

ROMANIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Paris Principles

According to the Paris Principles¹ referring to the status of National Human Rights Institutions, the latter are independent bodies, established under the national legislation, vested to protect and promote human rights in the respective country. Once established, these institutions are the key elements of an effective human rights protection system, which bridge the gap represented by the differences between the international human rights instruments and their implementation at national level. Cooperating with other actors involved at national, European and international level, the national human rights institutions have the purpose to assist natural persons to exercise their fundamental rights while also expose any violation of these rights.

National human rights institutions have monitoring and research powers alongside with advising the Government and the Parliament, submitting reports to international bodies, finding solutions to complaints, providing assistance, promoting human rights education, informing about the latest developments in the field of human rights and identifying good practices.

The main criteria advanced by the Paris Principles refer to:

- an ‘as broad a mandate as possible’ based on the universal standards of human rights including double responsibility: to promote and to protect all human rights;
- independence from the Government;
- independence guaranteed either by the Constitution or by the legislation;
- adequate power of investigation;
- pluralism by its capacity as member of networks with similar profile and effective cooperation with such networks;
- adequate human and financial resources.

Based on these criteria, national human rights institutions have the capacity to approach comprehensively and consistently all human rights issues, due to their extensive mandate, which should include competencies for the promotion and defence all human rights: from civil and political down to economic, social and cultural. This makes it possible for a national human rights institution to cover and integrate the concept of human rights into the governmental policies, the legislation and the public’s awareness.

On various occasions, the United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, repeatedly asserted the important role played by national institutions with the promotion and the protection of human rights at both national and international level, while complying with these principles which are the main required source for standards so that the latter be able to effectively protect and promote human rights.

Compliance with these Principles is necessary as a measurement for the acknowledgement and the strengthening of the role played by the national human rights institutions with the implementation of the international human rights standards.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), an independent entity having legal personality, established under the law – Law No. 91/1991, is the first national human rights

¹ Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) – stated in 1991 at the Conference devoted to national human rights institutions and adopted as an official document by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 – refer to the status of national human rights institutions.

institution created in Romania after 1989.

By establishing this body, the Romanian authorities responded at that time to the concerns of the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe which, in many resolutions and recommendations encouraged the creation and the development of independent national institutions having special powers to promote and protect human rights by other means than those related to the judicial.

In its entire evolution, RIHR pursued compliance with the Paris Principles while also taking into account the requirements worded by the Council of Europe in Recommendations R (79) 16 and (97) 14 made by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers as well as UN General Assembly's Resolution A/RES/48/134. While anchoring its preoccupations into the actual realities of each time period, each stage, the Institute had always in mind the organization of an adequate framework and the creation of adequate means for the actual implementation and observance of human rights, better knowledge and increased awareness about them both in terms of public institutions and of natural persons, so much more so that Romania is a member of the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

While pursuing its purposes, in the course of the year 2017, the Institute was joined, as usual, by public institutions, the academic world, non-governmental organizations taking interest in the field of human rights, which all provided the Institute with increased power of action so that it should be able to fulfill the tasks conferred by Law No. 9/1991, in its capacity as national institution promoting human rights that acted as interface between the State's institutions and the civil society.

Mission

According to the constitutive law, the Institute's mandate is to ensure better knowledge by the public bodies, the non-governmental associations and the Romanian citizens, of human rights issues, the way human rights are guaranteed in other countries. At the same time, the purpose of the Institute is to inform the public opinion abroad, the international bodies, about the practical ways human rights are achieved and observed in Romania.

When elaborating its Plan of Action for the year 2017, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights took into account, among other things, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Development Goals for the year 2017, the Multi-annual Framework 2013-2017 of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), FRA's annual work programme, the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), Resolution 21/14 by the UN Human Rights Council on the World Programme for Human Rights Education (third phase of the World Programme –2015-2019), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this respect, the main areas of interest for the next period, in terms of the three generations of rights, are: access to justice; rights of the child; elimination of any form of discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, language, religion or beliefs, political or any other opinion, belonging to a national minority, social-economic status, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation; fighting racism, xenophobia and intolerance; rights of asylum seekers; respect for private life and the protection of personal data; the economic, social, political and civil rights; the Paris Principles on the functioning of national institutions promoting and protecting human rights.

Responding to its mission, in compliance with the powers set out by the constitutive law, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights channeled its activities planned for the year 2017 (research, education, training-for-trainers, information and publication of periodicals and specialized volumes) to its primary objectives that have become constant by now: to disseminate and strengthen knowledge about human rights, in accordance with the international norms and standards in the field, in light of the universal principles and humanist values; to develop a practical attitude towards recognition of the differences among human beings as a prerequisite for fighting against any form of discrimination based on race, sex, national, ethnic, social origin, language, religion, political or other beliefs, physical and mental status; to identify problems and difficulties in the area of human rights, to stimulate the efforts to investigate them for finding solutions in consonance with the principles that lay the foundation for the promotion and the respect of human rights; to realize of the

power the international, regional and national legal instruments and institutional mechanisms have with a view to facilitate the use thereof; harmonization of the educational strategies and actions in the field of human rights by means of partnerships with governmental organizations – that should install a pedagogy based on the dissemination of knowledge, critical analysis, and stimulation of the aptitudes and attitudes that are useful for the promotion of human rights; to encourage at all levels, primarily with the younger generation, that approach to human rights issues where the rights are not mere abstract norms, but norms that are directly linked to various situations and real social, economic, cultural and political challenges.

Also, RIHR deems it is necessary to pursue in its activities the following:

- to elaborate studies identifying the best practices so that it should contribute to the transformation of human rights into a national reality;
- to pay more attention to situations that are likely to become tense, sometimes even conflictive when taking a stand in terms of human rights;
- to get actively involved with the organization of activities meant to promote human rights at national level;
- to increase its training capacity on various topics of interest related to the present-day challenges;
- to strengthen cooperation with the academic world, non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

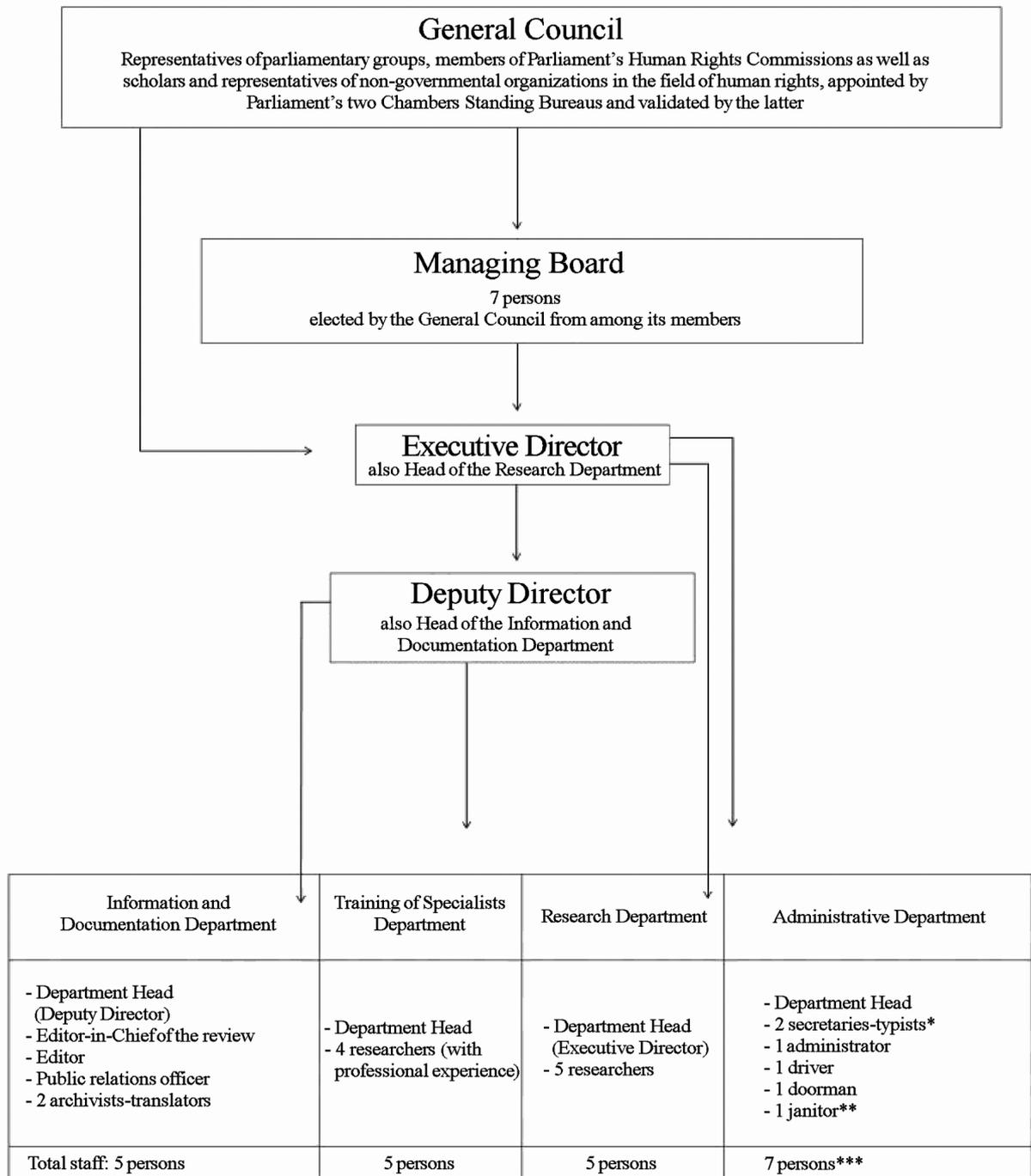
Structure

According to art. 5 in Law No. 9/1991 on establishing the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Institute led by a General Board, including representatives of the parliamentary groups, members of the Senate's Committee for Human and the Citizens' Rights, members of the Chamber of Deputies' Committee for Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, as well as scholars, and representatives of the non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights designated by the Standing Bureaus of the two Parliament Chambers and validated by the latter. The General Council shall designate a Managing Board from among its members, made up of 7 persons: Parliament Members, scholars, representatives of the non-governmental organizations and the executive director. The executive director shall represent the Institute as a legal person, according to the effective regulations.

The Managing Board shall ensure management of the Institute's current activity.

The Institute's staff structure is the one provided for in the appendix, as comes out from Figure 1.

Structure of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights



* One of the 2 positions is non-budgeted at present.

** Non-budgeted position at present.

*** 5 persons at present.

Figure 1: Organization Chart of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights

I. RESEARCH, STUDIES AND THEMATIC AREAS

Studying the various aspects related to the promotion and the observance of human rights is one of the main elements with the activity performed by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

Bearing in mind its mission to make a contribution to the development of culture of human rights in our country, the Institute devoted its research efforts to exploration of topics related to rights from all the four generations of human rights: civil and political (the first generation), economic, social and cultural (the second generation), the right to peace, the right to a healthy environment, the right to sustainable development (the third generation), the right to happiness (the fourth generation).

At the same time, the studies achieved in the year 2017 took into account both the national legislation in the field of human rights and the international and the regional documents that became part of the domestic legislation following their ratification by Romania. Some of the studies dealt with general issues; others were devoted to the instruments and the mechanisms related to the protection and the promotion of human rights, as well as their evolution in the course of time; there were also studies devoted to particular rights.

The reports and the studies achieved by the Institute were put to value also by means of the seminars, the symposia and the roundtables organized by the Institute. We refer both to events organized by the Institute (see **Appendix II. A**) and to activities organized in partnership. The exchange of experience, the opinions and the conclusions drawn opened the door for new research topics, new methods to approach the various aspects of training and educating in the spirit of respect for human rights.

Requests addressed to the Institute by organizations and bodies taking interest in the field of human rights to participate with studies, dissertations, reports, etc., to events organized by them (see **Appendix II. B**) illustrates the fact that the Institute was acknowledged as a competent voice both at national and international level, as a result of its devoted and consistent involvement with the protection and the promotion of the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Non-Discrimination

Discrimination has many aspects and takes, particularly in the present-day context, a variety of forms, from the marginalization of some socio-economic categories, age, gender, ethnic or linguistic groups down to racism and the hatred motivated discourse or the adoption of a different (aggressive) behaviour in relation with migrants. This is the reason why the various ways to combat this phenomenon were and still are a constant preoccupation with RIHR, as one of the important areas approached by the Institute.

The Institute's activities devoted to the fight against discrimination included studies, campaigns and events dealing with such topics as multiple discrimination and the rights of women and girls, fighting the inequalities existing between the two genders, Roma's rights, the linguistic rights of minorities.

Believing that education is a key instrument for understanding and respecting the rights of vulnerable categories and minorities, the Institute got involved with the organization of events related to the promotion of the international standards, realization of the effects of discrimination, events particularly devoted to the education of youngsters, to assist them assume responsibilities and get actively involved within the society, while understanding and combating any forms of discrimination.

