

Appendix no 2

The mission of the Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR, the Department) is to preserve, support the expression, and the development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of citizens belonging to national minorities, in accordance with the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, of the legislation in force, as well as with those of the international conventions to which Romania is a party.

Activities and projects carried out between 2022 - 2023 at own initiative or in partnership for the preservation and promotion of language, history and culture of Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities:

2022

- In 2022, DIR was, again, the partner of the exceptional and far-reaching event in the world of film, the *Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF)*, organised in Cluj. The festival reached its 21st edition and offered moviegoers a varied and quality program including the newest film creations, combining several genres of this art. The objectives of the event were: to promote the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity through cinematographic art; to cultivate a good knowledge and understanding between national minorities, as well as between the majority and national minorities; to use cinematographic art as a means of promoting attitudes to combat racial and ethnic intolerance.
- During 2022, DIR carried out the third stage of a large project initiated in 2021 entitled: "*The Image of Turks and Tatars in Modern Romanian Art*". This tripartite project consisted of a virtual exhibition that opened the temporary exhibitions section of MIRAS - Virtual Museum of the Turks and Tatars of Dobruja, a documentary film of this exhibition and an art album with the same name created and launched in 2022.
- In September 2022, on the occasion of the European Day of Languages, DIR organized the conference entitled "*The Use of New Technologies for Multilingual Learning. A Perspective on Alternative Pedagogies. Challenges and Opportunities.*" The event took place in hybrid format with the support of the Museum of Romanian Literature and had as its starting point the theme chosen by UNESCO in 2022 for the International Mother Language Day. The debate aimed to emphasise the importance of multilingualism within multicultural societies which becomes an essential element in the transmission and preservation of traditional knowledge in a sustainable way.
- *Bartók and Enescu, a Friendship in the Universal Language of Music*. The project took place at the initiative of the Department, in collaboration with the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania, Sibiu branch, in October, 2022, in Sibiu and Braşov. The project aimed to present some significant aspects of the activity and life of the two great composers, Béla Bartók and George Enescu, as well as their friendship, with an emphasis on how education and the universal language of music and art in general can overcome barriers of language, ethnicity, ethnic intolerance or biases.

- *German Cultural and Literary Heritage in the South-East European Space (Deutsches literarisches und kulturelles Erbe im südosteuropäischen Raum)*. The project was carried out in partnership with the "Lucian Blaga" University in Sibiu, the Faculty of Letters and Arts-Department of Anglo-American Studies and German studies, in November 2022, in Sibiu. During the conference, specialised scientific works in the field of language, literature, literary translation, didactics and methodology were presented, and debates took place between specialists in the field of German studies.
- In 2022, DIR launched a bilingual catalogue - *Danube Biennale Catalogue - Empathy along the Danube* which brought together a number of contemporary artists belonging to national minorities from the riparian countries. Often identified as a symbol of European diversity (but especially of its unity), the Danube remains the silent witness, embodying at the same time the depository of the assimilated history of the old continent.
- *Interethnic Relations in Transylvania, the XV edition*, in October 2022, in Sibiu. The conference, an initiative of the Department for Interethnic Relations, consisted in the presentation by specialists in the field of the interethnic relations, with a predilection for interethnic relations in medieval Transylvania and the neighbouring regions, and their importance in history, the dissemination of scientific research on interethnic relations in Transylvania and their connection with central and south-eastern European space; the knowledge and promotion of the cultural, material and immaterial heritage belonging to the national minorities in Transylvania, the promotion of history and the promotion of collaborative relations on topics such as the history and archaeology of the central European space at an interregional level, the promotion of the Transylvanian cultural heritage, as an integral part of the European cultural heritage; improving the perception of Transylvania as a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional space.
- The 8th edition of the *"Interferences" International Theatre Festival*, organised by the State Hungarian Theatre of Cluj and the Department for Interethnic Relations, took place in 2022 and brought together fourteen theatre troupes from nine countries, from all over the world, the theme of the 2022 edition being "Fear/Hope". The project aimed at presenting valuable international theatrical creations, showcasing the widest meeting platform of various theatrical cultures in Cluj-Napoca, in support of the promotion of cultural diversity and international cooperation, responding to the audience's need for contact with the latest trends and relevant theatrical themes at European level.
- *"Diversity Unites Identities"* - In order to promote the visual identity of the Department for Interethnic Relations and facilitate access to information related to the projects organised in recent years at the initiative of the Department or in partnership with other public or private entities, a street exhibition featuring a number of 22 panels was created. They were exhibited in front of the institution's headquarters, on Paris street no. 65, Bucharest. The exhibition included images from several projects organised by the Department in recent years, such as "Diversity Cup", "The Image of Turks and Tatars in Modern Romanian art", "United Against Hate", "I Am a Minority, Therefore I Matter", the Interethnic Contemporary Art Camp and the Virtual Interethnic Contemporary Art Exhibition "Solidarity for the Community".

