

# **Romanian Institute for Human Rights**

## **Annual Report – 2015**

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

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

Focusing its preoccupations on the actual realities of each time period, each stage, the Institute had permanently in mind the organization of an adequate framework and the creation of adequate means for the effective application and observance of human rights, for better familiarization with and awareness of these rights, both by public institutions and by natural persons, so much more so that Romania is a member country of the UNO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

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

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

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

When the Institute’s Programme of Activities for the year 2015 was developed, such documents were taken into account as the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and the protection of human rights, the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights – Vienna<sup>1</sup>, the Declaration of Durban, the Action Plan of the Council of Europe

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

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

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

The Institute’s capacity to elaborate adequate responses in the field of fundamental rights remains, just like in the case of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, a development area to be compensated by the need to plan research for the long term, a pertinent and opportune contribution to a policy based on attempts that should guarantee a fair balance between the response to emergencies and polarization a long-term research while analyzing the time-evolving trends.

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

RIHR intensified its activity in the field of asylum and migration, enhancing consultancy to decision makers at national and European level by supplying data, viewpoints, documentation and assistance to make sure the migrants’ fundamental rights are respected (the efforts for their integration has become a priority given the long-term impact of the migrant flood).

Fulfilling the tasks it has according to the law, that is to promote and disseminate human rights, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights concluded new partnerships and continued the old ones with various institutions and non-governmental organizations, at both national and international level.

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

CLARITY, or those regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, women, children, domestic violence, etc.); publishing activities; publishing legislation, documents, studies and research works in the field of human rights recently published at international and national level; improving the activity of the Institute's Documentation Centre; providing consultancy; organizing conferences, seminars, international symposia in collaboration with Parliament's commissions and universities.

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

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

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

The accumulated experience and the professional training of the Institute's researchers, as well as of its voluntary collaborators – researchers, personalities of the scientific community or young researchers – made it possible to approach recent issues in the field, through extensive papers, extending over more than one year and achieved by teams made up of in-house researchers who worked in partnership with associated voluntary researchers, which allowed for thorough studies dealing with vast, important topics. At the same time, there were research works devoted to specialized fields, usually achieved by one author. The results of these studies were made available

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

by publication in either the Institute's quarterly "Drepturile Omului", the monthly Info IRDO, in volumes or in extended reports, RIHR's publications or the publications of other well-known publishing houses, presented at the scientific events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and/or by various bodies at national and international level, from the academic community or from among non-governmental organizations, with which the Institute has been collaborating. The great majority of the studies and research works achieved in the framework or with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights fall into this category. Also, the researches were presented in the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the International University of Human Rights.

The researches achieved in the year 2015 were based on the national legislation in the field of human rights and the international and the regional documents that have become part of the domestic legislation as a result of their ratification by Romania. For the sake of illustration, we should mention: the Human Rights Charter, the United Nations Charter; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by Romania in 1974); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified by Romania in 1974); the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by Romania in 1993); the Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified by Romania in 1970); the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified by Romania in 1990); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (ratified by Romania in 1981); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by Romania in 1990); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified by Romania in 2011); the European Convention on Human Rights (ratified by Romania in 1994); the European Social Charter revised (ratified by Romania in 1999); the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ratified by Romania in 2006); the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified by Romania in 1994); the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ratified by Romania in 1995), as well as others.

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

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

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

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

- Promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania;
- Good governance and human rights;
- Issues related to the fundamental right to health;
- The person's right to take advantage of one's opportunities and legitimate hope;
- The family – responsibilities in the field of education;
- The right to health of persons with disabilities;
- Public administration in Romania and the role of the Legislative Council;
- Applied religion and the fundamental right to education;
- The defence of human rights in the context of international terrorism.

**b) Researches devoted to the instruments and mechanisms for the protection and the**

**promotion of human rights and their evolution in time:**

- Human rights in the administration of justice;
- Efficiency and independence of the judicial system: juridical criteria / institutional criteria;
- Immigration and integration of immigrants in present-day international context;
- Protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders in relation to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment;
- Jurisprudence of international courts in relation to human rights and the right to health.

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

- Promotion and protection of the fundamental rights in the European Union;
- Promotion and protection of human rights by the legislative authority;
- Forms of protection and promotion of human rights: mediation and the Ombudsman;
- Putting into execution the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights;
- Establishing the member State in charge with the examination of an application for international protection.

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

- Right of persons with disabilities to accessibility;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in the administration-citizen relationship, in terms of persons with handicaps;
  - Mediation and arbitrage – means of promoting and protecting human rights in the administration-citizen relationship;
  - Models for the organization of hospital services in European countries;
  - Responsibility for the violation of the right to a healthy environment in case of inadequate management of wastes;
- New sustainable development goals;
- Toward a new fundamental human right – the right to dignity.

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

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights education is focused on the human person as central value. This form of education is definitely necessary in a democratic society; it has to be a preoccupation of all citizens for it is not enough to consecrate principles and norms, these have to be understood and respected. Having rights also means having duties, to oneself, to the society to which one belongs, with no trace of intolerance, without discrimination and negative competition.

In the field of education and the training of trainers (see **Appendix A**) the Institute organized events devoted to one of the main objectives included in the Law on the establishment of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights: *organization of training programs, particularly addressing those categories of persons having special responsibilities for the protection of human rights or to ensure awareness of human rights issues amongst large categories of the population.*

Bearing in mind the main fields of action in the World Programme for Human Rights Education for the period 2005-2015, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights acted in compliance with the Programme's provisions focusing on the intensification and diversification of the activities devoted to education. The purpose was to develop such attitudes and behavioural habits that are characteristic of a democratic society and enhance the interest and competencies to participate in the

public life of an as large as possible number of citizens from all socio-professional categories, both young and old.

The action plan of the training of specialists department includes, among other things, the following:

- promotion of human rights education;
- assertion of human rights education as a national, regional and international priority;
- cultivation of preoccupations in the field of human rights and the rights of the child amongst young people and adults;
- training of trainers in the field of human rights;
- training of educators: teachers in the university and pre-university systems;
- training of members of certain professional categories who are directly involved and have duties with the promotion and the defence of human rights and the rights of the child;
- consolidation of the partnership and cooperation with institutions belonging to the educational system as well as non-governmental institutions and organizations in various fields;
- monitoring and assisting the existing educational programmes in the field of human rights to pinpoint good practices while stimulating measures meant to continue, improve and further develop these programmes.

The concept and the organization of the activities devoted to trainers' training and human rights education were based on the feedback received from representatives of the teachers' training centres and from teachers in schools and high schools.

The target groups of the activities performed by the training department of the RIHR included persons working in such fields as education, research, public administration, justice, healthcare, as well as persons belonging to special categories: women, children, pensioners, minorities, persons with disabilities, etc.

RIHR's training activities were conceived and organized on initiative of the Institute itself or various partners, on request of the central and local authorities or several socio-professional groups and consisted of:

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

The activities devoted to human rights education were aimed to prevent the violation of human rights by informing the citizens about their rights and duties, about the means they had to defend their rights and also by developing positive attitudes.

In 2015, these activities were achieved together with partners from non-governmental organizations mainly concerned with human rights education, professional associations, institutions belonging to the legislative, the executive or the judiciary, institutions representing the academic community, etc.

The first to be mentioned from among the research and training activities are the scientific events characterized by continuity, such as the courses of the International University of Human Rights, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, and the "Victor Dan Zlătescu" Club of Cheia, with the participation of the European Law Institute, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration. The year 2015 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of courses.

Also characterized by continuity were such training activities as: the 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 courses of the kind in Romania; national student contests such as "The Civic Education and

Civic Culture Olympics” and “Democracy and Tolerance”, both at their 21<sup>st</sup> edition in 2015; and also a large number of debates, training courses, roundtables, seminars, conferences, colloquia devoted to the promotion of human rights in various fields, book releases, etc., organized in collaboration with other institutions and non-governmental organizations (see **Appendix A**), etc.

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

## **2. National school contests**

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

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

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

The concept of fundamental freedoms and human rights originates in people’s need and desire for a life where everyone’s dignity and value should be respected and protected. In this respect, the final stage of the National Olympics on social human sciences was organized in April 2015 in Mangalia by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. This is an excellence contest addressing students with skills in the field of social human sciences, which responds to the need for education meant to shape the role and the status of citizens of a democratic society, to train and develop competencies for participation in the public life, a social critical spirit and tolerance capacity. The contest disciplines are: civic education, civic culture, logics, psychology, sociology, economy and philosophy. The students participating in the civic education contest are organized in teams made up of two students from the III or the IV grade, while those participating in the civic culture contest are organized in two-student teams as well, but the students are VII or VIII grade students of the same school. The Vice-President of the Civic Education and Civic Culture Sub-commission is the Head of the Training of Specialists Department of the RIHR.

As usual, at the 2015 edition the best papers achieved by the participating teams were awarded prizes and honourable mentions by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

### **b) The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the final stage of the “Democracy and Tolerance” National Contest**

The contest initiated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research is a complex form of civic education involving students in primary and secondary schools. The general objectives of the contest refer to assuming the role and the status of citizens in democratic society, training and developing a constructive civic spirit. In an explicit manner, the contest purposes are: familiarization with such concepts as democracy, tolerance, human rights, rights of the child; familiarization with the national and the international regulations referring to these concepts; give the students the opportunity to practise

democratic, tolerant attitudes, behaviour and a civic spirit; train and develop skills to participate in the educational community's life; nourish motivation for the promotion and the defence of human rights and the rights of the child. The contest was organized in three main dimensions: a theoretical dimension (consisting of written paper), a practical-applicative dimension (elaboration of a project meant to solve a problem of the school or the community to which the students belonged, the project having the form of a portfolio), and an artistic dimension (achievement of a plastic art work – drawing, graphics, painting, collage, sculpture, etc., illustrating how the problem presented in the project prepared for the practical-applicative test was solved), with teams made up of three students, one of which from a primary school grade. The experience accumulated with the contest reveals constant qualitative improvement of the materials presented, in all its three dimensions, as well as increased interest in the issues involved. The president of the “Democracy and Tolerance” National Contest Central Commission was the representative of the RIHR. Evaluation of the theoretical papers, the portfolios and the plastic art works was made by three separate sub-commissions made up of specialized teachers, while the president of the Central Commission was the Head of the Training of specialists department of the RIHR.

The contest, whose 2015 edition was organized in Deva, aimed to develop cooperation competencies at group level, while stimulating interest in the promotion and the observance of human rights. Once the results of the three contest tests were established, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights awarded the “Human Rights” special prizes and honourable mentions.

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

The contest is organized every two years by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and Teachers' Training Centres, and enjoys large popularity amongst teachers from all over the country. It is also worth mentioning the increased interest shown by some Teachers' Training Centres for organizing future editions of the contest.

Appreciating that the works exhibited at the latest exhibition, works belonging to teachers from such counties as Arad, Bacău, Bistrița-Năsăud, Botoșani, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Dâmbovița, Hunedoara, Mureș and Bucharest, as a benefic and constructive presence, in the spirit of education for human rights, democracy and a culture of peace, evident signs of a permanent preoccupation for the free expression of human rights, the Institute, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the Teachers' Training Centre in Cluj, initiated the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of this contest.

