



Report on the Analysis of the Social Integration and the Romanian Language Programmes Aimed at the Foreign Citizens Residing on the Romanian Territory

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Purpose of research

This report aims at assessing the potential of social orientation and Romanian language learning programmes to encourage mutual understanding and fight intolerance.

Aims, method and stages of research

A comprehensive analysis of the linguistic education and the social integration programmes identified in Romania was conducted, based on a common and coherent analytical framework for all the national contributions of the countries which are partners in the RACCOMBAT project. Starting from the generic description of the Romanian language courses and/or that of the social orientation modules available in the previous reports, some areas have been highlighted in which non-nationals learn about their fundamental rights and obligations and about the significance of various state institutions.

Research approach

Documentation and document analysis have been used as methods, as well as information requests and, whenever necessary, talks with the service providers and with the social orientation beneficiaries, especially in order to assess the successes and failures of the current programmes and support initiatives, while indicating the promising practices.

The following sources of information were used for the desk research:

- Public data and the reply to the project team's information request from the General Migration Inspectorate – information on the social integration programme, which also includes Romanian language courses and cultural/social orientation activities;
- The public curricula of the Romanian language courses for foreigners provided by the Foreign Languages Faculties of four large academic centres in Romania, namely the University of Bucharest, the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iași, and the West University of Timișoara;
- The general curricula of the FIDES Foreign Languages Centre;
- Information from the Romanian Cultural Institute;
- The publications, projects, and recommendations of the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara have also been an important source of information – please see the appendices.

Limitations of the analysis

The response rate at the public information request was very low, the only responding institution being the General Migration Inspectorate, which operates within the Ministry of the Interior. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education did not provide any reply. There are no specific data available regarding the analysis, but only generic data.

Overview

The Romanian language for non-nationals

Everyone acknowledges the importance of speaking the official language of the host society for a successful integration of migrants. Romanian language courses have been organised for asylum seekers and refugees for a few years now, in the regional centres of the current General Migration Inspectorate, given the circumstances of the migrant wave and of the requirements of compliance with the European provisions in this field. Since 2004, under a government ordinance, the access to free of charge basic level Romanian language courses has been extended to all the non-nationals holding a legal residence permit for Romania. However, the methodologies for implementing these provisions at national level were only adopted in November 2009.

The Romanian language programmes for foreigners and the cultural orientation courses use a standard curriculum or they are designed by the teachers along with the student, depending on the latter's needs. Any curriculum includes mandatorily fundamental notions of grammar, the basic vocabulary, and phrases specific for the spoken language for interactions in concrete situations. Any curriculum tackles the five fundamental capacities (understanding of the spoken language, speaking, understanding of the written language, the correct drafting of a written text, and interaction in a conversation), but it emphasises the skills necessary for the student's purpose.

The curriculum of Romanian as a foreign language intended for children aims at helping them learn Romanian by means of a one-year long preparatory course, so that, by the end of that tuition, the participants can be integrated in the Romanian education system, in grades corresponding to their age. Taking into account the age differences, the Romanian language curriculum for children is designed accordingly on three levels of study:

- level I: 6-10 years old
- level II: 11-14 years old
- level III: 15-18 years old

Throughout the academic year, the number of hours assigned for each study level of the Romanian language course will be established depending on the pupils' age and country of origin. The core goals of studying the Romanian language consist of developing the basic oral communication skills in children, getting them familiar with the main culture and civilisation elements specific to the host territory, and motivating them to get integrated in the new way of living. In this respect, it is absolutely necessary to take into account the particular context in which the teaching/learning activities occur and the psychological and teaching profile of the students.

The teaching language

The Romanian language courses are taught either using a support language (English, French, German, etc.), or directly in Romanian (this method is not recommended for beginners). Specific methodologies are being used for the two cases.

The teachers have got special training and extensive experience in teaching Romanian to foreigners.

Course materials

Teachers adapt the course materials to the method chosen along with the students and they develop those materials – starting from several existing textbooks, grammar books, and exercise books – depending on the students' needs and progress.