- *ProEtnica 2022 – Sighișoara Intercultural Festival*. The 18th edition of the Festival, organised by DIR in partnership with the Interethnic Educational Center for Youth Sighișoara association, is an event considered to be one of the largest in Europe and certainly, the largest and most representative for the national minorities in Romania. The festival brought together more than 800 active participants from various social and university backgrounds, writers, dancers and singers, plastic artists, craftsmen, from the minorities who responded to the invitation of the organisers.
- In august 2022, DIR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organised the 6th edition of the project *Romani Language - Preservation of the History, Customs, Costume, Traditions and Practices of the Roma*, with the participation of 31 Roma teachers of Romani language and Roma history. The following themes were debated: "The contribution of Roma to the development of Romanian society"; "Roma personalities in Romanian society"; "The school programs on *Romani language and literature* and on the *History and traditions of the Roma - Curricular review*"; "Anti-discrimination, segregation and bullying legislation in the school space"; "The importance of studying the Romani language in preschool and primary education".
- In December 2022, DIR created the catalogue *Pandemics and Epidemics of the Past - Multilingual Communication Challenges*, in partnership with the National Archives of Romania, the Brukenthal National Museum and the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library. The catalogue contains images of rare documents, manuscripts and historical decrees, issued in the past by administrative institutions that illustrate the use of the mother tongue to communicate with citizens of different ethnicities. In the context of a recent pandemic, the objective of the catalogue was to raise awareness on the fact that only effective and timely communication in the mother tongue is a mechanism that can support state action, confirming that using a mother tongue in addressing and official communication throughout time generates trust and security.
- “GAUDEAMUS Radio Romania Book Fair”. Between 7-11 December 2022, in Pavilion B2 of the Romexpo Exhibition Complex in Bucharest, national minority organisations participated in the 29th edition of the "GAUDEAMUS Radio Romania Book Fair", an event organised by the Romanian Broadcasting Society. During this event, the Department ensured an ethnic diversity stand, mostly dedicated to the literature, press and traditions of national minorities. Participating national minority organisations exhibited books, magazines, photos, CDs at the fair and organised, in the specially arranged spaces, launch events for recent publications. Together with the Department for Interethnic Relations, the following organisations of national minorities in Romania, members of the Council of National Minorities, exhibited at the Book Fair: Association of Italians from Romania RO.AS.IT., Association of Macedonians from Romania, Association of Roma Party "Pro - Europa" ", The Community of Russian Lipovans in Romania, the Federation of Jewish Communities from Romania, the Hungarian Democratic Union from Romania, the Union of Armenians from Romania, the Bulgarian Union from Banat-Romania, the Union of Croats from Romania, the Cultural Union of Ruthenians from Romania, The Democratic Union of Turkic-Muslim Tatars of Romania, the Greek Union from Romania, the Union of Poles from Romania, the Union of Serbs from Romania and the Union of Ukrainians from Romania.

- “*International Holocaust Remembrance Day*” - A show of deep lyricism, based on testimonies of survivors and relatives of Holocaust survivors, with musical accompaniment evoking this period was presented on 1 February 2023, at the ARCUB Cultural Centre in Bucharest, under the auspices of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event brought together Jewish and Roma artists who shared with the public fragments of literature, in their own creation or the results of collections and scientific research, recounting the devastating experience of the Holocaust. The Jewish testimonies were presented by actress Maia Morgenstern and director Dan Michael Schlanger, through their own creations, inspired by their own life stories, and the Roma ones by the translator Norica Costache and the actor Sorin Sandu, based on testimonies from deported Roma survivors in Transnistria collected by the researcher Adrian Furtună.

- „*Portraits in the Mirror*” - The project took place in March 2023 and brought together representative personalities from various fields (literature, theatre, film, visual arts, education) among women belonging to national minorities and proposed a mirror representation of them with the mentors who have inspired them. Each selected personality presented their own activity filtered through another female personality in the same field of activity. Through this form of "mirroring", the project aimed both to highlight the contribution of female personalities belonging to national minorities to the Romanian culture, and to highlight the importance of a type of mentoring that ensures the transfer of experience in the professional but especially human field.

- “*Cultural Diversity Month*” - In the context of the celebration of the World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, on 21 May, the Department for Interethnic Relations, and the National Museum of Romanian Literature, organised the Cultural Diversity Month event. The event included the organisation of an exhibition of panels with fragments of prose and poetry by writers belonging to national minorities in Romania, as well as a round table that took place on 23 May 2023, at the National Museum of Romanian Literature. Writers from the following national minorities in Romania have responded to the challenge of allowing us to enter their creative world, full of meanings and messages: Armenian (Bedros Horasangian), Bulgarian (Ioan Vasilcin), Croatian (Mihai Șera), Jewish (Andrei Oișteanu), German (Eginald Norbert Schlattner), Greek (Marina Costa), Italian (Coleta De Sabata), Macedonian (Mariana Venera Popescu), Hungarian (György Alida, Káli István), Roma (Sorin Aurel Sandu), Ruthenian (Gaál Francisc Oscar), Serbian (Slavomir Gvozdenovici), Slovak (Ivan Miroslav Ambruš), Tatar (Neriman Ibraim), Turkish (Gülten Abdula-Nazare) and Ukrainian (Mihai Hafia Traista). The exhibition was open to the public until the end of May and was displayed on the facade of the building of the National Museum of Romanian Literature on Nicolae Crețulescu Street.

