

Committee of the Parties

Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Reply by Romania to the reporting form on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties adopted on 6 December 2022

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Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 3 June 2025

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**Committee of the Parties
Council of Europe Convention
on Preventing and Combating
Violence against Women
and Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention)**

Reporting form on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to state parties

Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

In accordance with Article 68, paragraph 12, of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the Committee of the Parties adopts, on the basis of the report and conclusions of GREVIO, recommendations addressed to state parties concerning the measures to be taken to implement the conclusions of GREVIO.

The applicable procedure for issuing recommendations was settled by the Committee of the Parties at its 4th meeting and is described in document IC-CP(2018)6. In accordance with this procedure, the recommendations call upon state parties to implement all the proposals and suggestions set out in GREVIO's baseline evaluation report. However, the obligation to report on measures taken is limited to those specifically outlined in section A of the recommendation, namely: a) all the proposals and suggestions formulated by GREVIO throughout the report which require immediate action – these are qualified by the use of the verb “urge”, and b) the proposals and suggestions related to Chapters I and II of the convention which require taking remedial action in the near future and are qualified by the use of the expression “strongly encourage”. According to the agreed procedure, state parties are given a period of three years to implement the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties and report back to the Committee.

To facilitate this reporting, state parties are requested to use this questionnaire to report on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties. Recommendations not issued in relation to Romania do not need to be reported on. **As a result, the Romanian authorities are not required to answer questions 10, 28 - 31 in the reporting form.**

The reporting deadline given to Romania was set at **4 December 2025**. Information related to the monitoring of Romania is available on the dedicated [country monitoring webpage](#).

I. Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination (Article 4)			
1	Have your authorities taken measures to ensure that the provisions of the Istanbul Convention are implemented without discrimination on any grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the convention, including in terms of the availability of services and the protection by law enforcement agencies?	Yes ☒	No ☐
1.1	If yes, please specify: Romanian authorities ensure that the implementation of the Istanbul Convention is carried out without discrimination, in full accordance with Article 4(3). The Romanian Constitution establishes the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination, guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens (Article 16) and explicitly stating that Romania is the common homeland of all its citizens regardless of sex, ethnicity, language, religion, or social origin (Article 4). It also safeguards the right to life, physical and mental integrity, and respect for private and family life, creating a constitutional basis for protecting victims of violence. Besides the Romanian Constitution, the principle of equal opportunities and treatment between women and men is extensively regulated at legislative and policy levels. Law No. 202/2002 establishes comprehensive measures to promote gender equality across all areas of public life, defining key concepts such as discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, and equal pay for equal work. The National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) acts as the institutional guarantor for monitoring compliance and implementing gender equality policies. Also, The		

	National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) is an autonomous state authority under parliamentary oversight, which guarantees the respect and enforcement of the principle of non-discrimination in accordance with national legislation and international standards. CNCD carries out its activities through the prevention of discrimination (awareness and information campaigns, training courses, projects, studies, and reports), mediation of discrimination cases between parties, investigation, determination, and, where applicable, sanctioning of discriminatory acts, as well as monitoring compliance with its decisions. Additionally, CNCD provides specialized assistance to victims of discrimination by explaining the relevant legislation and supporting the submission and management of complaints. Additionally, Government Ordinance No. 137/2000 provides a general anti-discrimination framework, prohibiting all forms of discrimination, including gender-based discrimination. In 2022, the Government adopted the National Strategy on Equal Opportunities and Domestic Violence 2022–2027 (Government Decision No. 1,547/2022), which strengthens the existing legal and institutional framework and introduces targeted measures for victim protection, prevention, and prosecution. The Strategy also fulfills EU enabling conditions for accessing European funds and includes tailored interventions to improve access to services for vulnerable groups such as Roma women, rural women, and women with disabilities. The activities of prosecutors are governed by the principle of equality before the law, enshrined in Article 16 paragraph (1) of the Romanian Constitution, according to which "citizens are equal before the law and public authorities, without any privilege or discrimination". Therefore, all persons benefit, before the judicial authorities, from the same legal treatment, regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, social status or any other protected criteria. At the same time, according to Article 66 paragraphs (2) and (3) of Law No. 304/2022 on Judicial Organization, prosecutors carry out their work according to the principles of legality, impartiality and hierarchical control, having the obligation to respect and defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons, to guarantee the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the principle of equality of arms. Also, according to Article 8 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, judicial bodies - including prosecutors and criminal investigation bodies - are obliged to conduct criminal prosecution and trial in compliance with due process guarantees and the rights of all participants in the criminal proceedings, so that the facts constituting criminal offences are established in a timely and complete manner, no innocent person is held criminally liable and any person who has committed a criminal offence is punished according to the law in a timely manner. All these legal provisions constitute a guarantee that the application of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, as implemented in national law, is carried out in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, the requirements of legality and impartiality, as well as the standards of fairness and timeliness of the criminal proceedings. Crime prevention activities are addressed to all categories of beneficiaries, without any discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, language, religion, political views, property, sexual orientation, age, or health status. Furthermore, all MIA activities are carried out in accordance with the provisions of international treaties, including from the perspective of fundamental rights and non-discrimination, this aspect being included in the principles set out in the public policy documents initiated by the MIA (e.g. National Strategy for Order and Public Safety 2023-2027). - "Legality - the activities carried out to achieve the objectives are in accordance with the national legislation in force, complying with European Community regulations."		
1.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
2	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?	Yes ☒	No ☐

2.1	If yes, please specify: Preventive activities are primarily directed towards vulnerable target groups that may be exposed to a form of intersectional discrimination. Romanian authorities have taken measures to prevent and combat violence against women exposed to intersectional discrimination. Preventive activities focus on vulnerable groups and are supported by ANES through dedicated working groups. The Working Group for Strengthening the Legal Framework in Domestic Violence reviews Law No. 217/2003 and has integrated the concept of intersectional discrimination into policy and legislation. The Inter-institutional Working Group on Health System Response to Gender-Based and Sexual Violence promotes women's health, ensures access to preventive and curative services, advances gender equality in health, and supports the prevention of domestic, gender-based, and sexual violence. These initiatives ensure tailored protection and support for the most vulnerable women, in line with national and international standards. The national legal framework provides for the provisional protection order, a legal instrument of emergency protection which is the subject of the regulation contained in Chapter IV (Articles 28-37) of Law No. 217/2003, republished, as subsequently amended and supplemented. According to Article 28, Article 31 paragraph (1), Article 32 paragraphs (1) and (2) and Article 34 of Law No. 217/2003, republished, as subsequently amended and supplemented: - the provisional protection order shall be issued by police officers who, in the exercise of their duties, ascertain that there is an imminent risk that the life, physical integrity or liberty of a person may be endangered by an act of domestic violence, in order to mitigate this risk; - the provisional protection order shall order, for a period of five days, one or more of the following protection measures, capable of contributing to the reduction of the imminent risk identified, among the following obligations and prohibitions: (a) temporary eviction of the aggressor from the common dwelling, regardless of whether the aggressor is the holder of the property right; (b) reintegration of the victim and, where appropriate, of the children in the common dwelling; (c) ordering the aggressor to keep a specified minimum distance from the victim, her family members, or the residence, workplace or educational establishment of the protected person; (d) ordering the aggressor to wear an electronic surveillance device at all times; (e) ordering the aggressor to surrender to the police the weapons in his possession; - the period of five days shall be calculated on an hourly basis, i.e. 120 hours, and shall start to run from the moment the provisional protection order is issued; - the obligations and prohibitions imposed on the aggressors by provisional protection orders become binding immediately after their issuance, without the issuance of a summons and without the expiry of any time limit; - the provisional protection order shall be forwarded by the police unit to which the issuing officer belongs for confirmation to the prosecutor's office of the competent court of first instance within whose territorial radius it was issued, within 24 hours of the date of issue; - the prosecutor at the competent prosecutor's office shall decide on the necessity to maintain the protection measures ordered by the police body within 48 hours of the issuing of the provisional protection order; - the prosecutor shall confirm the necessity to maintain the protective measures ordered by the police authority in the provisional protection order by applying an administrative resolution on the original copy of the provisional protection order; - where the prosecutor finds that it is no longer necessary to maintain the protection measures ordered, he or she may order the termination of the protection measures, stating the reasons on which he or she is based and the date from which they are to be terminated. The prosecutor shall immediately inform the police unit which forwarded the provisional protection order, which shall take steps to inform the persons who were the subject of the provisional protection order immediately; - immediately after confirmation of the provisional protection order, the prosecutor shall forward the provisional protection order, together with the documents on the basis of which it was issued and confirmed, to the competent court within whose territorial radius it was issued, accompanied by a request for the issuance of the protection order;
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	- where the provisional protection order is submitted to the court for the purpose of issuing the protection order, the initial duration for which it was issued shall be extended, by law, by the time necessary to complete the judicial proceedings for the issuing of the protection order, with the aggressor being informed thereof. Therefore, the provisional protection order confirmed by the prosecutor shall remain in force until the final resolution of the prosecutor's application to the court for the issuance of the protection order, there being no gaps in protection. On 31.08.2024, Law No. 26/2024 on the Protection Order entered into force. According to Article 26 of Law No. 26/2024, the situations covered by Law No. 217/2003, republished, as subsequently amended and supplemented, do not fall under the new regulation on the protection order. The new regulation protecting victims of violence goes beyond the scope of domestic violence, determined on the basis of the legal definition of the notion of "family member" in Article 5 of Law No. 217/2003, republished, as subsequently amended and supplemented, covering all extra-family social relations and offers comprehensive protection to victims of any form of violence identified in the list contained in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Law No. 26/2024, which refers to: (a) any assault or act of violence causing physical suffering; b) any act of violence of a sexual nature; c) threatening a person with the commission of an offence or an unlawful harmful act directed against her/him or another person, if it is likely to cause her/him to be in a state of fear; (d) the repeated act of stalking a person, without right or legitimate interest, or of surveillance of her/his home, place of work or other places frequented by her/him, or the making of telephone calls or other types of communication by means of remote transmission which, by their frequency, content or timing, create fear, and other actions with similar effect; (e) any act of online harassment, online hate messages, online stalking, online threats, non-consensual posting of intimate information and graphic content, unlawful access to private communications and data, and any other form of misuse of information and communications technology to humiliate, frighten, silence, or otherwise abuse the victim; (f) attempting to induce or inducing a person by bribery, coercion or any other act of manifest intimidation not to report a matter to the prosecuting authorities, to refrain from giving evidence, to retract a statement, to give false testimony or to withhold evidence in criminal, civil or any other judicial proceedings; g) any other acts of physical or psychological violence endangering the life, physical or psychological integrity or liberty of a person. It should be noted that, through its comprehensive scope of regulation, Law No. 26/2024 includes within its scope of application and provides a positive, effective response to a multitude of forms of violence, including cyber-violence and stalking, as well as any attacks against the physical and/or psychological integrity of the person, which do not occur in the sphere of family relationships or relationships assimilated to them.
2.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
3	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 4, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]: The National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) is the central public authority competent with solving cases of discrimination. According to the National Council for Combating Discrimination, in Romania, the sanctions in case of discrimination are of 3 types: contravention, civil and criminal.