Thus, together with its partners, RIHR organized various events such as:

- the awareness raising campaign related to the fight against attitudes motivated by hatred, that took place at „Jean Monet” College in Ploiești;
- „The role of civic education in combating racism” was the topic of a roundtable devoted to the same purpose of combating discrimination, organized in collaboration with National College „Spiru Haret” in Bucharest
- campaign devoted to the European Action Week Against Racism (18-26 March), organized under the logo “Don't be divided – Stay UNITED!”, with the assistance of the European network of NGOs combating racism – UNITED for Intercultural Action; in the framework

of the campaign, RIHR and its partners organized events aiming to raise awareness about and understanding of diversity and eliminate the danger of racism;

- campaign against racism entitled “Say NO to Discrimination”, which took place on 21-24 March in Ploiești and Buzău and involved four schools and colleges;
- awareness raising campaign entitled “Without hate, with tolerance – Combating online hatred-motivated discourses”, organized by RIHR in partnership with “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School of Chitila on 17 March.

These campaigns aimed to make youngsters understand their rights as well as the importance of assuming their obligations and, in case of challenges, the need to adopt a positive attitude and behaviour.

The studies achieved by the Institute were also put to value by means of the presentations and the points of view expressed at the events where RIHR participated as a guest, or requested to the Institute by Parliament’s special commissions or various international bodies.

For instance, RIHR participated in the event on “The legal and the spiritual liberation of the Roma”, organized by Chamber of Deputies’ Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues and advocated for the need of better familiarization with the national and the international mechanisms created for the promotion and the protection of human rights and for the importance of educational programmes promoting tolerance and respect for persons and groups that embrace different values, opinions and beliefs.

Another study, devoted to national minorities, was at the basis of a point of view RIHR expressed at a roundtable on “Getting persons belonging to national minorities involved with the decision-making process”, organized on the occasion of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities – Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Bucharest, 21 November.

Other events devoted to the fight against discrimination where the Institute expressed points of view based on previous studies were the conference on “Gender equality: a test for democracy”, organized on initiative by the Chamber of Deputies’ and the Senate’s Committees on Equal Opportunities, and the roundtable on “The role of civic education in combating racism”, organized in partnership with “Spiru Haret” College in Bucharest.

Rights of the child and young people

As a target group, children and youngsters represent a primary segment with RIHR’s activities, not only because they are vulnerable or because they feel they need to know and exercise their rights and understand that this has to be paralleled by awareness about their responsibilities, but also because information and human rights education contribute to the development of young people in the spirit of democratic citizenship, in their capacity as future participants in their communities’ life.

And, since children’s and youngsters’ physical, affective, psychological or social development is the responsibility of the parents, the family or those who have the right to act as substitutes, the family (in its wider perception) is also one of the Institute’s areas of interest. This is the reason why it acts to provide the family’s access to information regarding the reciprocal rights and responsibilities.

For that reason, the Institute focuses on organizing campaigns, events, workshops and contests targeted to children and youngsters, and – which is important for the general climate of understanding and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms – also targeted to their parents or educators, the psychologists and the social assistants whose responsibility is to make sure these rights and their counterpart responsibilities become real facts.

One of the key elements contributing to this is RIHR’s involvement, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, with the organization of traditional school contests such as “The Socio-Human Sciences Olympics” and “Democracy and Tolerance”, which aim to have the students acquire knowledge, behaviours and attitudes whose final objective is the application of human rights fundamental values.

Another method to disseminate these values amongst youngsters is to work and collaborate directly, in the framework of interactive workshops and events, so that they should understand the

importance of respecting everyone's rights, while having the opportunity to make comments and express their opinions about what the application of a right means. Such workshops, devoted to the Universal Children's Day, was aimed to make the participants become aware about the categories of rights children are entitled to and particularly integrate this knowledge into everyday life.

The Universal Children's Day was marked during a whole week (18-24 November) and included events diversified in terms of thematic and approach such as contests, courses and workshops.

Educators, pedagogues, psychologists, social assistants as well as other categories of personnel whose duty is to guide, assist and educate young people were also trained to understand the fundamental rights of the child and make them actual facts, with emphasis on their responsibilities to protect children. Thus, there were courses and debate workshops dealing with the right to play and recreational activities, and young people's rights in the virtual world.

As to the need to make the parents become aware about these rights – the former being responsible not only for the application of the rights, but equally for protecting children. No matter whether we speak about the selection and the application of educative punishments (an event that enjoyed the attention of numerous parents participating in the seminar entitled "The psychology class"), or non-violent communication, or the selection of commercial goods that comply with the domestic and the international legal norms related to the safety of usage, all these seminars workshops mainly aimed making the parents realize that the observance of children's rights had to be achieved and become real with all aspects of everyday life.

Bearing in mind the development of coherent policies with major and direct impact in terms of increasing the quality of children's and their families' lives, on 16-17 March the Institute participated in the Conference on "France-Romania – prospects regarding the European social policy and the children's and families' protection policies", organized by the International Foundation for Child and Family "Dr. Alexandra Zugrăvescu" and the Eurodir network with a view to promote the European standards for the training of social services managers.

Women's rights

In 2017 the Institute took efforts to promote and implement the international standards devoted to women's rights in the context of the evaluation made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women² as well as the preparation of Romania's report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On request by the Office of the High Committeer for Human Rights, RIHR elaborated a study and, based on it, submitted a report on the various forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in the context of racism, xenophobia and intolerance and the way multiple discrimination adversely affects the rights of women and girls. Based on an analysis of the development of the legislation in the field, the Institute presented the progress scored in recent years, while also pointing out the problems faced by Roma women, women with disabilities and rural women in the exercise of their rights. There were examples of good practices and initiatives by the civil society meant to combat multiple and convergent forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Institute got involved in the elaboration process periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the third report submitted by Romania in the framework of the universal periodic review (UPR) mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council. In the elaboration of its studies and points of view included in the above mentioned reports, the Institute participated in discussions with representatives of the public institutions involved with the elaboration of the country reports, which included and referred to the researches, studies and campaigns organized by RIHR, and also organized consultations with NGOs concerned with women's rights. The conclusions and the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed such issues as: women's access to justice, the stereotypes issues, violence

² In the framework of the 67th session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

against women, traffic and sexual exploitation, political representation, education, the labour market, health, the status of rural women, migrant women, women facing multiple discrimination, marriage and family relations. The Institute took efforts to publicize these recommendations by means of the activities organized in the second half of the year 2017, as well as its publications and its webpage³.

Throughout the year 2017, RIHR organized a number of events and consultations with non-governmental organizations activating in the field of women's rights, as well as exchanges of good practices, as part of the common effort to identify viable solutions for combating violence against women and girls. In this respect, mention should be made of the debate on "Let's combat violence against women", organized in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Women "Împreună" (AFRI), on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Institute prepared a questionnaire meant to provide relevant information on women's rights in Romania and the means to combat domestic violence. Most respondents emphasized on the need for new legal provisions to combat stereotypes and women's degrading image willingly or unwillingly promoted by the media.

Also, the Institute got involved with the promotion of such campaigns as "Together for peace", organized in the framework of the event entitled "Prosperity and peace for 196 nations on the International Day of Peace" in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Women "Împreună" (AFRI), and the United Nations campaign of the 16 days of activism "Leave No One Behind", a campaign inaugurated on 25 November and concluded on 10 December – Human Rights Day.

Other events in which the Institute participated as co-organizer or as a guest were the debate on "Gender Equality and the empowerment of all women and girls – a goal of the 2030 Agenda", and the conference on "Gender Equality: a test for democracy", organized on initiative by the Chamber of Deputies' and the Senate's Committees on equal opportunities for women and men, on occasion of the National Day on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

Old persons

Aging of the population is a major global trend affecting, at different paces and levels, all countries. It reflects some of the most significant achievement of human development, such as the improvement of the health condition, the increase of lifespan and the decrease of mortality.

Alongside with the increase of the number of old persons, the importance of active aging as well as the importance of the rights of old persons are more and more acknowledged. Nevertheless, old persons face many problems that limit both their rights, including the right to autonomy, participation, access to education and training, to health and social assistance, and their contribution to the welfare of society.

Project "The rights of old persons and long-term care" (2015-2017), coordinated by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), was meant to promote a human rights approach for caring old persons in Europe, a clarification of the international and the regional standards in the field as well as make recommendations for the European decision makers with a view to optimize the protection of these persons as well as strengthen the acknowledgement of the role of national human rights institutions in the field.

In the framework of this Project, the Institute monitored eight caring centres in Romania, four urban and four rural, six public and two private, and made its contribution consisting of studies and written material, including its contribution to the national Report on old persons, as part of ENNHRI's final Report.

Also, RIHR's representatives organized a number of interviews, meetings and debates with representatives of the central and the local authorities having powers in the field, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and professional organizations.

³ See http://irido.ro/irido/pdf/140_ro.pdf

Persons with disabilities

The topics approached by the Institute in its 2017 activities also included aspects related to disability in light of human rights, recognition of the legal capacity, the rights of women with disabilities, inclusive education, independent life and integration in the community. The Institute continued the researches it had been involved with, further developing the existing partnerships, while also getting involved with new projects.

According to art. 12 in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), legal capacity and recognition as persons before the law are inherent rights which persons with disabilities should enjoy on an equal basis with the other members of society. In this respect, RIHR further affirmed the need for a legislative reform that could provide persons with disabilities, particularly those with mental disabilities, with the assistance they might need in the exercise of their legal capacity; it also affirmed the need for a new decision-making mechanism that would substitute the old one with an assisted decision-making system.

The Institute concluded a partnership with the Romanian Association of Forensic Psychiatry, thus joining the initiative for the elaboration of a legislative project regarding execution of the safety measures of a medical nature, offering expertise related to disability perceived in terms of human rights, as well as the interpretation and the implementation of the CRPD. The reform of the legislation devoted to mental health should focus on the protection of the patients' rights, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, a point of view RIHR also sustained at the events and the debates organized by various parliamentary commissions in which RIHR was invited to participate. In this respect, mention should be made of the roundtable on Application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the psychosocial segment – from theory to practice”, and the debate on “Legal prospects regarding the psychosocial rehabilitation of patients subject to medical safety measures”, organized by the Senate's Committee for Equal Opportunities and the Romanian Association of Forensic Psychiatry.

Also, the Institute was requested by the Chamber of Deputies' Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues to prepare a point of view regarding the extent the rights of persons with disabilities are respected and promoted in our country and present it at a meeting on “The fulfilment level of Romania's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Strategy 2020”.

In the year 2017, RIHR organized a number of debates and consultations with non-governmental organizations on such topics as the autonomy of persons with autism, assisted decision-making model and systems inclusive education. RIHR affirmed the rights of persons with autism to equal opportunities and effective and full participation in the society, organizing in this respect a roundtable on “Autonomy and independent life for those with autism”. The participants in the meeting pointed out that Romania still lacks an infrastructure of specialized services and interventions to assist persons with autism increase their ability to become autonomous and that the financial resources necessary to develop such services are also missing. Although there is an inclusive education law, which promotes unrestricted access to education for everybody, children and youngsters with autism still have a limited access to mass education.

Consultations with the various NGOs activating in the field were important to identify examples of good practices with the implementation of assisted decision-making systems. In this respect, RIHR elaborated a study and prepared a report related to Romania's implementation of art. 12 of CRPD on equal recognition before the law, presented at the Work Group for the implementation of art. 12 of CRPD of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI).

Also, in 2017 RIHR participated as observer in the meetings between the representatives of the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities and representatives of the civil society.

Migration, asylum

In recent years, the international community has faced unprecedented waves of migration, while the situation of persons forced to leave their homes because of armed conflicts, poverty, desertification, or extreme climatic phenomena should be understood and managed in an effective and responsible way.

The fundamental rights should be acknowledged to all persons irrespective of their status: asylum seekers, refugees or migrants. In this respect, RIHR, by means of its studies and debates, has always emphasized on the international and the regional legislation in the field and their implementation in the domestic legislation.

The Institute organized a number of meetings and debates inviting representatives of the public institutions with powers in the field, representatives of parliamentary commissions and members of the civil society as participants. As an example, let us mention the symposium on “Racism and xenophobia against migrants. Challenges for the European institutions” and also the symposium on “The refugee crisis – a global phenomenon”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Refugee Day.

Access to justice

Access to justice is not a mere right, but represents an essential instrument that paves the way for other rights to become a reality.

The basic elements of this right include the effective access to a litigation solving body, the right to a fair trial and to the resolution of litigations within reasonable time, the right to adequate damages as well as the general application of the principles referring to the efficiency and the effectiveness of the judicial act.

The analyses performed and the debates organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the year 2017 dealt with such topics as observance of the provisions of arts. 6 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, of art. 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, observance and implementation of the Court of Strasbourg decisions by the national institutions, improvement of the national legislation and the evolution of the Romanian jurisprudence.

Of the events with particular impact in the field, mention should be made of the 6th edition of the International Conference on “The efficiency of the legal norms”, organized in Cluj Napoca on 25-27 May 2017 by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Faculty of Law of Cluj Napoca, in partnership with RIHR, the Romanian Academy, Cluj Napoca Branch and the “George Barițiu” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy – Socio-Human Department. The Conference was a good opportunity for the Institute to put to value the results and the conclusions of the analyses it had performed with regard to free access to justice, unrestricted by modest incomes.

It is also worth mentioning that RIHR is member of the Legal Working Group of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and participated actively in this capacity in the debates on topics related to the promotion of Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Right to health

On request by the Senate’s Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, The Romanian Institute for Human Rights presented the Committee with a point of view on the Vaccination Act⁴. The Institute pointed out the fact that providing periodic vaccination under epidemiologic circumstances or in the case of population groups at risk, is a way to keep the right to health up to date at national level. To ensure the right to health is, on the one hand, a double obligation of the State – a domestic one and an international one – and, on the other hand, an obligation of the parents or the legal guardians for the children they raise.