- “*February 21 – International Mother Language Day*” - *Behind Numbers There Are People and Communities of Different Cultures, Customs, Traditions and Mother Tongues* - a booklet produced by the National Institute of Statistics in collaboration with the Department for Interethnic Relations. On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, on 21 February, the National Institute of Statistics and the Department jointly created an information platform that contains both statistical data and priceless values, impossible to express in numbers. We have jointly designed a promotion and information tool that addresses both the public belonging to the majority and members of minority national communities, through which we wanted to publicise the results of

the Population and Housing Census 2021, related to the mother tongue, respectively aspects of the thoughts of members of minorities national about their own languages.

- *“The Role of Mass-media in Combating Anti-Semitism”* - the round table brought together representatives of public institutions and specialists in the field. The event took place at Goethe Institute in Bucharest, under the auspices of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and it benefited from the participation of experts in the field and representatives of institutions whose objectives include combating anti-Semitism. The discussions were centred on the awareness of the responsibility of society, in general, and of the media, in particular, in approaches consistent with historical reality, ensuring the visibility of the phenomenon of anti-Semitism and the impartial presentation of cases of vandalism or anti-Semitic statements in public life.
- *TESFEST* - The Jewish State Theatre of Romania (Teatrul Evreiesc de Stat), in collaboration with the Department for Interethnic Relations organised, in May 2023, the 8th edition of the International Yiddish Theatre Festival TES FEST. During the six days of the festival, professional Yiddish-language theatre groups from all over the world (including USA, Israel, Poland), world-renowned klezmer bands and performers were present on the stage of the Jewish State Theatre, presented the Yiddish culture, in all its aspects. The uniqueness of Yiddish culture was presented in the current cultural context, raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue, through the exchange of experience with communities that promote Yiddish culture in the world, the preservation of the Jewish cultural tradition in Romania and the transmission of the Jewish cultural heritage, through artistic means, throughout the world.
- *The contemporary theatre festival dráMA* - The festival, organised by the "Tomcsa Sándor" Theatre and the Pro Theatrum Foundation from Odorheiu Secuiesc in collaboration with DIR, reached its 14th edition in 2023, and offered once again an opportunity of a meeting with contemporary theatre-loving audiences. In addition to performances, the programme included discussions with the creators of the participating productions, the presentation of a book on the history of the theatre, and concerts. During the festival, the spectators, as well as representatives of specialised critics from Romania and Hungary watched over 13 performances presented by 12 theatre groups.
- *The HTC230/STUDIO15/UTEFest20 festival of the Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj* - Between 4-19 November 2023, the Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj-Napoca in collaboration with DIR organised the European Theatre Union Festival. The title of the festival was HTC230/STUDIO15/UTEFest20, signifying the celebration of 230 years of theatre in the Hungarian language in Cluj-Napoca and 15 years since the opening of the Studio hall of the Hungarian State Theatre. During the festival 11-member theatres from 11 countries were invited to participate, the shows being staged by directors such as Alexandra Kazazou, Eleana Georgouli, Michal Dočekal, Botond Nagy, Máté Szabó, Gábor Tompa, László Bocsárdi, Nina Šorak, Attila Vidnyánszky jr., Ewa Kaim, Erika Z. Galli, Martina Ruggeri, István Szabó K., Margarita Mladenova, Nuno Cardoso, Frank Hoffmann and András Urbán. The productions were accompanied by discussions, meetings with the public and book launches. All performances were subtitled in Romanian, Hungarian and English.

- *The Colloquium of National Minority Theatres from Gheorgheni.* The 14th edition of the prestigious Colloquium of National Minority Theatres took place between October 18 and 31, 2003 in Gheorgheni, Joseni, Odorheiu Secuiesc and Miercurea Ciuc. The 2023 edition was organised by the Figura Studio Theater and the Figura Association, in collaboration with DIR. The 2023 event was run in a different way than all previous editions. The renovation of the House of Culture building in Gheorgheni and the lack of a large stage provided the opportunity for a collaboration between the three theatres in Harghita county, the festival also taking place in Odorheiu Secuiesc and Miercurea Ciuc, in addition to Gheorgheni and Joseni. The performances were subtitled in Romanian and/or Hungarian, and each performance was followed by a meeting with the audience. For the young audience, the organisers have provided theatre-themed activities throughout the performances and meetings with the public.

