

Literature review

Outline of Literature Review On Gender Equality

ROMANIA

Material realized by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Laws regarding gender equality in each country
2. Main problematic area regarding gender equality in each country / Current situation Regarding gender equality in each country
3. Gender equality in education access
4. Laws against violence towards woman in each country
5. Main problematic area regarding violence towards woman in each country / Current situation regarding violence towards women in each country
6. Legislation on online abuse
7. Violence and bullying at school
8. Cyberbullying, sexting and grooming
9. Gaming profile of teenagers in each country
10. If any, reports, projects, programmes regarding gender equality, violence towards woman, cyberbullying, and etc.

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1. Laws regarding gender equality in RO

Legislative and policy framework

In 2000, as a result of pressure from civil society, the government adopted a general anti-discrimination statute that addressed discrimination on multiple grounds, including on the ground of sex.

In 2002, the parliament adopted Law 202/2002 on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, which specifically focused on gender equality (Gender Equality Law). Among other measures, the law provides for positive action promoting gender equality as 'special actions that are adopted on a temporary basis in order to accelerate the realisation in practice of equal opportunities between women and men' (Article 4(e)), but those actions are only admitted where they are 'aimed at protecting certain categories of women or men, and not women as a group in comparison with men' (Article 6(5)(b)). The Gender Equality Law thus regulates not only equal access to occupation but also to services and goods. Its Article 4(k) was further amended and supplemented by a provision on gender budgeting, defined in Law 229/2015 [1].

Recently, the 2018–2021 National Strategy for the Promotion of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Women and Men was approved through a Government Decision. The Strategy has three general objectives (promoting universal access of girls and women to sexual and reproductive health; reconciliation of professional life with family and private life; encouraging women's participation to the decision making process) and five domains of intervention: education, health, the labour market, balanced participation in decision-making processes, and gender mainstreaming. Specific objectives and a set of directions for action are established for each intervention area [2].

The introduction of a gender mainstreaming perspective into national policy will be achieved through activities aiming to:

- Develop a unified methodology for gender mainstreaming of national policies and programmes;
- Create a national network of experts in the area of equal opportunity;
- Increase NGOs' capacities to promote and contribute to alternative solutions in the area of gender budgeting.

In 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in its report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW), highlighted several causes of concern. The Committee noted 'The weak implementation of Act No. 202/2002 and of strategies on equal opportunities and non-discrimination, owing to limited resources' and recommended to 'further strengthen the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men by allocating adequate human, technical, and financial resources, introducing effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms for

Literature review - ROMANIA

Act No. 202/2002 at both the central and local levels, enhancing collaboration with civil society in this regard and imposing sanctions for noncompliance' [3].

Structures

Government responsibilities

The highest responsibility for gender equality is vested in the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (Agenția Națională pentru Egalitatea de Șanse între Femei și Bărbați - ANES), established in 2002. However, its activity was suspended and its responsibility downgraded to a directorate between 2010 and 2015, during and due to the economic crisis. ANES is a permanent government body that is a special public central administration body. It is subordinate to the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice but functions as a separate unit. The Agency is headed by a State Secretary, nominated by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Social Justice. Its current four-year mandate is not combined with other equality-related mandates and does not deal with other policy fields. The Agency's legal basis is provided by Government Decision 177/2016 on the organisation and functioning of ANES [4].

Article 3(1) of Government Decision 177/2016 states that ANES exerts a function of authority that 'ensures the active and visible integration of a gender perspective in all national policies and programmes' [5]. However, the provision is not enforced by sanctions.

The Agency has the following responsibilities:

- Developing and applying government strategy and policy in the area of equal opportunities between women and men;
- Ensuring the harmonisation of national legislation with EU regulations in the area of equal opportunities between women and men, and fighting domestic violence;
- Developing the legal framework in accordance with international conventions and treaties;
- Representing the Romanian State in the area of gender equality;
- Ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in all national policies and programmes and controlling implementation and compliance with regulations within its area of responsibility.

According to its annually published reports, ANES is currently active in drafting law and government decisions, formulating points of view, proposals and observations for draft legal regulations of other institutions, and implementing projects in the area of gender equality and combating gender-based violence [6].

The National Commission for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (Comisia națională în domeniul egalității de șanse între femei și bărbați - CONES) is an inter-ministerial body that functions under the coordination of the ANES' State Secretary. It was created in 1999 to promote the gender dimension of employment strategies. The organisation and functioning of CONES is regulated by Government Decision 933/2013 [7]. The CONES includes representatives of ministries, central public administration units, trade unions, employers' associations, and NGOs active in the field of gender equality. The CONES supports the activities of ANES and itself has an important role in promoting the gender perspective in policies and programmes. In 2017,^{*} it resumed its biannual meetings after a two-year hiatus.

Independent gender equality body

The National Council for Combating Discrimination (Consiliul Național pentru Combaterea Discriminării) (CNCD) is an independent equality body in charge of promoting equal treatment of all persons, without discrimination on the ground of sex. The legal basis for the existence of the CNCD is provided by Government Decision No.

Literature review - ROMANIA

1194/2001 on the organisation and function of the CNCD, with subsequent modifications and completions. Several other pieces of legislation also regulate areas of its competence [8]. The CNCD's objectives and areas of intervention for current and future activity are established in the National Strategy 'Equality, inclusion and diversity for the period 2018–2022' [9].

The Council has responsibilities in the prevention, mediation, investigation and sanctioning of discriminatory actions. Its litigation and decision-making competences include legally binding decisions, legal standing to take cases on its own initiative, providing legal advice and assistance to alleged victims of discrimination, and awarding dissuasive sanctions (civil fines).