Social and cultural orientation courses

In Romania, both adult third-country nationals and adults who have acquired a certain form of protection, as well as the citizens of the Member States of the European Union and those of the European Economic Area are entitled to a free of charge social and cultural orientation course. The social and cultural orientation course must be organized by the Ministry

of the Interior, through the General Migration Inspectorate. There is an Office of the General Migration Inspectorate in every county. These Offices are also the authorities issuing residence permits for non-nationals.

As of 1 April 2018, there is no official curriculum or organisation methodology for the social and cultural orientation course.

Within the projects organized by the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara in 2010 and 2011, social and cultural orientation courses included the following learning units: About Romania, About Romanians, House, Means of Transportation, Work, Education, Healthcare, Money and the Family Budget, the Citizens' Rights and Obligations, Food, Romanian Holidays, Family Relationships, Social Life – Leisure Time, cultural adaptation and social integration.

These units include useful information on each of those fields, as well as exercises, and reading texts.

The textbooks conceived as a part of the projects implemented by the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara were designed by a team of teachers coordinated by the West University of Timișoara. Some textbooks and other teaching materials are available on the website www.vorbitiromaneste.ro – see the appendices.

I. National law and fundamental rights in social orientation

1. Main principles of the Constitution and values of society

Information on the European values, human rights, the Romanian Constitution, as well as on crimes and on criminal liabilities are taught during the cultural orientation sessions.

2. Prohibition of and protection against discrimination

No specific data available.

- **Main legal norms – protected grounds, prohibition of discrimination in specific areas**

Asylum seekers, people who were granted a form of protection, and foreign citizens holding a residence permit for Romania are entitled to information and counselling sessions regarding their access to the social rights provided by the law, such as: healthcare, education, the labour market, social benefits, housing, citizen rights, etc.

The cultural orientation sessions also aim at teaching information on the European values, human rights, the Romanian Constitution, as well as on crimes and criminal liability.

- **Main institutions and other stakeholders – equality bodies, courts, human rights NGOs**

Information on the attributions of the courts of justice in the proceeding of determining the refugee status is provided during the legal counselling sessions.

Other types of information can be provided by the NGO representatives, but not on a regular basis.

The main institutions and other stakeholders involved are municipal services, social services, health insurance providers, property and rental agencies, notaries, education authorities, schools; main NGOs supporting asylum seekers, legal migrants and other non-nationals.

In Romania, every institutional stakeholder (the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, the Ministry of Health, etc.) is in charge to integrate the non-nationals in its field, while coordination and surveillance are being ensured by the Ministry of the Interior, through the General Migration Inspectorate (GMI), which is also in charge of providing specific services via its regional structures, in order to help integrate various categories of foreigners in the Romanian society.

The overall goal of the integration policy for non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection in Romania is to help them provide for themselves, cut the ties with the allowance paid by the state or by NGOs, and get actively involved in the country's economic, social, and cultural life.

In this respect, the General Migration Inspectorate, through its regional centres, lends support to those individuals by providing them with a package of services gathered in the Integration Programme.

Three types of activities are provided within the integration programme:

- a. Romanian language courses
- b. cultural adjustment sessions
- c. counselling sessions/activities.

The General Migration Inspectorate is appointed at national level as the authority responsible for assessing the offers, the projects, and for contracting and making payments through the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund. The General Migration Inspectorate collaborates with the non-governmental organisations in the field, either by means of a partnership established between the institutions, or on the grounds of a financing agreement concluded subsequently to a project selection.

The organisations providing courses and social integration modules are those that implement projects financed through the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund, such as: the International Organization for Migration - the Romanian Office, the Association of Jesuit Refugee Service in Romania, the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara, the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania, the Human Right Defence League, the ICAR Foundation, the Romanian Health Promotion Association, and the National Romanian Council for Refugees. These projects are carried out at regional level:

- Region 1: Bucharest, the Ilfov, Dolj, Prahova Buzău, Dâmbovița, Argeș, Vâlcea Gorj, Brașov, Covasna, Giurgiu, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman, and Olt counties;
- Region 2: the Galați, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Tulcea, and Constanța counties;
- Region 3: the Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț, and Iași counties;
- Region 4 : the Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu, and Alba counties;
- Region 5: the Timiș, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinți, and Caraș Severin counties.