- *Sidy Thal* - Between 11 October and 4 November 2023, DIR, in partnership with the German State Theatre in Timișoara and the Jewish State Theatre in Bucharest, organised the event “Sidy Thal”. 85 years after the anti-Semitic attack in Timișoara, which led to four deaths and 70 injured people, on the occasion of the tour of the ensemble led by the famous actress of those times, Sidy Thal, a play reconstructing this historical fact was presented to the public. The two theatres collaborated for a month in preparing the play, writing the dramatic text, establishing the directorial vision, making the scenography, etc. Playwright Thomas Perle and director Clemens Bechtel did research, with the help of Maria Mădălina Irimia from the "Wilhelm Filderman" Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania, tried to reconstruct this event and the moment when anti-Semitism and fascism became a part of everyday life in an already multicultural society. The play brought together actors, instrumentalists, directors, scenographers, artists and was performed in Yiddish, German and Romanian, with subtitles in Romanian and English. The premiere of the play took place on November 4th at the German State Theatre in Timișoara, and on 12 November in Bucharest on the stage of the Jewish State Theatre.

- *Draw Your Identity. Draw Your Rights.* - The project is part of the larger mission DIR to organise and carry out actions and projects that promote, affirm and develop the ethnic identity of persons belonging to national minorities. Linguistic rights, human rights in a linguistic context (and human linguistic rights) are human and civil rights that refer to the individual and the right to choose one's own language or languages to communicate, both privately and publicly, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or the number of speakers of that language in a given territory. On the occasion of the International Mother language Day, celebrated annually on 21 February, DIR launched the second edition of the national painting/drawing contest. This campaign was designed for school children aged 10-14 years old. More than 50 children from different schools in the country sent their paintings and drawings presenting the linguistic rights of people belonging to national minorities in Romania. The little artists, under the guidance of their teachers, created original works on drawing paper/cardboard, using acrylics, gouache, watercolours, wax pencils, coloured pencils. On the occasion of National Minorities Day, the Department organised a mini-exhibition with the works of the participating children and a video with all the drawings was published on DIR's website and Facebook page.

- *FOCUS DRI* - In June 2023, DIR published on its website a series of articles as part of an information, raising awareness and monitoring action. As part of this action, DIR presented good practices in the field of the use of the mother tongue in local public administration, good practices

that resulted from the data collection process from the previous years, as well as from a subsequent documentation; the articles also presented the legislation in force from this domain to the interested public. During 2020 and 2021, the Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) carried out a data collection process on the implementation of the legal provisions on the right of citizens belonging to a national minority to use their mother tongue in local public administration in towns where the threshold of citizens belonging to a national minority exceeds 20% of the population. The questions of the questionnaire submitted to the local public administration bodies were formulated based on the structure of the provisions of the Government Emergency Decision (GED) No. 57/2019 on the Administrative Code. The purpose of the analysis was to obtain an understanding of how the legal provisions on the use of the mother tongue in relation to public institutions are implemented at the local level, as a result of the legislative amendments made in the field of language rights recognised to citizens belonging to national minorities by GED No. 57/2019. Based on the data and on the analysis, in 2023 DIR asked direct questions to the mayors and representatives of such localities. The action referred to the following aspects:

- dissemination of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities;
- implementation of the legislation in force regarding the use of the languages of national minorities in the relationship with local public administration authorities;
- streamlining the process and improving the quality of interaction between local public administration bodies and citizens;
- facilitating the capacity of local public administration bodies, respectively ensuring uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of the GED No. 57/2019 on the Administrative Code;
- simplifying and streamlining the decision-making process and internal procedures related to the organisation and operation of local public administration authorities in order to use the mother tongue of citizens belonging to national minorities;
- the promotion of examples of good practices implemented at the level of some local public administrations, which have successfully implemented the applicable legal revisions in the field of linguistic rights recognised to citizens belonging to national minorities and the extension of the application of these rights both in the territorial administrative units in which the mentioned provisions are mandatory as well as and in other areas where the emphasis is on improving relations between citizens and authorities.

- “*Roma Ethos*” - DIR resumed the organisation of the seminar “Roma Ethos”, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The event took place as a natural continuation of the project ~ “*Romani Language - Preservation of History, Customs, Clothing, Traditions and Practices*”, carried out in the period 2015- 2022. The seminar brought together Roma and non-Roma teachers who work with Roma students, as well as school mediators, and was aimed at the implementation of some activities and measures included in the Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027 to Appendix no. 2 – The plan of measures related to the Specific Objective 2 – Ensuring the access of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity to a quality inclusive education system, Action Direction 1.5 - Preserving cultural identity and building self-esteem among Roma students, activities/measures 1.5.1 – Revision of the curriculum/"programs of school subjects" and school textbooks of history, civic education, literature, etc., at all levels of education and 1.5.3 – Training of teaching staff for all levels of education to teach Romanian language and literature, the history and traditions of the Roma.

II.

- In **2022**, 69 applications **for non-reimbursable funding** were submitted to DRI by NGOs, and 19 projects were accepted and financed.