The CNCD guarantees compliance and application of the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, social status, beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, non-contagious chronic disease, HIV status, and belonging to a disadvantaged group. The Council proposes draft legal acts within its area of competence, endorses draft acts on the exercise of rights and freedoms and non-discrimination, collaborates with the public authorities to amend national legislation in line with international non-discrimination regulations, enforces and ensures compliance with legal provisions on the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination by public authorities, legal entities and persons, develops and establishes policies to prevent discriminatory acts, and develops and implements national programmes and campaigns to prevent and combat discrimination.

Parliamentary bodies

Although there is no representative elected body for gender equality, a permanent Commission for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men functions in the Chamber of Deputies. The Senate's Commission addresses equal opportunities in general, along with human rights, cults and minorities.

Regional structures

Each county has a local government body, the County Commission for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (Comisia judeţeană în domeniul egalităţii de şanse între femei şi bărbaţi - COJES). The 40 COJES, as well as the Bucharest Municipality (COJE), are composed of representatives of local public administration, entities subordinate to the local public administration, trade unions and local NGOs. There is no legal provision indicating a specific County Commission's position in the local government. The COJES have a consultative and informative role. They regularly collect and report data in the area of equal opportunity, which are then transmitted to the CONES. The composition and function of the COJES is stipulated by law.

The County Commissions have responsibilities in the following areas: promoting integration of the equal opportunity principle in order to eliminate gender inequality and gender discrimination; including the principle of equal opportunity between women and men in the implementation of national and local policy; evaluating the implementation of equal opportunity policy at local level; making recommendations to local authorities in the field of gender equality; and reporting on the implementation of gender equality legislation and policy.

Literature review - ROMANIA

2. Main problematic area regarding gender equality in RO / Current situation regarding gender equality in RO

With 54.5 out of 100 points, Romania ranks 25th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 12.9 points lower than the EU's score. Between 2005 and 2017, Romania's score increased by 4.6 points (+ 2.1 points since 2015). Romania is progressing towards gender equality at a slower pace than other EU Member States. Its rank has dropped one place since 2005.

Romania's scores are lower than the EU's scores in all domains. Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain of power (38.8 points), time (50.3 points) and knowledge (51.5). Romania's highest score is in the domain of health (71.1 points), but this is the lowest score in the whole EU. Since 2005, Romania's scores have improved the most in the domains of money (+ 8.8 points) and power (+ 8.1). Progress has regressed in the domain of work (– 0.9 points).

Between 2005 and 2017, Romania improved its Index score, but it remained much lower than the EU's score in the same period. Romania's slower rate of improvement has led to an increasing gap with the EU over time.

Literature review - ROMANIA

3. Gender equality in education access

GENDER EQUALITY IN ROMANIA - STATISTICAL DATA AND CULTURAL NORMS

EDUCATION

Another topic taken into consideration in the analysis of women's situation is related to their access to the educational system, especially since this was forbidden to them for a long time across the history. Overall the percentage of women and men enrolled within the educational system is similar, but analyzing the level of education they are attending, different educational pathways can be identified. In the first years/level the population of girls is actually inferior 48.2% of children enrolled in primary and secondary education in 2012–2013 and 49% from the high school population are girls. After this point, girls and boys choose distinct ways and the balance is compromised. The boys are those who mainly choose the vocational education (only 24.1% are girls) while the girls tend in a much higher percentage to proceed towards higher education 68.6% of persons enrolled in post high school and foreman education and 52.8% of those enrolled in the tertiary level are girls (National Institute of Statistics 2013, 277). The girls are also predominant within the graduates' population from the high levels. While boys represent the majority within graduates of secondary and vocational education levels, girls represent more than 3 quarters of graduates of the post high schools and 57.6% tertiary level (National Institute of Statistics 2013, 278).

As mentioned before, the teaching staff is mainly composed of women – 75.1% of teachers in the school year 2012–2013, but the proportion of women decreased as we reach the top of the educational system. While at the pre-school level they represent 99.7% of the teaching staff, 77% at the primary and secondary level and 68.9% at high school level, they ending up by being minority at the highest level of the educational system: only 48.5% out of the teaching staff within the tertiary level are women. A positive fact is the slight improvement registered in the last years: in 2007–2008 the percentage of women was 43.3% (National Institute of Statistics 2013, 278)

The Romanian legal framework does not contain direct discrimination, girls and women having access to all levels of public education.

However, inequalities still persist and they manifest at two levels: 1) women's equal access to all forms of education, including access to any kind of teaching career and educational management position; 2) correct representation of women's specific life experiences in educational curricula, at all level of education.

Both poor economic conditions and perpetuation of old mentalities and stereotypes prevent achievement of de facto equality in education.

At pre-university level, school enrolment rate is more or less gender balanced, poverty remaining the main cause of illiteracy and of abandoning compulsory school for girls coming from families with many children, especially in rural areas and in Roma communities. In these social categories also persists the mentality according to which girls can manage through life by marriage and achieving domestic activities while boys are supposed to get involved in economic and social life of the community.

Education, a sector with one of the lowest income level in the Romanian economy is also a sector where female work force prevails. Between 1990-1997 the female teaching personnel was 99% in preschool education, 74% in primary and lower secondary education, 60% in upper secondary education.

Women, highly employed in pre-university education level, only occupied 35,1% of teaching positions at higher education level (in 1997). Very few women are Professors (446 out of 5753 in 1996/1997) or Associate Professors (776 out of 3669). Most of them are Lecturers (2233 out of 8791) and Assistants (2250 out of 6996). Research teaching personnel consisted in 1996/1997 in 74 men and 14 women.

Literature review - ROMANIA

The Ministry of National Education does not provide on a regular basis, statistical data concerning the number of women in managerial positions in higher education. However, it is certain that women are dramatically underrepresented among deans, rectors and vice-rectors (one women rector, three women vice rectors and a small number of deans). Women represent only 10% in the National Council for Educational Reform and they hold no leading position.

In spite of some real progress made during the last years, at the content level of education gender discrimination is the result of the conservative curricula, textbooks and teaching methods still in use in Romania.

