

A description of the practical actions that the Association for Implementing Democracy has taken to support the Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative and measures of outcomes

"RESPONSIBILITY IN DEMOCRACY"

The Association for Implementing Democracy (AID) is a Romanian non-governmental and non-profit organisation, whose goal is to strengthen democracy in Romania, by supporting democratic values, educating youth in the values of democracy, strengthening democratic institutions and supporting a new generation of leaders. The responsibility of each individual towards society and the responsibility of the state towards the citizen is the basis of AID's ideology in programs and activities. AID's activities aim to solve systemic problems in order to strengthen the democracy in Romania, such as: promoting social responsibility, promoting democratic values, government management, the fight against corruption, institutional reform, political reform and building a new type of leader, more professional and with a base grounded values (ethics, moral responsibility) and vision.

In 2013, the Association for Implementing Democracy was a partner in a series of projects in the area of promoting integrity in public administration.

1. AID was partner in the project "**Strategic approach in the area of corruption in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration**", developed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP), which aims to develop useful tools and information, monitoring, control accountability and reporting purposes and executive decision makers to apply the principle of integrity in public service, preventing and combating corruption in the structures of the Ministry. During the year 2013, a diagnosis of institutional corruption in the purview of MDRAP was completed and a series of reports and recommendations on the phenomenon of corruption were made, by three European experts (Netherlands, Germany and Finland), who have worked in the April-June 2013 period at a ministry level. The proposals and recommendations of the international experts were used in drawing up their own anti-corruption ministry strategy and action plan, which were set for public debate in 2014. Among the activities implemented in 2013, in this project, and in which our organization has made an important contribution, we mention:
 - Conducting a research and an assessment *report* of the main vulnerabilities to corruption due to the organization of 10 regional focus groups (of which 7 were held in 2012 and 3 were organized in 2013) for consultation with local government structures within / subordinated / coordinated / under the authority of MDRAP, regarding the vulnerabilities to corruption, the perception of the phenomenon and stakeholder expectations;
 - Contracting three experts from E.U. member states (Finland, the Netherlands and Germany) who have worked for 2 months at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration and achieved the following: a monitoring and evaluation *report* (on the activities, procedures, reporting systems and decision vulnerabilities to corruption from the MDRAP), a *guide* that includes recommendations on reducing vulnerabilities to corruption by: instruments and types of interventions, action measures, changes of public policy/legislative/procedural, impact analysis and a *procedure* to monitor the vulnerabilities and risks to corruption MDRAP and reporting it;
 - Drafting the MDRAP Anticorruption/ Integrity Strategy (by participating in four workshops and providing expertise to plan development strategy).

2. Another project in which AID was a partner is "**Anticorruption policies for citizens in a responsible administration**", financed from the European Social Fund through the Programme "Administrative Capacity Development". In this project, AID has been a partner of the Central Unit for Public Administration Reform; the project was taken over during 2013 by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration. The aim of this project was to improve the capacity to implement anti-corruption policies in public administration, in order to fulfill the recommendations of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism. In 2013 were conducted 23 information sessions at local level, with the participation of 765 representatives of local authorities and representatives of decentralized public services and the decentralized institutions in the territory. The participants were informed about the objectives and targets of the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2012-2015 and the related measures, and on the responsibilities of central and local government authorities, in order to implement the provisions of the strategy document and on drawing up their plans to prevent corruption. Also, in the project was carried out consultancy work for implementation of the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2012-2015: 92 administrative territorial units which received advice for the implementation of the Strategy. Among the activities, in this project, and in which our organization has made an important contribution, we mention:
- Organizing 23 information sessions to present and promote the National Anticorruption Strategy, which were attended by 765 representatives of local public institutions;
 - Developing a report in order to evaluate the first round of information sessions;
 - Developing a methodology in order to assess the level of implementation, at a local level, of the measures of the National Anticorruption Strategy 2012 – 2015.
3. Regarding health sector reform, in 2013, AID was a partner of the Health Ministry in the project: "**Good Governance through Integrity and Accountability in the Romanian Health System**". The aim of the project was to promote quality public services and ensure accountability in public spending in the health sector by increasing the institutional capacity of the new administrators of health units, increasing the capacity of self-management of health units, increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Health to assess and develop public policies, in the context of decentralization. Thus, during 2013, the first stage of the institutional diagnosis regarding the causes of corruption in the health system was completed, following the application of questionnaires to a national sample of patients.

Among the activities implemented in 2013 in this project and in which our organization has made an important contribution, we mention:

- conducting a sociological study to measure the degree of patient satisfaction with the quality of public services offered in the Romanian health system;
- organizing 3 training sessions for 53 representatives of the Ministry of Health.

In 2014 and 2015, the Association for Implementing Democracy continued the practical activities to support the Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative, as following:

A. Healthcare Sector Anticorruption project – “Good Governance through Integrity and Accountability in the Romanian Healthcare System” – implemented together with the Ministry of Health and financed from the European Social Fund.

