrument is also meant to offer information about how a petition should be filed or where the victims may receive assistance.

### **Family**

The year 2014 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family, on which occasion the main directions of the family policy strategy were established both at the level of the United Nations, through its Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and at the level of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In this context, the RIHR set out to promote and consolidate family supporting policies, as well as intensify its research activities in the field, to make a contribution to and assist the Government in the elaboration of family-related public policies, essential for combating and preventing poverty and social exclusion and, also, fundamental to prevent family marginalization.

Out of the activities achieved for the promotion of the European Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life and the International Day of Families<sup>8</sup> mention should be made of the debate on "Opportunities and obstacles against reconciling work and family life", organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights, Family Forum, the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, which pointed out the importance of the family within the society and its development. At the same time, the event was an opportunity to discuss how the family – the basic nucleus of society – is affected by the social and the economic changes, how these

<sup>6</sup> Pl-x 265/2014; Protocol 15 to the Convention was signed by Romania on 24 June 2013.

<sup>7</sup> The Project involves participation of 12 institutions promoting and protecting the fundamental rights from the following European Union Member States: Austria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain.

<sup>8</sup> The day of May 15 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day of the Families, under a Resolution issued in September 1993. On proposal by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and sustained by the Romanian Patriarchate, the day of May 15 officially became the Romanian Family Day.

extremely important nuclei for the progress of the entire Romanian society can be consolidated. The participants in the conference also discussed the national but also the European policies and programmes meant to reconcile work and family life as well as ways to promote the best practices in the field.

### **Combating trafficking in human beings**

Based on the international as well as European provisions in such documents as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012–2016), the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued the series of researches and debates with representatives of specialized governmental institutions, of the legislative, and also of the civil society.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the meeting on “Trafficking in persons and forced prostitution in Europe”, organized by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies with the participation of a delegation of the Commission for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in the Bundestag, members of the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Issues in the Senate and representatives of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. The discussions referred to the evolution of the related legislation in Romania and the impact upon the Roma community. On occasion, the Institute presented the international and the national legislative framework, pointing out the progress achieved in terms of preventing and combating the trafficking in persons, while also emphasizing on the importance of improving the quality of the protection and the assistance for the victims, as well as attraction of the civil society in preventing and combating the phenomenon.

Likewise, it is worth mentioning the symposium on “The national, the regional and the universal legislations on preventing and combating trafficking in persons”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s accession to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

### **Migration**

In 2014, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was requested by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies to submit a number of viewpoints on the bills under debate by the Commission referring to issues related to asylum, migration and citizenship. Thus, we should mention the Bill on approving Government Ordinance No. 1/2014 on amending and supplementing Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania and Government Ordinance No.44/2006 on the social integration of foreigners who obtained a form of protection or the right to reside in Romania<sup>9</sup>. Taking into account the characteristic features and the trends of the migration phenomenon and the profoundly humanitarian nature of the actions that have to be taken to provide protection to the persons applying for international protection, the RIHR appreciated as absolutely necessary and welcomed the modification and the supplementation of Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania under Ordinance No. 1/2014 as a logical result of harmonizing the domestic legislation with the obligations assumed on adherence to the European Union’s regulations.

As regards the Bill on amending art. 11 in the Citizenship Act No. 21/1991, republished<sup>10</sup>, introducing a provision in the Romanian legislation by virtue of which Romanian ethnics would enjoy preferential treatment for obtaining the Romanian citizenship would mean to enact a discriminatory procedure for obtaining the

<sup>9</sup> Plx 132/2014.

<sup>10</sup> Plx 251/2012.



Romanian citizenship, in terms of the ethnic origin, which infringes upon art. 5 in the European Convention on Citizenship. Such a regulation had better refer to Law No. 299/2007 on assistance given to Romanians from everywhere, whereas Law No. 21/1991 regulates the juridical link between Romania and the person who applies for the Romanian citizenship.

It is worth mentioning that the researches achieved by the Institute were the main source for the national Report on *Migration and Law*, presented by the RIHR's representatives at the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law of Vienna, 2014.

### **Right to health**

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and the Infoeuropa Centre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the participation of the representatives of the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and the Commission on Environment and Ecological Balance in the Chamber of Deputies, organized a debate on "World Health Day – the right to health". The participants in the event were presented several dissertations on hot topics in the field: ecologization and the fight against pollution – desiderata for the globalization of health, education for health, the guarantee of the children's right to health in Romania, the migrants' right to health, etc. At the same time, the discussions pointed out the importance of reducing inequalities in the field of health and the need for finding a balance between financing and healthcare.

Also, on occasion of World Water Day, the RIHR organized a debate on "Clean water for a healthy world" dealing with such issues as the relationship between man and life, between access to water and the health of an individual, a family, a community or a society, vital elements for the development of a nation. The participants pointed out the need to ensure a quantitative and a qualitative protection of waters, as well as the role, the duties and the

responsibilities of those having with maintaining, exploiting and protecting water sources. The event was achieved in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association.

### **Persons with disabilities**

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in its capacity as independent mechanism for promoting, protecting and monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, according to art. 33.2 of CRPD<sup>11</sup>, is committed to maintain a permanent dialogue both with the governmental institutions having powers in the field and the civil society, so that it might be able to analyze objectively the way the provisions of the Convention are reflected by the national legislation, the way these persons' rights are observed, as well as the level of awareness about and understanding of the notion of disability.

The working visit to Romania of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights was an important moment for promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities was one of the major topics approached by the representatives of the RIHR and the Commissioner. On the occasion, the participants debated aspects related to the right to live independently and be included within the community, the situation of persons with disabilities living in institutions, the right to the acknowledgement of their legal capacity, the right to inclusive education, as well as the legal and the institutional framework for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>12</sup> The discussions were based on the most recent report of the RIHR on the *Evolution of the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania*, the Commissioner appreciating the Institute's interest in these topics, as well as the

<sup>11</sup> Ratified under Law No. 221/2010 on ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>12</sup> See the Report by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Mužinieks, following the visit he paid to Romania on 31 March – 4 April 2014, CommDH (2014), pp. 8-19.

institutional effort. On the occasion, the Council of Europe representative pointed out the importance of ensuring adequate human and financial resources for the Institute to be able to fulfil its mandate.<sup>13</sup>

The importance of adopting a national strategy in the field of disability, with the elaboration of which the civil society should also be involved, particularly persons with disabilities and the organizations representing them and which should take into account the provisions of the CRPD was pointed out on occasion of a debate on *Rights and a high quality life for persons with the Down syndrome*, organized by the RIHR. The participants pointed out the need to (re)define the purpose of the social policies in the field, in compliance with the provisions of the Convention, to amend/supplement art. 50 in the Constitution of Romania and art. 1 in Law No. 448/2006 on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the framework of Project “Gaining awareness about autism”, the RIHR in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) organized a debate on the rights of persons with autism in Romania, an event which took place on occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day. The participants included representatives of the civil society, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, representatives of the university teaching staff, researchers, candidates for a Doctor’s Degree and candidates for a Master’s Degree. The discussions focused on such issues as acknowledgement of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities – implying, on the one hand, provision of adapted legal services as part of the social policies in the field to provide equal opportunities in terms of legal assistance and, on the other hand, modification of the civil legislation so that it might be able to provide acknowledgement of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities –, the equal right of persons with disabilities to possess or inherit

properties, to manage their own incomes and have access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial crediting. The participants also pointed out the importance of respecting the right of persons with disabilities to make a family – the Civil Code in effect prohibiting marriage to the mentally alienated or the mentally defective, no matter whether they are placed under interdiction or not, who are not allowed to get married not even in their moments of temporary lucidity. As far as the right to education was concerned, the discussions primarily pointed out the need that the specific legislation should include a definition of the “inclusive education” concept and give up the syntagma “integrated special education”.