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

**d) The plastic creation contest for pupils in primary schools** was organized in the framework of the events devoted to “The European Action Week Against Racism” on “Is it only in the dark that we look the same?” in partnership with Foundation “Adolescența”, the Prahova Teachers' Training Centre and national College “Jean Monet”.

**3. As far as the continuous training of pre-university teachers achieving human rights education is concerned**, in the year 2015, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Teachers' Training Centre of Bucharest continued the training programme “Education for Human Rights and the Rights of the Child”, accredited by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. The target public of the Programme consisted of teachers and auxiliary personnel in the pre-university educational system.

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

#### ***4. Activities devoted to the presentation of the newest research in the field of human rights at national and international levels as well as new methodologies related to human rights education***

First of all it is worth mentioning the International University of Human Rights, which every year brings together human rights specialists and experts from Romania and from abroad. The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the International University of Human Rights on “The United Nations Organization at its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and with the participation of representatives of Parliament, the Legislative Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Secretariat-General of the Government, the academic community and non-governmental organizations such as the Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH), the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment. In the year 2015, the International University of Human Rights was held in the context of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Organization, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s adherence to the United Nations and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO – the scientific and cultural organization of the United Nations. It is in this framework that the evolution of the protection and promotion of human rights at European level, the role of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE, and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union were presented. A distinct session was devoted to FRA’s contribution to the promotion of human rights in the EU Member States and to the comparative law of human rights at 5 years since the passing of professor Roland Drago. Parallel sessions were devoted to the artisans of modern thinking in the field of human rights, in memory of professor Karel Vasak.

The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the University brought together experts, researchers, representatives of international organizations, representatives of governmental institutions, members of the academic teaching staff, magistrates, candidates for a PhD Degree and candidates for a Master’s Degree. The events also included a book exhibition displaying a large number of volumes, recently published by the RIHR.

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

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

- the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015);
- the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Romania’s ratification of the European Convention on the Defence of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- 49 years since the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights came into force;
- the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Organization;
- the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s accession to the United Nations Organization;
- the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act;
- 2015 – the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies.

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

The Chair functions based on an agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – Paris and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the North University of Baia Mare. It is a pilot centre of research, debate and training at post-university level. In the year 2015, a new class of students obtained their Master Degree in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance; this training form assimilates the results of national and international research, while keeping pace with the progress and the developments in its specific field. It should be mentioned that the Institute is the first national institution to coordinate, in the system of UNESCO partnership programmes, the activity of a Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance.

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

In fulfilling its mandate, the Institute took efforts to attract public institutions and non-governmental organizations by means of partnerships in the field of human rights. The year 2015 was no exception to this policy and so a number of partnerships were concluded or renewed, with remarkable results in terms of the activities performed. Of these, it is worth mentioning:

- Conference on “Paying homage to the victims of the Holocaust”, whose purpose was to convey a message about the importance of the promotion and the protection of human rights. The studies tried to point out the importance of human rights education in a democratic society, for it is through education that young people acquire the necessary knowledge helping them to understand how several elements may contribute to serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was emphasized that education could be and had to be a duty not only for governments but also for each and every individual in a society. It was showed that one essential obligation for all of us was to learn from the mistakes of the past in order not to repeat them in the future. Education allows young people to develop their necessary abilities to understand and evaluate the genocide potential and the effects could have in the present-day world. By evaluating the consequences of genocide and trying to understand how much could harm prejudices, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, or any judgement based on stereotypes, young people can re-evaluate their beliefs related to negative feelings and human behaviour. The event was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations;

- Conference on “Prosperity – a guarantor for equality of opportunities”, organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the Romanian Independent League for the Human Right to Health and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, representatives of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, PanEurope Swiss, the European Law Institute (ELI), whose steering council also includes the RIHR as a member, the Juridical Sciences Academy, in order to promote equality of opportunities based on respect for the fundamental rights. The event aimed to promote equality of opportunities as a common value of the European Union. In recent years, the European Union achieved significant progress with the promotion of equality of opportunities, by transposing the principle of equality of opportunities into its legislation and policies. Equality of opportunities refers to every person’s full participation in the economic and social life, without any distinction in terms of origin, religion, age, gender, disabilities. This event was meant to increase awareness about the right to equal treatment, promotion of equality of opportunities in the social life for both genders, the advantage of cultural diversity and gender differences, the development of society being based on such values as tolerance and equality;

- Symposium on “Social development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations with the participation of the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights –

Family Forum, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the French Society of Comparative Legislation, was an opportunity for the participants to discuss about the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the 2030 Agenda, eradication of poverty being considered an urgent challenge and a priority at world level. The participants also discussed about the national programmes and policies related to sustainable development and the environment, as well as the programmes, the policies and the strategies of the European Union. The importance of human rights was emphasized as a prerequisite for promoting the post-2015 framework and the 2030 Agenda, particularly focusing on such issues as inequalities and discrimination, violence on grounds of gender, with special attention given to marginalized persons and categories of vulnerable persons – young people, women, migrants, persons with disabilities;

- Conference on “My opportunities, my choices” was organized with the participation of teachers, students engaged in the process of obtaining a Master Degree or a PhD Degree, as well as the Ecologic University – Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, on occasion of 10 years since the establishment of the World Down Syndrome Day and 21 years since the establishment of the International Day of Families. The event was devoted to a correct understanding of human diversity, acceptance of the role those having the syndrome could have in society, elimination of the barriers these persons encounter in their efforts to participate as equal citizens in the social life, the family’s involvement and responsibility, the attitudes of the citizens of the respective community. The event was an opportunity to understand what type of education was recommendable for children with a Down syndrome diagnosis, taking into account that such children were affected on several areas of development. It was shown that such children were often isolated by society which made necessary a change of attitude at the level of society as a whole so that it might assist them and also that there was need for total involvement for the promotion of human values;

- Seminar on “The right to education in one’s mother tongue” was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, with the participation of members of the teaching staff of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecologic University, University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj Napoca and the Romanian Association for the United Nations. The seminar pointed out the importance of respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and of multilingualism as well. It was also shown that cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, promotion of education for all were essential targets with UNESCO activities;

- Conference on “Social inclusion and discrimination against the Roma in some European Union Member States”, organized in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, with the participation of University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj Napoca, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, was meant to familiarize young students and candidates for a Master Degree with the efforts taken by the European Union to combat discrimination and promote the principle of equality of opportunities. Most often human rights were violated at the cost of and against those who were different, that is, those who failed to comply with the statistic majority, which actually imposes the social norms. And so minorities were discriminated against, either based on the ethnic criterion, or on grounds of gender, religious or sexual orientation, or based on disabilities. In this respect, while compliance with the legal instruments for the protection of human rights was relatively easy to achieve at institutional level, things were much more difficult in terms of individual mentality where the change involves a long process. It was shown that young people had to understand that prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination could negatively affect their lives, easily transforming them into both victims and aggressors. The event was organized also as a result of a contemporary challenge consisting in the insufficient public awareness, particularly in the case of young people, about the

rights of minorities and the importance of informing the authorities about any case of discrimination;

- Conference on “Human rights in a united Europe – new prospects”, organized in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, with the participation of the Romanian Association for Social and Cultural Rights and the European Law Institute focused on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The latter became a binding document once the Treaty of Lisbon came into force, namely, 1 December 2009. The Preamble of the Charter lays down that “the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity; it is based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law. It places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing the citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice”. The Charter of Fundamental Rights lists the set of individual civil, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by the citizens and the residents of the European Union. It is based on the common constitutional traditions and international obligations of the Member States. At the same time, the participants debated on the new challenges the European Union had to face. It was shown that in recent years Europe had known several challenges and difficult situations: the economic crisis of Greece, the security issues in Ukraine and the conflict with Russia, the global threatening of terrorism down to the humanitarian crisis of the refugees and migration. It was pointed out that the European Union was facing one of its most strenuous and difficult periods, but nevertheless had the capacity to act as a global actor to find long-term solutions and put an end to these crises, to offer adequate responses to the problems it encountered;

- Conference on „Protection and promotion of the rights of the child in the national legislation” was organized in partnership with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and was devoted to the rights of the child, consecrated and guaranteed by the international and the domestic legislation. It was shown that these rights could be grouped into rights to protection against any form of physical or moral abuse, rights to development, closely related to the provision of the necessary services such as education and healthcare and every child’s access to them, and rights to participate and be consulted with regard to the decisions affecting them. Law No. 272/2004 and the entire legislative package adopted by Parliament of Romania as well as the strategies and the measures for the implementation of these legal provisions provide a complete coverage of these rights. At the same time Romania, in its capacity as a party in the Convention on the rights of the child and its additional protocols as well as a party in the regional treaties in the field, assimilated into its domestic legislation the principles and the norms assumed under its international commitments, while also having established a number of institutions with a wide panel of activities, programmes and campaigns;

- Symposium on “Victims of trafficking in persons in the present-day context”, organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity. A number of debates had drawn the attention of the civil society upon the escalation of this worrying phenomenon, which is a serious violation of human rights. Known as a constitutive element of the cross-border crime, regarded as a serious crime because of the social danger it represents in violating the fundamental rights and freedoms, human honour and dignity, the phenomenon involves a larger and larger number of persons, thus becoming an ever aggravating problem. Informing and raising awareness about this phenomenon and its effects on human dignity could make a valuable contribution to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings;

- The Conference on “Protection of the victims of physical and psychic violence” was organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights to promote a culture of non-violence, which can be best achieved through

education, for education means awareness. To combat physical and psychic violence and any other form of negative behaviour, one has to learn to respect the others, as it is respect for the fellow beings that is the basis of non-violence. Educating people such as to refuse violence could lead to really significant and important results, promotion of a culture of non-violence being the most important means to achieve peace;

- The Conference devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, organized in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities, the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities and the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, was an opportunity to point out the fundamental mission of the United Nations Organization of securing worldwide peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect of the international law. The United Nations Day marks ratification of the United Nations Charter, the founding document including the principles on the basis of which the organization is structured and functions;

- Conference on “Justice and administrative law in an interdisciplinary approach”, second edition, organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, University “Magna Graecia”, Department of Law, History, Economy and Society, Cantazaro, Italy, and University “Petru Maior” of Târgu Mureş, Faculty of Economy, Law and Administrative Sciences, a scientific event meant to provide the development of new directions of scientific research in the field of law and administrative sciences as well as to disseminate the results of the researches in order to make a contribution to the improvement of the governing action;

- Conference on “Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always”, organized on occasion of the Human Rights Day in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities and Parliament Commissions on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, can be considered the assertion of a constructive philosophy, a discussion about what relationship an individual should have with the society in which he/she lives. The essence of this anniversary reveals that we all share the same rights and also the same duties to one another. There is need for a global awareness about the fact people are entitled to decent life in dignity, and every individual’s duty is to make a contribution to a better world where human rights are respected. It is important to understand that the effective observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms depends not only on the legal framework and its application but also on human rights education;

- International Conference on “The European Culture of Human Rights – The Right to Happiness”, organized in partnership with University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the International Institute for Human Rights of University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and the Romanian Academy was organized in three sections: conceptual landmarks of the right to happiness – an interdisciplinary approach; the role and functions of law in shaping models of social behaviour; and economic development and social welfare – the relationship between the quality of life and happiness. The event also focused on the theoretic and philosophic foundation of the right to happiness, as a constitutional right; the culture of happiness in an unequal world; equality of opportunities; tolerance and social solidarity; social happiness as an effect of human solidarity; stimulation of the interest to get involved with the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in a society dedicated to respect every individual’s dignity and personality; development of the capacity to know and understand the role of law as regulating agent of human behaviour. The event was also an opportunity for young and adult persons to increase their awareness about the necessity to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- The Seminar on “The rights of older persons in nursing homes”, organized in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, is part of a project initiated by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions whose purpose is to identify at European level the standards applied to older persons.

