

DRI activities and projects carried out by the Department for Interethnic Relations in 2021

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

In 2021, DRI carried out activities and projects for the preservation and promotion of language, history and culture of Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities, at its own initiative or in partnership:

- "My name - the mirror of my soul" - promoting the languages of the national minorities in Romania – the online project carried out on the occasion of the celebration of the International Mother Language Day, on February 21, addressed cultural diversity through the lens of the proper names of the national minorities.
- During 2021, DRI ran an awareness campaign on the importance of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities in Romania "Wednesday is about #rights!" DIR published on the institution's website and on its Facebook page a series of short videos presenting the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities in various fields: culture, religion, administration, education, public life. The action was aimed to promote these rights among citizens belonging to national minorities in Romania, as well as presenting them to the general public in order to stimulate the dialogue between the majority and national minorities. Part of the project was dedicated to linguistic rights and the use of the mother tongue in the relationship with local public administration authorities and decentralized public services.
- On March 27, 2021, on the World Theater Day, DIR carried out and presented to the public, an online survey about the state of theatrical art of national minorities in Romania, the results and the experiences gained by them after a year of virtual theater. As part of this project, we asked theater directors, troupe leaders and founders of state theater institutions as well as those of independent theater active in the field of theatrical art of national minorities in Romania, to formulate a message on the occasion of World Theater Day.
- In 2021, DIR published the second volume of "Interviews with personalities of national minorities on the topic of the mother tongue - Identities in dialogue: languages, emotions, values". The volume contained 10 interviews with personalities from national minorities in Romania who talk about their mother tongues, namely Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Ruthenian, Serbian and Ukrainian. The volume includes both the aspects by which one language differs from the other - grammatically and lexically or spiritually, as well as a brief presentation of the speakers of these languages, as well as their cultural habits. In this volume we also included an interview about the Romanian language and how can it be taught in schools with teaching in the Hungarian language.
- Interethnic Relations in Transylvania - the workshop hosted formal and informal presentations addressed to specialists and auditors alike, and included themes on national

minorities and their historical importance throughout the Middle Ages with their present-day reminiscences and how these relationships are reflected in the existing European cultural heritage.

- TIFF promotes diversity - the main objectives of the project aimed to promote ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity through the cinematographic art; the cultivation of 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.

- Romani language - conservative of history, customs, costumes, and traditions - Starting from the need to promote ethno-cultural diversity, the cultivation of common values and intercultural dialogue, considering the role that education has in promoting understanding and tolerance, in cultivating common values and dialogue, as well as in eliminating prejudices and cultural barriers, the collaboration between the DIR and the Ministry of Education made possible the online workshop, in December 2021, with 35 teachers who teach the Romani language or in the Romani language, in schools where students of the Romani ethnicity study.

- The active participation of Roma youth in the life of the community and the various ways in which this goal can be achieved - were the main topics debated at the educational and multimedia event organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Romania organization, in collaboration with DIR. As part of Roma Youth Leadership Training, young Roma from different areas of the country - Bucharest, Galați, Harghita, Hunedoara and Prahova - participated in thematic discussions about civil rights, possibilities of active social involvement through various specific civic actions, at the same time they were able to learn about the opportunities for collaboration and funding, respectively the projects aimed at the Roma community, carried out or financed by the DIR.