The Romanian language courses are being organised by the General Migration Inspectorate in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, through the school inspectorates and, additionally, by the non-governmental organizations operating on the asylum and integration of non-nationals in Romania, which carry out, on a yearly basis, various projects financed through the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund.

The cultural orientation courses and the counselling sessions are taught by the integration officers and the specialized staff of the Regional Centres of the General Migration Inspectorate and by the NGOs operating in the asylum and integration of non-nationals in Romania, which carry out projects financed through the aforementioned fund.

- **Relevant legal and administrative procedures – complaining to equality bodies, courts, police**

These matters are included in the counselling and information sessions in the social integration programme, depending on individual needs. At an early stage, the beneficiaries are also accompanied and guided towards the relevant institutions.

Information on the attributions of the courts of justice in the proceeding of determining the refugee status is provided during the legal counselling sessions.

Other types of information can be provided by the NGO representatives, but not on a regular basis.

The GMI staff or the representatives of the NGOs can also provide information upon request.

3. Justice and law enforcement

- Main legal norms – what a citizen can and cannot do

Information on the European values, human rights, the Romanian Constitution, as well as on crimes and on criminal liabilities is taught during the cultural orientation sessions.

- Law enforcement – structure of police, main powers

The GMI staff or the representatives of the NGOs can provide information upon request.

- Judiciary - courts, prosecution, investigation.

Information on the attributions of the courts of justice in the proceeding of determining the refugee status is provided during the legal counselling sessions.

4. Violations of one's rights

As regards filing complaints with the police in case some rights are being infringed (especially the topic of fighting hate speech), the GMI staff or the representatives of the NGOs can provide information upon request.

5. Rights of suspects and accused

As regards the rights (during the legal proceedings) of the suspect, the individual accused of having committed a crime, the GMI staff or the representatives of the NGOs can provide information upon request.

6. Legal aid

- Main legal norms – types of cases, conditions

The asylum seekers benefit of legal aid free of charge throughout the asylum procedure.

The asylum seekers, the persons benefitting from a certain form of protection, and the non-nationals holding a residence permit for Romania can receive information on legal aid and legal aid services free of charge regarding their access to the social rights provided by the law, namely: the right to receive healthcare, education services, the labour market, social allowances, dwellings, etc.

- Main institutions and other stakeholders – legal aid bureaus, bar councils, human rights and other NGOs.

Below is a list and brief description of institutions and organisations providing, among other services, information on legal aid and practical legal counseling to foreigners:¹

The **state authorities** in charge with refugee integration are:

- The Ministry of the Interior – the General Migration Inspectorate through the Asylum and Integration Directorate (AID) is the institution which, pursuant to the law, is in charge with coordinating the refugees' integration in Romania. Established in order to homogeneously manage migration-related issues, the GMI operates at central and territorial level, following the reorganisation of the Romanian Migration Office (RMO), the new structure taking over both its powers and duties. The reorganisation occurred as a consequence of an increasingly large number of asylum applications, of foreign citizens held in public custody prior to being returned to their origin country, as well as of the operative situation in terms of migration and asylum, which had constantly increased in Romania. Starting from 2002, the staff of GMI (until June 2012 RMO) has gradually undertaken specific actions to help migrants get integrated (counselling, the mediation of the relation to other state institutions, etc.). The General Migration Inspectorate is the specialised authority of the central public administration, a legal entity, subordinated to the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs.²

The GMI (RMO) carries out its duties pursuant to the law in order to implement the Romanian policies in fields such as migration, asylum, non-national citizen integration, and the relevant legislation in these areas. Its activity is considered a public service and is carried out for the benefit of the individuals and of the community, while supporting the state institutions, exclusively pursuant to and by enforcing the law.

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and the National Employment Agency provide refugees with access to social aid services and benefits, access to employment, and to the protection measures for unemployed persons – in practically similar conditions as for the Romanian citizens.
- The Ministry of Education
- The institutions under the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance Fund.
- The local authorities ensure the refugees' access to the minimal guaranteed wages, under the circumstances provided by the law for Romanian citizens, as well as the refugees' access to social assistance services and benefits through the General Social Assistance and Child Protection Directorates (47 institutions: 41 at the county level and six in the city of Bucharest). Local councils intervene especially to ensure the unaccompanied minors' assistance by appointing legal representatives or by providing them with foster care services.