Referring to the international and the regional human rights standards, as well as the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights appreciated that the vaccination campaign was appropriate, whereas imposing the obligation to be vaccinated was inappropriate. What the Institute considered to be much more suitable was to inform the persons targeted by the law, in as many details as possible, about: the necessity to be vaccinated, the types of available vaccines, the substances contained by the vaccines, the risks assumed by those refusing vaccination and the risks to which they subject the other citizens, the beneficial effects of vaccination, but also the side effects and the risks of vaccination. It is preferable that

⁴ See http://www.irido.ro/irido/pdf/185_ro.pdf

citizens should freely choose to get vaccinated, exercising their right to health as fully informed citizens. In the case of vulnerable categories, with special reference to children (particularly by their possible contribution to the propagation of an epidemic), compulsory presentation of a vaccination handbook to get access to a collectivity could be a solution.

Right to peace

On request by the Office of the United Nations High Committeeer for Human Rights, the Institute prepared a report on the impact of weapons traffic upon human rights. In its study, RIHR appreciated that weapons circulation and traffic in various places on the planet are not strictly monitored, nor are they controlled, due to the lack of international legal provisions. The national and the regional levels are characterized by various procedures and control systems that have to be updated for a real control upon the dynamics of this weapon influx. Nevertheless, the legal provisions in force stay lacunar and hard to synchronize or put to practice.

Mention should be made of the common position adopted by the EU Member States, including Romania, vis-à-vis the control of weapon transfer mediation, which binds the States to harmonize their policies in this respect. States shall issue an authorization for trafficking weapons to a third country and establish sanctions for the intermediate agents eluding the control and violating the national legislation. It is also necessary to hold control upon the nationality of intermediate agents who reside on the respective country's territory but act overseas.

The report points out the active role of Romanian State that, in cooperation with the intelligence services of other countries, including the USA, managed to identify and stop illegal transportation of weapons to various areas of the planet.

The Report by the United Nations Office of the High Committeeer for Human Rights on the weapon trafficking impact upon human rights was presented at the Human Rights Council's 35th session.

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

In the exercise of its powers – which come out from RIHR’s mandate as national, independent institution, vested by the constitutive law with the task to research, train and offer advisory opinions – the Training Department has the purpose to organize training programmes, workshops and events mainly addressing those categories of persons that have special responsibilities with the protection of human rights or devoted to make large categories of the population get familiarized with human rights issues.

Human rights cannot be defended and promoted by the mere existence of legal instruments: it is human rights education that is crucial for these rights to be understood, known, promoted, protected and observed at all levels and in all fields of activity.

In this respect, RIHR’s Training Department has organized its activity on such coordinates as:

- **openness** to all target groups and initiation of activities that should respond directly and to an as large as possible extent to their needs, identified directly or by cooperation with partners directly involved with the promotion of the rights of various categories;

- **non-discrimination and promotion first of all** of the rights of vulnerable categories: children, women, old persons, Roma, persons with disabilities;

- **accessibility** – in the relationship with the beneficiaries, the institutional partners or partners from the civil society sharing the same values, interests and goals;

- **active involvement** with the accomplishment of the Department’s missions by organizing events, projects and programmes that reflect the Institute’s rich range of powers;

- **availability** to readily and effectively respond to the requests of the target groups and the categories taking interest in human rights;

- **adaptability** to the challenges of contemporary society, permanent adjustment of the activities to correspond to the levels of information and knowledge characterizing the public at large and the specialized public;

- **permanent development** of new programmes, activities, events, course supports, etc., alongside with a permanent adaptation of the staff in terms of information and training.

According to these coordinates, the activity of the Training Department tried to access an as large as possible range of target groups, to cover an as large as possible thematic area in the field of human rights and, last but not least, to develop a network of partners from within the community and institutional.

As to the various categories of beneficiaries, in 2017 they were variegated and particularly worked out for certain events, to put to maximum value their impact; they were aimed at several elements of the human rights education process, such as children, parents and educators or social assistants in a given community.

What we talk here about is a very diversified public that, in the course of 2017, assimilated fundamental notions related to human rights or, by the events initiated by RIHR alongside with its partners, could go deeply into one of the topics included by conceptual area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Of these, we should mention: students (in schools, high schools, social centres, clubs and children’s palaces, including children from disadvantaged communities), teachers, trainers, psychologists, psychopedagogues, social assistants, social pedagogues, programme coordinators or project managers, parents, the general public taking interest in specialized topics for which the Institute has expertise.

Also, if we refer to the themes dealt with (some of which were established together with partners from the community or from institutions who requested certain courses), we may mention such topics as:

- right to education
- teachers’ training in the field of human rights education
- rights in the virtual world (the Internet, social networks, online games)
- interpretation of punishments in terms of the rights of the child

- safety of products and children's right to protection
- school violence
- non-violent communication
- active citizenship
- events with international significance (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 21 March, World Water Day – 22 March, International Humanitarian Law Day – 14 May, International Day of Families and Romanian Families Day – 15 May, World Environment Day – 5 June, United Nations Day – 24 October, Universal Children's Day – 20 November, Human Rights Day – 10 December).

As far as partners are concerned, in 2017 the Institute concluded 14 new partnerships and collaboration protocols which, alongside with those already existing and under way, allowed for conceiving and organizing common events with:

- national institutions or local authorities: Ministry of National Education, Sector 6 General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection, the Golescu-Grant Hall Centre for Recreation and Personal Development, the Teachers' Training House of Constanța, the Teachers' Training House of Bucharest, the School Inspectorate of Suceava;

- school units: "Spiru Haret" High School in Bucharest, "Prof. Ion Vișoiu" Secondary School, School No. 153 Daytime Centre, "Take Ionescu" Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea, Secondary School No. 2 in Videle, "Carmen Sylva" Art College, "Alexandru Ceușianu" Secondary School in Reghin, "Spiru Haret" College, and "Jean Monnet" National College in Ploiești;

- media: portal QBebe;

- private entities: Carrefour;

- NGOs: "Adolescența" Foundation, United Way, which, in turn, collaborates with other State or non-profit organizations whose members participated in RIHR's training sessions: A.C.T.O.R., A.S.I.S., Inocenții, C.A.R.P. Omenia, YOYO, Providența, "Viitor pentru Copiii României" Foundation, LINDENFELD Association "Ajungem Mari", Monterra, "Sfântul Arhidiacon Ștefan" Association, ADRAS Romania, "PAVEL" Association.

Based on the training needs identified by means of consultations with these partners (bearing in mind that those directly working with the beneficiaries are closely familiarized with the problems and the vulnerabilities of the profession, as well as those of certain target groups), while also taking into account the interests and the needs directly expressed by the participants in the training courses and workshops, the Training Department conceived and elaborated ten new course supports and PowerPoint presentations:

- Right to protection against violence, abuses, injuries, degrading or inhuman treatments. Non-violent communication;
- Rights in the virtual world;
- School discipline and the rights of the child;
- How to behave in our relationship with persons with disabilities. Attitudes and good practices;
- Rights of old persons in long-term care;
- Non-discrimination against the Roma community;
- Safety of products and the right to protection;
- Children's right to education;
- Journey in the Land of Children's Rights;
- Right to play and to recreational activities.

I. Contests

1. Contests with annual periodicity

One important part of the activity performed by the Training Department is to educate

youngsters in the field of human rights, thus making a contribution to a more aware, more democratic and more solidary society. School contests, organized at national level ever since the 90's, are evidence of the traditional partnership between the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry of National Education, two institutions that have always had as main goal the promotion of respect for the values.

1.1. The Socio-Human Sciences Olympics

The Olympics is an excellence contest that reached its 23rd edition in 2017, which took place on 24-28 April at "Decebal" National College in the municipality of Deva. The contest brought together 250 students from all the country's counties, distributed in terms of disciplines as follows: 76 students (28 crews) at Civic Culture; 41 students at Logic, Argumentation and Communication; 41 students at Psychology; 34 students at Economy; 30 students at Sociology; 28 students at Philosophy. At the same time, 40 written papers were sent to the Olympics Central Committee for evaluation.

The students with the most notable results were handed special prizes and honourable mentions by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, as follows: prizes – Maran Iulia, Duşa Daria Lucia, Hotya Daiana Maria, Iago Francesca Raluca, Ştefan Georgiana Andreea, Dorobanţă Alexandra Andreea and honourable mentions – Gănescu Ana, Vîlcea Ioana Ştefania, Raţiu Andreea Denisa, Vovea Mădălina Anca, Iordan Sara Cristina, Ene Ana-Maria, Chiţu Călin Paul, Tudor Dan Mihai, Parasca Victoria Damaris, Toderici Mihai Bogdan.

The Institute's participation in the organization of the contest and as member of the jury reflects the Institute's commitment to systematically encourage positive attitudes and behaviours, to promote respect for values and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

1.2. The "Democracy and Tolerance" Contest

Having reached its 23rd edition, the contest tried to develop the competence to cooperate at group level, stimulating the interest for such concepts as democracy, tolerance, human rights and the relationships among them. The contest includes three tests: the theoretical test (2 hours) that consists in a written paper; a practical-applicative test, which involves the elaboration of project for the resolution of a problem faced by the school or by the local community to which the students belong; the artistic test consists in the achievement of a plastic work (drawing, graphics, painting, collages, sculpture, etc.) that has to illustrate the way the problem presented at the practical-applicative test was solved.

The first three positions were won by the crews of Teleorman, Vâlcea and Neamţ counties. Honourable mentions were obtained by the crews of Buzău, Călăraşi, Olt, Dâmboviţa and Suceava crews.

1.3. Interdisciplinary Contest "History and society in the virtual dimension"

The Interdisciplinary Contest "History and society in the virtual dimension" is included in the calendar of the Ministry of National Education; it has its national phase once every two years and is organized into two sections: *History* and *Socio-Human Sciences* (which, in turn, has two sections: "Wepages" and "Educational Soft"). This year, the Contest's national phase took place at "Jean Monnet" National College in Ploieşti on 4-7 March. The Contest, an excellence event, brought together 68 students from 35 counties, 9th-12th grades, with special aptitudes in the field of history and socio-human sciences, but also in computer science, for the two disciplines had to be combined in the achievement of the projects. The Contest's purpose is the computer assisted achievement of materials on freely chosen topics of history (history of the Romans or universal history) and of socio-human sciences (civic education, logic, argumentation and communication, psychology, sociology, economy, philosophy, entrepreneurial education or social studies).

The awarded papers were evaluated on the basis of score, obtained both in terms of the content and in terms of the programmed material, the quality of the specialized language used to edit the paper as well as the scientific accuracy of the information. Each section was awarded prizes I, II, III, and also several honourable mentions. The winners were awarded prizes for the two categories

on behalf of the Ministry of National Education, the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Ploiești, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as sums of money on behalf of the European Parliament. At the same time, the winners were awarded special diplomas and book prizes on behalf of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, that focus its activities on the promotion of values, human rights education, and civic education and culture.

The winners of the Socio-Human Sciences section were: 1st Prize – Țălină Laura Florentina from "I. Slavici" Theoretical High School in Panciu for the paper entitled "Memory and Learning"; 2nd Prize – Gherman Codruța Andreea from "N. Bălcescu" Theoretical High School in Cluj-Napoca, for the paper entitled "Philosophy+"; 3rd Prize – Țintărescu Stan Gabriel Cristian from "I. L. Caragiale" National College in Bucharest, for the paper entitled "Eco Learn – Educational Platform".

2. Contests without periodicity

2.1. The "Rights and Responsibilities" Contest

Taking place between 30 October – 10 November and addressing children between 12 and 14 years old, the contest was organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Protection of the Child, Sector 6. What the participants were supposed to do was to pick up several rights laid down in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and presented in the Contest Poster and write at least three responsibilities incumbent on them in their relationships with friends, colleagues, the family, school and the community.

The Contest was attended by about 30 children, and the winners (Duță Daria-Maria, ten years old, Secondary School No. 197, Samson Ferdinand Mild, 13 years old, Secondary School No. 153, Sisan Yunus Amiri, 13 years old, Secondary School No. 169) presented the most creative and best supported answers. The awards were given in the framework of an interactive workshop devoted to the Universal Children's Day, an event organized by the "Golescu-Grant Hall" Centre for Recreation and Personal Development.

2.2. Poetry and drawings contests organized by "Prof. Ion Vișoiu" Secondary School, Chitila

In order to celebrate the Universal Children's Day, "Prof. Ion Vișoiu" Secondary School, in collaboration with RIHR' Training Department, organized a poetry contest whose topic was children's rights. The evaluation and the awarding of prizes fell upon the Institute. Five students (Spiru Ștefan – 5th grade, Denisa Maria – 6th grade, Muntianu Ștefan – 6th grade, Pîrva Lavinia – 5th grade, Eren Cristea – 5th grade) out of the 24 participants (5th and 6th grades) were awarded prizes by RIHR that consisted in books for children. In terms of the thematic, the children dealt with a variety of rights, from the right to play, to health or to identity down to such issues as freedom of expression and of opinion, or the issue of abandoned children.