Examples of projects that benefited from non-reimbursable financing in 2022:

- *Interethnic Theatre Festival – IFESZT*, an event organised in Satu Mare by the Proscenium Foundation, with the financial support of the Department for Interethnic Relations. 18 theatre groups participated in the festival, including 14 theatre groups in Hungarian, 2 theatre groups in German, from Sibiu and Timișoara, the Jewish State Theatre and the Roma company Giuvlipen. The performances were very varied: from dramas to comedies, concert performances, movement theatre productions, productions on the big stage or performances played with the public on stage and attracted more than three thousand spectators.

- *Filmtettfeszt – Hungarian Film Days*, 22nd edition - the Filmtett Association organised the event in Târgu Mureș, Mureș county; Baia Mare, Maramureș county; Arad, Arad county; Săvădisla, Cluj county; Diosig, Bihor county; Gheorgheni, Harghita county; Gherla, Cluj county. The first edition of the Filmtettfeszt festival was organised in 2001 with the aim of presenting to the public art films produced in Hungary, which received awards at various international festivals, but not released in cinemas in Romania.

- *Amare Paramica/Our Stories/Poveștile noastre* - The cultural project Amare Paramiça/ Poveștile Noastre, developed by the Untold Stories Association, is a multimedia material, which contains elements of documentary, interviews and an original production design, highlighting stories and examples from the community of Roma people. The filming concept and the direction of the film were made by Alina Șerban, the first female director belonging to the Roma community in Romania. The documentary highlights the relationship between Roma folklore and the way of life of the Roma community by collecting family stories, Roma fairy tales, which are on the way to extinction and are transmitted orally from generation to generation. These Roma stories and parables are told in Romani and Romanian, featuring audio-visual elements.

- *Bucharest Jewish Film Festival 2022* – the 12th edition, organised by the Semper Culturalia Association, presented a rich selection of films to the public, most of them in the premiere in Romania. In various locations in Bucharest, films of high artistic quality, fiction films and documentaries, last-minute productions were screened and also films that entered the history of cinema. Round tables, conferences and concerts of Jewish music performed by famous artists, were also organised during the festival.

- In **2023**, 86 applications **for non-reimbursable funding** were submitted to DRI by NGOs, and 18 projects were accepted and financed.

Examples of projects that benefited from non-reimbursable financing in 2023:

- *Interethnic Contemporary Art Camp* at the 3rd edition - Artists representing 17 national minorities from Romania and painters, sculptors, graphic artists, art photographers, representing the majority, worked together in creative workshops within the Interethnic Camp of Contemporary Art that took place between 10-16 July in Aiud, in Alba county. The camp highlights the multi-ethnic segment of Romania in an event whose basic principle is interethnic collaboration, the promotion of contemporary art through the lens of minorities - all of this represented in a single visual art event.

- *G.AĬ.a* - the 27th edition of the *Minimum Party* creative camp and professional forum. The theme of this year's camp organised by the Minimum Party Group Association was "G.AĬ.a", the Earth Goddess, and also the antagonism and fusion between artificial and natural and the creative response of the workshops within the camp and the professional forum. The creative camp was divided into 10 workshops on: music; visual art; film; photography; theatre and dance; architecture; literature; philosophy; craft; Élbey Experimental Theatre.

- *The "EgyFeszt" Festival, Gheorgheni* — The arts, bridges between traditional and contemporary. The "EgyFeszt" Arts Festival took place in Gheorgheni, Harghita county, in 15 different locations in Gheorgheni and its surroundings, and organised by the "Ice Flora" Foundation. There were 200 events, including the Armenian Court and the Folk Court, dedicated especially to lovers of traditional arts and crafts.

- *The interethnic filmmaking workshop Filmtett Workshop*, at the 19th edition - the Filmtett Association organised the Interethnic Filmtett Workshop in Sânvășii, Mureș county. The purpose of the camp was to familiarise the participants belonging to ethnic minorities with the stages of the film creation process under the guidance of renowned specialists from the country and abroad. During the camp, eight workshops took place, dedicated to: directors, cameramen, actors, animation, editors, sound engineers, assistant directors and production directors. 40 young people participated in the camp, and by the end of it, 4 short films and 6 animations were created.

- *PROETNICA FESTIVAL*, Sighișoara, at its 19th edition. The largest and most important intercultural festival in Romania, the "ProEtnica" Festival was organised by the Interethnic Educational Center for Youth Sighisoara and financed by the Department for Interethnic Relations, the Ministry of Culture, the Mureș County Council, respectively the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. The most important location of the event was, traditionally, the Medieval Citadel Square where ensembles of national minorities from all over the country presented their folkloric dances, as well as specific traditional costumes. Every year, "ProEtnica" provides an opportunity to deepen the values presented during the event, through debates on current topics that concern minority communities. Thus, during the festival, there were a series of debates, round tables, lectures and conferences related to the aspects of coexistence, but also about specific problems.