Chapters II, III, IV, and V of the 1951 Refugee Convention make recommendations in terms of providing support to integrate refugees in the asylum country. The recommendations consist of ensuring either a treatment similar to the

¹ Witec, Smaranda, course notes Social Work for Refugees, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, 2018

² The RMO, whose functions the GMI took was established in June 2007 through the reorganisation of the Authority for Foreign Citizens and of the National Refugee Office, and by taking over the issues regarding the issuance of the document providing non-nationals the right to work.

citizens of the asylum country, anytime it is possible, or a differentiated treatment, but not less favourable than that for the non-nationals residing in the host-country, and it includes the following fields:

- Legal status: personal status, immovable properties and securities, intellectual property, rights of association, access to justice;³
- Profit-making activities: salary-based professions, self-employment, liberal professions;⁴
- Welfare: rationalisation of certain products, housing, public education, public aid, labour and social protection legislation;⁵
- Administrative measures: administrative aid, freedom of movement, identity and travel documents, fiscal taxes, transfer of merchandises, refugees residing illegally in the host-country, removal, removal or returning interdiction, naturalization.⁶

The following fields are, among this set of recommendations, mentioned as being key fields, in which refugees need to receive the same treatment as the nationals: intellectual property, access to justice, rationalisation of certain products, primary education, public aid, labour and social aid legislation, fiscal taxes.

National non-governmental organisations

JRS (the Jesuit Refugee Service, <http://www.jrsromania.org>) is an organisation of the Catholic Church in charge with helping refugees in several countries in the world, through the development of support projects and programmes, getting legal and psycho-social counselling experts involved, along with medical professionals and other specialists. The activity of the organisation is much reliant on the volunteers who are directly involved in projects and who have the opportunity to communicate directly with the beneficiaries.

Presence in Romania: JRS Romania currently carries out projects oriented towards the multifactorial and complex assistance to beneficiaries: medical aid, emergency intervention, social aid, advocacy, legal assistance, accommodation, education and leisure activities, relocation.

The activities carried out by JRS by providing professional counselling and social services are mainly intended to cover basic needs of the vulnerable persons, especially in respect with accommodation and to prepare them, in the same time, for a normal and autonomous life. JRS Romania organises educational activities (Romanian language, history, geography, computer science, cultural orientation courses, etc.) and provides assistance for integrating the refugees on the labour market. JRS gives its beneficiaries specialised assistance, including in the public custody centres where the organisation also provides public social support and social aid. The JRS documentation centre provides, on demand, information from the origin country, information on asylum or the foreign citizens, in cases of voluntary repatriation and not only. As far as the vulnerable cases are concerned, JRS provides emergency assistance (food, clothing, medicines), as well as medical support by means of its partners or covers the expenses for specialised investigations and treatment.

Another component of the JRS activities is represented by raising awareness and lobby campaigns and research on various topics of interest.

CNRR (The National Romanian Council for Refugees, <http://www.cnrr.ro/>) is a non-governmental organisation providing assistance for the asylum seekers and refugees. They register the cases taken over and cooperate with the

³ Articles 12 to 16 of the 1951 Convention

⁴ Articles 17 to 19 of the 1951 Convention

⁵ Articles 20 to 24 of the 1951 Convention

⁶ Articles 25 to 34 of the 1951 Convention

public authorities to improve the services aimed at the beneficiaries. The organisation carries out activities in the Stolnicu accommodation centre, where it provides beneficiaries with direct legal and social counselling. The legal aid consists in drafting the documents necessary for the procedure, assessing the case, providing support in court, while the social activities include cultural orientation, Romanian language, and intercultural communication course.

OFRR (The Refugee Women's Organisation in Romania) is a non-governmental organisation established by women who have obtained the status of refugee in Romania, providing assistance both to women who seek asylum and refugees, and to other categories of migrants. Among the projects carried out by OFRR, there is a project called "Refugees' Voices", which gets the beneficiaries involved in the decision-making process; the "Refugee Club" project, for sharing experiences and talking about the topics of interest for refugees, and a project for providing material support obtained from voluntary donations. Moreover, the organisation visits people with reduced mobility at their homes, provides translations on request, organises multicultural events and holiday celebrations, and provides material support to Romanian elderly people.