The drawing contest was an occasion for the 17 children who participated to use colours, their gift and imagination to present a large range of rights (to a healthy environment, to national identity, to education and protection).

2.3. Literary and plastic creation contests organized by "Take Ionescu" Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea

On occasion of the Global Education Week, on 18-26 November 2017, "Take Ionescu" Secondary school, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, put a challenge before its students inspired by the very global education topic of this year, that is, "My World Depends on Us". Two contests took place in the framework of this campaign: a literary creation contest entitled "Words and attitudes for a happy childhood", and a plastic creation one entitled "Childhood's looks and colours". The jury included the director of RIHR, the director and the deputy director of "Take Ionescu" Secondary School, the school counsellor, the plastic arts teacher and the student projects and programmes coordinator. The best works were those of Pănescu Petruța Daria (the drawing entitled "Dreaming amongst colours"), Ionescu Lisa ("Right to happiness") and

Ilinca Alina Maria (“The rights’ family”) for the plastic arts contest; and Țuglui Iulia, Bulat Irina and Călianu Andreea for the literary creation contest (all three with essays on the rights of the child).

Handing of the awards to the winners of the two contests took place on occasion of Human Rights Day, on 10 December, with the assistance of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

II. Events with international significance

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January)

On the occasion, RIHR organized at its headquarters, on 26 January 2017, a seminar on “The International Holocaust Remembrance Day; the importance of tolerance and observance of human rights throughout the globe” with the participation of students from “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila. The purpose of this event was to raise the youngsters’ awareness about the fight against racism, intolerance and xenophobia, and it was emphasized that the painful consequences of the Holocaust on the world must not be forgotten so that such horrible things should not be repeated ever again.

Also on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on 27 January, RIHR participated through its director, in the sessions of the Conference on “Is tolerance a practised value? What is the relationship between human rights and the preservation of the values proper to a democratic society?”, organized by “Tudor Vladimirescu” Theoretical High School in Bucharest.

“The courage to remember” was the theme of the event of 27 January devoted to the commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust in the framework of project “Theatre and Life”, organized by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue, “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania, the National Committee of Romania for UNESCO, RIHR and the School Inspectorate of Bucharest, with the participation of students from several colleges and high schools in Bucharest. The event took place at the Holocaust Memorial in Bucharest, a monument devoted to the victims of this black period in history. The participants were lectured about the significance of the day, they visited the memorial complex. In the end, they staged performances of the Statue Theatre in which, by means of the statue images created with their own bodies, they tried to reproduce actions and events at the time of the Holocaust.

In the framework of the campaign commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, it is worth mentioning the second edition of the symposium entitled “Don’t label, don’t discriminate against, don’t forget!”, organized by “Petru Maior” Municipal Library in Reghin in partnership with “Alexandru Ceușianu” Secondary School in Reghin and the Mureș County School Inspectorate.

World Water Day (22 March)

In 2017, on the 25th anniversary of World Water Day, the logo selected at world level was “Why waste water?”, to emphasize on the importance of reducing the quantity of waste water and re-using it. On the occasion, on 22 March 2017, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a roundtable on “No clear water, no healthy life!” in order to stir up the public opinion and the stakeholders on the importance of water for life and sustainable management of drinking water resources.

World Health Day (7 April)

In 2017, the main theme for the World Health Day was depression, a topic included in the campaign “Depression: let’s talk”, which aimed at eliminating the stigmatization of the problems caused by this disease, which has become more and more topical and frequent, as well as raising awareness of the affected persons to resort to specialized assistance. By adopting this logo, WHO points out that depression is a reversible phenomenon, while companionship may play a particular role as an additional assistance to the one offered by the physician and the psychologist. According to the World Health Organization, over 300 million people suffer from depression, while in recent years the number increased significantly.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Romanian Association for

the United Nations (ANUROM), organized on Friday 7 April a roundtable on “A good health condition extends life”. The participants pointed out that there was need for the population to become aware about the dramatic nature of this pathology, the benefits of an early assessment of depressive disorders, as well as to overcome the barriers that block access to specialized assistance.

The International Day of Humanitarian Law (14 May)

The International Day of Humanitarian Law had the theme “Protection of the cultural and the spiritual heritage of mankind in the case of armed conflicts” and was celebrated at Culture Palace in Ploiești, in the “Great Union” Hall at the “N. Iorga” County Library, by the Romanian Association of Humanitarian Law – Prahova Branch (ARDUPH), under the patronage of the Prahova County Prefect’s Office, in collaboration with the Prahova County Council, the Mayor’s Office of the Municipality of Ploiești, the Prahova County School Inspectorate, RIHR as well as other institutions working in the field of education, science and culture.

The event was used as a good opportunity to launch the book „Drept Internațional Umanitar – Cadrul legislativ intern și internațional cu privire la protecția patrimoniului cultural al omenirii” (International Humanitarian Law – the domestic and the international legislative framework for the protection of mankind’s cultural heritage), as well as for other activities: launching the painting catalogue on “Let’s protect mankind’s cultural and spiritual heritage” and the civic-literary creation contest on “We, the future generations, demand protection of mankind’s cultural and educational heritage!”. On the occasion, prizes were awarded to the winners of the two contests, the painting contest and the literary creation one – on topics dealing with the influence of humanitarian law on the protection of the world’s culture.

The International Day of Families (15 May)

An event devoted to the 24th anniversary of the International Day of Families (instituted under Resolution 47/237 by the United Nations General Assembly) and its 23rd anniversary in Romania, took place on Monday 15 May at the Prahova County Teachers’ Training House. The event was organized by Foundation “Adolescența” in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County Teachers’ Training House and the Prahova County School Inspectorate.

This year’s topic chosen by the United Nations Secretary General to mark the International Day of Families was “Families, education and well-being”, to emphasize on the role of the family with the education of the future generation to ensure mankind’s welfare.

The World Environment Day (5 June)

This year, the goal of the World Environment Day was to make people aware about the way they interact with the environment, while pointing out the importance of a rational use of the natural resources.

In the framework of the series of manifestations devoted to this event (information, awareness raising, ecologic education, ecologization activities, debates and roundtables), the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Romanian Association for the United Nations (ANUROM), the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment (AROMES) and Victor Dan Zlătescu “Clubul de la Cheia” Association, organized on Tuesday, 6 June 2017, a roundtable on “The environment depends on us”, which aimed at stimulating people’s concern with the protection of the environment and making them take action for the preservation of our natural heritage for the benefit of the present generation and the future ones as well.

The participants pointed out the need for viable future reforms and strategies for a healthier and safer environment, and to get closer to nature and become more careful with the effects economic development may have upon it.

United Nations Day (24 October)

On Tuesday 24 October 2017, “Spiru Haret” College in Ploiești, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Foundation “Adolescența” in Ploieti and the Prahova County School Inspectorate, organized an event devoted to the United Nations Day. Based on the theme

chosen by the United Nations Secretary General – “Potential in Diversity” – the organizers tried to make the participants deepen their knowledge about the present day goals and missions of the United Nations in the world, about the organizational structure of the United Nations, as well as about the content of the United Nations Charter.

The event proved useful for the young participants’ valuable profitable of ideas when approaching human rights issues in light of UNO’s goals to maintain peace and security at international level, by promoting and encouraging the respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, irrespective of race, language, religion, nationality or any other reasons.

Universal Children’s Day (20 November)

Celebrating Universal Children’s Day, RIHR organized, at the Golescu-Grant Hall Centre for Recreation and Personal Development, on 18 November, a workshop for children, which aimed at making the participants understand their rights, such as they are laid down by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the responsibilities associated with each right.

Also, on 20 November, “Prof. Ion Vişoiu” Secondary School, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, celebrated Universal Children’s Day by means of a programme of events that involved students of several grades (5th to 8th). At the same time, on occasion of this event several thematic contests were organized.

Human Rights Day (10 December)

This year’s theme for Human Rights Day, “Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity”, joins the one year campaign for the preparation of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2018.

On Wednesday 6 December 2017, “Jean Monnet” College in Ploieşti, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, organized an event on “Human rights – a fundamental and universal system for the shaping of a culture of peace”. The event had the form of a workshop for six groups of students, grades 5th, 6th, 9th, and 11th, guided and coordinated by Prof. Roxana Elena Vişan. The event was attended by representatives of the Association of Humanitarian Law – Prahova Branch, – col. (r) Dumitru Codiţă, Prof. Lucia Ionescu, director of “Jean Monnet” College, as well as teachers from “Jean Monnet” College – Prof. Roxana Elena Vişan, Prof. Ileana Cocuz, Prof. Marina Badea, Prof. Liliana Enescu, Prof. Ruxandra Tudorache and Prof. Maria Grigore.

The event was interactive, each group of students having the occasion to express their opinions on the various rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Also in the framework of the campaign devoted this year to Human Rights Day, “Nicolae Iorga” County Library in Ploieşti hosted the 7th edition of the symposium on “Human rights and fundamental freedoms”, organized by Foundation “Adolescenţa” and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Prahova County School Inspectorate, the Prahova Teachers’ Training House and “Nicolae Iorga” County Library in Ploieşti.

The event included several sections: Research, pedagogic experience; Extra-school cultural events; Literary and journalistic creation (essays, articles, drawings, media productions); Exhibition (photography, plastic art, hand-made, etc.).

The event was attended by over 50 participants (students and tutoring teachers) from “Spiru Haret” College in Ploieşti, “Jean Monnet” College In Ploieşti, “Simion Stolnicu” High School in Comarnic, “Carmen Sylva” Arts College in Ploieşti and “Origini Carpatice” Foundation.

It is also worth mentioning the Conference on “Didactic creativity in the field of human rights education”, organized by the Suceava County School Inspectorate in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Social Studies and Civic Education Centre Association, and the conference on “Education for active citizenship”, organized by the Bacău County Teachers’ Training House and “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacău.

III. PUBLICATION OF RULES, 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; this training and information refers to observing, protecting and guaranteeing human rights by means of domestic and international rules, institutions and mechanisms, practices and custom. It has the role to inform all interested citizens about the newest scientific researches in the field of human rights, Romania's international commitments, and the way the latter are accomplished. The Institute translates and publishes international documents which, by their topical nature, have to be known by the governmental and the non-governmental institutions promoting and protecting human rights.

Periodic publications

The quarterly "**Drepturile Omului**" ("Human Rights") includes studies, researches, articles, and reports. The editors are also interested in the national and the international legal texts that have major significance in the field of human rights, in terms of both presentation and interpretation, in the associated jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and/or the domestic courts, in several important institutions in the field of human rights.

The quarterly also includes scientific and diversified analyses of the fundamental human rights, with emphasis on collaboration relationships as well as the relationship between these rights and the values, principles, norms and standards that are at the foundation of institutions and mechanisms; last but not least, emphasis is also laid on terms, concepts, methodological and technological trends. These are to be added chronicles of various events in the field of human rights, notes and comments, human rights books reviews, notes on the Institute's new publications and brief presentations of the main events organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights or in the organization of which the Romanian Institute for Human Rights made its contribution.

Researches elaborated and works published in 2017

New research works were elaborated under the aegis of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights:

Sessions of the International Symposium on "The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for values", Iași 20-22 October 2016

The volume includes the most important studies presented at the 18th edition of the International Symposium on "The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for values". The event, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR), the Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina, the Roman-Catholic Bishopric of Iași, University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" of Iași – Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology.

The sessions of the conference took place in two sections, that is, the perennity of value and the latter's rights; and education for values. The studies that were presented dealt with such topics as human rights and the faith in religious values; religious freedom and education for the traditional values, parental authority and orientation of the students to the theological seminaries; the difference between the academic and the emotional intelligence, children's responsibilities, the dimensions of religious education within the Romanian territory, etc.

Reports:

- RIHR – Annual Report 2016 (The Institute's Annual Report translated into English);
- Report on the evolution of the human rights legislation in the European Union and in Romania –2016;
- Report on good practices and model assisted decision-making systems –

implementation of art. 12 in the CRPD;

- Report on discrimination and violence forms against women and girls;
- Report on the impact of weapon trafficking on human rights.

RIHR' webpage

As a result of an analysis on the status of RIHR's webpage, which had become inoperable in the second half of the year 2016, as well as the status of the Institute's IT equipments and their use, taking into account the impossibility to employ an IT specialist due to the limitations of the staff structure imposed by Law No. 9/1991, the Executive Director proposed to the General Council at the latter's annual meeting of 28 March 2017, that the Institute's IT services should be externalized and also that a new RIHR webpage should be developed, a modern, easily accessible and easily operable one.

The result was an ambitious, rich and variegated content, meant to offer the users as much information as possible regarding human rights issues, the Institute's organizational chart, mandate and available services; also, information on the international, regional-European and domestic instruments protecting and promoting human rights, human rights aspects related to certain vulnerable categories (children, youngsters, women, immigrants/asylum seekers, persons with disabilities, old persons, etc.). At the same time, the webpage makes several publications available to all interested persons: volumes or brochures dealing with human rights topics, of which some are (single) author volumes while others are achieved by the Institute's various departments; international, European and national documents in Romanian and/or English and/or French.

The users are also offered the possibility to consult RIHR's Annual Reports, as well as several other reports, including those referring to the evolution of the human rights legislation in the European Union and in Romania. Equally important is RIHR's quarterly, which can be accessed in electronic format from the Institute's webpage as well.

