

II. ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2012

Established under Law No. 9/1991 as an independent body with juridical personality, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) has made proof of the decisive role it has been playing to make the public bodies, the non-governmental organizations and the citizens become better acquainted with human rights issues, the way they are guaranteed and observed, both in our country and abroad, as well as to systematically inform international bodies and the public in other countries about the actual way human rights are applied and observed in Romania. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights performed its activities in order to fulfill the powers conferred by the law, as a national independent human rights institution, acting like an interface, like a solid bridge between the State's institutions and the civil society. While fastening its preoccupations on the actual realities of each period of time, each stage, the Institute has always been interested in organizing an adequate framework and adequate means for the implementation and actual observance of human rights, for better acquaintance with and increased awareness about them, both by the public authorities and by the citizens who are the beneficiaries of these rights and who are guaranteed full enjoyment thereof.

Bearing all these in mind, the Institute laid particular emphasis on the organization of programmes and partnerships capable to better meet the international and national requirements related to the promotion of the fundamental freedoms and human rights and the training of those categories of persons having responsibilities in the field of their protection.

Of particular importance for the Institute were the experience accumulated in time and the collaboration with the governmental and non-governmental bodies taking interest in the field of human rights with the purpose of accomplishing the tasks conferred by their constitutive laws. Starting from the particular importance of knowing human rights, in the year 2012, as always, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights performed such activities as training, dissemination of information, documentation, research and consultancy, its activity as a whole making a contribution to the training of persons working in

the public structures and institutions with powers in the promotion and protection of human rights, to the systematic information of the citizens about their rights guaranteed under the law or laid down in the international documents where Romania is a party. In this respect, in 2012 the Institute organized numerous scientific events, conferences, symposia, seminars or roundtables, debates, training courses, contests, exchanges of experience, etc. The Institute did researches, published and disseminated works in the field, and reports meant to provide better knowledge of the international standards, of the instruments and the mechanisms for the protection and the promotion of human rights adopted at international and regional level to which Romania is a party or adhered, with the purpose of making easier their rapid and correct implementation at domestic level, also in conformity with the provisions of art. 20 in the Constitution. In the elaboration of its Plan of Activities for the year 2012, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued to take into account the Paris Principles on Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions and Realization of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, the Declaration of Durban, the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights of Vienna, the Action Plan adopted by Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, Resolution 59/113 on United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education for the period 2005-2014 and the second phase thereof, the United Nations Millennium Objectives, the United Nations Objectives for the year 2015, Resolution 21/14 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council, Recommendations R(79) 16 and R(97) 14 and Resolution (97) 11 by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, the Annual Programme of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, as well as the main objectives established by the European Commission to be attained by the year 2020 through the "Europe 2020" Strategy, which have also become national objectives for every member country of the European Union (*employment, research and development/innovation, climate change and energy sustainability, education, and fighting*

poverty and social exclusion), the European strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015), and the European Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities (2010-2020).

In 2012, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was designated as an independent body to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 33 paragraph 2) in Romania, which is proof of the Institute's objectiveness as well as the importance the RIHR attaches to the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

On accomplishing its legal tasks of promoting and disseminating the regulations on human rights, the Institute entered new partnerships with a large variety of governmental institutions and bodies, non-governmental organizations, both domestically and internationally. Synthetically, the activities performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the year 2012 may be grouped into the following categories:

- Provision of better knowledge about human rights issues and the way these rights are guaranteed in the member countries of the United Nations Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the European Union;

- Information of the international institutions about the actual way human rights are promoted and guarantee in Romania;

- Research on important issues related to the promotion and the observance of human rights in our country and at international level;

- Organization and achievement of training and education programmes in the field of human rights in accordance with the latest methodologies;

- Publishing activities;

- Translation and publication of the international regulations, universal and regional, as well as the significant national ones, recent documents, studies and research in the field of human rights;

- Consultancy;

- Improvement of the activity of RIHR's Center of documentation.

I. RESEARCHES ON THE PROMOTION AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA AND AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Researches on the various aspects related to the promotion and observance of human rights is one key element of the activity performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. Dealing with this type of activity, provided by the law, the Institute had in view the Paris Principles¹ on Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions and Realization of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, the Programme of Action adopted by 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 adopted by Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, Resolution 59/113

by the United Nations, the Annual Programme of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, European Commission's "Europe 2020" Strategy, and also Recommendations R(79) 16 and R(97) 14 and Resolution (97) 11 by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, which points out that the research on and learning of human rights are adequate means for respecting human dignity and providing increased respect for human rights by knowing them better.

The topics dealt with in the studies, the researches and the articles achieved in the year 2012 included both general issues related to the history and the evolution of human rights at international and domestic levels and specialized fields related to the various generations of human rights. Thus, the researches dealt with both the rights of the first generation (the civil and political rights) and the second generation (the economic, social and cultural rights). There were also included topics dealing with the third generation of human rights, such as the right to peace, the right

¹ The fundamental principles established on the first international meeting of the National Institutions for the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights, which took place in Paris on 7-9 October 1991, known as the "Paris Principles". They were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly under its Resolution 48/134 on 20 December 1993.

to sustainable development or the right to a healthy environment.

Experience accumulated so far and the continuous professional training of the Institute's full time researchers and of its honorary collaborators – researchers, personalities of the academic life, young researchers – allowed for an approach to the latest issues in the field, by means of ample works, spanning over more than one year and achieved by teams of the Institute's researchers in partnership with honorary associate researchers in an effort to deepen the study, given the vastness and the importance of the topics. At the same time, there were researches devoted to specialized fields, usually accomplished by one single author. The results of these studies were either published in RIHR's quarterly “Drepturile Omului” or in the Institute's monthly publication “Info IRDO”, or in volumes, or in reports presented in the framework of scientific events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and/or various national and international bodies with which the Institute was collaborating. It is in this category that the great majority of the studies and researches achieved by or with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights fall.

The researches achieved in the year 2012 were based on the national legislation in the field of human rights and the international and the regional documents that had become an integral part of the domestic law as a result of their ratification by Romania. In this respect, the following documents referred to by the Institute's studies and researches should be mentioned: 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 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 Council of Europe 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), and others as well.

In terms of the topic dealt with, one may distinguish:

- a) researches dealing with a general thematic;
- b) researches devoted to the instruments and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights and their development in time;
- c) researches on the protection and promotion of human rights;
- d) researches dealing with fundamental freedoms and human rights of the three generations: civil and political rights; 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 will prove the diversity of the topics dealt with.

a) Researches dealing with a general thematic:

- Historical evolution of human rights;
- Science of human rights;
- The basic principles: universality and inalienability, interdependence, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination;
- The principle of non-discrimination: equal opportunities for men and women;
- Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equal opportunities in contemporary society;
- The conceptual relationship between the fundamental human rights and the citizen's rights;
- The parliamentary regime;
- The Constitutional Court as guarantor of the democratic functioning of society;
- the relationship between the right to good government, good governance and good administration;
- Issues related to the evolution of human rights and the public office in Romania and at the level of

the European Union;

- The role of jurisprudence in the unitary application of the law;
- Human rights and the efficiency of justice.

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

- The European Court of Human Rights. Prospects;
- Issues related to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights with regard to free access to justice;
- The international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the role of the national human rights institutions;
- The control mechanism for the execution of the decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights;
- The right to private property in the Romanian constitutional system and in the new Civil Code;
- Mechanisms for the protection of asylum seekers in Romania;
- Reflection of the fundamental international regulations in the field of human rights to be found in the new Civil Code;
- Admissibility limits of urgency ordinances;
- Protection of human rights through contentious and non-contentious means;
- Application of arts. 2 and 3 in the European Convention on Human Rights and the special situations issue;
- Equal opportunities for women and men: reference points and European legislative prospects;
- The role of European institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Reference points and juridical prospects in the regulation of cyber criminality;

c) researches on the protection and promotion of human rights:

- The new Civil Code and human rights;

- Promotion of human rights in the penitentiary system;
- Prospects of the international protection of human rights: a plan of action regarding the business and human rights;
- Evolution of the protection and promotion of human rights in light of the recent legislation in Romania;
- Evolution of the protection and promotion of human rights in light of the recent legislation in the European Union;
- Standards of religious freedom in the international documents and the Constitutions of European countries.

d) researches dealing with fundamental freedoms and human rights of the three generations: civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; the right to peace, the right to sustainable development and the right to a healthy environment:

- Social rights in the European Union;
- International regulations in the field of mental health and the protection of persons with mental diseases;
- The right to education of persons with disabilities;
- The right to sustainable development;
- The right to security – the main objective of defence and public order policies;
- Defining the social and the juridical conflict;
- The electoral rights;
- The beginnings of the modern electoral system in Romania;
- Observance of the economic, social and cultural rights in the new decade;
- Religious freedom;
- The relationship between the lay administration and the religious administration as reflected in the religious norms and in the public law;
- A theoretical substantiation of the right to happiness as a constitutional right – a constitutive element of the right to development.

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

The activities performed in the field of education and training-for-trainers (see **Appendix A**) was consonant with one of the main objectives laid down in the constitutive law of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights: *organization of training programs, particularly addressing those categories of persons having special responsibilities for the protection of human rights or to ensure awareness of human rights issues amongst large categories of the population.*

Bearing in mind UN Resolution 59/113 of 10 December 2004, which instituted the **World Programme for Human Rights Education** for the period 2005-2015, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights acted in compliance with the provisions of this Resolution paying particular attention in 2012 to an intensification and diversification of the activities conceived to further develop education. The purpose was to shape those attitudes and behaviours that are characteristic of the citizens in a democratic society while enhancing the interest and competencies of as many citizens as possible, from all socio-professional categories, both young and old, to participate in the public life.

With the intention to continuously adapt its activities to the newest requirements, the RIHR decided that its Programme of activities was to include and have in view, among other things, the following:

- promotion of human rights education;
- to make human rights education a national, regional and international priority;
- to train educators: members of the teaching staff in the university and the pre-university system;
- training-for-trainers in the field of human rights;
- training of those professional categories that are directly involved and have responsibilities with the promotion and defence of human rights and the rights of the child;
- to consolidate partnerships and cooperation with the institutions belonging to the Romanian educational system, as well as other institutions, and/or non-governmental organizations in various fields of activity;
- to monitor and assist the existing educational programmes in the field of human rights, so as to

highlight good practices and stimulate measures meant to continue, to improve and to further develop such programmes.

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

The target groups of the activities performed by the Training Compartment of the RIHR included persons working in such fields as education, research, public administration, the administration of justice, healthcare, as well as categories of persons with specific problems: women, children, pensioners, persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic, religious, and sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, etc.

RIHR's training activities were developed and performed on initiative by the RIHR, in collaboration with the Institute's partners, on request by central and local authorities or by various socio-professional groups. These activities consisted of:

- long-term training courses, accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports (MERYS);
- short-term training courses, so-called "contact" type training courses;
- activities meant to awaken certain social groups or categories of persons to the need to know and observe human rights;
- symposia, conferences, seminars, roundtables, debates, etc.;
- dissemination activities;
- presentation of volumes, scientific reviews, scientific works, information, popularization, published under the care of the Institute.