The ICAR Foundation (<http://www.icarfoundation.ro>) is a non-governmental organization specialising in assisting the victims of torture; asylum seekers and refugees in Romania being among its beneficiaries. The foundation mainly provides specialised assessment and medical care (psychiatrist, general practitioner, eye doctor, cardiologist, dentist, etc.), and social (access to social services in the community) and legal aid (assistance by lawyers). Besides these activities, ICAR organises training sessions and seminars aiming at improving the professional training of the experts employed.

ARCA (the Romanian Refugee and Migrant Forum, www.arca.org.ro) is a non-governmental organisation aiming at protecting migrants' rights and at providing assistance for this vulnerable category. The services provided are layered on several levels, including:

- Integration monitoring – awareness for the public opinion, interinstitutional collaboration, actions taken for improving the legislative framework, counseling;
- social services – information on the refugees' rights and obligations, material and medical support for low income individuals;
- legal aid – counselling and submission of the documents for establishing foreigners' domicile in Romania, obtaining documents for stateless individuals, and obtaining the Romanian citizenship for the persons entitled to this right;
- employment aid - facilitating the refugee contact with the employers, paying qualification courses for them.

Save the Children is an international organisation in charge with many categories of vulnerable children in the entire world and provides nutrition, schooling, community aid, family reunion, crisis support programmes, physical education activities, and other programmes. The organisation provides daytime centre services in the Stolnicul accommodation centre, where educational and leisure activities are carried out with the refugee children and asylum seekers, who are provided with material support as well, and the payment of the kindergarten fee; celebrations are organized for holidays and gifts are offered to all the children; there is a camp and weekend trip programme in place.

The Intercultural Institute of Timișoara (I.I.T.) is an autonomous non-profit non-governmental organization displaying cultural, civic, and scientific activities, without political purposes, which accepts and promotes the values and the principles of the Council of Europe in terms of interculturalism (<http://www.intercultural.ro>):

I.I.T. was established in 1992, with the support of the local authorities in Timișoara and that of the Council of Europe. Through its programmes and activities, I.I.T. aims at developing the intercultural side of education and culture and it promotes, at national and international level, an environment of tolerance and dialogue specific for the city of Timișoara.

Over 20 years of experience, I.I.T. has been working with a network of world-level partners such as public institutions, social society organizations, and professionals on education, culture, youth, and minority matters.

Starting from 1992, the **Intercultural Institute of Timisoara**:

- has implemented at a local, regional, national or international level, in capacity of either coordinator or partner, more than 50 pilot projects, most of them related to intercultural education, with the financial aid of the Council of Europe, of the European Commission (Socrates, Leonardo, Phare), and of other European and US sponsors.
- has published, subsequently to various projects, over 30 volumes in Romanian, French, English, Spanish, Slovak, and Hungarian, as well as the Romanian versions of some publications of the Council of Europe, such as: Plea for intercultural, by Antonio Perotti, All different, all equal – educational set, and REPERE – A human right education textbook for youths, the last two books being authored by the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe.

The Intercultural Institute of Timisoara has been actively involved in several projects initiated by the Council of Europe on the following topics:

- Democracy, human rights, minorities: cultural and educational aspects;
- All different, all equal – a European campaign of the youth against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and intolerance;
- Education for democratic citizenship;
- Quality education for the Roma population in Europe;
- European mediators from the Roma minority;
- The autobiography of intercultural meetings.

The Association for Protecting the Rights of Stateless people and Refugees - APADAR (www.apadar.ro).

This organisation aims at defending the rights of stateless people and refugees, given the international legislative context of their status. The association's programmes address the protection seekers, those who have obtained the status as a refugee, and the stateless people residing on the Romanian territory. Among the goals of this organisation, there is informing the focus groups on their rights and obligations, supporting the focus groups throughout the legal proceedings, and helping refugees and stateless people get socially integrated.

The Young Generation Romania Association (G.T.R., www.generatietanara.ro), holding subsidiaries in Bucharest, Galați, Călărași, Iași, Bacău, Constanța. The organization runs a programme for fighting trafficking in human beings and provides cross-border support for the victims of human trafficking. The organisation also develops social aid programmes, support to gather families, social and healthcare programmes for the refugees on the Romanian territory.

