



10 February 2017

**Subject: Gender equality week in Bucharest in the context of Romania's journey in implementing the HeForShe commitments**

**Dear Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,**

On behalf of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, I would like to send you a summary of the current activities implemented in Romania in the context of the HeForShe commitments.

Through the voice of the President, Romania has been committed to launching a series of ambitious programs that aim at empowering women all over the country, as follows:

*Bucharest, Romania* - For the celebration of the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, „The National Day for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men”, Romania's National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men organized a series of events under the name of “Gender Equality Week”. Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May, the events that took place in Bucharest managed to attract and gather up over 1,200 students.



Successful business women, entrepreneurs, award winning actresses and women in key positions within the central public administration went to high-schools and discussed with teenagers about what it is like to be a powerful woman in today's society.



About 400 students from the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy took part in a debate, followed by an interactive theatre play using **Forum Theater** techniques, on the subject of **preventing and combating domestic violence and the principle of equal opportunities.**



Another 50 teenagers visited the Cotroceni National Museum, while several members of relevant NGO's took part in a debate about the involvement of women in politics and in decision-making key positions. During this week, an essay competition for college and high school students was also organized. It covered the gender equality theme and the authors of the best three essays from each category were rewarded with a prize. The winning essays were then used by artist Mariana Pachis as an inspiration in three of her sand art movie clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0vmTZvdw1c&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AqdV1B6iqE&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLT8SxbVbt8&feature=youtu.be>



High school students visiting the Cotroceni National Museum



Every participant was encouraged to sign the “HeForShe” commitment for a world without gender bias, discrimination and violence. Not only the youth, but also key Romanian politicians joined the HeForShe campaign. Prime-minister, Labour minister Dragoș Pîslaru (photo) and other members of the primeminister’s cabinet signed „The HeForShe book of messages” and publicly expressed their support for gender equality. Over 100 persons from various activity domains (entrepreneurs, public figures, and teachers) were awarded the honorific title of „Gender equality ambassador”, for their involvement in the gender equality movement and the HeForShe campaign.

*Bucharest, Romania* - Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, with support from the OMV Petrom Company, organized a series of events including visits for high school students at important institutions and a sports event, in order to promote gender equality and the HeForShe campaign. Tens of former athletes, Olympic medalists, former footballers, and other public figures were involved in promoting these events and the HeForShe campaign.





NATIONAL AGENCY FOR  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES  
BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June, a total number of 300 high school students visited the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, The Palace of Parliament and the Hofigal production center, using a bus imprinted with the HeForShe logo.



Highschoolers at the Hofigal production center and the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, several hundreds of people, between 8 and 69 years old, attended the „Equal opportunities cross-country race” in the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Park, Bucharest.





NATIONAL AGENCY FOR  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES  
BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

**Romania's journey in implementing the commitments** includes three fundamental issues: the introduction of the gender perspective into the national policies, preventing and combating violence against women, and active participation of the youth in every sphere of the public life (Please see attached file).

The phenomenon of domestic violence is a complex issue that concerns all of us, especially when it comes to its victims being able to overcome this traumatic experience, the involvement of everyone around them is required. Romania has implemented a new integrated system to monitor, report, and prevent all forms of violence. This is a national integrated management and reporting system for cases of violence. This system ensures informational flow to all the relevant institutions, it provides analysis, reports, comparative statistics and integrated measures and services for the protection of victims, while it also gathers data to inform the public policy and moving forward with it.

Please accept, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the assurances of our highest commitment and consideration with respect to your work.

Andra Cristina CROITORU  
State Secretary  
National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men  
Ministry of Labor and Social Justice