	Any person who considers herself discriminated against can notify the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) within one year from the date when the violation was committed or from the date when the victim could become aware of the violation. The decision of the CNCD can be appealed to the administrative court, according to the law. In exercising its activity of preventing, combating and sanctioning acts of discrimination, the National Council for Combating Discrimination has received, between 2023 and the present, a number of 82 petitions claiming possible acts of discrimination on the basis of gender, including the criterion of maternity (maternity leave). The Steering Board deliberated and adopted decisions in 13 files, the rest to be deliberated, finding the act of discrimination in a single file, where it applied a fine of 5,000 lei.		
II. Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body (Articles 7 and 10)			
4	Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women? The main national-level strategies with national plans included, currently in place are as follows: • The <i>National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Violence "SYNERGY" 2021–2030</i> and the <i>Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Violence "SYNERGY" 2021–2030</i> (approved by Government Decision no. 592 of May 27, 2021); • The <i>National Strategy of December 19, 2022, on promoting equal opportunities and treatment between women and men and preventing and combating domestic violence for the period 2022–2027 and the Action Plan for its implementation</i> (approved by Government Decision no. 1.547 of December 19, 2022). Within the Inter-institutional Working Group organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, representatives from the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and the Directorate of Public Order were appointed to participate in the development of a Methodology for Conducting Investigations in Cases Involving Domestic Violence Offenses, with the following main objectives: • Identifying the main dysfunctions and obstacles in the prevention and combating of domestic violence; • Establishing the institutions and organizations that play a direct role in combating domestic violence, clearly defining their responsibilities, the way they are involved in the investigative process, the contact information that investigators can use, and a method for the rapid inter-institutional transmission of requests and related data; • Approaching investigations in cases concerning domestic violence offenses; • Adopting a set of procedural document templates to be used in relations between prosecution/police units and non-governmental organizations, associations, and foundations involved in combating this phenomenon;	Yes ☒	No ☐ N/A (a plan/strategy was already developed at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation) ☐