The Seminar particularly emphasized the importance of social and medical research, based on older persons' increasing need for caring. The event focused, on the one hand, on identifying solutions to the highly increasing number of older persons who need caring and exercise an increasing pressure upon the healthcare systems, and on the other hand, on the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons. The latter should enjoy all human rights, be able to live in dignity and safely, have equal access to food, clothes, homes, assistance and medical-social and legal protection, that is, anything they need to keep their independence;

- The Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Association for Intercultural Dialogue participated in the "Theatre and Life" Project, whose purpose is to use the theatre as an instrument to train and inform any categories of persons, irrespective of age or training background. Using theatrical shows on topics related to complex social problems such as drug addiction, social marginalization, violence, discrimination, could be an important step forward in the individual evolution process in the context of social development. Irrespective of the geographical area and beyond the level the culture of democracy attained, discrimination is still making victims and wounds, and it is everybody's duty to stop these wrongs. In this respect, effective measures need to be taken in the field of education and culture in order to combat the prejudices that entail various forms of discrimination. It is also necessary to promote tolerance and friendship among groups and nations, to maintain the dialogue between persons of different race, ethnicity or origin. The project started by familiarization with the feelings, expectations and contributions of the students and even of the accompanying teachers and trainers. The students expressed their ideas with regard to the training thus providing the possibility to adapt the rules of the training to the needs of the trainees. The latter were encouraged to develop their abilities to communicate and establish relationships, in order to express possible communication and behaviour problems and eliminate adaptation difficulties within the group. Models to be followed were pointed out by including emotions in the conversations, sessions related to feelings, games and activities were planned to make the students receptive to their own emotions and to the emotions of others. The text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, considered to be the founding document in the field of human rights, was presented to the students so that they should understand the context and the importance of human rights instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The articles of the Declaration were commented while the trainers and the students analyzed together various instances of human rights violations and methods to promote and protect these rights and particularly how young people can get involved to solve such situations. The students were encouraged to form teams of four and go to achieve an interview to find what the citizens' level of information is in relation to the Declaration and the rights they are entitled to and also whether they know about cases of human rights violations. The project pointed out the need for all individuals to get involved with the promotion and protection of human rights with emphasis on the development of the ability to take up an attitude and get involved with the observance of human rights. In the framework of workgroups, the students discussed about the importance of living in a free, tolerant and just society where young people can actively participate in the social life contributing to the defence values, human rights and the rule of law. The students practised the exercise of certain rights and also the assuming of responsibilities. The students and the trainers analyzed together how important it was for young people to develop their capacity to interact with the surrounding world, to assume roles and responsibilities in the social life. The students learned and understood the importance of respecting the basic rules, the laws and the democratic institutions; they learned that they were acknowledged certain rights and freedoms but that each of them had duties as well. Prejudices and stereotypes were identified and the importance of human rights education was pointed out. The trainers encouraged the students to adopt a tolerant behaviour that should stimulate respect, understanding and cooperation. The students did exercises of analytic and synthetic thinking meant to act as a preventive agent of negative actions on behalf of the students, who were encouraged to exercise their capacity to accept and respect different points of view. They also exercised tolerant behavioural attitudes in relation to minorities and other categories of persons, and were presented examples of situations when certain groups of persons were discriminated against

on various grounds, including sexual orientation. The causes generating a language of hate and violence as well as the most vulnerable groups that could be affected by the language of hate were identified. The students did exercises focused on tolerance and intolerance to be able to establish the parameters within which one can take up an attitude against a language of hate. The event was an action meant to raise awareness about how important it was for young people to respect human rights and get involved with the promotion of these principles, a fact proved by the positive final results pointed out by the students, the accompanying teachers and the trainers alike. The activities performed in the framework of Project “Theatre and Life” were a combination between teaching and recreational activities, between the social comment and emotions, realism and fantasy, music and dance theatrical art and human rights education. When the training was concluded, means of action for young people to respect human rights were established. The trainees understood that it was important to participate in voluntary activities including those meant to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopt a tolerant behaviour toward groups of vulnerable persons, help the suffering, cooperate and join efforts to make “a better world”, integrate in a democratic society based on the rule of law, where rules and human rights are observed.

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

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

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

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

It is worth mentioning that the Institute has constantly attracted in the events it organized participation and involvement of a large number of actors in the field of human rights from Parliament, the Government, governmental and non-governmental bodies, or international and regional organizations. By getting these actors involved, making them contribute with works, documents, presentations, dissertations or expertise or reports on behalf of the institutions and the organizations they represented, the Institute endeavoured to achieve better communication and closer collaboration for finding and implementing more effective solutions to improve the status of human rights in Romania.

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

#### **Non-Discrimination**

The concept of diversity and creative power of diversity was at the foundation of the campaign organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of “The European Action Week Against Racism” (14-22 March 2015). Awareness raising events and debates were organized in schools and universities as well as in public institutions in Bucharest and in the country to convey a message of solidarity against racism and xenophobia.

RIHR particularly encouraged conveyance of the campaign messages amongst the youth for in its efforts to enhance the educational activities in the field of human rights it had always believed it was most important for the youth to be always well informed and involved with this type of activities.

When the campaign was concluded, the Institute organized a roundtable on “United for Diversity” in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM), the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance coordinated by the RIHR and the North University of Baia Mare, with the participation of members of the European Law Institute (ELI). The participants in the event discussed and analyzed in detail such issues as social inclusion, fighting against excessive nationalism, racism and xenophobia.

Also, it is worth mentioning the International Conference on Non-Discrimination and Equality of Opportunities – NEDES 2015, organized under the patronage of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest and with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. The event provided specialists in the field of human rights with the opportunity of analysing and discussing about the principles of non-discrimination and equality of opportunities and how they are observed in Romania and at international level. The debates focused on topics such as: forms of discrimination, direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment, victimization and ordered discrimination, extreme poverty in the context of globalization, the principle of solidarity in the European Union, multiple discrimination and methods to fight it, management of the best interest of a child whose parents left the country to work abroad, plea of the principle of non-discrimination in preliminary applications by courts in Romania, etc. The documents of the Conference were published in two volumes in Romanian and English.

On request by Parliament’s special commissions, the Institute contributed with viewpoints on several bills, of which mention should be made of the bill on promotion of human dignity and tolerance for group differences.<sup>3</sup> In this respect, RIHR referred to the international and the regional documents on human rights, dignity, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, etc.

### **Rights of the child**

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child is an important topic on the Institute’s agenda and this year’s activities were marked by the anniversary of 25 years since the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child came into force. In this respect, RIHR organized a number of events, debates and discussions both with representatives of the public institutions having tasks in the field and representatives of the academic community and non-governmental organizations. The meetings focused on such issues as improvement of the legislation in the field, the right to education, non-exploitation in labour, non-discrimination of certain categories of children (Roma, refugees, children with disabilities).

Mention should be made in this respect of the debate on the legal provisions establishing the conditions required for children’s remunerated activities in the cultural, artistic, advertising and modelling fields laid down in Government Decision 75/2015, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity. It is also worth mentioning the Conference on “Protection and promotion of the rights of the child in the national, regional and international legislation”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, Association “Salvați copiii” and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” on occasion of Children’s Day.

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<sup>3</sup> PL-x nr. 649/2015.

## **Access to justice**

In 2015, RIHR organized a number of conferences, seminars and debates on access to justice as a fundamental right. Of these, we should mention:

The fourth edition of the International Conference on “Effectiveness of legal norms – interpretation and application of the law” whose main topic was the interpretation and the application of the law. The event was organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Faculty of Law, Cluj Napoca, in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, History Institute “George Barițiu” of Cluj Napoca, a Department of the Academy of Romania, the Department of Socio-Human Research, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, the Institute of Administrative Sciences in the Moldova Republic, and devoted to the challenges of this decade. During the two days, the participants were presented topical issues related to the interpretation and the application of the law. It was pointed out that the magnitude and the multiplication of social activities demanded for legal norms everywhere in the world. Thus, issues related to the protection of data, international trade, environment issues, international military conflicts, family relationships, property of the fundamental human rights are legislated on various levels.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the annual Conference with international participation on “Justice and administrative law in an interdisciplinary approach”, organized in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Public Administration, University “Magna Graecia”, Cantazaro, Italy, and University “Petru Maior” of Târgu Mureș. It was a scientific event meant to provide the development of new directions of scientific research in the field of law and administrative sciences as well as to disseminate the results of the researches in order to make a contribution to the improvement of the governing action. The dissertations presented and the debates that followed referred to such issues as evaluation of the judicial capacity, the influence of human rights upon the law, migration and the law, challenges with monitoring and evaluation of public administration, globalization and sustainable development, as well as mediation, negotiation and management.

Conference on “Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always”, organized on occasion of the Human Rights Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities and the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities. The event was devoted to the evolution of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the international and the national contexts, and the topics debated upon dealt with such issues as the functioning of democratic institutions, efficiency and independence of the judiciary, new human rights and their protection by means of international mechanisms.

Project CLARITY. The Project, achieved by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, is an online interactive instrument whose purpose is to assist citizens to solve problems related to the fundamental human rights. At present, the instrument covers 14 Member States of the European Union<sup>4</sup> and is available in English. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights joined the Project as a partner, in an attempt to place Romania among the States promoting and implementing the observance of human rights.

CLARITY is meant to identify and offer information related to the non-judicial body that is most suitable to solve a certain fundamental rights problem, based on the idea that every State has specialized public bodies that can offer information or can assist in cases of violations of the fundamental rights.

The online instrument covers various fields of the fundamental rights, including non-discrimination. It is also intended to offer information about the type of application and the closest location to the petitioner’s home where the petition can be filed or from where a person whose fundamental rights have been violated can get assistance.

Project CLARITY promotes close collaboration with and the direct involvement of the Ombudsman, the national human rights institutions, equality bodies as well as other institutions and

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<sup>4</sup> Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain.

bodies that can assist citizens to have their fundamental rights observed.

Last but not least, it should be pointed out that RIHR, in its capacity as member of the juridical workgroup of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, took an active part both in the discussions on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and the promotion of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

### **Family**

RIHR is interested to promote and consolidate the policies assisting the family, as well as intensify its research activities to make a contribution to their theoretic foundation, the main elements consisting in combating and preventing poverty and social exclusion.

Of the activities devoted to the International Day of Families<sup>5</sup> mention should be made of the debate on “Opportunities and obstacles in achieving the objectives of the reconciliation of work and family life”, organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum”, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons, the National Council on Disability in Romania, which emphasized the importance of the family in the development of society. At the same time, the event was an opportunity to discuss in what way the family – the core of society – is affected by the social and the economic changes, and also to identify how this core could become an important driving force for the progress of the entire Romanian society. The Participants in the Conference also debated on the national programmes and policies in parallel with the European ones related to the reconciliation of work with family life and the promotion of the best practices in the field.