A number of important activities in the year 2012 were achieved together with partners from among non-governmental organizations taking particular interest in the field of human rights education, State institutions, as well as higher education institutions, religious cults, professional associations, etc.

The first educational and training activities to be mentioned are those scientific events characterized by continuity, which belong to the Institute's long-term programmes and have enjoyed widespread

echo, both nationally and internationally:

- *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 the courses in 2012);

- debates, training courses, roundtables, seminars, conferences, book releases, etc., organized in collaboration with other institutions and non-governmental organizations (see **Appendix A**);

- the 18th edition of the *International University of Human Rights* courses, 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 “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia. This year's logo, “Dignity and Justice for All of Us” included topics devoted to the international, regional and also national developments in the field of human rights, the legislative changes in Romania and the observance of human rights, strengthening of the authority and the credibility of justice. A reunion on “The role of national human rights institutions and their relationship with the international and the regional organizations” was also organized under the aegis of the International University of Human Rights. During the debates, the participants analyzed the need for national plans in the field of human rights and their harmonization with the agendas of the international and the regional institutions, as well as the importance of management programmes within national human rights institutions.

- the 19th edition of student national contests “*Olympics of civic education and civic culture*” and “*Democracy and tolerance*”;

- debates, symposia, colloquia devoted to the promotion of human rights in various fields (see **Appendix A**), etc.

1. Educating the younger generation in the spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, dignity, tolerance, and free exchange of opinions is an objective that for more than a decade has been the basis of a partnership between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, which gave birth to a

number of by now traditional activities: the national school contests “*Civic education and civic culture Olympics*” and “*Democracy and tolerance*”, continuous training courses for teachers and primary school teachers; colloquia, symposia and debates (see **Appendix A**) devoted to topics related to various aspects of the activity of human rights education and, last but not least, the *Didactic creativeness contest in the field of auxiliary materials to be used with human rights education* and a *National contest of literary creation and plastic creation for pupils in primary schools*.

2. National school contests

Following an initiative by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports included, beginning with the year 1994, disciplines *civic education* (grades III-IV) and *civic culture* (grades VII-VIII) respectively among those disciplines for which annual contests with phases up the national level are organized.

These contests, organized by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, also known as “Olympics”, are the result of the need for education meant to train and develop competencies of participation in the public life, social criticism and tolerance capacity.

a) The national Olympics of socio-humanistic sciences

The concept of fundamental freedoms and human rights comes from people's need and wish for a life where each individual's dignity and value should be respected and protected. It is in this spirit that the final phase of the Olympics of socio-humanist sciences was organized at Suceava by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, in April 2012. This is a contest of excellence for skilled students in the field of socio-humanist sciences, initiated as a result of the need for education in order to reach the status of citizens of a democratic society and develop competencies for participation in the public life, as well as social criticism and tolerance capacity.

As with the previous editions, in this year's edition the best papers achieved by the participating crews were awarded prizes by the Romanian

Institute for Human Rights.

b) 13th edition of the final phase of the national contest on “Democracy and Tolerance”

The contest, initiated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, is a complex form of civic education involving students in primary and secondary schools. There were three dimensions: theoretical, practical-applicative and artistic, the participants being organized into three-member teams, of which one member from the primary education system. Experience accumulated during the contest shows constant improvement of the quality of the papers presented, in all its three dimensions, as well as constantly increased interest in the thematic involved.

The contest, organized in Zalău, aimed at developing cooperation competencies at group level, while stimulating the preoccupation to become familiar with such concepts as: democracy, tolerance, human rights, rights of the child and the relationship between these, familiarization with the main national and international regulations in the field and last but not least practising democratic, tolerant attitudes and behaviours, the civic spirit and developing skills of getting involved in the life of the educational and the local communities to which the students belonged.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights awarded the winner teams of the three tests “Human Rights” special prizes and honourable mentions.

c) 6th edition of the National contest of didactic creativeness in the field of auxiliary materials devoted to human rights education, democracy and a culture of peace in the pre-university educational system

This contest is organized every two years by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and Teachers Training Centres from all over the country, and enjoys particular interest amongst teachers throughout Romania. It is also worth mentioning the increasing interest of certain Teachers Training Centres to become organizers of future editions of the contest.

The Institute's partners in the organization of the 6th edition of the contest were the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and the

Teachers Training Centre in Cluj. The exhibition organized in the frame of the contest included works from several counties, auxiliary materials meant to be used in various activities with the students, printed works, reviews, CDs, etc.

The organizers appreciated the presence of works belonging to teachers from such counties as Arad, Cluj, Botoşani, Caraş-Severin, Bacău, Dâmboviţa, Iaşi, Ilfov, Dolj, Satu Mare, Mureş, etc., as beneficial and constructive, in the spirit of human rights, democracy and a culture of peace, evident signs of a permanent preoccupation for the free expression of human rights.

Human rights education has a key role in any educational process. The role of teachers in this process is obvious. By their efforts and passion they assist their students to become responsible and active citizens, ready at any time 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 understand the issues involved by this phenomenon, acquire abilities and develop attitudes of respect for human dignity.

The winners were handed diplomas on behalf of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports as well as the catalogue of the works presented in the framework of the contest.

3. In the field of the continuous training of teachers who achieve human rights education. In 2012, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Teachers Training Centre in Bucharest, initiated a new training programme accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports (MERYS) entitled “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”. The project had been approved by the MERYS and the Bucharest School Inspectorate, while its target public were members of the teaching staff and the auxiliary teaching staff in the pre-university educational system.

The new programme was created on the numerous requests by the teachers.

The teachers' training will help them in the future assist the students in the process of becoming aware of and coming to know human rights and the rights of the child, as well as the national and the international legislation in the field. At the same time, the participants in the

programme analyzed the regulations in the field existing at national level and made interesting proposals for the improvement of the national legislation in consonance with the European standards.

4. Activities devoted to the administration of justice

Based on the partnership agreements concluded with the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Institute organized activities having as participants representatives of the courts of law, the prosecutor's offices and the bar associations in an effort to make human rights better known and to assist the citizens. Better knowledge of human rights is an essential condition for defending and exercising all citizens' rights. The Constitution and the domestic legislation consecrates such principles as: free access to justice, equality before the law, the right to a fair trial and to a reasonable period of time for having one's case solved, the right to defence, etc.

These rights can only be exercised if justice is impartial, effective, transparent and credible. Citizens should know and exercise these consecrated rights, which should be clear, accurate rules to be abided by. To this end the RIHR, which in 2006 released the Citizens' Rights Charter, continues disseminating it.

At the same time, it is worth reminding that the Institute organized activities devoted to the administration of justice, on which occasion it made available to all those interested specialized works coordinated by the RIHR, such as: *Proces echitabil. Jurisprudența comentată a Curții Europene a Drepturilor*²; *Eficiența și echitatea justiției. Standarde europene*³.

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., having relevance for the protection and the promotion of human

rights, such as:

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

- The right to happiness – a constitutive element of the right to sustainable development according to Resolution 65/309 by the UN General Assembly;

- 62 years since the adoption of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

- 47 years since the entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

- 67 years since the creation of the UNO;

- 57 years since Romania's access to the UNO;

- 37 years since the establishment of the OSCE;

- 2012 – The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. (Conferences, debates and lectures periodically organized at the Institute's headquarters on such topics as: solidarity between generations, transdisciplinarity and human rights, human rights – an evolving system)

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

The Chair functions based on an agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – Paris and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights alongside the North University of Baia Mare. It is a pilot centre of research, debate and training at post-university level. In 2012, a new series of students obtained the Master Degree in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance; this form of training assimilates the results of the national and the international research, keeping pace with the progresses and the developments in its specific field. It is worth mentioning that the Institute is the first and, to the best of our knowledge, so far the only national institution that coordinates a Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance in the partnership system of UNESCO programmes.

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

On accomplishing its mandate, the Institute took efforts to attract public institutions and non-governmental organizations by means of

² Fair trial. Commented jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

³ Effectiveness and fairness of justice. European standards.

programmes achieved in the framework of partnerships in the field of human rights. Such partnerships were concluded or renewed in 2012 as well, with significant results of the activities. It is worth reminding:

- International Symposium on “The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for all”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina, the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Iași, University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” of Iași – Institute for Continuing Education, the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and the Faculty of Catholic Theology, which reached its 15th edition. The participants in this important event made proposals for the improvement of the legislation related to education and the status of the cults in the present millennium, as well as religious freedoms.

- Symposium on “The State's legislation and the Canonical legislation in several European countries”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, University “Ovidius” of Constanța – Centre of Religious and Juridical-Canonical Studies and Researches of the Three Monotheistic Religions functioning within the Faculty of Theology, and the Institute of Religious, Cultural and Juridical-Canonical Studies of the Archdiocese of Tomis. The participants in the debates made proposals for the modification of the national legislation related to religious freedom and the status of the religious cults in our country in consonance with the regulations existing in some of the Members States of the European Union.

- International Conference on “Efficiency of the legal norms”, organized in the framework of the collaboration between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj-Napoca, the Faculty of Law, the Socio-Humanist Research Department of Institute of History “George Barițiu” of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, the Scientific Association of Intellectual Property Law, the Romanian Society of Authors and Publishers of Scientific Works, the Romanian Association of Criminal Sciences, and the Institute of Administrative Sciences of the Republic of Moldova.

- Conference on “Non-Discrimination – Autonomy – Inclusion”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Family

and Social Protection, Protection of Persons Directorate;

- International conference devoted to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities – NEDES 2012 on “Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in contemporary society”, organized in the framework of the research-development project on “Methods of promoting the principles of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in present society” by the RIHR in collaboration with the National Council for Combating Discrimination and Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest;

- International conference on “NATO and the global structure of security: the future of bilateral partnerships”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (NSPAS) with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, and the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Senate of Romania on occasion of the 10th anniversary of Romania's invitation to the North Atlantic Treaty and the debut of NSPAS programme “NATO Senior Executive Master”, devoted to the training of specialists in the Black Sea Extended Region for cooperation with NATO;

- Symposium on “The creative sacrifice myth”, organized in the framework of Project “Myth and legend in the Romanian area” by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with National College “Octav Enicescu” of Bucharest, national College “Vlaicu Vodă” of Curtea de Argeș, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO;

- Symposium on “The right of vulnerable youngsters to equality of opportunities”, organized by Association “Adolescența” in partnership with Enlightened Vision Association, Switzerland, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County School Inspectorate, the Prahova Teachers Training Centre, the Prahova Child Protection Directorate and the County Centre for Psycho-Pedagogic Assistance;

- International conference on “Education and creativeness for society based on knowledge”, 6th edition, organized by University “Titu Maiorescu” of Bucharest under the high scientific patronage of the Romanian Academy of Scientists;

- Debate on “Prevention and punishment of hate

motivated crimes”, organized by Association “ACCEPT” in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on occasion of Human Rights Day;

- Workshop on “Stereotypes and prejudices”, organized in the framework of Project “Youth in Action” financed by the European Commission through a collaboration between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Association for Intercultural Dialogue and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies;

- Closing of the first edition of the contest on “Nature has a soul” in the framework of educational partnership “Forest Day – Involving

Students with the Conservation of Nature”, a project achieved in collaboration by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Schools Nos. 117 and 176 of Bucharest, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Bucharest School Inspectorate and Hypermarket CORA;

- Debate devoted to the World Water Day and inauguration of the “European Club” of School No. 190 “Marcela Peneş” of Bucharest, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with School No. 190, Sector 4 School Inspectorate and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.