On occasion of the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Day, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a debate on the protection and the promotion of the rights of these persons in Romania, an event achieved in collaboration with the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Monitoring Observance of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty. The discussions focused on the elaboration of a national strategy corresponding to the needs of persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and institution of a complex legal framework in support of this area. They also revealed the need to elaborate regulations in the field regarding the development of the diagnosing services for persons with ASD, provision of access to professional training services and the access of adults with ASD to the adapted labour market, as well as increased social integration of these persons.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was also an opportunity for the Institute to organize a roundtable bringing together representatives of the civil society, members of the university teaching staff, researchers and practitioners. The discussions referred to such issues as taking advantage of the power of technology to promote inclusion and accessibility, achieving full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the social life.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., item 7, pp. 6-7.

In the year 2014, the Institute, by the researches, the events and the debates it organized or in which it participated, emphasized on the importance of developing the legislative framework in the field of disability, so that it might allow persons with disabilities to obtain and maintain maximum autonomy, de fully develop the physical, mental, social and professional capability and achieve full integration and participation in all aspects of life.<sup>14</sup> At the same time, the discussions pointed out the need to organize, consolidate and extend complex habilitation and rehabilitation programmes, particularly in such fields as health, employment, education and social services, so that these programmes might start as early as possible, be based on a multidisciplinary evaluation of the individual needs and abilities, and support participation and integration in the community in all social aspects, on the basis of freely expressed consent, while being available as close as possible to the community where these persons live, including rural areas.<sup>15</sup>

The RIHR is member of the Group for the implementation of the Convention in the framework of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions in the United Nations system, while also being the only institution in our country assigned to participate in the Working Forums organized every year by the European Commission with regard to the implementation of art. 33 in the UN Convention.

### **Rights of elderly persons**

In its activities, the RIHR dealt with and analyzed such topics as social rights, promotion of active ageing, promotion of solidarity between generations and dignity of all people by combating poverty and social exclusion.

Also, protection of the rights of elderly persons and long term caretaking is a topic of interest, the Institute participating in a Project achieved by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), whose

<sup>14</sup> Rights of persons with disabilities in Romania. Recent developments, IRDO, București, 2014, p. 78.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

member it is, and the European Commission through its Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The Project is intended to determine in Europe an approach to elderly caretaking from the point of view of human rights, clarify the international and the regional standards applicable in the field and make recommendations to the decision-makers in Europe to optimize the protection of these persons, as well as acknowledgement of the increasing role of national human rights institutions. Thus, in 2014, the Institute participated in a number of meetings and discussions regarding analysis and establishment of the purpose, the stages and the methodology of the Project, for it is member of both the Advisory Committee and the Pilot Group.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the debate on “The fundamental human right of elderly persons to medical, sanitary and social protection, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (ARDOVT) and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) on occasion of the International Day of Older Persons.

### **Business and human rights**

The RIHR’s researches in the field were continued in 2014, for this is a topical issue at both national and European level. The Institute’s analyses and debates were based on the most important international documents: the United Nations General Principles, the European Union Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy, the Action Plan of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, etc.

An example is the debates organized by the Institute in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) on the importance of adopting a national action plan showing the priorities and the actions to be taken by the Romanian State in support of the implementation of the international and the regional obligations and commitments in the field. The Plan should reflect such principles as the State’s duty to observe human rights, the

corporate responsibility to observe human rights, and access to effective redress in case of human rights violations.

Also, the Institute, in its capacity as national institution acknowledged in the United Nations system, participated in a number of debates organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, one of which was the United Nations Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights. The main topics referred to the strengthening of public policies in the field by means of national action plans, the financial sector and human rights, improvement of the reporting system in the field of human rights, cooperation between national human rights institutions, the importance of human rights education, public acquisitions and human rights, etc.

#### **The international mechanism of universal periodic review (UPR)**

Taking into account the recommendations by the United Nations Human Rights Council<sup>16</sup> as a result of the Country Report<sup>17</sup> on occasion of the second evaluation cycle – UPR of 2013, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights undertook both informing public institutions and the civil society about them and achieving the necessary steps to implement the.

In this respect, in the year 2014 the Institute organized a number of meetings and debates alongside with representatives of governmental institutions, of various public institutions with powers in the field of human rights and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

#### **Network of national human rights institutions**

The role of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, acknowledged at international and European level, was also pointed out in the Report by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, following an analysis of the Country Periodic Report.<sup>18</sup> In this respect, the Committee pointed out the importance of having an independent and efficient national institution in the promotion and the protection of human rights, in compliance with the Paris Principles.<sup>19</sup>

In the framework of the Conference on “Implementation of the international human rights commitments in the national realities: the contribution of Parliaments in the activity of the United Nations Human Rights Council”, organized on initiative by the Foreign Policy Commission in the Chamber of Deputies by the Chamber of Deputies in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Director of the RIHR pointed out the important role of national human rights institutions both at national level, as bridges between the institutions of the State governed by the rule of law and the civil society, with reference to the Principles of Belgrade on the relationship between national human rights institutions and Parliaments, adopted in 2012, and at international level, through the important contribution in the universal periodic review process, particularly beginning with the second cycle, as well as the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, one of the most recent being Resolution 20/14 of July 2012.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> See UN Human Rights Council Decision A/HRC//, and the UPR Working Group’s Report on Romania A/HRC/23/5, paragraph 109.

<sup>17</sup> Report on Romania’s observance of the provisions in the main United Nations instruments, such as: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of racial Discrimination; the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>18</sup> According to art. 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>19</sup> See the Final Remarks of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the Periodic Reports on Romania, 28 November 2014, paragraph 6, p. 2 (E/C.12/ROU/CO/3-5).

<sup>20</sup> Resolution 20/14 on national human rights institutions, A/HRC/RES/20/14.

#### 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 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

**A) The quarterly “Drepturile Omului”** publishes reports, studies, researches and articles. It also publishes texts, national or international regulations of major significance in the field of human rights, the related jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and/or the national courts, notes, comments or book reviews.

The topics approached include a scientific and diversified analysis of the fundamental freedoms and human rights, with emphasis on the collaboration relations and the relationship with the values, the principles, the norms and the standards governing the institutions and the mechanisms, as well as on the terms, the concepts and the methodological and technological trends. These are added the reporting of various events in the field of human rights, book reviews in the field of human rights, the Institute’s latest publications and brief presentations of the main activities organized or attended by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

**B) Info IRDO**, the monthly information bulletin for the public, briefly presents the latest news about domestic and international human rights events, studies and scientific researches. The bulletin also presents various cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights and

the Court of Justice of the European Union, in an attempt to meet the present needs of the civil society, of institutions, students, etc. It is also worth mentioning the columns devoted to recently adopted international documents.

##### Researches volumes achieved in 2014

- **Drepturi egale și mediu accesibil<sup>21</sup>**

The volume renders the interest the United Nations has taken in the last decades to sustain the efforts of persons with disabilities who have become increasingly active to assert their strength and confidence in their own abilities to live and independent life. The change of attitude towards disability started in the 1970s with the adoption of the *Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971)* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975)*, documents that paved the way for the future complete sets of principles, which would eventually entail the social integration of persons with disabilities.

The development of the *Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993)*, a document elaborated as a result of the experience accumulated during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, brought along an important point of view shift, from social protection to rights granted to persons with disabilities globally.

The most recent United Nations document, the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)*, marks the beginning of a new stage in the efforts to promote, to protect and provide full and equal exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, as well as to promote the respect for their intrinsic dignity.

The volume also presents several cases from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights related to persons with disabilities, cases where the Romanian State is a party, which won the authors’ attention particularly for the diversity of the articles under whose sphere of application they fall.

The volume is a collection of instruments regarding the rights of persons with disabilities

<sup>21</sup> Equal rights and accessible environment

and related jurisprudence, which may prove helpful to authorities when they elaborate policies and take legal measures in the field of disability.

