

## **ANNEX 1**

### **A. Educational projects carried out at the initiative of DIR:**

#### **2016:**

1. One theme that was intensively addressed in 2016 was *intercultural education*, including the training of teachers to teach this subject. Also, in line with the tasks of DIR in implementing the second revised Roma Strategy (approved by the Government in January 2015), a special programme was organised in order to support teachers in the promotion of the Romani language in schools, in the teaching of Roma history and traditions.

In this regard, we recall the program "*Mother tongue Roma, history, traditions and customs*", which took place on 24 - 28 November in Sinaia. The objective of this programme was: to develop and extend the competences of the teaching staff in non-formal education, regarding the undertaking of intercultural responsibilities in education, through the consolidation of specialized knowledge and practices.

2. For several years now, DIR has been organising the "*LinguaFEST*" event, dedicated to the European Day of Languages, to which pupils and teachers are invited to participate. Based on the very good results and the fact that every year on 26 September the European Day of Languages is celebrated, this project has become a tradition and is continued year after year on various themes. In 2016, the theme of this event was: presenting a European language through a small performance. Each participating school presented their show on a video projector, under the guidance of teachers. In addition to the official languages of the European Union, all 20 minority languages spoken in Romania were presented by groups of children. The event was also attended by schools where mother tongues are studied or in mother tongues in Bucharest, such as: "Lauder - Reut" Educational Complex (Ivrit language), "Spectrum" School (Turkish language), "Goethe" German Highschool (German language), Secondary School no. 1 "Sfinții Voievozi" (Romani language), "Hristo Botev" Bulgarian Theoretical High School (Bulgarian, Greek and Russian mother tongue), "Ady Endre" Theoretical High School (Hungarian language) and "Dante Alighieri" Theoretical High School (Italian mother tongue). Through the events grouped under the banner "*LinguaFEST*", DIR aims to highlight the importance of respect for linguistic and cultural diversity, to join the European and national effort to stimulate the knowledge and promotion of modern and mother tongues.

3. Every year, DIR organises an inter-ethnic non-formal education programme for high school pupils who have won first prize in the national phase of the current year's mother tongue Olympiad. The pupils belong to national minorities who benefit from mother-tongue teaching units at secondary school. The winning mother tongue Olympians in 2016 belong to the following national minorities: German, Hungarian, Polish, Croatian, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish, Russian, Greek and Ukrainian. By organising such non-formal education programmes, the

Department aims to reward the merits of these special children and to educate them in the spirit of respect for ethno-cultural diversity, intercultural communication and mutual understanding.

4. GAUDEAMUS International Fair - Teaching Books. For the November 2016 event at the Romexpo Central Pavilion, DIR covered the costs of renting an "Stand of Ethnic Diversity", specially dedicated to the literature, press and traditions of national minorities. The Department for Inter-ethnic Relations invited all organisations belonging to ethnic minorities to participate in the "Ethnic Diversity Stand", confirmând colaborarea dintre acestea.

On 21 February, *International Mother Language Day* is celebrated in Romania. In 2016, the department launched an online campaign to promote and raise awareness of mother tongue education, called *Speak, love and cherish your mother tongue!* Materials from national minority member organisations in the Council of National Minorities arrived at DIR headquarters and were published and promoted both on the department's website/Facebook page and in several local press publications. This DIR initiative promoted the mother tongues of national minorities in a unique way and tried to impress upon the general public the importance of learning and speaking their mother tongue. The expressive power of the mother tongue strengthens the identity and personality of a people and becomes an essential component in the process of defining a national minority.

The campaign continued throughout 2019, with the department's initiative enjoying great success, especially in the Tatar, Russian-Lypovian, Jewish, Serbian, Polish, Ukrainian and Croatian communities.

### **Projects with major impact carried out at DIR's initiative in 2017:**

*Gaudeamus International Fair - Teaching Books*, ed. XXIII, held on November 16-29 in Bucharest. The project consisted in renting a "Stand of Ethnic Diversity", specially dedicated to literature, press and traditions of national minorities, exhibiting books, magazines, photographs; book, magazine and CD launches were presented; illustrative events for the arts, traditions and customs of national minorities in Romania were organized.

„*LinguaFest V*”- project dedicated to the celebration of the European Day of Languages.

The format of the event included a Language Café, in which participants discussed topics related to learning/teaching/using languages, their role as a vehicle in facilitating intercultural dialogue. The themes of the workshops proposed for the event were: learning minority languages in the context of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; foreign languages and professional development; the professions in the language field; language learning in non-formal contexts; the European Language Label; the role of modern or minority language teachers in the intercultural education of the younger generation.

*Study visit for pupils who won first place in the mother tongue Olympiad.*

The Department for Interethnic Relations has organised non-formal education programmes every year, facilitating communication and collaboration between students from different communities. Every summer, study visits to different countries are organised for the winners of the school mother tongue competitions, high school phase, in which students from each minority group who come first in the mother tongue Olympiad participate. In 2017, the documentation visit took place in Bulgaria - Greece.

In 2017, DIR also paid special attention to *intercultural education*, including training teachers to teach this subject. Also, as we have already written, according to the tasks of DIR in the implementation of the second revised Roma Strategy (approved by the Government in January 2015), a special programme has been organised to support teachers in promoting the Romani language in schools, in teaching notions of Roma history and traditions. We remind you of the programme "*Romani language - preserving the history, customs, dress, traditions and habits of the Roma*". Extending the promotion and cultivation of the Roma language, history and traditions in the pre-university and university education system, which is Measure 6 of Chapter A (Education) of the second revised Government Strategy for Roma, approved in January 2015, is a measure for the implementation of which DIR is responsible together with other institutions. To develop and expand skills in non-formal education and the role of the Romani language in preserving Romani history, customs, customs, traditions and traditions. The impact of the project, both at regional and national level, is revealed by the development of the teachers' competences and, through this, the raising of the level of education of the pupils in the schools where these teachers teach.

## **2018:**

### *On the trail of national minorities in Transylvanian cities*

The project was addressed to 22 pupils who won first prize in the national phase of the mother tongue and literature Olympiad and who represented the following national minorities: Hungarian, German, Ukrainian, Roma, Russian-Lipov, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish and Greek. The project took place in Târgu Mureş and Sibiu. Conceived as an intercultural school, the project gave participants the opportunity to get to know different cultures and to understand that cultural, linguistic and religious differences should not drive us apart, but bring us closer together. Intercultural education, through interaction between participants belonging to different minorities, aims to help students become aware of the value of diversity and to lead to an increased empathy for cultural differences. In addition, the participants benefited from lectures on intercultural education and visited various sites belonging to the multicultural region where the camp took place.

### *Let's Play Lingua Fest*

The Department for Interethnic Relations, in collaboration with the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, the National Agency for Community Programmes in the

Field of Education and Vocational Training, the National Museum of Romanian Literature and the "Da'DeCe" Association organised the *Let's Play Lingua Fest* event at the Museum of Romanian Literature in Bucharest in September. The event was part of a series of annual events dedicated to celebrating the *European Day of Languages*, aimed at highlighting multilingualism and intercultural communication. As in previous editions, the project addressed mainly a young and very young audience, with 8 groups of 10 pupils from secondary schools participating. The students followed a route inside the museum, which included various activities such as Treasure hunt (finding clues in the museum), puzzles, origami, guess the language quiz, Wheel of Fortune snapshot, with questions on various topics about certain writers belonging to national minorities, as well as a Skype duplex with students from a Romanian-language school in Stuttgart, Teatrolici band. On this occasion, each participating group prepared an artistic moment, presented to the German students and vice versa. The Department for Interethnic Relations invited students from Hristo Botev High School, Dante High School, Goethe High School and Lauder School from secondary level, students who learn their mother tongue in schools in Bucharest.

## B. Completed educational projects

### 2016:

In November 2016, DIR, in partnership with the Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature in Romania, carried out the project The Universe of Russian Language and Culture in the Carpathian-Danubian-Balkan Space. The project took the form of an international conference that addressed two directions: scientific and cultural. The scientific approach focused on the following sections: language, literature, culture, especially the dialogue of cultures, traductology and the art of translation as a means of intercultural communication between the languages and cultures of the Carpathian-Danubian-Balkan and the Russian area, methodology of teaching Russian language and literature in the countries of the Carpathian-Danubian-Balkan area. On this occasion, there were presented analyses on the works of well-known Russian and Romanian prose writers; the linguistic and cultural specifics of the zoomorphic names in Russian and Bulgarian were discussed; the subject of traces of Slav-Romanian linguistic contact in the hydronyms of the Transcarpathian region was addressed; problems faced by Russian Lappish students in the study of Russian as a mother tongue; socio-linguistic and psycholinguistic tendencies in the translation process; topics on the Old Rite faith in the contemporary world; observations on Russian drama of the 17th century.

*Young people debate*, a project organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Romanian Association of Debating, Oratory and Rhetoric, from 21 to 22 May. The objective of this event was to hold a national educational debate to promote democratic values and an open attitude towards social, ethnic, linguistic and gender differences.

**2017:**

*Interculturality in language and literature: Assimilation - Delimitation - Exchange relations*, a project carried out by DIR in partnership with Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Within the programme, specific German language issues were debated, with a focus on German language education by organising a working group within the project to increase German language competence among students and educate future teachers. The project was a meeting place for specialists in German studies, with a wide participation of specialists from the country and the German-speaking area.

*National Conference of Roma Youth: Me sem rom*, a project in partnership with the Community Development Agency "Împreună" ("Together"). The project contributed to the development of the process of knowledge of the ethos, history and specificity of the Roma minority in Romania by young Roma (high school and/or university students) in Romania. At the same time, the initiators aimed to actively contribute to the development of a modern leadership within the minority, based on the development of training programmes for young people from the Roma minority, who want to represent the interests of the minority at local/county/national level. The overall objective of this event was to increase the visibility of Roma high school and university students within their educational institutions (high schools and universities).

**B. Educational projects financed with non-reimbursable financing according to Law 350/2005:**

Promoting education through non-formal methods has been one of DIR's priorities for several years now, by providing non-reimbursable funds for projects initiated by NGOs. With regard to educational programmes, all national minority organisations which have the status of non-governmental organisations have the possibility to apply to DIR for funding of their own cultural programmes. In accordance with Law no. 350/2005 on the regime of non-reimbursable financing from public funds for non-profit activities of general interest, DIR organizes a competition for projects every year in order to finance programmes and projects of inter-ethnic character. This competition is open to all non-governmental organisations working in the field of multiculturalism. Every year, a certain number of national minority organisations apply for funding for cultural programmes and many of these applications have been selected for funding. The following are examples of the most important projects and programmes funded through DIR, in accordance with the institution's statutory responsibilities during the period in question:

**2016:**

*Intercultural education guide for trainers and teachers*, initiator: Intercultural Institute Timisoara.

25 teachers and trainers from the university and pre-university environment in Timisoara and from the country participated in a working meeting in order to elaborate the thematic content of the *Intercultural Education Guide*, addressed to education practitioners in Romania.

*Poetry and folk contest "Bartalis Janos"*, XXIII edition, initiator: Cultural Association "Apaczai Csere Janos".

The 2016 edition was organised in memory of the 1956 revolution, with the subtitle: 1956 - Memento libertatem. The competition included two sections: poetry recitation and sung poetry (folk). Competitors were from the country (Covasna, Maramureş, Cluj, Harghita, Mureş and Braşov), Budapest, from the Faculty of Music in Szeged, as well as from different educational institutions in Subotica (Serbia). The jury, formed by prominent personalities of Hungarian culture from the country and Hungary, by the points awarded, determined the winners of the competition: the first, second and third prizes for poetry recital and a first prize - for Folk. Every year, a special prize "Dr. Magdó János" and several special prizes offered by institutions, associations, individuals are awarded. In addition to the competition itself, the public of Brasov had the opportunity to participate in other cultural events included in the project, such as: fine art vernissage, folk concerts, literary exhibitions, generally performed by members of the jury and invited teachers.