III. ORGANIZATION OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES DEVOTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS

The activity of organization of seminars, symposia or roundtables, alongside the Institute's other activities of research, education and information, make up a harmonious whole that approaches human rights issues while also pointing out the importance of their promotion and protection.

The reports and the studies made public on occasion of such events were the result of the research activity performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. Whether by activities organized in partnership or exchanges of experience, the opinions and the conclusions led to new topics of research, new methods to approach training and education in a spirit of respect for human rights.

The fact that organizations and bodies taking interest in the field of human rights invited the Institute to participate with studies, lectures, reports, etc., in some of the events they organized (see **Appendix B**) illustrates the appreciation enjoyed by the Institute both at national and international levels, a prestige gained through the rigour and the consistency the Institute has proved in its protection and promotion of human rights.

It is worth mentioning that quite often the Institute attracted as participants in the events and determined involvement in the organization of the events of numerous actors having tasks or taking interest in the field of human rights including representatives of Parliament, the Government, governmental and non-governmental bodies or international and regional organizations. Involving

these actors, with their contribution consisting of works, self-created materials, lectures, dissertations, or expertise and reports on behalf the institutions or the organizations they represented, the Institute tried to achieve better communication and closer collaboration in order to find and implement more efficient solutions of improving 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 national and foreign personalities taking interest in the field of human rights.

Equality of opportunities

Taking into account the provisions of the international and also the regional instruments, particularly those adopted by the European Union in relation to equality of opportunities, the year 2012 was characterized by an increased emphasis on the modification of the national legislation such as to comply with the commitments assumed by the Romanian State. In this respect, the Institute organized a series of events with the purpose of analyzing the draft of law on amending Law No. 202/2002 on equality of opportunities and treatment between men and women, while also comparing the national legislation to that of other Member States of the European Union.

Regarding the Government's policies in the field, the Institute organized meetings and roundtables debating the project on “Strategy for

the promotion of equality of opportunities and non-discrimination on the labour market for vulnerable groups”, released for public debate by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. The participants pointed out the solutions offered by the strategy for the elaboration of new public policies in the field, improvement of the existing ones related to promotion of equality of opportunities and non-discrimination on the labour market for disadvantaged groups. The participants in these events included representatives of the governmental institutions having tasks in the field, of non-governmental organizations such as the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the Romanian Association for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

It is also worth reminding the roundtable on “Equality of opportunities”, organized on occasion of the Anti-Discrimination Day in Romania by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia.

Mention should be made as well of the symposium on “The right of vulnerable youngsters to equality of opportunities”, organized by Association Adolescența in partnership with Enlightened Vision Association, Switzerland, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova School Inspectorate, the Prahova Teachers Training Centre, the Prahova Child Protection Directorate and the County Centre for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights was also very interested in promoting and popularizing amongst public institutions and natural persons the provisions of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. At the same time, through the events, the debates and the meetings organized together with representatives of the civil society, the Institute advocated for this document to be signed and ratified by our country. The discussions emphasized the importance of the regional document, the novelties and the amendments to be operated in the national legislation as a result of the ratification of the Convention, as well as the role of the national human rights institutions. Last but not least, the National Strategy for preventing and combating the phenomenon of domestic violence

for the period 2013-2017⁴ was analyzed for compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

Non-Discrimination

Under such circumstances as the present economic difficulties to be felt at national but also regional level, with strong negative effects upon certain categories of the population, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights has always pointed out the need for actual measures to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia. In this respect, in the year 2012, the RIHR maintained a permanent dialogue between governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations and particularly certain categories of persons, emphasizing the importance of strong institutions applying the anti-discrimination legislation.

The events, debates and roundtables organized by the Institute pointed out the important role of education in combating discrimination. In this respect, there were such events as the symposium on “Education for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance”, devoted to the objectives of the final phase of the Programme of the Human Rights Education Decade (2005-2014), achieved in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association Clubul de la Cheia.

On occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, the Institute organized a debate on “Education – a decisive element with the promotion of tolerance”. The event was achieved in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity. At the same time, on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the European Week of Action against Racism, the RIHR organized a roundtable on “Racism, xenophobia and intolerance – a big problem of mankind”, the participants including representatives of the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights.

An international conference on “Exercising the right to non-discrimination and equality of

⁴ Approved under Government Decision No. 1156/27 November 2012, published in the Official Gazette of Romania No. 819 of 6 December 2012.

opportunities in contemporary society” was organized in the framework of the research-development project “Methods of promoting the principles of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in the present-day society”. The event was organized by the Institute in collaboration with the National Council for Combating Discrimination and Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest. The debates included such topics as prohibition of discrimination in work relationships, discriminatory criteria in contemporary society, the principle of non-discrimination and the right to fair justice, etc.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association Clubul de la Cheia, the Romanian Independent League for the Human Rights to Culture and Health and Association “Family Forum” for the Promotion of Family Rights, organized a debate on “Social tolerance for persons infected with HIV” to mark the World AIDS Day.

Rights of the child

An important item on the Institute's agenda is the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child, considering the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and also the regional instruments on child adoption, on fighting trafficking in human beings, etc. In the year 2012, the Institute's activity in this respect referred to improvement of the legislation in the field, children's right to education, non-discrimination in relation to certain categories of children, etc.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a number of debates and roundtables including a debate on “The rights of the child in the Romanian legislation”, organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Family Forum”, and a roundtable on “Education on the rights of the child and the sanctioning of all forms of discrimination against children”, organized in partnership with Association Clubul de la Cheia.

At the same time, the events related to the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child were organized in partnership with Teachers Training Centres, pre-university educational institutions and higher education institutions from all over the country. In this respect, it is worth

mentioning a symposium on “Education on human rights and the rights of the child in the pre-university educational system”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Teachers Training Centre of Vaslui, the Vaslui County Library and the Library of Commune Albești, also organized events devoted to the International Children's Day.

The 22nd anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its ratification by Romania was an important moment marked by the RIHR through a number of reunions where the participants included representatives of the specialized parliamentary commissions, of the civil society and the governmental institutions with powers in the field as well as representatives of the academic world and experts.

The need to protect the rights of the child as well as identification of the problems faced by children with disabilities, child adoption and the protection of the rights of children in special institutions in the framework of the Foster programmes were topics debated in a seminar organized by the Council of Europe. The purpose of these meetings was to create a platform for work and dialogue between the representatives of public institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Access to justice

This year, the Institute's analyses and activities also included such topics as observation of the provisions of arts. 5 and 6 in the European Convention on Human Rights, reformation of the European Court of Human Rights by means of Protocol drafts Nos. 15 and 16, observation and implementation by the national institutions of the decisions pronounced by the Court of Strasbourg, improvement of the national legislation and the evolution of the Romanian jurisprudence in conformity with arts. 5 and 6 in the Convention, as well as observation of human rights in light of the new Codes – the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Code, alongside other major topics.

Among the important events organized by the Institute it is worth reminding the Conference on “Codification and the evolution of human rights”, organized with the participation of several members of the International Institute of Law of

French Expression and Inspiration, the Romanian Society of Comparative Law and the Ecological University of Bucharest.

Roundtable on “Socio-Juridical implications of the abolishment of death penalty”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations on the 21st anniversary of Romania's ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

International Conference on “The efficiency of juridical norms”, organized in collaboration with Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Law, the Socio-Humanist Research Department of Institute of History “George Barițiu” of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, the Scientific Association of Intellectual Property Law, etc. The essays presented in the framework of this scientific event dealt with public law and private law topics. The referred to the new Civil Code, the new Civil Procedure Code, the new Criminal Code, the new Criminal Procedure Code, the constitutional provisions in the field, comparative law, so that the idea of civilization, culture and efficiency through juridical norms become clearer. Human rights issues were analyzed in the context of the imperious character of public law norms and observance of the application of the decisions pronounced by the European Court of Human Rights.

International Conference on “European culture and human rights. The law and respect for the law in a state governed by the rule of law”, organized in collaboration with Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and the International Institute for Human Rights. The debates pointed out that human dignity represented the value foundation of all human rights, while it is consecrated as a principle of the rule of law both by the constitutional provisions and the other legal provisions. Respect for the law involves respect for one's fellow beings' dignity. In this context, the right to life, individual liberty, the right to privacy, to family and private life, access to culture as well as the social rights, etc., should develop within their natural parameters. In the framework of sections, the scientific dissertations started from the topicality of the new Civil Code and the new Civil Procedure Code, while analyzing various branches of law and their specific institutions. The topics included: issues related to the management

of the economic and the social fields; the majority-opposition relationship in a state based on the rule of law; the law as a fundamental guarantee of the effective and actual rights vs. the theoretic and illusory ones; natural persons' right to identity from theory to practice; acknowledgement of human values as the foundation of the promotion of human rights; defending human dignity; the fundamental human rights between personal interests and the general social interest; the respect of human dignity through respect for the law; the rule of law and the limitation of the subjective rights, etc.

The 18th edition of the International University of Human Rights on “Dignity and justice for all”, 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 Association Clubul de la Cheia, with the participation of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration. The reports and the studies presented during the sessions referred to the international and the regional regulations in the field as compared to the national ones. The debated particularly emphasized the role of the national human rights institutions.

At the same time, the promotion and the protection of human rights both by contentious and by non-contentious means was dealt with in studies, analyses and debates organized by the RIHR in collaboration with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies.

Also, the Institute participated in several conferences, roundtables and debates in the field. It is worth reminding in this respect the debate on “Mediation in criminal matters”, organized under the logo “Mediation – a viable alternative to the court of law” by the Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, and the debate on “The complex praeterintentional crime”, organized by the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy.

Conference devoted to the fundamental rights on “Justice in austerity: challenges and opportunities regarding access to justice”, organized under the high patronage of the President of European Parliament in collaboration with the European Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Legal Affairs Committee, the Presidency of the Council of the

European Union (held by Cyprus) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights is member of the juridical working group of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions. In this respect, it took active part in both the discussion topics devoted to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and the elaboration and presentation at national and regional level of the Group's proposals regarding draft Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 on interventions as third parties in the cases pending before the Court of Strasbourg.

Fighting trafficking in human beings

Starting from the Convention's provisions on repressing trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of the prostitution of fellow human beings as well as those on the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the RIHR made several analyses and researches, and organized debates with representatives of the specialized governmental institutions and representatives of the legislative as well.