- **Migration and Law**

The study is focused on a topic that will always be hot as long as there are discrepancies in terms of welfare between the various regions of the world.

By the recent reforms that were necessary to achieve legislative harmonization after Romania became a Member State of the European Union, the State provided fair treatment and harmonious integration of aliens in the Romanian society. Thus, substantial changes were introduced in the norms regulating the status of aliens in Romania in their capacity as citizens of Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, as well as the rules governing asylum in Romania in order to ensure conformity with the international and the regional instruments where the Romanian State is a party.

Modifying the national legislation in the fields mentioned above, the law makers tried to eliminate once and for all any possible failure in the implementation of the legislative framework regarding the status of aliens on the territory of Romania.

- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Romania. Recent Developments**

The study, achieved by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) in its capacity as independent mechanism monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is a continuation of the research achieved in the year 2013, including both new research elements and recent statistic data.

The amplitude of the Convention and the wide range of issues it approaches make monitoring and implementing it more challenging than in the case of most other conventions.

The volume emphasizes on a number of issues that need the immediate attention of decision makers, such as adoption of a national strategy and an action plan promoting a consolidated and long-term detailed vision, with measurable priorities and results, to improve the

life of persons with disabilities; increased awareness about and understanding of disability; accessibility, meaning that all policies, programmes, standards and services should be developed taking into account the ordinary needs of persons with disabilities.

At the same time, there is need for more assistance services and support, multidisciplinary, integrated, accessible and well regulated services, which should enable persons with disabilities live an independent life and participate in the economic, social and cultural life of their communities.

Another important element is research, which is essential for increasing the public's understanding of disability related issues. This however involves investment in human capacity, to develop a group of researchers specialized in the field of disability.

- **Drepturile copilului – 365<sup>22</sup>**

The rights of the child, consecrated and guaranteed by international and domestic regulations, may be generally grouped into *rights of protection* against any forms of physical or emotional abuse, *rights of development*, closely related to the necessary services, such as education and healthcare, and all children's access to these rights, and *rights of participation and consultation* in relation to the decisions affecting them.

Romania, in its capacity as a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols as well as a party to the regional treaties in the field, took significant efforts to harmonized the domestic legislation with the principles and the norms assumed through its international commitments.

Once the amendments to Law No. 272/2004 on the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child were adopted, the principle of the best interests of the child has become significantly more visible in the national legislation. Thus, the entire legislative package adopted by Parliament of Romania, as well as the strategies and the measures for the application of these regulations, fully cover these rights.

The volume is based on a whole series of publications issued by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights including such volumes as

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<sup>22</sup> Rights of the child – 365

“Drepturile copilului. Drepturile mele”<sup>23</sup>, “Drepturile copilului”<sup>24</sup>, “Principalele instrumente internaționale privind drepturile omului la care România este parte”<sup>25</sup>, etc., achieved with the contribution of the Institute’s researchers.

- **Promovarea și protecția drepturilor omului de către administrația publică**<sup>26</sup>

The study attempts to identify and point out the levers and the mechanisms for the promotion and the protection of human rights at the level of the public authorities, while at the same time find solutions to stop the latter violate these rights.

Starting from the most important documents regulating human rights at international and at European level, as well as the organizations that promoted them, the study analyzes such concepts as good governing and good governance, the role of the legislative power in terms of the actions it takes to promote and to protect human rights at national level in its relationship with the public administration authorities. The study also makes an analysis of the entire set of institutions and authorities that achieve justice in Romania, with emphasis on the powers each of them has as well as the vulnerability of the judiciary system in face of corruption.

As far as the role of the executive and of the public administration authorities is concerned, a significant role for the protection of the citizens’ rights is that of certain authorities or bodies established at central level, with coordinating and controlling, including jurisdictional powers, independent from the government and even from the head of the State.

- **Administrația parlamentară. Drepturile și obligațiile funcționarilor publici parlamentari**<sup>27</sup>

The research deals with aspects related to the human resources of this type of administration, the analysis being made in terms of

<sup>23</sup> Rights of the child. My rights

<sup>24</sup> Rights of the child

<sup>25</sup> Main international human rights instruments where Romania is a party

<sup>26</sup> Promotion and protection of human rights by the public administration

<sup>27</sup> Parliamentary administration. Rights of duties of parliamentary public servants

parliamentary public servants, the rights, the duties and the responsibility they have following harmonization of our legislation with the European aquis and also, necessarily, in terms of observing human rights in the field.

The study analyzes the status of the parliamentary public servant as compared to similar regulations in European countries with parliamentary tradition and to the statutory regulations related to a new category of servants at the level of the European Union. Adoption of a special status should be accompanied by a guarantee for its application, as well as the observance of parliamentary autonomy. At the same time, the independency status and the specificity of parliamentary activity should not limit the parliamentary public servant in the exercise of his/her powers and thus adopt a bureaucratic model in the fulfilment of his/her duties.

The volume also includes general aspects related to the parliamentary administration with emphasis on both the political leading structure and the administrative hierarchic one, pointing out the connection between the public administration and the democracy of the state governed by the rule of law as well as the role and the functions of political parties in a state governed by the rule of law.

- **Ministerul Public. Organizare, administrare și relația cu societatea civilă**<sup>28</sup>

The study analyzes the importance and the role of the Public Ministry in promoting and guaranteeing the observance of the citizens’ fundamental rights and freedoms in a democratic society, in a State governed by the rule of law. It identifies and analyzes the relevant normative framework that defines the role of this institution, identifies the evolution of the concept of civil society along history, analyzes the citizen’s rights in the relationship with the Public Ministry and shows the role of the civil society in protecting and guaranteeing these rights.

The volume includes a number of recommendations regarding the organization and the administration of the Public Ministry in Romania, in terms of guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms. In this

<sup>28</sup> The Public Ministry. Organization, administration and the relationship with the civil society

respect, it identifies and analyzes the most relevant vulnerabilities found at the level of the Public Ministry institution, such as the authority of the Ministry of Justice upon the Public Ministry, the pressure exerted upon prosecutors, the access to various positions, professional training, the corruption phenomenon, the system of the prosecutor's protection against the citizens' reprisals, etc.

### **Reports**

- The Institute's Annual Report for the year

2013 (in Romanian);

- The Institute's Annual Report for the year 2013 (in English);

- Report on the evolution of the human rights legislation in the European Union and in Romania –2014;

- Report on national human rights institutions – The Francophone Association of National Human Rights Institutions;

- Report – Applicable religious rules according to the law of State in Romania;

- Report – Migration and Law.

## **V. THE CENTRE OF DOCUMENTATION**

According to its mandate, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is tasked to maintain and run a documentation centre. By means of its library, the Centre makes available to all users documentation in such fields as law, human rights, international conventions and covenants, legal texts, studies, bibliographic publications and references, as well as volumes dealing with topics from various related fields.

The library has a book collection structured in over 251 research fields. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights was the beneficiary of a large number of publications in the form of donations from international organizations, higher education institutions, NGOs as well as institutions having similar preoccupations as the RIHR.

As part of its information and documentation activity, the RIHR paid special attention to partnerships and collaborations with national and specialized institutions from other countries, or belonging to international organizations in the field such as: the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Alexandrina Library – Alexandria, Egypt, the Library of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law – Lausanne, Switzerland, the European Law Institute, the University of Leicester Library, Great Britain, the Library of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL), the Library of the Faculty of Law of the University of Strasbourg, France, the Library of the Catholic university of Louvain, Belgium, the

Library of the University of Potsdam, Germany, the Library of the University of Padua, Italy, the Library of the University of Luxemburg, the Library of the University of European Studies in the Moldova Republic, the Library of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Human Rights Centre in Finland, the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland.

Partnerships consisting of exchanges of publications and correspondence were also initiated with 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.