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

The protection and promotion of the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings is an important topic on the agenda of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. This year, the Institute continued its series of researches and debates with representatives of the specialized governmental institutions, the legislative and also the civil society. The selected topics referred to the regional and the national instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, the international and the regional reports on the rights of the victims, etc.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the meeting on “Victims of trafficking in human beings in present-day context”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, with the participation of the National Council on Disability in Romania.

We should also mention the Symposium on “National instruments to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings”, organized on occasion of the European Day on Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings 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, with the participation of members of the European Law Institute (ELI), the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and the “Victor Dan Zlătescu” Club of Cheia Association.

### **Asylum and migration**

The documents adopted at international, regional and national level guaranteeing the observance of human rights also provide for the protection of the rights of persons who leave their native country. The fundamental rights have to be acknowledged to all persons irrespective of their status:

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<sup>5</sup> 15 May was declared the International Day of Families by the General Assembly of the United Nations, under a resolution adopted in September 1993. On proposal by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, endorsed by the Romanian Patriarchate, 15 May also became the Romanian Family Day.

asylum applicants, refugees or migrants. In this respect RIHR, by means of its researches, the debates it organized and the viewpoints submitted to various parliamentary commissions, has always publicized the international and the regional legislation in the field and took efforts to determine their assimilation into the national legislation.

In the year 2015, on request by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights expressed viewpoints in relation to bills under consideration within the Commission, including those referring to asylum and migration, and also took part in the debates.

Thus, mention should be made of the Bill on approving Government Ordinance No. 22/2014 on amending and supplanting Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania,<sup>6</sup> the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU<sup>7</sup>, etc. RIHR appreciated that compliance of the domestic legislation with the obligations assumed by the Romanian State following adherence to the European Union's regulations was necessary, given the characteristic features and the trends of the phenomenon of migration and the profoundly humanitarian nature of the actions that needed to be taken to ensure the protection of the persons applying for international protection.

On invitation by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, on occasion of the working visit paid by a delegation of Parliament of Hessen Land, Germany, headed by its President, Mr. Norbert Kartmann, representatives of RIHR described the institutional system and the national legislation on the protection of refugees, as well as the Institute's activity in the field and the present-day challenges.

At the same time, the Institute organized a number of meetings and debates the participants including representatives of the public institutions with powers in the field, representatives of the parliamentary commissions and members of the civil society. To illustrate, let us mention the following: roundtable on "The domestic legislation on asylum and the way it is implemented", 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 World Refugee Day. It is also worth mentioning the debate on a project initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for amending and supplementing the Methodological Norms for the implementation of Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, approved by Government Decision No. 1251/2006, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, with the participation of the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association, the "Family Forum" Association, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights. The representatives of RIHR, in accordance with the specificity of their activity, made their contribution in the achievement of several regional projects and debates on the promotion and protection of the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, the rule of law and migration, the rights of unaccompanied juveniles, asylum seekers. RIHR is member of the working group on asylum and migration of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and member of the European Law Institute and of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration.

### **Right to healthcare**

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and the Infoeuropa Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the participation of representatives the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues and Commission on the Environment and Ecologic Balance, organized a debate on the "World Health Day – Right to Healthcare". The participants in the event were presented several dissertations on such topical issues as: ecologization and the fight against pollution – desiderata with the globalization of healthcare, healthcare

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<sup>6</sup> PL-X 59/2015..

<sup>7</sup> E-38/2015.

education, guaranteeing the child's right to healthcare in Romania, migrants' right to healthcare, etc. At the same time, the discussions pointed out the importance of reducing inequalities in the field of healthcare, increasing the effectiveness and quality as well as the need for balance between the financial resources and the healthcare services.

Also, on occasion of the World Water Day, RIHR organized a debate on "Clear water for a healthy world" where the participants analyzed the man-life relationship, the relationship between access to water and the health of a man's life, of a family, a community or a society as vital elements for the development of a nation. They pointed out the need for quantitative and qualitative protection of water as well as the role, the duties and the responsibilities of those having powers with the maintenance, exploitation and protection of water resources. The event was achieved in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM) and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association.

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

According to art. 33.2 in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the signatory States shall take into account the Paris Principles when designating or establishing a mechanism for the promotion, protection and monitoring of the way the Convention is implemented. This mechanism has the role to reflect a whole image of the situation of persons with disabilities at national level.

RIHR, in its capacity as independent institution, established under Law No. 9/1991, is the only national human rights institution in Romania acknowledged in the system of the United Nations Organization which complied with the Paris Principles regarding the status and functioning of national human rights institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.<sup>8</sup> It is worth reminding that the Paris Principles refer, among other things, to: an as large mandate as possible, based on the universal human rights standards and including the double responsibility of promoting and protecting human rights, while also covering all the rights; institutional independence from the Government, guaranteed by the law; adequate power of investigation; pluralism, including the structure of its staff and/or effective cooperation and adequate human and financial resources.

Thus, based on Law No. 221/2010 on ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and taking into account the provisions of art. 33.2 in the CRPD, alongside the existing institutional framework, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights concluded a Protocol with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and also with the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities.

In 2015, RIHR's activity, in the Institute's capacity as independent mechanism for promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention in compliance with art. 33.2 in the CRPD, focused on the achievement of researches and studies, periodic meetings with organizations of persons with disabilities or representatives of the civil society, in general, as well as experts in the field, formulation of viewpoints, on request by Parliament's special commissions, regarding bills having impact upon the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, and representatives of other public institutions or NGOs; publication of the annual report on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania, organization of debates, conferences, campaign meetings on the most important topics related to disability as well as regular consultations and exchange of information with other European national human rights institutions having a similar mandate.

The main topics approached during the year 2015 referred to disability viewed in terms of human rights, acknowledgement of the legal capacity, independent life and integration with the community, rights of women with disabilities, the right to work, etc. The Report on the evolution of the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania, alongside the other studies and researches elaborated by the Institute, reflects these issues.

RIHR organized several campaigns for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities of

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<sup>8</sup> The Principles were formulated in 1991 at the Conference devoted to national human rights institutions and became an official document of the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 (A/RES/48/134).

which we should mention: “Becoming aware of autism” Days on 1-3 April 2015, in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations. The purpose of the campaign was to draw attention on the importance of integrating persons with autism with society, on the respect and promotion of the rights of these persons and the need to remove all obstacles in order to have an inclusive society. At the same time, an important element of the campaign was the familiarization and the promotion of the Convention.

As far as the national strategy “A society without barriers for persons with disabilities 2015-2020” is concerned, it is worth mentioning that RIHR participated as observer in the meetings of the Inter-ministerial Council on analyzing the problems of persons with disabilities, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities on 21 April and 10 August 2015. The participants in the meetings presented and analyzed the draft National Strategy and Operational Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy. On the occasion, the representatives of RIHR pointed out that the new draft Strategy should reflect the commitments assumed by the Romanian State by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with emphasis on acknowledgement of the legal capacity, the right to education, independent life, access to healthcare services, and the right to work of persons with disabilities.

Also, RIHR organized debates and roundtables whose main topic was the draft National Strategy 2015-2020. The events were organized in collaboration with several partners in the academic community and also from non-governmental organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and were attended by members of the parliamentary commissions, representatives of public institutions, etc.

At the same time, the Institute participated in a series of roundtables and conferences of which we should mention the debate on “Dignity and mental health”, organized by the Titan Psychiatry Hospital “Dr Constantin Gorgos” on occasion of the World Mental Health Day. On the occasion, the representatives of RIHR pointed out the importance of approaching disability in terms of human rights. The need to acknowledge the legal capacity and adopt legislative measures for the introduction of an assisted decision-making system is imposing itself as a flexible protection measure providing the respect of the autonomy, the will and the preferences of persons with mental disabilities. The participants also discussed about the recommendations made by the UN Committee against Torture following an evaluation of the Committee’s country report elaborated in the spring of 2015. The recommendations referred to the need to provide effective supervision and monitoring of persons in psychiatry hospitals or healthcare institutions by judicial bodies, the respect of the rights of the patients, hospitalized voluntarily or non-voluntarily, the patient’s right to be informed about the applied treatment and the possibility to refuse the treatment or any other medical intervention, while non-voluntary hospitalizations should be subject to periodic re-evaluations.

On invitation by the National Council on Disability in Romania (CNDR), the Institute participated in the Conference on “An accessible Romania in a barrier-free Europe”, an event devoted to an evaluation of the CNDR campaign bearing the same name. In this context, the representatives of RIHR pointed out that those who develop public policies, programmes, standards and services in the field of disability should take into account the daily needs of persons with disabilities (related to healthcare and welfare, economic and social security, developing skills and live within the community) so that barriers preventing their participation should be removed paving the way for the implementation of two principles: “universal design” and “reasonable adaptation”.

It is also worth mentioning the debate on “Active partnership for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities, marked by the Institute by a roundtable attended by representatives of the academic community, researchers and practitioners, representatives of the civil society, was a notable event that pointed out the importance of consolidating and extending complex rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the field of healthcare, employment, education and social services, so that such services and programmes should start as early as possible and assist participation and integration of persons with

disabilities with the community in all fields of social activity.

An important element in the Institute's activity was participation in the meetings of Parliament's human rights commissions with viewpoints on the impact of various bills upon the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania. In this respect, we should mention the bill on the establishment of the mechanisms provided for by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>9</sup> where RIHR described the role of an independent mechanism for the promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and presented its activity in light of the provisions of art. 33.2 in the CRPD. As was necessary, the Institute also referred to the Country Report by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, who demanded the Romanian authorities to consolidate the independence, efficiency and effectiveness of the national structures devoted to human rights, the Advocate of the People, the National Council for Combating Discrimination and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, also by further clarifying the competencies of each of the above mentioned institutions and providing adequate human and financial resources so that they should be able to fulfil their mandates.<sup>10</sup>

In this respect, the Institute pointed out the need for a normative act to provide the effective operability of both the coordinating mechanism and the one monitoring the implementation of the Convention in the meaning of art. 33 of the document, as well as the importance of legislating the data collecting and reporting system, the consultation between the coordinating mechanism and the contact points, on the one hand, and on the other hand the importance of legislating the methods by which persons with disabilities and the organizations representing them are consulted, involved and allowed to fully participate both in the implementation and the monitoring process.

RIHR is member of the Group for the implementation of the Convention belonging to the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions in the United Nations system and, at the same time, the only institution in our country participating in the working Forums organized annually by the European Commission with regard to the implementation of art. 33 in the UN Convention. This year, the main topics for discussion at the meetings of the Working Group of national institutions on the CRPD referred to such aspects as implementation of art. 12 of the Convention, on equal recognition before the law, the development of indicators on monitoring the implementation of the Convention, the dialogue with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the elaboration of an alternative report on the implementation of the CRPD at the level of the European Union, the recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, etc. The participants in the meeting of the European Union Framework on the implementation of the Convention in the European Union with national human rights institutions discussed about the role of monitoring mechanisms in the UN Committee evaluation process. RIHR presented its Report and activity in the field on occasion of these meetings.