	- Identifying any legislative amendments required to more effectively combat domestic violence and formulating proposals to be submitted to decision-makers. The methodology is addressed primarily to prosecutors, but equally to judicial police officers whose criminal investigation activities are supervised by prosecutors. It also serves as a useful guide for other actors involved in the criminal investigation process (investigative bodies, judges of rights and liberties, preliminary chamber judges, lawyers, experts, specialists), as well as for all public institutions and non-governmental organizations involved in prevention and combating activities. Within the national legislative framework, the following legal provisions are also relevant: - Law no. 202/2002 on equal opportunities and treatment between women and men, as subsequently amended and supplemented; - Law no. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions; - Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs no. 146/2.578/2018 on the manner of managing domestic violence cases by police officers. Law no. 286/2009 – the Criminal Code includes a number of provisions under which various forms of domestic violence and violence against women may fall. The most relevant criminal provisions include: - Art. 189 (g) – establishes as an aggravating circumstance for qualified murder when the victim is a pregnant woman; - Art. 193 – hitting and other violence; - Art. 194 – bodily harm; - Art. 199 – domestic violence, as an aggravating circumstance for the offenses in: - Art. 188 – murder; - Art. 189 – qualified murder; - Art. 193 – hitting and other violence; - Art. 194 – bodily harm; - Art. 195 – beatings and injuries resulting in death; - Art. 201 – interruption of pregnancy; - Art. 208 – harassment; - Art. 210 – human trafficking; - Art. 211 – trafficking of minors; - Art. 213 – pimping; - Art. 218 – rape;		
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	• Art. 218¹ – rape committed against a minor; • Art. 219 – sexual assault; • Art. 219¹ – sexual assault committed against a minor; • Art. 221 – sexual corruption of minors (responding to the obligations derived from Art. 39 of the Istanbul Convention); • Art. 222 – recruitment of minors for sexual purposes; • Art. 223 – sexual harassment; • Art. 224 – unlawful entry into a dwelling; • Art. 226 – violation of private life; • Art. 374 – child pornography; • Art. 376 – bigamy; • Art. 379 – failure to comply with child custody decisions; • Art. 380 – obstructing access to mandatory general education; • Art. 439 – crimes against humanity: ◦ letter (c) – slavery or human trafficking, especially of women or children; ◦ letter (f) – rape or sexual assault, coercion into prostitution, forced sterilization, or the illegal detention of a woman who became pregnant by force, aimed at changing the ethnic composition of a population. Domestic criminal law explicitly refers only to “family violence,” not to “domestic violence” as regulated by Law no. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence, republished, with amendments. Therefore, Article 199 of the Criminal Code applies only to a limited number of offenses, namely those under: • Art. 188 – murder; • Art. 189 – qualified murder; • Art. 193 – hitting or other violence; • Art. 194 – bodily harm; • Art. 195 – beatings or injuries causing death Starting in 2022, the Public Order Directorate within the Romanian Police began requesting from territorial units an Analysis and Case File for each homicide committed in the context of domestic violence. These documents include details about the circumstances in which the crimes were committed, as well as any prior reports made to the police. As of 2024, such documents are also required for attempted homicide and assault or injury resulting in death, when committed in the context of domestic violence.		
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	The data and information provided by the territorial units are analyzed at the level of the Public Order Directorate, focusing on how police officers intervened—particularly in cases with a history of prior reports before the crime occurred—in order to identify possible shortcomings and propose measures to prevent similar situations in the future. Also, the National Strategy for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Treatment between Women and Men and the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2022-2027, mentioned above, establishes a series of measures under the responsibility of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, such as: • the creation of a compendium on intervention procedures and methodologies in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence; • sharing existing information at institutional level in a national computerized system for recording cases of domestic violence; • organizing national information campaigns and local information sessions, especially for vulnerable groups; • equipping, by 2027, police officers in law enforcement agencies who provide specialized services in cases of domestic violence with non-lethal weapons or devices and portable video cameras. In implementing Pillar II of the above mentioned Strategy - "Preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women" in 2024, a number of actions were undertaken at the level of the Romanian Police, such as: • training sessions were held for police officers on intervention and working procedures that are friendly to victims of domestic violence and children, and on issuing and enforcing temporary protection orders; • 3,000 portable body-cam recording devices were purchased to equip police officers who intervene in cases of domestic violence; • a GPS system was implemented to provide an overview of the location of patrols within the jurisdiction, so that the nearest crew can respond to incidents. • smart tablet devices were purchased for police vehicles to access databases in real time. With regard to the collection of statistical data, at the level of the Romanian Police there is a designated unit to this end, collecting data for a number of criteria, such as: the number of reported domestic violence offences, provisional protection orders issued, female victims, perpetrators, electronic monitoring devices installed, etc. <u>The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP)</u> has developed along with partners from the private and public sector, the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons, for the period 2024-2028, along with the National Action Plan 2024-2026, with subsequent actions oriented towards the 4 fundamental anti-trafficking pillars: Prevention, Punishment, Protection and Partnership. The National Strategy aims to reduce the impact and scale of trafficking in persons at national level by prioritizing and streamlining activities carried out by public institutions, civil society		
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	structures and the private sector. There are 5 general objectives under the Strategy, addressing not only trafficking and exploitation, but also the key risk factors and main vulnerabilities associated with trafficking, including violence and abuse particularly against women and girls, which are inherently linked to the phenomenon: 1. Reducing the influence of risk factors and vulnerabilities leading to victimization through trafficking in persons 2. Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system in cases of trafficking in persons 3. Improving protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons 4. Standardization of data collection processes in the field of trafficking in persons 5. Enhancing cooperation in horizontal areas of the anti-trafficking system Like in previous years, most recent data collected on trafficking in the first semester of 2025, indicate a maintaining trend of a high proportion of female victims, both minor and adults, in the sphere of prostitution and pornography, the female population present in the statistics collected, being in an overwhelming majority of 79%. In addition to the measures presented above and the two national strategies – the National Strategy on Equal Opportunities and the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2022–2027 and the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Sexual Violence “SINERGIE” 2020–2030 – ANES, together with all relevant institutional actors, local authorities, and civil society/NGOs, has established working groups to design and coordinate complementary long-term measures. These initiatives aim to prevent violence, provide protection and support to victims, and ensure a systemic and sustainable approach to combating gender-based violence.		
4.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
5	Which forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention are addressed by the plan/strategy? Please offer a brief description specifically indicating the forms of violence not previously addressed in plans or strategies at national level. The long-term strategies and plans developed by Romanian authorities cover all forms of violence against women specified in Law No. 217/2003 on the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence, which implements key provisions of the Istanbul Convention at national level. In addition, within the working groups established by ANES, amendments have been proposed and integrated into the legal framework under ANES's competence, namely Law No. 217/2003 and Law No. 202/2002 on Equal Opportunities and Treatment between Women and Men. These amendments include several measures addressing forms of violence not previously fully covered at national level: ✓ Redefinition of cyber violence, updated to reflect new issues related to artificial intelligence; ✓ Clarification of the definitions of sexual harassment and psychological harassment; ✓ Definition of the term “sexist speech” and the establishment of related administrative sanctions; ✓ Recognition and definition of obstetric and gynecological violence and cyber violence as forms of gender-based violence capable of affecting a woman's physical or psychological integrity and health, causing harm;		

	✓ Definition of violence against women in politics, violence against women in leadership positions, and institutional gender-based violence, accompanied by the regulation of administrative sanctions. These measures ensure that the strategies now address a comprehensive spectrum of violence against women, including emerging and previously under-regulated forms, providing a more holistic and intersectional approach consistent with the Istanbul Convention.		
6	Was specific attention given to place the rights of women victims at the centre of all measures planned?	Yes ☒	No ☐
6.1	If yes, please specify how: Specific attention has been given to placing the rights of women victims at the center of all planned measures. Focusing the intervention on eliminating risks and ensuring safe conditions for the victim of domestic violence. The Order no. 20840/2022 of the Minister of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities for the approval of the Minimum Mandatory Standards on the application of case management within social services for victims of domestic violence established the principle of intervention focused on eliminating risks and ensuring safe conditions for the victim of domestic violence. Thus, the case manager establishes multidisciplinary assessment areas for each person requesting or for whom support is requested to see the risk factors and needs of the victim in specific areas of intervention. Beyond the national strategies and existing services, Romania has adopted a victim-centered and integrated approach, supported by legislative and procedural reforms. The legal framework, including Law No. 217/2003 on domestic violence and Law No. 202/2002 on gender equality, is currently being updated at the draft stage to reflect practical realities and GREVIO recommendations, as well as the provisions of Directive (EU) 1385/2024, and is expected to be approved in the near future. Key measures proposed include: Recognizing forced marriage/cohabitation, cyber violence, obstetric and gynecological violence, violence against women in politics and leadership, and institutional gender-based violence as forms of violence against women; Clarifying definitions of sexual harassment, psychological harassment, and sexist speech, with corresponding administrative sanctions; Strengthening the response capacity of authorities through mandatory gender-specific training for professionals; Enhancing protection measures such as provisional and full protection orders, monitoring of compliance, and mandatory psychological or therapeutic programs for perpetrators; Prioritizing the rights and protection of children victims/witnesses, including those orphaned due to domestic violence; Increasing victims' access to social services, including tailored support packages and residential services, and ensuring continuity of support for independent living; Establishing a national register on domestic violence and expanding the range of institutions, including NGOs, able to request protection orders on behalf of victims; Strengthening enforcement and accountability through financial sanctions for local authorities and service providers failing to implement protective measures. These planned legislative reforms, once adopted, will place victims firmly at the center of interventions, ensuring a holistic, integrated, and gender-sensitive approach to preventing and combating violence against women. Specific attention has been given to placing the rights of women victims at the centre of all measures planned. In line with the Istanbul Convention, the National Identification and Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking (NIRM) in Romania, as outlined in Government Decision No.		

	88/2023, emphasizes a victim-centered approach, ensuring that all interventions prioritize the protection, safety, and dignity of victims. The NIRM ¹ incorporates gender-sensitive protocols to identify and address the specific vulnerabilities of female victims, ensuring that measures are tailored to their unique needs and circumstances. This approach aligns with the overarching objectives of the Istanbul Convention to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. In practice, this means that all actions and interventions are designed with a clear focus on the rights and well-being of women victims, ensuring that they are at the center of all measures planned and implemented.		
6.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
7	Do the plan/strategy and the measures contained therein involve all relevant actors, such as government agencies, the national, regional and local parliaments and authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations?	Yes ☒	No ☐
7.1	Please specify the actors involved: In line with its institutional mandate, ANES underscores that the two national strategies – the National Strategy on Equal Opportunities and the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2022–2027 and the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Sexual Violence “SINERGIE” 2020–2030 – are implemented with the involvement of all relevant actors across multiple levels. This includes central authorities, such as all relevant ministries and government agencies; regional and local authorities, including the County Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs), Public Social Assistance Services (SPAS), and Local Social Assistance Services (DAS); as well as educational institutions, hospitals, trade unions, employers’ associations, and civil society organizations/NGOs. This multi-level, multi-sectoral approach ensures coordinated action across the government and society, facilitating prevention, protection, and support measures for victims of violence while promoting accountability, compliance with legal standards, and active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Building on its role as the national coordinating authority in the fight against human trafficking, ANITP emphasizes that the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons (SNITP) 2024–2028 provides for the active involvement of all relevant actors, including government agencies, national and local authorities, national human rights institutions, and civil society organizations. Within this framework, ANITP coordinates closely with various institutions and organizations to implement strategic measures (National Action Plan). For instance, under Specific Objective 5.1, partnerships are established between governmental actors, civil society organizations, and the private sector for the identification and referral of victims and potential victims of trafficking and related crimes by 2028. Thus, SNITP 2024–2028 reflects ANITP’s clear commitment to cooperating with all relevant actors to prevent and combat human trafficking, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach within its operational mandate. Partnerships developed within the SNITP framework include collaboration with Government institutions such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, the National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the National Employment Agency, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Health, etc, with local public authorities, NGOs, national human rights institutions and development partners. These partnerships ensure a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach to preventing and combating human trafficking.		

