**VioGen – RoJust**

**The project “VioGen – RoJust” is a strategic action aimed at effectively implementing the Council of Europe’s human rights standards and at better protection measures against domestic violence, at ensuring a proper intervention, as well as improving the legal framework on the protection and non-discrimination of victims.**

The project is implemented by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men in partnership with TRANSCENA, ANAIS, Filia, and GRADO.

The project amounts to EUR 732,000 and is funded through the 2014-2021 Norwegian Financial Mechanism as part of the “Human Rights - National Implementation” call managed by the Romanian Fund for Social Development.

**Project activities:**

**A1** – Creating, developing, and promoting, at a regional, multi-regional, and national level, mechanisms to protect the rights of vulnerable people and measures to combat discrimination and/or to promote human rights, as piloted nationally, placing an emphasis on victims of sex-based discrimination, domestic violence, or gender-based violence. A tripartite Dialogue Mechanism was set up, made up of members of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence, members of the National Committee for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men and of the County Committee for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men. Moreover, the following were set up: a network of gender discrimination experts that provide courts with specialized opinions about non-discrimination of women and avoiding revictimization; a network of victim support workers who work alongside police officers during domestic violence field interventions to provide support, orientation, and counselling to the victim, based on their consent;

**A2** – Setting up and promoting an initial and lifelong professional training programme for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, and police officers on the implementation of international human rights documents ratified by Romania (ECHR, CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, the Lanzarote Convention) and avoiding procedural irregularities based on which the ECHR ruled against Romania and ordered the country to pay compensations;

**A3** – Conducting a national campaign to inform and raise the awareness of the public and of the professionals working in the judicial field and in that of preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence about observing victims’ rights, avoiding revictimization, and non-discrimination. The first stage of the campaign took place both online, on the platform *“Constelația violenței de gen”* (<https://centrulfilia.ro/vdg/>), and offline, through public banners and radio ads. The second stage aimed at informing and sensitizing youngsters between 15 and 19 through in-person sessions conducted in Romanian high schools;

**A4** – An online platform <https://viogen.anes.gov.ro/> serving as a resource aimed at informing the general audience; the platform also includes information for professionals in the field, such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, as well as pages dedicated to reporting abuse in the judicial system (police, prosecutor's offices, courts) and to providing counselling/guidance to vulnerable persons on ways to defend their rights and to file complaints with competent authorities;

**A5** – Organizing the VioGen ‑ RoJust online legal caravan, an online initiative aimed at increasing the capacity of national institutions to implement the recommendations derived from ECHR decisions and other specific country recommendations. The caravan included around 600 professionals who work in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and was organized for all the 15 courts of appeal in Romania;

**A6** – Advocacy activities with a view to creating efficient communication mechanisms between various institutional actors holding responsibilities throughout the process of implementing decisions and country recommendations on abuse, domestic violence, and gender-based violence;

**A7** – For the professionals in the judicial field, a study was conducted on the relevant caselaw of the ECHR, including good practice examples; the study is available on the platform of the project.