Equally important, the Institute's Documentation Centre keeps permanent contact with the county libraries in our country to which it sends alongside with the quarterly "Drepturile Omului" the most recent publications issued by the Institute.

The RIHR's publications have also been requested by the ministries having powers and preoccupations in the field of human rights, prefect's offices, local councils, teachers' training centres, courts of appeal, courts, tribunals, the General Parquet. The Documentation Centre readily answered to all these requests.

Constantly preoccupied to provide information and documentation about the Institute's and its partners' scientific activity, the Documentation Centre sent free of charge the publications issued in the year 2014 to all national applicants: the Central University



Library, the National Library of Romania, the Metropolitan Library, the Academy of Romania, 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, the Legal Research Institute of the Romanian Academy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National School of Clerks, the National Institute for the Training of Lawyers, the National Council of SANITAS Federation, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Ecological University, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the “Ovidiu” University, the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare, etc.

There also were international organizations and institutions who were interested in receiving and did receive free of charge the Institute’s publications issued in 2013 and 2014: UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNCHR, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Social Charter Secretariat, the European Court of Justice, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, 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 Human Rights Centre in Finland, the European Law Institute, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

Throughout the year 2014, the RIHR Documentation Centre was attended by a large number of readers (1700), scientific researchers, teachers, magistrates, lawyers, candidates for a Doctor’s Degree, students, representatives of the civil society in Romania and from abroad who were interested in the scientific literature in the field of human rights or related fields. The number of readers has been considerably increasing from one year to another, while the collection of books was enriched by acquisition of a number of publications that assist the comparative study of several disciplines in terms of human rights.

The Institute webpage, established in 2007<sup>29</sup>, hosts a virtual library that includes most of the publications issued by the RIHR. The website has so far been accessed by approximately 3.5 million visitors and offers information about the Institute’s activity and also, in terms of jurisprudence, about cases involving Romania brought before the European Court of Human Rights.

### **Public relations**

The entire activity of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights reflects the professionalism with which the Institute commits itself to the promotion and the respect of human rights. The Institute contributes to the protection and the observance of human rights and to deeper awareness about these at national, regional and international level through all its work of disseminating information, through all its activity, by means of debates and roundtables, conferences and symposia organized in collaboration with national institutions and the civil society.

At the same time, the RIHR was contacted throughout the year 2014 by large categories of persons, citizens from all over the country who addressed the Institute with numerous problems claiming violation of their rights, asking for clarifications or advice for resolution, either by means of the complaint filing mechanism, or applying for advisory opinion by telephone regarding the procedure of filing formal complaints or petitions to authorities to inform them about the violation of their rights. Throughout the year 2014, the RIHR took efforts to clarify and advise for the correct resolution of numerous such applications for legal advisory opinion, written statements, complaints, telephone calls.

The most frequent issues were violations of the right to property, refusal to execute a possession order for certain pieces of land, non-execution of judicial orders, complaints regarding pollution of the environment or violation of the norms related to the right to a healthy environment, violations of the labour legislation, complaints by natural persons regarding the progress of a trial or violation of the reasonable time constraints. There also were complaints referring to the execution of

<sup>29</sup> [www.irdo.ro](http://www.irdo.ro)

sentence in penitentiaries, petitions related to the violation of the equality of opportunities principle, the violation of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities or religious denominations; complaints related to the incapacity of competent authorities to pay partially or totally certain financial rights derived from the social protection legislation (the financial assistance for various disadvantaged categories, recalculation of the pension, the children's allowance, etc.).

Both persons who came in person to the Institute's headquarters and those who contacted the Institute by phone received advisory opinions and guidance. Those who requested documentation were provided with the legal texts in effect and pertaining to the case. In approximately 70% of the cases registered by means of written petitions we were able to assist the petitioners guiding them to the competent body or making a recommendation regarding the institution to which he/she should apply. Most petitions were sent over to the institutions and the bodies authorized to solve the respective problem or application, including: the Ministry of Justice, the National Authority for Property Restitution, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Advocate of the People, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Public Ministry, prefect's offices, local councils, mayor's offices, penitentiary directorates.

Expertise in human rights issues, the activity deeply committed to the protection and the observance of human rights, the fruitful collaboration with national and international institutions contributed to the increasing prestige of the RIHR among its beneficiaries and the similar institutions in Romania and from

abroad.

As a result, many domestic and international bodies expressed their wish that the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, through its representatives, should be represented in their working structures or the managing structures. Here are a few examples: the RIHR is member of the UNESCO National Commission of Bioethics; member of the National Steering Committee of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

At the same time, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued its activity in the framework of various international structures. As an international recognition of the efforts taken by the RIHR for the promotion of human rights, the latter or its representatives have been elected in various structures of such international bodies as: the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI); member of the francophone Network of National Human Rights Institutions; member of the Steering Committee of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration (IDEF); member of the International Union of Family Organizations; RIHR researchers are members of the working groups of the ENNHRI and some of them were designated experts with UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union, participating in this capacity as rapporteurs or section moderators in the framework of events devoted to human rights; as far as the human rights education activity performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is concerned, an international recognition is the fact that, in time, the Institute was given several international awards.

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

Conference on “The right to citizenship in Romania: historical overview. Practice. Legislation and ethics”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance (8 January 2014)

Conference on “Science and codification of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (10-12 January 2014)

Conference on “Opportunities and obstacles against reconciling work and family life, organized in the framework of the campaign devoted to the Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (16-17 January 2014)

Seminar on “The International Holocaust Remembrance Day”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Ecological University of Bucharest, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (27 January 2014)

Debate on the provisions of Government Ordinance 1/2014 on the social integration of foreigners who obtained a form of protection or the right to reside in Romania, as well as citizens of Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (29 January 2014)

Training course on “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”, organized for teachers and auxiliary teaching staff in pre-university educational units by the Teachers’ Training Centre of Bucharest in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (31 January 2014)

Conference on “European mechanisms for the protection of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Ecological University of Bucharest – Faculty of Law, and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration (11 February 2014)

Conference on “Social justice and the economic crisis”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum on occasion of the World Day of Social Justice (19 February 2014)

Seminar on “Local Languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science” – the topic selected by UNESCO for celebration of the International Mother Language Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (21 February 2014)

Poetry recital and dissemination of informative flyers in the “Unirea” Subway Station, on occasion of the International Mother Language Day, organized by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and “Family Forum” Association (21 February 2014)

Show entitled “Word and Soul”, organized at “George Enescu” Youth Culture House of Reghin by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO in partnership with the

Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Mayor's Office of Reghin, the Mureş County School Inspectorate, Library "Petru Maior", the Eureka Foreign Languages Centre, "Alexandru Ceuşianu" Gymnasium School, Voinicel Kindergarten, ASP-net, Sol Mentis Association and "Family Forum" Association on occasion of the International Mother Language Day (24 February 2014)

Training course on "Non-discrimination and equality of opportunities", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration (27 February 2014)

National Project on "The Tolerance March Trinket – Exhibition of March Trinkets and a presentation of spring customs and traditions", achieved by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, ASP-net, Sol Mentis Association, and "Family Forum" Association (28 February 2014)

Debate on "Objectives of Reconciling Work and Family Life", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with "Ovidius" University of Constanţa in the framework of the events devoted to the International Year of Family and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Romanian Family Day (5-6 March 2014)

Conference on "Women's rights and gender equality", organized on occasion of the International Women's Day 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, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association (10 March 2014)

Debate on the latest Report elaborated by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on "Violence against women in the European Union", 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 Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" and the Romanian

Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (12 March 2014)

Seminar on "Pain has no colour", organized by Foundation Adolescenţa and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with National College "Mihai Viteazu" of Ploieşti in the framework of the events devoted to the European Action Week Against Racism (17 March 2014)

Roundtable on "Say NO to racism", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, IDEF, the "Victor Dan Zlătescu" Club of Cheia Association and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 2014)