The webpage offers those interested the opportunity to learn the Institute's viewpoints on various aspects related to human rights issues, expressed on request by either commissions of the Romanian Parliament or by foreign bodies or organizations. Also, by means of the two columns – Semnal' ("Signal") and "InfoIRDO" ("InfoRIHR"), the webpage tries to draw the public's attention to novelties in the field of human rights, editorial novelties, modifications operated in the Standing Rules of various institutions, organizations, etc., to offer to all those interested information on the European Court of Human Rights and the conditions that have to be met to file a complaint before this Court, and also to inform the public about the most recent recommendations addressed to the Romanian Government by international bodies in terms of the respect and the promotion of human rights.

The changes underwent by the Institute's webpage were primarily meant to make it meet the transparency criteria that any public institution should take into account, and secondly to create a real source of useful and updated information in the field to be used by everybody.

IV. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Documentation Centre

The Documentation Centre Library possesses a rich book inventory structured on 251 research and interest areas, including publications in the field of law and human rights, instruments and mechanisms, international conventions and covenants, legal texts, European, regional, national and international law and legislation, history of law, comparative law, studies, publications and bibliographic references, as well as volumes dealing with connected fields, which facilitates an interdisciplinary study of human rights.

In the framework of the documentation and information activity of the year 2017, the Documentation Centre of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights enjoyed an active exchange of information with international organizations, higher education institutions, institutions taking interest in human rights issues, as well as NGOs.

Collaboration with consecrated partners was continued by renewing partnership contracts and protocols while at the same time attracting new partners, with whose collaboration both the activity of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, of its Documentation Centre and that of the Institute's partners were constantly and mutually promoted. Thus, students of "Prof. Ion Vişoiu" Secondary School visited the Centre's Library and were handed RIHR's quarterly and publications on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (26 January 2017), while students of "Spiru haret" National College visited the Centre's Library and were handed RIHR's quarterly and publications on occasion of the European Action Week Against Racism, etc.

Dissemination

Throughout the year 2017, the Documentation Centre continued its collaboration and exchange of information both with county libraries and libraries and institutions from abroad taking interest in the field of human rights. County libraries received, free of charge, the scientific quarterly "Drepturile Omului" as well as the most recent publications issued under the aegis of the Institute.

The Documentation Centre disseminated, free of charge, its publications to the Chamber of Deputies' Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues the Senate's Committee on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities, and the ministries having powers and taking interest in human rights issues. Requests for quarterly "Drepturile Omului" were received from Teachers' Training Centres, Courts of Appeal, courts and tribunals, as well as from the General Parquet.

The partner educational units received the quarterly in the framework of the events and the training courses on continuous education for the promotion and the protection of human rights. Old partnerships were extended and new ones were concluded with "Spiru Haret" National College of Bucharest, "Prof. Ion Vişoiu" Secondary School, the Romanian Association of Women "Împreună" (AFRI), etc.

The Documentation Centre organized and monitored the free-of-charge dissemination of RIHR's scientific quarterly and publications, in compliance with the legal provisions to: the National Library of Romania, the Metropolitan Library, the Academy of Romania, the Central University Library, the Senate of Romania, the Chamber of Deputies, the Constitutional Court, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Legislative Council, Ministries and national institutions, as well as Universities in the field, Dimitrie Cantemir" Ecologic University, the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, "Ovidiu" University of Constanța, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance of Baia Mare, Teachers' Training Centres in Bucharest, Ploiești, Constanța, Hunedoara.

Information

The information activity consisted both of book exchanges in the form of donations in bilateral partnership, and providing availability of specialized publications for the interested public.

RIHR's Documentation Centre paid particular attention to the collaboration with specialized institutions from foreign countries or belonging to international organizations in the field, including: the United Nations' specialized agencies – UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCHR, ILO and WHO (Reports of these agencies can be consulted at the Centre's Library), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Social Charter Secretariat, the European Court of Justice, the International Academy of Comparative Law, the Centre for International and European Studies, the European Law Institute, the International Institute of Law of French Expression and Inspiration, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

FRA's publications and activities are popularized in the pages of RIHR's scientific quarterly, "Drepturile Omului", and also by means of the Information Point devoted to European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, opened in the Centre's Library and updated with the most recent publications, which can be consulted by whoever is interested both in Romanian and in English.

In 2017, the Documentation Centre Library was visited and consulted by pupils, students, teachers, magistrates, lawyers, candidates for a Doctor's Degree or a Master's Degree interested in the scientific literature devoted to the national and the international law, to human rights issues or other associated fields. The readers number increased from one year to another, while the book inventory was enriched as a result of the acquisition of state-of-the-art publications, which are useful for interdisciplinary studies in light of human rights.

RIHR also has a virtual library that is available for all interested persons, the Institute's partners from abroad or persons with walking difficulties. The virtual library can be easily accessed on RIHR's webpage, www.irdo.ro, and includes part of the specialized works in the field of human rights published under the aegis of RIHR, the collection of the scientific quarterly "Drepturile Omului", as well as information related to jurisprudence, presentations of cases solved by the European Court of Human Rights.

In support of human rights education for all, an important constituent is the Centre's documentation, information and dissemination activity – a catalyzing factor – that facilitates the organization and the actual progress of conferences, symposia, debates and roundtables, as well as the collaboration with national institutions and the civil society. By constantly informing the public about the daily challenges human rights encounter at all levels, the Documentation Centre is an important link for the contribution of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to a modern, scientific, transdisciplinary and responsible approach to the promotion and the protection of human rights. Moreover, by organizing visits to the Centre's Library paid by students and RIHR's partners, RIHR contributed throughout the year 2017 to the achievement of a deeper awareness about the situation of human rights at national, regional and international levels.

The public relations activity

The right to petitioning guarantees to all citizens the right to address petitions, and complaints to public authorities, in which they present a fact or a state of affairs and request intervention by the respective authorities. The exercise of this right is an efficient way to have personal or collective problems solved, which is the reason why it is labelled as a right, thus being a general legal guarantee for the other fundamental rights and freedoms.

In 2017, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was solicited by citizens all over the country in various ways: by a considerable number of petitions, complaints, grievances received both by regular and by electronic mail or by telephone related to various cases of violations of rights. According to art. 2 in the Institute's constitutive law, "the purpose of the Institute is to ensure better knowledge by the public bodies, the non-governmental associations and the Romanian citizens, of human rights issues, the way human rights are guaranteed in other countries, especially in the

countries parties in the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe". Good knowledge of these rights and freedoms allows for their optimal achievement. This is the reason why citizens who contacted us directly or by telephone were explained and informed about the problems they invoked, offered advisory opinions on the possible directions of action they could use and indicated the institutions or the authorities having competence to solve those problems. Also, they were offered documentation related to the domestic and the international legislation, information about the role and the powers of governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in the protection and the promotion of human rights.

The citizens' applications and complaints referred to a large range of rights. An important number of petitions had as object dissatisfaction with the activity of the courts of law, the solutions they pronounced, failure to issue the courts' decisions within the legal time periods, the forced execution of court decisions procedure, the activity of bailiffs, the way judges fulfil their professional duties, dissatisfaction with lawyers as well as the activity of the criminal investigation bodies. There also were requests for legal advice mainly with regard to the interpretation and the application of the legal provisions in actual cases where the petitioners were a party. In compliance with the prerogatives given by Law No. 9/1991 on the establishment of the Institute, to a larger extent these petitions and complaints were redirected for examination, according to the legal competencies, to the Minister of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Public Ministry, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Judicial Inspection, etc., while the citizens were informed about the limits of the Institute's competencies, and the fact that the solutions pronounced by courts could only be challenged by exercising the ordinary and the extraordinary remedies at law, as provided by the law. By way of consequence, the resolution of the petitions addressed to the Institute and having as object the activity of the legal bodies is limited to notifying the competent bodies.

Also, an important number of petitions, grievances were received from persons deprived of liberty in relation to the conditions in penitentiaries, application of bad treatments, execution of punishments, transfer to another penitentiary in Romania, the solutions pronounced by the Parole Committee, the abusive behaviour of the penitentiary personnel. These are to be added those referring to the police: the behaviour of police officers, avoidance to get involved with the resolution of cases that fall within their competence, dissatisfaction related to the way the police accomplish their duties; the replies received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; claims of abuses committed by police staff; the delay of the solutions to complaints filed with criminal investigation bodies; refusal to communicate the phase of the criminal files, etc.

Petitioners who had exhausted all remedies were advised with regard to the procedure for sending petitions to the European Court of Human Rights, were handed the European Court's application form as well as documents helping them to fill it in. The complaints referred, among other things, to the right to a fair trial, the resolution of cases within a reasonable period of time, violation of the right to property, failure to implement the courts' decisions, etc.

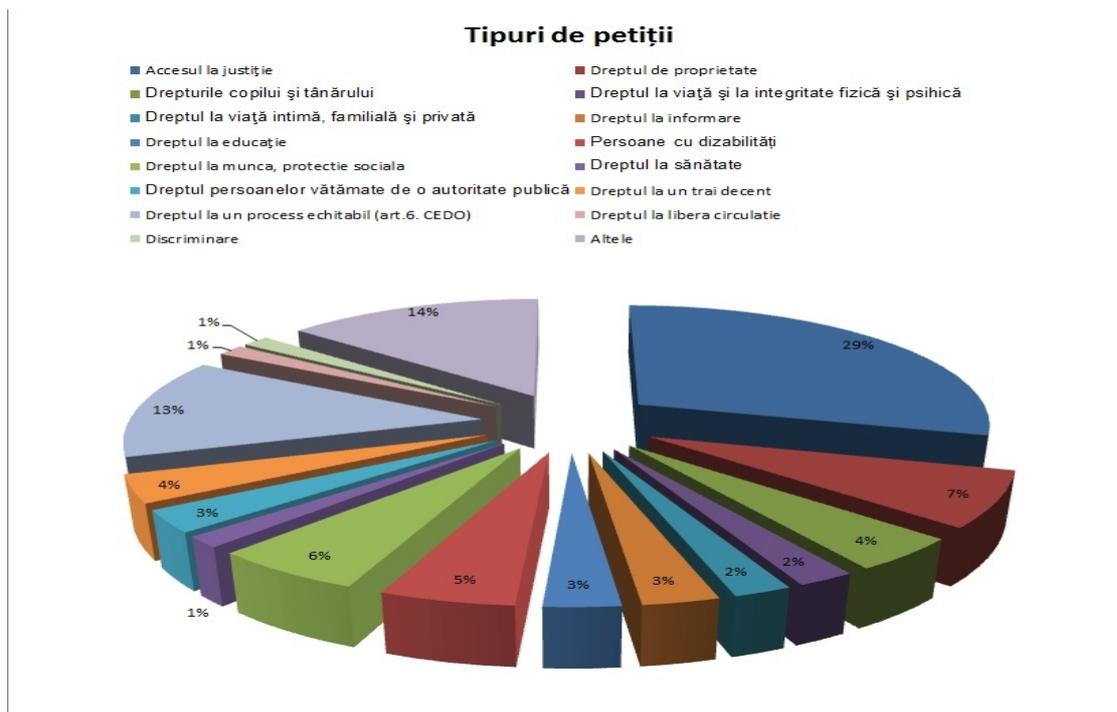
There were petitions related to the right to pension. The petitioners requested information on the legal conditions for retirement or criticized the activity of Pension Houses and the legislation in the field of social insurance – aspects that are no surprise, most of them being found in the petitions from previous years. We were also notified about delays with the resolution of applications for the revision of recalculated pensions or to calculate the pension pecuniary rights or even the lack of replies to petitions; about the way certain territorial Pension Houses calculated or recalculated the pensions; about mistakes and omissions with the calculation of the pension rights; about the refusal of Pension Houses to take into account all the documents deposited by the petitioners for the recalculation of their pension rights; about the inadequate or even abusive behaviour of some employees of Pension Houses in their relationship with the pensioners.

The object of other petitions was the misplacement in disability grades, failure to grant the due rights to persons with disabilities, the unjustified re-evaluation of the disability grade and placement of the person to a disability grade inferior to the previous one, the refusal of local public administration authorities to employ personal assistants for persons with serious disabilities who had been granted the right to have a social assistant, the delay to issue the certificates attesting the

grade of disability, etc., as well as the consequences of the modification of the effective legislation, that is, Government Ordinance No. 60 on amending and supplementing Law No. 448/2006 on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The petitions addressed by youngsters were analyzed in the context of the right to education, the right to information and the right of youngsters to a special protective regime. The young notified the Institute mainly about the denied access to social houses and certain forms of assistance from the State or from the local authorities, denial of the alimony and the survivorship pension, about the legal status of goods acquired during marriage or the right to inheritance.

There were also were complaints referring to the violation of equality of opportunities, of the rights of the child, the right to health, the right to work and to social protection of labour by the employers, the right to free circulation, the right to information, etc., according to the chart below.



As a result of the Institute's official addresses to the institutions and the bodies authorized to investigate, analyze and solve the signalled problems – the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prefect's Offices, Mayor's Offices, Local Councils, etc. – many of the petitions and the complaints addressed to RIHR proved to be founded, while measures were taken for redress and reinstatement of the violated rights, the petitioners being informed about that.