During the events organized by the Institute, Council of Europe Report on the implementation in Romania of the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings as well as the need for a national strategy in the field were also debated upon. The RIHR met with representatives of non-governmental organizations from Romania and from abroad on the promotion of the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings by means of the national legislation. There were also debates on several proposals related to the activity of monitoring the institutions with powers in combating trafficking in human beings.

Freedom of expression

Taking into account the provisions of art. 10 in the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the national regulations in the field, in 2012 the Institute organized several debates meant to analyze the way the right to freedom of expression was observed in Romania. Thus, the following are worth reminding: roundtable on "Freedom of the media supports the transformation of society", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Romanian Association for the United Nations.

"The relationship between journalism and

human rights: identity, evolution and challenges in the 21st century" was the topic of the debates organized by the Institute with the participation of the Romanian Association for the United Nations and "Vasile Goldiș" West University, Branch Marghita. It is also worth reminding the debate on "Inclusion and the right to have one's voice heard in public", the logo proposed by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of Human Rights Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance. The topics debated upon during these reunions referred to freedom of expression and how this right was regulated at national level with reference to the jurisprudence in the field of the Court of Strasbourg.

At the same time, the Institute organized a series of training courses on "The media and the development of respect for the human being", achieved in collaboration with "Expert Activ Grup" from Onești on occasion of the World Press Freedom Day.

Electoral rights

Starting from art. 36 in the Constitution of Romania, which guarantees the right to vote, while the observance and the promotion of the electoral rights are essential for the rule of law, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights released once more its project "My first voting". Thus, the RIHR together with its collaborators organized several information and promotion campaigns in pre-university educational units from all over the country.

Times with both local and national elections, as was the year 2012, marked by intensive political debates, require increased interest in the promotion and the observance of the electoral rights. In this respect, the participants in the debates, conferences and events organized by the RIHR analyzed the way these rights were observed, the provisions of the national legislation in the field, observance of the right to vote for certain categories of persons in comparison with the international regulations ratified by Romania, for instance, the conditions created for persons with disabilities to exercise this right.

It is worth mentioning that the Institute participated in several debates organized by the civil society. To illustrate, we should mention the conference on "The reform of the electoral system

and the development of an electoral culture”, organized by the Centre for Academic Excellence in partnership with the Union of Jurists of Romania and the Association for the Implementation of Democracy.

Right to health

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a large number of activities devoted to right to health issues. In this respect, it is worth reminding the symposium on “Good health prolongs life”, organized on World Health Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young.

Symposium on “The right to a healthy environment”, organized to celebrate 25 years since adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Society of Comparative Law, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration and the Romanian Association for the United Nations.

Also the RIHR, in collaboration with the Association for the Blind, Bistrița Office, and the Bistrița Social Assistance Directorate, organized activities meant to inform, raise awareness and identify solutions for healthy ageing.

Religious freedom

As provided in art. 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights, “everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom...”. Achieving these rights, maintaining a dialogue among the acknowledged cults in Romania, a dialogue based on tolerance, solidarity and the values they share in common, as well as combating discourses instigating to religious hatred and discrimination, all are included in the agenda of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. In this respect, the RIHR organized numerous activities in the year 2012 of which the following are worth reminding: debate on “Conflicts between religious attitudes or beliefs and equality of gender”, organized at Piatra Neamț by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, with the participation of the Romanian

Association for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Romanian Independent League for Human Rights.

Symposium on “The State's legislation and the canonical legislation in some European countries”, organized by the Institute in collaboration with “Ovidius” University of Constanța – Centre of Religious and Juridical-Canonical Studies and Researches of the Three Monotheistic Religions functioning within the Faculty of Theology, and the Institute of Religious, Cultural and Juridical-Canonical Studies of the Archdiocese of Tomis. The participants in this event discussed comparatively aspects related to the juridical and the canonical fields in Romania, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, so that the event contributed to the re-assertion of the Romanian and the European juridical and canonical culture.

International symposium on “The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for all”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina, the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Iași, University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” of Iași – Institute for Continuing Education, the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and the Faculty of Catholic Theology. The 15th edition of the symposium was structured into three working sessions: *A culture of democracy and human rights*, *Religious concepts and human rights* and *The human rights to education, tolerance and religious freedom*. The participants were presented studies and reports dealing with topics of real interest to the present Romanian society, of which the following should be mentioned: the right to religion as viewed by the European Court of Human Rights, the human condition of persons deprived of liberty and the prevention of torture as viewed by the Church, the right to education and the issue of school abandonment, the importance of education in combating domestic violence, the place of religion and science in the man–health relationship, etc.

The Institute participated in a number of debates and meetings with experts in the field, organized under the patronage of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The participants in the debates

analyzed the various aspects related to the prohibition of incitement to national, racial and religious hatred.

Rights of persons with disabilities

Ever since it was created, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, paid particular attention to the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in its programmes, conferences and publications. Once Romania ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵, the Institute intensified its activity, maintaining a permanent dialogue with the civil society and the governmental institutions having powers in the field.

In the year 2012, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was designated as independent mechanism for promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in consonance with art. 33 paragraph 2 of the document. At the same time, the Institute concluded a partnership with the Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection (MLFSP), which provides for cooperation between the two institutions in the activity of promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

In the year 2012, the Institute had a number of meetings with members of the civil society, particularly representatives of the organizations for the rights of persons with disabilities, representatives of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the MLFSP, as well as university professors, in an effort to conceive indicators for measuring the implementation of the Convention in Romania. During the debates, both the Institute and the representatives of the civil society emphasized on the need to adopt a governmental plan of action for the implementation of the Convention in Romania.

Conference on “Non-Discrimination, Autonomy, Inclusion”, organized by the Institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection through its Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, on 23 October 2012. The event was part of the programme “Non-Discrimination, Autonomy, Inclusion – Mechanisms for the Implementation of

the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, a continuation of a project initiated by the RIHR more than 10 years ago. The objective of the Conference was to raise awareness about the role and the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the importance of art. 33 of the Convention and to elaborate the indicators. The participants in the debates pointed out the balance the Institute had been able and was required to further maintain in its relationship with the governmental institutions and the non-governmental organizations for the rights of persons with disabilities. Also, the Minister of Labour, Family and Social Protection pointed out that particular attention had to be paid to identifying the barriers that prevented persons with disabilities to participate in the community's life.

The participants in the Conference included representatives of the human rights and minorities commissions of the two Chambers of Parliament, as well as representatives of such institutions as the Advocate of the People, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the Federation of the National Organization of Disabled People in Romania, the Romanian Association for the Blind, the Romanian National Council on Disability, the Legal Resources Centre, etc.

The activity of promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities was also achieved through the publication of specialized volumes. Of these, it is worth mentioning the volume *Nediscriminarea, Autonomie, Incluziune. Instrumente privind drepturile persoanelor cu handicap și jurisprudență în materie*⁶, whose purpose was to promote both the international and the regional instruments and the cases referring to Romania brought before the ECtHR.

The Institute is member of the Group for the implementation of the Convention in the framework of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions in the United Nations system while, at the same time, it is the only institution in our country designated to participate in the working Forums organized annually by the European Commission on the implementation of art. 33 in the United Nations Convention.

⁵ Law No. 221/2010 for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, published in the Official Gazette of Romania No.

⁶ Non-Discrimination, Autonomy, Inclusion. Instruments for the rights of persons with disabilities and related jurisprudence.

Rights of aged persons

The society we are living in has to adapt itself to the needs of an aged population, while at the same time to fight the difficulties faced by other age groups in a permanent effort to ensure mutual support between generations. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights takes particular interest in the promotion and the observance of the rights of aged persons, while the activities organized in this respect in 2012 also took into account the fact that the European Union designated the year 2012 as the “European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations”. In order for these rights to be achieved, there is need for close cooperation, both at European and national levels, between the directly involved institutions and the civil society.

The RIHR's activities dealt with such topics as social rights, promotion of active ageing through work, promotion of solidarity between generations and dignity of all people by fighting poverty and social exclusion. In this context, the efficiency of present legislative regulations in the field was analyzed.

On occasion of celebrating the International Day of Older Persons and also the “European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations”, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized several events in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – North University of Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons and the Romanian Association for the United Nations. In their lectures, the participants referred to the evolution of the domestic legislation in comparison with the international standards in the field of human rights, and the continuous interest in the improvement of the protection mechanism for aged persons. In their contributions, the guests also dealt with such topics as independent life, active ageing on the labour market and participation of older persons in the social life.

The participants in the debates following the lectures delivered to them, while also referring to the present economic context, particularly emphasized on the need for stronger involvement of governmental institutions and NGOs with finding solutions to the actual problems of specific

social assistance that had to be offered to this category of persons, as well as certain economic measures so that old age be no longer felt as a handicap both because of the material and the social deprivation and the tendency to exclude aged persons from the community's life.

Also, the Institute organized debates with the purpose of analyzing the project on “National strategy for the prevention and combating of the domestic violence phenomenon”, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. The participants in these events were representatives of the MLFSP, the specialized parliamentary commissions, the academic world, as well as experts in the field and representatives of non-governmental organizations promoting the rights of aged persons.

The international mechanism of universal periodic review (UPR)

In its capacity as national human rights institution, the Institute participated in a number of working meetings together with representatives of the governmental institution designated to elaborate the country report, the various public institutions having powers in the field of human rights as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, in order to conceive the report on the status of human rights in our country. This report belongs to the 2nd cycle of international mechanism of universal periodic review (UPR).

At the same time, the role of the Institute as national human rights institution was also pointed out in the Report achieved by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The document evaluates the implementation of the provisions in such UN instruments 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 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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 of public bodies, non-governmental organizations and natural persons in terms of the observance, the protection and the guaranteeing of human rights by means of the domestic and the international legislation, institutions and mechanisms, practices and consuetude. It has the role to inform those who are interested about the latest research in the field of human rights, the international commitments assumed by Romania and the way they are fulfilled. The Institute provides the translation and the publication of those international documents which, by their topicality, have to be known by the governmental and the non-governmental institutions promoting and protecting human rights.

Periodic publications

A) Quarterly “Drepturile Omului” publishes reports, studies, research works, and articles. It is also concerned with texts of international or national regulations of major significance in the field of human rights, jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and/or the national courts, notes, comments or book reviews.

The thematic approached includes a scientific and diversified analysis of the fundamental human rights, with emphasis on the interdependence and interaction among them and the values, the principles, the norms and the standards referred to by both the institutions and the mechanisms and the terms, the concepts and the methodological and technological trends. In addition, there are reports on various events in the field of human rights, book reviews in the field of human rights, new publications of the Institute's and brief presentations of the activities organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights or in which it participated.

B) Info IRDO, a monthly information bulletin for the public at large, including briefly presented topical news about events related to human rights organized at domestic and international level, studies and scientific researches. It also presents various cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights and also before the Court of Justice of the European Union, in an attempt to meet the

present demands of the civil society, of institutions or students, etc. At the same time, it is worth mentioning the columns devoted to recently adopted international documents.