- *Puppet theatre shows organised in Harghita and Covasna counties*. The Halvirág Egyesület Association organised a puppet theatre tour, with performances of Laci Űrge (Laci the Marmot) and Csihán királyúrfi (Prince Nettle) in 18 towns from Harghita and Covasna counties. Through music, play and theatre, almost 2,800 preschoolers and schoolchildren got to know poetry, artistic expression and communication in their mother tongue.

2024

Projects carried out at the initiative of DRI:

Writers' Union Awards. On 31 May 2024 the *Awards Gala of the Writers' Union of Romania* for the editorial year 2023 took place at the National Theatre of Bucharest. The host of the Gala was the interim president of the Writers' Union, Varujan Vosganian.

The prizes for literature in the mother tongue, literature in the languages of national minorities and debut in literature in the languages of national minorities were awarded with the support of the Department for Interethnic Relations of the Romanian Government. The prize for Literature in the mother tongue was obtained by the representative of the Hungarian minority in Romania, the poet Lövétei Lázár László for: *Zákeus fügefája* (Zaceu's Fig), published by Kalligram Publishing House (Budapest) and Bookart (Miercurea Ciuc), 2023. The Prize for Literature in the Languages of National Minorities was awarded to the representative of the Slovak minority, the poet Pavel Husárik, for the poem *Básne pre Filipka* (Poems for Filipko), published by Ivan Krasko Publishing House, 2021. The Prize for Debut in Literature in the Languages of National Minorities was awarded to Nagy Zalán, for the poem *Atlasz vállára veszi a holdat* (Atlas Keeps the Moon on the Shoulder), published by Erdélyi Híradó Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2023.

Metamorphoses — paradigms of change in culture, literature and language. The Department for Interethnic Relations in collaboration with the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Letters in Brasov and the Society of Germanists in Romania (Brasov Branch) organised in April 2024 the XXVII International Conference on *Metamorphosen – Paradigmen des Wandels in Kultur, Literatur und Sprache*.

Community. Multiculturality. Development. Between June and September 2024, the Department for Interethnic Relations carried out the project of editing, and printing of albums and photos, *Community. Multiculturality. Development*. At its fourth edition, this project aimed to promote the essential role of national minorities in the economic and cultural development of local communities in Romania. In this context, the production of the photo album. *Community. Multiculturality. Development* and associated exhibits strengthened intercultural dialogue and highlighted the richness of tangible and intangible heritage of national minorities, contributing to the awareness of the importance of cultural diversity and the promotion of contemporary photographic art as a means of expressing identity. At the 2024 edition, participants from the organisations of Armenian, Bulgarian, Jewish, Polish, Roma and Ukrainian national minorities contributed with photographs taken by photographers capturing their cultural identity and economic potential, heritage that has provided added value and contributed over time to the development of the local economy. The selected photos were included in the album *Community. Multiculturality. Development*. and exhibited in several events during the year, such as at the ProEtnica Festival, held in Sighisoara or the Day of National Minorities, held in Bucharest. This interethnic project has achieved the objectives of strengthening intercultural dialogue, eliminating biases and cultural barriers through better mutual knowledge and awareness of the role that national minorities have in economic and cultural development, as well as the touristic potential they offer.

The International Meeting of the Saxons. The event took place between 2-4 August 2024 in Sibiu under the high patronage of the President of Romania and contributed through the large

number of participants (approx. 20,000) and the media coverage and awareness of the cultural, touristic and economic values represented by the traditions of national minorities.

Interethnic Summer Academy. The Interethnic Summer Academy was a project carried out at the initiative of the Department for Interethnic Relations with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Association Interethnic Educational Center for Youth. The event, which ran from 28 August to 1 September 2024 in Sighisoara, aimed to facilitate dialogue on various topics related to interculturality, diversity and the rights of national minorities, and addressed students among national minorities. Students had the opportunity to participate in discussions on different topics — such as intersectionality as a means to combat bias, the involvement of ethnic communities and minority youth in public life, or the contribution of the Roma minority to the development of Romanian society. Participants addressed topics related to: addressing intersectionality as a method to combat bias against national minorities; the importance of youth participation in public life; knowledge of the contribution of the Roma minority to the development of the Romanian society; the importance of declaring ethnicity.

On this occasion, the Department for Interethnic Relations presented the album dedicated to the Holocaust against Roma – an album of memory and gratitude, produced in partnership with the National Agency for Roma and the Association Roma Centre ‘Amare Romentza’. The Interethnic Summer Academy took place within the Proetnica Festival programme; therefore, the academy's works were addressed to both students and the general public, participants in the Festival. Within the activities of the Academy, two exhibitions were also presented: the exhibition Images of Diversity, made in partnership with the "Inter-Art" Foundation Aiud, but also the exhibition and the album *Community. Multiculturality. Development.*

Summer School on the Tradition of Germanity in Dobruja. On 22-29 September 2024, the summer school "Tradition of Germanity in Dobruja" took place in Constanta. Carried out with the financial support of the Department for Interethnic Relations, the project was organised by the Research and Documentation Centre for Germanists in Dobruja within the Faculty of Letters of Ovidius University in Constanta, together with the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies within the Faculty of Letters of Transylvania University in Brasov. This summer school aimed to motivate students to discover this connection between Dobruja and the culture of Germanity, by conducting workshops of German language and literature, but also by direct field explorations. All activities contributed to the development of a resonance axis towards such an important theme for understanding multi- and intercultural phenomena. During the Summer School, students also visited the exhibition ‘Life of Germans in Mihail Kogălniceanu (Caramurat) until 1940’. Followers of the former German inhabitants of the commune organised this exhibition featuring photographs from the life of the locality, taken before 1940 by the German locals of that time. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the Association of Bessarabian Germans in Stuttgart, which provided the photographs and agreed to their exhibition.