- **Creating specific tools to fight against fraud and corruption in the health system**

Two ministerial orders were elaborated and approved: one aimed to make operational the Ethics Councils in all public health hospitals - OMS no. 1039/05.09.2014 for approving the responsibilities and membership of the Ethics Councils functioning within public health units and the second aimed to establish the Patient’s Feedback Mechanism in all public health hospitals – OMS no. 1182/13.10.2014 for testing patient’s feed-back mechanism within 5 pilot health units.

The Patient’s Feedback Mechanism is aimed at providing a channel of communication between hospitals and patients with a view to **reporting integrity incidents** (Measure 1.3.1 of the NAS Anticorruption Action Plan for the Healthcare sector), to **informing citizens with regards to their rights and obligations as patients** within the public health system and to **collecting the patients’ feedback with regards to the quality of healthcare services** provided by public hospitals. **The pilot phase of this mechanism has already been implemented within 5 public hospitals.**

The Ethics Councils, on the other hand, are structures which will function at the level of each public hospital, designed to identify, analyze and solve ethical problems (defined as conflicts between values, rights and obligations), incurred in medical practice and in the relation between patients and medical personnel. Each Ethics Council will be formed of elected representatives representing categories of personnel within the hospital, the county health insurance house, and designated representatives of patients’ associations, the local/county public authority in the case of decentralized hospitals or the county public health directorate in the case of hospitals subordinated to the Ministry of Health. **The Ethics Council is independent from the medical and administrative hierarchy of the hospital** and its membership is incompatible with top management positions with the hospital.

Online monitoring of Ethics’ Council activity at county and national levels

The Ethics Council’s activity, as well as the application and results of the Patients’ Feedback Mechanism are subject to continuous monitoring by the Integrity Department within the Ministry of Health. Apart from periodic reporting made by hospitals (including online reporting), implementation will be supported by making operational an online platform which will ensure swift access to information such as: the content of complaints, their status, the content of the ethical opinion, the results of the application of the patients’ feedback

mechanism. The platform was developed with support from the Special Telecommunications Service and will ensure access to information at three levels: Ethics Council at the hospital level, Directorate for Public Health at county level and Integrity Department at national level

A **comprehensive national research** was conducted aiming at identifying citizens' satisfaction regarding quality of healthcare services in Romania (for various types of medical care), at identifying and classifying the types of problems related to the quality of services provided in the public health system, measuring the level of perceived corruption in the public health system and in the public health administration, identifying the main causes of the corruption phenomenon and finding solutions to the problems of public health services. The results underline the fact that the Romanian public health system continues to deal with various problems both in what regards the quality of the medical services and patients' trust in the medical personnel, as well as in what regards the various forms of corruption. Despite all these, the public health system continues to be the first option for most patients because of its accessibility, the fact that it is cheaper, and also because of people's trust in medical personnel from the public system.

Training activities in fields related to anticorruption and integrity have been conducted for personnel within hospitals and for representatives of county councils having under their subordination public health units.

- B. The project „Strategic approach in the field of anticorruption at the level of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration”, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration and cofinanced from the European Social Fund**

Key achievements:

- 1) **Elaboration of the *Integrity Strategy of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration*.** The strategy is grounded on the approach endorsed by the 2012-2015 National Anticorruption Strategy and it promotes the same strategic intervention in the anticorruption filed, namely: prevention, education and control. MRDPA's Integrity Strategy covers six general objectives. The first four general objectives are based on the objectives set out in the 2012-2015 NAS. **The fifth objective regards the "communication and cooperation for integrity" dimension, designed to ensure the development of new tools. The sixth objective "Supporting local governments in their efforts to prevent corruption and promote integrity" provides measures aimed at assisting local governments in both the implementation of the NAS, at increasing the capacity to implement preventive measures, at raising corruption awareness at local levels and at strengthening integrity, efficiency and transparency at the institutional level.**
- 2) **Consultation of local public authorities and representatives of departments of the MRDPA**, including the subordinated/under authority ones, with regard to the draft of the integrity strategy of the ministry. **9 meetings were held in order to debate the strategy and to collect proposals and comments based on which the content of the strategic document was improved.** The meetings were attended by representatives of various departments within MRDPA, as well as by representatives of local public authorities from 8 development regions in Romania (215 persons).

- 3) **Training sessions for MRDAP staff and its subordinated/under authority units - 19 training sessions - 295 persons trained in 8 key topics related to anticorruption, such as: conflicts of interest and incompatibilities, organizational ethics, communication and public relations, integrity and responsibility in civil service, transparency in decision-making and free access to public information, integrity and transparency in budgetary planning and execution, integrity and transparency in human resources management, integrity and transparency in public procurement.** Further, 2 training of trainers (TOT) sessions were organized for 29 representatives of MRDPA who are now able to provide training to MRDPA and local public administration personnel in the 8 training topics presented above.
- C. **The project “Anticorruption Policies for the Citizen within a Responsible Administration (APCRD)”, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration and the Anticorruption General Directorate within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and cofinanced from the European Social Fund.**

Key achievements:

- 1) **91 local institutions continued to receive consultancy for the implementation of the NAS;** for each of the local institutions involved in the project, road maps (specifying stages, activities, documents to be elaborated during the period of consultancy, responsible and deadlines) were drafted. All the 91 local institutions reported the progress in the field through the 2013 annual reports as well as 2014 first semester reports on the stage of implementation of the NAS.
- 2) The **methodology of assessing risks and vulnerabilities to corruption** was drafted. It is designed to address the specific of local public administration activities and **it was implemented within all 91 local institutions** benefiting from consultancy within the project. Thus, all the 91 local public authorities elaborated their own analysis on corruption risks and vulnerabilities. The conclusions of these analyses were taken into account in the process of elaboration/ updating of the action plans of each local institution involved in the project. This updated local action plans include specific measures meant to address the identified risks and vulnerabilities.
- 3) In what regards the process of offering support to local authorities in implementing the NAS, **the following working tools have been developed and already used by the 91 local authorities in the process of implementing the provisions of the 2012-2015 National Anticorruption Strategy:**
 - Evaluation questionnaires measuring the level of employees’ knowledge of anticorruption measures and provisions;
 - A database including the information resulted from the application of the evaluation questionnaires;
 - Questionnaire on public services quality and integrity;
 - Information on the legal provisions regarding incompatibilities and conflict of interests regime applicable to local public authorities;
 - Templates of registers for situations of conflict of interests (adapted to civil servants, contractual staff and local elected representatives);
 - Templates of registers of integrity incidents;

- Templates of periodic self-evaluation reports on the stage of implementation of mandatory preventing measures;
- Template of action plans to put into practice the NAS provisions;
- Recommendations regarding the assets declarations and the role of the person in charge with their management in each local institution;
- Templates of 2013 annual reports and 2014 first semester reports on NAS stage of implementation.

4) **Trainings and exchange of best practices activities:**

- 3 training sessions for representatives of the Anticorruption General Directorate (AGD) on matters related to corruption offences from the point of view of Law 78/2000 for preventing, discovering and sanctioning corruption and the new Criminal Code, judiciary bodies competences from the point of view of the new Criminal Procedure Code, as well as on matters related to integrity, transparency, corruption prevention, communication and public relations in public institutions, were organized and attended by 74 persons.
- 4 training sessions dedicated to the local public administration representatives with responsibilities in the areas of integrity, transparency, prevention and countering corruption and public relations, were organized and attended by 96 persons.

5) **14 evaluation sessions on the stage of NAS implementation were organized within the Anticorruption Action Groups organized at the county level.** The evaluation sessions were organized by the Association for Implementing Democracy in partnership with the prefectures offices, and were attended by 450 representatives of local public authorities, deconcentrated public services, as well as decentralized institutions.

E. Education and Leadership

In 2014, the Association for Implementing Democracy has started to implement, as a partner of the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), the project "Improving the monitoring electronic data on the activities and infrastructure in the field research and development through the implementation of modern ICT technologies in order to serve the informational needs of service recipients MEN".

The overall objective was to strengthen the role of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in society and increase its visibility in Europe and internationally; increase the RDI system's capacity presentation / promotion of the relevant results related activities / facilities in research and development and innovation (RDI); improving the capacity of the Ministry of National Education regarding electronic monitoring data on activities, infrastructures, outcomes and human capital in research development and innovation (RDI), by creating a portal domain - information portal of research infrastructures and human resources national RDI system. The project mainly aimed to simplify access to funding schemes, research, development and co-driven innovation and support collaboration; reduction of RDI system fragmentation by fostering the cooperation and participation in national and international networks; strengthening the role of science in society through science communication, promotion of ethics / transparency / integrity and equal opportunities in research, development of interfaces dedicated to science-society dialogue; expanding international cooperation programs

and projects; better representation of Romania at the institutional and expert institutions and representative bodies of research, development and innovation at European and international level.

At the end of 2014, the project "Increasing the quality of pre-university educational system in Romania by implementing modern management tools and monitoring" was launched, project implemented by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in which AID was partner. Monitoring, control and performance evaluation of public services of education, reduction, simplification and increased transparency of administrative procedures in the education system, strengthening social recognition and professional status of teachers, and revive confidence in the school and education in Romania are among the most important benefits in this project.

41 County School Inspectorate Bucharest School Inspectorate, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, and 1,000 educational institutions nationwide are beneficiaries in this project. The project runs from 2014-2016 and is financed from the European Social Fund through the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity Development.

Association for Implementing Democracy promotes, in Romania, the application of social responsibility in companies and public institutions, in accordance with ISO 26000 on Social Responsibility. One of the significant outcomes of AID activity in this area is the adoption, by the Romanian Government, of the National Strategy for the Promotion of Social Responsibility. All projects involving the Association for Implementing Democracy include two important dimensions on promoting sustainable development and equal opportunities. Thus, AID's projects mainly use recycled paper and apply measures aimed at responsible use of paper. Within the association, used paper and toner used to print documents are recycled using specialized companies in this field. At the same time, AID allocated, in all training programs, a section dedicated to promoting sustainable development and equal opportunities.