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Romania

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I. Methodology and consultation process

1. The present report has been prepared in line with the guidance provided in the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and the General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), contained in document A/HRC/DEC/17/119. It focuses on the developments of the human rights situation in Romania since the last review and on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations received during the second UPR in 2013.

2. The information selected and compiled by the experts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was supplied by the following Romanian institutions: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, National Institute for Magistracy, Superior Council of Magistracy, Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice Ombudsman, State Secretariat for Religious Affairs, Department for Interethnic Relations, National Council for Combating Discrimination, National Council for Audio-Visual, National Authority for Restitution of Properties and National Agency for Roma, National Parliament. The report was sent for consultation to the main Romanian NGOs acting in the field of human rights.

II. Developments concerning normative framework for the protection and promotion of human rights

3. Several legislative changes with impact on human rights occurred since the second UPR cycle, many of them based on the UPR evaluation and recommendations:

A. As regards judiciary

4. **Civil Procedure Code** has entered into force on February 15, 2013. **Criminal Code** and **Criminal Procedural Code** (together with a supporting legislative package consisting of 5 additional pieces of legislation) entered into force on February 1st 2014.

5. **Law no. 254/2013** on serving the imprisonment sentences and custodial measures ordered by the judicial bodies during the criminal proceedings, entered into force on the 1st of February 2014.

6. Government Decision no. 1155/2014 –**The Strategy for the Development of the Judiciary for 2015-2020**. The aforementioned strategy draws heavily on Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) recommendations, as well as on studies developed with the World Bank. The strategy defines objectives for further reform in the period 2015–2020 to make the justice more efficient and accountable and to increase its quality.

7. **The Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Judiciary 2015-2020 was adopted by** Government Decision no. 282/2016. The strategy and its Action Plan should also form the basis for defining the priorities for EU funding in the area of justice.

8. **The National Anticorruption Strategy (NSA) 2016-2020 was adopted by Government Decision no. 583/2016.**The main purpose of the NSA 2016-2020 is to promote integrity, by strictly applying the legal and institutional framework for preventing and combating corruption in Romania. It also aims at increasing the quality and impact of implementing the provisions on institutional transparency in the public sector. It includes measures to strengthen the budgetary transparency platform developed by the Ministry of Public Finances. The strategy also foresees the adoption of the necessary legal framework to introduce a standard methodology to assess corruption risks and the implementation of the methodology, at central level, as a prerequisite for updating, biennially, the integrity plans. A portal was launched in June 2017.

9. Law no. 184/2016 –**PREVENT Law**– setting up a mechanism for prevention of conflict of interests in the procedure for awarding public procurement contracts. The provisions regarding the Mechanism entered into force on 20th June 2017¹.

B. As regards protection of children

10. **Law no. 257/2013** and Law no. 52/2016 amending and supplementing Law No. 272/2004 concerning protection and promotion of the rights of children.

11. **Emergency Ordinance 18/2017 on community health nursing, as an important milestone within the efforts to ensure access to healthcare and community services for disadvantaged people, with focus on Roma.**

12. **Law no. 57/2016** amending Law no. 273/2004 on the adoption procedure, which made the adoption procedure more flexible and reduced the term for the eligibility of the child within the permitted international adoption.

13. **Law 207/2016** on marketing of breast-milk substitutes, translating fully into the Romanian legislation the International Code and creating hopefully a good example for other countries in the European Union (EU) to protect health of mothers, infants and young children.

14. **Common Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Justice, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education addressing rights of the children with disabilities** in line with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (children and youth version), including as well provisions for educational and vocational guidance of children with special educational needs, and for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

15. A package of Orders of the Minister of National Education regarding the prevention, monitoring and prohibition of school segregation in educational establishments.

C. As regards conditions of detention

16. **Law no. 169/2017**, amending and supplementing Law no. 254/2013 on the execution of custodial sentences and of measures involving deprivation of liberty, ordered by the judicial bodies during criminal trials.

D. As regards social rights

17. **Law no. 272/2015** amending Law no. 217/2003 on combating domestic violence.

18. **Government Emergency Ordinance no. 60/2016** amending and supplementing Law no. 76/2002 on the unemployment insurance system and stimulation of employment subsequently modified and completed. The legislative act revised the internal mobility bonuses provided to unemployed persons from vulnerable geographical areas that manage to find a job over 15 km and commute to work and to those that find a job over 50 km and change their domicile or residence close to the new working place. Also, it increased the financial support provided to employers that hire various vulnerable groups such as: young graduates, young NEETs (people between 15–24 years not in employment and neither in education or training), long term unemployed persons, unemployed persons over 45 years, unemployed single parents and people with disabilities or unemployed persons who, within five years from the date of employment, would meet the conditions for early or for age limit retirement.

19. **Government Emergency Ordinance no. 6/2017** to amend and supplement several normative acts, as well as to establish measures for investments financed from public funds, relocation bonus provided to registered unemployed who find a job in another locality situated at a distance over 50 km from the domicile or residence locality and consequently change their domicile or residence.

20. **Law no. 164/2017** amending both the Law no. 279/2005 on workplace apprenticeship and the Law no.335/2013 on the conduct of internship for graduates of higher education. The legislative act increased the amount provided as subsidy to employers for each person hired with an apprenticeship or internship contract.

21. **Emergency Ordinance no. 51/2017** amending and completing some normative acts as: Law 197/2012 on quality assurance in the field of social services, Law 448/2006 regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

E. As regards education

22. **Law no. 248/2015** on stimulating participation in preschool education of children from disadvantaged families. Based on parent/legal representative demand of an enrolled child in kindergarten (aged 2 to 6/7 years old), the Local Authorities support his/her participation in preschool education through a monthly social ticket/voucher (approximately 10 Euro), in case of at least 50% participation of the child at the educational program.

F. Identity

23. **Emergency Order no. 33/2016** amending and supplementing certain legal acts concerning vital records and identity documents of Romanian citizens.

24. **Government Decision no. 801/2016** laying down procedures for the collection and deletion of data related to people with a declared identity and amending and supplementing certain legal acts concerning the consistent application of civil and population registration provisions.

G. Non-discrimination/gender equality

25. **Law no. 229/2015** amending and supplementing Law no.202/2002 on equal chances and equal treatment between women and men.

26. **Law no. 193/2015** amending Law no. 448/2006 on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

27. **Law no.8/2016** establishing mechanisms provided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

28. The institutional framework was completed with new institutions aiming at addressing aspects related to human rights needing special attention:

- 2014: The **Ombudsman's department for the Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment in Places of Detention** was set up to fulfil specific duties related to the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Places of Detention in accordance with the Optional Protocol, adopted in New York on 18 December 2002, to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted in New York on 10 December 1984².
- 2015: **National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets** – created by Law no.318/2015 and operational since December 2016 – constitutes a modern solution for the judicial authorities to increase their capabilities to identify the proceeds of crime and to effectively repair the damages caused by criminal activities.
- 2016: **National Commission for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion** – set up under the Ministry of National Education responsibility and mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan for School Desegregation and for Increasing the Quality of Education in pre-university institutions/units.
- 2016: **National Monitoring Council** – autonomous administrative authority, mandated to make recommendations regarding the observance of the rights of

persons with disabilities and to monitor their implementation by public or private entities³.

III. Implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycle

29. During its second UPR cycle, Romania received 157 recommendations, out of which it accepted 130 in their entirety and partially two (the motivation for the 27 recommendations that were not accepted was, in general, related to the fact that they were already implemented).

Acceptance of international norms and cooperation with treaty bodies (109.1, 109.3, 109.11, 109.12, 109.14, 109.41)

30. Romanian authorities expect to finalize the analysis of aspects related to the ratification of Kampala agreements on the crimes of aggression in 2018, taking into consideration the discussion within ICC-ASP (International Criminal Court – Assembly of States Parties), which will take place in New York, in December 2017.

31. Romania has signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 (CRPD). Romania is considering ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. Romania's efforts are currently focused on the commitments undertaken following the ratification of the CRPD, the National Strategy "A Barrier-free Society for People with Disabilities 2016-2020" being the implementation plan of the Convention.

32. The Convention and the optional Protocol for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – are in an initial inter-institutional consultative phase of the ratification process.

33. Romania's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure will be considered after the approval of the Law establishing an Ombudsman for children.

34. As regards the overdue reports, it is to be mentioned that Romania presented them as follows:

- on 23-24 April 2015, the Committee against Torture considered overdue reports of Romania for 1996-2007, respectively for 2008-2012;
- on 20 and 21 November 2014, Romania presented the report on the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- on 6 July 2017 – Romania submitted reports no.7 and 8 to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- on 25 and 26 October 2017, Romania presented the report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Legal, institutional and policies related aspects (109.13, 109.40, 109.26, 109.18, 109.19, 109.20, 109.22, 109.28, 109.25, 109.23, 109.24, 109.154, 109.152, 109.153)

35. Romanian authorities are in a process of analysing how to strengthen the implementation of the Rome Statute. Having this in mind, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (MFA) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have co-initiated a draft Law for the ratification of Resolution ICC-ASP/14/Res.2 adopted at the 11th plenary meeting, on 26 November 2015. Furthermore, a dedicated draft law for the cooperation with ICC is currently in its final stage of drafting at the level of MoJ. Further consultations will take place with all relevant actors and by December 2017, the draft law will be presented in the

Romanian Government, accordingly to the Yearly Legislative Plan of the Romanian Government. It is expected the Law to reach Parliament early next year.

36. The main legislative changes were presented in Chapter II of the present Report and their achievements in improving the overall conditions of vulnerable groups constitute the response to recommendations accepted and implemented during the period subsequent to UPR 2013 (see paragraphs below).

37. The institutional framework was further developed, as presented in Chapter II. As regards the fulfilment of the Paris Principles, all of the three institutions intend to initiate (in the case of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights to reiterate) the accession procedure. Thus, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, which is also a member of the European Network Equality Bodies, fulfils the criteria established by Paris Principles: it is an autonomous public institution, with legal personality, under parliamentary control (its annual report is debated and approved by the Parliament); it is empowered to guarantee and supervise the implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination among citizens, being qualified to investigate and establish sanctions in cases of discrimination (through its Inspection Team); it elaborates and applies public policies in the field of non-discrimination; the members of its Steering Board are appointed, in plenary session, by the Parliament. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights continued, after 2011, to take a series of measures, in line with the recommendations received from the Subcommittee for Accreditation.

38. The law modifying Law no. 35/1997 concerning the organisation and functioning of the Ombudsman was approved by the Parliament, but is currently under re-examination procedure, requested by the President of Romania. The prerogatives of this institution will be enlarged as to respond to Paris Principles. The institution of Ombudsman will make the necessary accreditation demarches. The Ombudsman may intervene in the legal procedures before courts⁴ and can receive complaints filed by persons who have been aggrieved by public administration authorities through violations of their civic rights and freedom, but issues only recommendations.

39. Unlike the Ombudsman, the National Council for Combating Discrimination has jurisdictional administrative attributions, it follows the principles of a judicial institution and its goal is to issue an administrative judicial act liable to the control of courts in the administrative litigation procedure. The competencies of the two institutions are not overlapping.

40. Both institutions receive financial and legislative support from Parliament in order to develop their institutional capabilities.

41. A draft law providing for an Ombudsman for Children was referred to the Parliament for approval. The Ombudsman for Children will act as deputy of the Ombudsman and will defend rights of children, especially: right to life and protection of health; right to education; right to an appropriate family life and to State protection, in absence of a family. Children with disabilities will receive special attention.