### **Rights of older persons**

The promotion and protection of the rights of older persons and long-term care is also a priority topic. The Institute participates, along with other five similar institutions in the European Union in the Project "Human Rights of Older Persons and Long-Term Care" (2015-2017), coordinated by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). The Project is an attempt to approach care of older persons in Europe in terms of human rights, to clarify the international and the regional standards applicable in the field and to make recommendations to the European decision-makers in order to optimize the protection of these persons, as well as enhance acknowledgement of the role of national human rights institutions in the field. This year, the Institute, in its capacity as member of both the Advisory Committee and the Pilot Group, participated in several meetings and discussions that focused on analyzing the international and the regional regulations for the promotion and protection of older persons, elaborating a methodology for monitoring the care centres.

At the same time, the Institute organized several meetings and debates with representatives of

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<sup>9</sup> PL-X 303/2015.

<sup>10</sup> See the Report elaborated by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, following his visit to Romania on 31 March – 4 April, paragraph 7.

central and local institutions in the field, with representatives of the civil society and the academic community. We should mention in this respect the seminar on “The human rights of older persons and long-term care”, organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (ARDOVT), the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM), with the participation of the Romanian Association for the Defence of the Rights of Older Persons, the Centre for Legal Resources and APADOR-CH.

### **The business and human rights**

The research performed by RIHR in the field were continued in 2015, the topic being of both regional European and national interest. The analyses and the debates organized by the Institute were based on the most important international documents: The United Nations Guiding Principles, the European Union Strategy on Corporate Social Responsibility, the Action Plan of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, etc.

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

### **70 years since the creation of the United Nations Organization**

The year 2015 was marked by two jubilee moments: the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s joining the world organization. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights devoted to these events a number of studies, researches, reunions and debates, organized throughout the year. The topics referred to both the evolution and the importance of the United Nations since its creation down to the present day, and the contribution of our country to the efforts taken by the United Nations. At the same time, there were topics referring to such issues of interest as the rights of refugees, the rights of persons with disabilities, the increasing role of national human rights institutions in the activity of the United Nations, the Agenda for Sustainable Development and its action plan. The participants also analyzed the way the Romanian State implements the recommendations made by the various UN human rights mechanisms, with direct reference to the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council,<sup>11</sup> as a result of an analysis of the country report<sup>12</sup> on occasion of the second evaluation cycle – UPR of 2013, the recommendations of the UN Economic, Social and Cultural Council,<sup>13</sup> as well as the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture.<sup>14</sup>

The events organized by RIHR in this context include the Conference on “70 years since the creation of the United Nations”, in collaboration with the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities, the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities and the Romanian Association for the United Nations.

The event focused on important moments in the activity of the United Nations in the field of

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<sup>11</sup> See UN Human Rights Council Decision A/HRC/23/5 and the Report of the Working Group on UPR – Romania, A/HRC/23/5, paragraph 109.

<sup>12</sup> Report on Romania’s compliance with the provisions of the main UN instruments, such as: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>13</sup> Recommendations of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights following the evaluation of the country report (E/C.12/2014/SR.70).

<sup>14</sup> See the Observations of the UN Committee against Torture following the evaluation of the second country report ) CAT/C/ROU/CO/2).

international law and the promotion and protection of human rights; it is worth mentioning the important contribution of the Romanian Association for the United Nations, member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, an independent non-governmental organization created in 1946, the only international NGO whose purpose is to support UNO and its system and which enjoys consultative status with ECOSOC.

The Conference dealt with such topics as: creation of UNO; UNO's objectives, principles and structures; the establishment of the international justice; UNO's representative bodies, the specialized institutions and the cooperation bodies in the economic, technical, scientific, social and cultural fields; the Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the Romanian initiatives at UNO; UNO's initiative: Alliance of Civilizations; the fundamental human rights; the human person's dignity and value; equality of rights between men and women; new instruments and mechanisms in the field of human rights – the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; challenges of the millennium: migration.

The participants included members of Parliament, parliamentary counsellors and experts, magistrates, lawyers representing various ministries, representatives of the academic community, non-governmental organizations, the media, the International Academy of Comparative Law, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the European Law Institute, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

On the occasion, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights exhibited volumes edited by the Institute devoted to the protection and promotion of human rights in the United Nations system.

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

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

##### **Periodic publications**

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

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

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

### **Researches and volumes published in 2015**

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

**Evoluția protecției și promovării drepturilor persoanelor cu dizabilități în România.\*** The report is part of an ample project run by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in its capacity as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in compliance with art.33.2 of the Convention.

The project, which includes other researches with the same topic, is intended to depict the way the rights of persons with disabilities are observed in Romania, making an objective analysis of the way the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are reflected in the domestic legislation and also how these are observed, as comes out from the investigations made by the Institute itself or by NGOs, and from the data made available by certain institutions.<sup>15</sup>

On the one hand, the work reflects the legislative modifications introduced in the year 2015 and, on the other hand, points out several aspects that should be paid increased attention by the decision-making actors.

### **Medierea și arbitrajul – mijloace de promovare și protecție a drepturilor omului în relația administrație-cetățean.\*\***

Mediation, as a relatively new institution at both European and national level, alongside arbitration, is a bridge between the non-contentious and the institutionalized means of solving a conflict, are here viewed in terms of the citizen-administration relationship. It is a topical field and a bold yet effective solution, largely debated upon in the political, economic and social communities, in an attempt to establish the legal framework in this respect.

Mediation and arbitration as means of promoting and protecting human rights are closely related to institutional efficiency and the increase of transparency in the relationship between the administration and the citizens. The research was based, on the one hand, on an analysis of the specialized Romanian and foreign literature and of the international legislation, and also that of European bodies referring to the use of alternative methods with the resolution of conflicts, while on the other hand, it has an applicative component consisting in an analysis of the reports on the authorities' activity with regard to arbitration and mediation in the administrative relationships.

### **Protecția și promovarea drepturilor omului în relația administrație-cetățean, din perspectiva persoanelor cu dizabilități\*\*\***

Starting with a historical presentation of the development of the issues related to the rights of persons with disabilities, viewed in terms of these persons, and the rest of society as well, the work defines the notions used in the field and explains the synonymy between handicap and disability, which has been used for some time lately, out of the need to eliminate any possible negative connotation.

The study includes an analysis of the instruments and the mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, in general, and particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, at

\* Evolution of the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania.

<sup>15</sup> RIHR's reports were promoted both at international level, at the United Nations, and the regional European level, at the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe.

\*\* Mediation and arbitration as means of promoting and protecting human rights in the administration-citizen relationship.

\*\*\* Protection and promotion of human rights in the administration-citizen relationship viewed in terms of persons with disabilities.

universal level in the United Nations system, and at regional European level in the framework of the Council of Europe and the European Union. It also presents the systems protecting the rights of persons with disabilities instituted in two European States – Great Britain and Denmark – countries that belong to two different legal systems, that is, the Anglo-Saxon system and the Roman-Germanic one.

With regard to Romania, the adoption and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities marks a profound change with the existing approaches to disability in our country. Thus, the commitments assumed by Romania compel the institutions to modify the domestic regulations, create specialized institutions, provide adequate training to those involved in the field, and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the elaboration of policies. All these contribute to the reduction of serious violations of human rights that could entail a resolution in court, all the more so that practice in Romania is not unitary.

The study presents the most important cases in the European jurisprudence with regard to the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities. At the same time, the research was accompanied by polls, so that the picture of the situation in Romania in the field be always a real one. For the sake of illustration, let us just mention the study entitled “Study on the participation of persons with handicaps in the public decision-making process”.

### **Forme ale protecției și promovării drepturilor omului: medierea și Ombudsmanul\***

In the context of the extensive measures of protecting the citizen against any form of abuse on behalf of the central and the local administration, both the institution of mediation and that of the Ombudsman are closely related to the institutional efficiency and increased transparency with regard to the promotion and the protection of human rights in the relationship between the citizen and the public institutions.

The study is a thorough research on the main theoretical and practical issues related to the protection of the citizen's rights in the public administration. It analyzes such aspects as the emergence of the institution of mediation and the Advocate of the People, the main regulations adopted by Romania after 1990, the main rights that are protected and promoted by the two institutions, the establishment of certain correlations among human rights, the citizens' rights and the protection methods promoted by the Advocate of the People institution and the institution of mediation; also, the study makes an analysis of the main regulations in the field adopted by the European Union.

### **Reports**

- The Annual Report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for the year 2015;
- The Annual Report of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for the year 2014;
- Report on the evolution of the human rights legislation in the European Union and in Romania – 2015;
- Report on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

## **V. THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**

According to the law, one of the tasks of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is to maintain and extend the area of the documentation centre, whose activity was continued with significant results in the year 2015. The number of users – students, Master Degree candidates, candidates for a PhD Degree, researchers, teachers, representatives of parliamentary, judicial and governmental institutions, representatives of non-governmental organizations as well as other social segments – increased considerably. The library of the documentation centre possesses a book inventory structured in over 250 areas of research and interest, including publications in the field of law and

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\* Forms of the protection and promotion of human rights: mediation and the Ombudsman.

human rights, treaties, international covenants and conventions, European and national legislation and comments on all these, works dealing with the history of law, comparative law, criminal law, civil law, commercial law, studies in the field, bibliographic references as well as volumes dealing with various related fields.

In the framework of its documentation and information activity, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights had throughout the year 2015 an active exchange of information with international organizations, higher education institutions from Romania and from abroad, institutions interested in human rights, representatives of the cults as well as non-governmental organizations.

The Centre continued its collaboration with traditional partners, by renewing partnership contracts and protocols while also attracting new partners. Both the activity of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and its Documentation Centre and the activity of the respective partners were promoted constantly by means of these partnerships.

The partnerships with the teachers' training centres in Bucharest, Braşov, Sibiu, Cluj, Iaşi and Vaslui were continued, the teachers and the students receiving from RIHR's Documentation Centre guidance and information with regard to education for the respect and promotion of human rights.

In the framework of the traditional partnerships, the Centre extended its collaboration with the Institute of Juridical Research of the Romanian Academy, with the Permanent Electoral Authority and with the Association for Cultural Dialogue. It also provided consultancy and advice in the field of human rights to higher education institutions in Bucharest and in other cities of the country, to members of the teaching staff, students, candidates for a Master Degree, candidates for a PhD Degree and attendants of post-doctoral studies, making a contribution to the initiation of projects of university clinics in the field of human rights, as well as projects specifically devoted to migration.

Thus, from among the universities in Bucharest, the Centre continued its collaboration with University "Titu Maiorescu", Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir", the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Law, while the universities in other cities included the North University of Baia Mare, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti, University "Al. I. Cuza" of Iaşi, University "Ovidius" of Constanţa, University "Spiru Haret" of Craiova, and University "Dimitrie Cantemir" of Târgu Mureş.

As far as the rights of persons with disabilities are concerned, in the framework of the partnership concluded with the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (ANPD), and also by continuing the collaboration agreements with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Ministry of Health and the National Council on Disability, the Centre disseminated informative material. Also, RIHR, in its capacity as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized through its Documentation Centre and in collaboration with the above mentioned partners a number of activities meant to promote the principles of the Convention on the rights of this category of citizens, who should have equal rights and opportunities in society. With regard to the access to a human rights education for all, a Protocol was concluded between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the Deaf whose purpose is to actively support the policies devoted to the rights and freedoms of these persons as well as better information of the public and of the representatives of the organizations and the associations of persons with disabilities.

The Protocol concluded with the Union of Professional Journalists in Romania in such fields as education for human rights, democracy and a culture of peace, access to information and freedom of expression, particularly with regard to the dissemination of information related to RIHR's activity, was also very important.