Researches and works published in 2012

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

• Nediscriminarea, Autonomie, Incluziune. Instrumente privind drepturile persoanelor cu handicap și jurisprudență în materie.⁷

The volume is conceived as a continuation of the work “Egalitate de șanse pentru persoane cu handicap, Instrumente internaționale și jurisprudență”⁸ (2004). It is meant to deal with the issue of disabilities in terms of human rights, social solidarity and social inclusion, in an effort to call public attention on the fact that persons with disabilities, with special needs, are entitled to be guaranteed the right to take full advantage of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, without any discrimination.

The work explains that originally the notion of handicap involved a social disadvantage. In time, the medical perspective came to prevail and thus it was defined as deficiency, invalidity, infirmity, difficulty, incapacity, disability, special need, malady, etc. In the view of the international literature, the medical interpretation of the notion of handicap does not involve human rights as well. In this respect, the work details the special protection of persons with disabilities – through the mechanisms of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union or the Romanian legislation – against social disadvantages and the social or professional limitations of the individual.

• Administrarea justiției și dreptul la o justiție echitabilă.⁹

The study consists in a complex analysis that refers to both the administration of justice and the

⁷ *Idem.*

⁸ Equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

International instruments and jurisprudence.

⁹ Administration of justice and the right to fair justice.

right to fair justice in terms of the Romanian law, the comparative law, and also the administrative science. It shows the malfunctions of the present judicial system in our country, the way a magistrate's career is administered by the Superior Council of Magistracy as well as the non-uniform approach of the career of the members of the specialized auxiliary personnel.

The right to a fair trial is approached as a sum of substantial and procedural rights, a right that is guaranteed by the conventional and the Community legal order and that governs the activity of the national and the European judges, while also being a constitutive element of the right to fair justice. In this respect, the study comes with interesting and useful proposals for *lege ferenda* meant to guarantee the right to fair justice at legislative level.

• **Dimensiunea spirituală a drepturilor omului. Administrația laică și administrația religioasă în relația dintre administrație și cetățean.**¹⁰

The researches try to identify the standards of religious freedom in Romania, after the moment the latter gained the status of full Member State of the European Union in comparison with the situation existing in other Member States of the European Union.

The essays make an important contribution to the development of the doctrine in the field, taking into account the continuous evolution of the social-political realities and the process of economic and cultural globalization. Based on the idea that the level of religious freedom in a society depends on the determination of the public administration to apply and organize the application of the law on the religious communities and the religious freedoms of citizens of different religions and religious denominations, the authors make a substantial analysis of all factors representing this process.

• **Promovarea și protecția drepturilor omului prin mijloace contencioase.**¹¹

The study presents the institutions of the electoral and the administrative contentious matters as compared to those in various other countries as

¹⁰ Spiritual dimension of human rights. The lay and the religious administration in the administration-citizen relationship.

¹¹ Promotion and protection of human rights by contentious means.

well as their role in the promotion and the protection of human rights. The innovating element of the work lies in the unitary and coherent, self-standing approach.

The instruments and the mechanisms for the protection of human rights are of a particular theoretical interest, but a practical one as well, for it is fulfilment of the rights and the duties of the authorities and of the public administration institutions that the optimal functioning of public administration and ultimately of the State as a whole depends on.

• **Evoluția instituției azilului în România în raport cu practica europeană în domeniul azilului.**¹²

The research deals with the evolution of asylum starting from the definition of the concept of asylum which, as shown in the work, is not directly defined by an international instrument. Observance of the right to asylum is also a guarantee for the observance of the other human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this respect, it is worth noticing that the right to asylum concept is correlated to that of protection of human rights, as well as the fact that the most important institutions taking interest in the field are analyzed.

The study points out the role of the public administration authorities for the integration of asylum seekers, while emphasizing on the need to strengthen the participation of non-governmental organizations in this process and also showing that presently their contribution is focused on cultural accommodation activities.

The analysis also includes the rights and the duties acknowledged to the asylum seekers who obtained a form of protection in our country. The study makes a complex analysis and depicts both the evolution of the asylum institution as well as the accommodation conditions in our country, in comparison to those provided by several Member States of the European Union, by making use of comparative law as well as administrative science working instruments.

• **Mijloace necontencioase de promovare și protejare a drepturilor omului – Ombudsmanul European.**¹³

Creation, development and optimization of

¹² Evolution of the asylum institution in Romania as compared to the European practice in the field of asylum.

¹³ Non-Contentious means for the promotion and the protection of human rights – The European Ombudsman.

some institutions for the protection and the promotion of human rights by non-contentious means is a guarantee for the democratic development of society and, obviously, the consolidation of the rule of law.

The research advocates the need to develop new powers for the institutions of Ombudsman type, such as to formulate the reversal on appeal or powers related the petition of unconstitutionality. The new elements introduced by the research refer to: specialized ombudsmen, approaching the Ombudsman institution by means of the teleological method, the specific nature of the acts issued by the Ombudsman institution, the role of the European Ombudsman in promoting and protecting human rights.

• **S'cool Agenda 2012-2013 (Romanian language version)**

The publication, elaborated in the Romanian language, with examples from Romania as well, and achieved as a result of the collaboration between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, is addressed to students of age group 12-18 with the purpose of raising their awareness about the fundamental rights.

The Agenda, created in an attractive and easy-to-use format, familiarize the students throughout a school year with such concepts and values as non-discrimination, the right to a healthy environment, equality between women and men, the European citizenship, while pointing out the key international

days in the fundamental rights calendar, with interesting data and information.

In addition, S'cool Agenda contains useful information on the fundamental rights such as: their definition, stories about the fundamental rights of some persons in the EU, advice on the promotion and the protection of human rights, a test to check the "temperature" of the observance of human rights in every student's school, suggestions on how to contribute to the fight against discrimination, questions that students may consider and discuss with their friends, links to programmes for the young that children and youngsters get involved with, useful information about the activity of the EU and of international organizations, international days commemorating various events related to human rights and much more.

Reports

- Annual Report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for the year 2012 (Romanian and English versions);

- The RIHR's Report on the evolution of the human rights legislation in Romania and in the European Union in the year 2012 (Romanian and English versions);

- Report on women's rights and the national human rights institutions (contribution to the OSCE Report);

- Participation in the elaboration of the country report on human rights, in the framework of the international mechanism of universal periodic review (UPR), second cycle.

V. THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

One of the tasks of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (created under Law No. 9/1991) is to maintain and operate an information centre / library, which should make available to users documentation in the field of law, human rights, the texts of international conventions and covenants, legal documents, studies, publications and bibliographic references.

The library book inventory is structured into more than 250 thematic fields. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights received a large number of publications in the form of donations from

international organizations, higher education units, NGOs as well as similar institutions and in the field. The Documentation Centre of the RIHR paid particular attention to its partnership and collaboration with libraries and specialized institutions from abroad. The studies, the researches and the works elaborated by the Institute can be accessed in five international languages, in over 38 libraries and specialized institutions in Europe as well as other parts of the world. In this respect, the RIHR's collaborators include: the Library of Congress of Washington

D.C. (USA), the Supreme Court of the United States, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, "Alexandrina Library" of Alexandria – Egypt, Library of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Library of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Library of Moldova University of European Studies, as well as a number of libraries from member countries of the European Union, such as: the Law Department of the European University Institute of Florence, Library of the University of Leicester, Library of the International Institute of French Expression and Inspiration, Library of the International Academy of Comparative Law, Library of the French Society of Comparative Law, Library of the Faculty of Law of the University of Strasbourg, Library of the Catholic University of Louvain, Library of the University of Potsdam, Library of the University of Padua, Library of the University of Luxemburg, National Library of Prague, National Library of Madrid, National Library of Vienna.

While a permanent preoccupation was to inform and document about the scientific activities performed by the Institute, the Documentation Centre sent free of charge the publications issued in the year 2012 under the patronage of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to all those interested in the country: the University Central Library, the National Library of Romania, the Romanian Academy, 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 Romanian Academy's Institute of Juridical Research, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National School of Clerks, the National Institute for Lawyers' Training, the University of Bucharest, "Alexandru Ion Cuza" University of Iași, "Ovidius" University of Constanța, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, the West University of Timișoara, "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, the North University of Baia Mare, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest, "Titu Maiorescu" University, Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir", the Ecological University, "Hyperion" University, the Romanian-American University, "Spiru Haret" University, "Simion Bărnuțiu" University, county libraries, etc.

The RIHR's publications were also requested by School Inspectorates, Teachers Training Centres, Mayor's Offices, Prefect's Offices, courts of law,

tribunals, the General Prosecutor's Office. The Documentation Centre promptly responded to all these requests. There also were international organizations and institutions that were interested in and received free of charge the publications issued in 2012 under the aegis of the RIHR: UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Social Charter Secretariat, the European Court of Justice, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the International Academy of Comparative Law, the Center for International and European Studies.

Throughout the year 2012, the RIHR Documentation Centre was visited by over 1500 readers including scientific researchers, representatives of the teaching staff, magistrates, lawyers, candidates for a doctoral degree, students, representatives of the civil society in Romania and from abroad, all interested in the scientific literature in the field of human rights or related fields. The book inventory was enriched through the acquisition of publications and by means of donations that support the comparative study of several disciplines in terms of human rights.

The RIHR's webpage, www.irdo.ro, hosts a virtual library including most publications issues under the Institute's aegis. The webpage, which has so far been accessed by over three million users, offers information on the Institute's publications, the activities performed by the RIHR as well as Romanian cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights.

The public relations activity

By its entire activity, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights gets involved with professionalism and responsibility with the promotion and the observance of human rights. As a result of its information and dissemination work regarding the activities it performs in the field of human rights, the RIHR was contacted in the year 2012 by various categories of persons who addressed the Institute with problems, requests and petitions, reporting violations of their human rights, and asked for advisory opinions on the procedures to be followed for redress.

Throughout the year 2012, the RIHR took action to clarify and advise for the correct solutions to the requests for specialized advisory opinions,

the memorials, the intimations and the telephone calls it received.

The complaints referred to such aspects as: implementation of court decisions and the resolution of the cases brought before courts of law within a reasonable and predictable period of time, observance of the right to property, putting in the possession of certain pieces of land, complaints related to the pollution of the environment or violation of the norms related to the right to a healthy environment, and also aspects related to violations of the labour legislation and the social rights. There were also petitions or complaints referring to the execution of custodial sentences, petitions related to the infringement of equality of opportunities, violation of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities or religious cults; complaints about the competent authorities' partial or total failure to ensure the exercise of certain pecuniary rights derived from the social protection legislation (the income support for various disadvantaged categories or persons, the recalculation of pensions, etc.).

Both the persons who came themselves to the headquarters of the RIHR and those who contacted us by phone or e-mail were offered advisory opinions, guidance and documentary materials. In approximately 70% of the cases of registered written petitions, the RIHR assisted the persons who had asked for its involvement by analyzing the case and guiding the petitioner towards a competent body or making a recommendation to the authorized institution.