*Intercultural dialogue - educational facilitator for young professionals*, initiator: Association for Social Inclusion Proetnica

Young students and teachers participated in interactive training and awareness-raising sessions that addressed key issues on anti-discrimination, human rights, the importance of education, Roma history, culture and traditions.

*Promoting the religious identity of the Roma minority*, initiator: Association for Development and Social Inclusion

The aim of the workshop was to promote intercultural education among the priests of the Diocese of Slobozia and Calarasi in order to support the disadvantaged Roma communities where they serve. Forty priests took part in interactive training and awareness-raising sessions that addressed key issues of discrimination, human rights, the importance of education, Roma history, Roma nations, traditions and trades practiced by Roma throughout history, as well as defining elements of Roma culture: Roma music, language and customs.

*Creative camps for children and young people*, initiator: the Union of Serbs in Romania.

The project, which took the form of a creative camp, included activities and events in which 108 children and young people belonging to the Serbian and Roma minorities participated in order

for them to get familiar with elements of Romanian, Serbian and Roma culture and civilization. The participants were introduced to theatre and stage presence, had the opportunity to develop and practise their public speaking, participated in courses on folk art and folklore and took lessons in traditional dance. This project represented an appropriate cultural environment through which young people could express themselves and develop in a spirit of respect and awareness of traditional, cultural, artistic and linguistic values.

*ROMFLORES - The Floreşti children's lodge with fairy tales and songs*, initiated by Azuria Association.

The project team, through games, drawings, songs and stories, staged a performance of the children from Floreşti commune, Cluj county, aged 5-10 years old, mostly Roma, but also Romanian and Hungarian.

*Bilingual Romanian-Hungarian school geographical atlas*, initiator: Comunitas Foundation.

The atlas describes in detail the physical-geographical features of Romania, presented in Romanian and Hungarian, contributing to the deepening of the subject in the classroom and to a better assimilation of geography knowledge.

*Intercultural education among pupils - facilitator for opening up to other cultures*, initiator: Proetnica Association for Social Inclusion

Through the activities of the event, the organisers aimed to attract Roma pupils to school.

## **2017:**

*EUROPOLIS-2017 - Inter-ethnic camp with traditional education program for young Italians from Romania*, initiator: Association of Italians in Romania - RO.AS.IT.

Forty-seven people, young and old, participated in the event. During the culture, civilisation and language workshops, the children were introduced to the history and geography of Italy and learned common Italian words and expressions. They also learned Italian dances and songs, so that at the end of the camp they could prepare and present a programme of what they had learned. The practical non-formal education activities were enriched by visiting cultural, historical, archaeological and architectural sights in Dobrogea.

*Inter-ethnic camp for young people and teachers*, initiated by Bolyongo Szinhazi Egyesulet Association - Hoinarul Theatre Association

The project promoted innovative formulas of intercultural education through a 6-day camp for young educators, where they had the opportunity to develop their knowledge and learn ways to overcome rigid attitudes through the playful spirit of theatre art. 17 young high school students and 6 teachers (Romanian, Hungarian and Roma) participated.

*Tour in 10 cities with the Circle of Unknown Friends*, initiator: Bolyongo Szinhazi Egyesulet Association - Hoinarul Theatre Association

The project promoted innovative ways of intercultural education by presenting theatre performances in classrooms. The project involved 10 members of the Osonó troupe - young actors, directors, etc.

## **2018:**

*Europolis - 2018 Inter-ethnic camp with traditional education program for young Italians from Romania*, initiator: Association of Italians from Romania Ro.As.It

During the 10 days, young people participated in a series of educational, inter-ethnic and intercultural workshops and enjoyed various camp activities: creative games, film screenings, sports competitions, painting, fishing competitions, visits and excursions. As part of the workshop about general knowledge and history of the Italian minority, there was a trip to Greci commune (Tulcea county), where many ethnic Italians live. At the closing ceremony of the camp, the children performed an artistic program, which highlighted the fact that they have mastered the folkloric art of Italian dance and song.

*Bilingual Romanian-Hungarian school geographical atlas* initiator: Communitas Foundation

The atlas presents in detail the physico-geographical characteristics of Romania, each part of the country with its specific features. They are presented in Romanian and Hungarian. In addition to this information, the countries of Europe and the world with their characteristics have been included. The atlas includes information on geographical shapes, climate, population density, languages spoken and religions, and is produced in a special colour scheme and on the highest quality paper, so that pupils will enjoy studying it and learning about the beauties of the world.

*Intercultural pages - 2nd edition*, initiator: Bridge Language Study House Association from Cluj

The purpose of the project was to develop the skills and abilities to read, to understand literary texts in Romanian and to develop knowledge of Romanian history and culture.

*Creative camps for children and young people*, initiated by the Union of Serbs in Romania

The participants of this camp, children and young people of Serbian ethnicity, learned the first steps in what it means to express themselves through theatre, stage presence and practiced diction and staged a short play. At the workshop of traditional folk dances, where most of the young people participated, there were lectures on folk art and folklore today, folk costumes were presented and they learned new dance steps and new choreographies. Within the framework of the creative writing workshop, there were introductory courses in Romanian and Serbian

literature, reading sessions, literary evenings and discussions on the books studied in school. At the painting and calligraphy workshop, besides the theoretical part - where both the works of famous painters and chromatic courses were presented - there was also a practical part which consisted of painting icons on glass, landscapes on canvas and cardboard, etc.

*Multicultural Values in Intercultural Education*, initiator: Rakoczi Szovetseg Association from Oradea

The project focused on interethnic and intercultural cooperation, both by improving the skills of teachers, who teach students belonging to national minorities, through means and actions to raise awareness of the importance of this type of cooperation, and by reducing communication barriers between different ethnicities and cultures. During the activities, the key aspects of the chosen theme were addressed, as well as methods for the effective implementation of inter-ethnic and intercultural cooperation in both school and everyday life. The courses covered elements of intercultural and interethnic education, by presenting the concepts of exploring forms of prejudice and discrimination; highlighting the characteristic features of ethnic and religious differences, social equalities and disadvantaged groups.

Given that the obligation to produce school textbooks for the entire public education system lies with the Ministry of Education, during the period under review, DIR became more involved in supporting education by facilitating the publication of anthologies, guides, auxiliary works needed in schools. For the eleventh and twelfth grades, which are not included in the compulsory education system, grants could also be awarded for the publication and printing of school textbooks (e.g. school textbooks in mathematics, chemistry, geography, atlases, etc., proposed by projects of the Communitas Foundation in Cluj Napoca). Special programmes have been organised to reward students' performance in the study of minority languages, and for the best teachers who train these students and motivate them to perform, DIR has organised, as far as funds were available, exchange programmes and visits to minority language high schools. Some of these exchanges took place within the framework of the activities of the Education and Youth Commission of the Council of National Minorities.

### **Mass-media:**

DIR promotes the following lines of action in facilitating access of persons belonging to national minorities to the mass-media:

- a. providing mother tongue programmes on radio and television for all national minorities;
- b. promoting minoritises in the media.

With regard to the **mass-media**, there has been a rapid evolution from the traditional print format to new media, especially the internet and social media. These have become increasingly popular and accessible, including among minorities. At the same time, through projects organised on its own initiative or in partnership with other institutions, the department has worked to improve the professional level of press reportage with and about minorities.

***Online campaigns:***

Between 2016 and 2018, DIR carried out **online campaigns**, the aim of which was to raise awareness of ethnic diversity among the general public and to change public attitudes or behaviour towards minorities.

At the same time, by generating such online campaigns, it was possible to mediate a constant interaction between the national minorities in Romania and the majority public. Through such campaigns, DIR aims to provide visibility to minorities and create a positive attitude of the general public towards national minorities in Romania. These campaigns have been carried out, for the most part, with the support of national minority organisations in Romania.

***Online campaigns initiated by DIR between 2016 and 2018:***

*Online campaign dedicated to celebrating International Mother Language Day:*

21 February is International Mother Language Day, an event initiated by UNESCO in 1999 and recognised by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. The Department has decided to launch online campaigns to promote customs, traditions and, above all, the mother tongue.

**In 2016**, DIR asked national minority organisations in Romania to post a page on the department's website about the linguistic richness and diversity of minority cultures in Romania, and this invitation was welcomed by all minorities in Romania who sent to the department the requested information, which was posted both on the DIR website and on the websites of national minority organisations. Verses and texts were published in Albanian, Italian, German, Hungarian, Greek, Polish, Croatian, Rhaeto-Russian, Yiddish, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Tatar, Serbian and Russian.

**In 2017**, the department continued the tradition of celebrating *International Mother Language Day* together with minorities in Romania by inviting minorities to participate in the new campaign, „*Speak and cherish your mother tongue.*” The online campaign aimed to promote the mother tongues of national minorities, giving each ethnic group the right to express themselves in their mother tongue, by posting on the DIR website an animated film/cartoon, a children's song together with a Romanian translation of the text of that song, as well as expressions,

proverbs and other sayings in the mother tongues of Romania's national minorities, translated word for word, as well as the correct explanation of their meaning.

The online campaigns also addressed other aspects related to the activity of knowing the languages and culture of minorities.

Thus, at the beginning of **2017**, on the occasion of the first working meeting of the members of the Education and Youth Commission of the Council of National Minorities, there was launched the proposal to carry out an online awareness and information campaign on the organization of education in national minority languages, with the support of the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations, the Ministry of National Education, as well as all national minority organizations members of the Council of National Minorities. The purpose of the campaign was both to facilitate pupils' access to education in national minority languages and to develop communication skills in their mother tongue.

The campaign continued in **2018** and on the website of the two institutions (DIR and MEN) information was posted on: current legislation on mother tongue education, documents to be submitted by parents, the enrolment calendar for this year, information on the number of children enrolled in the last five years, the number of language and mother tongue education units for 2017-2018 and any other important information parents need to know in order to enrol their children in mother tongue classes.

#### *Campaign M2018*

This campaign is part of the series of campaigns initiated by the department with the aim of promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity, raising awareness of the contribution of national minorities to the development of the Romanian state. The general objective of the campaign was intended to be one with a rich educational and cultural content. The aim pursued by the department was to draw attention to the role that cultural diversity plays within a state.

National minority organisations have been invited to participate in this campaign and to submit to DIR:

- some essential data (text of about 300 words, plus 2-3 representative photos) about the lives of five personalities who are illustrious for the community and whose work contributed to the development of Romania;
- a few expressions showing the use of words from the national minority language in Romanian;<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> expressions taken from German: "şpil" (incorrect arrangement, dishonest plan); "şniţel" (a dish made from a thin slice of meat beaten with a wooden mallet, successively dipped in flour, egg and breadcrumbs and fried in fat); "şprit" (drink made from wine with soda or mineral water); "cartof" (herbaceous plant of the Solanaceae family, with white or purple flowers and underground stems ending in