Roundtable on "Rights and a high quality life for persons with the Down Syndrome", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the World Down Syndrome Day", with the participation of representatives of the civil society, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, members of university teaching staff, researchers, candidates for Doctor's or a Master's Degree (21 March 2014)

Roundtable on "Clean water for a healthy world!", organized 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 the "Victor Dan Zlătescu" Club of Cheia Association on occasion of the World Water Day (22 March 2014)

Debate on "United in diversity", organized by Foundation Adolescenţa and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with School "I. A. Bassarabescu", "I. L. Caragiale" National College and "Spiru Haret" National College of Ploieşti devoted to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (24 March 2014)

Essays and drawings contest on "We fit together", organized by Foundation Adolescenţa and the Prahova Teachers' Training Centre in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (28 March 2014)

Symposium on "10 years since Romania

acceded the North Atlantic Treaty. Realities and prospects”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (28 March 2014)

Training course on “Institutions and legal instruments characteristic of the field of migration and asylum”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare and Ecological University of Bucharest (30 March 2014)

Presentation of the Institute’s Annual Report for the year 2013 in the framework of the RIHR General Council Meeting (31 March 2014)

Debate on “Rights of the child in Romania”, organized by the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination, the Sub-Commission on Monitoring Observance of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day (2 April 2014)

Seminar on “Awareness about autism”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day (2 April 2014)

Conference on “The rights protection system instituted by the European Convention – 20 years since Romania ratified the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (20 June 1994). Execution of the decisions pronounced by the Court of Strasbourg in the cases versus Romania”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Judicial, Discipline and Immunities Commission, the Chamber of Deputies Sub-commission monitoring the European Court’s decisions pronounced against Romania and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (3 April 2014)

Debate on “Small entities, great danger – vector-borne diseases”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Centre InfoEuropa and the

Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Health Day 7 April 2014)

Roundtable on “Roma ethnics and the right to social integration”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the International Roma Day (8 April 2014)

National phase of the National Olympics on human sciences, organized in Timișoara by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (7-11 April 2014)

Award handing festivity of the “My first book” contest on this year’s topic – “A book with personality”, organized by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, ASP-net, Sol Mentis Association and “Family Forum” Association at the Golești Museum Complex, as part of the NCR UNESCO Programme “Great Romanian families – the Goleșcus in history” (15 April 2014)

Debate on the new amendments to the medical-psychosocial criteria for inclusion in a handicap category proposed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the Ministry of Health (25 April 2014)

Roundtable on “The European Union Report on the problems of international married couples in the European Union”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (28 April 2014)

Debate on “European Commission’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (28 April

2014)

Roundtable on “Europe, realities and prospects, 10 years after the greatest enlargement in the history of the European Union”, 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, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, and “Family Forum” Association (29 April 2014)

Award handing festivity for the art contest on “My family is the nicest”, organized in the framework of the cycle of events devoted to the International Year of the Family by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, ASP-net, Sol Mentis Association and “Family Forum” Association (5 May 2014)

Conference on “Freedom of the press for a better future”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance on occasion of World Press Freedom Day (5 May 2014)

Debate on “Rights of persons with disabilities – what’s new after the amendments to Law No.55/2014 on protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (12 May 2014)

Conference on “Healthy families – the pillars of a healthy society” in the framework of the events devoted to the International Year of Family and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution of this day by the United Nations, organized by the the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights “Family Forum” (14 May 2014)

Seminar on the Advocate’s of the People Report on juvenile delinquency in Romania, organized in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (14 May 2014)

Roundtable on “Reconciling work and family life”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association in the framework of the events devoted to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day of Families and the Romanian Family Day (15 May 2014)

3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the international conference on “Efficiency of legal norms. Challenges of the new decade”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj-Napoca – Faculty of Law in partnership with the Social and Humanist Research Department of History Institute “George Barițiu” of Cluj-Napoca, a Department of the Academy of Romania, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, the Institute of Administrative Sciences in the Moldova Republic, the Intellectual Property Rights Scientific Association and the Romanian Society of Authors and Publishers of Scientific Works (15-17 May 2014)

Conference on “the 21<sup>st</sup> century family – strengths and weaknesses”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and the “Family Forum” Association (16 May 2014)

Award handing festivity for the event “Letter to my parents”, organized by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, ASP-net, Sol Mentis Association and “Family Forum” Association in the framework of the CNR UNESCO Programme (22 May 2014)

Debate on “Protection and promotion of the rights of the child in today’s legislation”, organized on occasion of the International Children’s Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (26-27 May 2014)

Debate on “Rights of the child in the national legislation”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Independent League for the

Rights of the Child and the Young and Family Forum (27-29 May 2014)

Symposium on “Green economy”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Environment Day (5 June 2014)

Symposium on “Romania after 20 years since Romania’s accession to the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (11 June 2014)

Debate on the European Commission’s 4<sup>th</sup> Report Against Racism and Intolerance on Romania, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (18 June 2014)

Roundtable on “Promotion and protection of refugees’ rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity on occasion of the World Refugee Day (20 June 2014)

Symposium on “Evolution of the economic, social and cultural rights after 15 years since ratification of the European Social Charter revised”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and the “Family Forum” Association (1 July 2014)

Conference on “Investing in youth”, a topic selected by the United Nations Organization to celebrate the World Population Day and 40 years since proclamation of the World Population Year and the World Population Conference that took place in August 1974 in Bucharest, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations,

the “Family Forum” Association, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (11 July 2014)

Roundtable on “60 years since the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees came into effect”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (28 July 2014)

National phase of the “Democracy and Tolerance” Contest, organized by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Bihor County School Inspectorate with the participation of the Mayor’s Office of Oradea (28-31 July 2014)

Debate on the Bill for amending and supplementing Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania launched for public debate by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (6 August 2014)

Debate on “The right to health and the citizens’ access to medical care as well as the rights of persons with disabilities”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights under the coordination of the Neamț County Hospital (12-14 August 2014)

Roundtable organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the “Family Forum” Association and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity on occasion of the entry into force of the Convention of Istanbul – Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (18 August 2014)

20<sup>th</sup> edition of the International University of Human Rights on “Developing new methods and means for the promotion and the protection of human rights”, 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 participation of members

of IACL, ELI and IDEF (23-28 August 2014)

Debate on “Different but equal”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of Non-Discrimination Day celebrated in Romania on 31 August since the year 2000 (1 September 2014)

Symposium on “Literacy and sustainable development”, a topic selected for this year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to mark the International Literacy Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (6 September 2014)

Conference on “Engaging young people on democracy”, a topic proposed by the United Nations Organization for the International Day of Democracy, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (15 September 2014)

Meeting with the Advocate of the People on “Prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment”, organized by the Advocate of the People institution and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (18 September 2014)

Meeting on “Trafficking in persons and forced prostitution in Europe”, organized by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies with the participation of a delegation of the Commission for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in the Bundestag, moderated by Mr. Michael Brand, President of the Commission, members of the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Issues in the Senate and members of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (18 September 2014)

Roundtable on “Issues related to religious freedom and education for tolerance and respect for fellow people”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and the Romanian Association for Personal

Freedom and Human Dignity (19-20 September 2014)

Roundtable on “Celebrate the European Day of Languages with us”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the European Day of Languages (24 September 2014)

Conference on “Abilities do count”, organized in the framework of Project “Abilities do count – Implementation of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in the social inclusion services for persons using wheelchairs in Romania”, organized by Foundation Motivation Romania in partnership with Swiss Paraplegic Research form Switzerland with the participation of experts from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the National Authority for the Protection of Children’s Rights and Adoption, the National Institute of Medical Assessment and Work Capacity Recovery, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations with activities in the field, specialists in the field of disability and rehabilitation as well as persons with disabilities (24-25 September 2014)