As far as forwarding the petitions to the competent authorities, 61% of the above mentioned petitions were forwarded to the institutions and bodies authorized to solve the respective problem or petition.

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Commitment to human rights issues, responsibility and professionalism contributed to the continuously increasing prestige of the RIHR among beneficiaries and the domestic and foreign profile institutions.

As a result, a large number of domestic and international bodies invited the Romanian Institute for Human Rights or its representatives to join their working structures or their steering bodies. Here are a few examples: the RIHR is member of the Romanian National Bioethics Committee; member of the National Coordinating Committee of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In the year 2012, the RIHR functioned as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities, collaborating with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection and the NGOs in the field.

At the same time, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued its activity in the framework of various international structures. As international recognition of the efforts taken by the RIHR with the promotion and the protection of human rights, the Institute or its representatives were elected in various structures of international bodies, such as: member of the International Union of Family Organizations; member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions: in the framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; member of the Steering Committee of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration (IDEF); member of the European working groups for justice, implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for migration and education, which belong to the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. The RIHR's researchers are members of the working groups of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and some of them were designated as experts of UNESCO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the European Union, participating in this capacity as rapporteurs or moderators of sections at scientific events devoted to human rights. As far as the activity of human rights education performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, an international recognition is also the fact that the Institute was granted several international awards.

SELF-ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES OR COLLABORATIONS

Roundtable devoted to the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations on “Human rights at old age and active ageing”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Promotion of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (4 January 2012)

Debate on “Codification and the evolution of human rights”, organized with the participation of several members of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the Romanian Society of Comparative Law and the Ecological University of Bucharest (10 January 2012)

Symposium on “The 5th anniversary of Romania’s accession to the European Union”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (12 January 2012)

Roundtable on “Human rights in Romania”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, with the participation of members of the teaching staff in universities, candidates for a doctoral degree in law and administrative sciences, scientific researchers, representatives of human rights NGOs (17 January 2012)

Roundtable organized on occasion of the inauguration of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences (18-20 January 2012)

Conference on “The rights of persons with disabilities one year after ratification of the United Nations Convention by the European Union, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (19 January 2012)

Roundtable devoted to solidarity between generations, organized by the Romanian Institute

for Human Rights with the assistance of the Faculty of Law of the Ecological University of Bucharest and with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and “Nicolae Titulescu” University (24 January 2012)

Roundtable on “Socio-Juridical implications of the abolishment of death penalty”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations on the 21st anniversary of Romania’s ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (25 January 2012)

Symposium on “The Holocaust – a lesson of genocide”, organized on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day 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 the Rights of Older Persons (27 January 2012)

Debate on “Violence – a social scourge threatening the education and the development of young generations”, organized by the International Federation of Educative Communities – Bucharest together with its Offices in the counties of Teleorman and Vaslui and in partnership with the School Inspectorate of Bucharest, the Institute for Education Sciences, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, DGASPC Bucharest, Sectors 3, 4 and 5, the Research Institute for Quality of Life, the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University “Titu Maiorescu” – Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Association “Acces Europa”, the National Pedagogic Library “I. C. Petrescu” and the national review “Tribuna Învățământului” (2 February 2012)

Meetings with young voters from several high schools in Bucharest, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the Global Election Day (1-3 February 2012)

Symposium on “Education for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance”, devoted to the objectives of the final phase of the Programme of the Human Rights Education Decade (2005-2014), 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, Association Clubul de la Cheia and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” (3 February 2012)

Roundtable on “The right to peace and contemporary developments”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with teachers from the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Ecological University of Bucharest, with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (10 February 2012)

Publicity campaign against discrimination on “My language is humanity”, launched on occasion of the International Mother Language Day and organized by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (19 February 2012)

Roundtable on “The history of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (28 February 2012)

“Tolerance March Trinket”, an event organized by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, in the framework of the awareness raising campaign against discrimination (1 March 2012)

Debate on “The science of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Ecological University, University “Nicolae Titulescu”, University “Titu Maiorescu”, with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian

University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (6 March 2012)

Roundtable on “Contentious and non-contentious means for the promotion and the protection of human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Ecological University, University “Titu Maiorescu”, University “Spiru Haret”, University “Nicolae Titulescu” and with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (13 March 2012)

Debate on “Human rights in the United Nations system”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with Faculty of Law and Administration of the Ecological University and with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (20 March 2012)

Roundtable on “Racism, xenophobia and intolerance – a big problem of humanity”, 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 “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the European Week of Action against Racism (21 March 2012)

Events devoted to the World Water Day and inauguration of the “European Club” of School No. 190 “Marcela Peneş” of Bucharest, organized by School No. 190 in partnership with Sector 4 School Inspectorate, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO (22 March 2012)

International Conference on “Efficiency of the legal norms”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj-Napoca, the Faculty of Law, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Socio-Humanist Research Department of Institute of History “George Barițiu” of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, the Scientific Association of Intellectual Property Law, the Romanian Society of Authors and Publishers of Scientific Works, the Romanian

Association of Criminal Sciences, and the Institute of Administrative Sciences of the Republic of Moldova (22-24 March 2012)

Roundtable on “The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons and with the participation of members of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration (24 March 2012)

Roundtable on “Human rights in the framework of the Council of Europe”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Ecological University, with the participation of teachers and candidates for a doctoral degree from Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, University “Nicolae Titulescu” and University “Titu Maiorescu” (27 March 2012)

Final phase of the Olympics of socio-humanist sciences, organized at Gura Humorului, Suceava County, by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (4-6 April 2012)

International Conference on “European culture of human rights. The law and respect for the law in a state governed by the rule of law”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Faculty of Legal and Administrative Sciences, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the International Institute for Human Rights (5 April 2012)

Debate on “United Nations study for the year 2012 on the world’s population ageing and actions to be taken for a healthy and active ageing”, organized on occasion of World Health Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of North university, Baia Mare, and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (6 April 2012)

Symposium on “Good health prolongs life”, organized on World Health Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, Association

“Family Forum”, and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (6 April 2012)

Documentation and information exhibition on “Human rights and health – the right to healthy ageing”, organized on occasion of World Health Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association “Clubul de la Cheia”, with the participation of the Natural Sciences Museum of Măneciu, Prahova County (7 April 2012)

Activities meant to inform, raise awareness and identify solutions related to healthy ageing, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Association for the Blind, Bistrița Office, the Bistrița Social Assistance Directorate, and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (9 April 2012)

Closing of the first edition of the contest on “Nature has a soul” in the framework of educational partnership “Forest Day – Involving Students with the Conservation of Nature”, a project achieved in collaboration by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and Schools Nos. 117 and 176 of Bucharest, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Bucharest School Inspectorate and Hypermarket CORA (15 April 2012)

Roundtable on “Human dignity and social inclusion in Romania”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Faculty of Juridical Sciences at “Vasile Goldiș” West University of Arad (18-20 April 2012)

Colloquium on “Role of newly established European Authorities – actual topics for European financial-banking legislation”, organized by the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (20-21 April 2012)

Roundtable devoted to the 44th anniversary of the United Nations International Conference on Human Rights of Teheran, organized in Piatra Neamț by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Romanian Association for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Romanian Independent League for Human Rights (21-22 April 2012)

Debate on “Conflicts between attitudes based on religion or beliefs and gender equality”, organized in Piatra Neamț by the Romanian Institute for

Human Rights together with the Romanian Association for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Romanian Independent League for Human Rights (23 April 2012)

Debate on “Priorities with human rights education”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with “Petre Popescu” General School of Vânători, Mureș County (26-28 April 2012)

Roundtable on “Promoting the concepts of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in the academic world”, organized by the West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (27 April 2012)

Roundtable on “Freedom of the media supports the transformation of society”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Romanian Association for the United Nations (3 May 2012)

Training course on “The media and the development of respect for the human being”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Expert Activ Grup” from Onești on occasion of the World Press Freedom Day (3-5 May 2012)

Closure of the first edition of the educational partnership project on “Travelling across Europe – the free circulation of citizens within the European area”, a project achieved by Schools Nos. 117 and 164 in Bucharest in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and the Bucharest School Inspectorate (9 May 2012)

Roundtable on “The family in contemporary society”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences of the West University of Timișoara (9-11 May)

Inauguration of the human rights documentation centre and events devoted to the Romanian Family Day and the International Day of Families, organized by “Iolanda Balaș Soter” Sports High School of Buzău in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (15 May 2012)

Roundtable on “Values create the family, the family creates values”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” on occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Families

and the Romanian Family Day (15 May 2012)

Roundtable on “Rights of the family and the balance between work and private life”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” (15 May 2012)

Meeting for information, book dissemination and book exhibitions on “Every family has the right to work and to happiness”, organized on occasion of the International Day of Families in Cluj, Neamț and Craiova by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum”, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (15 May 2012)

Press conference organized on occasion of the closure of the project on “Empowerment Against Discrimination” in the framework of Programme “Youth in Action” by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and “George Topârceanu” Centre of Culture and Arts in Curtea de Argeș (25 May 2012)

Symposium on “The State’s legislation and the Canonical legislation in several European countries”, organized by University “Ovidius” of Constanța – Centre of Religious and Juridical-Canonical Studies and Researches of the Three Monotheistic Religions functioning within the Faculty of Theology, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, and the Institute of Religious, Cultural and Juridical-Canonical Studies of the Archdiocese of Tomis (24-27 May 2012)

Debate on “The rights of the child in the Romanian legislation”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and Association “Family Forum” (29-31 May 2012)

Debate on “A healthy life without smoking”, organized on occasion of the World No Tobacco Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and Association “Family Forum” (30 May 2012)

Roundtable on “Religious freedom and freedom

of conscience in relation to the teaching of religion in public schools”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in Piatra Neamț in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (30 May – 1 June 2012)

Roundtable on “Education on the rights of the child and the sanctioning of all forms of discrimination against children”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Association Clubul de la Cheia and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (31 May 2012)

Activities devoted to the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child, organized on occasion of the International Children’s Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Teachers Training Centre of Vaslui, the Vaslui County Library and the Library of Commune Albești (31 May - 1 June 2012)

Symposium on “The young of today, the family of tomorrow”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Geoagiu (31 May – 4 June 2012)

Symposium on “The green economy”, organized on occasion of 40 years since the United Nations established the World Environment Day by the Faculty of Juridical Sciences of “Vasile Goldiș” West University of Arad in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (2-5 June 2012)

Actions meant to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy environment organized on occasion of the World Environment Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Geoagiu (5 June 2012)

Debate on “The green economy: it includes you as well”, organized on occasion of the World Environment Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iași (5 June 2012)

Campaign on “Let’s travel together for a green planet”, organized by the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (19 June 2012)

Roundtable on “The national protection of

human rights and fundamental freedoms through non-jurisdictional means”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Cluj-Napoca and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (22-24 June)

Roundtable on “Educational resources in the context of the continuous training of the person”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights with the participation of “Vasile Goldiș” West University of Arad, Office of Baia Mare, and the North University of Baia Mare, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance (23-26 June)