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- round, oval or elongated tubers, edible, rich in starch); "şurub" (a threaded cylindrical rod of wood or steel which serves to assemble two or more parts or which transmits, transforms or otherwise uses the rotary motion in a mechanism).
- expression taken **from Croatian** "coasă" (agricultural tool, consisting of a metal blade with a curved tip attached to a long shank, used for mowing)
  - expressions taken **from Greek language**: "evrica" exclamation of joy used especially when solving a difficult problem) "democratie" (form of government in which supremacy belongs to the people)
  - expressions taken **from Serbian**: "ćuică" (alcoholic beverage obtained by fermenting and distilling plums or other fruits); "plešcavičă" (a kind of sandwich also called "Balkan hamburger")
  - expression taken **from Hebrew**: "cuşer" (about food and drink, in the practice of the Mosaic religion - prepared according to ritual; very good, excellent)
  - expressions taken **from Russian**: "ceai" (drink prepared by boiling or steaming the leaves or flowers of medicinal plants - with curative effects); "rasism" (social-political theory that supports the biological and intellectual inequality of human races); "ceaşcă" (small porcelain or earthenware dish, etc., with a wide opening, usually round and (with a handle), used for drinking); "mir" (aromatic and sanctified oil, used for rituals in the Christian Church);
  - expressions taken **from Albanian language**: "buză" (fleshy part that borders, on the outside, the mouth opening - or snout - covering the teeth); "fluture" (generic name given to insects of the order Lepidoptera, which have a domed or elongated and velvety body, four membranous wings, covered with small scales of different colours and a certain mouth apparatus adapted for sucking, whose larva is a caterpillar); "groapă" (hole, (deeper) cavity in the ground); "țap" (male of domestic goat, black goat and roe deer); "moş" ((older) man; uncles, old men; the name a younger man uses to talk to an older man).
  - expressions taken **from the Ukrainian language**: 'holtei' (unmarried man, bachelor); „borş" (sour juice made from grain, rye bran or sugar beet fermented in water); „hrişcă" (herbaceous honey plant with triangular leaves, pink, red or white flowers and small, long, blackish seeds);
  - expressions taken **from Italian**: "forţă" (the ability of living beings to exert effort, to perform physical actions by tensing their muscles; physical strength, vigour, force); "basta" (enough, enough, enough! (and) that's enough!)
  - expressions taken **from Hungarian**: "musai" (necessarily, absolutely); "beteşig" (1. disease; 2. epilepsy; big sickness; 3. infirmity); "neam" (people, nation); "nialcoş" (neat, handsome, elegant, beautiful, neat)
  - expressions taken **from Romani**: "mişto" ((very) good, (very) beautiful); "nasol" (ugly or ridiculous; of poor quality; worn out; silly); "baftă" (goodluck); "baros" (large, heavy hammer used for forging metal or breaking stones and wielded with both hands);
  - expressions taken from Bulgarian: "babă" (old woman); "cutie" (object made of wood, metal, cardboard, etc., in the shape of a cube, a parallelepiped, etc.), in which various things are kept or protected); 'grijă' (fear or anxiety caused by a possible danger or unpleasant occurrence; concern); 'obicei' (individual skill acquired by

- a proposal for the title of "Diversity Ambassador" for a representative of the organisation who has carried out outstanding work in the field of promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue over the last 20 years.<sup>2</sup>.
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- frequent and prolonged repetition of the same action; particular way of behaving or doing something; habit); "**piftie**" (a dish prepared from meat, bones, cartilage (of pigs), cooked for a long time in a (garlic) broth which, after cooling, becomes gelatinous; cold cuts); "**a obosi**" (to lose one's strength (physical or intellectual) as a result of prolonged effort; to tire);
- expressions taken **from Turkish**: "**bacşış**" (amount of money given over and above the amount due for a personal service; tip); "**belea**" (an unforeseen event that brings trouble; a nuisance, a nuisance); "**amanet**" ((security given for a debt or for the execution of a work; good to be deposited as a pledge, pledge); "**maidan**" (open place (in the city) without buildings on it, untended and unused; vacant land);

- <sup>2</sup> **Tristan Tzara**, poet and essayist of Jewish origin
- **Kós Károly**, Hungarian writer, architect, graphic designer
- **Herta Müller**, German writer, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature
- **Alexandru Macedonski**, the most important representative of Romanian symbolism, promoter of science fiction literature;
- **Abdula Gütten**, one of the initiators of the Turkish-language magazine "Scrisori Dunărene", the translator of the novel Papucii lui Mahmud" ("Mahmud's Slippers") into Turkish and the initiator of the international symposium "Yunur Emre, poet of love";
- **Stanislava Iachimovchi**, Polish professor, editor-in-chief of the bilingual magazine "Polonus"
- **Mirco Jivcovici**, university professor, lexicographer, Serbian translator; editor-in-chief of the Serbian section of the State Publishing House for Literature, member of the Association of Slavs in Romania; collaborated with literary and linguistic periodicals in Serbia and Croatia; translated into Romanian representative volumes of Serbian and Croatian literature and edited Romanian-Serbian dictionaries;
- **Iosif Mleziva**, Czech poet and artist; he collaborated with the Czech editorial office of Radio Reșița and at his initiative the Czech language editorial office was founded;
- **Mihail Sebastian (Iosif Hechter)**, Jewish writer; novelist, playwright, literary critic, publicist and music columnist
- **Ivan Liber**, Ukrainian composer, conductor, teacher, publicist; composed a large number of works for choir, all using Ukrainian texts;
- **Liana Dumitrescu**, an ethnic Macedonian, was a great promoter of the Macedonian language by founding the publishing house and magazine "Macedoneanul";
- **Vildan Bormambet**, Turkish language teacher
- **Kallós Zoltán**, the most important Transylvanian ethnographer, of Hungarian ethnicity; he was also noted for his tens of thousands of recordings of Hungarian and Romanian folk songs;
- **Vlad Zografi**, Writer of Albanian origin; debuted with short prose and continued with plays and novels; editor and translator;

As part of the campaign, a number of projects were carried out which aimed to **promote minority culture** and **facilitate access to minority culture**. In this respect, as an example, we mention the publication of the works of Hungarian poets and their translation into Romanian, on the occasion of **Hungarian Poetry Day** or the publication of the works of 3 Roma poets in 3 languages on **International Roma Day**.

The M2018 campaign was also broadcast by the central and regional studios of SRR and SRTV.

### **Media projects carried out at the initiative of DIR:**

#### **2016:**

*"Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Visits and exchange of best practices in multi-ethnic regions of the Danube basin"*, a programme held from May 31 to June 4 in the counties of Dolj, Mehedinți and Caraș Severin; the visit was organised by DIR within the framework of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region* (approved by the European Commission, foreseen for the years 2011 - 2020).

Thirty people - journalists, experts in the field of interethnic relations and multicultural heritage, representatives of local communities and local public authorities in the field of interethnic relations and multicultural heritage, as well as DIR representatives - participated in this project. The aim of the project was to raise the awareness of specialists and journalists to take a greater interest in researching, highlighting and promoting the multicultural heritage of the western part of the country. The documentary visit was presented on TVR, on the programme „Conviețuire” („Coexistences”)

Participating journalists wrote articles that were published in Curierul National, Allgemeine Deutsch Zeitung and Gazeta de Sud.

#### **2017:**

In 2017, the project *"Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Visits and exchange of best practices in multi-ethnic regions of the Danube basin"*, continued from May 31 to June 4 in Harghita and Covasna counties. Together with experts in history and archaeology, anthropology, heritage, ethnography and folklore, local officials, as well as media representatives and project partners from the Danube Transnational Programme, the aim was to compile a journalistic inventory of the most representative and important sites related to the history, culture and life of ethnic groups, a mosaic of the cultural heritage - tangible and intangible - of ethnic groups and therefore of multi-ethnic areas in the Danube basin countries. The results obtained were the following: raising the awareness of specialists and journalists to take more care of researching, highlighting and promoting the multicultural heritage of an area; presentation of the documentary

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visit to TVR in the TV programme „Conviețuire”; initiating the preparation of an album with the UNESCO heritage of Romania, which includes many objectives belonging to the cultural heritage of national minorities;.

## **2018:**

*„Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Visits and exchange of best practices in multi-ethnic regions of the Danube basin”*

The participants, experts in history and archaeology, anthropology, heritage, ethnography and folklore, local officials, as well as media representatives and project partners of the Danube Transnational Programme, continued to compile a journalistic inventory of the most representative and important sights related to the history, culture and life of ethnic groups, a mosaic of the cultural heritage - tangible and intangible - of ethnic groups and therefore of the multi-ethnic areas in the Danube basin countries.

A series of journalistic materials and products resulted from each of the research visits: broadcasts and interviews presented by TVR Minority Directorate, Radio Romania Actualitate, Radio Romania International, Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung, Curierul National, Romanian Association of Tourism Journalists, Erdely TV, Transindex and various local stations and publications from the regions visited.

The research visits were carried out as annual projects:

- In 2016, the project "*Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Visits and exchange of best practices in multi-ethnic regions of the Danube basin*" took place in the counties of Dolj, Mehedinți and Caraș-Severin, on the route Bucharest - Craiova - Drobeta Turnu Severin - Băile Herculane - Orșova - Eșelnița - Dubova - Svinia - Moldova Nouă - Carașova - Reșița - Oțelu Roșu - Sebeș - Sibiu - Bucharest;
- In 2017, the project "*Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Cultural tourism - a sustainable tourism for local development in the Danube basin*", took place in the localities Bucharest - Brasov - Sfântu Gheorghe - Tălișoara - Miercurea Ciuc - Gheorgheni - Satu Mare - Dârju - Odorhei Secuiesc - Corund - Cristuru Secuiesc - Odorhei Secuiesc - Ghimeș - Miercurea Ciuc - Sfântu Gheorghe - Târgu Secuiesc - Sfântu Gheorghe - Brasov - Bucharest;
- in 2018, the project "Diversity and cultural heritage through the media. Cultural heritage of national minorities in the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Research visit and exchange of best practices for journalists and heritage experts from the Danube Region" took place in the counties of Brasov, Mures, Sibiu, in the following locations: Bucharest - Brasov - Harman - Prejmer - Cloașterf - Viscri - Criș - Meșendorf - Sighișoara - Dumbrăveni - Mediaș - Alma Vii - Axente Sever - Valea Viilor - Sibiu - Cisnădioara - Cisnădie - Cârța - Făgăraș - Bucharest.

After each research visit, the material published in the Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung (ADZ), accompanied by photographs of the most outstanding cultural heritage sites visited, was edited and printed in booklet form. The titles of the brochures are given below:

- *On the Trail of Minorities in the Dobruja (Pe urmele minorităților din Dobrogea);*
- *Auf den Spuren der Minderheiten in Alba und in Kreischgebiet (Pe urmele minorităților în Alba și Crișana);*
- *On the Trail of Minorities at the Iron Gates (Pe urmele minorităților la Porțile de Fier)*
- *On the Trail of the National Minorities through Transylvania (Pe urmele minorităților naționale în Transilvania).*

### **Media projects carried out in partnership with other institutions or organisations:**

#### **2016:**

„*Minority Media in Romania for the General Public*” an event organised in partnership with the Union of Serbs in Romania, in Constanța, from June 9 to 13. On this occasion, the participants debated topics on the following themes: the situation of national minority press: national minority publications; spaces allocated to national minority broadcasts under the Audiovisual Law; online presence of national minority publications.

### **Media projects receiving non-reimbursable funding under Law 350/2005:**

#### **2016:**

*Production of the documentary film „Multicultural Banat”,* initiated by the Association of Journalists Union of Ethnic Minorities Media

The documentary film about the ethnic groups of Banat presents the cultural richness of the region and is the first film of its kind. Mediatised in the mass media and online, easily accessible and visible, the documentary promotes the model of exemplary interethnic coexistence in Banat.

*Reporters School: informed and engaged young journalists,* initiator: The Union of Hungarian Journalists in Romania

The direct beneficiaries of the programme were young students of Babeș-Bolyai University (UBB) Cluj-Napoca, Sapientia University (Tg. Mureș and Cluj-Napoca), high school students from Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara and Tg. Mureș. During the four phases, funded by DIR, the focus was on identifying solutions to eliminate forms of ethnic discrimination and instigating discourse in the media, as well as on producing press materials presenting local issues in multi-ethnic communities.

*School of radio and television - minorities live,* initiator: "Culture Network" Association.

On this occasion, a very useful course for editors of the national minority press was held, also appreciated by the Department of Journalism and Communication of the Ovidius University of Constanta. The exemplary organisation and preparation of the project supported the idea that this event can be repeated in more areas of the country. The School of Radio and Television - Minorities Live, 3rd edition, a project initiated by the „Rețeaua de cultură” ("Culture Network") Association, was intended to be a school where participants had the opportunity to learn communication and information techniques used in the written and audio-visual media. The courses were conducted under the guidance of professionals from major print, radio and TV media institutions. Case studies, reporting techniques and an editing and processing model were presented. The programme proved to be particularly useful for ethnic media editors in Romania.