¹ According to the provisions of NIRM, <https://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ro/docs/MNIR/MNIR.pdf>

7.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
8	Have the authorities assigned the role of co-ordinating body to one or more fully institutionalised entities?	Yes ☒	No ☐ N/A (a co-ordinating body was already established at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation) ☐
8.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
9	Please specify the mandate, powers, and competences, as well as the composition, of the co-ordinating body/bodies: Mandate, Powers, Competences, and Composition of the Coordinating Body – ANES The National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), established under Government Decision No. 177/2016 on the organization and functioning of ANES, serves as the central coordinating body for gender equality and the prevention and combating of domestic violence and violence against women in Romania. Mandate and Role: According to Article 1 of GD 177/2016, ANES is a specialized central public administration body with legal personality, subordinated to the Government and coordinated by the Prime Minister through the Prime Minister's Chancellery. It promotes equal opportunities and treatment between women and men, aiming to eliminate all forms of sex-based discrimination across all national policies and programs. ANES exercises strategic, regulatory, representational, and authority functions in the prevention and combating of domestic violence, including developing, coordinating, and implementing government strategies and policies in this domain. Coordination of the Istanbul Convention Implementation: Per Article 3¹, ANES is explicitly mandated as the body responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention, adopted 11 May 2011, ratified by Law No. 30/2016). This ensures that all national measures align with the Convention's requirements. Powers and Competences: Under Articles 3 and 4, ANES exercises comprehensive powers, including: Developing and coordinating government strategies and policies on gender equality and the prevention of domestic violence and violence against women. Ensuring harmonization of national legislation with EU regulations and international treaties.		

Drafting, proposing, and approving regulatory frameworks, programs, and projects in its fields of competence, including EU-funded initiatives. Representing Romania domestically and internationally in matters of gender equality and domestic violence prevention. Monitoring and enforcing compliance with the legal framework, including Law No. 202/2002 on equal opportunities and Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence. Collecting statistical data, preparing reports, studies, analyses, and forecasts to support evidence-based policymaking. Cooperating with central and local authorities, educational and research institutions, NGOs, and social partners for policy development and implementation. Coordinating and guiding the activity of Directorates-General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs) and Public Social Assistance Services (SPASs) at the local level to ensure coherent institutional responses to victims. Proposing legislative initiatives and monitoring their implementation to integrate gender equality principles. Receiving complaints regarding breaches of equality and non-discrimination principles and providing guidance to victims. Establishing minimum quality standards, procedures, and methodologies for services addressing domestic violence, violence against women, and offenders. Ensuring funding adequacy for services supporting victims and overseeing their proper functioning.

Financial and Operational Capacity:
ANES is financed by the state budget via the Secretariat General of the Government and can also utilize donations, sponsorships, and external EU funds (both repayable and non-repayable). It implements national and EU-funded programs and projects in gender equality and violence prevention.

Composition and Collaboration:
ANES functions as a coordinating hub, collaborating with a broad range of actors, including:
Central government ministries and specialized agencies.
Local authorities responsible for social services.
Educational and research institutions.
NGOs and civil society organizations.
Employers' organizations and trade unions.

Through its legal mandate, ANES ensures that all relevant actors are engaged in implementing gender equality policies and domestic violence prevention measures, facilitating a coordinated and integrated approach at national, regional, and local levels.

According to the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons (SNITP) 2024–2028, ANITP, as the National Rapporteur, monitors the implementation through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM/MNIR) of relevant policies. This institutionalized structure ensures a victim-centred, gender-sensitive approach, fully aligned with the principles of the Istanbul Convention. ANITP ensures that all measures taken incorporate gender-sensitive and victim centered approach, addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls, this includes coordination with law enforcement, social services, and civil society to provide protection, support, and referral services to female victims, in line with the Istanbul Convention. ANITP implements policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women primarily within the context of human trafficking. ANITP monitors and evaluates policies and measures addressing violence against women in the context of trafficking in persons and its subsequent vulnerabilities. Through SNITP 2024–2028 and the National Identification and Referral Mechanism, it tracks implementation of specific measures, assesses effectiveness, and ensures compliance with gender-sensitive, victim-centred standards aligned with the Istanbul Convention.

	ANITP coordinates data collection and analysis, regarding human trafficking, delivering Annual Reports on the phenomenon and concise trends analyses. For reference and further insights, ANITP has an online section dedicated to Research, comprising The Annual Report on Human Trafficking evolution, Studies, Researches, Succinct Analyses on the phenomenon.		
9.1	In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:		
	- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes ☒ The co-ordination body responsible is:	No ☐
	- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes ☒ The co-ordination body responsible is:	No ☐
	- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes ☒ The co-ordination body responsible is:	No ☐
	- Co-ordination of the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of its results	Yes ☒ The co-ordination body responsible is:	No ☐
10	Please specify the human and financial resources allocated to the co-ordinating body/bodies:		
11	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 7 and 10, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		

III. Financial resources (Article 8)			
12	Have your authorities allocated specific funds at the		
	- national	Yes ☐	No ☒
	- and/or regional	Yes ☐	No ☒
	- and/or local	Yes ☒	No ☐
	levels of government for activities to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention?		
12.1	If yes, what is the annual amount of these funds? If possible, please specify the percentage of the total national state budget that the amount represents. Since 2020, several salary increases have been implemented, which have effectively increased the operational budget of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES). As of July 2024, the agency's operational budget reached 9,711,000.00 lei.		
12.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]: The financing of policies and programs for the prevention and combating of domestic violence and other forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention is carried out through allocations from the state budget, the budgets of local public administration authorities, as well as from non-reimbursable external funds. National strategies and action plans provide specific budget lines at the level of each responsible institution, and financing is carried out within the limits of their approved annual budgets. At the local level, social services for victims of domestic violence – day and residential centers, and centers for perpetrators – are funded through the budgets of the general directorates for social assistance and child protection and public social assistance services. From 2014 to the present, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) has implemented over 15 projects financed by non-reimbursable European funds, with a total value of over 55 million euros, contributing to the development of the network of social services for victims of domestic violence, as well as to the implementation of counselling and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators. These projects have supported the strengthening of institutional capacity and the creation of a sustainable social infrastructure at both national and local levels.		
13	Have these funds increased since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report?	Yes ☒ If yes, by what amount:	No ☐
14	Have your authorities taken measures to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations working to support victims and prevent violence?	Yes ☒	No ☐

14.1	If yes, please specify: Romanian authorities have taken steps to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to support victims of domestic violence and prevent violence. The draft law amending and supplementing Law no. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence, soon to be adopted, introduces several provisions aimed at ensuring stable funding for services supporting victims. Specifically, the draft law: - establishes mechanisms for financing social services for victims of domestic violence through allocations from the state budget and local public authority budgets, as well as through non-reimbursable external funds; - sets funding percentages from the state budget relative to the standard cost of social services for victims of domestic violence, ensuring predictable and sustainable financing; - introduces a three-year period for adopting necessary secondary legislation and a five-year period for initiating and implementing the national support mechanism for victims, including through the use of non-reimbursable external funds; - explicitly includes NGOs among the institutions that can submit requests on behalf of victims for protection orders, recognizing their role in service delivery and victim support. In addition to the legal framework, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) is actively involved in promoting sustainable support for NGOs. ANES is currently managing the approval and implementation of multiple projects funded by non-reimbursable external sources. Each of these projects involves partnerships with NGOs, thereby ensuring that civil society organisations have both a financial base and a role in service delivery, program development, and policy implementation. These projects contribute not only to the long-term sustainability of victim support services but also to strengthening the institutional capacity of NGOs, expanding the network of social services, and fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors.			
14.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
15	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 8, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]: ANES will continue the steps regarding the adoption of a Government Decision draft for the approval of Programs of National Interest in the field of equal opportunities between women and men and domestic violence for the period 2026-2030.			
IV. Non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9)				
16	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1273 1691 1394">Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?</td> <td data-bbox="1691 1273 1870 1394">Yes ☒</td> <td data-bbox="1870 1273 2051 1394">No ☐</td> </tr> </table>	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?	Yes ☒	No ☐		

