

Bucharest, September 23rd, 2021

The voice of children with visual and hearing impairments matters

Press release

The Association Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21 announces the launch of the project "**Our voice matters**". This is implemented in partnership with The National Association of Librarians and Public Libraries in Romania, the Association Startlight Petra and Norsensus Mediaforum Norway, with the financial support of the Active Citizens Fund Romania, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021. The aim of the project is to change the mentality and attitude of the citizens of Bucharest, Buzău and Râmnicu Sărat through information and advocacy activities, promoting human and children rights, designed to combat stereotypes, prejudices and practices of exclusion and marginalization that affect children and young people with hearing and vision impairments, and their families.

Children and young people with visual and hearing disabilities have a low capacity to know and claim their rights, experiencing difficulties in social integration and integration into the labor market. The project proposes a series of educational sessions, information campaigns, street events and meetings with local authorities, meant to contribute to raising awareness about the rights of people with disabilities and their integration into the community.

"Our voice matters" is implemented between August 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022, in Bucharest and Buzau County, in 7 special schools and 7 schools in mainstream education, and is addressed mainly to children and young people with hearing and vision impairments, aged between 11 and 26 years.

The "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" explicitly recognizes disability as a human rights issue and mentions barriers to attitudes and the environment that prevent their full and effective participation in society." Through the awareness and advocacy activities that the project proposes, children and young people will have the opportunity to make their voices heard and ask the authorities for the necessary measures for their full social integration", said Nina Cugler, president of the Association for Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21.

For additional information, contact person Nina Cugler, president of the Association for Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21, e-mail ninacugler@agenda21.org.ro, Ștefania Stănică, Project Coordinator - National Association of Librarians and Public Libraries in Romania, e-mail anbpr_ro@yahoo.com

„ About Active Citizens Fund Romania

The Active Citizens Fund Romania programme is funded through the EEA Grants 2014-2021. The overall objective of the Grants is to reduce economic and social disparities, and to strengthen bilateral relations between 15 beneficiary countries and the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). The programme is administered by a consortium composed of Civil Society Development Foundation, Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Resource Center for Roma Communities, PACT Foundation and Frivillighet Norge, acting as Fund Operator designated by FMO – Financial Mechanism Office of the EEA and Norway Grants. The objectives of the Active Citizens Fund Romania are to strengthen civil society and active citizenship and to empower vulnerable groups. With a total allocation of 46,000,000 euro, the programme pursues a long-term development of the civil society sector sustainability and capacity, stepping up its role in promoting democratic participation, active citizenship and human rights, while strengthening bilateral relations with organizations from the Donor States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. For more information about the Active Citizens Fund in Romania, please go to www.activecitizensfund.ro. For more information about the EEA and Norway Grants, go to www.eeagrants.org.”

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Project implemented by