*Gravestones also Speak - Jewish Cemeteries in Romania*, initiator: ART PROMO Cultural Foundation

The grant-funded project focused on making a documentary film about Jewish cemeteries in northern Moldova. Through this film, the Foundation aimed to contribute to educating the general public about inter-ethnic and inter-religious tolerance. At the same time, the objective was to promote dialogue between the majority and the existing national minorities, as well as a better knowledge of the components of national history. Last but not least, the making of this documentary film was meant to be a reminder intended to prevent forgetfulness, to prevent the collective memory of the Jewish presence in Romania and the Holocaust from being erased.

*Stories in Roma languages*, initiator: "Romane Rodimata" Cultural and Social Research Centre

The aim of this project, which took place from May 9 to November 28 2016 in Bucharest, was to raise awareness and highlight the cultural heritage of the Roma national minorities in Romania. At the same time, by carrying out this project, the objective was to promote the linguistic diversity of the traditional Roma nations in Romania. Four interviews were conducted in the main dialects of the Roma in Romania („căldăresc, ursăresc, spoioresc, carpatin”), and a DVD with the four filmed interviews was produced.

*Inter-ethnic filmmaking workshop Filmtett Workshop*, 15th edition, initiator: Filmtett Association

The project aimed to develop good understanding and intercultural dialogue between national minorities, as well as between the majority and minorities, to increase the professionalism of young people belonging to national minorities in the field of cinema, on all levels of creative profile. During the inter-ethnic workshop, 46 participants (30 from Romanian minorities, 16 from Hungary, Serbia and Slovakia) and 14 professionals made 12 short films and animated films that were uploaded on the websites filmtett.ro, Daazo.com and youtube and watched by a large audience. The film productions made within the project will be submitted and presented in national and international festivals, some of them being selected for broadcasting on TVR; TVR - Cluj, Duna Tv.

## **2017:**

*Documentary film "Multicultural Dobrogea"*, initiated by the Association of Journalists Union of Ethnic Minorities Media

The project represents the making of a documentary film about multiculturalism and minorities in Dobrogea, through which 180 DVDs were made and given to the unions of minorities living in Dobrogea; also, about 1000 people watched the film on social media.

*Let's do it differently - Promoting contemporary Hungarian art in Romania through documentaries*, initiator: Media Index Association.

The project includes a series of mini-documentaries in Hungarian with Romanian subtitles, each lasting 10-13 minutes, in which a portrait of an artist was presented. The project contributed to the promotion of Hungarian art and young artists in/for our intercultural space. It also created a model of intercultural communication between artists and the general public, helping to improve the perception of contemporary Hungarian art in Transylvania.

*Romanian-Hungarian Communication Summer School in Ciucul de Sus*, initiator: Csorgo Association.

The programme took the form of a summer school in two stages. The activities of the first phase took place in September 2017 in the town of Bălan, Harghita County. The second phase of the summer school took place from 30 September to 11 November 2017 in Sândominic and Mădăraş, Harghita county. In the two phases of the programme, 60 pupils from grades II - IV and 90 pupils from grade VIII from the localities of the Ciucul de Sus region, Harghita county, participated, making a total of 150 participants in the project. The professionalism of the project was ensured by 12 lecturers who prepared the activities, teaching materials and helped the participating pupils in the activities to communicate more effectively. At the end of the project, the 60 pupils from classes II - IV have enriched their vocabulary in Romanian, they have been able to communicate more efficiently in Romanian, they have gained more knowledge about Romanian culture, respectively Hungarian culture, about traditions and customs of the two cultures.

*Jewish Film Festival - Bucharest 2017 - 7th edition*, initiated by Art Promo Cultural Foundation.

The festival programme included both film screenings that addressed a wide range of topics from the Jewish world and a series of related events that gave the audience a double vision of this universe: the image of Jews about themselves and the image of Jews in the eyes of other cultures. Along with the films in the program, directors and actors were present in Bucharest, as well as personalities who have become the subject of some of these productions, who participated in debates with Romanian film specialists, media representatives and Romanian spectators.

*School of radio and television - minorities live*, initiator: „Rețeaua de Cultură” (Culture Network) Association.

The programme started in 2016, continued to be carried out in 2017, by organizing courses attended by young representatives of national minorities working as print and broadcast editors of national minority media.

## **2018:**

*Romanian-Hungarian Communication Summer School in Ciucul de Sus*, initiator: Csorgo Association

As a result of this project, Hungarian pupils had the opportunity to enrich their vocabulary with Romanian words, were encouraged to use Romanian outside school, were encouraged to make real friendships between Romanian and Hungarian children in the Ciuc Region. The project had positive results, among which we mention: a better knowledge between Romanian and Hungarian children, transparency towards each other, as well as ensuring a permanent intercultural dialogue.

### ***Publications of national minorities:***

The Romanian Government continues to support initiatives of citizens belonging to national minorities regarding the use of national minority languages in media and culture. All member organisations of the Council of National Minorities receive support from the state budget every year in order to sustain cultural life, language, traditions, religion. In concrete terms, these grants have increased year by year and have been monitored by the Government's Department for Interethnic Relations.

With regard to publications in national minority languages, it should be noted that each national minority has at least one publication in its mother tongue or bilingual, and their circulation and coverage vary, depending on financial resources and the number of members of the community.

There are more than 40 publications of national minorities other than Hungarian. Their content has diversified in recent years, covering a wide range of topics of interest to members of the community. Substantial investment has also been made to improve the graphic format of the publications, most of which are printed in colour. The distribution area of these national and regional publications has expanded and they are now also received by members of the community of origin in Romania but living abroad. Being primarily interested in preserving and promoting language and culture, several minorities focus their attention on cultural publications: the Lipovan Russians have a socio-cultural newspaper and a cultural magazine (both bilingual), the Polish community publishes a quarterly journal for children in Polish, while the Ukrainians have 5 publications (4 in Ukrainian and one in Romanian): political, social, cultural, literary and

for children. Several minorities have created online editions of publications (Armenians, Bulgarians, Jews, Russians, Turks, Hungarians, Germans, etc.) and post selections of articles from the main publications on their websites. Financial and logistical support was mainly provided by the Government.

## Culture

The vision of promoting dialogue between cultures, ethnic diversity and interdisciplinary interaction in the affirmation of ethnic identity through the enhancement of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the use of contemporary and traditional means of expression is creatively and comprehensively brought together in many of the department's events during the reporting period, including:

### **Cultural projects carried out at the initiative of DIR:**

#### **2016:**

For 2016, the main types of projects that DIR considered were in the fields of cultural and intercultural, youth and organisational culture activities, both activities being important in the context of the continuation of Romania's two monitoring processes related to the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the 2nd monitoring cycle of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In 2016, DIR participated in international programmes and collaborations in the field, with the aim of facilitating the involvement of the Romanian system in important international initiatives, promoting Romania's experience abroad, all these in permanent consultation and collaboration with the MFA.

A significant part of the projects initiated and carried out by DIR in 2016 were subsumed by the department's participation in two important international programmes - the *Alliance of Civilizations* and the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*.

- *Cultural diversity - religious diversity in Romania*

The main objective of the conference "Cultural Diversity - Religious Diversity in Romania" was to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, to present the existing and officially recognized religions in Romania, the role of religions in preserving and promoting the identity, language and culture of national minorities in Romania.

- *World Day for Cultural Diversity.*

This project promoted contemporary art and intercultural values, both through the high artistic level and through the different cultures the artists represent. More than 135 guests, including representatives of the Presidential Administration, the diplomatic corps, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian Parliament, national minority organisations and the media, attended the

opening of the exhibition *Art - Space for Intercultural Dialogue*, which was part of the project. On an international level, the promotion of contemporary art and intercultural values has been achieved, both through the value of the artists and the different cultures they represent. DIR's work is part of the field: "Promoting ethno-cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue" and the project was part of a larger series that of the Alliance of Civilisations, a United Nations programme.

- *"Images of Diversity" exhibition.*

Visual artists from the majority and all national minorities participated, completing the intercultural character of the programme. More than 175 guests, including representatives of the Presidential Administration, the diplomatic corps, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian Parliament, national minority organisations and the media, attended the vernissage of the „*Images of Diversity*” exhibition. A multicultural project that was a first in Romania, the exhibition „*Images of Diversity*” included works of fine art - painting, graphics, photography, sculpture - made by visual artists belonging to the 20 national minorities in Romania and to the majority, participating in the inter-ethnic contemporary art camp in Aiud, which was organized by DIR from October 4 to 16, 2016. The exhibition was part of the events through which the Department for Interethnic Relations marked the National Minorities Day.

- *Me and my village*

The project took place in Sânmartin and brought together young people from the Slovak community in an event aimed to promote the preservation of the traditions of the Slovak community.

In October 2016, the first edition of the Inter-Ethnic Contemporary Art Camp took place in Aiud. Thirty-four artists representing 21 ethnicities (the 20 national minorities and the majority) participated. The selection of the participants took place over several months, based on the recommendations submitted by the national minority organisations and on the works submitted in the individual applications of the recommended artists. A series of paintings, graphic works, sculptures and photographs were created during the camp, and at the end of the camp two works from each artist were selected. The camp ended with a local exhibition attended by representatives of local and central authorities, the Presidential Administration, civil society and the general public.

## **2017:**

*Diversity Cup*, 2nd edition, an event organised by DIR with the aim of cultivating tolerance through sport. The event took place in Timisoara on October 20-24 and involved national minority football teams. The project had two components a cultural component and a sport one. The cultural component included the exhibition of works of national minority artists and the sports component included the participation of 14 football teams of national minority organisations in a sports competition.

*I'm a minority, so I count!*, a project that took place in the form of 3 modules in Timisoara, Constanta and Bucharest. The project focused on raising awareness of the importance of independent and voluntary involvement in the election of representatives; increasing confidence in democratic processes and raising awareness among young minorities of social involvement through their participation in public life, in decision-making at national and local level;

In the context of European cooperation, DIR has been involved in various programmes aimed at promoting culture and people-to-people contact. Thus, in 2017, DIR carried out the programme "*Multicultural identity of the Danube Region in a regional context. Exchange of experiences and good practices*". The programme was subsumed under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), approved in 2011 and implemented in several priority areas by 14 countries in the Danube basin. The DIR initiative was linked to EUSDR Priority Area 3 - Culture, Tourism and People-to-People Contacts. Among the participants were representatives of national minority departments from Vojvodina - Serbia, Croatia, Hungary. The Department for Inter-ethnic Relations (DIR) designed in 2014 the project "Danube Platform for Intercultural Dialogue INTERCULT" to be implemented within the framework of the Danube Transnational Programme, strategic target SO 2.2 - Sustainable preservation of natural and cultural heritage and resources and target 5 - creation of the Blue Book of the Danube Cultural Identity, in the context of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 3 "Culture, tourism and people-to-people contacts".

## **2018:**

### *Inter-ethnic Camp of Contemporary Art*

Since 2016, the Department for Interethnic Relations, in collaboration with the Inter-Art Aiud Foundation, has been organising a wide-ranging intercultural project, which includes: the creative component, consisting of a biennial interethnic contemporary art camp; and the intercultural promotion component of contemporary art, through exhibitions organised in the interval between two consecutive editions of the camp. The project has two dimensions, national and international. The inter-ethnic contemporary art camp is organised in the country, and exhibitions of the work produced at the camp are shown both at national and international level. This initiative of the Department and the Foundation has been joined over the two years by central and local authorities, diplomatic missions and cultural institutions in each component of the project.

*The Inter-ethnic Camp of Contemporary Art* aims to highlight the multi-ethnic and multicultural segment in Romania, through an event based on intercultural collaboration. The promotion of contemporary art in Romania through the perspective of minorities, represented for the first time in a single visual art event, was an important step from a cultural and social point of view. It represents an approach to interethnic relations from an artistic point of view, allowing the

enrichment of the cultural life of the country by presenting to the art-loving public works representing different cultures and traditions, as well as connections between them.

*The Inter-ethnic Camp of Contemporary Art* is the first and only artistic event in which all historical ethnicities in Romania were represented. The diversity of language, culture, ethnicity represented and promoted by the participating artists underlined the importance of mutual understanding and respect. The camp proved to be a model to follow in strengthening good inter-ethnic relations, but also in creating and maintaining a "network" of artists who, even after the end of the camp, continued to collaborate in various domestic and international projects.