42. The effective implementation of the National Anticorruption Strategy (NSA) 2012-2015 gave positive results, such as amending the legal framework for the conflict of interests, the legislation for financing political parties, increasing the independence of justice through consolidation of the status of the Judicial Inspection. The efforts to combat corruption were constant, and Romania strongly believes that the current National Anticorruption Strategy 2016-2020, which contains the main recommendations from the CVM mechanism, will lead to a more effective process of combating corruption.⁵

43. Regarding the independence of the judiciary, the previous Strategy for the development of the judiciary (2012–2015) provided a specific objective related to this subject, namely “*Strengthen the integrity and transparency of the judiciary by promoting anti-corruption measures and professional ethical standards*” which aimed to create the framework for consolidating and increasing independence of the judges and prosecutors. The present strategy (2016–2020) is bringing also specific measures regarding the independence of justice, such as *Approaching the integrity risks of judges and prosecutors, in particular by (i) assuming by the Superior Council of Magistracy and the Judicial*

Inspection a more active role in analyzing, informing and guiding and (ii) strengthening the role and efficiency of senior management at the head of the courts and prosecutor's offices, without affecting the independence of judges and prosecutors. The independence of justice remained a priority in the present National Anticorruption Strategy 2016-2020. The main purpose of the NSA 2016-2020 is to promote integrity, by strictly applying the legal and institutional framework for preventing and combating corruption in Romania. It also aims at increasing the quality and impact of implementing the provisions on institutional transparency in the public sector. It includes measures to strengthen the budgetary transparency platform developed by the Ministry of Public Finances and its use in the administrative control actions and proposes to increase the transparency of budgetary allocations, including to the local government, through the Government Reserve Fund and the National Program for Local Development. Envisaged measures will increase the predictability of the budgetary allocations while limiting political clientele. The strategy also foresees the adoption of the necessary legal framework to introduce a standard methodology to assess corruption risks and the implementation of the methodology, at central level, as a prerequisite for updating, biennially, the integrity plans. A portal was launched in June 2017.

44. The measures contained in NSA for the period 2012–2015 regarding the activity of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate have been successfully implemented. The analysis of the main statistical indicators of the criminal investigation activities carried out by the National Anticorruption Directorate during the period 2012–2016 reveals that the efficiency parameters have improved from year to year (see Note No. 5), thus demonstrating the efficiency in combating corruption.

45. The study of ethics and judicial organization is mandatory both for first year and second year judicial trainees. It is included as such in the initial training curricula, the main topics being: The independence and impartiality of the judiciary; Exclusions, incompatibilities and conflicts of interest; Duties of judges/prosecutors and the rule of law; Duties of judges/prosecutors and the rule of law – jurisprudence in disciplinary matters; The honor and dignity of the profession; Disciplinary proceedings. In the continuous training component, the annual programs of in-service training for judges and prosecutors include, on a permanent basis since the establishment of the continuous training component of National Institute of Magistracy (NIM) in 2001, the organization of training sessions related to the fight against corruption. The training sessions provide information on the legislation adopted in these matters and also present good practices in the field. In the framework of various projects and partnerships as well as out of budgetary funds, NIM organized, together with its partners, a number of 136 sessions designed for the centralized continuous training of judges, prosecutors and trainers in the field of fight against the corruption. At the decentralized level, NIM organized, together with the courts and prosecution offices, over 180 seminars for judges and prosecutors at the local level.

Human rights education and professional training (109.123, 109.122, 109.124, 109.39, 109.66, 109.43)

46. From the curricular perspective, Human Rights Education, as well as Education for Democratic Citizenship, have been developed extensively, both topics being approached in multiple ways: as distinct compulsory subjects, as thematic clusters included in various Social Studies courses and as optional school subjects from a trans-disciplinary approach⁶.

47. At primary education level, the syllabus for Civic education for the 3rd and 4th grades have been restructured (approved by Minister's Order (M.O) no. 5003/2014), while the newly approved school plan for lower secondary level offers particularized social science subjects for each grade, as follows: Critical Thinking and the Child' Rights for the 5th grade, Intercultural Education for the 6th grade, Education for Democratic Citizenship for the 7th grade, Economic and Financial Education for the 8th grade. Regarding the related optional subjects provided at national level, it is worth mentioning the following courses: Education for Society (for preparatory and 1st grades), Philosophy for Children (for primary school), Intercultural Education and Humanitarian International Law, respectively (both for high school).

48. Besides the formal approach to the Human Rights Education, a wide range of local, county, and national extracurricular contests, competitions, and programs have been established in order to enable and encourage the practice and promotion of social competences. A series of competitions for primary and lower secondary school are to be noted, such as: the Civic Education Olympiad (for 3rd and 4rd graders), the Civic Culture Olympiad (for 7th and 8th graders), the National Competition "Democracy and Tolerance" (for primary and secondary school pupils), National debate contest "Young people debate" (for high school pupils), the National Reasoning, Debate and Critical Thinking Olympiad "Young people debate" (for high school pupils) and the "Reading as a Life Skill" Olympiad – OLAV (for 5th to 12th graders).

49. Regarding the training of teachers in the field of human rights education and child's rights education, Teacher Training Houses provide a wide offer of in-service trainings and within various extracurricular programs. Starting with 2013, Teacher Training Houses, in partnership with the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, offered a four year formation course for all pre-university teachers on human rights and, in particular, children's rights.

50. In 2016, Romania contributed to the Council of Europe (CoE)'s initiative regarding the elaboration of a Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture. In addition, through the Ministry of National Education's support, the Framework was piloted in Romanian schools.

51. The entire Romanian language curriculum promotes the empathetic cultural and intercultural behavior. The new syllabus specific to the lower secondary school (approved by Minister's Order no. 3393/2017), put forth updated perspectives on: personal, national, cultural and linguistic identities, cultural differences, European cultural and linguistic contacts, all of which are included in a compulsory component called "Intercultural Elements" – part of the Romanian language syllabus.

52. The curriculum of Romanian language for minorities extensively develops the component of personal development within the social – cultural framework. In this respect, the syllabus focuses on students' acknowledgement of the multicultural and inter-cultural environment, promotion of ethnic, national and universal values and on students' involvement in projects specific to international days (e.g. International day of tolerance).

53. In what concerns students' factual behavior, all schools have the possibility to promote and initiate extracurricular projects and activities meant for children and teenagers to practice non-discrimination competences, values and principles. Most of these activities are developed in partnership with the School Committee for intercultural promotion and violence, corruption and discrimination prevention and obliteration in the school environment (committee established at the school level according to the Regulations of School Organization and Functioning - approved by Minister's Order no. 5079/2016).

54. As regards professional training, the international protection of human rights is included in the curriculum for the judicial trainees, in order to raise awareness on the role of judges and prosecutors in ensuring effective protection by applying the European Convention of Human Rights, including the principle of non-discrimination. The initial training includes aspects related to the prohibition of all forms of discrimination. This activity is carried out with the help of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, members of which are also National Institute of Magistracy (NIM) trainers. Nevertheless, the aspects related to the protection of the fundamental rights, non-discrimination principle, equality between women and men and also, the judicial protection of human rights within the European Union, are being equally discussed in the framework of the "EU Law" seminars. For the continuous training, there are numerous events organized by the NIM with a view to raise awareness in particular on the subject of these recommendations.⁷

55. The curriculum for the initial training for security personnel was adapted so as to contain topics related to the protection of victims, European cooperation in the protection of human rights, the protection of refugees and asylum seekers and stateless persons and offences affecting some relationships on social cohabitation (incitement to hatred or discrimination). With regard to continuous training, starting with 2012, annual training sessions entitled "Preventing and Combating All Forms of Discrimination" were held by the National Police Academy. In 2013, Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy completed

the implementation of the project entitled "The Center for the Promotion of Human Rights in Public Order and Safety Institutions – C.P.D.O.", co-funded by the European Social Fund and the Center for the Formation and Promotion of Human Rights. This project has set up a community of human rights trainers and specialists, composed of 50 permanent trainers, as well as a network of resource-officers to promote center's actions to law enforcement structures. The Center provides the Postgraduate Training Program "Human Rights in Public Order and Public Safety Institutions", a modular three-month course for 50–75 participants annually. The Institute for Research and Prevention of Crime (ICPC) has developed topics such as: Human Rights and Police, Rights of National Minorities, Hate Crime-General Notions, Prevention of All Forms of discrimination, good practices in building trust and understanding between the police and the Roma minority.

Equality and non-discrimination (109.17, 109.42, 109.44, 109.48, 109.45, 109.56, 109.70, 109.71, 109.72, 109.69, 109.61, 109.62, 109.64, 109.59, 109.67, 109.46, 109.47, 109.49, 109.60, 109.63, 109.68, 109.108)

A. General approach

56. Romania has constantly supported a public policy aiming at preventing and sanctioning any form of discrimination. Following a 2015 evaluation, requested by the National Council for Combating Discrimination to experts of the Council of Europe and taking into consideration recommendations made by Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (November 2015), Romania started a broad process of consultation⁸, aiming at approving a national strategy for combating discrimination. The Government Decision containing the Strategy "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" for the period 2016-2020 is currently under the inter-ministerial procedure for approval (subsequently, an Operational Plan on the Implementation of the National Strategy "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" 2016-2020 will be approved). This strategy builds on the previous 2007-2013 Strategy and has as main objectives ensuring the legislative and institutional coherence, taking into consideration the fact that the necessary legislation is in place, but there is a necessity for a coherent implication of the relevant authorities in its implementation.

57. The Strategy contains seven directions of action, with afferent objectives: institutional development (aiming at consolidating the institutional capacity of the National Council for Combating Discrimination and at ensuring the coherence of activities of various institutions); education (targeting not only the curricula, but even the accreditation procedure; providing for the continuous training of teachers in the field of anti-discrimination and elimination of school segregation); labour (gender equality, inclusion of vulnerable categories, monitoring system); housing (improving the legal framework and promoting State financed projects aiming at ensuring equality and non-discrimination as regards housing); health (measures regarding legislative framework on access to medical services, infrastructure and awareness campaigns for medical staff); public administration (promotion and monitoring of the principle of equality and non-discrimination at the level of public administration); right to dignity (actions targeting the continuous training of judiciary and police staff and, in general, the public opinion, on the right balance between the freedom of expression and right to dignity – appropriate and prompt sanctioning of hate crimes). Concrete results achieved in these fields and responding to the recommendations are presented below.

58. In the activity of solving the complaints addressed to the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), the Steering Board, through its decisions, applies contravention sanctions by warnings or fines, and provides recommendations to prevent future acts of discrimination or the re-establishment of the situation prior to the discrimination. Statistics on petitions, fines and recommendations issued by NCCD, demonstrating the efforts to combat discrimination on any ground can be found in the annual activity reports on the institution's website⁹.

B. Measures concerning Roma community (109.50, 109.54, 109.57, 109.55, 109.52, 109.53, 109.51, 109.132-109.137, 109.139-109.143, 109.145)

59. The Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority 2015-2020 represents a review of the 2012-2014 Strategy and a continuation of the Strategy for Improving the Condition of Romanian citizens of Roma minority 2001-2010. The new Strategy takes into account the EU recommendations on Roma inclusion stipulated in the 2011 EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 and the 2013 Council recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States, and will support the efforts to reach the national social targets of Europe 2020 Strategy enclosed in the National Reform Program.

60. The main intervention areas are education, employment, health and housing complemented by social services and infrastructure, culture and combating discrimination. The Strategy is accompanied by action plans for each major field of intervention. The evaluation of the implementation stage of each Action Plan in accordance with the established indicators will be performed twice a year and, where needed, specific measures will be put in place. A yearly report on the implementation of the Strategy is subsequently presented to the European Commission via the National Contact Point for Roma. Depending on the evaluation results, the Inter-ministerial Committee will make recommendations for sectorial activity improvements, amendments, and additions to the Strategy. The implementation of the Strategy will also benefit from the European Structural and Investment Funds. Sectorial measures responding to the recommendations are the following.

61. The main sectorial objectives as regards **education** target decreasing the gaps in terms of educational stock, school attainment rate, socio-economic condition between Roma and non-Roma children, promoting inclusive education and reducing discrimination cases in schools¹⁰. Romania successfully implements the school mediation program, dedicated to facilitating vulnerable/Roma children to education. For consolidating the social package in education targeting the pupils and students from groups facing particular risks, the Ministry of National Education continues to run annual social programs to support pupils and students from disadvantaged areas: school supplies, grants/money for high-school participation, facilities for the procurement of personal computers, reimbursement of transportation costs for pupils. A series of strategic measures that proved beneficial have been continued, for example: identification of specialized Roma teachers and the creation of a network of both qualified and non-qualified Roma teachers, encouragement toward the introduction of Roma language and history classes in kindergartens, schools, high schools and universities¹¹, support for Roma youth to pursue university studies. In addition, within the current curricular reform, new school syllabus for Romani language and literature (for 5th-8th grade) and for Roma history and traditions (for 6th-7th grade), respectively (approved by Minister's Order 3393/28.02.2017) have been elaborated. In order to ensure the prohibition of school segregation and ensure the implementation of the principles of inclusive school, the Ministry of National Education has continued to apply concrete measures¹² and has recently approved several ministerial orders setting up a series of obligations for schools regarding desegregation and quality improvement in education, as well as an efficient monitoring mechanism¹³ in this regard.