By means of the Institute's actions, or by offering advisory opinions for each case in part or in relation to filing complaints and petitions with competent bodies and submission thereof to competent bodies, or guiding the petitioners to the best solutions to their problems, or redirecting the petitions and the complaints to the authorized institutions, the Institute's representatives got involved and took action to solve them.

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

According to the law on the establishment of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Institute's mandate is to ensure better knowledge of human rights issues by the public bodies, particularly by informing them about the international documents, practices and custom, including their translation when necessary.

Relationship with Romania's Parliament

According to art. 3 in Law No. 9/1991, on request by Parliament's Committees, the Institute can provide documentation related to human rights issues in bills and other issues examined by Parliament.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the debates organized by Parliament's specialized Committees, where the Institute participated as guest and its representatives presented points of view:

Chamber of Deputies

- "The legal and the spiritual liberation of the Roma" – Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues;
- "Fulfilment stage of Romania's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2020 Strategy" – Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues;
- "Legal solutions for the implementation of ECtHR's Pilot Decision on prison conditions" – Committee for Legal Matters, Discipline, and Immunities;
- Bill on vaccination of persons in Romania (Law No. 216/2017) – Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues
- "Presentation of and debates on the Report on the fundamental rights" – Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues
- "Citizenship, a fundamental right – The right to have rights" – Subcommittee for respecting and defending the rights and freedoms of the Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority;
- "The judicial error – international remedies and the jury court" – Committee for Foreign Policy.

Senate

- "Application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the psychosocial segment – from theory to practice" – Committee for Equal Opportunities;
- "Legal prospects regarding the psychosocial rehabilitation of patients under the incidence of medical safety measures" – Committee for Equal Opportunities;
- "Integration of mental health issues in all policies. Mental health at workplace" – Committee for Public Health

Collaboration with other institutions

Ministry of National Education: Organization of training-for-trainers courses by means of Teachers' Training Houses/school inspectorates for inspectors, methodology teachers, teaching staff members who achieve human rights education in pre-university educational units; continuation, with the assistance of school inspectorates and Teachers' Training Centres, of the organization of the National contest of didactic creativeness that aims to stimulate the achievement of auxiliary

didactic materials for teaching-learning aspects related to human rights issues in pre-university educational units; organization of the biennial contest of didactic creativeness for materials devoted to human rights education; participation of RIHR's representatives in the organization and evaluation of national contests/Olympics in the field of socio-human disciplines, and awarding of prizes to the most valuable works with human rights related thematic.

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University and the International Human Rights Institute: organization of the International Conference on “The European culture of human rights. The right to happiness”, 5th edition.

The Suceava County School Inspectorate: providing expertise in the field of human rights by RIHR's specialists in the framework of specific activities; organizing: training courses for various categories of personnel in the pre-university educational system; school contests in pre-university educational units; debates, colloquia, symposia events with regard to methods, pedagogic practices with human rights education in the pre-university educational system; as well as provision of documentation and publications in the field of human rights.

The Cluj County Teachers' Training Centre: organizing and conducting the National contest of didactic creativeness in the field of auxiliary materials devoted to human rights education, democracy and a culture of peace in the pre-university educational system, 9th edition.

The Constanța County Teachers' Training Centre: providing documentation and publications in the field of human rights; working meetings devoted to the Project entitled *National identity values in the European cultural area – Centenary Romania*.

Sector 6 General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection: organizing three workshops on human rights education; conducting the Contest on “Rights and responsibilities”, targeting children belonging to the 10-14 age-group; organizing the Universal Children' Day.

Foundation “United Way”: training sessions and workshops devoted to human rights education and the rights of the child, respectively.

Qbebe.ro: organizing the seminar entitled “The Responsible Parents' School” on “The Psychology Class”, with a dissertation on “Punishments in light of the rights of the child”.

Secondary School No. 2, Videle: offering consultancy with the educational projects on “All children go to school!” and “Stop bullying in my school!”.

“Take Ionescu” Secondary School, Râmnicu Vâlcea: organizing contests, events on human rights education in pre-university educational units, devoted to the International Day for Tolerance, the Global Education Week and Human Rights Day.

Foundation “Adolescența”: conducting in partnership promotional activities with regard to human rights education.

The Romanian Association of Forensic Psychiatry: promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; advocating for the modification of the legislation in effect related to mental health and social inclusion with a view to optimize the system of psycho-social rehabilitation, organizing seminars and dissertation sessions in the field.

Romanian Association of Women “Împreună”: promoting the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); combating discrimination of and stereotypes related to women in society, promoting women's participation in

the life of their communities and inclusion of vulnerable categories; organizing the seminar on “Let’s combat violence against women!” on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Association for Intercultural Dialogue: activities conducted in the framework of the projects meant to educate and raise the awareness of young people, as well as other categories of persons, about the importance of the respect for human rights that aims to change mentalities and sustain development in the spirit of democracy.

Cooperation with international and regional institutions

At the same time, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is mandated to inform the public abroad, the international bodies about the practical ways human rights are provided and respected in Romania. In this respect, according to art. 6 in Law No. 9/1991, the Institute can establish collaborations relations with human rights institutes or similar bodies from other countries, as well as with international and regional organizations performing activities in the field of human rights.

The main international partners with which RIHR collaborates are: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OSCE – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

As in previous years, the Institute was requested to offer information and data on various aspects related to the promotion and the protection of human rights in Romania, also taking into account the studies achieved within the Institute. Thus, on request by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights prepared a Report on the forms of multiple discrimination and violations of human rights in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, particularly in the case of women and girls, who are entitled to have all their rights respected⁵. Also, RIHR made its contribution, on request by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to a Report on the impact of weapon transfers on human rights.⁶

The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

The Institute is a founding member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions. ENNHRI’s purpose is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights across the wider Europe region, by bringing together NHRIs to work on a wide range of human rights issues and supporting their development.

RIHR is an active participant in the Network both by means of the working groups whose member it is and by means of the various projects coordinated by ENNHRI.

The working groups whose members include RIHR are:

- The Legal Working Group – monitors the activity of the European Court of Human Rights to identify cases in priority fields and to consider interventions as third party. The Working Group’s current activity also includes its continuous contribution to the examination of the reform and the consolidation of the European Convention on Human Rights system.
- The Working Group for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Group debates on and analyzes aspects related to the implementation of the various articles in CRPD (e.g. art. 12 on equal recognition before the

⁵ See http://www.irdo.ro/irdo/pdf/183_ro.pdf.

⁶ The Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was presented at the 35th session of the Human Rights Council, 3 May 2017. See <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/109/83/PDF/G1710983.pdf?OpenElement>.

law), the development of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, the dialogue with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the ECtHR's recent jurisprudence in the field, etc. Also, under the coordination of ENNHRI, RIHR plus other three national human rights institutions (the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, and UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission) were involved in project meant to identify good practices with the implementation of assisted decision-making systems, with reference to art. 12 in the CRPD.

- The Working Group for Social and Economic Rights – monitors the impact of economic policies upon human rights; consolidates the capacities of national human rights institutions by means of exchange of information and practices, development of instruments, training.
- The Working Group for Asylum and Migration – facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience to consolidate regional and international cooperation in the area of asylum and migration; facilitates commitment to the regional mechanisms created for asylum and migration issues. The Group's activity was to a large extent devoted to the protection of the rights migrants in detention.

At the same time, RIHR participated in the meeting organized by ENNHRI and Equinet on discrimination and violence against women. The event's purpose was to facilitate sharing the positive experience and the good practices in combating violence against women characterizing the activity of the national bodies, as well as consolidate the capacity to use the existing data sources to raise public awareness and to change policies and mentalities in terms of communication.

The Francophone Association of National Human Rights Commissions (Association Francophone des Commissions Nationales des Droits de l'Homme – AFCNDH)

In view of the elaboration of a manual of good practices regarding the creation and functioning of national human rights institutions, RIHR provided information on the establishment of the Institute and related to its activities that include research, training, dissemination of information, consultation and solving petitions. Various aspects were included such as the difficulties or the blockages the Institute had faced, the latter's good practices, its activity improving initiatives so that its mission should be achieved and its mandate be fulfilled in a most efficient way.

Appendix I

Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles)

Adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993

Competence and responsibilities

1. A national institution shall be vested with competence to promote and protect human rights.
2. A national institution shall be given as broad a mandate as possible, which shall be clearly set forth in a constitutional or legislative text, specifying its composition and its sphere of competence.
3. A national institution shall, inter alia, have the following responsibilities:
 - (a) To submit to the Government, Parliament and any other competent body, on an advisory basis either at the request of the authorities concerned or through the exercise of its power to hear a matter without higher referral, opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports on any matters concerning the promotion and protection of human rights; the national institution may decide to publicize them; these opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports, as well as any prerogative of the national institution, shall relate to the following areas:
 - (i) Any legislative or administrative provisions, as well as provisions relating to judicial organizations, intended to preserve and extend the protection of human rights; in that connection, the national institution shall examine the legislation and administrative provisions in force, as well as bills and proposals, and shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate in order to ensure that these provisions conform to the fundamental principles of human rights; it shall, if necessary, recommend the adoption of new legislation, the amendment of legislation in force and the adoption or amendment of administrative measures;
 - (ii) Any situation of violation of human rights which it decides to take up;
 - (iii) The preparation of reports on the national situation with regard to human rights in general, and on more specific matters;
 - (iv) Drawing the attention of the Government to situations in any part of the country where human rights are violated and making proposals to it for initiatives to put an end to such situations and, where necessary, expressing an opinion on the positions and reactions of the Government;
 - (b) To promote and ensure the harmonization of national legislation, regulations and practices with the international human rights instruments to which the State is a party, and their effective implementation;
 - (c) To encourage ratification of the above-mentioned instruments or accession to those instruments, and to ensure their implementation;
 - (d) To contribute to the reports which States are required to submit to United Nations bodies and committees, and to regional institutions, pursuant to their treaty obligations and, where necessary, to express an opinion on the subject, with due respect for their independence;
 - (e) To cooperate with the United Nations and any other organization in the United Nations system, the regional institutions and the national institutions of other countries that are competent in the

areas of the protection and promotion of human rights;

(f) To assist in the formulation of programmes for the teaching of, and research into, human rights and to take part in their execution in schools, universities and professional circles;

(g) To publicize human rights and efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, in particular racial discrimination, by increasing public awareness, especially through information and education and by making use of all press organs.

Composition and guarantees of independence and pluralism

1. The composition of the national institution and the appointment of its members, whether by means of an election or otherwise, shall be established in accordance with a procedure which affords all necessary guarantees to ensure the pluralist representation of the social forces (of civilian society) involved in the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly by powers which will enable effective cooperation to be established with, or through the presence of, representatives of:

(a) Non-governmental organizations responsible for human rights and efforts to combat racial discrimination, trade unions, concerned social and professional organizations, for example, associations of lawyers, doctors, journalists and eminent scientists;

(b) Trends in philosophical or religious thought;

(c) Universities and qualified experts;

(d) Parliament;

(e) Government departments (if these are included, their representatives should participate in the deliberations only in an advisory capacity).

2. The national institution shall have an infrastructure which is suited to the smooth conduct of its activities, in particular adequate funding. The purpose of this funding should be to enable it to have its own staff and premises, in order to be independent of the Government and not be subject to financial control which might affect its independence.

3. In order to ensure a stable mandate for the members of the national institution, without which there can be no real independence, their appointment shall be effected by an official act which shall establish the specific duration of the mandate. This mandate may be renewable, provided that the pluralism of the institution's membership is ensured.

Methods of operation

Within the framework of its operation, the national institution shall:

(a) Freely consider any questions falling within its competence, whether they are submitted by the Government or taken up by it without referral to a higher authority, on the proposal of its members or of any petitioner,

(b) Hear any person and obtain any information and any documents necessary for assessing situations falling within its competence;

(c) Address public opinion directly or through any press organ, particularly in order to publicize

its opinions and recommendations;

(d) Meet on a regular basis and whenever necessary in the presence of all its members after they have been duly concerned;

(e) Establish working groups from among its members as necessary, and set up local or regional sections to assist it in discharging its functions;

(f) Maintain consultation with the other bodies, whether jurisdictional or otherwise, responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (in particular, ombudsmen, mediators and similar institutions);

(g) In view of the fundamental role played by the non-governmental organizations in expanding the work of the national institutions, develop relations with the non-governmental organizations devoted to promoting and protecting human rights, to economic and social development, to combating racism, to protecting particularly vulnerable groups (especially children, migrant workers, refugees, physically and mentally disabled persons) or to specialized areas.

Additional principles concerning the status of commissions with quasi-jurisdictional competence

A national institution may be authorized to hear and consider complaints and petitions concerning individual situations. Cases may be brought before it by individuals, their representatives, third parties, non-governmental organizations, associations of trade unions or any other representative organizations. In such circumstances, and without prejudice to the principles stated above concerning the other powers of the commissions, the functions entrusted to them may be based on the following principles:

(a) Seeking an amicable settlement through conciliation or, within the limits prescribed by the law, through binding decisions or, where necessary, on the basis of confidentiality;

(b) Informing the party who filed the petition of his rights, in particular the remedies available to him, and promoting his access to them;

(c) Hearing any complaints or petitions or transmitting them to any other competent authority within the limits prescribed by the law;

(d) Making recommendations to the competent authorities, especially by proposing amendments or reforms of the laws, regulations and administrative practices, especially if they have created the difficulties encountered by the persons filing the petitions in order to assert their rights.