IOM Romania operated pursuant to: the Decision no. 568/1992 on approving the Agreement between the Romanian Government and the International Organization for Migration regarding the legal status of the organization; and pursuant to the Law no. 123/1998 on the acceptance by Romania of the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration (<http://www.oim.ro/ro/>).

The Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) was established on May 8, 2008, as the first European facility of this kind and the second in the world, in compliance with the three-party agreement concluded between the Romanian Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and IOM.

IOM Romania mainly intervenes in the following fields:

- Integrating citizens from third countries (RTT): IOM Romania established a national network of 15 Information and Counselling Centres for Foreigners which helps the citizens of third countries achieve easier social, economic, and cultural integration in the Romanian society. For further online information on the RTT integration process, check www.romaniaeacasa.ro
- Assisting voluntary repatriation and providing support for reintegration (RVAR) in the origin countries: IOM gives the migrants who stay illegally or on unregulated grounds in Romania the opportunity to come back dignified and to receive support to get reintegrated once arrived on the Romanian territory, to open their path towards new chances.
- Refugee relocation: IOM Romania is one of the key stakeholders in the process of refugee relocation, along with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Romanian Government. Through the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timișoara, the refugees can receive many types of support in a secure environment, as long as they stay at the ETC until they leave for the relocation country.
- Fight against trafficking in human beings: From 1999 up to the present, more than 1,500 Romanian citizens victims of human trafficking sent from abroad have received specialised aid from the IOM.
- Medical processing: At the request of various governments, IOM, in close cooperation with UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior provide medical services for migrants and refugees in need to be relocated.
- Assisted transport in Canada, Australia, and the US: IOM supports the purchase of (one-way) air flight tickets for rates especially negotiated within a humanitarian programme intended for those who decide to reside in Canada, Australia or the US for good and for those who leave in those countries for working or study purposes, holding a visa valid for more than one year.
- The Canada Visa Centre: IOM Romania manages the Canadian Visa Application Centre (CVAC). The Centre has been operational since August 2013.
- Relevant procedures – how to apply for and obtain legal aid

The GMI working procedures and the methodologies for running the projects funded through AMIF provide means to inform (briefing sessions, booklets, guides, audio-video materials) the asylum seekers, the individuals placed under some form of protection, and the foreign citizens holding a residence permit on the Romanian territory about the relevant procedures to obtain legal aid.

II. Methodology of teaching basics of national law and fundamental rights

1. Profile and qualifications of teachers

The information, counselling, and cultural adjustment sessions are performed by lawyers or social workers, as applicable. Volunteers may be used occasionally.

2. Teaching methods

Guides, textbooks, and supporting teaching materials are being used for information, counselling, and cultural adjustment sessions. All these activities are also backed by practical and leisure activities (visits to the museum, film watching, multicultural feasts, etc).

The Romanian language learning activities, supported by the NGOs which run projects through AMIF, may be adapted to individual needs to support the beneficiary in their intentions.

3. Inclusion of host communities in the social orientation

Interaction is encouraged with the host society. Volunteers and cultural mediators get involved in all these activities.

4. Case study⁷

Project “My Place – Multifunctional Cultural Centre – a bridge for integrating TCNs in Romania”, Association Jesuits Refugee Service Romania

Project description:

The project proposes the creation of a Multifunctional Cultural Centre (hereinafter, the Centre) to be an appropriate place to conduct three main categories of activities (socio-cultural, socio-educational, socio-recreational) for children, youth and adults, including vulnerable persons among people of third -country nationals (TCNs).

The project has four main components: creating the Multifunctional Cultural Center; development and implementation of an information campaign in order to inform and involve TCNs in the cluster, and to promote activities of the Multifunctional Cultural Center; develop and implement activities tailored with TCNs in the Centre; support activities in the project.

Events and activities that took place in the Center were intended to be tailored to the needs of TCNs, giving them the opportunity to feel like a big family that does not lose their multicultural national identity, but make their own known to all the others. All these activities were performed by specialised personnel, by default among TCNs communities.