The artworks made during the camp were exhibited and promoted during several events.

- a. on December 2016, with the support of the Presidential Administration, the Cotroceni National Museum hosted *The Inter-ethnic Contemporary Art Exhibition "Images of Diversity"*, the event also marking the National Minorities Day
- b. on September 2017, the Memorial of the 1989 Revolution in Timisoara hosted, in the presence of members of national minorities and representatives of the diplomatic corps of different countries, *The Inter-ethnic Contemporary Art Exhibition "Images of Diversity"*.
- c. In December 2017, the Department for Interethnic Relations in collaboration with the Inter-Art Foundation and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office at Geneva, presented the exhibition on the occasion of the UN Minorities Forum. The exhibition offered a wide international exposure, with official and non-governmental representatives from over 50 countries attending the Forum.
- d. In June 2018, *The Inter-ethnic Contemporary Art Exhibition "Images of Diversity"* with the artworks of the first edition of the camp was presented in the European Parliament in Brussels and in Sighisoara during the ProEtnica festival.
- e. In September 2018, the opening of *The Inter-ethnic Contemporary Art Exhibition "Images of Diversity"*, 2nd edition, took place in Tulcea, at the National Museum of Art. The event was attended by representatives of organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities, local and central officials, visual artists authors of the exhibited works and representatives of the media.
- f. On the occasion of the celebration of National Minorities Day, the exhibition *"Images of Diversity"* was presented on December 17, 2018 at the Cotroceni National Museum. The next edition of the Inter-ethnic Contemporary Art Camp will be organized in 2020.

### *Diversity Cup*

Since 2015, the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations (DIR in partnership with the Romanian Football Federation (RFF) organizes the "Diversity Cup" event. This project is a response to the

need to combat racism and discrimination in sport and beyond. Sport, by its very nature, encourages diversity in a cultural world. Therefore, the two components of the event - the sporting "Football Championship of Minorities" and the cultural one - aim to promote the fight against racism, discrimination, as well as the promotion of ethnic diversity in Romania, encouraging people to value and enjoy the variety of intercultural society. Every year, the project was carried out in different cities in Romania. In 2019, the project "Diversity Cup" 4th edition took place in Oradea, Bihor county.

#### *Heritage Guardians.*

The idea of the project carried out in Brasov was the adoption of historical monuments, especially buildings, by schools and their use as a space to organize cultural activities to preserve traditions and customs, with the aim of encouraging as many ethnic communities as possible to discover and appreciate the cultural heritage of national minorities. More precisely, students symbolically "adopt" a historical monument, build a story for that monument, organize activities through which they present the story of the monument to their community, promote it through various media channels. This creates a community around the monument and a way of communicating the values of the national minority to the majority. At the end, a competition is organised, through which the students involved in the project compare their knowledge about the adopted monument. The project was organised by the political party representing the Hungarian minority, UDMR, and focused on historical monuments belonging to this minority. The expansion of this project to other high school students, belonging to other national minorities, is desirable, as the Russian-Lipov community has expressed a desire to replicate this program as a way for the Russian-Lipov minority to become more involved in discovering its own cultural heritage.

#### *"GAUDEAMUS" International Fair - Teaching Books"*

Every year in Bucharest, the Central Pavilion of the Romexpo Exhibition Complex hosts the Gaudeamus International Fair. In November 2018, the Department for Interethnic Relations provided a special "Ethnic Diversity Stand" dedicated to literature, media and national minority traditions for nine organisations of national minorities. The national minorities that benefited from the exhibition space and the related facilities at the "GAUDEAMUS" International Fair - Teaching Book" were: Macedonians, Italians, Ruthenians, Jews, Croatians, Poles, Greeks, Ukrainians and Serbs. All these minorities had book launches attended by members of their respective minorities as well as representatives of academia and the general public.

#### *I'm a minority, so I count!,*

During 2018, three editions of the civic education program I'm a minority, so I count! took place. The program is organized for high school students from multi-ethnic areas in Romania and is based on the recommendations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

regarding the need for Romanian state institutions to intensify their efforts to organize civic education programs aimed at increasing the level of understanding among persons belonging to national minorities of the concept of effective participation in public life. The activities carried out within the programme aimed to raise awareness of the importance of everyone's involvement - independent and voluntary - in the election of representatives, to increase confidence in democratic processes and awareness of everyone's role within them.

*"Cantus Mundi - diversity and multiculturalism" Camp*

The event took place in Brasov and was attended by 60 students representing 18 national minorities in Romania. For 5 days, specialists of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin" held a variety of educational and cultural activities, such as diction workshops, choir workshops and creative workshops. The programme also included improvisational theatre, hiking and themed video projections. The aim of the camp was to promote linguistic and ethnocultural diversity, to cultivate common values, tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

**Cultural projects carried out by DIR in partnership with other institutions or organisations**

**2016:**

*"Representation and representativeness in Roma communities"* project carried out in partnership with the Community Development Agency "Împreună" („Together”), in Bucharest, from 6 to 8 April. The realization of this programme contributed to the development of the process of knowledge of the history and specificity of the Roma minority, as well as to the promotion of Roma culture;

*"International Theatre Festival for German-speaking Youth"* 17th edition, a project in partnership with the German State Theatre in Timisoara, from 21 to 26 April in Timisoara. The objective of the project was to promote theatre and Romania's image abroad, as well as to support contemporary creation and cultural life;

*Bridges of Tolerance*, a project in partnership with "Forumul B'nai B'rith Dr. Moses Rosen Romania", took place in Bucharest, from 17 to 18 May. The main objectives of this project were: educating the young generation in the spirit of friendship and understanding and participation in cultural events that promote the culture of tolerance; the importance of education in combating discrimination and anti-Semitism, as well as preserving the memory of the Holocaust. The event was organised with the participation of Jewish, Roma and Tatar representatives.

*The International Festival of Yiddish Theatre - 140 years of Yiddish theatre in Romania*, in partnership with the Jewish State Theatre, from 15 to 28 November in Bucharest. The aim of this project was to raise awareness of cultural diversity in Romania;

*Art, education, memory- The talent of young artists in the service of truth*, realized in partnership with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania. 21 - 26 November 2016, Dorohoi, Botoșani county

The organization of a creative camp attended by 30 students representing the Hungarian, German, Jewish, Ukrainian, Serbian, Greek and Roma minorities from art high schools in Bacău (National Art High School "George Apostu"), Buzău (Margareta Sterian Art High School), Suceava (Ciprian Porumbescu Art High School), Botoșani (Stefan Luchian Art High School), Dorohoi (Regina Maria High School) together with 10 teachers (tutors/supervisors) created drawings, graphics, paintings, etc. to reflect the memory of the Holocaust and to combat xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

The "*TIFF Transylvania Film Festival*", realized in partnership with the Association for the Promotion of Romanian Film, took place in May in Cluj. The project has a section dedicated to national minorities, called "*Tiff promotes diversity.*" These events were attended by 4,000 people belonging to the Hungarian, Roma, Jewish, Polish and Armenian minorities. The activities of the project were grouped into 3 categories: film projections, cultural-artistic events and social-cultural events.

## **2017:**

The 17th edition of the "*International Theatre Festival for German-speaking Youth*", a project realized in partnership with the German State Theatre in Timișoara, took place from 21 to 26 April in Timișoara. The aim of the project was to promote theatre and Romania's image abroad, as well as to support contemporary creation and cultural life.

*"International Theatre Festival - Eurothalia"* organized in partnership with the German State Theatre in Timișoara. The project aimed to promote German minority culture in Timișoara and to encourage artistic mobility between the countries participating in the festival by presenting a selection of European performances, through which linguistic and cultural barriers are removed. Through the participating theatre companies, the artists present, the international partners, the presence of theatre critics, journalists and festival directors from home and abroad, the festival has joined the list of cultural events that make Timișoara an European city.

The 2nd *International Festival of Yiddish Theatre* was organized in partnership with the Jewish State Theatre. This International Festival brought to the attention of its audience prominent representatives of Yiddish culture from all over the world: Israel, USA, Russia, Poland, Austria, France - underlining once again the importance of the existence of the State Jewish Theatre as an exponent of Yiddish culture around the world, as a centre of revival, rescue and perpetuation of Yiddish cultural heritage. The event was held in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute, the Embassies and Cultural Institutes of the participating countries, the Federation of

Jewish Communities in Romania, the Museum of Jewish History in Romania, the Centre for the Study of Jewish History in Romania. The festival is addressed to the general public - consumers of culture (Romanian and foreign), of different age groups. The aim of this project was to raise awareness of cultural diversity in Romania.

## **2018:**

*The Cultural Diversity Forum*, organised at the initiative of the Association Movement for European Action and Initiative, in partnership with the Department for Interethnic Relations. Over three days, the Cultural Diversity Forum explored interculturality and cultural diversity from the perspective of culture and art, gastronomy, education and religion. The event included conferences, debates, workshops, artistic moments such as: concert, photo exhibition, film screening. The Cultural Diversity Forum had an integrated approach, starting from two main themes: the contribution of historical minorities to the development of Romanian society and the socio-cultural landscape of the new minorities that came to Romania after 1990.

### *Colours of Our Union - Young artists, witnesses of the future*

The Department for Interethnic Relations, in partnership with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania - Mosaic Cult organized in October the 3rd edition of the painting camp "*The Colors of Our Union - Young artists, witnesses of the future*" in Iasi. The project brought together 32 young artists, students of art high schools in Bacau, Buzau and Iași, guided by teachers of fine arts, who created artworks on the theme: Centenary - history, values, people, heritage, future. The works will be exhibited in the country, the Vatican, Israel, Austria and Norway. In addition to the creative workshops - painting and graphic design, the organisers proposed some important topics for debate to the young participants, such as: competence and competition; art - as a form of education; "my future starts today" - roles and places; I am Europe.

*The International Festival of Yiddish Theatre* is an event **organized in previous years**, which aims to bring to the attention of the general public, through theatre performances, klezmer music concerts, workshops, conferences or thematic exhibitions held by representatives of Yiddish culture from around the world, essential elements of Yiddish culture and language.

### *Romanian-German literary transfers and multilingualism from a European perspective*

The scientific event had an international character, with the participation of 40 specialists from the country and the German-speaking area, from Romanian Universities - Bucharest, Brasov, Timisoara, Iasi, Sibiu, from German Universities in Berlin, Hamburg, Flensburg, as well as from Pristina and Kosovo. The papers presented touched on a wide range of topics from multilingualism and interculturalism in literature, linguistics, teaching and methodology, as well as literary translation. The event was attended by representatives of the management of the

"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu and of the Faculty of Letters and Arts. At the end of the event, it was decided that the papers presented during the symposium will be published in two volumes (44, 45) of the journal "Germanistische Beiträge".

### *Armenian Street*

The "*Armenian Street*" Festival brings together every year, at the beginning of August, several minorities from Bucharest and from all over the country to revive, for a few days, the Armenian style of spending time, but also to present aspects of Armenian culture, traditions and specificities to the general public. On this occasion, a series of cultural events are held, including concerts of traditional and modern music, dances, theatre performances, photography exhibitions, calligraphy workshops, Armenian food and the already traditional water fight.

### **Cultural projects receiving non-reimbursable financing under Law 350/2005**

#### **2016:**

*Europe of minorities, 6th edition*, initiated by the Hungarian Democratic Youth Union of Mediaş

The sixth edition of the "*Europe of Minorities*" project, organized by the Hungarian Democratic Youth Union of Mediaş, took place in Harghita county, in the town of Vlăhiţa and had 70 participants from different localities of Sibiu county, respectively 3 young people from Harghita county. For a week, the protagonists of the event attended swimming lessons 2 or 3 times a day and participated in several seminars and interactive games such as: twister in nature, Hungarian folk dance evening, evening swim, frizbi, karaoke and more. At the same time, the children participated in seminars on minority rights, on the relationship between minority and majority and made proposals to improve the relationship between young people regardless of ethnicity or religious confession. The topics addressed the fight against intolerance, the promotion of cultural values of national minorities, the role of the media in promoting a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity.

