



Activity Report 2013-2014



Equality and Human Rights
Action Centre

ACTEDO

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

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About ACTEDO

Equality and Human Rights Action Centre – ACTEDO is a human rights nongovernmental organisation based in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, established in 2013.

ACTEDO's mission is to **promote fundamental rights and gender equality** and to **ACT against human rights violations**. We believe that lack of human rights education, stereotypical views and practices of femininity and masculinity, violence and institutional failures to implement laws and sanctions are some of the main causes of human rights abuses and gender inequality in Romania. For this purpose, ACTEDO engages in advocacy, research, educational and community development activities with the aim of raising awareness, increasing active participation, facilitating access to justice and fostering a rights-based approach among professionals and the general public.

In order to reach our objectives, we pursue three **strategic directions**:

1. Access to Justice

Oftentimes, it is those in most need of justice who meet barriers in accessing it. These barriers are social, financial and sometimes even legal in nature. In order to facilitate the access to justice of vulnerable groups, we have created the first human rights clearinghouse in Romania - The Pro Bono Network for Human Rights. Additionally, we organize trainings for legal practitioners and we engage in advocacy aimed at encouraging pro bono lawyering in Romania.

2. Human Rights Education

At ACTEDO, we believe that the best damage control is prevention. Therefore, a significant part of our activities involve raising awareness and educating both the general public and professionals on human rights issues. Some of our favourite tools include non-formal education in schools, public debates, seminars and training sessions, street activism, social media campaigns, TV & online press interviews.

3. Gender Equality

As Romania still lags behind many other EU states in the field of gender equality, some of our main goals are to combat discrimination based on sex, to raise awareness in order to change social and cultural practices which are detrimental to women's wellbeing, and to promote gender mainstreaming in local and national policies.

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To find out more about ACTEDO, go to our official website www.actedo.org and follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ACTEDO.

Our activities in 2014

The NGO was formed in 2013, by three founding members, Adela Dumbrăvan, Iulia Pascu, Ioana Tuță. In 2014, Alexandra Columban joined our team as an associate member. For 2013-2014 we have worked to develop our financial support, we have established our priorities and strategic directions and we have diversified our activities. We have also developed key partnerships and reached out to an impressive number of people.

Our objectives for 2014:

Human Rights Education	Access to Justice	Gender Equality
What? Build capacity for 30 lawyers from 3 Romanian counties (Cluj, Mureș, Bistrița-Năsăud) to tackle human rights cases. How? 2 training sessions on human rights legislation, instruments, and study cases held by professional trainers from the Centre for Legal Resources. What? Raise awareness about human rights issues and the need for gender equality. How? Disseminate two videos – <i>Do You Speak Human Rights?</i> and <i>Do You Speak Women's Rights?</i> – on social media among the general public. What? Develop capacity for ACTEDO members to carry out advocacy, monitor human rights and draft public policies. How? Attend relevant human rights training sessions held by experts.	What? Set up a pilot human rights clearinghouse which focuses on vulnerable groups and human rights violations. How? Training sessions with organisations with experience and expertise in running clearinghouses and in human rights litigation. What? Provide pro bono legal assistance to members of vulnerable groups. How? Match pro bono lawyers with legal aid seekers through an efficient communication system. What? Strengthen the Romanian pro bono culture. How? Strengthen bonds with other European clearinghouses or law firms which carry out and promote pro bono. Meet with local Bar associations and discuss the status of pro bono.	What? Raise awareness about gender-based violence and violations of women's rights. How? Involve the community in the 16 Day Campaign against Gender-Based Violence and in the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. Organize processions, public seminars, sit-ins and a Living Library to inform the public on the various forms of abuses against women. What? Strengthen connections with other national and European organisations supportive of gender equality. How? Exchange practices with Women's Counselling, an NGO based in Iceland which provides legal counselling to women. Become a member of <i>Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence</i>, a national network of women's NGOs committed to provide better services for survivors of sexual violence.

Our accomplishments in numbers:

- ✓ 1 work meeting to exchange good practices with Women's Counselling, an NGO based in Reykjavik, Iceland, on how to provide legal and social aid to women
- ✓ 4000 people view ACTEDO's two videos promoting human rights and gender equality: *Do You Speak Human Rights?* and *Do You Speak Women's Rights?* (Jan. – Apr.)
- ✓ 3 ACTEDO members exchange good practices in vulnerable groups litigation cases – training session with the Centre for Legal Resources (Aug.)
- ✓ 3 ACTEDO members attend a training session organized by PILnet, the Public Network for Global Interest Law, on how to set up a pro bono clearinghouse (Aug.)
- ✓ ACTEDO becomes the 2nd Romanian member of the **European Pro Bono Alliance** (Sept.)
- ✓ ACTEDO becomes the 10th member of ***Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence***, a national network of NGOs which promote gender equality and non-discrimination
- ✓ 90 participants attend **a public seminar on trafficking in persons** (facts, statistics, emergency contacts, etc.) (Oct.)
- ✓ 80 volunteers take part in **a sit-in** to mark the EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 Oct.)
- ✓ 3 ACTEDO members attend the **European Pro Bono Forum** in London (Nov.)
- ✓ 38 lawyers from 3 counties participate in 2 **training sessions on human rights** legislation, conventions and legal instruments organized by ACTEDO (Nov.)
- ✓ **a public walk against gender-based violence** attended by 70 people (25 Nov. – the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)
- ✓ 1 Living Library event promoting gender equality attended by 40 people (10 Dec. Human Rights Day)
- ✓ **a public debate on the access to justice of vulnerable groups** attended by more than 70 people (Dec.)



ACTEDO Team

Members¹

Position	Number	Has been with ACTEDO since...
Founding members	3	the beginning (2013)
Board members	3	the beginning (2013)
Associate members	1	May 2014
Employees & contracted staff	3	July 2014
Intern/ Volunteer	1	Oct. 2014

Financial information

Project	Financier	Partners	Grant
<i>The Pro Bono Network for Human Rights</i>  REȚEAUA PRO BONO PENTRU DREPTURILE OMULUI	EEA Grants & NGO Fund in Romania	- The Centre for Legal Resources - The Global Network for Public Interest Law – PILnet - Chiriță & Associates Law Firm - Costăș, Negru & Associates Law Firm	61.097,75 Euros
<i>Justice for Women</i>	EEA Grants & NGO Fund in Romania	Women's Counselling, Reykjavik, Iceland	3000 Euros

¹ The outlined positions are not mutually exclusive.