Romanian education system still ignores the education for private life, and discourages women graduates both intellectually and socially by lack of models of feminine successful enterprises including their participation in history. Curricula also ignore women's specific life experiences (pregnancy, birth giving, child rearing etc.) treating them as trivial or unimportant issues.

This kind of education gives girls low standard life and professional aspirations and little capacity of affirmation in private and public life. It also undermines the modernization and development of Romania by leading to inaccurate use of half of its development potential.

Recommendations:

The introduction of a strong gender dimension within the educational reform is the only possible means for correcting this situation.

- Training workshops for academics, especially rectors, deans and chair-holders for analyzing the percentage aspects of human resources policies as well as aspects concerning inclusion of gender studies in university curricula.

- Qualitative research on students' and graduates' motivation in starting an academic career, especially on mechanisms of discouraging women in envisaging university careers or managerial positions.

- Establishment of a reward system for higher education and secondary education institutions that promote equal opportunities for women and men by means of curricula and admission mechanisms (especially for Roma girls and for girls that graduated in rural areas).

- Introduction in University Charts of specific measures against sexism and sexual harassment in campuses and academic institutions.

- Integration of elements concerning education for private life, nonsexist education, women's experiences and contribution in the curricula of different disciplines, especially those dealing with civic education, history, social sciences, language studies.

- Inclusion of a "gender and education" module in pedagogical education both at secondary and tertiary level, in order to increase awareness concerning social aspects of gender.

Literature review - ROMANIA

4. Laws against violence towards woman in RO

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As it is mentioned in the Gender Equality Strategy 2014–2017 ‘the most pronounced expression of the uneven balance of power between women and men is violence against women, which is both a human rights violation and a major obstacle to gender equality’. At the same time, as it was pointed out ‘violence against women is a deeply entrenched problem in most societies because attitudes and practices that support violence are institutionalized in custom and law at all levels of society – marriage and the family, home, community and state’ (Holly Johnson et al., 2008, 3). Frequently the legal aspect regarding violence against women was approached by different international actors at worldwide or European level as well as in Romania. A significant number of acts that fight directly against this form of violence were adopted, and among these an important step forward was represented by the Istanbul Convention. In Romania the main resource in regard to violence against women is the Law 217/2003 on prevention and fight against family violence. As its title suggests, the law deals with all types of violence committed within the family environment (whose victims are mainly women and children) and it foresees special procedures in these cases (a faster procedure, since 2012 the possibility of claiming a restraining order, etc.). Data collected at European level show a high incidence of some forms of partner violence in Romania, especially in comparison with other states. Thus, the proportion of women that had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months before the interview by their current or previous partner was 6% in Romania, the highest value registered within the study, value that was also reported in 6 other countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Slovakia. In regard to violence experienced by women from a non-partner, Romania is at the end of the hierarchy, only 2% of women declared to have experienced this type of violence while the top incidence was in Denmark (8%), Finland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden (7%) (FRA 2014, 34). Psychological violence is more spread between women, according to the same study 39% of Romanian women had experienced psychological violence during their relationships by current or previous partner, which places Romania in the middle of the European hierarchy (the biggest incidence being registered in Latvia and Denmark 60% and the smallest in Ireland 31% (idem, 73–74). A positive fact is the low incidence of stalking in Romania in comparison with other states. Together with Lithuania, Romania is the European country with the lowest incidence; nevertheless it is still a serious problem the fact that 8% of women in our country declare that they have been stalked during their lifetime (Idem, 83–84). Other forms of violence, such as sexual harassment have also a lower incidence in Romania. Romania is, except Lithuania, the EU country with the lowest prevalence of sexual harassment (11% of women admitted confronting with this phenomenon in the 12 months before the interview in Romania, in comparison with 37% in Denmark, while the overall figure in the 28 EU countries is 21%. (Idem, 98–100). A topic that came recently in the attention is cyber harassment. Data show that Romania is the country with the lowest incidence of this type of violence (5% of women experienced this sort of behavior during their life, since the age of 15, in comparison with 18% in Denmark and Sweden and 11% in the EU (Idem, 105). Studies carried out in Romania also show a high spread of the violence against women, especially within the family. Thus, the CPE 2003 study shows first of all a rather high tolerance towards this conduct. Thus a significant percentage of respondents consider certain aspects not at all serious/not too serious violent acts such as insult a woman insulted by her partner (25%), a woman threatened by her partner (17%), a man that screams a lot at her partner (23%), a woman slapped by a man (16%), a woman beaten by her partner (3%). It is important to notice that a higher percentage of respondents consider these acts non problematic if committed against a man. The survey ‘Violence in the rural area. Attitudes, convictions and social control mechanism’, Institute for Crime Research and Prevention, 2008 (sample: 1186 adult persons from rural areas) shows that significant percentages of the inhabitants in rural areas consider that forms of violence against women are not a problem or are a minor problem, such as a woman beaten by her partner (12.3%), a woman slapped by her partner (27.2%) and a woman insulted by her partner (45%). At the same time, respondents were asked to agree/disagree with certain affirmations that are related to gender inequality. The results confirm that Romanians still share the idea of an inferior status of women; significant percentages of the respondents totally

Literature review - ROMANIA

agree or mostly agree that 'The wife and children must obey the man in any circumstance' (39.3%), 'It's better to accept the beatings than to humiliate yourself by getting divorced' (16%), 'For a child a family even violent is better than two separated parents' (41.8%). At the same time approximately one fifth of respondents from rural areas consider that sometimes the hitting of wife is justified. In conclusion, data show a high prevalence of intimate partner violence in Romania, especially physical violence, while the incidence of other forms of gender based violence (like stalking, sexual harassment) is rather low, incomparison with other European states. Women are rather at risk of being victimized by their partners and this is still considered to be a private problem that must be solved within the family.