62. As regards **labour market**, the main sectorial objectives aim at improving Roma minority participation through actions such as: information campaigns regarding the labour market situation to enhance the link between employers and unemployed Roma; fostering job mobility and entrepreneurship among Roma; skills development and certification; supporting social economy enterprises; providing incentives to employers that hire jobseekers from vulnerable groups. The National Agency for Employment (NAE) continued to promote employment among the Roma population through an integrated approach, aiming at an active social inclusion. Measures for employment stimulation envisaged both the job mediation in order to facilitate the direct access to a job and active employment measures, including labour market information, career counselling, assessment and certification of professional skills acquired in other ways than formal ones and vocational training, all of them provided with a view to combating the risk of poverty and

social exclusion of Roma. NAE has organized Job Fairs for Roma every year and implemented a special program called “Program 145” designed for 145 localities having a large number of Roma. The program provides personalized actions for supporting employment of Roma, especially by job mediation, career counselling and vocational training. Starting with 2016, the number of the localities was increased to 150 and the program became “Program 150”. Following the implementation of the above mentioned measures during the period 2012-2016, a total number of 12,649 persons belonging to Roma community have been employed. During the same period, 4,519 Roma persons attended vocational training courses organized by the National Agency for Employment.

63. Regarding **health**, Roma Inclusion Strategy mainly aims at: the improvement of the access to basic, preventive and therapeutic medical services; the prevention of sickness situations relevant to the morbidity and mortality levels within the Roma population and the diminution of risks thereof; the improvement of the local authorities capabilities in order to identify the needs and implement health-related interventions; the prevention of discrimination of Roma in the health system. A very much appreciated measure is the health mediators program, mentioned in the annual reports of the European Commission concerning Roma inclusion in the EU as an example of good practice for facilitating access to healthcare. It was also encouraged the emergence of a new professional category, namely the Roma community nurse, in order to increase Roma minority accessibility to healthcare. Vaccination is also targeted. A project run by the Ministry of Health and an NGO had as aim developing models of multidisciplinary teamwork (health mediator, community nurse, social worker) in order to increase awareness of the need of vaccination and the percentage of vaccinated children from Roma communities.

64. As to insufficient healthcare access in rural areas for Roma children, the NPHI (National Public Health Institute) is running a 2014-2017 project, ‘Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health of the Roma Population’, financed with a Norway Grant. Project interventions have been carried out in 45 settlements from six counties with Roma communities. The project hires Roma health mediators and community health nurses. These community teams have worked to improve healthcare access of vulnerable groups, encouraging, for example, higher immunization rates and health promotion activities.

65. The measures laid down in the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 include creating institutional and legal frameworks that enable the development of community health nursing, setting up model community centers, expanding the service network, building the institutional and technical capacities of community service providers or increasing the number of Roma health mediators from 391 in 2014 to 600 in 2020 and of community health nurses from 982 in 2014 to 3,000 in 2020.

66. Concerning **housing**, the Ministry for Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds (MRDPAEF) continued the pilot program “Social housing for Roma communities”¹⁴. One of the main objectives of the project of the National Strategy on Housing, expected to be approved by the Government before the end of 2017, is to provide support to adequate housing for vulnerable categories. Under the Government Decision no. 294/2015, the National Agency for Cadaster and Land Registration implements a cadastral program for the period 2015–2023. It is envisaged the completion of the systemic registration of properties in the land registry in 2337 administrative urban and rural units. Particular emphasis is given to vulnerable groups, especially the Roma ethnics.

67. The Roma community is taking an active part in the political and social life of Romania. They were elected in the Romanian Parliament, in the European Parliament and at local level. Institutionally, the National Agency for Roma (the president – secretary of State level- is traditionally a Roma ethnic), the National Cultural Centre for Roma (managed by a Roma ethnic) and the National Council for Combating Discrimination/CNCD (one Roma ethnic is a member of the Board – secretary of State level) are very important institutional instruments that contribute to the social inclusion and judicial protection of Roma population.

C. Measures concerning other vulnerable groups (children, LGBT), hate crimes

68. Romania's legal framework ensures the respect of human rights for all persons, without discrimination of any form, as provided by the Romanian Constitution that also mentions the respect and protection of private life. The antidiscrimination law in Romania (Ordinance no. 137/ 31 August 2000, Art. 2.1) is among the most extensive and inclusive, defining discrimination in a very large sense, including discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation. Since 2000 the law includes provisions on combating incitement to hatred and fighting all discrimination forms. Civil society organizations promoting the respect of the rights of LGBTI persons are active in Romania for watchdog, support and rights promotion activities for the LGBTI community in Romania/Bucharest especially. Yearly, Bucharest hosts the annual festival dedicated to support the rights of the LGBTI persons – Pride Week, including a March for Diversity – Pride parade.

69. In Romania, the persons having HIV or AIDS are legally perceived as persons with disabilities. Thus, they benefit from all protective measures specifically aimed at this mentioned group. HIV-positive pregnant women are monitored in nine Regional HIV Infection Surveillance Centers where, after HIV infection has been confirmed, any person, regardless of age, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, is recorded, clinically and biologically monitored and provided specific antiretroviral therapy immediately after diagnosis. The management of HIV-positive child and adolescent patients complies with the 2013-2014 Guidelines for ARV Therapy, containing a separate chapter for this age group. Between May 2014 and August 2016, 'Prof. Dr. Matei Balș' National Institute of Infectious Diseases from Bucharest, as Project Promoter, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health as Program Operator, implemented the project 'Improving HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C Prevention and Control in Romania', as part of the 2009-2014 Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

70. As far as statistical information **at courts level is concerned**, the following should be mentioned:

(a) As regards hate crimes, statistical data are introduced in the ECRIS application by specialized personnel and are further validated by judicial statistical staff.

(b) Starting with April 3rd 2015, the ECRIS application allows for the collection of statistical information on criminal cases where the provision of art. 77 let. h) of the Criminal Code was applied.

(c) Besides the criminal offences, provided under the provisions of the Criminal Code, the statistical information on the criminal offences includes criminal offences provided by Government Emergency Ordinance no. 31/2002, prohibiting the organizations, symbols and deeds with fascist, racist, legionary and xenophobic character and the glorification of those found guilty of genocide against humanity and war crimes, as anti-Semitic deed.

(d) ECRIS application does not allow yet for the disaggregation of the discrimination grounds. Work is being done in order to allow for such a disaggregation as soon as possible.

Preventing torture and inhuman or degrading treatment and conditions of detention (109.75, 109.76, 109.103)

71. The legal framework from 2011 – Decision no. 566/2011 "Handbook concerning the associated teams for special security measures, constraint and control, as for using the immobilization means and techniques"- which provide for the principles on which these teams intervene, as a last resort/emergency solving tool, combined with the continuous training of the security staff in solving the incidents and equipment improvement, represent sufficient guarantees against perpetration of excessive use of force against prisoners¹⁵.

72. On 27th of April 2016, the Romanian Government adopted a Memorandum on: "The approval of the calendar of the necessary measures to be taken in order to improve the condition of detention and the probation system", under which a budget of EUR

740,234,582 has been allocated to the National Administration of Penitentiaries for investment in prison infrastructure for the next seven years (2016–2023). By the aforementioned Memorandum, the consolidation of probation services is also envisaged, in particular by supplementing human resources and improving working conditions, in the light of statistical data on the evolution of the number of persons under the surveillance of probation services in the last five years. As a follow-up measure of the Memorandum, the Ministry of Justice (together with the National Administration of Penitentiaries) adopted in July 2016 an Action Plan aiming to improve the conditions of detention and to diminish the overcrowding phenomenon. On 27th of June 2017, the shortage of accommodation, for a space of 4 square meters per detainee, was 7,955 accommodation places. The Action Plan on improving the condition of detention provides the expansion of accommodation capacity with 10,895 accommodation places. The Action Plan includes the construction of two new penitentiaries until 2021.

73. The administrative measures are accompanied by the promotion of normative acts that, at the time of entry into force, will bring a reduction of the overcrowding phenomenon¹⁶. The activity of the Ombudsman's department for the Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment in Places of Detention is also bringing concrete results.¹⁷

74. According to the Law no. 254/2013, the right to medical assistance, treatment and healthcare of the convicted persons shall be guaranteed, without discrimination as concerns their legal position. It includes medical intervention, primary healthcare, emergency medical assistance and specialized medical assistance. Medical assistance, treatment and healthcare in penitentiaries is ensured, with the help of qualified personnel, free of charge, according to the law, on demand or whenever necessary¹⁸. In December 2016, a Cooperation Protocol between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice was concluded in order to increase the medical services qualities granted to the persons deprived of their liberty and to specify measures for providing the medical care in the public health network.

75. As far as reintegration programs for detainees are concerned, after the placement in prison, all inmates, are evaluated in order to identify activities that are most suitable for their reintegration after release. The offer of programs and activities is individualized at the level of each prison, depending on its specificity and on the human and material resources available and is annually updated. Another institutional objective is to conclude institutional partnerships in order to implement programs and actions that contribute to the social reinsertion of inmates. There are 88 protocols in place at the present¹⁹.

76. There are several programs aimed at raising awareness on the equal rights of ethnic Roma detainees: "Vulnerabilities, class and ethnicity in correctional services" project funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014; program RO23 "Correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions". A brochure "Facilitation of the Roma inmates social inclusion" is addressed to employees of all sectors interacting with Roma people.

Human slavery and trafficking (109.56, 109.83–109.97)

A. General measures

77. In 2014, with the entry into force of the new Criminal Code and the new Criminal Procedure Code, Law no. 135/2010, all human trafficking and exploitation offences were criminalised under one chapter. During the reporting period, the Romanian Government adopted a new national strategy against trafficking of human beings (THB) for the period 2012–2016 and the action plans for 2012–2014 and 2014–2016. The Strategy for 2018–2022, which will be based on recommendations of international organisations – such as GRETA and OSCE – is currently under inter-institutional procedure. The new Strategy targets five objectives: prevention, combating human trafficking, protection of victims, monitoring, inter-institutional and international cooperation.

78. The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (NATIP) and its public and private institutional partners focused on prevention work and on improving the protection

of the rights of children vulnerable to trafficking²⁰. In the period 2012-2016 the trafficking prevention activity aimed to cover a wide spectrum of phenomena (sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and begging), the element of unity and coherence being represented by focusing the message on the risks associated with trafficking²¹.

79. Law no. 292/2011 on Social Assistance contains provisions on social services for victims of THB (in particular, Articles 62 and 63). Amendments and supplements have also been made to Ordinance No. 25 of 26 August 2014 on the Employment of Foreigners in Romania and other acts on the status of foreigners in Romania, which entered into force on 28 November 2014.

80. Romania has intensified international cooperation in cases of trafficking of human beings through increased participation in Joint Investigation Teams in cases of human trafficking – 28 in total²². Several bilateral projects were conducted with EU countries also²³.

81. The fight against perpetrators of human trafficking has been intensified, as shown by the figures provided by the Public Ministry²⁴. All reports on alleged involvement of State officials in offences related to human trafficking are thoroughly investigated.

82. In the area of investigation and prosecution, the Romanian authorities step up proactive investigations, statistical data showing high rate of investigative activities but also final convictions by the court²⁵.