Please find attached Romania's journey in implementing the commitments

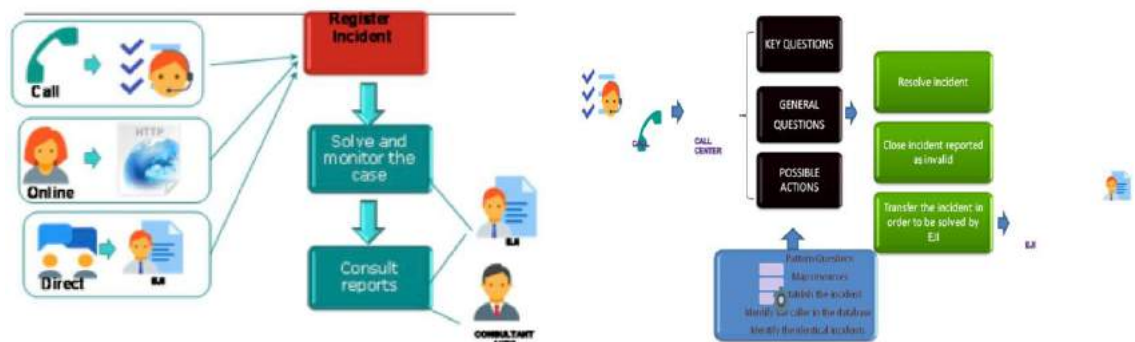
### IMPACT Commitment 1

A measure with a positive impact on promoting the principle of equality between women and men and implicitly on actions to prevent and combat domestic violence was the introduction in the Classification of Occupations in Romania occupations such as "expert in equal opportunities" and "technician in equal opportunities". Their mission is to promote and apply the principle of equality between women and men in all the activities they undertake, to actively support measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence, as well as to be ambassadors for Equality in the environments from which they come. During the implementation of the START project, 1,100 people were trained as experts in equal opportunities and about 4,000 technicians.



### IMPACT Commitment 2

Between October 2014 and December 2015 NAE0 implemented the project "START - A quality life in safety!", co-financed by the European Social Fund, through the Operational Sectorial Programme of Human Resources Development. The overall objective of the project was to develop integrated measures having a systemic and national approach in order to prevent and combat domestic violence and human trafficking.



### IMPACT Commitment 3

Romania launched the HeForShe movement on May 8, 2015, when Equal Opportunities between women and men Day was celebrated for the first time. In this context, the online petition of the campaign was launched on the official website of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly. The event took place at the initiative of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (NAEO), with the support of the Romanian Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The petition can be signed by visiting the website: [www.mmuncii.ro](http://www.mmuncii.ro).

By signing the online petition, Romania sent a clear message of support for equal opportunities between women and men as well as women's rights. Both the President



of Romania and the Prime Minister signed the petition and were very supportive of the campaign.



Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 the Equal Opportunities between Women and Men Week was organized, a series of events meant to celebrate the Equal Opportunities between women and men Day. During this period there were organized several events, such as:

An essay contest for high school students with the following thematic: *Equal opportunities between women and men and the future of our generation*. The activity was coordinated by NAEO, with the support of School Inspectorate General and the NGOs Coalition for Gender. Each of these institutions had a representative in the Commission for Evaluation of the essays. There were 216 essays evaluated, sent from 25 different High Schools from Bucharest. On May 8<sup>th</sup> there was organized a conference with the participation of Mr. Dragos Pîslaru, Minister of Labor, Family, Social Protection and Elderly People. The winners of the essay contest were announced during this conference and the prizes were offered with the support of Carrefour Romania, the official sponsor.

A visit to the Cotroceni National Museum for a group of 50 high school students.

Two screening sessions of a series of thematic documentaries/short films created by students from the "I.L.Caragiale" National University of Drama and Film. One for the



winners of the essay contest and another for college students. The second screening was for 300 students from the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy.

There were **11 debates**, organized in **11 different high schools** from the Romanian capital, with the participation of almost 1,200 high school students. The objective of this activity was to promote stories of successful female role models holding top management positions in major companies. The event was organized in partnership with the Bucharest Stock Exchange.

Another **essay contest**, this time for **law students** from the Romanian - American University, with the following theme: *“What does it mean to me the concept of equal opportunities between women and men?”* The winners were awarded by the University during a special event, organized on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

**A debate on the topic of preventing and combating domestic violence** was organized in partnership with the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy and with the participation of almost 400 students from the Academy. The discussions were followed by a theatrical drama production, using Forum Theater techniques on the subject of preventing and combating domestic violence.

Between the 16th and 18th of June 2016, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, with support from the OMV Petrom Company, organized a series of events including **visits for high school students at important institutions and a sports event, in order to promote gender equality and the HeForShe campaign**. Tens of former athletes, Olympic medalists, former footballers, and other public figures were involved in promoting these events and the HeForShe campaign.

On the 16th and 17th of June, a total number of **300 high school students** visited the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, The Palace of Parliament and the Hofigal production center, using a bus imprinted with the HeForShe logo.

On the 18th of June, several hundreds of people, between 8 and 69 years old, attended the „**Equal opportunities cross-country race**” in the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Park, Bucharest.