

## **Statement by Romania**

### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

#### **Working Session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination I (14 September 2018)**

*Delivered by Ana-Maria Anghelescu, Ministry of National Education*

#### **Thank you Mr. Moderator,**

My name is Ana-Maria Anghelescu and I represent the Ministry of National Education of Romania. I would like today to briefly present the main aspects of the human rights education for persons belonging to national minorities in my country.

Romanian Ministry of National Education is constantly working on ensuring quality education, while promoting the democratic citizenship and the respect of fundamental values. Romanian national legislation ensures the right to education for national minorities, from pre-school to higher education and throughout all the counties of the country.

According to the Romanian legislation and in accordance with the national minorities' decisions, pupils belonging to national minorities may study all disciplines in their mother tongue, except for the Romanian language and literature.

If they are enrolled within educational units where Romanian or other minority language is the medium of instruction they may study the following disciplines in the mother tongue: the language and literature, the History and traditions of the respective minority and musical education.

The two types of education for persons belonging to national minorities have been organized as follows:

- a) *teaching in the mother tongue*, for persons belonging to Hungarian, German, Ukrainian, Romani, Slovak, Serbian, Czech, Croat, Italian and Turkish national minorities;
- b) *teaching the mother tongue within educational units where the medium of instruction is Romanian or other minority language* for pupils belonging to the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Polish, Romani, Russian, Czech, Croat, German, Hungarian, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish, Ukrainian national minorities.

New curriculum was developed for primary and secondary education, including for the education in the language of the minorities. Moreover, the Ministry of National Education took measures to improve the quality of teaching the Romanian language in national minority schools. These include the development of a special curricula, which was elaborated specifically for this type of education, and, more recently, the provision for qualified teachers in primary schools.

We are currently working on publishing textbooks according to the approved curricula, including for the schools providing education in mother tongue.

As a general indicator of our commitment to ensuring the teaching of cultural diversity in all our educational system, the recent curricular reform included a series of measures regarding the expansion of intercultural education. At the same time, we included in school curricula, within the context of different disciplines, aspects and themes related to historical, ethnical, linguistic, religious, cultural, gender diversity in order to encourage non-discrimination and non-segregation.

At national level, the Ministry of National Education coordinates activities dedicated to the promotion of democracy and intercultural education, by organizing and supporting competitions on civic education, democracy, tolerance, Holocaust memorial etc.

Starting from 2000, Romania has developed numerous initiatives at the school and university level for promoting Education about Holocaust through the teacher training, textbook editing, and elaboration of school curricula, elective courses, research activities and commemoration events. In this regard, we offer an elective course on Education about Holocaust, which was taught in over 300 classes at national level.

Romania has a very open educational system, accommodating foreign students from all over the world, offering courses of Romanian language. As part of our commitment to the protection of human rights, we offer support to refugees to continue their studies in Romanian educational institutions.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator!