

## Right of Reply by Romania

### OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

#### Working Session 12: Rights of persons belonging to national minorities

Thank you, Mr. Moderator

We wish to exercise our right to reply as regards the assertions made during this session regarding the access to education in the mother tongue in Romania.

We wish to firstly state that Romania is fully committed to ensuring the access to education in the mother tongue. The Law on education has a special chapter on the education of persons belonging to national minorities. They have the right to study in their mother tongue at **all levels and forms of education**.

Romanian Ministry of National Education is constantly working on ensuring **quality education**, while promoting the democratic citizenship and the respect of fundamental values.

According to the Romanian legislation, 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 the traditions of the respective minority and musical education

As to allocation of resources, we wish to point out that starting with the last school year **the highest number of textbooks for pupils studying in the minority languages has been published**.

A **secretary of state** dedicated to ensuring educational rights of persons belonging to national minorities is currently active within the Ministry of Education. Moreover there is a General Directorate within the Ministry of Education which is responsible for the education in minority languages. The directorate is composed of teachers, teacher trainers with extensive experience in the education of persons belonging. At the level of the secretary of state there is a continuous dialogue with the organizations of persons belonging to national minorities regarding educational policies.

Organizations of persons belonging to national minorities as well as teachers and educational specialists have participated in all the debates related to the Strategy on Education beyond 2030.

As regards the teacher training activities, the Romanian Ministry of National Education is currently implementing an important teacher training programme, of more than 40 million EURO, which involves teachers and trainers from the schools which are offering education in minority languages.

Thank you!