Another form of collaboration was the of exchange of books offered as donations on a bilateral partnership basis. RIHR's Centre of Documentation paid particular attention to the partnerships and the collaboration with national libraries, with specialized institutions in other countries or belonging to international organizations in the field, of which we should mention: the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), whose activity is presented and pointed out every three months in RIHR's scientific quarterly "Drepturile Omului",

Library Alexandrina – Alexandria, Egypt, from which the Institute’s steering board received an appreciation letter for unabated collaboration and exchange of information. The free-of-charge distribution of quarterly “Drepturile Omului” stirred the interest of young law students and readers of Library Alexandrina, due to the abstracts to the scientific studies included, both in English and French. Other constant partners and collaborators of the Documentation Centre include the Library of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law – Lausanne, the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne, the University of Bern, the Federal Office of Justice in Bern, the European Law Institute, the Library of the University of Leicester, the Library of the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the International Academy of Comparative Law, Paris, the Academy of International Law, the Hague, the Human Rights Centre, Fribourg, the Library of the Faculty of Law in Fribourg, the Library of the Faculty of Law of Strasbourg, the Library of the Catholic University of Louvain, the Library of the University of Potsdam, the Library of the University of Padua, the Library of the University of Luxemburg, the Library of the University of European Studies of Chişinău, the Library of the Norwegian centre for Human Rights, the Library of the Finnish Centre for Human Rights, and the Library of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in Stockholm. There was also a constant exchange of information and publications with the UN Libraries of Geneva, New York and Vienna and with the Library in Tokyo as well.

The partnerships consisting in exchanges of publications and correspondence with the National Library of Prague, the National Library of Madrid and the National Library of Vienna were continued in 2015.

Some of the Institute’s publications can also be found on the websites of: World Cat Identities (over 35 libraries in the system), Google Academic (207 libraries), the database of the Virtual International Authority File (the publications can be found in libraries in 11 countries).

At local level, the Institute’s Documentation Centre is permanently in touch with the national county libraries, which every three months receive the scientific quarterly “Drepturile Omului” as well as the Institute’s most recent publications – all free-of-charge.

The Documentation Centre has readily responded the requests for RIHR’s publications and sent them to the parliamentary commissions, the ministries with powers and preoccupations in the field of human rights, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Requests for RIHR’s quarterly “Drepturile Omului” and other publications were also received from courts of appeal, courts and tribunals as well as the General Parquet.

Also, the Documentation Centre contributed to the elaboration and the distribution of the documentation required for the year’s important events in the field of human rights organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the parliamentary commissions on human rights, cults and minorities issues. On such occasions, all participants received copies of the scientific quarterly “Drepturile Omului” and other publications edited by RIHR whose content was useful for the debates and later research based on the symposia and the conferences organized throughout the year 2015.

The scientific quarterly “Drepturile Omului” was distributed free-of-charge to the interested participants in such events organized by RIHR as: the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March); the European Action Week Against Racism (14-22 March); the United Nations Day – 70 years since the creation of the United Nations Organization, 60 years since Romania’s accession to UNO; Human Rights Day, celebrated at the headquarters of the Chamber of Deputies, etc.

In 2015, the Documentation Centre continued its collaboration in the field of information with the specialized agencies of the United Nations: UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO and WHO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Justice, the Centre for International and European Studies, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The number of users of the Documentation Centre increased considerably from 1,700 readers in 2014 to 2,166 readers in 2015. The library of the Documentation Centre was attended by teachers, magistrates, lawyers, candidates for a PhD Degree, candidates for a Master Degree, students

interested in the scientific literature devoted to the international and the national law, in the field of human rights or other related fields. It is not only the number of readers that increased every year, but also the book inventory was enriched as a result of the acquisition of some very useful state-of-the-art publications, which help with the comparative study of several disciplines in terms of human rights.

RIHR has also an online library available to all those interested, partners from abroad, or persons having walking difficulties who cannot come to the Documentation Centre. This online library can be easily accessed on the Institute's website, created in 2007, – [www.irdo.ro](http://www.irdo.ro) – and contains a large number of volumes in the field of human rights published by RIHR, the collection of the scientific quarterly “Drepturile Omului”, as well as information on jurisprudence consisting in various special cases solved by the European Court of Human Rights.

Promoting a human rights education for all, through its entire activity, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is committed with professionalism and devotion to promote and sustain the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Documentation Centre is an important element in the Institute's contribution to a modern, scientific and responsible approach in terms of human rights protection and observance and to the achievement of greater awareness about human rights at national and international level, by constantly supplying information about the present-day problems human rights encounter at all levels.

### **Public relations**

As was mentioned before, RIHR's Documentation Centre has made available to the public its library, which in 2015 recorded 2,166 readers.

Also, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was contacted in 2015 by citizens from all over the country, who addressed the Institute for consultancy either by coming to the Institute's headquarters with complaints, or by means of phone calls, or by mailing petitions. The citizens' petitions and complaints referred to numerous issues related to the violation of human rights, RIHR being requested to recommend the most efficient methods and ways of clarification, as well as the procedure for filing formal complaints and petitions to the authorities, where they asked for the violations to be solved.

The Institute's representatives took efforts to respond to these numerous requests, guiding the petitioners toward a way for having their problems solved, offering legal advice on how to formulate complaints and intimations and submit them to the competent bodies.

The most frequent applications and petitions referred to the poor living conditions offered in penitentiaries to persons deprived of liberty. Many petitioners, who had exhausted all possibilities of referring their case to a court of justice, were advised in relation to the procedure of addressing their petitions to the European Court of Human Rights. The problems petitioners complained of included the violation of the right to property, the refuse to vest in possession in relation to certain pieces of land, non-compliance with certain court orders, complaints related to the recalculation of pensions, denial of social aid, intimations related to the failure of the competent authorities to partially or fully honour certain pecuniary rights derived from the social protection legislation (the aid for various disadvantaged categories, children's allowances, etc.), violations of the rights of the child, malpraxis, violations of the labour legislation, , complaints coming from natural persons related to the evolution of trials or failure to conclude them within a reasonable period of time. There also were petitions or complaints referring to the execution of punishments in penitentiaries, petitions pertaining to the violation of equality of opportunities, violations of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities or religious cults; both the persons who came themselves to the RIHR headquarters and the 500 persons who contacted us by phone were offered advice and guidance. The petitioners were provided with documentation on the domestic legislation in force in the respective field of interest. In approximately 80% of the registered cases of written petitions, RIHR was able to assist the petitioners guiding every person toward the competent body or making a recommendation as to what institution the petitioner should apply to. Most petitions were redirected to the institutions and bodies authorized to solve the respective problem or petition, including: the Ministry of Justice, the National Authority for the Restitution of Properties, the

Public Ministry, prefect's offices, local councils, mayor's offices, penitentiary directorates.

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

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

As a result, a large number of domestic and international bodies invited the Institute to become, through representatives of its staff, a member of their working or steering structures. Here are a few examples: RIHR is member of the National Bioethics Commission of UNESCO; it acted as independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, collaborating with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the NGOs in the field.

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

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

## APPENDIX A

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

Roundtable on “Human rights in Romania”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (12 January 2015)

Symposium devoted to the United Nations Year – 70 years since the creation of the United Nations Organization and 60 years since Romania acceded the United Nations, 70 years since the creation of UNESCO – the scientific and cultural organization of the United Nations, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (20-21 January 2015)

Training course on “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”, organized for teachers and auxiliary teachers in pre-university educational units by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Teachers’ Training Centre in Bucharest and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (23 January 2015)

Debate on “Rights of the child 25 years after the Convention on the Rights of the Child was opened for signature”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, “Victor Dan Zlătescu – Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – “Family Forum” and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (26 January 2015)

Conference on “Paying homage to the victims of the Holocaust”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January 2015)

Roundtable on “Protection and promotion of human rights – regional and universal mechanisms and instruments”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (5 February 2015)

Training course on “Education for human rights and the rights of the child”, organized for teachers and auxiliary teachers in pre-university educational units by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Teachers’ Training Centre in Bucharest and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (13-14 February 2015)

Conference on “Prosperity – a guarantor of equality of opportunities”, organized on occasion of the World Day of Social Justice by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (18 February 2015)

Seminar on “Right to education in one’s mother tongue”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecological University of Bucharest and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the International Mother Language Day (20 February 2015)

Events devoted to the International Mother Language Day consisting of music moments, folk and other dances, exhibition of paintings, one-act plays presented in several languages, organized by “Alexandru Ceuşianu” General School in Reghin in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (23 February 2015)

Debate on “The importance of reconciling work with family 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” (4-5 March 2015)

Roundtable on “Preventing and punishing all forms of discrimination against women”, 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, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" and the Club of Cheia (9 March 2015)

Symposium on "Social development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, on occasion of the celebration of 20 years since the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen – 6-12 March 1995 (11 March 2015)

Debate on the latest Report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on "Equal protection for all victims of the crime of hatred – The case of persons with disabilities", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of the North University, Baia Mare, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association (13 March 2015)

Launch of the campaign for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination on occasion of the European Action Week Against Racism 14-22 March 2015, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights with the assistance of the United for Intercultural Action Network (13 March 2015)

Debate on the regulations establishing the required conditions for remunerated activities performed by children in the cultural, artistic, sportive, advertising and modelling fields provided for by Government Decision No. 75/2015, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (16 March 2015)

Roundtable on "United for diversity", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration IDEF and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association in the framework of the campaign for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination of the European Action Week Against Racism (20 March 2015)

Conference on "My opportunities, my choices. Enjoying Full and Equal Rights and the Role of Families", this year's logo proposed by the United Nations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary year of the International Year of the Family, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights "Family Forum" (20 March 2015)

Symposium on "It's difference that makes happiness", organized by Foundation "Adolescența" in Ploiești and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, National College "Jean Monet", on occasion of the European Action Week Against Racism (21 March 2015)

Drawing contest on "Is it only in the dark that we look the same?" organized in the framework of the events devoted to European Action Week Against Racism by Foundation "Adolescența", the Prahova Teachers' Training Centre, National College "Jean Monet" and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (21 March 2015)

Roundtable on "No clear water – no healthy life, organized 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 the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association on occasion of the World Water Day (23 March 2015)

Presentation of RIHR's annual report for the year 2014 on the Institute's General Council meeting (24 March 2015)

Second Workshop of reading and debate on "Nichita Stănescu – 82. Meaning of love, meaning of creation", organized by the Union of Professional Journalists in Romania and the "Cronica Timpului" magazine in partnership with National College "Octav Onicescu" and the Romanian

Institute for Human Rights (31 March 2015)

Campaign on “Becoming aware of autism” organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (1-3 April 2015)

Conference on “Employment: The Autism Advantage”, the topic selected by the United Nations Organization for the World Autism Awareness day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (2 April 2015)

The Socio-Human National Contest, the national stage, organized in Mangalia by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights 5-10 April 2015)

Conference on “Food safety for good health”, organized on occasion of the World Health Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the InfoEuropa Centre with the participation of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues and Alliance of Civilizations (7 April 2015)

Conference on “Social inclusion and discrimination against the Roma in some Member States of the European Union”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the International Roma Day with the participation of representatives of the civil society, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, members of the university teaching staff, researchers, candidates for a PhD Degree and candidates for a Master Degree (8 April 2015)