Literature review - ROMANIA

5. Main problematic area regarding violence towards woman in RO / Current situation regarding violence towards women in RO

Women's Status in Romania. A Shadow Report to the CEDAW 23rd Session (2000)

Submitted by Women's Non-Governmental Organizations of Romania, April, 2000

SUMMARY

18 Romanian women NGOs and human rights NGOs joint their efforts in producing this Shadow Report. These NGOs are active in different fields and cover almost all geographic areas of the Romanian territory.

The report focuses on issues considered top priorities or matters of concern for all Romanian women: violence, prostitution and trafficking in women, political and public life, education, employment and economic and social benefits, health, rural women, women's image in media.

VIOLENCE

The Romanian legislation does not yet regulate domestic violence separately. While the number of women victims of domestic violence, reported in 1998, is 5 times bigger than in 1996, at present there is no specific legal protection for victims of domestic violence. Marital rape is not recognized.

Sexual harassment is not covered by the criminal law. Offence of any kind against women, in public places, is not an infringement of the law unless it involves the disturbance of a large number of people.

The state's slowness in changing legislation and implementing affirmative actions against domestic violence, the lack of education programmes both for the public and those involved in applying the law illustrates indifference towards the victims of this kind of violence and perpetuates a discriminative attitude and mentalities regarding women's status in the family.

PROSTITUTION. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

During the last decade, Romania became a growing source of women prostitutes recruited and trafficked in other countries by international networks of procurers. Romania is also a transit point often chosen by traffickers from Moldova and CIS trying to get in western European countries or in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

In spite of the worrying development of the phenomenon during the last decade, no specific law on trafficking has been adopted. Furthermore, the law does not provide measures for both preventing and dismantling of trafficking networks as well as of international trafficking.

The main target group of the procurers and traffickers are young women with very low or no livelihood, with little education, usually coming from broken homes.

Poverty and gaps in internal legislation, insufficiently adapted to the phenomenon and not yet harmonized to international legislation remain the main causes of prostitution and trafficking in women in Romania.

POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

Although the Romanian Constitution guarantees equal participation of women (about 51% of the population), after 1990 women virtually disappeared from the political and public life and from the decision making process.

Literature review - ROMANIA

The national mechanisms for women's advancement benefit from little official / political support (their most important draft laws are pending for years in Parliament's commissions) and are under-financed. Consequently, they are far from having the strong positive impact they are suppose to have on women's status

Women are dramatically underrepresented at both local and highest levels of decision making. In 1998 only 71,000 out of 270,000 decision-makers were women.

EDUCATION

Romanian legal framework does not provide explicit discrimination, girls and women having access to all levels of public education. However, both poor economic conditions and perpetuation of old mentalities and stereotypes prevent achievement of de facto equality in education. Poverty and obsolete mentalities about their social role remain the main causes of not attending or abandoning compulsory school for girls coming from families with many children, especially in rural areas and in Roma communities.

Education, a sector with one of the lowest income level in the Romanian economy is also a sector where female work force prevails. Women, highly employed in pre-university education level, are underrepresented in teaching and managerial positions at higher education level.

Although the reform of the educational system registered important progress, at the level of structure and content of education there are still horizontal and vertical gender discrepancies which induce the idea of the inferiority of women's role in society. This kind of education undermines the modernization and development of Romanian by leading to inaccurate use of half of its development potential.

EMPLOYMENT. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

All Romanian regulations for labour and social security are stating the principle of equality between women and men. However, with few exceptions (related to maternity issues) they do not include specific provision, implementation mechanisms and methodologies meant to ensure an equal status for women.

Work opportunities for women are lower than those are for men are. Women have more access to part-time jobs or jobs requiring lower qualifications.

In 1998 the number of women in decision-making positions was four times lower than the number of men.

Both public and private companies do not have equal opportunity policies in recruiting their personnel.

Unemployment affects more women than men, at all age categories. Unemployed women have no maternity related income and social benefits. Employed mothers with children are poorly supported by the existing child care system.

HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING

Romanian legislation does not address women's health issues specifically. Family planning issues excepted, no specific policies are implemented. Disturbing health indicators show that Romania the highest or one of the highest rates of mortality where maternity, cervical cancer and women affected by cardiovascular diseases is concerned.

Limited access to family planning and contraceptive education and services (only 11 reference centres and 230 local centres with insufficiently trained staff, all located in urban area) results in abortion's remaining the main contraceptive means (2,2 per 1,000 women in 1999, the highest rate in Europe).

Access to medical health care services, it is practically denied to unemployed women, women with low income (elderly women, single mothers, and women in rural areas) because:

Literature review - ROMANIA

In Romania there are no relevant studies on the relationship between women's work and their state of health.

Relevant data and studies on factors that potentially influence elderly women's health (nutrition, stress, impact of poverty and the need to be involved in useful activities) are still missing.

RURAL WOMEN

45% of the Romanian population lives in the rural areas. 53,2% of the female labour force is occupied in agriculture and represent one of the most disadvantaged categories of population in Romania. Women in the rural area still living and working in the old way of life, based on pre-modern agricultural working means and archaic family relationships. Most of them have little access to any kind of information, which results in their reduced possibilities of improving their economic and social conditions.

MEDIA

Media doesn't reflect the major problems that women have to deal with during transition. Its general message about women oscillates between the image of women as victims and of women as prostitutes.

Media is not gender-sensitive; therefore it has no contribution to the definition of the general problems of women in the Romanian contemporary society or to the formulation of possible measures and actions for improving their status.

CONCLUSIONS

The uncertainty caused by a difficult transition process and the related economic crisis put women's issues in a shadow. Due to the lack of contribution of the main opinion leaders (political parties, media etc.), there is a serious deficit in defining and approaching the situation of women and, in identifying the causes and formulating the strategies and policies for the improvement of this situation. Consequently, at public opinion /community level, gender issues are unclearly perceived and marginalized, deterioration of the situation of women and the infringement of basic women's rights in some segments of society being received with no reactive attitude.

More action and more coordinated efforts towards building up a new mentality and an adequate institutional framework, especially from the part of the political actors, media and non-governmental organizations, are necessary to improve the situation.

Literature review - ROMANIA

Current situation regarding violence towards women in RO

OVERVIEW

A Working Group consisting in representatives of AnA Society for Feminist Analyses (Coordinator), Women's National Union from Romania and Pro Europe League – Women's Programme wrote the following report.

18 Romanian women NGOs and human rights NGOs (listed in Annex II) joint their efforts in producing this Shadow Report. The women NGOs are active in different fields such as: economy, education, research, health, politics, violence, women's rights, , All of them developed projects related to women's human rights and are familiar with the content of both CEDAW and the Platform of Action adopted in Beijing (1995). They also cover almost all important geographic areas of the Romanian territory.

The information and statistical data included in this report have been collected at AnA Centre from official sources as well as from research studies published by well-known experts (see Annex II).

The recommendations are the product of the NGOs consultation held in Sinaia, 8-9 April 1999.

The report focuses on issues considered top priorities or matters of concern for the Romanian women: violence, prostitution and trafficking in women, political and public life, education, employment and economic and social benefits, health, rural women, women's image in media.

GENERAL INFORMATION

On January 1, 1998, Romania had a population of 22,526,096 (the same as Venezuela or Malaysia) and ranked 43rd in the world and 13th in Europe in this respect. In urban areas there are 12,387,000 inhabitants who account for 55.0% of the country's population, in rural areas there are 10,139,000 inhabitants that is 45.0%. The male population was 11,027,000 (49.0%) and the female population was 11,499,000 (51.0%).

According to the census returns of January 7, 1992, Romania's population was 22,810,035 of whom 89.4% were Romanians and 10.6% were ethnic minorities. Of the latter, 7.1% of total population were Hungarians; 1.7% Roma; 0.5% Germans; 0.3% Ukrainians; 0.04% Jews, etc.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

After half a century of communism, following the December 1989 revolution, that led to the radical change of its political regime, Romania found itself engaged in a difficult process of transition from a totalitarian regime with an ultra-centralized socio-political and economic system to a democratic one. Since then, Romania introduced important legislation and new institutions have been created in order to establish and consolidate a lawful State, in order to create the legal framework for a market economy and a multi-party, democratic system.

In 1991, a new Constitution has been adopted by popular referendum.

The present Government and Parliament structures are the result of the general elections held in November 1996, won out by a coalition that includes the Democratic Convention (center-right parties), the Union of Social Democrats (center-left parties) and the Democratic Union of the Hungarians in Romania. The Romanian Social Democratic Party, that ruled Romania until the mentioned elections, is now the main opposition party.

Romania is an associate member of the European Union (since 1993), a member of the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme (since 1994) and a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (since 1997). In February 2000 Romania has been admitted, together with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, and Slovakia to the official negotiation for accession to the European Union.

Literature review - ROMANIA

Strongly committed to the European Union and NATO, Romania made special efforts in order to harmonize the national legislation with the European one, an objective which, with few exceptions, has been accomplished. For instance, it has ratified virtually all-major international equal opportunity conventions.

Unfortunately, the new general legal framework is not accompanied by the necessary implementation judicial instruments and specific policies, aimed at insuring de facto equality between women and men in Romania.

Moreover, so far no major political party included a gender dimension within its platform and structure. Political parties' programmes fail to tackle the most severe transition related problems affecting women, such as family planning, social services for women and particularly for mothers, violence against women, inclusion of women in the political life.

The situation is no more encouraging where the economy is concerned. Romania has an unbalanced economy, crossing a crisis with a strong impact on the living standards of its population. Slow and uncertain steps in privatization and reform of economic sector, low productivity, a decreasing Gross Domestic Product, high inflation rate (55,7% in February 2000 compared to February 1999), an extremely low average net salary (under 100 USD) and high unemployment are some of the crisis characteristics in Romania.

Without trying to minimize the measures taken by the different governments toward restructuring and reform, and their meaning in terms of progress in consolidating the democratic process started in 1989, the general state of the economy and, implicitly, of the population can be labeled as one of generalized poverty.

On this background, corruption, prostitution, the traffic in drugs and weapons began to proliferate. Women, defined by the National Commission for Poverty Alleviation as a "high risk group", are more exposed to the social disorder associated to the transition related crisis.

In spite of this worrying picture, Romania's political agenda remain full of good intentions and very little achievements. Global objectives and general principles that look very good on paper "materialized" in laws that have been adopted, but not yet implemented, draft laws trapped in enforcement procedures, and political programmes waiting to be implemented.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (Art. 3, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16)

Domestic violence

The Romanian legislation does not yet regulate domestic violence as separate offence. Offences and contraventions with general applicability involving domestic violence are included in the Criminal Code and Law no. 61/1991.

While the number of women victims of domestic violence, reported in 1998, is 5 times bigger than in 1996, at present there is no specific legal protection for victims of domestic violence. Marital rape is not recognized.

The state's slowness in changing legislation and implementing affirmative actions against domestic violence, the lack of education programmes both for the public and those involved in applying the law illustrates indifference towards the victims of this kind of violence and perpetuates a discriminative attitude and mentalities regarding women's status in the family.

Violence outside family

Rape. The possibility of withdrawing the preliminary complaint, of reconciliation of both parties and of marriage, which may occur at any stage of the trial, removing the criminal liability of the perpetrator, may subject the victim to moral pressure from him, her family and community, forcing her into an agreement against her will and provide the perpetrator with legal protection.

Literature review - ROMANIA

For offences like sexual relations with a minor (under 14, most of them girls) followed by the death of the victim the law provides charges of maximum 15 years in prison while for murder, murder in the first degree, and rape followed by the death of the victim provides 20 and 25 years respectively.

Sexual harassment is not covered by the criminal law.

Offence of any kind against a person, including a woman, in public places, is not an infringement of the law unless it involves the disturbance of a large number of people.

Recommendations:

- Adoption of a special law – or at least a special article on domestic violence containing precise provisions, clear definitions and specific standards for evidence in cases of domestic violence.

- Redefinition of rape and incest, providing more severe punishment when minors are victims.

- Introduction of distinct charge and prosecution of violent acts committed against women by members of their families, including those which cause minor wounds; setting different and specific standards for evidence in cases of domestic violence.

- Introduction of both precise and distinct charge of marital and dating rape and specific standards for evidence, to allow the victim to prove her allegations.

- Delegating the investigation of cases of domestic violence, irrespective of the severity of wounds produced, to the criminal authorities, to enable them to intervene at any stage of the investigation.

- Removal of the possibility of avoiding criminal charges by the "reconciliation of the parties" and, in compensation, the possibility of applying penalties, other than fines or imprisonment (e.g. community service).

- Adoption of specific regulations and implementation of programs aimed at protecting the victims of domestic violence;

- Legal changes should be accompanied by public policies aimed at educating the public opinion and those involved in applying the law to understand and prosecute domestic violence.

- Legal provisions (together with clear definition of the offence) for punishing sexual harassment.

PROSTITUTION. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN (Art. 6)

In spite of the worrying development of the phenomenon during the last decade, no specific law on trafficking has been adopted. Articles 328 and 329 of the Penal Code are used for addressing both the incitation to, compulsion or facilitation of prostitution and trafficking. Trafficking is not defined. Trafficking and incitation to prostitution are punished in the same way, with 2-7 year prison and loss of civil rights. Furthermore, the law does not provide measures for both preventing and dismantling of trafficking networks as well as of international trafficking.

During the last decade, Romania became a growing source of women prostitutes recruited and trafficked in other countries by international networks of procurers. Romania is also a transit point often chosen by traffickers from Moldova and CIS trying to get in western European countries or in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

The main target group of the procurers and traffickers are young women with very low or no livelihood, with little education, usually coming from broken homes.

Poverty and gaps in internal legislation, insufficiently adapted to the phenomenon and not yet harmonized to international legislation remain the main causes of prostitution and trafficking in women in Romania.

Literature review - ROMANIA

Recommendations:

- Introduction in the Penal Code of specific provisions and clear definition for trafficking.
- Adoption of the necessary legal provisions for witness protection and implementation of witness protection programs.
- Improvement in legal provisions for regulating border control
- Introduction of preventing measures such as education programmes developed in schools, universities and communities by the Ministry of National Education together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs .
- Implementation of special programmes, run in cooperation with NGOs, in order to recuperate, reeducate and reintegrate persons involved in prostitution and trafficking in women.

POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE (Art. 7, 8)

Although the Romanian Constitution guarantees equal participation of women (about 51% of the population) after 1990 women virtually disappeared from the political and public life and from the decision making process. However, in 1996 in response to international requirements, gender issues were introduced on the political agenda as a principle and a Department for Women's Rights and Family Oriented Policies was established in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. In March 1999 the Department has been reduced to a lower rank (direction). At present it is functioning within the under the title Direction for Equal Opportunities within the Department for the Coordination of the Labour Market and Salaries. The responsibilities that the small Direction must face exceed its available human and material resources.

In 1997 a Sub-commission for Equal Opportunities was established in the Romanian Parliament.

Both institutions (Direction and Sub-commission), aimed at promoting draft laws and national programmes addressing women's specific problems benefit from little official / political support (their most important draft laws are pending for years in Parliament's commissions) and are under-financed. Consequently, they are far from having the strong positive impact they are suppose to have on women's status. Both their existence, role and function and the little changes they managed to make in certain domains are un-sufficiently publicized.

In February 2000 an Inter-Ministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities was set up in order to ensure the co-ordination of the efforts made at national level to initiate and develop a gender approach in the Romanian legislation. At the time this report is being written, no clear strategy and/or plan of action related to the activity of this body have been exposed to the public.

State makes also un-sufficient steps in publicizing the international normative acts regarding women and gender equality ratified by Romania and the way they can be retrieved in national legislation.

Women are unacceptably less represented than men at the highest levels of decision making are. They represent only 7% of the House of Representatives and 2% of the Senate. At governmental level, with only two brief exceptions, no women had ever lead a ministry during the last decade. The same situation is to be found at local political and administrative level. For instance, only 3% from the total number of mayors are women.

In 1998 only 71,000 out of 270,000 decision-makers were women.

Recommendations:

- Introduction of affirmative policies in order to increase the number of women in politics, administration and decision-making process, both at local level and in high rank positions.

Literature review - ROMANIA

-Creation of an Equal Opportunity Working Group (5-6 experts agreed by all political parties), working under the Prime Minister's umbrella, aimed at assessing needs and priorities in this area, human and financial resources that Romania could afford in solving the identified priorities and potential partners to be involved.

-Establishment of an Equal Opportunities Office under the Prime Minister's coordination, authorized to elaborate the national strategy and the related programmatic documents and of an Equal Opportunities Unit in each ministry, in order to mainstream gender in the governmental programme and in all sectorial policies.

-Establishment, at local government level of local Equal Opportunities Units aimed at mainstreaming gender at the bottom, and at implementing local and national policies.

-Establishment of a Women's Information Centre with government's support and in partnership with women's NGOs

-More transparency and publicity around the governmental policies, programmes, laws and international conventions respectively initiated, adopted and ratified by the State.

-Initiation of media campaigns and use of the education system for increasing public awareness with regard to the community benefits from promoting women in decision making positions

EMPLOYMENT. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS (Art. 11, 13)

All Romanian regulations for labour and social security are stating the principle of equality between women and men. However, with few exceptions (related to maternity issues) they do not include specific provision, implementation mechanisms and methodologies meant to ensure an equal status for women.

Work opportunities for women are lower than those opened to men. Women have more access to part-time jobs or jobs requiring lower qualifications.

Certain reluctance continues to persist in appointing women in management structures and in decision making position. This occurs particularly in male dominated staff and is based on assumptions regarding women's attitudes rather than on competence. In 1998 the number of women in decision-making positions was four times lower than the number of men.

Private companies do not promote equal opportunity policies in recruiting their personnel. They prefer men to women applicants in order to avoid the payment of the legal benefits related to maternity leave.

Female labour force is unevenly distributed. Only a small number of women have qualified and highly qualified jobs while the number of women with non-skilled or low skilled-jobs has increased. Women are largely occupied in sectors with very low income (76,0% in health sector, 70,6% in education, mostly at primary and secondary level etc.) and in marginal sectors, for instance as unpaid family workers (71% out of which 98% are women in rural areas working their own holding). These last ones live outside the social and health insurance system, which turns them into a highly vulnerable category.

Due to the acute lack of work opportunities, an important number of women (especially young women) choose the alternative of working either in the so called "sex industry", that boomed during the transition period or in the "underground" economy, on low incomes, no work contracts, no social insurance.

While the risk for sexual harassment at work has considerably increased, no legal provision for preventing and/or punishing it has been adopted.

Unemployment affects more women than men, at all age categories. In 1998, the employment rate was 65.7% for men and 49.6% for women. Unemployed women have no maternity related income and social benefits.

Literature review - ROMANIA

Employed mothers with children are poorly supported by the existing child care system. Furthermore, there are no pupil care systems outside school.

Retirement age is different for women (57) and men (62). The difference is not justified at least from a biological point of view since statistics show that, near retirement age, men's mortality rate is at more than double than women's mortality rate.

Recommendations:

- Adoption and implementation of specific regulations, based on the principle of positive discrimination, aimed at ensuring de facto equality between women and men at work;
- Adoption of special regulations aimed at obligating state and private companies with more than ten employees to report, on an annual basis, to the Ministry for Labour and Social Protection their plan of implementing equal opportunities.
- Introduction of legal / administrative constraints for companies that do not report on equal opportunity actions as well as of fiscal facilities for companies that manage to develop leadership and monitoring programmes for women, in order to ensure a balanced representation in decision making structures.
- Introduction of special measures of social protection for women working as unpaid family workers.
- Adoption of specific regulations against sexual harassment at work;
- Adoption of urgent measures for improving the preschool child care system and establishing pupil care systems in order support working mothers.
- Modification of the legal provisions regarding retirement age, establishing general age limits with the possibility of reducing them on the request of female employees.

HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING (Art. 12)

Romanian legislation does not address women's health issues specifically. Family planning issues excepted, no specific policies are implemented. Disturbing health indicators reflects this situation.

Maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in Europe (25 maternal death for 10000 live birth in 1995). Mortality from cervical cancer is the highest in Europe. Women's mortality from cardiovascular diseases is more than double than the European average.

Limited access to family planning and contraceptive education and services (only 11 reference centres and 230 local centres with insufficiently trained staff, all located in urban area) results in abortion's remaining the main contraceptive means (2,2 per 1,000 women in 1999, the highest rate in Europe). Most women do not use modern contraceptive methods because they fear side effects, because their partner prefers using a traditional method, or because they are not aware of any modern contraceptive method.

Lack of preparation for family life and education of inter-gender relationships mainly affects girls and adolescent females. Although school curriculum provides for 40 hours of education on family life in forms-5-12, this is not always applied in Romanian schools. Poorly informed teaching staff and a lack of specially qualified personnel* results in most of these sexual education and family planning classes being replaced by traditional classes (mathematics, physics etc.) In this way, family behavioral patterns are passed on to, and continued by the youth, or replaced by those promoted by mass media.

Both persons affected by HIV/AIDS and their physicians are confronted with enormous shortages in terms of medical lab materials, medicines, specialized facilities.

Literature review - ROMANIA

As for the access to medical health care services, it is practically denied to unemployed women, women with low income (elderly women, single mothers, women in rural areas) because:

a) they cannot afford to pay the 7% of their gross income (required by the insurance law); b) private health services are much too expensive.

The inequity of access to health care services in urban and rural areas severely increased during the last ten years. Women living in rural areas have less and less access to medical assistance because of "medical doctors" migration from rural dispensaries to town. This migration is determined by the lack of ongoing training of medical staff, poor ambulance services, scarcity of investments in maintaining the existing medical facilities, premises, equipment or creating new ones, and last but not least the very low income of medical staff employed in the public health care system. This situation has a strong impact on the maternal-infantile mortality rate in Romania, maintaining it at the highest level in Europe.

In Romania there are no relevant studies on the relationship between women's work and their state of health.

Relevant data and studies on factors that potentially influence elderly women's health (nutrition, stress, impact of poverty and the need to be involved in useful activities) are still missing.

Recommendations:

- Adoption of specific legal provisions concerning women's health issues.

- Consistent increase in the budget of the Health Care System in general, and the budget allocated to research and programs dealing with women's health issues in particular.

- Free access to health services for women that cannot afford to pay health insurance (long term unemployed women, elderly women, single mothers with many children, women in rural areas).

- Increase in number and improvement of family planning centres, setting up new centres, located in rural areas, provision of adequate training to medical staff serving in these centres.

- Use of the 7% of the gross income collected from the population exclusively for health services, through the budget of the National House for Health Insurance, tightly monitored and controlled by appropriate financial authorities.

- Special youth education programmes with regard to sexual diseases, other sexual life problems, family planning run by specially trained medical staff;

- Implementation of consistent policy and budget for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and research.