Appendix II. A

REMEMBER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE ON ITS OWN OR IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

Seminar on “The International Holocaust Remembrance Day – the importance of tolerance and observance of human rights throughout the globe”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila (Chitila, 26 January 2017)

“Is tolerance a practised value? What is the relationship between human rights and the preservation of the values proper to a democratic society?”, organized on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Tudor Vladimirescu” Theoretical High School in Bucharest (Bucharest, 27 January 2017)

Event on “The courage to remember”, organized in the framework of project “Theatre and Life” at the Holocaust Monument in Bucharest, by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue, “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania, the National Committee of Romania for UNESCO, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the School Inspectorate of Bucharest – The Socio-Human Teachers Committee, with the participation of students and teachers from “Mihai Eminescu” National College, “Mihai Viteazu” National College, “Ion Luca Caragiale” National College, “Gheorghe Lazăr” National College, “Ion Creangă” National College, “Octav Enicescu” National College, “Hristo Botev” Bulgarian Theoretical High School, “Ion Barbu” Theoretical High School (Bucharest, 27 January 2017)

Conference on “Education for tolerance”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, Clubul de la Cheia Association Victor Dan Zlătescu, “Family Forum” Association for the Promotion of Family Rights, and the Romanian Independent League for the Rights of the Child and the Young on occasion of the School Day of Non-violence and Peace (29 January 2017)

The second edition of Municipal symposium entitled “Don’t label, don’t discriminate against, don’t forget!”, organized by “Petru Maior” Municipal Library in Reghin and “Alexandru Ceușianu” Secondary School in Reghin in partnership with the Mureș County School Inspectorate and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Reghin, 31 January 2017)

Roundtable on “Involvement of the youth with the electoral process”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, “Clubul de la Cheia” Association and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of Global Elections Day (Bucharest, 3 February 2017)

Seminar on “To have peace, it should be prepared in advance”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “George Călinescu” Secondary School in Bucharest (Bucharest, 15 February 2017)

Seminar devoted to the International Mother Language Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Spiru Haret” National College in Bucharest – Socio-Human Disciplines Chair (Bucharest, 21 February 2017)

National phase of interdisciplinary Contest entitled “History and society in virtual dimension”, organized by the Ministry of National Education, the Prahova County School Inspectorate, “Jean Monnet” National College in Ploiești in partnership with the Prahova County Council, the Mayor’s Office of Ploiești, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Parliament – Information Office in Romania, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Oil & Gas University of Ploiești, the Historical Sciences Society – Prahova Agency, “Carmen Sylva” Art College in Ploiești and the Children’s Palace in Ploiesti (Ploiești, 4-7 March 2017)

Awareness raising activities devoted to the fight against racism that took place in the framework of the European Action Week Against Racism, with the participation of the students who had been members of the jury with the interdisciplinary Contest entitled “History and society in virtual

dimension, organized by “Jean Monnet” National College in Ploiești in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Ploiești, 7 March 2017)

Campaign entitled “Without hate, with tolerance” in the framework of the National Contest entitled “Without hate, with tolerance”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila (Chitila, 17 March 2017)

Campaign entitled “Let’s say NO to discrimination!”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Adolescența” Foundation in the framework of the European Action Week Against Racism at: “Spiru Haret” High School in Ploiești (21 March); “Virgil Madgearu” Economic High School in Ploiești (22 March); the Secondary School of Cislău, Buzău County (23 March); and “Jean Monnet” High School in Ploiești (24 March) (Ploiești, Buzău, 21-24 March 2017)

Roundtable on “No clear water, no healthy life!”, organized on occasion of the World Water Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association for the Human Rights to a Healthy Environment, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the “Clubul de la Cheia” Association (Bucharest, 22 March 2017)

Roundtable on “The role of civic education in combating racism”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with “Spiru Haret” National College in Bucharest in the framework of the European Action Week Against racism and project “A different school” (Bucharest, 28 March 2017)

Symposium on “Racism and xenophobia against migrants. Challenges for the European institutions”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (Bucharest, 29 March 2017)

Roundtable on “Toward autonomy and self-determination” this year’s theme proposed by the United Nations Organization on occasion of on the World Autism Awareness Day, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, the North University of Baia Mare and the Romanian Association for the United Nations (Bucharest, 2 April)

Roundtable on “A good health condition extends 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, “Family Forum” Association and Clubul de la Cheia Association “Victor Dan Zlătescu” on occasion of the World Health Day (Bucharest, 7 April 2017)

The Socio-Human Sciences National Olympics, organized by the Ministry of National Education, the Hunedoara County Council, the Mayor’s Office of the Municipality of Deva, and the Mayor’s Office of the municipality of Hunedoara, in partnership with “Regina Maria” National Pedagogic College, the Children’s Palace of Deva, the Corvin Castle, and the History Teachers’ Association of Romania (Deva, 24-28 April 2017)

Debate on “The effects of discrimination upon social inclusion”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, North University of Baia Mare on occasion of the National Day for Equality between Women and Men, instituted on proposal by Senator Rozalia Biro (Bucharest, 8 May 2017)

Symposium and National Contest on “Europe in school”, organized by “Alexandru Ceușianu” Secondary School in Reghin in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Reghin, 9 May 2017)

Seminar on “Europe Day – unity, diversity, solidarity”, organized on occasion of Europe Day by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (Bucharest, 9 May 2017)

Project on “High quality education – a global European initiative”, initiated by the students of “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila with the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Chitila, 11 May 2017)

Seminar on “The role of good communication within the family and between the family and school”, organized on occasion of the International Day of Families and the Romanian Family Day by Foundation “Adolescența” in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the

Prahova County Teachers' Training Centre and the Prahova County School Inspectorate (Ploiești, 15 May 2017)

Workshop on "Economic migration and its consequences for the family", organized by Foundation "Adolescența" in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County Teachers' Training Centre and the Prahova County School Inspectorate on occasion of the International Day of Families and the Romanian Family Day (Ploiești, 15 May 2017)

Creation workshop contest entitled "The story of a family" on this year's theme – Families, education and well-being – organized on occasion of the International Day of Families by Foundation Adolescența in partnership with the Prahova County Teachers' Training Centre, the Prahova County School Inspectorate and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Ploiești, 15 May 2017)

Symposium on "Protection of mankind's cultural and scientific heritage in case of armed conflicts", organized on occasion of the International Humanitarian Law Day at "Nicolae Iorga" County Library in Ploiești by "Jean Monnet" High School in Ploiești in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Ploiești, 15 May 2017)

Awareness raising and informing campaign about the benefits of cultural diversity and cultural dialogue, organized on occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights; the event took place in: Bucharest and enjoyed the participation of "Mihai Eminescu" National College, "Octav Onicescu" National College, "Hristo Botev" Bulgarian Theoretical High School; Pitești and enjoyed the participation of "Zinca Golescu" National College and "Maria Teiuleanu" Economic College; and Curtea de Argeș with the participation of "Vlaicu Vodă" National College (Bucharest, Pitești, Curtea de Argeș, 21 May 2017)

6th edition of the International Conference entitled "The efficiency of legal norms" with this year's thematic "National and international legal norms regarding children", organized by Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir", Faculty of Law, Cluj-Napoca and the Romanian Academy's "Gheorghe Barițiu" Institute of History – Department of Social and Humanistic Research (Cluj, 25-27 May 2017)

Roundtable on "The youth and the electoral rights", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with "Spiru Haret" National College in Bucharest (Bucharest, 29 May 2017)

Roundtable on "Environment depends on us", 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 "Clubul de la Cheia" Association (6 June 2017)

Symposium on "The refugee crisis – a global phenomenon", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations on occasion of the World Refugee Day (Bucharest, 20 June 2017)

Roundtable on "Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations", the thematic proposed by the United Nations Organization for the celebration of the World Population Day in 2017, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 11 July 2017)

23rd edition of the final phase of "Democracy and Tolerance" National Contest, organized by the Ministry of National Education, the Neamț County School Inspectorate in partnership with the Neamț County Council and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Vânători-Neamț, 24-27 June 2017)

Debate on "Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls – a goal of Agenda 2030", organized on 25 September 2017 on the second anniversary of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 30 August 2017)

Roundtable on "The Universal Declaration on Democracy at its 20th anniversary", organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to celebrate the International Day of Democracy (Bucharest, 15 September 2017)

Promotion and popularization of the campaign on "Together for peace" initiated by the United Nations on occasion of the International Day of Peace, organized by the Romanian Institute for

Human Rights (Bucharest, 21 September 2017)

Seminar for parents and future parents on “School of Responsible Parents”, organized by the online review Qbebe in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights – an informing campaign on various themes related to parenting (Bucharest, 27 September 2017)

Informal meeting with the representatives of the Continuous Professional Training Chair of the Institute of Public Order Studies (Bucharest, 19 October 2017)

First workshop on the right to education devoted to the children included in the Integrated Programme of Education for Diversity financed through Programme RO 10 “Children and youngsters at risk. Local and regional initiatives for reducing national inequalities and promoting social inclusion”, organized by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Protection of the Child, Sector 6, Day Centre at Secondary School No. 153 in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 20 October 2017)

Event on “The United Nations Day” devoted to the United Nations Day and organized by “Spiru Haret” College in Ploiești in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Foundation “Adolescența” and the Prahova County School Inspectorate (Ploiești, 24 October 2017)

Meeting organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights with inspectors of the Constanța Teachers’ Training to form the workgroups needed for organizing and developing common activities (Bucharest, 27 October 2017)

Contest entitled “Rights and Duties” addressing 12 to 14 years old children, organized by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Protection of the Child, Sector 6 in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on 30 October – 10 November (Bucharest, 30 October)

Meeting devoted to the programme of future events on human rights education in general and education for the rights of the child in particular, organized by the Suceava County School Inspectorate in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Suceava, 1-3 November 2017)

Debates with grade 10 and 11 students at “Spiru Haret” National College, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights on occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism in the framework of project “A Different School” (Bucharest, 9 November 2017)

Seminar on “Observance of the rights of the child – a precondition to increase tolerance”, organized on occasion of the International Day of Tolerance by “Take Ionescu” Secondary School of Râmnicu Vâlcea in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Râmnicu Vâlcea, 14 November 2017)

Awards ceremony for the winners of School Contest entitled “Rights and Duties” that had taken place between 30 October – 10 November and the children devoted interactive workshop on “A Travel to the Rights of the Child Land”, devoted to the Universal Children’s Day, organized at the Golescu-Grant Hall Centre for Recreation and Personal Development by Sector 6 General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 18 November 2017)

Workshop for the parents on “Children’s right to protection”, organized by Hypermarket Carrefour ParkLake in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and devoted to Universal Children’s Day (Bucharest, 19 November 2017)

Drawing contest related to the promotion of human rights on “The face and colours of childhood”, organized by “Take Ionescu” Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights during the “Global Education Week 20-24 November 2017” (Râmnicu Vâlcea, 20 November 2017)

Poetry and drawing contest and the carnival of children’s rights organized by “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to celebrate the Universal Children’s Day (Chitila, 20 November 2017)

Essays contest on the importance of observing children’s rights entitled “Words and attitudes for a happy childhood”, organized by “Take Ionescu” Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights during the “Global Education Week 20-24 November 2017” (Râmnicu Vâlcea, 20 November 2017)

Second workshop devoted to parents and the children included in the Integrated Programme of

Education for Diversity financed through Programme RO 10 “Children and youngsters at risk. Local and regional initiatives for reducing national inequalities and promoting social inclusion”, organized by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Protection of the Child, Sector 6, Day Centre at Secondary School No. 153 in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 23 November 2017)

Third workshop devoted to trainers, social assistants and administrative and assisting personnel, organized in the framework of the Integrated Programme of Education for Diversity financed through Programme RO 10 “Children and youngsters at risk. Local and regional initiatives for reducing national inequalities and promoting social inclusion”, organized by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Protection of the Child, Sector 6, Day Centre at Secondary School No. 153 in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 24 November 2017)

Debate on “Let us combat violence against women!”, devoted to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Romanian Association of Women “Împreună” which joined the international campaign initiated by the United Nations under the logo “Orange the World!” – days for combating violence against women having this year’s topic proposed by United Nations Secretary General: “Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls” (Bucharest, 27 November 2017)

Activities related to “Education for values – human rights, organized by Secondary School No. 2 in Videle in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the educational project for combating bullying in schools (Videle, 29 November 2017)

Workshop on “Human rights – a fundamental and universal system to maintain a culture of peace”, devoted to Human Rights Day, organized by “Jean Monnet” National College in Ploiești in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Ploiești, 6 December 2017)

Training session on human rights education in general and education for the rights of the child in particular on “Children’s rights on the Internet”, organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights for executive directors, project managers, programme coordinators, instructors, coordinators of non-governmental organizations taking interest in the field including: Foundation “Adolescența”, United Way, A.C.T.O.R., A.S.I.S., Inocenții, C.A.R.P. Omenia, YOYO, Providența, Foundation “Viitor pentru copiii României, Association “Lindfeld – Ajungem Mari, Monterra, Association “Sfântul Arhidiacon Ștefan”, ADRA Romania, Association PAVEL (Bucharest, 7 December 2017)