B. Protection of victims, including children

83. According to the Witness Protection Law no. 682/2002, a witness to a serious crime, such as trafficking in persons, can be included in the witness protection program, based on the decision of a prosecutor or a court. Victims of trafficking in human beings benefit of assistance and protection services, either in centres set up by the State, either in centres organized by NGOs. In these centres the victims can receive social, psychological, medical and legal assistance and also accommodation and meals. The right of victims of trafficking to receive financial compensation is inherent to the participation of Romania in CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Romanian legislation distinguishes and operates with two notions that outline possible steps/options aimed at providing financial reparation to victims of violent crime, including trafficking in human beings: compensation and civil damages. The compensation term is used to designate the financial compensation granted by the State; civil damages, as a legal notion, should be understood as representing the amount of money established by a court order to be paid to a person for compensation for the damage caused by an offence.

84. Victims of trafficking in human beings have the right to be a civil party in the criminal proceedings and to claim civil damages for material and/or moral damages suffered. If they do not obtain civil damages from the trafficker ordered by the criminal court, because he has no income or goods, they are entitled to claim financial compensation from the State for certain categories of damage only.

85. Law no. 272/2004 on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights was amended and supplemented through Law no. 257/2013 which provides special rules for the protection of children whose parents work abroad. The amendments also clarified the role of each institution involved in providing children with identity documents. Pursuant to this law, the child shall be registered immediately after birth and the birth certificate issued within 24 hours of birth. When the birth takes place outside a health facility, the family doctor is requested to ascertain the birth within 24 hours and issue a birth certificate.

86. Prevention measures and awareness campaign are within the competence of the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons in cooperation with other institutions such as the Ministry of National Education. Most of the educational activities aiming at prevention and awareness raising, whether formal (lesson-based) or non-formal (extracurricular activities or projects) focus on the risks of trafficking and the related signs that can indicate potential traffickers, through means of case studies, research, meetings with specialists, debates, contests etc. These activities are carried out by county school inspectorates, psycho-pedagogical assistance centers, and educational units. At the same

time, the Ministry of National Education runs the national program on Health Education which approaches human trafficking topics. In addition, each school implements prevention programs by means of activities aiming at both students and teachers in order to identify groups at risk of trafficking (generally, one activity per semester /per school).

87. Regarding the reintegration of trafficking victims into the educational system, the Ministry of National Education, by means of its territorial structures (i.e. the county school inspectorates), supports the rehabilitation of trafficking victims by offering them the possibility to continue their studies and by ensuring their confidentiality. The victims who opt to continue their studies, as well as their families, benefit also from psycho-pedagogical counselling sessions provided by the school specialized personnel.

Domestic violence and representation of women (109.77, 109.78)

88. In the field of domestic violence, the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice, through the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (NAEO), exercises the functions of strategy, regulation, representation and State authority and has attributions in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the strategies and policies of the Government.

89. In order to strengthen public policy for eliminating gender based violence, including domestic violence, in 2012, the Romanian Government approved Government Decision no. 1156/2012 for the approval of the National Strategy for prevention and combating of family violence and the Action Plan for implementing the national strategy for prevention and combating of family violence for the period 2013–2017²⁶.

90. By Law no. 30/2016 Romania ratified the Istanbul Convention imposing concrete measures on States Parties to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. The Istanbul Convention proposes creating mechanisms to guarantee the protection of victims, raise awareness of the effects of the phenomenon, and prevent and combat all forms of violence.

91. In order to carry out the complex legislative steps required by the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, NAEO elaborated the necessary legislative package for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which includes the modification of the legislation regarding equal opportunities for women and men, on the prevention and combating domestic violence, the modification of the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes.

92. At the same time, the Governance Program for the period 2017–2020 provides a series of measures aimed to preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and has as a prerequisite the adoption of the draft laws necessary for the harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and it will be transposed into secondary legislation, as well as the development of social services for victims of domestic violence and aggressors by implementing projects from European funds.

93. Another important task of the NAEO is to finance and/or co-finance programs of national interest in the field of gender equality and prevention and combating domestic violence. A number of projects were and are to be developed in order to raise awareness on this phenomenon.²⁷

94. The National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men organizes constantly awareness campaigns on gender equality and equal opportunity, targeting also the Roma community²⁸.

95. Aspects related to domestic violence are being approached in the framework of the family law organized for the judicial trainees and for the continuous training by the National Institute of Magistracy.

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (109.106, 109.107)

96. In May 2016 amendments to the law on property restitution entered into force (Law no. 103/2016), according to which it was established the presumption of abusive takeover for the buildings that became the property of the Romanian State during the communist regime through “donation” by religious denominations.

97. At present, there are 18 recognized religious denominations, several religious associations, and over 800 regular NGOs with religious activities functioning in Romania. The 2006 Law on religious freedom and the general status of denominations stipulates the neutrality of the Romanian State with regard to all recognized religious denominations and guarantees their autonomy. This relationship is based on the principles of non-discrimination and mutual cooperation in fields of common interests. The State Secretariat for Religious Affairs maintained an “open doors” policy towards representatives of all religions and religious NGOs. Currently it prepares a second updated edition of the volume “State and religions in Romania” (which includes also information on the status of the restitution of properties).

Administration of justice (109.16, 109.101)

98. Romania has a new Strategy for the development of the judiciary (2015–2020) and a subsequent Action Plan. The Strategy defines the objectives in order to continue the judicial reforms within the reference period, to make the judiciary more efficient and responsible and to ensure a better quality of the justice act. The legislative framework of putting in place and consolidating the relevant institutions of the judiciary is completed and the track record of these institutions shows positive results (National Anticorruption Directorate, National Integrity Agency, and National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets – which became operational in December 2016).

99. In 2016, the Ministry of Justice started to amend a series of laws: Law no. 303/2004 on the status of judges and prosecutors, Law no. 304/2004 on the organization of the judiciary and Law no. 317/2004 on the Superior Council of Magistracy (so called laws of justice). The process of amending the laws is ongoing.

100. In October 2016, the Law on preventing the conflict of interest in public procurement procedures was adopted. Thus, the National Integrity Agency will have another tool with the PREVENT system of ex ante checks on public procurement.

101. In 2016, National Integrity Agency also worked closely with the Permanent Electoral Authority to ensure that the decisions regarding the eligibility of candidates on integrity were taken in due time for the parliamentary elections. This proved to be effective in order to avoid ineligible candidates presenting themselves for the parliamentary elections or regarding the candidates elected in the local elections who were subsequently removed or resigning from office.

102. The legislative changes provisioned by the new Codes were inserted in the syllabus for initial training by the National Institute of Magistracy and the continuous training on the new Codes is very extensive.

Rights related to name, identity, nationality, family and marriage (109.149, 109.113, 109.105, 109.104, 109.108)

103. From a legislative perspective, one of the practical measures recently taken to ensure birth registration was the drafting and approval of Government Emergency Order no. 33/2016 amending and supplementing certain legal acts concerning vital records and identity documents of Romanian citizens and Government Decision no. 801/2016 laying down procedures for the collection and deletion of data related to people with a declared identity and amending and supplementing certain legal acts concerning the consistent application of civil and population registration provisions.

104. Amendments were made to address the situation of children whose identity could not be proven and who were, therefore, denied fundamental rights as relevant legislation provided that certain procedures had to be implemented and documents presented in order to register the birth, which could delay birth certificate issuance and, consequently, access to various services²⁹. The Law regarding civil status was modified in 2016 in order to introduce responsibilities for the medical professionals in order to protect children abandoned in hospitals³⁰. The National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) drafted a legal act approving the methodology for the fulfilment of duties assigned to local public administration authorities, institutions and professionals involved in the prevention of and intervention in cases of children at risk of abandonment or abandoned at healthcare facilities, which was approved under Government Decision no. 1103/2014.

105. No children born on Romanian territory remain stateless; they can acquire the Romanian citizenship if their parents apply for it, under the conditions of the Romanian Citizenship Law no. 21/1991³¹.

106. Law no. 272/2004 on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights was amended and supplemented through Law no. 257/2013 which provides special rules for the protection of children whose parents work abroad. The amendments also clarified the role of each institution involved in providing children with identity documents. Pursuant to this law, the child shall be registered immediately after birth and the birth certificate issued within 24 hours of birth. When the birth takes place outside a health facility, the family doctor is requested to ascertain the birth within 24 hours and issue a birth certificate.

Right to health (109.65, 109.110, 109.114, 109.111, 109.112)

107. The National Health Strategy was adopted in December 2014 together with an Action Plan for its implementation for the time framework 2014–2020. This framework-document allows a strong articulation with "Health 2020: the European policy for health and well-being Strategy" and with the recommendations of the experts of the World Bank, proposed in the "Functional Review of the Romanian Health Sector". National budget for health has increased constantly.

108. First specific objective of the National Health Strategy refers to "Improving the health and nutrition of mother and child and reducing the risk of maternal and infant death". For the medical assistance of the premature children, the Ministry of Health introduced a regionalized system of care in order to guarantee each neonate is born in a medical unit that can provide appropriate services, in order to reduce this significant part of the infant mortality. Training programs for professionals involved in mother and child care, including the establishment in 2016 of a center of excellence for prenatal pathology within the National Institute for Mother and Child Health from Bucharest, are targeting the same objective. Genetic malformations are the third cause of death in children. To increase the prenatal diagnosis and genetic counselling capacity, the Ministry of Health has organized at national level 6 regional centers of medical genetics, financed by the government funds, through the national health programs.

109. Another objective of the National Health Strategy is "Reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, incidence of abortion and maternal mortality through abortion". Actions are mainly carried out through the Women's Health Subprogram of the National Program for Woman and Child Health, in parallel with interventions to increase the access to services for pregnant women, including prevention of genetic diseases. Measures aim at integrating family planning as part of the basic package services, free distribution of contraceptives programs and awareness campaigns. Also, the school syllabus includes an optional course on "Health education" and extracurricular activities developed with members of the medical community and social assistance. The Ministry of Health has developed, together with experts from WHO, UNICEF, National Public Health Institute, Ministry of National Education the "Integrated Multiannual Health Promotion Plan and Health Education" with a comprehensive approach.

Right to education (109.115-109.121, 109.128)

110. The budgetary allocation for education did not reach the 6% GDP target. However, the budget has increased every year (with a 4.5 % GDP in 2017). Combating and preventing the early school leaving phenomenon represent a major priority of the Romanian education system. To address it, the Ministry of National Education has issued the Strategy for early school leaving³² which aims at ensuring universal access to quality education and equal chances to self-improvement, by means of: increasing the participation rate in early childhood education and care, access to quality primary and lower secondary education, development of drop-out identification systems and consolidated remedial support programs, improvement of the attractiveness and quality of VET (Vocational Education and Training).

111. In order to support pupils from disadvantaged areas and to prevent school drop-out, Government Ordinance no. 69/2016 completes the Law of education no. 1/2011 by providing budgetary measures for pupils who cannot attend school in their home towns. A special emphasis continues to be put on the Second chance programs (for primary and lower secondary levels) which are programs specially designed for children/youth/adults who have not completed their compulsory education.

112. In addition, new steps taken by the Ministry of National Education include: the initial training of Roma young people through Online Distance Learning/Reduce frequency courses in order to become teachers in Roma communities and the setting up of Centers for Inclusive Education in each county which provide different educational services in order to support all children's access to education (school mediator, support /itinerant teacher, speech therapist, school counsellor etc.).

113. Children with special educational needs can access different forms of education and may be enrolled in both mainstream education and special schools, depending on the type and degree of disability. Over the last 15 years the number of children with special educational needs/disabilities enrolled in special schools has decreased by at least 50-60% per each level of education. Actions taken to ensure these children's rights have targeted the legislative framework³³, as well as concrete aspects regarding their access to school and employment (in accordance with their type and degree of their impairments).

Protection of children (109.29, 109.30, 109.35, 109.36, 109.80, 109.37, 109.79, 109.82, 109.98)**A. General measures**

114. At policy level, a new set of strategies have been developed for 2014-2020 aiming at combining budgetary financing with appropriate EU financial instruments in order to combat child poverty and ensure their well-being: "Promotion and Protection of Child Rights"; "Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction"; "Health"; "Prevention of Early School Leaving"; "Rights of Persons with Disabilities"; and "Roma Inclusion". New developments or amendments of the normative and institutional framework and progresses as regards right to education and right to health were addressed in previous sections.

115. In 2016 Romania became one of the two European pathfinder countries in the Global Partnership to end Violence against Children, committing to identify and operationalize initiatives to end violence against children, to deliver comprehensive, coordinated and cross-sectorial prevention and response services against violence and to support reforms in the country and beyond.

116. Main challenges that the Government of Romania is confronted to are linked to the implementation of national policies at local level, due to the limited capacity, especially in rural areas. Challenges at local level administration were taken into account when developing the new policy and normative framework for 2014-2020.

117. Referring to violence against children, besides improvements at legislative level³⁴, several raising awareness campaigns run by the Government in strong partnership with UNICEF Romania and NGOs contributed to recognition of various forms of violence.

Consequently, there is an increased trend of reporting the cases of violence against children, thus offering the possibility for authorities' intervention³⁵. While there are significant differences between rural and urban areas (where information is more readily available), overall there is poor knowledge about child rights, positive discipline and obligations towards children, which calls for investing in developing parents and caregivers' competencies and awareness.

B. Children protection against exploitation

118. The current legal framework in the field provides for a full protection of minors as far as the criminal sanctioning of the trafficking in minors is concerned³⁶. Constant national campaigns on child exploitation aim at raising awareness of children and parents on this subject.³⁷

Protection of persons with disabilities (109.125–109.31)

119. The elaboration of the National Strategy "A society without barriers for persons with disabilities" 2016-2020 involved directly persons with disabilities, their families, NGOs and public institutions. The aim of the Strategy is to ensure the full benefit of their rights and effective participation of persons with disabilities in social life, as guaranteed by the Romanian Constitution and the international agreements to which Romania is a party. This Strategy focuses on eight main directions for actions, aiming to the implementing of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health and statistics in data collection³⁸.

Minority rights and migrants (109.132, 109.38, 109.146, 109.58, 109.148, 109.150)

120. The preservation and development of the culture and identity of persons belonging to national minorities is of particular importance in Romania. The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is guaranteed by the Romanian Constitution. At this moment in Romania the effective participation of minorities is a reality; positive experiences can be reported in various fields: social and economic life, public and cultural life. During recent years the system of prevention and combating discrimination, including in matters of employment and occupation, has been consolidated. The financial support granted by the Government of Romania, through the Department for Interethnic Relations to the 19 organizations, members of the Council of National Minorities, has increased over the years³⁹.

121. The Constitution affirms the principle of non-discrimination on religious grounds and the Law no. 489/2006 on religious freedom and the general status of denominations proclaims the neutrality of the State towards any religious belief or atheistic ideology, the autonomy of religious denominations from the State, as well as the fact that Romania has no official State religion, and the denominations are free and equal by law and in relation to public authorities⁴⁰.

122. Regarding the strengthening of measures regarding the assurance of the rights of migrants, it is to be mentioned that Romania changed the legal framework regarding the legal status of foreigners in Romania, for certain categories of foreigners legally resident in Romania being thus provided equal treatment with that of Romanian citizens in many fields, such as access to education, vocational training and scholarships, access to the labour market and social security. Romanian authorities are striving to combat illegal work and to protect the rights of foreigners working on our territory. Thus, they are informed on their financial rights towards their employers and on their right to use legal and judicial instruments to recover these sums. Even a return decision may be suspended until the litigation on the financial rights is solved.

IV. Challenges

123. Improvements are needed in ensuring protection and promotion of the rights of the children (especially Roma children and children with disabilities), as concern their right to education and right to health. There is also a need for institutional consolidation and official recognition of Romanian institutions active in the field of human rights. National strategies and actions presented in the report demonstrate the will to overcome these challenges.

Notes

- ¹ The mechanism is made of two components: (i) The technical component, the system itself, was finalized in 2015 and since then various tests are being run; (ii) The legislative component – which shall sustain the implementation of the mechanism – Law no. 184/2017 on 17th October 2016. The system has the objective to prevent conflicts of interests in the public procurement field, by automatically detecting whether participants in the public procurement are relatives or are connected to people from the contracting institution's management. Also, the system aims to raise the accountability among heads of public authorities and to avoid situations where EU financed projects are blocked due to fraud issues and, finally, to raise the absorption rate of the structural funds.
- ² The Department has the following tasks: to organize planned and unannounced visits of the places of detention, in order to verify if they concretely meet the standards; to issue recommendations to the management of the places of detention; to propose amendments of the relevant legal framework; and to maintain relation with the Subcommittee established through the Additional Protocol.
- ³ The Monitoring Council has still deficiencies in terms of human resources, consequently, its field visits are organized together with representatives of NGOs.
- ⁴ Attributions of the Ombudsman: follows-up with the legal resolution of the complaints received and requests the public authorities or civil servants to put an end to the respective violation of the civil rights and freedoms, to reinstate the complainant in his/her rights, and to redress the human rights violation; formulates points of view upon request of the Constitutional Court; notifies the Constitutional Court on the unconstitutionality of laws before promulgation; initiates appeals in the interest of the law and procedures before the courts when, following monitoring missions, it appreciates that the administrative structures exceeded their competences or acted illegally.
- ⁵ Data on **progress made in the fight against corruption in the period 2012-2016**, referring to the measures included in the National Action Plan for the implementation of NSA 2012-2015:

1. Year 2012

828 defendants were sent to trial, among them being 25 legal persons and 332 natural persons holding management control positions, involving public dignities or other important positions.

Status of the investigated people (the list is not exhaustive):

- 7 dignitaries (1 senator, 2 deputies, 1 vice-president county organization of a political party who also acts as a deputy, 2 State secretaries and 1 prefect);
- 1 personal counsellor of a minister, 1 vice-president County Council, 4 county counsellors, 12 local counsellors, 25 mayors, 8 vice-mayors;
- 10 magistrates, 17 lawyers, 31 policemen;
- 1 director of DGIPI (Secret service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs);
- 28 custom workers, 7 commissioners from the Financial Guard, 12 fiscal inspectors;
- 2 public officials A.P.I.A. (Agency for Payments and Interventions in Agriculture), 1 inspector I.T.M. (Territorial Inspectorate of Labour), 9 secretaries of City House, 1 vice-president of an union;
- 1 rector, 1 pro-rector;
- 13 directors from other public institutions and 10 directors of national companies.

The value of the security measures (seized assets) ordered by prosecutors amounted to approximately 1,174 million lei.

A number of 743 defendants were convicted with final conviction decisions.

2. Year 2013

1073 defendants were sent to trial, 49 of them being legal persons and 303 people holding management positions, control, public dignities or other important positions.

Status of the investigated people (the list is not exhaustive):

- 8 dignitaries (1 Member of the European Parliament, 1 minister, 4 deputies, one of them acting as the vice-Prime Minister of the Romanian Government, 2 deputy prefects);
- 1 personal counsellor of a minister, 1 director of a minister office, 1 director within the Romanian Parliament, 1 counsellor minister delegated for Energy, 1 vice-president of a

County Council, 4 presidents of a County Council, 1 counsellor minister delegated for Energy, 4 directors county councils, 6 local counsellors, 2 counsellors of the City Hall, 25 mayors, 9 vice-mayors;

- 25 magistrates, 19 lawyers, 34 policemen;
- 2 chief medical doctors;
- 24 custom workers, 5 commissioners of the Financial Guard, 4 fiscal inspectors;
- 1 president of the Romanian Football Federation, 1 president of the Professional Football League;
- 1 rector, 1 pro-rector;
- 4 commanders of military units;
- 22 directors from other public institutions, 10 directors of national companies.

The value of the security measures (seized assets) ordered by prosecutors amounted to approximately 1,557 million lei.

A number of 1.051 *defendants* were convicted with final conviction decisions.

3. Year 2014

A number of 1.167 *defendants* were sent to trial, among them 107 legal persons and 392 natural persons holding management and control positions, public dignities or other important positions.

Status of the investigated people (the list is not exhaustive):

- 12 dignitaries (2 senators, 7 deputies, 1 State secretary, 2 prefects);
- 2 counsellors of minister, 1 State secretary, 1 counsellor of senator, 1 chief of office of the State secretary;
- 9 presidents of county councils, 1 deputy prefect, 3 local counsellors, 22 counsellors of the city hall, 1 county counsellor, 1 prefectural counsellor, 36 mayors, 7 vice-mayors;
- 35 magistrates, 25 lawyers, 81 policemen, 16 military personnel, 19 custom workers;
- 1 president of the Romanian Chamber of Trade, 1 president of the National Agency of Fiscal Administration;
- 6 commissioners from the Financial Guard, 2 anti-fraud inspectors, 2 fiscal inspectors;
- 1 university dean, 2 school directors, 8 school inspectors, 14 teachers;
- 3 managers of hospital;
- 1 president of federation, 1 president of foundation, 1 vice-president of a County Council;
- 10 directors of national companies;
- 3 directors of banking agencies/branches;
- 2 presidents of a sport club.

The value of the security measures (seized assets) ordered by prosecutors amounted to approximately 1,348 million lei.

A number of 1.138 *defendants* were convicted with final conviction decisions.

4. Year 2015

A number of 1.258 *defendants* were sent to trial, among them 83 being legal persons and 497 natural persons holding management and control positions, public dignities or other important positions.

Status of the investigated people (the list is not exhaustive):

- 32 dignitaries – 1 Prime Minister, 5 ministers, 5 senators, 16 deputies, 2 State secretaries, 2 general secretaries of a minister;
- Other positions from the central administration – 1 prefect, 1 counsellor of State secretary, 1 personal counsellor of a minister, 1 parliamentary assistant accredited to the European Parliament, 1 chief of office of a minister;
- local authorities – 80 mayors, 17 vice mayors, 10 presidents of county councils, 5 vice-presidents of county councils, 1 county counsellor;
- Law enforcement institutions – 14 magistrates, 15 lawyers, 42 policemen, 19 military personnel, 7 custom workers, 3 notaries;
- 32 directors of national companies;
- In the education field – 1 university rector, 1 university dean, 1 university pro-dean, 1 high school director, 1 school director, 2 general school inspectors, 2 school inspectors, 6 teachers, 1 university teacher, 1 university lecturer, 1 university lecturer;
- In the health field – 6 managers of hospital, 2 directors of hospital, 10 medical doctors.

Security measures (seized assets) were ordered in order to conduct the special confiscation or for the restitution of the damage caused as result of the perpetration of the offence, up to the total amount of 2.193,42 million lei, the equivalent of 493,46 million euro. Goods for the total value of 1982,42 million lei, the equivalent of 445,99 million euro were identified and frozen.

The courts ordered final conviction decisions for the number of 973 *defendants*.

5. Year of 2016

A number of 1.271 defendants were sent to trial, among them 114 being legal persons and 426 natural persons holding management and control positions, public dignities or other important positions.

Status of the investigated people(the list is not exhaustive):

- 30 dignitaries, among them: 1 minister and vice-Prime-minister for national security, 1 minister of transport, 1 minister of energy, deputy, 1 general secretary of the Romanian Senate, 1 president of the Chamber of Deputies, 1 vice-governor of the Romanian National Bank, 6 senators, 11 deputies, 3 State secretaries, 1 vice-president of the permanent election authority, 2 presidents and 2 vice-presidents of the National Agency for Fiscal Administration;
- other functions from the central administration – 3 prefects and 2 deputy prefects;
- local authorities – 47 mayors, 2 vice-mayors, 5 presidents of county councils, 2 vice-presidents of county councils, 2 county counsellors, 2 local counsellors, 13 secretaries of City Hall;
- Law enforcement institutions – 16 magistrates, 17 lawyers, 91 policemen, 14 military personnel, 1 notary;
- 55 people holding important positions in public institutions;
- 21 directors of companies or national companies;
- In the education field - 2 university rectors, 1 university dean, 4 school/school group directors, 3 university teachers, 1 university lecturer, 3 teachers;
- In the health field – 7 managers of hospital/medical institutes, 10 medical doctors.

Security measures (seized assets) were ordered in order to conduct the special confiscation or for the restitution of the damage caused as result of the perpetration of the offence, up to the total amount of 2.999,60 million lei, the equivalent of 667,94 million euro.

The courts ordered final conviction decisions for the number of 879 defendants.