Diversity Cup — Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination through Sport. From 27 to 29 September 2024, the Department for Interethnic Relations organised the Diversity Cup – Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination through Sport, an interethnic event dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and combating xenophobia through sport. The project complied with the objectives of the 2023-2024 Governance Programme ‘Vision for the Nation’, included in the Chapter National Minorities and the requirements of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Antisemitism, Xenophobia, Radicalisation and Hate Speech 2024-2027, approved by Government Decision No 540/2024. The event brought together over 125 players from 12 national

minority organisations. The competition was attended by the Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania, the Union of Croats in Romania, the Association of Italians in Romania "RO.AS.IT.", the Association of Macedonians in Romania, the Democratic Hungarian Union of Romania, the Union of Poles in Romania, the Roma Party "Pro Europa", the Community of Lipoveni Russians in Romania, the Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania, the Union of Serbs in Romania, the Turkish Democratic Union in Romania and the Union of Ukrainians in Romania. This project has demonstrated that sport can be an effective means of promoting diversity and combating discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech, as well as valuing ethnic and cultural diversity through mutual knowledge and collaboration between communities, having a positive impact on interethnic relations in Romania.

Interethnic Relations in Transylvania. The Department for Interethnic Relations, in collaboration with ASTRA Sibiu County Library, organised the international conference Interethnic Relations in Transylvania on October 17-20 in Sibiu. The communications covered topics on national minorities and their historical importance throughout the Middle Ages with their present reminiscences and how these relations are reflected in existing European cultural heritage. The conference included individual presentations grouped in several sections and brought together specialists in history, art history and archaeology in Sibiu.

11th Interethnic Theatre Festival — Satu Mare. The Interethnic Theatre Biennale (11th edition) took place between 13-25 November in Satu Mare. The project celebrated theatrical art in the languages of minorities in Romania and provided an intercultural space for meeting, rediscovering, sharing creative ideas, for troupes of actors, scenographers, theatre directors in the languages of national minorities. The project organised by the Department for Interethnic Relations in partnership with the Proscenium Foundation was meant to support the dialogue between national minorities and the majority population, an open society based on diversity and interculturality. The participants of the festival were: Tomcsa Sándor Theatre in Odorheiu Secuiesc, Aradi Kamaraszínház Theatre Company, Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, German State Theatre Timisoara, Hungarian State Theatre Timisoara, Northern Theatre Satu Mare, Tamási Áron Theatre in Sfântu Gheorghe, Jewish State Theatre in Bucharest, Csiki Játékszin Theatre in Miercurea Ciuc, Hungarian State Theatre Cluj-Napoca, National Theatre Târgu Mureş, Tompa Miklós Company, Szigligeti Theatre, Oradea totaling 600 artists who played in front of almost 5,000 spectators.

Gaudeamus Radio Romania Book Fair (4-8 December 2024). The Department for Interethnic Relations has held a Booth of Ethnic Diversity for national minority organisations members of the Council of National Minorities. The booth was attended by representatives of the following national minorities: Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Jewish, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Roma, Lipovan, Ruthenian, Serbian, Ukrainian and Tatar, bringing editorial news and a rich palette of cultural events and traditions of their own to the fore. The Department for Interethnic Relations held at the book fair the event entitled "Andreanum 800 years - law and constitution in the Transylvanian Saxons". The book, signed by authors passionate about the history of Transylvania, explores 800 years of legal and constitutional tradition among the Transylvanian Saxons, offering an insight into the evolution of the laws and norms that have governed their communities over time. Visitors to the fair had the opportunity to discover a wide variety of publications – from literature, history and art albums, to works reflecting the customs, language and heritage of national minorities. The presence of national minorities at the booth demonstrated, once again, that the cultural identity of each community is valuable and enriches the national

cultural heritage, and the editorial novelties presented were a bridge to the understanding and appreciation of diversity.

The image of the Turks and Tatars in modern Romanian art (in Romanian, English, Tatar and Turkish). The album reissued in 2024 in the four languages highlights the historical and cultural heritage of the Turkish and Tatar minority reflected in modern Romanian art. Selected artists: Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Alexandru Satmary, Camil Ressu, Ștefan Popescu, Iosif Iser, Jean Alexandru Steriadi, Nicolae Dărăscu, Nicolae Tonitza, Ștefan Dimitrescu, Rodica Maniu Mutzner, Constantin Artachino (painting).