Debate on the Bill for amending Government Decision No. 1007/2010 on approving the Programmes of national interest for protection of the family and the rights of the child for the years 2010-2012, launched for public debate by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (26 September 2014)

Conference on “The right to information – a citizens’ right”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the International Right To Know Day (29 September 2014)

Roundtable on “Children’s rights to play and to recreational activities”, a topic that is the title of the resolution initiated by Romania and



adopted on 25 September this year by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations Organization, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (30 September 2014)

Roundtable on "The fundamental right of elderly persons to medical and social protection", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with 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, 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 Older Persons (1 October 2014)

Symposium on "Education – an instrument for the promotion of a culture of non-violence", organized on occasion of the International Day of Non-Violence by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Independent League for the Human Rights to Culture and Health (2 October 2014)

Roundtable on "Living with Schizophrenia", this year's theme for the World Mental Health Day, 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, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons and the Romanian Association for Women's Rights (10 October 2014)

Debate on "Let's work together to defeat poverty", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Victor Dan Zlătescu" Club of Cheia Association on occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2014)

Symposium on "Green Cities", this year's theme proposed by the United Nations Organization for the United Nations Day,

organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (21 October 2014)

Symposium on "the United Nations Day", organized by the Faculty of Law or "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University of Cluj-Napoca in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (25 October 2014)

Training course on "The United Nations Week", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights at "Constantin Angelescu" Gymnasium School of Constanța (27 October 2014)

Inauguration of the national exhibition of didactic creativeness on the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Contest on Didactic Creativeness and A Culture of Peace in the pre-university educational system, organized by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Cluj County Teachers' Training Centre (31 October 2014)

Conference on "Hatred – a dangerous threatening to democracy and peace", organized on occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (10 November 2014)

Training course on "Education for human rights and the rights of the child", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Teachers' Training Centre of Bucharest (17 November 2014)

Roundtable on "25 years since adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with 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 (20 November 2014)

First international Conference on "Law and Administrative Justice from an Interdisciplinary Perspective", organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in

partnership with University Sakarya of Turkey, Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (20-22 November 2014)

Debate on “Measures for combating and preventing violence against women at national and regional levels”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the campaign on “UNiTE To End Violence Against Women”, initiated by the United Nations Secretary General, which took place on 25 November – 10 December (Human Rights Day) (24-26 November 2014)

Roundtable on “Say NO to violence against women”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association (25 November 2014)

Training course on “Children’s rights and duties for dummies”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Marcela Peneş” Gymnasium School No. 190 and the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO (3 December 2014)

Conference on “Domestic violence and the national and the international instruments to prevent and combat it”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (5 December 2014)

Symposium on “National, regional and universal legislations on preventing and combating trafficking in persons”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (on 10 December) of Romania’s adherence to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (8 December Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others)

Symposium on “Human Rights – 365”, organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the

Sub-commission monitoring the European Court’s decisions pronounced against Romania and in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (10 December 2014)

Evaluation of the papers submitted for the National Exhibition on Didactic Creativeness “EXPO 2014 – Cluj”, organized by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Cluj County Teachers’ Training Centre (10 December 2014)

Debate on “Human Rights – 365 days”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association in the framework of the events devoted to the day of December 10 – Human Rights Day (10-11 December 2014)

Campaign rising awareness and informing the population about human rights entitled “Letter to pedestrians” organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue with the assistance of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO and the Bucharest DSU methodists achieved in several towns (Bucharest, Piteşti, Curtea de Argeş) with the participation of National College “Vlaicu Vodă” of Curtea de Argeş, National College “Zinca Golescu” of Piteşti and a large number of high schools in Bucharest coordinated by the DSU teachers, methodists and inspector of the Municipality of Bucharest School Inspectorate: National College “Mihai Viteazul”, National College “Ion Luca Caragiale”, National College “Gheorghe Lazăr”, National College “Ion Creangă”, National College “Mihai Eminescu”, National College “Octav Onicescu”, Theoretical High School “Jean Monnet”, Lauder Educational Complex, and the Sanitary Post-High School of Fundeni (10 December 2014)

Roundtable on “Promotion and protection of the rights of the Roma minority”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the National Minorities Day (10-12 December 2014)

Symposium on “Promotion and protection of human rights in the United Nations system”,

organized on occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania accession to the United Nations Organization by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association (11 December 2014)

Second 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 Academy of Romania, the International Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (11-13

December 2014)

Training course on “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with national College “Spiru Haret” (12 December 2014)

Fifth edition of the symposium on “Fundamental freedoms and human rights”, organized by Foundation “Adolescența” in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County School Inspectorate and the Prahova County Teachers’ Training Centre, an event devoted to Human Rights Day (12 December 2014)

### PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS

National conference on “Barriers against the professional integration and re-integration of persons with disabilities”, organized by the National Organization of Disabled People in Romania Federation in the framework of Project “Excellent – Establishing a network of centres of excellence providing rehabilitation and professional integration services for persons with disabilities, as a vulnerable group on the labour market” (16 January 2014)

Closing conference of Project ECLIPSE (European Citizenship Learning in a Programme for Secondary Education), organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (17 January 2014)

Book release: “Dicționar de drepturile omului”<sup>30</sup>, organized by CH Beck Publishing House in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (23 January 2014)

Symposium on “Protection of personal data – present and future”, organized by the National Supervisory Authority For Personal Data Processing on occasion of the European Data Protection Day, a day that signifies the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (28 January 2014)

Final conference of Project EXCELENT “Excellent – Establishing a network of centres of excellence providing rehabilitation and professional integration services for persons with disabilities, as a vulnerable group on the labour market” implemented by the National Organization of Disabled People in Romania Federation in partnership with Foundation for You, the Resource and Information Centre for Social Professions, the Foundation Centre of Resources for Education and Professional Training, the Association of the Physically Disabled People of Satu Mare, the Society of Physically Disabled Persons – Bacău, R4 Consultancy and Professional Training and Centre Gaia of Professional Rehabilitation –

Portugal (29 January 2014)

International conference on “Romania and the International Court of Justice, 5 years since the decision on the maritime delimitation in the Black Sea”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3 February 2014)

Regional seminar on “Transposition of international human rights commitments into national realities: the contribution of national parliaments to UN Human Rights Council activity”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (17-18 February 2014)

Launch of the national information and awareness raising campaign on “Young people vote – young people do count”, co-financed through the European Commission Programme “Youth in Action” and organized by the Romanian Youth Council in partnership with the Permanent Electoral Authority (18 February 2014)

High Level Legal Seminar organized by Equinet – the European network of equality bodies in collaboration with the European Commission (18-19 February 2014)

Meeting of the Working group on the strategic elements of national action plans in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, organized by the United Nations Human Rights Council (20 February 2014)

Preparatory meeting of the 110<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on the criteria and the methods to be adopted by national human rights institutions when elaborating an official point of view for the periodic reports on human rights issues submitted in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review process (27-28 February)

General Assembly of Paneurope Swiss and presentation of the 20 years Report (1-2 March 2014)

First meeting of experts regarding Programme “Children and young people at risk

<sup>30</sup> Human Rights Dictionary

and local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and promote social inclusion”, financed through the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (SEE Grants) 2009-2014, organized by the Romanian Social Development Fund in partnership with EEA Grants Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the National Council for Combating Discrimination (4 March 2014)

Conference publicizing the study elaborated by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on “Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online”, organized under the auspices of the President’s Office of Greece in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (5 March 2014)

Scientific dissertations session on “Characteristic features of the political regimes in contemporary Romania and human rights issues enshrined in the Constitution”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the International Institute for Human Rights together with the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations and the Institute of Juridical Research “Andrei Rădulescu” of the Academy of Romania and in partnership with “Universul Juridic” Publishing House and “Revista de Drept Public” (6 March 2014)