16.1	If yes, please specify: Romanian authorities have taken measures to further recognise, encourage, and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention. The draft law amending and supplementing Law no. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence, soon to be adopted, includes provisions designed to ensure stable and predictable funding for services supporting victims. In particular, the draft law: ✓ establishes financing mechanisms for social services for victims of domestic violence through allocations from the state budget, local public authority budgets, and non-reimbursable external funds; ✓ sets funding percentages from the state budget based on the standard cost of social services for victims, ensuring sustainable financial support; ✓ introduces a three-year period for the adoption of necessary secondary legislation and a five-year period for the initiation and implementation of the national support mechanism for victims, including via non-reimbursable external funds; ✓ explicitly includes NGOs among the institutions authorised to submit requests on behalf of victims for protection orders, formally recognising their role in service delivery and victim support. Beyond the legal framework, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) actively promotes sustainable support for NGOs. ANES is currently managing the approval and implementation of multiple projects funded by non-reimbursable external sources, each of which involves partnerships with NGOs. This ensures that civil society organisations have both a financial foundation and an active role in service provision, program development, and policy implementation. Moreover, NGOs are members of all working groups organised at ANES for the purpose of legislative review and reform. Their participation in these groups strengthens cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors, supports the long-term sustainability of victim support services, and reinforces the institutional capacity of NGOs in preventing and combating violence against women. The Public Ministry has shown a constant concern for the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addressing issues related to violence against women, recognizing the essential role of these entities in preventing, combating and ensuring the protection of victims. A concrete example in this regard is Order No. 149 of 10 July 2025 of the Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, which established the Working Group for the adoption of the methodology for conducting investigations in cases involving domestic violence offences. The group is composed of prosecutors from the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as members of associations and foundations involved in combating domestic violence (Association for Justice and Education for All - A.D.E.P.T., Center for Mediation and Community Security Foundation, GRADO, E-Romnja).
16.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
V. Data collection and research (Article 11)	

17	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes ☒	No ☐
17.1	If yes, please specify which sectors: - Law enforcement - Social assistance - Helpline support		
17.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
18	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?	Yes ☒	No ☐
18.1	If yes, please specify which sectors and how, in particular whether new data categories were added: The Romanian Police has improved its mechanisms for collecting statistical data regarding offenses specific to domestic violence, in line with the definitions provided by national legislation. In recent years, statistical indicators have been established to measure acts of physical, sexual, psychological, economic, social, spiritual, or cyber violence occurring within the family or domestic environment, or between current or former spouses, as well as between current or former partners, regardless of whether the aggressor lives or has lived with the victim. Accordingly, our unit collects data on the phenomenon of domestic violence in full compliance with the provisions of Law no. 217/2003 on the prevention and combating of domestic violence. This law partially transposes the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, adopted in Istanbul on May 11, 2011, and ratified by the Romanian Parliament through Law no. 30 of March 17, 2016. The data is centralized monthly at the national level and broken down by county. Statistical data is available for indicators relating to: • Violence against women (female victims, adults/minors), • Domestic violence (criminal acts committed in the family or domestic environment). Furthermore, since 2019, indicators related to protection orders and provisional protection orders have been introduced. Data is collected on: • Protection measures ordered through provisional protection orders. • Measures ordered through final protection orders.		

	- Information regarding the perpetrators/victims associated with these protection orders (adult/minor victims, male/female, for both provisional and final protection orders). However, the indicators referring to offenses involving domestic violence are currently not disaggregated by gender, which limits the ability to provide specific data on offenses against women. The modernization of the information system of the Public Ministry aims to strengthen the mechanisms of transparency, coherence and efficiency in the activities of the prosecution services, by expanding and developing the ECRIS - National Repository application, which centralizes the data collected by each prosecution unit through the ECRIS system. The main objective of this IT system is to manage information on casefiles and documents within the Public Ministry, while ensuring the rapid identification of cases that correspond to predefined search criteria (e.g. type of offence, ordered solution, prosecution unit, etc.). Through the ECRIS - National Repository application it is also possible to identify the cases (including domestic violence offences) in which the following has been ordered: - dismissal due to the withdrawal of the preliminary complaint or the expiry of the statute of limitations of criminal liability, pursuant to Article 16 paragraph (1) letters g) and h) of the Code of Criminal Procedure; - dropping the criminal prosecution, according to Article 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, when the prosecutor has assessed that there is no public interest in continuing the criminal proceedings. Therefore, the statistical and information system of the Public Ministry provides a complete picture of the dynamics of the decisions taken in the criminal prosecution phase, contributing to the evaluation of the efficiency of the work of the prosecution offices and to the monitoring of the observance of the principles of legality and impartiality.		
18.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
19	Does statistical data collection by law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary enable cases of violence against women to be tracked in order to indicate:		
	- Conviction rates	Yes ☐	No ☒
	- Types of sentences	Yes ☐	No ☒
	- Attrition rates	Yes ☒	No ☐
	- Time-barred proceedings At the level of the Romanian Police, statistical data is not collected regarding the closure of criminal investigations as a result of the statute of limitations for criminal liability being reached. The judicial statistics of the Public Ministry are prepared in accordance with the Decision of the Superior Council of Magistracy No. 69/2014, which establishes the uniform methodology for data collection and reporting at the level of the judicial system. The statistical forms are filled in according to the most serious of the offences included in a case - i.e. the offence provided for in the Criminal Code or in a special law with the highest penalty, as stated in the prosecutor's	Yes ☒	No ☒ N/A ☐

	decision - or according to the most important decision ordered in the case (for example, the decision to refer the case to the court by indictment prevails over a decision to dismiss the case ordered by the same act). Data on court decisions are not collected through the judicial statistical system of the Public Ministry.		
20	As regards population-based surveys, please indicate any survey conducted since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, while specifying the forms of violence covered: The national Barometer developed in the field of domestic violence and gender-based violence, focused on the evolution of the phenomenon, practices and trends, gender budgeting, social services, protection measures, legal counselling, psychological support, the labour market, including the COVID-19 pandemic, in each county and at the national level- 2024, elaborated within the project VERA implemented by ANES. The complete report is available at the following link: https://anes.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Barometru.pdf		
21	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 11, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]: Ministry of Internal Affairs Statistical data on domestic violence is transmitted both to the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men and to the National Institute of Statistics, as part of the set of Sustainable Development Indicators for Romania (SDIR).		
VI. Custody, visitation rights and safety (Article 31)			
22	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that incidents of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention are taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, notably by judicial authorities?	Yes ☒	No ☐
22.1	If yes, please specify how this has been done (by legislative amendments or other means) This has been achieved through legislative changes. Article 37 paragraph (7) of Law No. 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, republished, was amended by point 11 of the Single-Article Law No. 123/2024, published in the Official Gazette, Part I, No. 414 of May 7, 2024, the text now reads as follows: 'The following shall be considered as good grounds for the court to decide that parental authority shall be exercised by a single parent: serious or repeated violation of the parental authority of the other parent, alcoholism, mental illness, drug addiction of the other parent, violence towards the child or the other parent, parental alienation, convictions for offences of trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking sex offences, violent offences, any other objective inability of the parents to cooperate in jointly taking decisions concerning the child, and any other reason relating to risks to the child arising from the exercise of parental authority by that parent.'		
22.2	If yes, please specify how the above obligation is implemented in practice, including by providing data indicating to what extent judicial authorities consider all issues related to violence against women in their decisions on custody and visitation rights: Romanian judicial authorities take these aspects into account and circumscribe them to the determination of the best interests of the child in the decisions they take regarding custody and visitation of minors. Article 263 of the Civil Code enshrines the principle of the best interests of the child and Article 264 of the Civil Code provides for the right of the child to be heard in all administrative and judicial proceedings concerning the child. The principle of the best interests of the child is also enshrined in Article		