Roundtable on “Romania – one decade since the Treaty on Adherence to the European Union was signed”, 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 (24 April 2015)

Conference on “Culture and the media”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Faculty of Law of University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj Napoca, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (30 April 2015)

Roundtable on “Freedom of the press in Romania supports society’s transformation”, organized on occasion of the World Press Freedom Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations with the participation of of the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum, the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (5 May 2015)

Roundtable on “Equal, but different!”, organized on occasion of the declaration of 8 May as “Equal Opportunities National Day” by the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the National Council for Combating Discrimination (6 May 2015)

Conference on “Human rights in a united Europe – new prospects”, 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” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association on occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Council of Milan of June 1985 when the decision was made that the day of 9 May should become Europe Day (8 May 2015)

Roundtable on “The family and its role in society”, 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 “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights on occasion of the International Day of Families and the National Day of Romanian Families (12 May 2015)

Debate on “Volunteerism in Romania – national, regional and universal instruments”, organized on occasion of the National Volunteer Week: 11-17 May by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (13 May 2015)

Fourth edition of the national session of scientific essays presented by students and candidates for a Master Degree, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Faculty of Law of Cluj Napoca in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property, the Association of Romanian Authors and Editors of Scientific Works and the Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Law (15 May 2015)

Session of scientific dissertations on “The right to good governance”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA), in collaboration with the Doctoral School and the Centre of Public Law and Administrative Sciences, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Academic Society of Administrative Sciences, the Institute of Public Law and Administrative Sciences in Romania and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the 25 anniversary of SNSPA, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s adherence to the United Nations (19 May 2015)

Roundtable on “Watching and fighting against the illegal trade with tobacco”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (29 May 2015)

Conference on “Protection and promotion of the rights of the child in the national, regional and universal legislation”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum on occasion of International Children’s Day (2 June 2015)

Fourth edition of the International Conference on “Effectiveness of legal norms – interpretation and application of the law”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Faculty of Law, Cluj Napoca, in collaboration with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Academy of Romania – History Institute “George Barițiu” of Cluj Napoca, the Department of Socio-Human Research, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Institute of Administrative Sciences in the Moldova Republic, the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences – Bucharest, the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property, the Association of Romanian Authors and Editors of Scientific Works – PERGAM, Bucharest, the Association of Graduates of the Faculty of Law and Foundation Eco România XXI (4-6 June)

Roundtable on “Your planet needs you”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment devoted to the World Environment Day (5 June 2015)

Debate on “NO to child labour – YES to quality education!”, the topic established by the United Nations for the World Day Against Child Labour 2015, an urge to take action against child labour. The event was organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights “Family Forum” (12 June 2015)

Debate on “Practical aspects with the implementation and the observance of the right to a fair trial”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (12 June 2015)

Roundtable on “The human right to a healthy life”, organized on occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment (17 June 2015)

Roundtable on the “The rights of refugees in Romania”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the World Refugee Day (18 June 2015)

Roundtable on “The national legislation on asylum and the way it is implemented”, 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 World Refugee Day (19 June 2015)

Roundtable on “Social rights, an integral part of the human rights system”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (22 June 2015)

Debate on “United Nations instruments and mechanisms on the promotion and protection of human rights”, organized in the framework of the events devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Charter by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance (26 June 2015)

Roundtable on “The Danube Days in Romania”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, devoted to the Danube Day (29 June 2015)

Roundtable on “Protection and promotion of human rights at 65 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 collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (30 June 2015)

Debate on the draft project of National Strategy for continuous learning for the period 2015-2020 and the Action Plan for the implementation of this Strategy, elaborated by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecological University, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (8 July 2015)

Roundtable on “World population – prospects and challenges”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association on occasion of the World Population Day (10 July 2015)

Roundtable on the draft project of National Strategy for the diminution of early school abandonment in Romania and the Implementation Plan for this Strategy, elaborated by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (14 July 2015)

The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the International University of Human Rights on “the United Nations Organization at its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association, with the participation of members of the IACL, ELI, Idef (20-26 July 2015)

Symposium on “Victims of trafficking with human beings in the present-day context”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (24 July 2015)

Debate on the project launched by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for amending and supplementing the Methodological Norms for the implementation of Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, approved under Government Decision No. 125/2006, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Association for Women’s Rights (27 July 2015)

Conference on “Protection of the victims of physical and psychic violence”, organized 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 on occasion of the first anniversary of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also called the Convention of Istanbul (3 August 2015)

Debate on the draft Operational Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy on persons with disabilities for the period 2015-2020, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Association (18 August 2015)

Roundtable on the draft National Strategy for the promotion of active aging and the protection of older persons for the period 2015-2020, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (24 August 2015)

Symposium on "Literacy and sustainable societies", the logo selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Congress on the Eradication of Mass Illiteracy of Teheran where the International Literacy Day was established, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (8 September 2015)

Debate on "Protection of vulnerable categories of persons", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Association for Intercultural Dialogue (9-10 September 2015)

Debate on "Democracy in Europe – a project for the 21<sup>st</sup> century", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association on occasion of the International Day of Democracy (15 September 2015)

Conference on "Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All", the topic proposed by the United Nations Organization for the International Day of Peace, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (21 September 2015)

Symposium on "Regional and national instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings", organized on occasion of the International Day against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Women and Children by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (23 September 2015)

Roundtable on "Promoting Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights together with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association on occasion of the European Day of Languages (24 September 2015)

Debate on "Urban mobility, a solution to reduce emissions with greenhouse effects and combat climate changes", organized in the European Mobility Week by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Women's Rights and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (18 September 2015)

Roundtable on "The right to information – a fundamental human right", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the "Clubul de la Cheia" Victor Dan Zlătescu Association on occasion of the International Right to Know Day (25 September 2015)

Roundtable on the Report on the visit paid to Romania by the representative of the European

Committee for the Prevention of Torture of 5-17 June 2015, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (28 September 2015)

Roundtable on “Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment” – the topic proposed by the United Nations to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (2 October 2015)

Conference on “Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies. Mobilizing for a Roadmap 2030 for Teachers”, the logo selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark the World Teachers’ Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecological University, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity (5 October 2015)

Roundtable on “The Holocaust and the right to life”, organized by Elementary School “Alexandru Ceușianu” in Reghin in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the National Day of Commemorating the Holocaust (9 October 2015)

Debate on the launching by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights of project CLARITY (Complaints, Legal Assistance, and Rights Information Tool for You), an online interactive instrument that provides information, in English, about the non-judicial bodies in Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain, to guide persons who believe their fundamental rights have been violated, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (12 October 2015)

Debate on the draft Government Decision for approving the National Strategy “A society without barriers for persons with disabilities” for the period 2015-2020 and the Operational Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, launched by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (15 October 2015)

Roundtable on the topic proposed by the United Nations Organization to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, “Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (16 October 2015)

Symposium on “National instruments to prevent and combat trafficking of persons”, organized on occasion of the European Day on Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the Romanian Association for the United Nations the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Victor Dan Zlătescu Association (19 October 2015)

Conference devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Organization, organized under the patronage of the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities and the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (21 October 2015)

Meeting of the representatives of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights with Mr. Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (10 November 2015)

Debate on “The goals of sustainable development and the strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (12 November 2015)

Conference on “Tolerance – the basic principle of democracy”, organized on occasion of the International Day for Tolerance and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of principles on tolerance by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (16 November 2015)

Roundtable on “25 years since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights “Family Forum” and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young (20 November 2015)

Second edition of the International Conference on “The law and administrative justice from an interdisciplinary point of view”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Law Department “Victor Dan Zlătescu” in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, University “Petru Maior” of Târgu Mureș, Faculty of Economy, Law and Administrative Sciences, the Union of Jurists of Romania and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (20-22 November 2015)

The ninth edition of the International Conference for Non-Discrimination and Equality of Opportunities (NEDES) on “Exercise of the right to non-discrimination and equality of opportunities in the contemporary society”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest, the National Council for Combating Discrimination with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (24-26 November 2015)

Conference on “Zero tolerance for violence against women”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” – initiated by the United Nations Secretary General and taking place every year on 25 November - 10 December, also called “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence”, starting on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and concluding on the Human Rights Day (26 November 2015)

Symposium on “Inclusion does matter: access and emancipation for persons irrespective of abilities”, organized on occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations, the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity and the Association for the Promotion of Family Rights – Family Forum (3 December 2015)

Symposium on “Respect of human rights and elimination of violence against women”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and the Romanian Association for the United Nations in the framework of the campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” – initiated by the United Nations Secretary General, which this year had the topic “Orange the world: End violence against women and girls” (7 December 2015)

International Conference on “Our rights. Our freedoms. Always”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights under the patronage of the Chamber of Deputies Juridical Commission of Discipline and Immunities and Parliament’s human rights commissions on occasion of the Human Rights Day (9 December 2015)

Event on “Respect humanity with every person”, organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO with the participation of National College “Ion Luca Caragiale”, National College “Gheorghe Lazăr”, National College “Ion Racoviță”, Theoretical High School “Ion Barbu”, School “George Călinescu”, National College “Octav Onicescu” and Theoretical High School “Hristo Botev” (10 December 2015)

Debate on “10 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”. organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the Ecological University, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day

(10 December 2015)

Third edition of the International Conference on “The European culture of human rights and the right to happiness”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Bucharest in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (17-19 December 2015)

Seminar on “Rights of older persons in caring centres”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the Romanian Association for the Rights of Older Persons (23 December 2015)

## APPENDIX B

### PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS

Meeting of the Alliance of Civilizations Steering Committee, organized on initiative by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO and Alumnus Club for UNESCO, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Interethnic Relations Department of the Government of Romania (15 January 2015)

Homage paid to the Holocaust victims organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January 2015)

Second session of the Working Group on the rights of persons living and working in the countryside organized by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2-6 February 2015)

Conference on “Romania and the International Court of Justice – five years after the Pronouncement in the case «Maritime delimitation in the Black Sea» - 3 February 2009” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3 February 2015)

Participation in the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues and presentation of the viewpoint regarding the legislative proposal on amending and supplementing Law No. 273/2004 on the adoption procedure (5 February 2015)

International Conference on “The Roma as political subject with a threefold status: citizen, national minority and vulnerable group”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in collaboration with the Centre of Resource, Research and Documentation on Roma Issues of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies with the assistance of the Council of Europe – European Academic Network for Romani Studies (10 February 2015)

Trilateral consultation meeting on “Evaluation of the effectiveness of policies on the Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity. European and national prospects”, organized by the Senate Commission on European Affairs in relation to the Government’s strategy for the inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma ethnicity for the period 2015-2020 laid down in Government Decision 18/2015 (18 February 2015)

Conference on “Aspects of non-unitary practice having occurred since the new Civil Code and the new Civil Procedure Code came into force”, organized by the Superior Council of Magistracy and the Ministry of Justice (23-24 February 2015)

Conference on “The Memory of the Holocaust”, organized by the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania, the Shoah Memorial, the French Institute in Romania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (24 February 2015)

Debate on “The significance of parliamentary elections in Greece”, organized by the Centre for EU Communication Studies of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies and the Infoeuropa Centre (25 February 2015)

Debate on “Political communication during the electoral campaign: what may and what may not a politician say?”, organized in the framework of the series of “Public Debates of Applied Ethics” by the Centre for Advanced Research in Management and Applied Ethics in partnership with the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (26 February 2015)

National Conference on “Women’s health – from puberty to menopause”, organized by the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities and Commission for Public Health with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance House in partnership with the “Politici de sănătate” magazine (3 March 2015)

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) along with the meeting of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), organized by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights (11-13 March 2015)

Conference-debate on “How can the Romanian influence on the European policies be enhanced?”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (19 March 2015)

Francophonie Prize award ceremony organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Group of Francophone Embassies, Delegations and Institutions in Romania (GADIF) on occasion of the International Francophonie Day (19 March 2015)

Biannual International Conference on “The legal system between stability and reform”, organized by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Craiova in partnership with the Centre of Private Law and Social Sciences Studies and Research, the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy, the Faculty of Law – West University of Timișoara, the Faculty of Law – “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, the National Union of Notaries Public from Romania, the Chamber of Notaries Public Craiova, Dolj Bar Association, the Romanian Magistrates Association, the University of Craiova Law Students’ Association, ELSA (20-21 March 2015)

Meeting of the Commission on Culture, Cults and the Media of the Council of National Minorities, organized at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (26 March 2015)

European Colloquium on “Bank credits in foreign currency. Economic, legislative and jurisprudential developments”, organized by the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania and the Legal Advisers Association in the financial-banking system together with the West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Law (26-28 March 2015)

Debate on “Draft National Strategy and Action Plan for Social Inclusion and Reduction of Poverty for the period 2014-2020”, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly (27 March 2015)

National Conference of administrative contentious matters on “Shortcomings of the present regulations in the field of administrative disputes”, organized by the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Law and Universul Juridic Publishing House in collaboration with Wolters Kluwer Publishing House (2 April 2015)

Jubilee Conference on “Romania and the ecologic issues”, organized on occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ecological University of Bucharest (3 April 2015)

Conference on “Evolution of the Romanian law in the context of globalization”, organized by the Ecological University of Bucharest, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences (3 April 2015)

Symposium on “8 April – The International Roma Day”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues in collaboration with the National Agency for the Roma, the European Roma and Travellers Forum and the Roma Pro Europe Party (8 April 2015)

Meeting of the Alliance of Civilizations Steering Committee (CD – ACONU) Romania (16 April 2015)

Launch of the national scientific project “The Romanian Encyclopaedia of Law”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy and University “Titu Maiorescu” of Bucharest in collaboration with the Faculties of Law and representatives of the juridical professions (16 April 2015)

Debate on “NATO’s view with regard to the present matters of international law”, organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest (16 April 2015)

Annual session of scientific essays on “Simplification – an imperative with the modernization and improvement of the quality of law”, organized by the Institute of Juridical Research “Acad. Andrei Rădulescu” of the Romanian Academy (17 April 2015)

Conference on “The rights of patients – between theory and practice”, organized on occasion of the International Patients’ Rights Day and the World Hemophilia Day by the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities and Commission on Public Health with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance House in partnership with World Vision Association and Baxter Association (21 April 2015)

Meeting of the Draft National Strategy Analysis Council on “A barrier-free society for persons

with disabilities”, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (21 April 2015)

Meeting in the framework of the series “Cultural chats” at the Faculty of Law on “Law in contemporary world and its challenges”, organized by the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Law and the Law Students’ Association (21 April 2015)

International Conference on “The political class and the civil society – a common fight against trafficking of human beings”, organized by the Commission on education, science, youth and sports, the Group for combating trafficking in human beings and the Ecumenical Prayer Group of Parliament of Romania in collaboration with the European Christian Political Movement and the European Freedom Network (22 April 2015)

Fourth International Conference on “Social development, administration and justice”, organized by the Faculty of International Relations, Law and Administrative Sciences of University “Constantin Brâncuși” of Târgu-Jiu (24-25 April 2015)

The 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee against Torture, organized by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (24-25 April 2015)

The 16<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Working Group on the right to development, organized by the National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (27 April – 1 May 2015)

Forum for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the European Commission (29 April 2015)

Second session of the Workshop on “Fundamental models and processes with the adaptive public management”, organized in the framework of post-doctoral studies in the field of administrative sciences by the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (5 May 2015)

Seminar on “Public relations in the international environment”, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (8 May 2015)

Conference on “Europe Day – 9 May 2015”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the InfoEuropa Centre in collaboration with European Commission Agency in Bucharest and the Central University Library (8 May 2015)

Debate on “The Roma in Romania: between social inclusion, migration, ghettoisation and racism”, organized by the Senate of Romania Commission on European Affairs and Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities (11 May 2015)

Anniversary of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development and awarding of the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Diploma, organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in the framework of the events devoted to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s adherence to the United Nations Organization (21 May 2015)

The ninth edition of the International Conference on “Political Science, International Relations and Security Studies”, organized by the International Relations, Political Science and Security Studies Department of the Faculty of Socio-Human Sciences, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu through the Research Centre of Political Sciences, international Relations and European Studies (22-24 May 2015)

Ceremony for awarding the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Mrs. Maria P. Aristigueta, President of the American Society for Public Administration, organized by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (25 May 2015)

Debate on “Status of Romanian citizens’ free circulation abroad”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues (26 May 2015)

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Topical juridical issues in the financial-banking field”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the Association of Legal Advisers in the Financial-Banking System, the European Association for Banking and Financial Law – Romania and Wolters Kluwer Publishing House – Romania (27-30 May 2015)

Seminar on “Democracy facing the challenge of security policies”, organized by Association “Pro Democrația” (APD) and the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH) at the Palace of Parliament (29 May 2015)

Conference on “Severe forms of migrant workers’ exploitation in the EU”, organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Lithuanian Presidency of the European Union Council (1-2 June 2015)

Seminar on “The role of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights in the OSCE area”, organized in Warsaw by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (1-3 June 2015)

Conference devoted to the European Development Days, organized by the European Commission and the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (3-4 June 2015)

International Conference on “Society based on knowledge. Contemporary norms, values and landmarks”, organized by University “Valahia” of Târgoviște – Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, Centre of Juridical and Administrative Studies in partnership with the National Distance Education University of Spain, University Castilla La Mancha, the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Spain, the University of Pitești, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, the Centre of Juridical and Administrative Studies, the Chamber of Notaries Public Ploiești and the Romanian Society of European Law (5-6 June 2015)

The seventh edition of the International Conference on “European Conference on Social and Behavioural Sciences”, organized at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies through the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations by the International Association of Social Science Research (Turkey) (11-13 June 2015)

International Conference on “Topical issues in administration and justice”, organized by the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești, the Centre of Juridical and Socio-Administrative Research, the Romanian Association for Law and European Affairs (ARDAE), the Society of Juridical and Administrative Sciences (ADJURIS) (12 June 2015)

Roundtable on “Sustainable development and inter-institutional cooperation” with the participation of Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), organized by Parliament of Romania – Chamber of Deputies Commission on foreign policy (15 June 2015)

Regional Seminar on “The sustainable development goals for parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies together with the Interparliamentary Union (15-16 June 2015)

Conference on “Fighting abuses against older persons in Europe”, organized by the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, Age Platform Europa and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) on occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15-18 June 2015)

The 62<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on “Time management impact on family life”, organized under the patronage of the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth by the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations (ICCFR) (22-24 June 2015)

Seminar on “Christian policies – The Biblical and the Patristic Foundation. The European Context”, organized by the Senate of Romania Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities and Foundation “Sfânta Irina” (23 June 2015)

Training course on “Book keeping in public institutions. Implementation of the latest legislation”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group SRL (1-6 July 2015)

Meeting with the delegation of Parliament of Hessen Land in Germany headed by its President, Mr. Norbert Kartmann, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues (1 July 2015)

Training course on “The Labour Code 2015. Solutions to the problems related to the implementation and the interpretation of the new legal provisions regarding: modification of the Individual Employment Contract, duration of the vacation and extra payments for supplementary work. News about REVISAL”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group SRL (8-12 July 2015)

Meeting of the Analysis Council regarding the Operational Plan for the implementation of the

National Strategy on “A society without barriers for persons with disabilities, 2015-2020”, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly and the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (10 August 2015)

The Annual Conference of the European Law Institute (ELI) (2-4 September 2015)

National Conference on “Internationalization and equity in the higher education system: building a better scenario for the future”, organized by the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Policies on Science and Innovation of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in the framework of Project POSDRU on “Internationalization, equity and university management for qualitative higher education” (23-24 September 2015)

Workshop on “Romania and the new challenges of the present-day European crisis”, organized by the Centre for Human Rights and Migration and the Centre for Oratory and Debate of the Romanian-American University (24 September 2015)

Training course on “Management of document administration and archiving. Working procedures and electronic archiving”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group SRL (24-27 September 2015)

Training course on “Internal audit in the public sector” organized by Expert Aktiv Group (8-11 October 2015)

Third edition of the Asia-Europe Forum on Education, organized by the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO and Alumnus Club for UNESCO, in partnership with the Government of Romania – Interethnic Relations Department and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (9 October 2015)

Debate on “Rural women’s rights”, organized by the Senate Commission on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities in collaboration with the Foundation for Civic Engagement on occasion of the International Day of Rural Women (13 October 2015)

Meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues on the proposal made by the European Parliament and the Council for the establishment of a transfer mechanism to amend Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (E-36/2015), as well as the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU (E-38/2015)” (13 October 2015)

Debate on “Respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms, the international human rights treaties in the case of persons having Romanian citizenship and other persons as well who are in detention on Romania’s territory”, organized by the Subcommission monitoring the observance of the rights of persons deprived of liberty under the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues (14 October 2015)

Debate on “Dignity in mental health”, organized by the Psychiatry Hospital Titan “Dr. Constantin Gorgos” on occasion of the World Mental Health Day (15 October 2015)

National Conference on “An accessible Romania in a barrier-free Europe”, organized by the National Council on Disability in Romania (20 October 2015)

Conference on “The State’s reform. Institutions, procedures, public administration resources”, organized at the International Conference Centre of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) by the SNSPA Centre of Public Law and Administrative Sciences in partnership with the Institute of Public Law and Administrative Sciences in Romania and the Academic Society of Administrative Sciences (23 October 2015)

Meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues on the Bill for promoting human dignity and tolerance towards group differences (27 October 2015)

Workshop for disseminating good practices with the Project on “Curricular development and

enhancement of the relevance of public administration curricula by means of innovative methods of interdisciplinary training and correlation with the labour market”, ob4 the National School of Political and Administrative Studies – Faculty of Public Administration in partnership with the National Institute of Scientific Research on Labour and Social Protection (30 October 2015)

The second edition of the International Conference on “Present-day issues with the political-juridical area of the EU”, organized by the Romanian Society of European Law (SRDE) in academic partnership with the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (30 October 2015)

Meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues with Mr. Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (9 November 2015)

Debate on “Place and relevance of the United Nations in the present-day international relations”, organized by European Foundation Titulescu – Strategic Studies Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the context of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Organization and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romania’s adherence to this organization 12 November 2015)

The fourth United Nations Annual Forum on “Business and human rights”, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (16-18 November)

Meeting with representatives of the equality bodies, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the Ombudsmen, organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (18-20 November 2015)

United Nations Conference on Climate Change (30 November – 11 December 2015)

Roundtable on “Active partnership for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (4 December 2015)