*The role of the family group in the intercultural education and personal development of young minorities in Romania*, initiator: the Centre for Education and Social Development Association - CEDS.

The project brought together 75 participants, pupils, young people and minority parents, who expressed their willingness to get involved in promoting a positive attitude towards ethnic and cultural diversity in Romania. The activities aimed to develop participatory skills among students, young people and parents, through the exchange of elements of identity, dialogue and involvement in the communities they come from.

*Camp of amateur theatre troupes of ethnic minorities*, initiated by the Cultural and Youth Association of Văcărești.

On this occasion, there were conferences and performances by amateur artists from rural areas from different cultural regions;

*Theatre Festival on the Road - KaravanAct*, 2nd edition, initiator: Shoshin Theatre Association

During the festival, there were 6 theatre performances, 3 workshops, 2 street processions and 7 meetings with the public. The performances represented different theatrical genres and ethnicities: a theatre company from Poland staged two performances in Polish with English subtitles; children between 2 and 5 years old enjoyed a performance by an artist from Hungary; the graduates of the Faculty of Theatre and Television from Cluj presented an exam performance; the Shoshin Association contributed with two of its own performances dedicated to children between 5 and 10 years of age; workshops on stilt walking, street theatre techniques, movement and dance workshops brought people together and broadened the possibilities in theatre education.

*Intercultural Story Machine* - board game to create our new shared stories, Media Index Association, Cluj-Napoca.

The aim of the project was to cultivate the cultural awareness of the new generation, to create intercultural stories, by producing 12 mini-documentary films, in Hungarian or Romanian, with subtitles, featuring well-known representatives of Cluj's cultural life.

*Inter-ethnic Theatre Festival*, initiator: Proscenium Foundation, Satu Mare

The 8th edition of the Inter-Ethnic Theatre Festival was a meeting point for Hungarian (10 troupes), German (2 troupes), Yiddish (1 troupe) and Roma (1 troupe) language theatres from Romania, as well as a unique festival format in Europe, dedicated by its theme to local identities, problematic relationships of multi-ethnic or multicultural communities. Over 10 days, 24 theatre performances were presented, 433 guests (actors, directors, theatre critics, playwrights, media representatives) and over 3,000 spectators attended. Throughout the festival, there were auxiliary events consisting of exhibitions, book launches, concerts. The events took place in four venues - the renovated hall of the Northern Theatre Satu Mare, the Studio Acs Alajos hall, the main hall and the amphitheatre hall of the House of Culture of the Trade Unions.

*Filmtettfeszt - Hungarian Film Days*, 16th edition, initiated by Filmtett Association

The objectives of the Filmtettfeszt - Hungarian Film Days project, 16th edition, were to raise awareness and highlight the cultural heritage of national minorities, to promote intercultural dialogue, but also to promote forms of expression specific to national minorities in culture and contemporary art.

*ALTER-NATIVE 24 International Short Film Festival*, initiated by the Democratic Union of Hungarian Youth of Mures County - UDTM-Mures

The project marked the launch of some remarkable film creations in the generous setting of an international festival for 80 Romanian, Hungarian and other filmmakers. A total of 745 short films from 78 countries were submitted, of which 45 were selected for the festival competition.

The public had the opportunity to watch art films, documentaries, short films, a total of 116 film productions, concerts, meetings with filmmakers, a field recording workshop, a film script writing workshop. The event was intensely publicised by the media (Agerpres, Mediafax, MTI, newspapers, radio, TV), as well as through online portals, the festival website, posters, catalogue, in Romanian, Hungarian and English. Promoting artistic creation, cultural and inter-ethnic dialogue, the project also achieved the objectives of promoting national values and combating intolerance.

#### **2017:**

*INTER-ART Aiud International Fine Art Camp*, initiator: InterArt Foundation. 40 artists from 23 countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Italy, Ukraine, Hungary, etc.) participated in the camp. They worked on different workshops: painting, sculpture, graphics, engraving, photography. The project ended with an international exhibition of fine art where the works created were exhibited.

*Bilingual Romanian-Hungarian school geographical atlas*, initiator: Comunitas Foundation.

The project contributed to deepening the knowledge of geography of pupils studying this subject in Hungarian-language schools and high schools. On this occasion, 4500 copies of the Romanian-Hungarian Bilingual School Geographical Atlas were reprinted and distributed free of charge to high schools all over the country through the county school inspectorates.

*Inter-ethnic camp for education through restoration*, initiator: Transilvania Trust Foundation, Cluj-Napoca.

The programme aimed to familiarise the participants with the intangible heritage: traditional crafts, restoration techniques and craftsmanship, traditional tools, but also to present the importance of culture in inter-ethnic relations. Architects, engineers, restorers, designers and students from universities in the country, Greece, Austria, Hungary and the United States participated in the programme. Special guests were invited from the country and the UK for theoretical lectures and restoration craftsmen were invited for practical workshops. In total, there were 30 registered participants in the camp, 5 guests from the country 1 from the UK for theory and 6 restoration craftsmen for workshop.

Two practical workshops were held at the same time: the masonry and decorative plastering workshop and the traditional carpentry workshop. In the masonry workshop, the participants were involved in the actual restoration of Banffy Castle, performing consolidation work on the

masonry in the cellar, reconstructing a collapsed vault in the main building, the former residence of the Banffy family.

*Filmtetfeszt - Hungarian Film Days, 17th edition.*

Immediate results of the project: the measures of awareness and enhancement of the cultural heritage of national minorities were successfully implemented: the sections of the festival aimed to promote the cultural heritage of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania. At the opening ceremony, both feature films and short films were presented, with the aim of promoting the values of the Hungarian-speaking cinematographic art in Romania, supporting the Romanian-Hungarian collaboration in the field of cinema, as well as supporting young Hungarian film artists in Romania at the beginning of their careers. The priorities of this project were those of awareness and enhancement of the cultural heritage of national minorities. The filmmakers also attended the projections and the audience had the opportunity to ask them various questions about the films shown.

*The Inter-ethnic Folklore Festival of the Transylvanian Plain - XXI edition, initiated by TEKA Cultural Foundation from Gherla, Cluj County.*

The performances presented by 328 participants from 22 localities in the region contributed to the promotion and awareness of cultural heritage, as well as to the preservation of traditional folk values, customs and traditions specific to national minorities in the area, in front of a wide audience.

*ETNIC 2017- initiated by the Democratic Forum of Germans from Caras-Severin County.*

The project contributed to the awareness of folk music and folk costumes, heritage sites through the perspective of photographic art and musical culture by producing specific works and prints. It was a multi-ethnic project - with participants of German, Hungarian, Italian, Czech and Romanian ethnicity - which contributed to the development of understanding, collaboration and mutual knowledge of the communities in the south-west of the country through the songs specific to the faith of the different confessions of the participating ethnic groups. It was part of the range of projects that contribute to the knowledge and nuanced development of interethnic relations in Romania, with a focus on the situation in Banatul Montan, as well as to the development of communication skills and mutual knowledge, characteristic and applicable to the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional space of this area. The event helped to strengthen the bridges between the different ethnic groups, as well as with the majority population, through music, images, books and joint cultural events (choral music festival, launch of a book containing articles and photos by representatives of national minorities).

*National interethnic symposium: interethnic relations in Transylvania, historical, cultural and religious interferences, VIth edition, initiator: Association of Sighisoara Guilds.*

The event was organized by the Association of Sighisoara Guilds, with funding from the Romanian Government, through the Department for Interethnic Relations, with the scientific support of several academic institutions (Romanian Academy through the Institute for Socio-Human Research in Sibiu and the Centre for Transylvanian Studies in Cluj Napoca, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu through the Department of History, Heritage and Protestant Theology and the Sighisoara History Museum). It included a workshop dedicated to ecclesiastical architecture, followed by a series of scientific papers by researchers on a wide range of topics related to classical antiquity, the period of migration, the Middle Ages to the present day, with an emphasis on tolerance and the promotion of inter-ethnic relations. At the end of the symposium there was a study trip where specific architectural elements of German (Sighisoara, Mălăncrav), Hungarian (Bethlen Castle in Criș) and Armenian (Armenian-Catholic Church in Dumbrăveni) civilizations were presented. The three-day seminar was attended by 30 researchers from Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Zalău, Arad, Târgoviște and Sighișoara.

*ALTER-NATIVE 25, International Short Film Festival* initiated by the Democratic Union of Hungarian Youth of Mureș County -UDTM Mureș

The project took place in Târgu Mureș, Mureș county. The purpose of the project was to organise a cultural festival with the aim of putting short films in competition. A total of 1,023 short films were submitted and 971 short films entered the pre-selection for the grand prize. Of these, 622 were fiction films, 134 animated films, 121 documentaries and 94 experimental films. The countries with the highest number of short films entered in the competition were Germany, Russia and Spain, with 97 entries each, followed by Hungary with 56 and Romania with 36. Short films from countries such as Rwanda, Myanmar, Tanzania, Peru and the People's Republic of China (Macao SAR) were also submitted. The pre-selection jury decided that 51 films from 26 countries would be entered into the competition. The festival was an opportunity for Romanian and Hungarian filmmakers from Romania to participate in an international competition, promoting intercultural and interethnic dialogue through cinema. The public enthusiastically received the activities of the project, being present in significant numbers at the screenings.

*Festival of Hellenism in Romania* - initiated by the Hellenic Union of Romania.

At this event, the measures to promote the values of the cultural act among the Greek minority, the invited minorities and the Romanian majority were successfully implemented. Now in its XVII edition, the festival has proven to be an appropriate framework for intercultural dialogue, with beneficial long-term results in cultural diversity.

*Fux Festival - Festival of Professional Puppet Troops* - 3rd edition, initiated by Szigligeti Tanoda Association from Oradea

The project contributed to the promotion of the theatrical art of national minorities, the maintaining of multiculturalism and the preservation of values specific to the language of puppet theatre.

*Camp of amateur theatre troupes of ethnic minorities*, initiator: Cultural and Youth Association of Văcărești

The realisation of this project has contributed to the perpetuation of cultural events that have given amateur artists from national minorities the opportunity to present their acting talent as a means of expression and communication between communities. The project was well publicised in the local media.

*RIOT (Rural Inclusive Outdoor Theatre)*, initiator: Shoshin Theatre Association from Cluj-Napoca.

The project took place in the localities: Cluj - Napoca, Chidea, Bonțida, Sic, Răscruci, Buza, Cluj county. The project aimed to organize a theatre workshop, an open-air performance and a tour in the countryside. The activities included in the project involved the promotion of interethnic and intercultural dialogue through specific means of theatrical art in rural areas, supporting artistic mobility and carrying out socio-cultural and integrating actions that contribute to the promotion of intangible cultural heritage in areas where several ethnic groups live together. The educational activity carried out in the theatre workshop, the involvement of young people belonging to national minorities, the resulted performance promoted tolerance, interethnic and intercultural cooperation, as well as the enhancement of the cultural heritage of national minorities.

*Romanian Ethnic Minorities Camp Alteris 2017* - 10th edition, initiated by Alteris Association from Sfântul Gheorghe, Covasna County.

Thirty people attended the camp (young people aged 10-16, accompanying adults and organisers). The most important activities were the following: activities for getting to know each other and sports activities. Each ethnic minority, through its representatives, presented its customs, traditions, folk dances and other elements of identity, representative of its ethnic community.

*Colloquium of National Minority Theatres* - 12th edition, initiated by Figura Association from Gheorgheni, Harghita County.

Promoting multiculturalism, highlighting and integrating the values and theatrical diversity of national minorities in Romania into the European circuit were the objectives of the project. 467 guests (actors, directors, theatre critics, playwrights, media representatives and theatre people) were present. Thus, a suitable framework was created for performances, workshops, debates, addressed both to artists and students from the country's theatre faculties and to theatre critics.