	2 of Law No. 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, republished, as amended and supplemented. According to Article 2 paragraph (6) letter c) of Law No. 272/2004, in determining the best interests of the child, the child's background is taken into account, inter alia, in particular the child's history, situations of abuse, neglect, exploitation, parental alienation or any other form of violence against the child, as well as potential risk situations that may occur in the future. The courts ensure the application of this principle. For example, case law has indicated that a parent's relations with a child who has not been entrusted to the parent must be carried out in normal conditions that do not negatively influence the child and do not jeopardize the child's growth and education, and the fact that one of the parents shows verbal and even physical aggressiveness in exercising his/her rights and obligations as a parent, requiring repeated intervention of the police in the implementation of the visitation schedule, causes an emotional imbalance of the child. Consequently, the courts may order measures suspending the visitation rights of the aggressor parent when the minor is induced to a state of permanent fear, such a measure being considered to be in the best interests of the child (civil judgment no. 3181/2020 delivered by the Court of First Instance of Bistrița, cited by G.C. Frențiu in Noul Cod civil. Comentarii, doctrină și jurisprudență, Vol. I, Editura Hamangiu, București [The New Civil Code. Comments, doctrine and case law, Vol. I, Hamangiu Publishing House, Bucharest], 2012, pp. 340-341. In the draft amendment to Law no. 217/2003 elaborated within the Working group coordinated by ANES there is a chapter dedicated to this issue: "CHAPTER VII2 Parental authority and the program of personal contact with the minor in situations of domestic violence.		
22.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
23	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that visitation rights do not jeopardise the rights and safety of the victim or children?	Yes ☒	No ☐
23.1	If yes, please specify: In the draft amendment to Law no. 217/2003 elaborated within the Working group coordinated by ANES there is a chapter dedicated to this issue:" CHAPTER VII2 Parental authority and the program of personal contact with the minor in situations of domestic violence. The court may limit the maintenance or, as the case may be, modify the personal contact program with the minor and, if applicable, may establish that the minor may be met only in the presence of a third person designated by DGASPC/DAS/SPAS, as the case may be from within this institution or from the social network of the family/child or in a specific place, to the extent that these modalities correspond to the interests of the child.		
23.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
24	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 31, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		
VII. Immediate response, prevention, and protection (Article 50)			
25	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to improve the prompt and appropriate response of law enforcement agencies, in particular by:		
	- Enhancing training of law enforcement officials on the gendered nature of violence against women and its consequences	Yes ☒	No ☐

	- Ensuring a sufficient number of female police officers	Yes ☐	No ☒
	- Setting up premises designed to establish a relationship of trust between the victim and the law enforcement personnel	Yes ☒	No ☐
	- Ensuring the efficient collection of evidence so that the reliance on the victim's testimony is lessened	Yes ☒	No ☐
25.1	If yes, please specify: As part of the initial training process and the continuous professional development system coordinated at the level of the Romanian Police, under the two pillars established by the higher-level normative framework (on-the-job continuous professional development and training programs organized by educational institutions within and outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs), topics related to human rights and related fields are studied. The educational institutions subordinated to the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police ensure the professional training of their own personnel for addressing and managing institutional missions and professional situations, as required by the normative framework and current legal procedures. Furthermore, regarding initial training, the curriculum of educational institutions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs establishes the necessary and relevant topics that ensure the development of professional skills in relations with citizens, including in cases of domestic violence, so that the rights and interests of victims are respected and promoted in accordance with the existing legal norms. Training in the field of human rights also includes elements relating to women's rights and dealing with situations of domestic violence. In relation to these aspects, the training objectives are to develop competencies such as: - the ability to analyze the logic of legal documents in order to correctly interpret legal texts; - the competence to manage legal information in order to apply it judiciously in informational and operational activities; - the detection, investigation, and punishment of misdemeanors/crimes falling within the competence of the police; - compliance with the domestic, European, and international legal framework regarding the fair application of working procedures on human rights and improving the way professional situations are handled and managed, including situations of domestic violence; - communication with victims/witnesses/aggressors to resolve various professional situations. In post-secondary schools for training non-commissioned officers, as part of various modules, all pupils are required to study topics and content related to domestic violence during their schooling, as shown in the following examples: Module on preventing and combating antisocial behavior: Topic: Preventing and combating domestic violence • General considerations on domestic violence;		

- Causes of domestic violence;
- The role and responsibilities of the police in preventing and combating domestic violence;
- Establishing the specific activities carried out by the police officer who is first on the scene in cases of reports of domestic violence;
- Completing the risk assessment form;
- Drawing up the temporary protection order and the report informing about the measure taken.

Theme: Preventing and combating violent crimes

- Conditions and circumstances that favor the commission of such acts;
- Methods used by criminals to commit murder, assault or battery resulting in death, bodily harm, robbery, and rape;
- Specific activities carried out by police officers to prevent and combat violent crimes;
- Identifying the conditions and circumstances that favor the commission of such acts;
- Analyzing the modus operandi used;
- Establishing specific activities to be carried out by police officers to prevent and combat such acts.

Module: Detection and investigation of crimes:

Topic: Crimes against physical integrity or health and crimes committed against a family member

- Assault or other violence;
- Bodily harm;
- Negligent bodily harm;
- Ill-treatment of minors;
- Domestic violence;
- Legal classification;
- Motivating the legal classification.

Module: Police intervention:

Topic: How to respond to domestic violence

- Entering a private residence;
- General concepts regarding domestic violence;
- Intervention in cases of domestic violence;
- Entering a private residence in various situations;
- Preparing the report of entry into a private residence;

- Carrying out intervention in cases of domestic violence.

These topics are supported by a bibliography, from which the following are examples:

- Preventing and combating antisocial behavior - course notes, "Vasile Lascăr" Police Academy in Câmpina and "Septimiu Mureșan" Police Academy in Cluj-Napoca;
- Dr. Laura Andrei and others, Domestic violence - Manual of good practices for magistrates and police officers;
- Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence, republished, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs No. 146/2018 on how police officers should handle cases of domestic violence;
- Law No. 211/2004 on certain measures to ensure the information, support, and protection of victims of crime, as amended and supplemented;
- Law No. 286/2009 on the Criminal Code, as amended and supplemented.

All post-secondary school pupils (police/gendarmerie/border police) benefit from this subject and training in human rights issues, with 2.580 places available in post-secondary schools, given that schooling is currently provided for two series per year.

The training centers organize introductory courses for externally recruited staff. The curriculum of these courses includes relevant topics in the field of human rights and domestic violence. The activities are supported by specialists from the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, instructors, and trainers specialized in teaching these topics, with themes such as:

- Equal Opportunities for Men and Women;
- Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence - Legal Institutions and Legislation;
- Respect for human rights in police work;
- The Istanbul Convention;
- Prevention of domestic violence.

As regards continuous training, the *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* Police Academy has a Center for Postgraduate Studies and the Promotion of Human Rights, which organizes the postgraduate program "Human Rights in Public Institutions," with the following subjects:

- Fundamental rights and freedoms of European Union citizens;
- Legal means of protecting certain categories of persons in the event of international disputes or conflicts;
- Legal protection of victims;
- Respect for human rights in the integrated management of law enforcement agencies;
- The judicial mechanism of the Council of Europe – ECHR;
- Equal opportunities and sustainable development;
- The role of law enforcement authorities in preventing child abuse.

Also, training courses on human rights, attended by police officers from public order, criminal investigation, and transport police units, are organized concerning the following topics:

- Preventing and combating all forms of discrimination;
- Preventing torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- Discrimination and hate crimes – prevention strategies;
- Gender equality – good practices.

The purpose of these training programs is to prevent discrimination/abuse in the relationship between police officers/gendarmerie and persons belonging to groups at risk of discrimination.

The Multifunctional Schengen Training Center (training institution of MIA) also organizes training programs aimed at continuing education in the field of human rights, such as:

- Training course on "Human rights in the Schengen area" for officers of the Romanian Police and the Romanian Intelligence Service, covering the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- Training course on "Police institutions and human rights";
- Training course on "Diversity and non-discrimination. Promoting equal opportunities";
- Training course on "Intervention by operational structures in cases involving vulnerable persons";
- Training course on "Respect for human rights in the work of public institutions";
- Training course on "Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings";

They target police officers and gendarmes/MIA staff according to their training needs, taking into account their professional activity in ethnic communities or with vulnerable groups, with selection for these forms of training being carried out by the general inspectorates.

With regard to continuing professional training in the unit, at the workplace, for specialized training, the heads of structures select and establish the topics necessary for training staff to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

The professional training of MIA staff, structured by levels/forms/categories of training, has as its main objective the consolidation of ethical, honest, and non-discriminatory attitudes and behavior in the professional activity.