The impact of this project is largely due to the pleasant environment created by directly engaging TCN in activities in different environments at home or at school, but also because organised activities took into account the cultural specificities of the TCNs, through regular consultation with them.

The space made available consists of two buildings and land – owned by organisation JRS Romania, thus not requiring rental costs, but minimum equipment design and equipment necessary for the operation thereof according to the

⁷ Please see more information at <http://jrsromania.org/en/centru-my-place/>

objectives set by the project. The building is located in semi-central area of the city, making it easily accessible to beneficiaries.

At the same time, information and promotion campaign took place aimed at bringing the Centre to the attention of beneficiaries (TCN) and giving them information concerning the opening of the Centre and the range of cultural, social and recreational activities it offers. The campaign also attracted migrants and decreased the feelings of reluctance and resistance to change that a major part of potential beneficiaries of the project were facing. Information and promotion campaign for the Multifunctional Cultural Centre also had beneficial effects on the integration of migrants in terms of improving cooperation with the host society and the degree of tolerance.

III. Assessing impact of teaching law and fundamental rights as part of social orientation

1. Existing periodic and ad hoc assessments of social orientation system

1,553 people placed under international protection attended the integration programme throughout 2017, therefore receiving counselling, cultural adjustment sessions, Romanian language courses, etc.

2. Indicators used to assess social orientation system

According to its legal duties, the GMI monitors and coordinates the activity of the state institutions and that of the NGOs carrying out activities with relation to integration.

Several measurement indicators are used to assess the integration activities, such as the way of performing the activities scheduled according to methodologies, drafting and disseminating informative materials, creating textbooks and complementary teaching materials, attendance sheets, initial and final assessments of the beneficiaries, etc.

3. Feedback by beneficiaries

The feedback of the beneficiaries of such activities is also sought.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

1. Ability and capacity of social orientation system to raise beneficiaries' awareness and equip them against acts of racism and xenophobia

- In terms of coverage

Around 4,000 asylum seekers benefitted from counselling and cultural adjustment activities, and 1,553 people placed under international protection attended the integration programme in 2017. No other data have been identified.

- In terms of regularity

There are materials specifically drafted to support the cultural adjustment sessions.

- In terms of areas covered

The information and counselling sessions include information of the access to the social rights provided by the law, that is: healthcare, education, the labour market, social benefits, housing, etc. The cultural orientation sessions also aim at teach information on the European values, the human rights, the Romanian Constitution, as well as on crimes and criminal liability.

- In terms of depth of presentation of material

The information is adapted to the beneficiaries' degree of understanding.

- In terms of appropriateness of teaching staff and approach

The staff involved is made of lawyers or social workers, professionals with work experience in this category of people.

2. Recommendations

In terms of potential of social orientation courses/modules to install culture of respect to law, zero tolerance to racism and xenophobia and lead to empowerment against such acts, there are textbooks and workbooks being designed, according to age and education levels, which include a diverse content of supporting images, to increase the understanding rate.

The core goals of studying the Romanian language by foreigners and of performing cultural orientation and counselling activities consist in developing basic oral and written communication skills, getting foreigners familiar to the main elements of culture and civilisation specific for the host country, and motivating them to get integrated in the new lifestyle, including a large range of activities in different fields, such as education, social responsibility, sustainable economy and social inclusion measures, active involvement in the society, and exercising one's fundamental freedoms.

In this respect, it is absolutely necessary to take into account the specific context in which the teaching/learning activities are carried out and the learners' psychological and teaching profile.

Designing the curriculum from the perspective of the communicative and functional paradigm involves, in terms of methodology, that the teacher/lecturer takes a new role, that of organising the teaching approach so that to incite and motivate the students to learn. The teacher thus becomes an effective manager of the learning process, an information supplier, a learning motivating factor, and a diagnostician. Also, the teacher has to strengthen the students' trust in their

own capacities and to ensure a positive learning environment, which should constantly value the accomplishments, instead of the limitations of learning. Meeting the recommended learning goals emphasises the need to vary the methods used by the teacher to create interactive activities based on cooperation (the audio-lingual method, image-based storytelling, learning by doing, learning by discovering, brainstorming, etc.). The (formative and summative) assessment of the learning process must take into account the particularities of each and every participant.