Homage paying session on “Six decades of scientific research in the field of law – Tradition and perspectives in the Romanian juridical science”, organized by the Academy of Romania – Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” (6 March 2014)

Annual session of scientific dissertations on “The Romanian juridical doctrine: between tradition and reforms”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Academy of Romania (7 March 2014)

National conference on “The significance of information in the political-diplomatic and the public life. The administrator of information in last century’s Romania (1914-2014)”, organized by Centre of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research “Dumitru Stăniloae” – University “Valahia” of Târgoviște, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”

Police Academy in partnership with the Academy of Romania – National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, “Ovidius” University of Constanța and the Ecumenical Foundation “Pro Axe Mundi” (11 March 2014)

Conference devoted to the monitoring of the way the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is implemented and the elaboration of efficient reports to be submitted to the United Nations Committee, organized by the Human Rights Commission of Northern Ireland and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (13-15 March 2014)

Conference on “Putting into execution the decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights with regard to detention conditions”, organized by the National Institute of Magistracy in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Europe (17-18 March 2014)

Campaign entitled “Diversity gives us strength!”, organized by Foundation “Adolescența” and National College “Mihai Viteazu” of Ploiești in the framework of the European Week Against Racism (17-25 March 2014)

Francophone Community Gala Evening, organized at the Romanian Athenaeum by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chamber of Deputies in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Group of Francophone Embassies, Delegations and Institutions in Romania (GADIF) on occasion of the International Francophonie Day (20 March 2014)

International conference on “25 years later: Building an efficient public administration – Best practices and challenges”, organized by the Polish Institute in Bucharest, the British Embassy in Bucharest and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration (20 March 2014)

International conference on “The new penal legislation – an important stage in the development of the Romanian law”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad.

Andrei Rădulescu” of the Academy of Romania in partnership with the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, the Union of Jurists of Romania, and “Dreptul” Magazine (21 March 2014)

Forum on topics: “Water and energy, weather and climate – involvement of the youth for a sustainable future” and “Romania’s forests, whereto?”, organized on occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Forests (21 March), the World Water Day (22 March) and the World Meteorological Day (23 March) by the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences “Gheorghe Ionescu-Sisești”, the Ecological Initiative and Sustainable Development Group Foundation, and the National Administration for Meteorology (21 March 2014)

Regional Conference for Europe of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (PAF), organized by Parliament of Romania – Chamber of Deputies, with the participation of the parliamentary delegations of European States, in collaboration with PAF (21-24 March 2014)

Conference on “The European identity facing the economic crisis test”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration with the participation of Her Excellency Mrs. Kalliopi Avraam, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Romania (24 March 2014)

Debate on the Bill regarding babysitting organized in the framework of the common session of the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination of the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies and the Sub-Commission on Child Protection of the Commission for Labour and Social Protection in the Chamber of Deputies (31 March 2014)

Conference on “European identities. Literature and imagination”, organized by the Faculty of Public Administration, National School of Political and Administrative Studies in the framework of Project “Dialogues about European identities” (1 April 2014)

Meeting with Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Human

Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, on the status of persons with disabilities, child protection and the status of Roma persons, organized by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies (2 April 2014)

Debate by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies on adoption of the Bill regarding approval of Government Ordinance No. 1/2014 for amending and supplementing Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania and Government Ordinance No. 44/2004 on the social integration of foreigners who obtained a form of protection or the right to reside in Romania as well as the citizens of the Member States (2 April 2014)

Annual session of scientific dissertations on “Impact of the new Codes upon the Romanian juridical life”, organized by the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences of the Ecological University of Bucharest on occasion of its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary (3 April 2014)

Colloquium on “Management of bank crises. Insolvency and bankruptcy of crediting institutions”, organized by the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania (3-5 April 2014)

Conference on “Minorities and the European identity. The Macedonian Romanians”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration (7 April 2014)

Workshop on “Eurocepticism and Euro populism in the context of the European Parliament elections”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (9-11 April 2014)

Conference on “Issues related to the application of the new Criminal and Civil Codes”, Section I on “The Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. Difficulties of interpretation and application”, organized by Parliament of Romania, Commission for Legal Matters, Discipline and Immunities and the Commission on Legal Affairs, Appointments, Discipline, Immunities and Validations, the Ministry of Justice, the Association of Romanian Magistrates, FACIAS, the Romanian

National Union of Bar Associations and the Union of Jurists of Romania (14-15 April 2014)

Conference on “Modifications entered by the new Criminal Code and the new Criminal Procedure Code. Comparative law aspects”, organized by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (15-16 April 2014)

Roundtable on “Insertion of university graduates – a criterion of educational performance”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (17 April 2014)

Session of scientific dissertations on “Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court in the field of human rights”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” and International Institute for Human Rights (23 April 2014)

Exhibition entitled “Unchained talent. Justice gave them a chance. What about you?” exhibiting artistic creations of persons under surveillance, organized at the Palace of Justice by the Probation Service of Bucharest and the National Union of Probation Counsellors within Probation Services (28-29 April 2014)

Conference on “European culture of human rights, the right to education”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” and the International Institute for Human Rights \* (May 2014)

Second edition of the international conference of law, European studies and international relations on “The role of Europe in a polarized society”, organized by University “Titu Maiorescu” – Faculty of Law in partnership with ARDAE and Hamangiu Publishing House (9-10 May 2014)

Conference on “Decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights in the cases versus Romania. Analysis, consequences, potentially responsible authorities in the time period 1994-2010. Evolution of the domestic framework regarding abusively taken buildings and other possible systemic disfunctions”, organized by the European Legal Studies Centre of the Institute of Juridical Research of the Academy of Romania, University Publishing House, the “Romanian Judges Forum”

professional association and the European Magistrates for Human Rights Association (10 May 2014)

Session of the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies on the legislative initiatives regarding the child’s health book; amendment and supplementation of art. 11 of Law No. 21 of 1 March 1991 regarding the Romanian citizenship (13 May 2014)

Presentation of the Annual Report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the common session of the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies, the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Monitoring Observance of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Chamber of Deputies (14 May 2014)

Presentation of the Annual Report of the Government Agent for the European Court of Human Rights for the year 2013 in the framework of the common session of the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies, the Sub-Commission on Equality of Treatment and Non-Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Monitoring Observance of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Chamber of Deputies (14 May 2014)

Second edition of the national conference of experts in labour legislation organized by the National Union of Experts in Labour Legislation in partnership with the Ecological University of Bucharest and the Labour Law Association (16 May 2014)

8<sup>th</sup> international scientific conference on “CKS – Challenges of the knowledge Society”, organized by University “Nicolae Titulescu” of Bucharest in partnership with “Nicolae Titulescu” Foundation of Law and International Relations, University Complutense of Madrid and University Deusto of Bilbao (16-17 May 2014)

The Divine Liturgy for the beatification of martyr bishop Anton Durcovici, organized by the Diocese of Iași (17 May 2014)

Meeting of the Management Board of the

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (22-23 May 2014)

First edition of the national conference on “Solutions for the improvement of children’s health”, organized by “Politici de sănătate” Magazine in collaboration with the the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Issues and the Commission on Public Health in the Senate of Romania (27 May 2014)

International seminar on “European and Regional Convergence – Innovation in Labour Public Services”, organized by the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in partnership with the Academy of Romania – Institute of Economic Forecasting and the National Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection (27 May 2014)

International conference on “Trends in the banking system in the European national and international legislation”, organized by the Association of Legal Advisers in the Financial Banking System and the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania (27-31 May 2014)

Anniversary conference entitled “20 years since Romania ratified the European Convention on Human Rights”, organized by the Romanian Prosecutors Association and Parliament of Romania, Chamber of Deputies (29 May 2014)

National debate on “Climatic changes, environment and food security”, organized by the Academy of Romania on occasion of the World Environment Day (5 June 2014)