With regard to supporting the balanced participation of women and men in recruitment and career advancement in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and adopting the necessary measures to ensure non-discriminatory access to employment, at the level of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, criteria and conditions are established for persons participating in competitions, regardless of gender, for vacant management or executive positions, and the professional statutes ensure unconditional access to the choice and exercise of MAI professions, training, improvement, professional development,

and promotion to vacant positions at all hierarchical levels, as well as non-discriminatory remuneration in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 153/2017 on the salaries of personnel paid from public funds, as amended and supplemented.

Of the total number of employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, approximately 21.19% are women, and of the total number of management positions held at the ministry level, approximately 11.4% are held by women, resulting in an increased percentage, given the specific nature of the institution's activity and its membership in the national defense, public order, and national security system, with the percentages continuing to rise.

Both for admission to the police schools and Police Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and for filling vacant positions through direct recruitment, selection is made through competition, with the legal conditions and specific criteria for employment provided for by the regulatory framework in force and the job descriptions associated with the vacant positions being mentioned in the media announcements, thus ensuring free access to all stages of the examination process for all persons, under equal conditions, without privileges and without discrimination, for both women and men.

Admission to MIA educational institutions and MIA places at other educational institutions is carried out on a joint basis, starting in 2006, with candidates following the same recruitment and selection procedures, and the elimination tests – evaluation criteria/scoring scales (practical-applicative route) are the same, starting with the January 2018 session.

With regard to improving the professional training of prosecutors on the gender issue of violence against women and its consequences, we mention that the National Institute of Magistracy constantly organizes continuous training seminars, including on the prosecution of violent offences, as well as seminars on hearing techniques, aimed at developing ways to establish a relationship of trust between the victim and law enforcement personnel.

With regard to the creation of premises aimed at establishing a relationship of trust between the victim and law enforcement personnel, we mention Order No. 149 of 10 July 2025 of the Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, which established the Working Group for the adoption of the methodology for conducting investigations in cases involving domestic violence offences.

The tasks of the group concern the adoption of a unified methodology for conducting investigations in cases of domestic violence offences, designed to meet several needs. These include identifying the main dysfunctions and obstacles encountered in preventing and combating domestic violence, establishing the institutions and organizations with a direct role in this area, together with their specific tasks and the ways in which they are involved, and defining swift mechanisms for the transmission of data and information between the institutions involved. At the same time, the methodology seeks to regulate the approach to investigations in such cases, to include models of procedural acts that can be used in relations between prosecution units, police and non-governmental organizations and to identify possible legislative changes needed to combat the phenomenon more effectively, with proposals to be submitted to decision-makers.

The effective collection of evidence is carried out in the context of the evidentiary procedure of on-the-spot investigation, hearing of witnesses, etc., in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Also, the Joint Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs No. 231/20.12.2024 - Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice No. 289/20.12.2024 for the approval of the Methodological Rules on the registration, uniform record, circuit of criminal complaints and administrative

coordination of activities ordered by the prosecutor during criminal proceedings establishes rules on the registration of criminal complaints, as well as measures on the administrative coordination of activities ordered by the prosecutor during criminal proceedings.

According to a Minister of Health (Mo)/Minister of Education Order (1333/6556) from 2012 the training curriculum of emergency physicians, includes the following modules:

- a. 4.1. Elderly and disabled abuse; Child abuse and neglect; Abuse and violence from the partner; Rape;
- a. 4.5. Appropriate reporting and referral (child abuse and neglect, gunshot/penetrating wounds, elder abuse, rape)

Emergency physicians are trained to clinically identify suspicious lesions, to suspect a situation of abuse, neglect or rape, to send communications to the competent bodies (social assistance, police dispatch) for investigation and certification.

According to a MoHealth Order (1706) from 2007 the Emergency Units have social workers that:

- a. Identify cases that require social assistance and counselling, regardless of their nature; draw up intervention projects for each social case; represent the assisted persons in relations with local authorities, other institutions, non-governmental organizations;
- b. organizes and carries out health education programs, counselling activities, educational lessons and practical demonstrations for the population and various professional categories in training; collaborate with different organizations to carry out programs aimed to target groups of the population (alcoholics, drug users, abused children);

In parallel, the legal medicine institutions are habilitated for the examination of traumatized persons, at their request or the request of competent bodies, based on the same methodology, at the national level.

The National Institute of Forensic Medicine "Mina Minovici", which is directly subordinated to the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) implemented the project "Support for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Romania". In order to harmonize with the provisions of art. 25 of the Istanbul Convention which refers to "the establishment of appropriate, easily accessible crisis referral centers for rape or sexual violence, in sufficient numbers to provide medical and forensic examination, post-traumatic assistance and counseling for victims", crisis centers have been established in 10 county hospitals in the country (in Bucharest it operates within the University Emergency Hospital).

At the same time, the Ministry of Health has the status of partner institution / responsible for the measures included in the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Violence "SINERGIE" 2021-2030 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Violence "SINERGIE" 2021-2030, approved by Government Decision no. 592/2021;

	Continuous training for all categories of relevant professionals (teachers, doctors, psychologists, police officers, judges, prosecutors, social workers, etc.), as well as representatives of NGOs working in the field, on the topic of preventing and combating sexual violence in all its forms, including acts committed in the cyber environment, is included in the strategic document "SINERGIE" 2021-2030		
25.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
26	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?	Yes ☒	No ☐
26.1	If yes, please specify what kind of measures, and if further preventive measures were adopted to remedy this situation: Since 2022, the Directorate for Public Order has been requesting from all territorial units an Analysis and Case File for each homicide offense committed in the context of domestic violence, which includes details of the circumstances in which the offenses were committed, as well as any previous reports to the police. Since 2024, such documents have also been required for attempted murder and assault or injuries causing death in the context of domestic violence. The data and information submitted by the territorial units are analysed at the level of the Directorate for Public Order in terms of police intervention, especially in cases that have had a history of referrals prior to the time of committing this type of crime, in order to identify possible deficiencies and propose measures to prevent such situations. The information thus obtained is also included in the monthly analyses drawn up by the Directorate for Public Order on domestic violence crime.		
26.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
27	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 50, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		
VIII. Emergency barring, restraining or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53)			
28	As regards emergency barring orders, have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk, and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence of or contacting the victim or person at risk.	Yes ☐	No ☐
28.1	If yes, please indicate which authorities have the power to issue emergency barring orders:		
28.2	If yes, please indicate the length of time for which emergency barring orders may remain in force:		
28.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		

29	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the availability of restraining or protection orders to victims of the following forms of violence against women?		
	— Domestic violence	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Stalking	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Sexual violence	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Sexual harassment	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Forced marriage	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Female genital mutilation	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Forced abortion	Yes ☐	No ☐
	— Forced sterilisation	Yes ☐	No ☐
29.1	If yes, please specify:		
29.2	{Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons}:-		
30	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?	Yes ☐	No ☐
30.1	If yes, please specify:		
30.2	{Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons}:-		
31	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 52 and 53, which were not covered by the questions above, in particular in relation to the collection of data on the number of orders issued and their violations, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		

