



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

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Romania
<b>Title:</b>	National equality body publishes annual activity report for 2017
<b>Date:</b>	28 May 2018
<b>Expert:</b>	Iordache, Romanița
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Activity report and statistical data
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	All grounds
<b>Source:</b>	Miscellaneous
<b>Field:</b>	All fields
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Art. 22(2) of the Governmental Ordinance 137/2000

### **Content**

**Development:** The National Council for Combatting Discrimination (NCCD), the equality body in Romania, has a duty to present an annual activity report to the Parliament every year. This report includes statistical data on the petitions received in 2017, a picture of the remedies provided by the NCCD, information on court cases, examples of cases and awareness raising activities, personnel and budgetary information. Out of the 652 petitions, the largest number of petitions received in 2017 were on grounds of belonging to a social category (114) and the smallest numbers were on grounds of race (2) and HIV status (8). Also relevant is the number of petitions on grounds of religion (18), language (12), age (31), nationality (64), sexual orientation (17), disability (74), ethnicity (53). As for the areas: 273 petitions were about access to employment, 154 were about access to public services, 144 on personal dignity, 51 on access to education, 6 on housing and 27 on access to public spaces.

The NCCD found discrimination in 117 cases (a similar number to the amount of cases in which discrimination was found in 2016, i.e. 112 cases). In 2017 it issued 65 fines, 51 warnings, 47 recommendations, 3 decisions to continue monitoring the situation and in 40 cases the perpetrators were ordered to publish briefs of the NCCD decision in the media. The highest amount of fines applied in a case was of RON 50.000 (approx. €14.000). The 65 fines issued in 2017 amounted to RON 239.000 (approx. €44.000) as compared to the 2016 amount which was three times higher (RON 687.000 (approx. €152.000)).

The report also provides information regarding the cases in which its decisions had been challenged before the courts according to Article 20 (9-10) of the Governmental Ordinance 137/2000. In 2017, the NCCD had to support its decisions before the administrative courts in 423 cases and in 130 cases the courts decided in favour of the NCCD, and against the NCCD in 35 cases, with 365 cases still pending at the time the report was written. The success rate indicated by the NCCD is of 80% in 2017, compared to 86% in 2016.

Given the legal obligation of the NCCD to participate as expert institution in civil cases on grounds of the anti-discrimination legislation according to Article 27 of the Governmental Ordinance 137/2000, the institution reports participation in 723 civil cases on moral damages and 712 cases filed under other claims (work conflicts). While not providing information on the resolution of these civil cases, the report mentions that 714 civil complaints had been admitted and 870 were dismissed by the courts. The similar workload in 2016 was of 750 cases.

In 2017, the annual budgetary allocation was of RON 5.856.000 (approx. € 1.301.000) compared to RON 5.318.000 (approx. € 1.175.380) in 2016. The executed budget was of RON 5.424.000 (approx. €1.205.000). Out of the 89 staff positions needed, only 70 were budgeted but the institution had to function only with 67 employees, a situation similar to 2015 and 2016 when the institution had 62 and 63 employees in spite of the same estimated need and allocation of resources.

**Key points of analysis:** Compared with previous years, the activity report indicates a situation similar regarding the number of petitions received and decisions issued. There is a significant increase in the executed budget.

**Internet link source:** Report available in Romanian and English upon request.