Debate with representatives of the local authorities of Vaslui County on “Implementation of the European and the international human rights standards by the local public administration”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (28-29 June 2012)

Debate on “The relationship between journalism and human rights: identity, evolution and challenges in the 21st century”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association “Clubul de la Cheia” and “Vasile Goldiș” West University, Branch Marghita (30 June – 4 July 2012)

Debate on a project on “Strategy for the promotion of equality of opportunities and non-discrimination on the labour market for vulnerable groups”, released for public debate by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection on 18 June 2012, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (2 July 2012)

Roundtable on the draft of law amending Law No. 202/2002 on equality of opportunities and treatment between men and women, 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 Association “Clubul de la Cheia” and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” (6 July 2012)

Debate on “The world’s population – prospects and challenges”, organized on occasion of the World Population Day by the Romanian Association for the United Nations in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the

Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (11 July 2012)

Meeting with Mr. David Ekwueme, member of the Board of UNA Sweden (17 July 2012)

The national phase of the contest on “Democracy and tolerance”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Sălaj County School Inspectorate, with the participation of the Mayor’s Office of the Municipality of Zalău (23-26 July 2012)

Roundtable on “Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth”, the logo proposed by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of the International Youth Day in 2012, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (13 August 2012)

Consultation meeting on implementing in Romania and monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection – Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, the Institute for Public Policies, and the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Sector 1 (20 August 2012)

Debates and meetings devoted to the 22nd anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its ratification by Romania, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Family Forum” (27 August – 2 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Equality of opportunities”, organized on occasion of Non-Discrimination Day in Romania by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (31 August 2012)

Debate on “Literacy – a solution for poverty eradication and equality of opportunities”, organized on occasion of the International Literacy Day and ending of the UN Literacy Decade by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in

partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (6 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Democracy and human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations to celebrate fifteen years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy and five years since the United Nations General Assembly decided the International Day of Democracy to be celebrated every year on 15 September (13 September 2012)

Symposium on “The right to a healthy environment”, organized to celebrate 25 years since adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment and Romanian Association for the United Nations (17 September 2012)

Working meeting on the monitoring indicators for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and preparation of the Conference on “Non-Discrimination – Autonomy – Inclusion”, organized by the National Organization of Disabled People in Romania in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection – Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Institute for Public Policies, and the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Sector 1 (19 September 2012)

Debate on the project on “National Strategy for preventing and combating the phenomenon of domestic violence”, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection for public debate, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (24 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Multilingualism and intercultural understanding in the European Union”, organized on occasion of the European Day of Languages by the Romanian Association for the United Nations in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (27 September 2012)

Conference on “The right to know and to be informed”, organized on occasion of the International Right to Know Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (28 September 2012)

Debate on “Active ageing”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (28 September 2012)

National exhibition of didactic creativeness “EXPO 2012 – Cluj” of the 6th edition of the national contest of didactic creativeness in the field of auxiliary materials devoted to human rights education, democracy and a culture of peace in the pre-university educational system, organized by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, Directorate General ‘Management, human resources and school network’ and Directorate General ‘Education and lifelong learning’ in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Cluj Teachers Training Centre (4-6 October 2012)

Working meeting on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and elaboration of the country report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the National Organization of Disabled People in Romania in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection – Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Institute for Public Policies, and the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Sector 1 (5 October 2012)

Symposium on “Education as a human right and an important factor in shaping the young generation”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the World Teachers’ Day (5 October 2012)

Debate on “Decent work – an objective of the national and the European development strategy”, organized on occasion of the World Day for Decent Work by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (8 December 2012)

Roundtable on “Depression – a global crisis”,

organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association “Clubul de la Cheia”, the Romanian Independent League for the Human Rights to Culture and Health and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, on occasion of the 20th celebration of the World Mental Health Day (11 October 2012)

Symposium on “Eradication of poverty: a global priority”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2012)

Conference on “Non-Discrimination – Autonomy – Inclusion”, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Protection of Persons Directorate in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (23 October 2012)

Appraising the works exhibited at the national exhibition on didactic creativeness “EXPO 2012 – Cluj”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and the Cluj Teachers Training Centre (23 October 2012)

Roundtable on “My voice counts” the theme proposed by the United Nations Organization on occasion of Human Rights Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and “Association Clubul de la Cheia” (24 October 2012)

Events promoting human rights education and presentation of “S’cool Agenda”, a publication at its 5th edition released by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Commission Representation in Romania and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, organized by the Vaslui Teachers Training Centre and “Margareta Sterian” Arts High School of Buzău (26-28 October 2012)

Workshop on “Stereotypes and prejudices”, organized in the framework of Project “Youth in Action” organized by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (30 October 2012)

International Symposium on “The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for all”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Metropolitan Church

of Moldova and Bucovina, the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Iași, University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” of Iași – Institute for Continuing Education, the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and the Faculty of Catholic Theology (4-6 November 2012)

Roundtable on “62 years since the adoption of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca (8-10 November 2012)

Debate on “Non-discrimination and social inclusion”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum”, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University of Baia Mare, IDEF and Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, on occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism in the framework of the international campaign commemorating the victims of the “Crystal Night – 9 November 1938”, the day that marked the beginning of the Pogrom (9 November 2012)

Symposium on “The creative sacrifice myth”, organized in the framework of Project “Myth and legend in the Romanian area” by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with National College “Octav Enicescu” of Bucharest, national College “Vlaicu Vodă” of Curtea de Argeș, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO (10 November 2012)

Roundtable on “Education – a decisive element with the promotion of tolerance”, organized on occasion of the International Day for Tolerance by the Romanian Association for the United Nations in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Association “Clubul de la Cheia” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (16 November 2012)

Symposium on “Education on human rights and the rights of the child in the pre-university educational system”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian

Association for the United Nations on occasion of the Universal Children's Day, which is also the day when the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were adopted (20 November 2012)

International conference devoted to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities – NEDES 2012 on “Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in contemporary society”, organized in the framework of the research-development project on “Methods of promoting the principles of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in present society” by the National Council for Combating Discrimination and Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (21-23 November 2012)

Conference on “Transcendentalism and human rights”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance (25 November 2012)

Debate on “Social tolerance for persons infected with HIV”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association “Clubul de la Cheia”, the Romanian Independent League for the Human Rights to Culture and Health, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum”, a to mark the World AIDS Day (29 November 2012)

Inauguration of the events devoted to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with “Doors Open Day” and release of the volume entitled “Non-Discrimination. Autonomy. Inclusion”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (3 December 2012)

Roundtable on “Together for a better world for all”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” in the framework of the events devoted to the International Day of

Persons with Disabilities (3-4 December 2012)

Roundtable on “Eliminating the barriers to create an inclusive society accessible to all”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations in the framework of the events devoted to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (4 December 2012)

Roundtable on “Strategy for creating by the year 2020 a Europe without barriers for persons with disabilities”, organized in the framework of the events devoted to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 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, Association “Clubul de la Cheia”, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (4 December 2012)

Debate on “Inclusion and the right to participate in public life”, the logo proposed by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of Human Rights Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance (10 December 2012)

Inauguration of the exhibition entitled “Say NO to violence” exhibiting works by the Romanian cartoonists Sorin Postolache and Mihail Pînzaru-Pim, organized in Melbourne on occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the Embassy of Romania in Canberra in collaboration with Association Kingston for Human Rights with the assistance of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (10 December 2012)

Debate on “Promotion and protection of human rights from a universal and a European point of view”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” of Iași, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and Association “Clubul de la Cheia” (11-13 December 2012)

The 18th edition of the International University

of Human Rights on “Dignity and justice for all”, 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 Association Clubul de la Cheia “Victor Dan Zlătescu”, with the participation of IDEF (11-16 December 2012)

Symposium on “The right of vulnerable youngsters to equality of opportunities”, organized by Association “Adolescența” in partnership with Enlightened Vision Association, Switzerland, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County School Inspectorate, the Prahova Teachers Training Centre, the Prahova Child Protection Directorate and the County Centre for Psycho-Pedagogic Assistance (13 December 2012)

International conference on “The European culture of human rights. The right to happiness”, 3rd edition, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest in partnership with the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the International Institute for Human Rights and the Research Institute for Quality of Life (13-15 December)

Training course for members of the auxiliary teaching staff on “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”, accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and organized in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Teachers Training Centre of Bucharest (14-15 December 2012)

Educational activities disseminating information on human rights issues in general and on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in particular, emphasizing on the need to elaborate a plan for its implementation, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Teachers Training Centre of Vaslui (17-19 December 2012)

Debate on the educational programmes supporting human dignity and promoting the European standards related to freedom of religion and their implementation in the domestic legislation, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with University “Al. Ioan Cuza” of Iași (17-19 December 2012)

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS

Symposium on “Drug consumption and drug addiction. Anthropological, legal and medical-social considerations”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” in partnership with “Francisc Rainier” Institute of Anthropology (25 January 2012)

Debate on “The future of post-Mubarak Egypt”, organized by the Advanced Study Group in International Relations at the Centre for the Study of Political Ideas and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (28 January 2012)

Debate on “Subsidiarity in the European Union: sources, amendments under the Treaty of Lisbon and prospects”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” – European Law Study Centre in partnership with “The Romanian Judges Forum” professional association (1 February 2012)

Debate on “Europeanization – prospects and present research trends in social sciences”, organized by the Department of International Relations and European Integration, National School of Political and Administrative Studies (9 February 2012)

Conference on “Accountability of magistrates in the light of the latest developments at European and national level”, organized as part of the series “The culture of European law” by the European Law Study Centre of the Institute of Juridical Research at the Romanian Academy, “The Romanian Judges Forum” professional association, the European Magistrates’ Association on Human Rights and Editura Universitară¹⁴ (16 February 2012)

Release of the volume entitled “Țările române între Imperiul Otoman și Europa creștină”¹⁵ by Bogdan Murgescu, organized by Editura Polirom¹⁶ in partnership with Cărturești Verona Bookstore (22 February 2012)

Debate on “The Ombudsman institution: alternative justice?”, organized as part of the series “The culture of European law” by the Institute of

Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” – European Law Study Centre in partnership with “The Romanian Judges Forum” professional association (27 February 2012)

Conference on “Parental authority as regulated by the Civil Code of Quebec and the Romanian Civil Code. The jurisprudence of Quebec”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” (1 March 2012)

Release of the volume “Zid de pace, turnuri de frație. Deceniul deschiderii: 1962-1972”¹⁷ by Mircea Malița and Dinu C. Giurescu, organized by European Foundation “Titulescu”, the Black Sea European Foundation, and the Association for International Law and International Relations (2 March 2012)

Second edition of the conference on “First steps for managing a successful career. Principles and impact strategies”, organized by the Faculty of Management, National School of Political and Administrative Studies (7 March 2012)

Conference on “The philosophy of law and the practical status of the jurist”, organized by the Academic Centre of Excellence in partnership with the Union of Jurists of Romania (7 March 2012)

Debate on “Mediation in criminal cases”, organized under the logo “Mediation – a viable alternative to the court of law” by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Integration and European Affairs Master Degree together with the Mediation Master Degree (13 March 2012)

Final conference of project POSDRU on “Academic innovation and success on the labour market” substantiated by means of project “Digital school”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (14 March 2012)

Release of the volume “Managementul comunicării în situații de criză” by Ion Chicidean and George David, organized by the Centre for Research in Communication and Editura comunicare.ro¹⁸ (15 March 2012)

International conference on “Big-time criminality in the context of globalization”,

¹⁴ University Publishing House.