Specific recommendations

32	Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to amend the provisions of the Criminal Code covering rape and sexual assault and to fully incorporate the notion of the lack of freely given consent as required by Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention, and to ensure that such provisions are effectively applied in practice by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the judiciary, including in the absence of proof of resistance by the victim and where the circumstances of the case preclude valid consent (Recommendation A.12, IC-CP/Inf(2022)6).
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	Law No. 217/2023 established, as autonomous offences, rape committed on a minor (Article 218¹ of the Criminal Code) and sexual assault committed on a minor (Article 219¹ of the Criminal Code), the new regulations presuming the absence of consent of a minor under the age of 16 to an act of a sexual nature committed by an adult, as well as of a minor under the age of 14 to an act of a sexual nature committed by a minor over the age of 14, except in the case where the difference in age between the victim and the perpetrator does not exceed 5 years. In these cases, prosecution is not conditional on a complaint by the victim, but is initiated ex officio. In the case of these offences, the aggravated variant of the commission of the offence by a member of the minor's family or a person living with the minor is provided for (Article 218¹ paragraph (4) letter a) of the Criminal Code and Article 219¹ paragraph (3) letter a) of the Criminal Code), without the ground of non-punishability due to the difference in age between the victim and the perpetrator being applicable to these cases. Therefore, offences will be punishable even if the age difference between the victim and the perpetrator does not exceed 5 years. The MIA participates in inter-institutional efforts to analyze opportunities to supplement the regulatory framework regarding crimes against life, including situations of femicide and domestic violence. Given the intense concern in recent times—both at the level of European institutions, other international bodies, as well as civil society—regarding the amendment of the Criminal Code with respect to rape and sexual assault to fully incorporate the notion of lack of the freely given consent as required by article 36 of the Istanbul Convention, it should be pointed out that the aforementioned aspect is under review at technical level. However, it should be mentioned that a proposal for a Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (recast) is currently being negotiated at European Union level (trialogue stage). The proposed Directive also includes the crime of rape, with express reference to the freely given consent of the victim, but the provisions in question are not yet final. In view of the above, combined with the need to transpose the EU legislative act into domestic law after the adoption thereof, but at the same time, respecting that the criminal law must enjoy stability and predictability and that successive interventions on incriminating texts are not a good regulatory practice, the Romanian authorities are of the opinion that any legislative intervention must be decided after the adoption of the above-mentioned Directive.
33	Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the stakeholders involved in asylum on identification, prevention and response to the needs of victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence in the reception facilities across Romania, ensuring that gender-based violence, gender-sensitive interviewing techniques and specific gender-based persecution are included as mandatory topics in training for asylum officials and legal professionals (Recommendation A.16, IC-CP/Inf(2022)6). According to the provisions of <i>Law no. 122/2006 regarding asylum in Romania</i>, the analysis of the asylum application and providing for assistance during the procedure take into consideration the special needs of the vulnerable persons. The vulnerable persons category consists of minors, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women, single parents accompanied by minor children, victims of trafficking in human beings, persons suffering from serious medical conditions, persons with mental health problems and persons who have been subject to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, or who find themselves in other special situations.

The GII (General Inspectorate for Immigration) operates on the basis of an internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding the identification and assessment of needs, as well as the assistance and guidance of vulnerable persons. The SOP aims to ensure the early evaluation of vulnerabilities and referral to the competent authorities to provide adequate assistance. To ensure proper implementation of this SOP, internal training sessions are regularly organized for all staff within the coordinating units.

According to Order No. 130/2016 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which approves the internal regulations of the regional centers, special measures are to be taken to prevent and manage situations involving sexual and gender-based violence.

Also, the current National Immigration Strategy stipulates as principles both the principle of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms and the principle of equal opportunities and treatment.

I. Initial training

With respect to the subject Family Law, between 2023 and 2024 (for the first year) and in 2025 (for the second year), the issue of domestic violence was addressed explicitly and practically in a course entitled Domestic Violence and Protection Orders and two seminars entitled Provisional Protection Orders and Common Law Protection Orders. This area was explored through a variety of training methods, with a mock trial based on a case file concerning a protection order being organized in 2025, as well as assessment methods, with the 2023 exam also being designed on the basis of a case file concerning a protection order. Moreover, concerning ECHR subject, during 2023–2024, a seminar dedicated to domestic violence was included in the program, and starting with 2025, two seminars were allocated to the same topic, analyzed from the perspective of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 3, as well as Article 8 of the Istanbul Convention. From the perspective of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law, the issue of domestic violence was addressed both through the analysis of the crime of domestic violence, within a criminal law seminar, and through the analysis of crimes related to sexual life, within a criminal procedure law seminar, with emphasis on specific evidence.

Within the framework of complementary and related disciplines and activities to classical legal disciplines, initial training programs also included modules such as Social Sciences and Humanities –"Psychology". Hence, during 2023-2025, justice auditors participated in a training activity on the topic of "Domestic Violence," which addressed issues related to its causes, types of domestic violence, and their specific characteristics from a psychological perspective. In order to bring new perspectives of understanding and interpretation of the phenomenon, starting with 2025, the training program includes extracurricular conferences, addressing topics such as: From prejudice to protection: the phenomenon of domestic and gender-based violence from a multidisciplinary perspective—police, social services, and civil society, supported by the Anais Association, and techniques for interviewing minors who may be victims of domestic violence.

As a novelty, it should be mentioned the volunteer work of auditors. Hence, starting with 2024, the justice auditors carried out such activity in collaboration with public entities (the general directorates of social assistance in Bucharest and other counties of Romania) and private entities (such as the Anais Association, the Filaret Center in Bucharest, W.I.N. Association in Mehedinți County), with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights of domestic violence victims.

II. Continuous training

The National Institute of Magistracy consistently integrates the subject of violence against women and domestic violence into continuous professional training that focused on the following priority areas, tailored to the needs of the judiciary and addressed to both judges and prosecutors:

- Fighting domestic violence – Fighting violence within the family (May, 2024), Fighting domestic violence (April, 2025). The aforementioned activities addressed topics of interest such as awareness of domestic violence; temporary protection orders; protection orders—procedural and substantive elements; domestic violence offenses and other offenses against family members, including violence against women; evidence

management in criminal cases; preventive measures; individualization of penalties; complementary penalties; compatibility with the obligations of the protection order; protection orders with cross border elements.

- ECHR case law – two seminars were organized in 2024 for judges, prosecutors, and other legal professionals. Also, in 2025, one seminar on ECHR case law (civil aspects) was organized. A central component of the training was the right to non-discrimination, with an analysis of relevant aspects of ECHR practice concerning the protection of equality and the prevention of discrimination in all its forms. In this regard, relevant ECHR judgments that develop and nuance the standards on the prohibition of discrimination, both direct and indirect, in various areas—including differential treatment based on criteria such as gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, or disability, as well as the positive obligations of the state to prevent and punish discriminatory acts were studied.

- Fighting trafficking in human beings – four training activities were organized together with International Justice Mission (2 seminars on strengthening the proactive response of criminal justice to human trafficking in Romania and 2 seminars on the protection of victims of human trafficking). Moreover, in June 2025, a seminar on Human Trafficking: Legal Instruments and Interdisciplinary Approaches was organized with budgetary funds. These training activities addressed issues related to compensation for victims of trafficking, the rights of victims of human trafficking in national and international legislation, the rights and obligations of victims of human trafficking – special rules, the evolution of human trafficking in Romania from a victimological perspective, trauma and its impact on the hearing procedure for victims of human trafficking, special measures to protect victims/witnesses involved in human trafficking cases in criminal proceedings, victim-centered approaches in criminal proceedings, vicarious trauma and its management, dynamics in the courtroom.

- Justice for minors – two trainings took place as follows: Justice for minors, criminal law issues – example of topics that were addressed: development psychology, interviewing techniques (the NICHD Protocol) etc, and Justice for minors, civil law issues – example of topics that were addressed: new legislative amendments, administering evidence in cases with minors, protection of minor victims through protection orders, special protection measures, reintegration into the family after a special protection measure has been taken (jurisdiction, criteria, specifics of evidence and hearing of minors).

Webinars on domestic violence were also attended by magistrates during 2025: Extended protection order and ECHR case law and domestic violence. More webinars will follow in 2025 on topics such as: Challenges posed by new amendments regarding crimes against sexual freedom and sexual integrity, Extended protection orders, Measures to protect victims of domestic violence, understood as gender-based violence against women, in order to avoid secondary and repeated victimization.

From the perspective of the need to unify judicial practice, relevant issues in this area have been addressed on an ongoing basis at meetings of the presidents of the specialized sections of the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the courts of appeal to the extent that problems leading to inconsistent practice have been identified at the level of the courts of appeal. At the same time, as a new element, a meeting of the presidents of the specialized sections of the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the courts of appeal was included in the continuous education program approved for 2025, with the aim of discussing issues of inconsistent practice identified at the level of the courts of appeal in the field of family law.

For 2026, the National Institute of Magistracy envisages, within its budgetary resources, to continue training in the above-mentioned areas, aiming not only to update legal knowledge but also to develop a deeper understanding of the social and psychological implications of these phenomena. It also plans to introduce training recommendations on this topic for courts and prosecutors' offices as part of decentralized continuous training programs.

Another dimension of the National Institute of Magistracy's commitment to the importance of victim protection is reflected in the funding of a full-time training position within the Institute in the field of protecting the rights of vulnerable victims, intended for judges and prosecutors. This initiative aims to strengthen the correlation between professional training activities and national strategic objectives regarding the protection of the rights of victims and persons in vulnerable situations, including victims of domestic violence.