## **2018:**

In 2018, projects approved for funding through grants were included in the following categories: films/film festival/film screenings - 3 projects; theatre/theatre festival - 11 projects;

prints/albums/books - 10 projects; traditions/folklore/heritage - 14 projects; conferences on minority themes - 2 projects; projects on youth themes - 20 projects.

*International Fine Art Camp INTER-ART Aiud, initiator: INTER-ART Foundations*

There was organised an international fine art camp, with a tradition already known on all continents, with an interethnic and international character that creates a cultural bridge between artists belonging to different ethnicities. The growing interest has been proved by the increasing number of artists enrolled in the project, who managed to actively participate in an interethnic, multicultural and multinational cultural act, promoting both Romanian contemporary art and the model of interethnic coexistence in their countries of origin.

*The 26th edition of the International Short Film Festival ALTER-NATIVE, initiator: the Democratic Union of Hungarian Youth from Mures County*

A film marathon of short films (max 30 min. each) entered in the competition (1050 films from 82 countries), selected for judging (48 films from 24 countries), then awarded in different sections - debut, animation, fiction, experimental, documentary; expert analyses were made beforehand in thematic workshops. Diversification of project activities was achieved through music concerts, reading evenings, visual art exhibitions.

*World Experience Festival - 4th edition of the Embassies Festival, initiated by ESCU Association*

The 4th edition of the Embassy Festival proposed a creative approach to experiencing the world and intercultural dialogue through music and sound. A sound trail was outlined with a focus on the enhancement of intangible cultural heritage where visitors discovered different countries and civilisations through authentic music and dance performances, exhibitions, conferences, gastronomy, traditions and creative multicultural and multi-ethnic workshops. More than 70 embassies, cultural institutes, international organisations, ethnic communities and national minorities, over 80 artists from all over the world and an audience of 60,000 people participated in this edition.

*Hungarian Film Days, initiator: Filmtett Association*

The festival aimed to present Hungarian films recently produced in Romania and Hungary - feature-length art films, documentaries, animated films, short films - awarded at various international festivals. The festival screened 14 feature films, two documentaries and over 30 short films. The beneficiaries of this event were the more than 7 000 people attending the screenings in the 12 cities (Cluj Napoca, Oradea, Miercurea Ciuc, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna, Târgu Secuiesc, Timișoara, Gheorgheni, Arad, Sibiu, Satu Mare).

*Inter-ethnic filmmaking workshop Filmtett Workshop, 17th edition, initiator: Filmtett Association, Cluj-Napoca office*

The project aimed to increase the level of professionalism of young people in the field of cinema on all levels of artistic creation.

*The rights of national minorities - 100 years in Romania*, initiator: Identity and Dialogue Association from Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna county

Formal and non-formal activities took the form of workshops from 29 August to 3 September 2018 and a conference on 12 September 2018. During the workshops, participants were engaged in a series of activities aimed at providing them with the main information regarding diversity in contemporary society and the importance of implementing a sustainable system of protection of national minority rights. Through the conference, specialists in the field of national minority rights presented the main aspects of the proposed theme to young people, analysing the situation from the perspective of 100 years of modern Romanian statehood.

*InterAct 100 Szigligeti - a week of intercultural dialogue through theatre*, initiated by Szigligeti Tanoda Association from Oradea

The event was organized on the occasion of celebrating and promoting contemporary drama, with the objective of intercultural dialogue, increasing interest and confidence of the Hungarian-speaking public.

*Camp of amateur theatre troupes of ethnic minorities*, initiator: Cultural and Youth Association of Văcărești

The general objective of the camp was to increase the level of professionalism of young people in the field of theatre on all levels of artistic creation.

*ProEtnica Intercultural Summer Academy*, initiator: Divers Association from Târgu Mureş

The Divers Association organised the intercultural summer academy "Proetnica" in Sighisoara. The Summer Academy focused on cultural diversity representing European heritage as a driver of change, drawing links between historical, current and future perspectives. It provided a platform for young participants to discuss, exchange experiences and learn about the complexity of inter-ethnic issues in multicultural communities in different European countries. The Intercultural Summer Academy provided information on the different forms of protection for national minorities in Europe, in order to understand the complexity of interethnic issues in multicultural communities in different countries, and to identify viable intercultural relationships to ensure peaceful interethnic coexistence in these communities. Through practical activities and creative workshops, the Summer Academy gave participants an understanding of the value of diversity and the benefits and challenges it brings, but also promoted civic engagement and interest in the protection of national minorities. Twenty participants took part, including 6 Sorbs from Germany, 2 Serbs from Croatia, 1 ethnic Serb, 1 ethnic Greek and 3 Hungarians from Romania.

*Theatre Festival on the Road – KaravanAct*, 3rd edition, initiator: Shoshin Theatre Association from Cluj-Napoca

Theme of the project: theatre groups of different ethnicities move from locality to locality presenting performances on the theme of social inclusion and intercultural dialogue with the aim of homogenising an always heterogeneous group - the passers-by.

*Inter-ethnic Theatre Festival* - 9th edition, initiated by Pro Theatrum Foundation from Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County

Audiences of different ethnicities were able to watch 15 theatre performances - 12 by invited theatres and 3 by the theatre of Odorheiu Secuiesc, which made the city the cultural centre of the region during the event. Numerous reports about the event appeared in the local press.

*Summer School at the Castle*, initiated by Teleki Castle Association - Teleki Kastely

Within the 4 work modules it was possible to: complete the surveys started in the previous year's phase, carry out the urban planning analysis for the Teleki area, update the vegetation survey, produce a photographic documentation and a video presenting the whole project.

*Rromane dikhimata /Rroma perspectives. Collection of Romani literary creation*, initiator: Amare Rromentza Roma Centre in Bucharest

Through this project, 5 thematic literary creation workshops were organized, occasioned by events in the history and culture of the Roma, as a result of which the volume *Rromane dikhimata/ Rroma perspectives. Collection of Rromani literary creation*.was produced. The project selected 16 Roma writers, 10 of them being well-known and 6 debutants.The volume, printed in 950 copies, includes original literary creations by Roma authors, in prose and verse, both in Romanian and in Romani. The volume was distributed to cultural institutions.

*Conference and Gala of the Romanian-Hungarian Library Corbii Albi*, initiator: Corbul Alb Media Association from Cluj County.

During the conference and gala of the Romanian-Hungarian Library "Corbii Albi", an intercultural performance was presented by the Romanian and Hungarian sections of two schools in Cluj-Napoca. The performance was attended by 30 children who were accompanied by 5 teachers and many parents. The Romanian pupils recited the poems of Hungarian writers whose works have been translated into Romanian, and the Hungarian pupils recited the works of Romanian poets translated into Hungarian.

*Open-air theatre, 5th edition*, initiated by Tarisnyas Association from Timișoara

The results obtained: the participation of approx. 2000 spectators from the villages of Timiș County, the promotion of culture through art and the cultural education of all categories of citizens.

*Inter-ethnic seminar within the Youth Fest - 100 years together*, initiated by the Association of the Youth Advisory Council of Sălaj

The interactive activities that took place stimulated intercultural dialogue between Hungarian, Romanian and Roma young people. Also, through the courses that were held and the interactive activities, team games, a positive attitude towards ethno-cultural diversity was promoted.

#### ***I. 7. Future projects of the Department for Interethnic Relations regarding the promotion of minority languages in all fields***

At the beginning of 2019, DIR continued the online campaigns started in previous years. Among these campaigns, it is worth mentioning:

DIR's "*The Most Beautiful*" campaign, created for *International Mother Language Day* (21 February 2019). On this occasion, the department asked organisations to involve students who through a short video of a few minutes, to present a word in their mother tongue, a word that encompass the full beauty of their mother tongue. We received the following words:

- Polish: "Dzień dobry" ("Hello"), "przyjaciel" ("friend"), "dziękuje" ("thank you")
- Ukrainian: "любов" ("love"), "надія" ("hope")
- Hungarian: "utazás" ("journey")
- Serbian language: "чежња (čežnja)" ("longing")
- Greek: "ψυχή" ("soul")
- Russian: "культура" ("culture")
- Tatar: "neniy" ("mother") Limba ebraică: "שלום (shalom)" ("pace", "salut", "la revedere")
- Croatian: "nada" ("hope")

*14 February 2019 - DR campaign: "Translated Loves"* - project to promote a series of classic and contemporary poems from world literature, translated from the mother tongues of national minorities in Romania. In this regard, the following poems were posted:

- Poetry from Romani: *Longing* by Delia Grigore
- Poetry from Greek: *Escape* by Giorgios Seferis
- Poetry in Bulgarian: *Farewell* by Nikola Vaptsarov
- Poetry from Ukrainian: *To H.Z.* by Taras Shevchenko
- Poem from Serbian: *My Dear* by Jovan Zivlak

- Poetry from Albanian: *Love in Wartime* by Jeton Kelmendi
- Poetry from Slovak: *Invisible Music* by Ján Švantner
- Poetry from Hebrew: *Love after the Flood* by Yakov Barzilai
- Poem from Russian: *You took your time in coming!* by Marina Tsvetaeva
- Poetry from Ruthenian: *My Love* by Ivan Moisiuc
- Poetry in Croatian: *Beautiful it is* by Marko Pogačar
- Poetry from Hungarian: *With lots of milk and two sugar cubes* by Gondos Mária Magdolna
- Poem from Armenian: *On the way the beautiful suddenly came out of me* by Hovhannes Tlcuranți
- Poetry from Polish: *Act on canvas* by Anna Augustyanik
- Poetry from Turkish: *Ballad* by Yılmaz Arslan
- Poetry from German: *Desire* by Carmen Elisabeth Puchianu

For 2019, the General Secretariat of the Government allocated from the state budget to Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) the amount of **5,000 thousand lei**, provided for in letter b) of Annex no. 3/13/02a, for interethnic activities and projects, for the promotion of cultural, linguistic and religious identity and of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, as well as for the fight against intolerance, carried out at the initiative of the Department for Interethnic Relations or in partnership, as well as for grants, according to the provisions of Law no. 350/2005 on the regime of non-reimbursable financing from public funds allocated for non-profit activities of general interest, with subsequent amendments and additions.

During 2019, the following oprojects were carried out:

- *GAUDEAMUS International Fair-Radio Romania*. The Department for Interethnic Relations ensured the participation of national minority organisations in this important event by renting a special exhibition space dedicated to the literature, press and traditions of national minorities. For this edition of the *GAUDEAMUS Book Fair - Radio Romania*, 11 national minorities were provided with a standard exhibition space within the book fair where they exhibited books, magazines, photographs, CDs. Book, magazine and CD launches were organised, as well as events that illustrated the arts, traditions and customs of national minorities in Romania. The participating minorities were: Italians, Macedonians, Russians, Jews, Armenians, Croatians, Ruthenians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Poles, Serbs.
- *Diversity Cup - Combating xenophobia and discrimination through sport*. The project comprised a series of sporting events aimed at promoting the fight against racism, discrimination, promoting ethnic and cultural diversity in Romania and to encourage people to value and enjoy the diversity of intercultural society. The 2019 event included the following sports activities: a football tournament for children aged 12 to 14 and a football tournament for non-professional players.
- *DONAU LOUNGE 2019 ARAD. Literature and culture in the Danube countries*. The essence of the project was the propagation of cultural connections along the Danube area, with the main objective of strengthening and developing cultural cooperation in

the Danube countries, being an integral part of the objective aiming at "creating a Blue Book of the Danube cultural identity" included in Priority Area 3 - Culture, Tourism and direct people-to-people contacts within the EUSDR.

### **Projects/Events organised by DIR in partnership with other entities**

*Bridges of Tolerance.* The project was carried out by Forumul B'nai B'rith Dr. Moses Rosen Romania in partnership with the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania and DRI and had as theme: *The contribution of national minorities to the economic development of Romania.* The 2019 event was organized under the High Patronage of the President of Romania.