- ⁶ The transdisciplinary approach of learning and the development of the key competence of expression and social awareness:

1. The syllabus for the optional school subject called “Life skills development” (the Curriculum upon school decision for 5th to 8th grades). Approved by M.O no. 3960/03.05.2012.
 2. The syllabus for the optional school subject called “Reading and life skills” (the Curriculum upon school decision for 5th to 12th grades). Approved by M.O no. 3961/03.05.2012.
 3. The syllabus for the optional school subject called “Education for intellectual property rights” (the Curriculum upon school decision for high school). Approved by M.O no. 3542/27.03.2015.
- The optional school subject called “Education for intellectual property rights”, proposed to be studied in high school, relates to the European Parliament and to the Council of European Union Recommendations regarding the key competences from the perspective of lifelong learning (2006/962/EC), which shapes up for the compulsory schooling system grades an “European training form”, targeted towards forming of eight key competences. The contribution of the “Education for intellectual property rights” school subject to the development of the European key competences is nuanced and diverse, including both the support for developing certain key competences and the awareness concerning other key competences, as following : social and civic competences; native language communication; leadership and entrepreneurship; mathematics competences and basic science and technology competences; digital competences; learning to learn; foreign languages communication; cultural awareness and expression.

- ⁷ For the continuous training, there are numerous events organized by the NIM with a view to raise awareness among future magistrates:

Between 2013 – 2014, the National Institute of Magistracy and the Superior Council of Magistracy were partners within the Project JUST/2012/FRAC/AG/2755 "European Judicial Cooperation in the fundamental rights practice of national courts – the unexplored potential of judicial dialogue methodology", coordinated by the European University Institute from Florence – EUI. The Project was focusing on three fundamental rights: the principle of non-discrimination, the right to a fair trial and the freedom of expression.

Also in cooperation with other institutions, the NIM organized activities relevant in this field, such as the Conference on fighting fascism, racism, xenophobia and the promotion of persons guilty of crimes against humanity and peace. The main objective of this event was to analyse and understand in depth the Romanian legislation in the field of fighting extremism, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and anti-Semitism, as well as the cases that may be brought before the courts, in the context of the passing of Law no. 217/2015 that amends the Government’s Emergency Ordinance no. 31/2002 prohibiting organizations, symbols and deeds with fascist, racist, legionary and xenophobic nature and the glorification of those found guilty of genocide and war crimes.

NIM hosted in Bucharest the Dissemination event that took place in the framework of the Project entitled - Active Charter Training through Interaction Of National Experiences (ACTIONES), which is coordinated by the EUI Centre for Judicial Cooperation with the support of the European Commission, DG Justice. One of the themes of the activity was the antidiscrimination.

In the framework of the European Law, continuous training program which takes place every year, a seminar regarding „The national judges and the European Law on equality” was included. Also, as regards the non-discrimination issue, the prohibited grounds of discrimination provided by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), were presented, with accent on the obligation of national courts to apply the EU law with priority.

Between the years 2014 and 2016, the Superior Council of Magistracy together with NIM have implemented the “Improving access to justice for Roma and other vulnerable groups - an integrated approach” project. The overall objective of the Pre-defined Project was to improve the access to justice for Roma and other vulnerable groups of the population (e.g. other socially disadvantaged categories which may desire to take part in the project activities), by carrying out a cluster of activities aiming at addressing the knowledge on and the use of their rights.

Another project implemented by NIM in partnership with the National Council for Fighting Discrimination between the years 2014 and 2016 was the Project “Improving national anti-discriminatory measures with the help of professionals and the civil society”.

Beginning with 2014, issues on combating discrimination were discussed at EuroQuod Conferences (The National Network of Judges - coordinators in EU law), a NIM initiative started in 2012. The president of the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) attended to the conferences and presented topical issues in the field of non-discrimination in European Union law.

In 2015, within the framework of the centralised continuous training programme, the NIM organised 2 seminars on “The role of national courts in the interpretation and application of the European Law”. The two seminars also included the recent case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the field of non-discrimination.

An ECHR case relevant for the issue of non-discrimination on the ground of sexual identity (M. and C. v. Romania) was discussed in a „ECHR – criminal matters” seminar that took place in Bucharest, between the 22nd and the 23rd of September 2016. The ECHR found that the Romanian authorities failed to properly investigate a hate crime incident, relating to physical and verbal attacks which followed a gay rights march, and its potential discriminatory motive.

In November 2016, NIM organized two seminars on the Role of national courts in interpreting and applying EU Law. One of the themes discussed was focused on current issues in the field of discrimination, as well as the recent jurisprudence of the EU Court of Justice.

In March 2017, NIM in partnership with the National Council for Fighting Discrimination organised the seminar “Anti-discrimination. 15 years of non-discrimination in Romania. Jurisprudence and developments”.

⁸ In order to elaborate the Strategy, debates were organized with representatives of institutions and NGOs. Working groups were organized on right to dignity, access to education, housing, access to services, institutional development and several round tables in major cities of Romania.

⁹ The site of the NCCD –<http://cncd.org.ro/home> -

¹⁰ Various programs are carried out with a view to enhancing school participation or reintegrating those who dropped out (e.g. the “School after School” or “Second Chance” programmes, dedicated to disadvantaged persons, in particular Roma). As a result of such measures, more than 200,000 Roma are included in different levels of the education system. A widely appreciated affirmative measure is the grant of distinct places for joining the upper-secondary education (3,150 vacancies in 2016) and in higher education (622 vacancies in 2016). Also, there were 29 openings in the Ministry of Interior’s schools for 2015-2016. As of October 2016, the college “National School for Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest” initiated a master program dedicated to “Roma Studies”, with 20 places for college graduates.

¹¹ In October 2016, the National School for Political and Administrative Studies started a 2 year master course for Roma Studies. **First in Europe due to its curricula**, it covers domains as: Roma history, Ethnography, Community studying a.s.o., and delivers quality information of real use for people in contact with Roma issues.

¹² These measures refer to:

- the creation of mixed groups / classes in pre-primary, primary and lower secondary schools, compulsory for 1st and 5th grades since the school year 2007-2008 and progressively applied to the rest of the grades. In addition, the division of Roma students in groups / classes / schools on grounds related to the study of Romani language and / or the Roma history and traditions was prohibited;
- the collaboration with school mediators or other community representatives for the carrying out of school census, while encouraging Roma parents to enrol their children in school each year;

- the reservation of a number of positions in all classes, upon late registration in order to support the children's school enrolment;
 - the prohibition of Roma pupils' enrolment in special education groups / classes and special integrated education schools, by means of the abusive and unprofessional diagnosis of Roma pupils as having learning difficulties / special education needs;
 - the sharing of school premises and facilities by all students, regardless of their ethnicity. Likewise, the transportation of children coming from residentially segregated communities to schools is ensured alongside non-Roma children;
 - In addition to these initiatives, schools and county school inspectorates have the responsibility of analysing all the situations that indicate a low level of Roma children school enrolment compared to the number of school children identified upon the census carried out by the administrative-territorial unit and of establishing a desegregation plan.
- ¹³ The Ministry of National Education:
- Issued the Minister's Order no. 6158/2016 regarding the approval of the *Action Plan for school desegregation and educational quality increase in the pre-university schools in Romania*;
 - Issued the Minister's Order no. 6134/2016 regarding the prohibition of school segregation in the pre-university schools;
 - Set up a consultative working group in charge of the elaboration of the *Methodology of monitoring school segregation* in compliance with the new criteria provided by Minister's Order no. 6134/2016 and the *Methodology of prevention and intervention in segregation cases*. This document expands the segregation criteria including disabilities/special educational needs (SEN), family socio-economic status, residence and school performance criteria, besides the ethnic ones. Moreover, it stipulates a series of legal obligations to be fulfilled by different educational structures, the appropriate sanctions, the role of the future National Committee for Desegregation and Inclusion, as well as its relations with the county school inspectorates, the County Committees and the schools committees for violence, corruption and discrimination elimination.
 - Initiated the *Commission for violence, corruption and discrimination prevention and eradication and for the promotion of interculturality* in the *Regulations of pre-university school organization and functioning* approved by Minister's Order no. 5079/2016, with the aim of preventing racial discrimination of Roma pupils.
- ¹⁴ The pilot program, initiated in 2008, has a limited target (300 houses in 11 localities, based on proposals of the National Agency for Roma). Given that it is a pilot program, upon the completion of the 300 units, it is necessary to carry out a socio-economic impact analysis, as well as the impact of the pilot program on the beneficiaries and also on the local communities. Depending on the results of the analysis carried out by the entities to be established (MRDPAEF, National Agency for the Roma, territorial administrative units, etc.), it will be established the opportunity to build social housing for Roma communities (eg by creating a national program or introducing a sub-program in one of the programs already implemented by MRFPAEF in the field of social housing construction).
- ¹⁵ For guaranteeing legal, efficient and safe interventions, the associated teams for special security measures, constraint and control (SASS teams) act on the basis of the following fundamental principles: defending the human beings, legality, security, force proportionality, gradualism, non-surprise and minimum risk principle.
- The professional training of the security staff in solving the incidents is a guarantee that the intervention of SASS teams is the last resort, only in emergency situations, as the last form of action against the acts which could jeopardize the order, discipline and safety of the prison and if any other methods of managing the incidents did not achieve their purpose.
- The general elements regarding the way in which the operational incidents are managed have been included in the training activity for other security staff (surveillance, accompanying, escorting), for officers in execution positions as well as for the management board, with the aim to know certain ways of action and to act professionally, whenever the situation imposes it. The training modules include: solving incidents by using communication techniques by the staff who works directly with the inmates, operational incidents management, first aid, human rights issues, video recording of the way in which an incident is solved etc.
- Moreover, concerning the equipment, a process of endowment of the members of SASS teams with mini body worn camera started. The action will continue, for endowing all the members in the mentioned teams with this kind of devices.
- ¹⁶ The following laws and legislative projects are relevant:

- Draft Law on pardoning of sentences and educational measures involving deprivation of liberty, under debate at the Chamber of Deputies (the decision-making chamber of Romania's Parliament);
 - Law no. 169 of 14.07.2017 amending and supplementing Law no. 254/2013 on the execution of custodial sentences and of measures involving deprivation of liberty ordered by the judicial bodies during criminal trial, which introduces a compensatory day-earnings mechanism for the execution of custodial sentence in inappropriate conditions (published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 571 of 18.07.2017).
- ¹⁷ In December 2015, the Ombudsman presented to the Parliament and to the Prime-minister, a detailed report on the situation in the penitentiaries, following investigations conducted by its teams in all of them. In this report it recommended legislative, administrative, judicial and financial measures.
- ¹⁸ The services for medical assistance treatment, healthcare, and medicines shall be provided from the Single National Health Insurance Fund, under the terms of the Framework-Contract on the conditions of granting medical assistance within the health social insurance system and of the Methodological Norms for the application thereof, from the funds of the units within the administration of the penitentiary, approved for this purpose, and other sources, according to the law. Ambulatory medical care can also be provided in the specialist ambulatories of the medical units in the field, which have concluded a contract with the health insurance companies, or the inmate may request, for a fee, to be examined at the detention place, within the medical sector, by a doctor from outside the prison system. The findings made by the doctor from outside the prison system are written down in the inmates' medical file.
- ¹⁹ In terms of the participation to the social reintegration actions, in 2016, at the prison system level, the following data were registered:
- 2,455 inmates registered in school activities, during the school year 2016–2017;
 - 2,627 inmates participated in counselling-information activities and work mediation, as well as in initiation and professional training classes;
 - 328,039 inmates participated in educative approaches;
 - 88,571 inmates participated in psychological approaches;
 - 87,657 inmates participated in social assistance approaches.
- ²⁰ To decrease demand and to inform citizens about the criminalisation of the use of services delivered by an exploited person known to the beneficiary as a human trafficking victim, between October 2014 and April 2015 NATIP implemented the human trafficking prevention and communication campaign 'Exploitation Kills Souls'. The campaign was aimed to help reduce demand for services provided by victims of exploitation and trafficking by informing the consumers of such services and the general public about the condition of the victim, recruitment methods, and legal repercussions. The target group included people attending places where the three types of exploitation may arise (sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging): bars, restaurants, hotels, areas nearby religious buildings (begging), regional labour recruitment agencies (labour exploitation). As part of the project 'Best Practice Models for Human Trafficking Victim Care Services', financed under the 2009-2014 Norwegian Financial Mechanism, NATIP started a campaign to prevent human trafficking for exploitation in begging 'Ask for help, don't beg!', aimed at raising awareness of child trafficking in vulnerable communities (including Roma communities), identifying the root causes of vulnerability to trafficking and finding possible solutions to prevent human trafficking, in particular children's exploitation in begging. The message of the Campaign 'A hand held out does not get help, but money for traffickers!' targeted at-risk children aged 8 to 18, adult representatives of vulnerable communities (parents, informal leaders, etc.), representatives of institutions involved in human trafficking prevention and fight (local authorities, police departments, school inspectorates, general directorates for social assistance and child protection, etc.), and the general public. It involved direct meetings with target group representatives (students and teachers as well as representatives of local communities and authorities) in ten different locations to identify the root causes of vulnerability to trafficking and, in particular, exploitation in begging and to find specific solutions. In 2016, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons implemented the national prevention campaign 'Don't Look Away from the Invisible Face! Its Story Can Become Your Story!', which consisted of public information activities regarding sexual exploitation, its causes and effects.
- ²¹ List of a few figures for each year:
- In 2012, 6 national and regional campaigns, 36 local campaigns and 7 action plans / actions to prevent trafficking in human beings were implemented, all related to both the causes of the phenomenon and the main forms of exploitation within it. The number of direct beneficiaries was almost 100,000 and that of indirect or tangential beneficiaries of about 1,000,000;