Day of National Minorities. The Department for Interethnic Relations in collaboration with the ‘Dimitrie Gusti’ National Village Museum in Bucharest celebrated the Day of National Minorities with a cultural event attended by national minorities in Romania. On this occasion, the exhibition of photographic art entitled Community. Multiculturality. Development. was also opened.

Projects carried out by DRI in partnership with other institutions:

TES FEST International Theatre Festival. The TES FEST International Theatre Festival has become a prestigious cultural event, organized by the Jewish State Theatre in Bucharest, in partnership with the Department for Interethnic Relations, dedicated at the same time to the celebration and promotion of Yiddish language and culture. From 28 to 31 May 2024, the 9th edition of the festival was held, bringing together professional theatre groups from the United States and Israel, as well as klezmer music bands and performers. The program included concerts, theatre performances, documentary film screenings and premieres, highlighting the diversity and richness of Jewish traditions. The TES FEST International Theatre Festival was addressed to the general public and aimed to facilitate knowledge, understanding and rapprochement between cultures through specific artistic expressions. By organizing TES FEST, the Jewish State Theatre aimed to bring to the forefront the unique specificity of Yiddish culture, presenting it in the current cultural context, but also to promote cultural identity, diversity and multiculturalism, also celebrating the Day of Yiddish Language and Culture, on 30 May.

TIFF promotes diversity. The Transylvania International Film Festival, organised by the Association for the Promotion of Romanian Film in partnership with the Department for Interethnic Relations, also included films, concerts and activities to promote cultural diversity in 2024 under the slogan ‘TIFF promotes diversity’. The section dedicated to cultural diversity benefited from the financial support of the Department for Interethnic Relations of the Romanian Government and included numerous events over ten days. Objectives achieved: promoting ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity through cinematography; fostering good knowledge and understanding between national minorities, as well as between the majority and national minorities; the use of cinematographic art as a means of promoting attitudes to combat racial and ethnic intolerance.

International Fine Arts Camp ‘INTER-ART’ Aiud, 27th edition, 10 - 23 August 2024. The participating artists represented Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Mauritius, Serbia, Slovenia, United States of America, and they were joined by 10 artists from Romania. The Inter-Art International Fine Arts Camp is a cultural event that offers opportunities for interaction and exchange of ideas and best practices between minority and majority artists with audiences interested in the creation of artists from different historical and geographical backgrounds.

German cultural and literary heritage in South East Europe/Deutsches literarisches und kulturelles Erbe im südosteuropäischen Raum. From 7 to 9 November 2024, in partnership with the ‘Lucian Blaga’ University of Sibiu, the Faculty of Letters and Arts – Department of Anglo-American and German Studies, the Department for Interethnic Relations organised the international symposium *German Cultural and Literary Heritage in South-Eastern Europe*. The event had an international character, with participants from Germany, Austria, Turkey, Slovenia. The topics covered a wide range of approaches, from cultural and literary studies, to the didactics of German, linguistics, theory and practice of translation. During the symposium a Forum of young researchers was organised, where young researchers and PhD students, several Doctoral Schools from universities in the country, had the opportunity to present aspects of their own doctoral research. At the end of the conference, there were debates relevant to Germanistics in Romania on methods and necessary measures regarding the decrease of language competence, absenteeism, the need to create an inter-university network for solving some problems and the development of common projects.

The Secret Discussion – Romanian Literature Festival. The Secret Discussion – Romanian Literature Festival is a project carried out by the Department for Interethnic Relations in partnership with the Group for Cultural Management and Mediation, in Cluj, from 7 to 10 November 2024. The aim of the project was to promote the use of minority languages in the works of writers belonging to ethnic and national minorities in Romania. It was a literary festival, with an interesting and varied program, going beyond the limits of literature, merging in lyrical terms with contemporary art, theatrical art, film and music. The 2024 edition was attended by 36 guests: writers (poets, writers, critics and literary theorists) from several distinct linguistic/literary spaces: Romanian literature and Hungarian literature in Transylvania, German literature in Romania, photographers, musicians, translators, academics.

SoNoRo Open House — promotes diversity through inspiration. Organised from 12 to 17 November 2024 in Cluj, in partnership with the Sonoro Association, the event had the following objectives: supporting chamber music concerts that promote cultural diversity, bringing together artists from different ethnic communities to foster dialogue and mutual understanding; developing educational programmes that use music as a tool to promote tolerance and interethnic understanding; facilitating collaborations between artists from diverse ethnicities and cultures, both locally and internationally, to create events that reflect and promote diversity; launching public awareness campaigns, using the art of photography, to change negative attitudes and combat ethnic stereotypes, especially among young people. In order to highlight the importance of their cultural heritage, during these programmes, works belonging to composers of Hungarian ethnicity (Béla Bartók), Roma (later musicians from the classical music repertoire) or Jewish (such as songs from Yiddish folklore, gathered by Max Eisikovits) were interpreted.