



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Romania
<b>Title:</b>	National Strategy on Disability is adopted by the Government
<b>Date:</b>	18 October 2016
<b>Expert:</b>	Iordache, Romanița
<b>Context</b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	National Strategy for 2016-2020 and Operational Plan on disability finally adopted
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Disability
<b>Source:</b>	legislation, policy development
<b>Field:</b>	employment, social protection, social advantages, access to goods and services, education, housing, other
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Government Decision 655 for the approval of the National Strategy "A Society without Barriers for Persons with Disabilities" 2016-2020 and the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy from 14 September 2016

### Content

**Law/policy development:** After more than three years of debates and delays in adopting a national strategy in relation to persons with disabilities, and significant criticisms from NGOs representing persons with disabilities, on 14 September 2016, the Romanian Government adopted the Government Decision 655 for the approval of the National Strategy "A Society without Barriers for Persons with Disabilities" 2016-2020 and the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy (*Strategia națională „O societate fără bariere pentru persoanele cu dizabilități” 2016-2020 și Planul operațional privind implementarea strategiei naționale*).<sup>1</sup>

From its opening paragraph, the Strategy declares aiming to ensure the implementation of the UNCRPD (signed by Romania in 2007 and ratified in 2010). In a chapter on conceptual clarifications, the Strategy defines disability as "a generic term for deficiencies/impairments, limitations of the activity and restrictions in participation. The concept reflects the negative aspects of the interaction between the individual, who has a health problem, and environment and personal factors the person is living in." The persons with disabilities are defined as "the persons with physical, mental, intellectual or sensorial deficiencies which are long lasting, deficiencies which, in interaction with various barriers, might limit full and effective participation of the persons in the society, in equal conditions with others."

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<sup>1</sup> Hotărârea de Guvern 655 pentru aprobarea Strategiei naționale „O societate fără bariere pentru persoanele cu dizabilități” 2016-2020 și Planul operațional privind implementarea strategiei naționale O societate fără bariere pentru persoanele cu dizabilități” 2016-2020 din 14 septembrie 2016, publicată în Monitorul Oficial 737 din 22 Septembrie 2016.

The general objectives of the Strategy include: promoting accessibility in all areas, ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities, eliminating discrimination and ensuring equality, ensuring access to a work environment which is open, inclusive and accessible, promoting education and professional training, promotion and protection of the right of persons with disabilities to live in decent conditions, equitable access to services and health facilities, with a particular attention to gender aspects, developing policies for persons with disabilities based on statistical data. These are also the main actions for the Strategy which are further analysed individually. The proposed measures and specific indicators are listed in the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy which was also adopted.

The funding of the objectives included in the Strategy will be provided from the state budget although the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy mentions 'European funds' as the primary source for most measures.

The Ministry of Labour is supposed to issue an order in 120 days from the date when the Strategy enters into force (22 September 2016) providing for the monitoring instrument of the Strategy. The National Authority for Persons with Disabilities is supposed to publish an annual report on the implementation, a first report being planned for end of 2017.

**Key points of analysis:** For each of the general objectives/directions identified, the Strategy proposed an analysis of the current situation, a general objective as well as specific objectives. A distinct chapter with results of the public policy and of the actions as well as a chapter of indicators are included.

Notably, the Strategy includes as a distinct direction of action a chapter on statistical data, the biggest challenge being a comprehensive, correlated system of segregated data.

**Internet link source:** Text of the Strategy available in Romanian on the website of the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities <http://anpd.gov.ro/web/strategia-nationala-o-societate-fara-bariere-pentru-persoanele-cu-dizabilitati-2016-2020-si-planul-operational-privind-implementarea-strategiei-nationale/>.