- In 2013, 6 national prevention campaigns and projects were implemented and 49 local. The total number of direct beneficiaries of campaign prevention activities exceeds 150,000;
 - In 2014, 6 national prevention campaigns/projects, 53 prevention/local educational campaigns/projects were successfully implemented and participated in 1 cross-border project. The total number of direct beneficiaries of campaign prevention activities was 135,500 people and an estimated number of over 2,000,000 indirect/tangential beneficiaries (people who came into contact with anti-trafficking messages through leaflets, posters, video spots and in the online environment);
 - In 2015, a total of 59 campaigns/projects/prevention initiatives were implemented, out of which 4 national prevention campaigns/projects and 55 campaigns/prevention educational projects/local initiatives. There were a total of 1,813,710 beneficiaries, out of which 313,710 direct beneficiaries and an estimated number of over 1,500,000 indirect/tangential beneficiaries (people who came into contact with anti-trafficking messages through flyers, posters, video spots and in online environment);
 - In 2016, a number of 3 national prevention campaigns were implemented, a campaign for the Romanian community in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and 87 campaigns / educational prevention projects/local initiatives. A total of approximately 120,000 direct beneficiaries and an estimated number of over 1,400,000 indirect beneficiaries (people who have come into contact with anti-trafficking messages through flyers, posters, video spots, and the online environment) have been registered.
- ²² Number of participations in Joint Investigation Teams concerning human trafficking: 2013 – 2, 2014 – 3, 2015 – 3, 2016 – 12, 2017 first semester – 8.
- ²³ The information campaign titled "With a call, you will save your life! Be your Savior!", run in 2016 among the Romanian community in the UK. The campaign targeted the Romanian community in the UK and addressed both people at risk, victims / potential victims of trafficking in human beings and representatives of the general public. The JLS/2009/ISEC/AG/207 project "Integrated Approach to Preventing Labor Exploitation in Countries of Origin and Destination", co-funded by the European Commission, the transnational prevention campaign "Work is a Right! Exploiting work is a crime!" was implemented simultaneously in six countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Hungary) and aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings for labor exploitation. The Romanian target group of the campaign "Work is a right! The exploitation of work is a crime!" was made up of the general public aged between 18 and 40, generally the persons who want to go to work abroad, and the decision-makers with attributions in the field of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings exploited by work. The project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Tourism – ETTS" (DCI-NSAED/2010/234-237) co-financed by the European Commission and implemented in European countries (Italy, Romania, Spain), and coordinated by the Municipality of Genoa, Italy, the National Campaign on Preventing Human Trafficking and Sexual Tourism titled "Nepheria makes us accomplices" (3 October 2013–30 April 2014).
- ²⁴ In the period between January 2012 and June 2017, a total of 914 cases have been sent to trial (178 in 2012, 186 in 2013, 190 in 2014, 162 in 2015, 136 in 2016 and 62 in the first semester of 2017), with 2,675 perpetrators prosecuted (536 in 2012, 552 in 2013, 550 in 2014, 464 in 2015, 352 in 2016 and 221 in the first semester of 2017) for trafficking 4,281 victims (976 in 2012, 1003 in 2013, 832 in 2014, 653 in 2015, 483 in 2016 and 334 in the first semester of 2017).
- ²⁵ 2014: total number of cases investigated 1888 (from previous year and new registered), from which 799 were solved, with 190 indictments and 552 persons sent to court; in 2015: total number of cases investigated 1838 (from previous year and new registered), from which 794 were solved, with 162 indictments and 464 persons sent to court, from which 260 were arrested at that time; in 2016: total number of cases investigated 1724 (from previous year and new registered), from which 612 were solved, with 136 indictments and 352 persons sent to court, from which 208 were arrested at that time. As for final convictions in 2012 there were 427 traffickers convicted, in 2013 there were 252 traffickers convicted, in 2014 there were 331 traffickers convicted, in 2015 there were 252 traffickers convicted, with penalties which range mostly from 1–5 years in prison (in 84 of the cases) and from 5-10 years in prison (in 70 of the cases).
- ²⁶ The operational objectives of the National Strategy are to continue implementing the informational campaign regarding the gravity of the phenomena of domestic violence, developing social services both for the victims and for the perpetrators and continuing trainings for the experts with responsibilities in this field, in order for them to offer proper support services for the victims of domestic violence. The main is to:
- Prevent and reduce domestic violence;

- Protect the victims of domestic violence and incriminate the perpetrators, by creating an integrated institutional framework;
- Promote inter-sectorial cooperation to eliminate domestic violence and to support the partnership with civil society;
- To ensure the premises of reducing the tolerance degree of domestic violence;
- To increase the efficiency of all prevention programs and to develop some non-violent attitudes and behaviours.

The measures included in the National Strategy contribute to strengthen the institutional capacity of the central and local public administration authorities in the field of domestic violence management and developing a unique system of social services specialized in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence.

²⁷ In order to provide financial support for the development of all the necessary means and tools for the enforcement of the legislation, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (NAEO or ANES) has developed a number of projects, which are in different stages of development:

- The predefined gender-based violence project, which aims at implementing the Istanbul Convention under the „Justice” Program financed by the Kingdom of Norway focusing among other things on the development of at least 8 assisting centers for aggressors, at the local level, coupled with the elaboration of working procedures and specialized intervention programs for aggressors in order to prevent the relapse of domestic violence acts.
- The VENUS project to combat violence against women and domestic violence will develop measures centred on the integrated and unified approach to social services, socio-professional and professional training of specialists in the field, in order to prevent and combat domestic violence at national level.

ANES carried out during the last 2 years, the project "National Campaign for Awareness and Public Information on Family Violence", through the Program "Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence", financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The campaign was designed to ensure broad coverage, focusing on the existence and the utility of the free telephone line dedicated to combating domestic violence, 0800 500 333 as a public information vector.

Regarding the need for strong legislative and institutional measures aiming on one hand, to limit the phenomenon by applying punitive measures against perpetrators and, on the other hand, to support victims by providing a range of services appropriate support, NAEO implemented, between October 2014 and December 2015 the project "START — A quality life in safety!", funded by HROP 2007-2013, totalling 170,207,156 lei (38 million euros). The project aimed to implement a holistic and integrated development of mechanisms, policies, procedures and tools applied nationwide, generating long-term benefits for people in situations of gender inequality, domestic violence or human trafficking risk. The overall objective was to develop an integrated system to address national measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and trafficking. The intervention area of the project had national coverage having a target group of 11,150 people, out of which: 1,000 women, 5,050 people from vulnerable groups, as follows: 4,000 domestic violence victims, 1,000 children at risk, 50 human trafficking victims, 4,000 experts in public institutions with responsibilities in preventing and combating domestic violence and human trafficking and/or also experts for interacting with victims, 550 managers and 550 people from the local and central authorities. The relevant results achieved within the project were:

- (a) Providing support to 5,050 victims who received complex services in terms of psychological, social, medical and vocational assessment; contiguously, they have benefited from the development of individual plans of intervention and from training services, psychological counselling, legal counselling and career guidance;
- (b) Training and job qualification, for a total of 4,000 women victims of domestic violence and individual subsidization of 6,000 lei /victim;
- (c) Raising awareness seminars attended by 5,000 women;
- (d) Training 4,000 people to become equal opportunities technician (with very important role in the communities — small towns, and villages);
- (e) An integrated system had been created for recording, reporting and managing of domestic violence situations by creating a specialized system that facilitates recording and precise data centralization (SIRMES) — with a focal point for all the specific information managed in all institutions responsible in the field; developing a unified set of monitoring tools, including a single file per case;
- (f) An emergency accommodation centre for victims of domestic violence (shelter) had been founded;
- (g) A free and anonymous hotline for victims of domestic violence — call centre on a 24/7 basis

has been established — No. 0 800 500 333;

(h) 42 inter-institutional and multidisciplinary intervention teams in each county around the country and in Bucharest have been created and became functional;

(i) 3 intervention guidebooks for professionals has been elaborated;

(j) 300 inter-institutional partnerships were signed;

(k) Campaigns to raise awareness on domestic violence, gender inequality and human trafficking were conducted.

The Romania Police was partner in the "Good Practice Models on Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings", project initiated by the National Agency Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The project was funded through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for 2009-2014, the Program "Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence" and had as partners the Council of Europe, the Norwegian Police and the General Directorate for Social Assistance in Bucharest.

²⁸ Projects and programs developed in the field of gender equality:

Between 2011–2013, the technical structure on gender equality implemented the project "Fem.RRom.

– Improving the access of Roma women to the labour market and support the social economy:

promoting and developing integrated services by creating cooperatives for women, ensuring the access to formal education and the development of specialized and personalized employment services". The main objective was the promotion and support of creating new jobs in cooperatives for the Roma women, increasing their employment rate, increasing their skills level and their employment and job opportunities. Were established 3 employment workshops and 5 cooperatives to provide goods and services, the project addressing to a number of 1.550 Roma women, of which 550 trained in specific fields and professions, 1.000 receiving information, counselling and mediation services on the labour market. The project is ongoing.

The project "Empowering women from ethnic minorities in the trade unions structures" with the financial support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the FSA Grant program and the United States of America Embassy through the Democracy Small Grants program, was implemented in 2012. Having as main objective achieving a platform of action regarding the vulnerable groups on the labour market, the project set out to develop a leadership program for 20 Roma and non-Roma women members of a trade union, the establishment or reorganization of departments in two national trade union confederations to approach the issue of vulnerable groups on labour market, the development of a national campaign on the rights of employees in the labour market, promoting the equality of opportunities in the workplace. As a result of the project are included: action plan with specific measures for trade unions and NGOs; leadership program for Roma and non-Roma women; creating departments in the union confederations to approach the issue of the vulnerable groups in the labour market; developing a campaign regarding the rights/equal opportunities in the labour market. Between March 2011 and May 2013 the project S.A.N.S.A "National campaign of public awareness on gender equality and equal opportunities and institutional support for developing the activity of the interested factors in the issue of gender equality and equal opportunities" was implemented, with the overall objective of public awareness regarding the gender equality and equal opportunities in the labour market and supporting the development of the activity of the interested factors in the issue of gender and opportunities equality. The main activity of the project was the „Week of equal opportunities", held in all 8 development regions of Romania. The activity consisted in conducting workshops for the workers from the structures involved in the social protection system, entrepreneurial and public authorities and jobs fairs, public debates with opinion makers and roundtables with the media. At these actions attended representatives of the territorial departments of the MLFSPE (Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly), of the city halls, local and county councils, employers' associations and trade unions, representatives of the NGOs activating in the field of gender equality, associative structures representing vulnerable groups, caseworkers.