*World Experience Festival, 5th edition.* The fifth anniversary edition of the World Experience Festival took place in Cluj-Napoca. During the festival, the public came into contact with over 25 cultures and watched over 100 artists from all over the world on an exciting, cross-cultural musical journey across the globe. There were live performances, artists also held ad-hoc musical workshops, where they shared stories about their cultures and learned about other artists' cultures. Activities took place under the motto multiculti. Apart from concerts at the festival there were exhibitions, exotic photo-booths, musical workshops and dances from different parts of the world.

*Proetnica 2019 - Sighisoara Intercultural Festival.* The project also included moments of traditional dance and music, performed by over 50 national minority ensembles, which could be watched on the stage located in the Citadel Square (Piața Cetății). At the same time, in 2019, a new category was introduced, called the Literary Salon, in which writers of national minorities, as well as writers who write about minorities had the opportunity to present their works, organize debates, readings, presentations, exhibitions, book launches. The festival also included the following sections: Intercultural Dialogue Agora (lectures, round tables and symposia), theatre, joint art exhibitions with artworks made by contemporary national minority artists.

*Art against social hatred, discrimination, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. Painting, not hate!*  
*Painting camp, 4th edition.* On August 26 - 31, DIR together with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania - Mosaic Cult and the Filderman Foundation for Education, Culture and Art organized the 4th edition of the Painting Camp in Constanța. On this occasion, 37 young artists, students of art colleges from Bacău, Buzău and Constanța, Cumpăna - Constanța, guided by teachers of fine arts, created works, having as subject the message of fine art against all forms of manifestations of social hatred.

*Cantus Mundi Camp.* The *Cantus Mundi Camp - diversity and multiculturalism* took place in Brasov from October 30 to November 3, 2019. The camp was held in collaboration with members of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin", the largest program of social integration through choral singing for children and young people in Romania, providing participants, students belonging to national minorities, with basic knowledge of choral music technique and skills to create and manage children and youth choirs.

*TESFEST International Yiddish Theatre Festival, 4th edition.* TESFEST International Yiddish Theatre Festival, 4th edition brought together in Bucharest some of the most representative

exponents of Yiddish language and theatre from all over the world, presenting the unique specificity of Yiddish language and culture. The festival was addressed to the general public from the country and abroad, of all age groups, opening through specific means of expression, a gateway to knowledge, thus contributing to understanding, acceptance and rapprochement between cultures. More than 100 actors, musicians, film directors, playwrights, historians, as well as representatives of DRI, Bucharest City Hall, the Romanian Cultural Institute, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, UNITER, Embassies and Cultural Institutes of the participating countries, Romanian and foreign journalists, etc. participated in the events presented during TESFEST 4th edition.

### ***Projects initiated by NGOs and financed by DIR from non-reimbursable funds***

In 2019, most of the activities supported by DIR through non-reimbursable funds were on the following themes: education in different languages for minority children, non-formal education, culture expressed in minority languages, organisation of joint, multi-ethnic cultural events, stimulation of civic spirit of minority youth, valorization of the cultural heritage of communities etc. In the May 2019 session, **91 projects** were registered for grant funding, of which **50 projects were selected** for funding and **approved**. Of the 50 projects, **47 projects were completed** (three were cancelled for objective reasons by the initiators).

We mention some of the 47 projects carried out in 2019 with non-reimbursable financing:

*International Fine Art Camp "Inter Art" Aiud.* As part of the camp, 36 artists from 22 countries had the opportunity to work in specially designed creative workshops, but also participated in the intercultural events that took place on this occasion. The project also organized thematic excursions to Rimetea, Hunedoara and Alba Iulia, music recitals, solo and group exhibitions, documentary visits. The project ended with an international fine art exhibition, where the artworks created during the camp were displayed. The camp is a good example of the creation and functioning of contemporary art networks and intercultural dialogue.

*Armenian Street Festival (6th edition).* Through traditional and modern music concerts, traditional dance performances, calligraphy, dance and creative workshops, photography, graphic and documentary exhibitions, specific gastronomy and sand coffee and oriental delicacies in the café located on Armenian Street, the festival offered participants an insight into Armenian culture and, as guests, into the culture of other minorities such as Greeks, Roma, Jews.

*ProEtnica Intercultural Summer Academy.* Through the two study visits, on the route Sighisoara - Mediaș - Saschiz - Sâangeorgiu de Pădure - Sighisoara, the participants had the opportunity to get to know the past and present in terms of interethnic coexistence between Armenians, Hungarians, Germans, Roma, Jews and Romanians. The participants visited the fortified churches of Biertan and Mălâncrav, and learned that some German families still live here and preserve their identity as Saxon Germans. A series of presentations and discussions on minority rights, history and culture were organised at the Academy.

*ETNIC 2019.* The project provided an optimal setting for participants of different ethnicities to present and promote their own ethnic and cultural identities through the performance of musical

pieces that were representative of each community. The specificity of the project, however, also consisted in getting to know German culture, through performances of German works in the German language by representatives of other communities.

*Cardboard Memories.....Oral Map of the Deportation of Roma in Transylvania.* The project took the form of an exhibition, which included archival documents, photo portraits of survivors of the deportation, family photographs and excerpts from interviews with Roma Holocaust survivors. The exhibition was launched at the Holocaust Memorial in Bucharest.

*Colloquium of National Minority Theatres - 13th Edition.* The Colloquium of National Minority Theatres is the theatre festival with the longest history in Transylvania and is organized biennially by the Figura Studio Theatre and the Figura Association from Gheorgheni. In addition to the minority theatres from Romania - Hungarian, German, Jewish and Roma - this year's edition was also attended by the Hungarian-speaking theatre from Novi Sad, Serbia.

*Bilet de iertare. (Forgiveness note).* On 7 November, Alina Șerban's short film "*Forgiveness Note*" was screened. Known in Romania as the initiator of theatre with a Roma social message, Alina Șerban has succeeded over the last 10 years in bringing to the public's attention stories about Roma experiences from a Roma perspective. The film is a cinematic premiere - the first film written and directed by a Roma woman in Romania - and is based on a true story from the 1800s, at the time of Roma slavery in Țările Române.

*National minority rights - from theory to practice.* The project was aimed at implementing non-formal workshops to promote national minority rights among young people. A round table dedicated to young people on the theme of diversity - national minority rights from theory to practice was also held and participants had the opportunity to visit and get to know the most relevant institutions in the field of national minority protection. The objectives of the project also included the implementation of a campaign to indirectly promote national minority rights through young people.

*Dobrogea, Buildings with mosaic: Faith, Culture, Fortress.* The project implemented by Eurocult Association, aimed to analyze the particularities of national minorities, their cultural heritage, to identify and present their social, political, military, scientific, economic and cultural developments, contributing to the capitalisation of the cultural and creative potential of minorities. The project drew the attention of the local and national public, especially young people, to the importance of the presence of minorities in Dobrogea in particular and in Romania in general.

*Jewish Film Festival.* The festival is a good example in promoting and enhancing the cultural heritage of minorities in Romania and intercultural and interethnic dialogue. The project aimed to inform the Romanian public about Jewish traditions and art, as well as to educate the public about inter-ethnic and religious tolerance. In addition to screenings, the festival included conferences, concerts of Jewish music, the promotion of important personalities in the cultural history of the Jews in Romania and debates.

*Seminar: Slovak schools where to? Protecting national identity.* The seminar was attended by 100 teachers, representatives of the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs, representatives of educational institutions. The event focused on highlighting the importance of preserving national identity through school, analysing the problems faced by Slovak teachers and finding solutions to ensure a quality educational process.

*Rromane ceacimata/Rrome truths. Collection of Rromani literary creation.* The project included the following activities: organization of 5 thematic literary creation workshops, based on events in Roma history and culture. The creative workshops were organised around some important dates in Roma history and culture and addressed themes related to Roma history and culture. Some of the literary creations presented during these creative workshops have been selected to be included in the volume "Rromane ceacimata/Rrome Truths.A collection of Rromani literary creation". The creations made in Romani were translated into Romanian and published bilingually.

*Jewish itinerary in Romania.* The documentary film presents part of the history and heritage of the Jewish community in Romania. The documentary focuses on the synagogues that are still functioning, providing historical and architectural details, Jewish cemeteries and symbols of the Jewish community, offering the audience an interesting insight into the culture of the Jewish community and, at the same time, into the history and tragedies suffered by the Jewish community throughout time. The film was screened in two related events.

### **Projects with no financial cost but with outstanding results:**

The project "*Children through drawing and colour about the linguistic rights of national minorities*", in collaboration with students from a school in Târgu Mureş, under the guidance of teacher Eperjesi Noémi. Based on the guidance provided by DIR on minority language rights, the group of pupils produced a series of 20 paintings, one for each minority, about the rights presented. Subsequently, the works were presented in September in Constanța on the occasion of the *LinguaFest* project, but also on the occasion of the celebration of the National Minorities Day in Bucharest, at the Village Museum, on December 18.

In June 2019, the Palace of Parliament hosted a series of discussions organised by the Department for Interethnic Relations in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute on the topic *A cultural identity perspective - insight of the Danube region*, in the context of the EUSDR Annual Forum, 8th edition, Priority Area 3 *Culture, Tourism and people-to-people contacts*. The discussions focused on the cultural identity of the Danube area, which is part of the objective to create a Blue Book of the Danube cultural identity.

### **Online messages to raise public awareness on cultural diversity**

In 2019, DIR continued to initiate online posts on its Facebook page aimed at raising awareness of ethnic diversity among the general public. Through them, the department tried to change public attitudes or forms of behaviour towards minorities. At the same time, by generating such messages, it has been possible to have constant interaction between national minorities in Romania and the majority public. In this way, DIR strived to ensure visibility for minorities and

to stimulate the creation of a positive attitude of the general public towards national minorities in Romania.

*Examples of online posts made in 2019:*

- *The most beautiful one*, message made on the occasion of *International Mother Language Day* (21 February 2019). On this occasion, the department asked organisations to involve students who, through a short video of a few minutes, present a word in their mother tongue, a word that encompasses the full beauty of their mother tongue. We received responses from Poles, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Serbs, Greeks, Russians, Tatars, Jews, Croats.
- *14 February 2019 - Translated loves* - project to promote a series of classical and contemporary poems from world literature, translated from the mother tongues of national minorities in Romania. In this regard, poems have been posted in Romanian, Greek, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Albanian, Slovak, Hebrew, Russian, Rhaeto-Russian, Croatian, Hungarian, Armenian, Polish, Turkish, German.
- *A touch of Poetic Genius/Ady Endre 100* - Ady Endre Poetry Week, 100 years after the death of the Hungarian poet (poems published between 28 January and 1 February 2019).
- *30 years after the bloodiest day of the Revolution*. Film tribute to the heroes of minority communities - dead and wounded - in different cities of the country. Romania's national minorities made an important contribution to winning the country's freedom in 1989. When equal rights and a non-discriminatory attitude towards them are requested, the blood sacrifice made by these communities for a common ideal of all Romanian citizens must also be taken into account. For the making of this film, we received information from the Union of Serbs in Romania, UDMR, the Community of Russian Lipovenes in Romania, UDTMR.
- *Book reviews of works written in minority languages*. At the beginning of 2019, the Department for Interethnic Relations discussed with members of the "Corbii Albi" Association ("White Ravens" Association), the proposal that members and collaborators of the Association should produce, according to their availability, book reviews of works written in national minority languages. The Association's literary critics, as well as its representatives, who have an impressive collection of awards for journalistic achievement and altruistic attitudes, were very receptive to the department's proposal and agreed to do these reviews on a voluntary basis. DIR presented to the members of the two specialised Commissions of the Council of National Minorities, the Commission for Culture, Cults and Media and the Commission for Education and Youth, the availability of the literary critics of the publishing portal "Corbii Albi" to write reviews of the works of Romanian national minority writers. Following discussions at the working meetings of the two specialised committees, national minority organisations appreciated the department's proposal and praised the efforts of the literary critics of the "Corbii Albi". Thus, books from the Community of Russian Lipovenians in Romania, the Union of Ukrainians in Romania and the Association of Italians in Romania Ro.As.It were reviewed.