¹⁵ The Romanian Principalities between the Othman Empire and Christian Europe”.

¹⁶ Polirom Publishing House.

¹⁷ Peace wall, brotherhood towers. The détente decade: 1962-1972.

¹⁸ comunicare.ro Publishing House.

organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” in partnership with the Romanian Society of Forensic Sciences and Criminology (16 March 2012)

Release of the volume “Spațiul public. Gestionare și comunicare”¹⁹ by Prof. Dr Vasile Stănescu”, organized by the Romanian Academy (20 March 2012)

Scientific session on “Science and codification in Romania (1864-2009)”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” (30 March 2012)

Debate on “Mediation in school”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” – Integration and European Affairs Master Degree together with the Mediation Master Degree, the Romanian Professional Association of Mediators – Bucharest Office, and the Bucharest School Inspectorate (3 April 2012)

Debate on “Finances, the crisis and democracy”, organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, the Centre for the Study of Political Ideas and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (6 April 2012)

The annual meeting of Vienna devoted to cooperation and coordination of the activities of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights with those of national human rights institutions (18-20 April 2012)

Events organized in Brussels by the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe on “The relations between the United Nations and the European Union and promotion of human rights” (23-24 April 2012)

Release of the volume “Democrația constituțională – utopie și/sau realitate”²⁰ by Ioan Alexandru, organized at “Mihai Eminescu” Bookstor by Universul Juridic Publishing House (24 April 2012)

Seminar on the protection of the rights of the child in general and identification of the problems faced by children with disabilities, organized in Istanbul by the Council of Europe (25-27 April 2012)

Roundtable on “Le droit à la santé mentale dans le cadre des conflits armés, organized by the University of Strasbourg, Doctoral School of Law, Political Sciences and History, with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and University Ca’Foscari of Venice, Italy

(28 April 2012)

Conference on “The reform of the electoral system and development of an electoral culture”, organized by the Academic Centre of Excellence in partnership with the Union of Jurists of Romania and the Association for Implementing Democracy (3 May 2012)

National Forum on “Practising the implementation of the in-house managerial control”, organized by SC Expert Aktiv Group SRL in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Finance and the Ministry of Health (4 May 2012)

National conference of mediators, organized by the Mediation Council in collaboration with the Professional Association of Mediators “Uzamint”, the Association Craiova Mediation Centre and the Association Buzău Mediation Centre, on occasion of the National Mediator Day, an event that took place in the framework of the Romanian National Promotion Programme for Mediation (4 May 2013)

Debate on “Europe’s future. Integration o disintegration of the legal order of the European Union”, organized by the European Law Study Centre of the Institute of Juridical Research of the Romanian Academy (9 May 2012)

Debate on “The complex praeterintentional crime”, organized by the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy, Department of criminal law and criminal procedures “Vintilă Dongoroz” (28 May 2012)

Roundtable organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on occasion of the release of the Agency’s Five-Year Report (18 June 2012)

Debate on “The refugee dilemmas”, the logo of the online campaign launched by the United Nations Refugee Agency, organized by the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Refugee Day, an invitation to reflection on the problems refugees have to face (20 June 2012)

National symposium on “Legislative stability and predictability of the legal system”, devoted to the International Justice Day, organized by the Union of Jurists of Romania (28 June 2012)

Debate on “Crime in the new Criminal Code”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” (18 July 2012)

Release of the volume “Politica între proporționalism și majoritarism. Alegeri și sistem

¹⁹ The public area. Administration and communication.

²⁰ Constitutional democracy – fantasy and/or reality.

electoral în România postcomunistă”²¹ by Prof. Dr Alexandru Radu, organized by Cărturești Bookstore (27 July 2012)

The documentary film festival devoted to democracy and human rights on “Why democracy?”, organized at the Museum of the Romanian Peasant by British Council and Association “Pro Democrația” (3-8 August 2012)

Lecture on “The Arab Spring” delivered by Dr Abdul Salam Majali, member of Jordan’s Senate, organized by European Foundation “Titulescu” (22 August 2012)

The European Group of National Human Rights Institutions’ regional workshop on “Business and human rights”, organized by the German Institute for Human Rights (5-8 September 2012)

Lecture on “The social-political and diplomatic dimension of the activity of the great inventor Traian Vuia”, delivered by Ambassador Dr Radu Homescu on occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of the inventor, organized by the Association for International Law and International Relations and European Foundation “Titulescu” (20 September 2012)

Debate on “Juvenility with criminal implications”, organized by Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy, Department of criminal law and criminal procedures “Vintilă Dongoroz” (21 September 2012)

Workshop on “Public space. Public policies”, organized by the Centre for Research in Communication and the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, organized in the framework of the conference on “The diaspora in the scientific research and the higher education system in Romania” (26-27 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Involvement of NATO in peacekeeping operations. Institutional issues”, organized by University “Nicolae Titulescu” (27 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Relevance of the historical and political foresight of Mihail Kogălniceanu for the long-term development of Romania”, organized by European Foundation “Titulescu” on occasion of the 195th birth anniversary of the illustrious Romanian statesman and diplomat (27 September 2012)

Roundtable on “Promotion and protection of human rights through contentious means”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (28 September 2012)

Release of the volume entitled “Ideologii politice actuale. Semnificații, evoluții și impact”²², coordinated by Prof. Dr Mihaela Miroiu (2 October 2012)

Release of the volumes entitled “România care contează”²³ by Nicolae Badiu, and “Viitorul de ieri”²⁴ by Iulia Maria Badiu (3 October 2012)

The fourth Congress of the Francophone Association of National Human Rights Commissions devoted to the topic of “Human rights in places of detention” (4-6 October 2012)

Human rights experts’ conference on “The prohibition of incitement to national, racial and religious hatred”, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (4-5 October 2012)

Interactive dramatic play entitled “Houses on fire”, a project financed by the European Commission that promotes volunteerism and tolerance for discriminated minority groups, organized by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue (11 October 2012)

Debate on “Urgent measures for increasing the employment of persons with disabilities in light of the next Report under the Convention”, organized by the Institute for Public Policies and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (19 October 2012)

Meeting devoted to the United Nations Day, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (24 October 2012)

Working forum on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the European Commission (24-26 October 2012)

Release of the volume entitled “Noul Cod Civil. Studii și comentarii”²⁵, first volume, Book I and Book II (arts. 1-534), coordinated by Marilena Uliescu, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu”, Private Law Department “Traian Ionașcu” (25 October 2012)

Fifth meeting of the Working Group for the implementation of the United Nations Convention

²¹ Politics between proportionalism and majoritarianism. Elections and the electoral system in post-communist Romania.

²² Present political ideologies. Significance, developments and impact.

²³ The Romania that really matters”.

²⁴ Yesterday’s future.

²⁵ The new Civil Code. Studies and comments.

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, an event hosted by the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (25-26 October 2012)

Fifth annual conference on “The administration and the political power. Trends and developments in the European public area”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (26 October 2012)

Ceremony for awarding Mr. Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, the title of Doctor Honoris Causa, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Central University Library “Carol I” (31 October 2012)

Opening of a series of lectures on “Globalization, super-stateness – their impact on modern constitutionalism”, delivered by Prof. Dr Florin Bucur, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration (1 November 2012)

Debate on “Romania’s image in the European Union. Learned lessons?”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (7 November 2012)

International conference on “NATO and the global security structure: the future of bilateral partnerships”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defence and the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Senate on occasion of 10 years since Romania was invited to adhere to NATO and the debut of NSPAS programme “NATO Senior Executive master”, devoted to the training of specialists from the Extended Black Sea Region for cooperation with NATO (8-10 November 2012)

Conference on “The Superior Council of Magistracy – good practices and learned lessons”, organized by the National Union of Romanian Judges and “Friedrich Ebert” Foundation, in partnership with Association “Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés” (9-10 November 2012)

Seminar on “Building peace by means of human rights education”, organized by “Ius Primi Viri” and the European Parliament Information Office in Italy (11-13 November 2012)

Conference on “Wake up Europe: It's Time to Act! Creative approaches to tackle discrimination”,

organized by UNITED for Intercultural Action and United Against Racism, Finland (12-17 November 2012)

Fourth edition of the international conference on “Gerontological Social Work”, organized by the West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, Social Assistance Department (20-24 November 2012)

Interactive course on “La France: un village... une ville. Pratiques culturelles et manières de vivre ensemble”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Communication and Public relations (22 November 2012)

International conference on “Education and creativeness for a society based on knowledge”, sixth edition, organized under the high scientific patronage of the Academy of Romanian Scientists by University “Titu Maiorescu” of Bucharest (22-23 November 2012)

Release of the volume entitled “Structuri, mecanisme și instituții administrative în Uniunea Europeană”²⁶ by Mihaela Căraușanu, organized in the framework of the “Gaudeamus” book fair (23 November 2012)

Annual meeting of the Juridical Group of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions, organized by National Consultative Commission on Human Rights in France (25-27 November 2012)

Conference on “Training adults. Realities and challenges”, organized in the framework of project “Professionals in the system of professional training in Romania”, co-financed from the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007-2013 by the Institute for Training, Studies and Research PIMMJM together with Association “COLFASA” (27 November 2012)

Fourth edition of the theatre festival for detainees, organized at the “Nottara” Theatre in Bucharest by the National Administration of Penitentiaries (27-28 November 2012)

Painting and photography exhibitions, poetry, piano and violin recitals, organized on occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the

²⁶ Administrative structures, mechanisms and institutions in the European Union.

Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony (3 December 2012)

Conference on “Nicolas Mattescu-Matte – founder of aerospace law”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” (3 December 2012)

Debate on “Space in terms of the criminal law”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu”, Department public law “Vintilă Dongoroz” (4 December 2012)

Conference devoted to the fundamental rights on “Justice in austerity: challenges and opportunities in terms of access to justice”, organized under the high patronage of the European Parliament in collaboration with the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and the Committee on Legal Affairs by Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (6-7 December 2012)

Third international conference on “Human

rights education” devoted to the topic “Promotion of changes at times of transition or crisis”, organized by Jagiellonian University of Krakow (6-10 December 2012)

Debate on “Preventing and punishing hatred motivated crimes”, organized by Association ACCEPT in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on occasion of Human Rights Day (10 December 2012)

Debate on “Promotion of human rights in the penitentiary system”, organized by the National Administration of Penitentiaries in collaboration with the Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance of the University of Bucharest (10 December 2012)

Ceremony for awarding Prof. Dr Nicolae Manolescu, Romania's Ambassador to UNESCO, the title of Doctor Honoris Causa, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Central University Library “Carol I” (11 December 2012)