The project "Empowering the Roma women in the labour market" with the overall objective of developing the capacity of trade unions to promote equal opportunities in the labour market for the women from the vulnerable groups, was implemented between 2012-2013. Within the project 80 Union leaders were trained, representatives of the NGOs and institutions relevant in the field of participative and stimulating management, an inter-professional network has been created of at least 30 experts and relevant actors in order to work with and for the Roma women, were carried out actions of information and awareness-raising of the rights in the labour market of over 1.000 employees being in vulnerable, marginal positions in the labour market.

In March 2015, Romania declared the 8th of May as "Equal opportunities between women and men Day". According to the law, the local authorities and the Romanian Television and Radio Broadcasting should organize public events, actions and dedicated programs on this Day. Both at central and local levels, conferences, roundtables, public debates etc. on the values of gender equality and the benefits arising from their compliance are organized.

The first celebration of the “Equal opportunities between women and men Day” was the launching of the “HeForShe” campaign in Romania. In this context, it was launched, on the official website of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly the online petition of the campaign. The event took place at the initiative of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) with the support of the Romanian Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By signing the online petition by as many men and boys, Romania sent a clear message for supporting equal opportunities between women and men as well as women's rights. Both the President of Romania and the Prime Minister signed the petition and they were very supportive of the campaign. Romania is actively involved in the “HeForShe” campaign launched by UN Women. The President of Romania is one of the 10x10x10 Impact Champions. The planned activities include the establishment of a new integrated system to track, report and prevent all forms of gender violence, training of specialists in a new profession - gender equality expert - and developing and implementing programs to engage girls and boys (100,000 youth) in political, social and economic life. Romania contributes to the HeForShe campaign with an integrated vision of promoting equal opportunities and treatment between women and men, on a national level.

Starting with 2016, for celebrating the “Equal opportunities between women and men Day”, ANES decided to organise an annual event called “Gender Equality Week” and all the activities organised in this period were connected to the Romanian engagements in the HeForShe campaign. Therefore, between the 4th and 11th of May, 2016, the events that took place in Bucharest managed to attract and gather up over 1,200 students. Successful business women, entrepreneurs, award winning actresses and women in key positions within the central public administration went to high-schools and discussed with teenagers about what it is like to be a powerful woman in today's society. About 400 students from the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy took part in a debate, followed by an interactive theatre play using Forum Theater techniques, on the subject of preventing and combating domestic violence and the principle of equal opportunities. Another 50 teenagers visited the Cotroceni National Museum, while several members of relevant NGOs took part in a debate about the involvement of women in politics and in decision-making key positions. During this week, an essay competition for college and high school students was also organized. It covered the gender equality theme and the authors of the best three essays from each category were rewarded with a prize. On the 16th and 17th of June, a total number of 300 high school students visited the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, The Palace of Parliament and the Hofigal production centre, using a bus imprinted with the HeForShe logo. On the 18th of June, several hundreds of people, between 8 and 69 years old, attended the „Equal opportunities cross-country race” in the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Park, Bucharest. In 2017, the annual celebration of “Equal opportunities between women and men Day” and “Gender Equality Week” took place between 8th and 12th of May. During this week, ANES in collaboration with the Friends for Friends Foundation, the Save the Children Foundation and the Civil Society Development Foundation organized meetings with pupils from 5 high schools in Bucharest about physical violence and language violence, couples violence and adolescent relationships, discrimination and bullying, and sexist language in the online environment. Debates targeted 300 high school students. In parallel, in other 5 high schools in Bucharest, ANES organized debates, within the framework of “Woman in Science” concept, dedicated to attracting young girls to the scientific environment and encouraging teenagers to a career in scientific fields. 200 high school students were part of the experiences and challenges encountered in the career of five senior Romanian scientists (chemistry repeater, nuclear physicist, astrophysicist and researcher in the field of development of modern technologies and IT). During the entire celebratory week, on the official Facebook page of ANES there was a campaign for promoting women in science by presenting those women who have marked the Romanian scientific history. Also, on 9th of May, 50 high schools visited the Astronomical Observatory in Bucharest. Between 11th and 14th of May took place the International Fighting Championship for cadets and juniors, during which ANES in partnership with the Romanian Fighting Federation promoted the principle of equal opportunities between women and men among the spectators and participants.

²⁹ Therefore, two timeframe options were set for birth registration:

- As a general rule, the vital event is to be registered within 30 days of the child's birth (compared to 15 days as previously stipulated), which gives parents and State authorities enough time to clarify, via certain administrative procedures, all aspects related to the registration of the life event. As regards the 30-day timeframe, new rules were laid down allowing for a child's birth to be registered even if, upon hospital admission, the mother cannot show an identity document as proof of identity;
- Exceptionally, birth may also be registered beyond the 30-day time limit provided that certain administrative procedures are met.

The new regulations replaced the legal proceeding prescribed for delayed registration of birth with an administrative procedure. Also, whilst previous legislation provided that a forensic medical

examination be conducted for the delayed registration of birth, this is currently required only in the absence of the certificate of life birth issued by the attending physician.

In addition, recent amendments stipulate that, when identifying a mother whose birth has not been registered, State authorities will have to take the required steps to register the birth and make sure the mother gets an identity document. To this end, even if she has no vital records, the mother can register the newly born child by declaring her identity, which is to be recorded in a report; the procedure looks at the child's best interests and is based on the requirement for every child to have an identity.

- ³⁰ The amendments related to the medical professionals responsibilities to register births and facilitate the issuance of birth certificates are the following:
- in the absence of the mother's identity card, a document is filled up by the police representative on the occasion of the checks carried out at the request of the medical unit in which the birth took place, with regard to the mother's identification data and the checks in the civil status registers or in the National Register of persons;
 - for the child's birth certificate issuance, if the birth of the mother is not registered, the medical unit representative signs a report on the identity declared by the mother, signed also by the representative of the General Directorate for Social Welfare and Child Protection and by the police.
- ³¹ The birth on the Romanian territory has already been considered by the law-maker as a sufficient circumstance so as to justify the removal of the condition stipulated in article 8, paragraph 1, point a) from the Romanian Citizenship Law, which refers to the request of the applicant's residence on the Romanian territory for, at least, 8 years, and respectively for at least 5 years, in case of marriage with a Romanian citizen. As a consequence, the applicant born on Romanian territory, should fulfil the condition to reside on the Romanian territory only at the date of the application for the Romanian citizenship.
- ³² A short term objective of the Strategy for early school leaving is to implement an effective system of prevention, intervention and compensation policies and measures to address the major causes of early school leaving among youth between 11 and 17 years of age. Training of teachers and principals of kindergartens and school is also provided. Further support steps include three calls for project proposals aiming to address the obstacles faced by children from disadvantaged backgrounds in accessing quality education.
- ³³ Legislative measures supporting children with special educational needs (SEN) include:
- Methodological norms to provide the necessary support for pupils with learning disabilities (Minister's Order no. 3124 / 20.01.2017);
 - Methodology for the integrated assessment and intervention which enables to determine the impairment level/degree of SEN children, provide study and career guidance to SEN children, while fostering their empowerment and rehabilitation (Joint Order of: Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research no. 1985/1305/5805/2016).
 - Methodology for setting the necessary budget for securing the rights of SEN children integrated in mainstream education or enrolled in special education schools (it will be approved by Government Ordinance).

Regarding the legislation specific to SEN students' participation and employment on the labour market, the Ministry of National Education has undertaken extensive efforts to:

- develop the legal framework for inclusion by revising the special and specially integrated education legislation subsequent to the Law of education no.1/2011 and harmonizing it with other legal documents in the field;
 - ensure a coherent legislation meant to grant SEN students access to flexible educational routes, according to the disability type and degree;
 - ensure SEN students' social and professional insertion, by issuing the Minister's Order no. 3218/2014 which approve of the school plans for special professional education;
 - create the legal framework for the establishment and development of protected workshops in special schools in partnership with NGOs and communities.
- ³⁴ The amendment from 2012 of Law no. 217/2003 on prevention of and fight against domestic violence, introduced an important victim protection measure – the protection order which may only be issued by a court. Another novelty is the obligation for local public administration authorities to set up Local Inter-sectorial Teams with advisory role, at county and district levels. The inter-sectorial team is comprised of a representative of the police, gendarmerie, public health directorate, domestic violence division of the general directorate for social assistance and child protection, of domestic violence prevention and countering units, and relevant non-governmental organisations. The inter-sectorial team may also include but is not limited to representatives of probation services, forensic

departments, and other institutions with relevant responsibilities. The National Strategy for Mental Health of children and teenagers 2016-2020 (approved by Government Decision no. 889/2016) aims at reducing the risks of mental problems of the children and teenagers, establishing a partnership relation between the National Centre for Mental Health and Fight against Drugs and educational, health and social protection institutions.

³⁵ Between 2014 and 2016, reported cases of physical violence increased with more than 14% and cases of neglect with around 9%.

³⁶ Hence, article 211 of the Criminal code in force provides the following:

Art. 211 Trafficking in underage persons

(1) Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a minor for the purpose of his / her exploitation shall be punishable by no less than 3 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) Such acts are punishable by no less than 5 years and no more than 12 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights if:

- a) it was perpetrated under the terms of art. 210 para. 1;*
- b) it was perpetrated by a public servant while fulfilling his/her professional duties and prerogatives;*
- c) it endangered the life of the minor;*
- d) it was perpetrated by a family member of the minor;*
- e) it was perpetrated by a person under the care, protection, education, guard and treatment of whom the minor is or by a person who abused of his/her position of person of trust or authority over the minor.*

(3) The consent of an individual who is a victim of trafficking does not represent a justifying ground.

³⁷ 2013 – "Where Begging Begins, Childhood Ends" campaign developed by NATIP, the NGO Children's Phone and the Institute for Crime Research and Prevention within the Romanian Police. The target group consisted of 500 children (aged 8–14) and 120 representatives of local authorities and targeted communities (police, mayors, counselors, school inspectors, social assistants, informal leaders).

2015–2016 – "Ask for help, do not beg!" - an NATIP campaign that aimed to increase awareness of trafficking in vulnerable communities (including Roma communities) as well as to identify the main causes of trafficking vulnerability and to find possible solutions to prevent trafficking in human beings, especially the exploitation of juveniles by beggars.

2016 – "Happy hands, no tortured hands!" (NATIP - Children's Phone Association) - an online information and awareness raising campaign in the context of international events of the "World Day against the Child Labour".

On 16 June 2016, in partnership with the Child Helpline Association (CHA), NATIP launched the online information and awareness-raising campaign on child labour trafficking victims – "Happy Hands, NOT Hard Worked Hands!". The Campaign was launched on the World Day against Child Labour, with the declared goal to improve knowledge among children, parents, educators and legal representatives/guardians about the risks and dangers facing children who fall victims to labour trafficking.

³⁸ The objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

1. Promoting accessibility in all areas of life to ensure that persons with disabilities have the fundamental human rights and freedoms.
2. Ensuring the full participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life.
3. Eliminating discrimination and ensuring equality for persons with disabilities.
4. Ensuring the access of persons with disabilities to an open, inclusive and accessible working environment both in the public and private sector, together with also providing them with full access to support services aimed at raising their percentage in labour market occupation.
5. Promoting inclusive education and training at all levels and lifelong learning for persons with disabilities.
6. Promoting and protection of the right of persons with disabilities to decent living conditions for the continuous improvement of the quality of their lives.
7. Ensuring fair access for persons with disabilities to quality health care services and facilities that pay attention to gender-specific issues at a reasonable cost and as close as possible to the communities in which they live.
8. Substantiating policies for persons with disabilities based on statistical and research information and data collected from all areas of activity.

³⁹ In 2012–2013, the Department for Interethnic Relations allocated funds for approximately 60–70 projects per year, more than half in the educational and cultural fields. In 2014, 130 projects were accomplished.

⁴⁰ All religious denominations, registered and unregistered, are free to undertake religious activities,

with no restrictions, according to own regulations and traditions. They can freely choose their leading organs and their personnel. The clergy and the adepts of religious denominations in Romania may use their native language in religious services, administration, and in theological education or in their publications and the financial support is allocated by the State to all recognized religious denominations that request it, proportionally to the number of their adepts (according to the latest census) and taking into account the real needs of each denomination.