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Appendix 1

Project The Romanian language – an opportunity for social and cultural integration

The Intercultural Institute of Timișoara, in partnership with the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian-Arabian Cultural Centre in Timișoara, and the DiversEtica Association in Bucharest implemented, from January to June 2010, the project called The Romanian language – an opportunity for social and cultural integration. This project was financed by the European Commission through the European Integration Fund, managed in Romania by the Romanian Migration Office. Considering the essential role and the attributions of the various structures of the Ministry of Education, the activities of this project were carried out on a basis of close coordination and cooperation with those structures. The project aimed at drafting methodology and a set of pedagogical textbooks allowing to improve the quality of the Romanian language courses and the cultural guidance sessions put in place for the foreign citizens residing in Romania.

As part of the project The Romanian language – an opportunity for social and cultural integration, the website <http://www.vorbitiromaneste.ro/> was created.

The following materials were created, which are available online:⁸

- Romanian language textbook for foreigners – beginner level;
- Romanian language textbook for foreigners – advanced level;
- Social and cultural guidance textbook for foreigners;
- Intercultural education textbook for the migrant children in Romania.

⁸ <http://www.vorbitiromaneste.ro/>

Appendix 2

Free resource materials

Below is a series⁹ of free resource materials for the educational fields which are the core expertise of the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara.

These materials are directed at Social Education teachers teaching the 5th to the 7th grades. They do not replace school programmes and textbooks, but complete them, thus facilitating teachers' activity to enhance skills which are necessary both among pupils and adults.

Critical thinking and the children's rights

- Human rights start with breakfast: educational tools for working with youths at the world level in the human rights field – in English; a collection of educational activities and methods applicable to human rights education; on the platform Human Rights Start with Breakfast one can find those activities as distinctive sheets, as well as other resources on human rights education.
- Compass: a human rights education textbook for youths – in English/French; it can be accessed by topics/activities/chapters; it includes concrete activities and theoretical chapters and a chapter on the children's rights.
- Composito – a human rights education textbook for children – in English; it can be accessed by topics/activities/chapters and can be downloaded as pdf.
- Bookmarks – a textbook on fighting hate speech in the online environment through human rights education, in English/French; the Romanian version can be downloaded as pdf.
- Self-assessment textbook – in Romanian; a textbook for teachers or other educators, aiming at enhancing self-assessment skills and their transfer.
- Conflict mediation – in Romanian; a material on how to manage conflicts, with practical examples, activities, and exercises.

Intercultural education

- Intercultural Guide for the European Volunteering Service - in Romanian; it includes theoretical chapters and a course textbook on intercultural education.
- The study "Measures for Roma inclusion on the labour market: from organized hypocrisy to actual effectiveness" - in Romanian; includes a theoretical chapter on discrimination and racism.
- ToolKit for intercultural dialogue, in English.
- Going International: Opportunities for all – in English; this is a booklet with practical activities and guidance for educators working in international environments for including young people with reduced opportunities; it includes practical activities to be performed with pupils from the secondary school, to develop their intercultural skills.
- Education for democratic citizenship

⁹ <http://www.intercultural.ro/pages.php?d=1&idc=81>

- The guide “Designing strategies for inclusion and diversity, for Erasmus+ National Agencies” in English; it includes useful information to prepare a strategy that can also be adapted to other contexts.
- The bases of democracy. Educational set for the pupils in the primary school and their teachers:
 - Ochilă and Vorbiluța learn about authority, for pupils and for teachers;
 - Maricica Peșticica learns on the personal life, for pupils and for teachers;
 - The zoo keeper learns about responsibility, for pupils and for teachers;
 - The righteous teddy bears learn about justice, for pupils and for teachers.
- The bases of democracy. Textbooks for older pupils, dealing with such concepts as authority, personal life, responsibility, and justice, including theoretical aspects and practical exercises:
 - Authority;
 - Personal life – Module 1, Module 2, Modules 3 and 4;
 - Responsibility;
 - Justice.
- Active citizenship: Stimulating the political involvement of the young migrants – in English; training material used in an international seminar intended for young migrants; it includes a chapter on basic methods for the civic involvement education for the youth.