7th edition of the symposium on “Children’s rights for a safe future”, organized on occasion of Human Rights Day by Foundation “Adolescența”, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Prahova County School Inspectorate, the Prahova County Teachers’ Training Centre and the “Nicolae Iorga” Prahova County Library (Ploiești, 8-10 December 2017)

Awards ceremony for the winners of the school contests organized during the “Global Education Week 20-24 November 2017”, organized by “Take Ionescu” Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and devoted to Human Rights Day (Râmnicu Vâlcea, 8 December 2017)

Population awareness raising and informing campaign on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights entitled “A letter to passers-by”, organized in Curtea de Argeș on occasion of Human Rights Day by the Association for Intercultural Dialogue in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Municipality of Bucharest School Inspectorate and the Argeș County School Inspectorate, achieved in Bucharest with the participation of “Mihai Eminescu” National College, “Octav Onicescu” National College, “Ion Barbu” Theoretical High School, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Theoretical High School, “Vlaicu Vodă” National College and “George Călinescu” Secondary School (Bucharest, Curtea de Argeș, 10 December 2017)

County conference on methods entitled “Didactic creativity in the field of human rights education” and award ceremony for the winners of the county contest entitled “Human rights, my rights...”, organized by the Suceava County School Inspectorate in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Social Studies and Civic Education Centre Association (Suceava, 10-12 December 2017)

5th edition of International Conference on “The European Culture of Human Rights. The Right to Happiness”, organized by Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the International Institute for Human Rights of Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, the Academy of Romania, and the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (Bucharest, 14-16 December 2017)

Appendix II. B

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EVENTS

Roundtable on “The legal and the spiritual liberation of the Roma”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues together with Roma Party “Pro-Europa” and the Democratic Federation of the Roma on occasion of the 161st anniversary of the adoption of the first liberation laws (20 February 2017)

Working meeting with representatives of the civil society on “The respiro centre and the crisis centre: quality standards – from practice to theory”, organized by national Authority for Persons with Disabilities (23 February 2017)

29th session of the Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), organized in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (6-9 March 2017)

Seminar on “The role of national human rights institutions in the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child”, organized by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF, devoted to the national children’s rights institutions (9 March 2017)

International conference on “Contracting social services supplied by NGOs in the European Union”, organized by the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS), an event achieved in the framework of project “NGO Voice” implemented by FONSS whose purpose is to increase NGOs’ capacity of strategic development and involvement in the process of implementing the public policies related to social services (16 March 2017)

Seminar on “France-Romania, prospects related to the European social policy and the policies for the protection of children and the family”, organized by the International Foundation for Child and Family “Dr. Alexandra Zugrăvescu” and the EURODIR Network. The topics approached referred to the European policies for the protection of children, the child protection system in Romania and in France, prospects for the development of the Romanian system, as well as evolution and development directions in France (16-17 March 2017)

Meeting of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions Workgroup on the Economic and the Social Rights (27 March 2017)

Conference on “Designing effective tools for the promotion and protection of social and economic rights”, organized by the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) (28 March 2017)

Working meeting with representatives of the civil society on “Actions financed by the ANPD in the year 2017”, organized by the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (29 March 2017)

Public debate on “The Romanian presidency of the EU Council 2019 – Together for strengthening the European project”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the context of Romania’s preparations for taking over the presidency of the European Union Council in the first semester of 2019 (3 May 2017)

Roundtable on “Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the psychosocial segment – from theory to practice”, organized by the Senate’s Committee on Equality of Opportunities and the Romanian Association of Forensic Psychiatry in partnership with the National Council for Combating Discrimination and the Romanian National Disability Council (17 May 2017)

Meeting of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions Working Group for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (17-18 May 2017)

Meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues on “Fulfilment status of Romania’s commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Strategy 2020” (23 May 2017)

Conference on “The Future of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe”, organized by the Council of Europe (20-22 June 2017)

Meeting joining European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on collaboration in the field of human rights education (22 June)

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Freedom of Religion or Belief: Issues, Opportunities, and the Specific Challenges of Combating Anti-Semitism and Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Muslims, and Members of Other Religions”, organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (22-24 June 2017)

Conference on “Legal solutions for the implementation of ECtHR’s Pilot Decision on prison conditions”, organized by Chamber of Deputies Committee for Legal Matters, Discipline, and Immunities (29 June 2017)

Meeting of the Senate Committee on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities on Bill L 216/2017 on vaccination of persons in Romania (19 September 2017)

Event on “Prosperity and Peace in 196 Nations on Peace Day”, organized by the Romanian Association of Women “Împreună” (AFRI) in partnership with the National Association of Young Christian Women of Romania (ANTFCR) and the Metropolitan Library in Bucharest (21 September 2017)

63rd annual session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly, organized by Parliament of Romania (6-9 October 2017)

Conference on “Dignity + Independent living = DI”, organized at TTU Mektory Centre Tallinn under the patronage of the Latvian Presidency of the European Union Council (11-13 October 2017)

Meeting on “Presentation of and debates upon the Report on the fundamental rights”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, having as guest Mr. Michail Beis, Head of Sector Annual Report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (16 October 2017)

Meeting on “Violence against women and gender-based violence”, organized by the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet) in partnership with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) in the framework of the project for combating discrimination and violence against women (18-19 October 2017)

Professional training course on “Communication, public relations and management of conflicts”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group SRL (19-22 October 2017)

Training session on “Legal aspects in terms of human rights protection in the activity of the local police”, organized by the Institute of Public Order Studies (24 October 2017)

Professional training course on “Managing the administration and archiving of documents. Administration and the protection of databases, working procedures and reporting; electronic archiving”, organized by Expert Aktiv Group SRL (26-29 October 2017)

Roundtable on “Citizenship, a fundamental right – The right to have rights”, organized by the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues, by the Chamber of Deputies Subcommittee for respecting and defending the rights and freedoms of the Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority in collaboration with the Roma Party “Pro-Europa” and the Democratic Federation of the Roma (14 November 2017)

Event on “Good practices in combating violence against women”, organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Romania, having as guest Mrs. Lisbeth Jessen, Director of Association “Danner” (15 November)

Roundtable on “Legal prospects regarding the psychosocial rehabilitation of patients under the incidence of medical safety measures”, organized by the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunities and the Romanian Association of Forensic Psychiatry in partnership with the National Council on Disability in Romania (15 November 2017)

Roundtable on “Representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the decision-making process”, organized by the Senate of Romania in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in the framework of the meeting of the PACE Subcommittee on minority rights (21 November 2017)

Conference on “The rights of old persons and long-term caring”, organized by the European Commission and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) (28 November 2017)

Debate on “The judicial error – international remedies and the jury court”, organized by the Romanian Association for Human Rights under the patronage of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Foreign Affairs (7 December 2017)

International conference on “Assistance for persons with disabilities in the decision-making process”, organized by the Centre for Legal Resources (12 December 2017)

National symposium on “Integration of mental health issues in all policies. Mental health at the workplace”, organized by the Senate Committee for Public Health, the Senate Committee on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities and the National Centre for Mental Health and Fight Against Drugs (12 December 2017)

Civic conference on “Education for active citizenship”, a project achieved by Bacău County Teachers’ Training Centre “Grigore George Tăbăcaru” and “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacău (12 December 2017)

National symposium on “Integration of mental health issues in all policies. Mental health at the workplace”, organized by initiative of Senator Emanuel Gabriel Botnariu, member of the Senate Committee for Public Health and the Senate Committee on Human Rights, Cults and Minorities (13 December 2017)

Appendix III

RIHR Plan of Action 2017

Responding to its mission, in compliance with the powers established under the constitutive law, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights subordinates its activities foreseen for the year 2017 (research, education, training-for-trainers, dissemination of information and publication of specialized literature) to its priority objectives which have become by now constant reference points:

- Dissemination and deepening of knowledge about human rights, in accordance with the international norms and standards in the field, in light of the universal humanist principles and values;
- Development of a practical attitude in terms of acknowledging differences between individuals as a prerequisite for fighting against any discrimination based on race, gender, national, ethnic or social origin, language, religion, political or other beliefs, physical and mental status;
- Identification of problems and difficulties in the field of human rights, stimulation of their investigation in order to identify solutions meant to contribute to their resolution in accordance with the principles that are at the foundation of the promotion and respect of human rights;
- Raising awareness about the potential power of the existing international, regional and national legal instruments and mechanisms protecting human rights, with a view to facilitate the use thereof;
- Harmonization of the educational strategies and actions in the field of human rights by means of partnerships with governmental organizations – meant to develop a pedagogy based on the dissemination of knowledge, critical analysis and stimulation of aptitudes and useful attitudes in the promotion of human rights;
- Encouragement at all levels, primarily amongst the younger generation, of an approach to human rights issues not as mere abstract norms but as direct links to the various real situations and challenges of social, economic, cultural and political nature.

Throughout its activities the Institute takes into account the following documents: the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the UN objectives for the year 2017, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Multi-annual Framework 2013-2017, FRA's Annual Programme, the Stockholm Programme – An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens, the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020). In this respect, the main areas of interest, in terms of the three generations of rights, for the next period are: access to justice; rights of the child; rejection of any form of discrimination based on gender, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, language, religion or beliefs, political or any other opinion, affiliation to a national minority, socio-economic status, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation; combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance; rights of asylum seekers; respect of private life and protection of personal data; the economic, social, political and civil rights.

Also, RIHR believes that in performing its activities it is necessary that it should pursue:

- the elaboration of studies identifying the best practices in order to contribute to the transformation of human rights into a national reality;
- a more accurate perception of aspects likely to become tense and sometimes develop into conflicts, when declared positions in terms of human rights reflect different or partisan interpretations;
- more active commitment to the presentation of its activities all over Romania's territory and the promotion of human rights at national level;
- developing its capacity to train in the field of human rights at national level;

- closer cooperation with the academic community, non-governmental organizations and local authorities, taking efforts to create a human rights platform.

All these activities shall be achieved in collaboration with international, regional and/or national institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations taking interest in the promotion and the protection of human rights.

I. Scientific research

1. General research

II. Promotion of a human rights culture amongst the younger generation;

- intercultural education and promotion of cultural diversity;
- the linguistic rights of minorities;
- aspects related to the discrimination against women and young girls in Romania;
- aspects from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights;
- human rights and the efficiency of justice;
- challenges to the security of EU, respect of human rights, combating any discriminations under such circumstances as the inflow of migrants;
- promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- the relationship between the right to good governance and good administration.

2. Research devoted to social and economic rights

- social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- the rights of old persons and long-term caring;
- social security and social integration;
- human dignity and social exclusion;
- Council of Europe Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

3. Research devoted to the civil and political rights

- free access to justice as a fundamental right and a constitutional principle;
- ethic implications of the rights of convicted persons;
- hearing of the child in criminal and civil trials;
- aspects related to the protection of the rights of victims of crimes based on hatred and implementation of the European rules at national level;
- human rights and the rules related to the right to intellectual property.

4. Research devoted to the right to an environment of peace and sustainable development

- the role of education for sustainable development;
- a new Agenda for sustainable development;
- climatic changes and their impact on human rights.

II. Education and training-for-trainers

- ***Educational programmes for youngsters in the pre-university educational system***

- “Human Rights” Olympics – national contest at “Education/civic culture” discipline, organized in partnership with the Ministry of National Education;
- “Democracy and tolerance” national contest, with the participation of students in primary and secondary schools, organized in partnership with the Ministry of National Education;
- Interdisciplinary contest “History and society in virtual dimension”;
- Contests with themes in the field of human rights:
 - **Contest “Rights and duties”;**

- Poetry and drawing contests organized by “Prof. Ion Vișoiu” Secondary School in Chitila;
- Literary and plastic creation contests organized by “Take Ionescu” Secondary School in Râmnicu Vâlcea;
- Contest “Human rights, my rights” organized in partnership with the Suceava County School Inspectorate

- Information-training sessions for children
- Information-training sessions for parents
- Information-training programmes for various professional categories
- Other activities devoted to important events:
 - **International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January)**
 - **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March)**
 - **World Water Day (22 March)**
 - **World Health Day (7 April)**
 - **National Day for Equality between Women and Men (8 May)**
 - **International Humanitarian Law Day (14 May)**
 - **International Day of Families (15 May)**
 - **World Environment Day (5 June)**
 - **International Day of Peace (21 September)**
 - **United Nations Day (24 October)**
 - **Universal Children's Day (20 November)**
 - **Human Rights Day (10 December)**

III. Editorial Plan 2017

- **Periodicals**
 - Quarterly “Drepturile Omului” (Human Rights)
- **Reports**
 - Annual Report, 2016 – Romanian & English;
 - Report on the evolution of the human rights related legislation in the European Union and in Romania – 2016;
 - Report on good practices and models of assisted decision-making systems – implementation of art. 12 of the CRPD;
 - Report on forms of discrimination against women and girls;
 - Report on the impact of transfer of weapons on human rights;
 - Volumes: Sessions of the International Symposium on “The spiritual dimension of human rights. Education for values”, Iași, 20-22 October 2016.

IV. Other activities

- Periodic meetings with representatives of human rights governmental and non-governmental bodies with special reference to persons with disabilities, women’s rights;
- Periodic meetings with representatives of public institutions and other bodies with powers and activity in the field of migration and asylum;
- Periodic meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the didactic personnel in various school units.