Annual Meeting of the World Federation of United Nations Associations with National Human Rights Institutions on “Development and implementation of a system of universal human rights – rights applicable to all: young and old, women and men, poor and rich, whatever or wherever we are”, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2-3 June 2014)

Third edition of the ACADEMOS international conference on “Governing for the future: sustainable development in a challenging world”, organized by the Faculty of Public

Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (5-7 June 2014)

Debate by the Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in the Chamber of Deputies regarding the Bill on ratification of Protocol No. 15 to the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (11 June 2014)

Conference on “Communication with the media”, organized by the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Law (11 June 2014)

Conference on “Ethics of being a judge”, organized by the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Law (16 June 2014)

68<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (16-20 June 2014)

Anniversary conference on “Romania and the European Convention on Human Rights – 20 years”, organized by Parliament of Romania, Chamber of Deputies in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (18 June 2014)

Training course on “Administration of the patrimony of public institutions”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (2-6 July 2014)

Release of the Special Report elaborated by the Advocate of the People institution on “Respecting the rights of children deprived of liberty in Romania”, achieved with the assistance of UNICEF Romania (3 July 2014)

Launch of the first structural Grant of the Faculty of Public Administration on “Curricular development and increase of the relevance of study programmes in public administration through innovative methods of blended learning and correlation with work pay”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (4 July 2014)

Debate on “Free circulation of Romanian workers within the territory of EU: realities and trends from economic, occupational and social points of view”, organized by the European Institute of Romania in the framework of research project entitled “Strategy Studies and Policies” (8 July 2014)

Training course on “Labour Code of 2014:



analyzing and implementing the latest legislative modifications”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (9-13 July 2014)

Debate on the draft order for approving the “Regulations concerning the accommodation centres for aliens taken in public custody”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (10 July 2014)

Third session of the Human Rights Committee, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva (14-18 July 2014)

19<sup>th</sup> Congress of Comparative Law, organized under the patronage of the Office of the President of Austria in collaboration with the Austrian National Committee of the International Academy of Comparative Law and the European University of Bratislava (20-26 July 2014)

Conference on “Romania and the international Criminal Court: between full implementation of the Rome Statute and ratification of the Kampala Amendments”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law and the Red Cross Romania National Society on occasion of International Criminal Justice Day (21 July 2014)

Briefing session in the framework of Programme “Creative Europe 2014-2020” Culture Sub-programme, organized by the European Commission, the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency in Brussels and Creative Europe Desk – Romania (1 September 2014)

International conference on “Global economy and governance GEG 2014”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in partnership with the Academy of Romania – Institute of Economic Forecasting, Wuhan University, National Taiwan University, Ming Chung University of China and with the assistance of Parliament of Romania – Chamber of Deputies, the National Bank of Romania and the Mayor’s Office in Bucharest (10-12 September 2014)

Roundtable on “Globalization challenges for the francophone area”, organized by the

National School of Political and Administrative Studies, with the participation of Mr. Clément Duhaime, Deputy Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (16 September 2014)

International seminar organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in partnership with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the National Academy of Poland (IFIS PAN) in the framework of the Project on “Doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships for young researchers in the fields of political science, administrative sciences, communication sciences and sociology” with the participation of Professor Josef Niznik, Director of the Scientific Board of IFIS (23 September 2014)

Annual conference of the European Institute, organized in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb (25-26 September 2014)

Conference on “The added value of professional services of translation and interpretation”, organized by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Translation), in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Interpreting and Translation Companies and the Association of Translators of Romania, to mark the European Day of Languages (26 September 2014)

Second edition of the international conference on “Strategica”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of management, in partnership with the National Bank of Romania (2-3 October 2014)

Workshop on “Rights of persons under long-term care”, organized by the Council of Europe, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (8 October 2014)

Training course on “Expert in labour legislation”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (16-19 October 2014)

Annual conference on “Building partnership in tackling cyber hate”, organized by the International Network Against Cyber Hate (20 October 2014)

Meeting of the Working Group on promotion and implementation of the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union and its Member States, organized by the European Ombudsman and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities of Belgium (21-22 October 2014)

Training course on “The management of document administration and archiving. Work procedures and electronic archiving”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group (23-26 October 2014)

Roundtable on “Cooperation between Romania and the United Nations system in Romania”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on occasion of the United Nations Day (24 October 2014)

Third annual conference on “The public administration in situations of crisis”, organized by the Centre of Public Law and Administrative Sciences of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Academic Society of Administrative Sciences and the Institute of Public Law and Administrative Sciences of Romania (24 October 2014)

Conference on “Administration of justice in the European Union area” inaugurating the annual cycle of conferences “European law dialogues between norms, jurisprudence, doctrine and relevant practice”, organized by the Romanian Society of European Law in partnership with Management Law Consulting (30 October 2014)

Roundtable on “Dynamics of the United Nations system of treaties in the field of human rights”, organized by the Research Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, University Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2) (10 November 2014)

Conference on “The Directive – law act of the European Union – and the Romanian judge”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” – Centre of European Legal Studies of the Academy of Romania and the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs (11 November 2014)

International conference on “National law between harmonization and euro-compatibility”,

organized by the Law and Public Administration Department of the Faculty of Economic, Juridical and Administrative Sciences, University “Petru Maior” of Târgu Mureş in partnership with the “Pro Iure” Association of Târgu Mureş, the University of Miskolc, Hungary, the University of Salento, Italy, the “Curentul Juridic” magazine, the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs and the Bar Association of Târgu Mureş (13-14 November 2014)

International conference on non-discrimination and equal opportunities – NEDES 2014 on “Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equal opportunities in contemporary society”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies and the National Council for Combating Discrimination (12-14 November 2014)

International conference on “After 25 years: the stories and the memories of communism”, organized by the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and Memory of the Romanian Exile and the Memoria Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Regional Francophone Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences (CeReFREA) (20-21 November 2014)

Conference launching Project “Competitive university education in the field of programme management”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in partnership with European Consulting Project in Bucharest and Roland Gareis Consulting in Vienna 21 November 2014)

7<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum on Minority Issues on “Preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities”, organized in Geneva by the United Nations Human Rights Council (25-26 November 2014)

Launch of Project “Testing and implementing the Council of Europe’s instrument for assessing compliance with the children’s right to participation in Romania”, achieved on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and

Adoption and financed by the Council of Europe (26 November 2014)

4<sup>th</sup> edition of the international conference on “Perspectives of business law in the third millennium”, organized by the Law Department of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and the Society of Juridical and Administrative Sciences (28-29 November 2014)

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of the United Nations Organization on business and human rights on “Advancing business and human rights globally: alignment, adherence and accountability”, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (1-3 December 2014)

Debate on “The impact of public policies upon violence against women”, organized by Centre FILIA, member of the Network for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women in collaboration with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (3 December 2014)

8<sup>th</sup> conference on “Fundamental rights and international taxation”, organized in Paris by the Constitutional Council (4 December 2014)

International conference on “The Constitution and the contemporary society”, organized by the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, Centre for Studies and Legal and

Socio-Administrative Research and the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs (5 December 2014)

Graphics exhibition on “DESCRIPTIO CANTEMIR”, organized under the aegis of the Alliance of Civilizations on initiative by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO and Alumnus Club for UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Interethnic Relations Department of the Government of Romania (10 December 2014)

Symposium organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Romanian Association of Humanitarian Law, Prahova Branch, followed by the release of the volume “Drepturile omului – o problemă mereu actuală”<sup>31</sup> and the book exhibition on “Knowing and applying the provisions of the international law of human rights” (10 December 2014)

Roundtable on “The confiscation procedure. Present challenges”, organized by Transparency International Romania and Transparency International Bulgaria (17 December 2014)

High level conference on “The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union: assessing and responding to training needs of legal practitioners and public officials”, organized in Brussels by the European Commission (17-18 December 2014)

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<sup>31</sup> Human rights – an always topical issue