- Implementation of special policies, with real impact in terms of quantity (number of persons attended) and quality (increase of average life span), addressing elderly women's health.

RURAL WOMEN (Art. 14)

45% of the Romanian population lives in the rural areas. 53,2% of the female labour force is occupied in agriculture. Women in the rural are still living and working in the old way of life, based on pre-modern agricultural working means and archaic family relationships. Most of them have little access to any kind of information, which results in their reduced possibilities of improving their economic and social conditions.

Rural women's access to health care services decreased dramatically. Their access to family planning and contraceptive education and services are extremely limited. They usually have very low incomes and the lowest

Literature review - ROMANIA

access to paid jobs. Due to the lack of information as well as of appropriate national strategies, they also have very limited access to economic resources.

They are highly underrepresented at decision-making level.

Recommendations:

- Implementation of specific national policies focused on women in rural areas aimed at improving their health, economic and social status.

- Urgent adoption of special measures aimed at improving rural women access to health care.

WOMEN'S IMAGE IN MASS MEDIA (Art. 5)

Far from reflecting the problems which women have to deal with during transition, problems related to equal opportunities, discrimination, and social and economic issues, media general message about women oscillates between the image of women as victims and of women as prostitutes.

Public radio stations, and weekly women's magazines are very much involved in discussing daily aspects of women's life such as self-care, fashion, housekeeping, and sentimental problems. Successful women or discussions about women's potential contribution to the development of the country are rarely present in media. Even more rarely opened and discussed are the reasons and the remedies for the desperate social and economic situation that an important part of women population has to face.

Media has little gender-sensitiveness. Therefore it has little contribution to the definition of the general problems of women in the Romanian contemporary society or to the formulation of any possible measures and actions for improving their status.

Recommendations:

- Initiation (by the government in cooperation with NGOs) of special training programmes and workshops for media workers aimed at creating/increasing their gender awareness/sensitivity.

- Initiation of experience exchange programmes with foreign media workers from countries with experience and tradition in dealing with women's problems

- Introduction of a gender dimension in the specific disciplines and of a gender education module in the curricula of higher education institutions that currently produce future journalists.

Literature review - ROMANIA

6. Legislation on online abuse

Law No. 217/2003, amended by Law 25/2012.

Available at:

<https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/romania/2003/law-no-217-2003-on-the-preventing-and-fighting-against-family-violence>

Literature review - ROMANIA

7. Violence and bullying at school

Violence against women

Violence against women is rooted in women's unequal status in society, and that status reflects the unbalanced distribution of social, political, and economic power among women and men in society. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations of our time and a form of discrimination that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women (1). Violence against women undermines women's dignity and integrity and imposes serious harms on families, communities and societies. In the EU, estimates suggest that 1 in 3 women (or 61 million out of 185 million) have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, since the age of 15 (2)

The full extent of violence against women is difficult to estimate. Violence against women continues to be underreported and stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In Romania, just under 50 % of the population tend to trust the police, significantly lower than in the EU overall (just over 70 %) (3).

In EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2015 it was found that where people tend to have more trust in justice institutions, levels of disclosed violence are higher (4). It is estimated that in Romania, 30 % of women have experienced violence, which is about the same as in the EU overall (5).

Literature review - ROMANIA

8. Cyberbullying, sexting and grooming

Began from 2020, Romania Recognizes Cyber Harassment as Form of Domestic Violence. The law will also criminalize illegal access to communications and private data via computers, smartphones or devices that can connect to the internet.

Cyber harassment might be understood as a general term to describe the use of technology to harass, control, manipulate or stalk a person without a threat of physical harm. This abuse might take several forms such as cyberbullying when a minor is involved or cyberstalking when actual direct or implied threat to physical harm is submitted. The major difference between cyber and physical harassment is that while the former solely implies the use of technology to control victims, the latter goes beyond the virtual reality and imposes face-to-face contact.

Under the amendments, “cybernetic violence” includes “online harassment, online messages that instigate hatred for reason of gender, online stalking, online threats, publication of information and intimate graphic content without consent, [and] ... illegal interception of communications” of a digital or online nature.

The newly adopted rules include protection from online threats or messages that aim at creating fear or shame to whom it is intended, sent through computers, mobile phones or any other similar devices, that use communications technology or are able to connect to internet and can transmit or use social platforms, without aiming at narrowing the electronical means that can be used for such behavior.

Romania’s teenage birth and abortion statistics are therefore unsurprisingly shocking.

Teenage girls give birth to one in eight of Romania’s first-born children (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20190801-1>). In Denmark, by comparison, where sex education has been mandatory since 1970, just one child in a hundred is born to a teenager. Romania also has the European Union’s second-highest rate of abortions (https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfa_586-7010-abortions-per-1000-live-births/) per 1,000 live births (359), behind only Bulgaria (equally adverse to sex education; 380/1,000). In Denmark, the abortion rate is again far lower: 265 per 1,000 live births.

Romania’s lack of sex education leaves teenagers at the mercy of the internet, both pornography and increasingly toxic influencers

Literature review - ROMANIA

9. Gaming profile of teenagers in RO

The profile of the Romanian gamer: young, nocturnal, perfectionist, sociable and well informed

If you met him on the street, the Romanian gamer would be young and probably tired, because it is night and he likes to spend his evenings and nights practicing his favorite game. You would easily talk to him - he is a sociable guy. You could discuss technological innovations with him, he is very well informed. He would surprise you with his positive attitude and desire to always be the hunter. He likes to win and be the best in the game. He is ambitious, perfectionist and record holder ", it is shown in a communiqué of Intel Romania.

Here are some of the most popular trends in the video gaming industry.

- Augmented Reality.
- Virtual Reality.
- Inclusivity.
- Incremental console upgrades.
- Mobile gaming.
- Hype.
- Independent developers under the lime light.
- Apple TV.

What does the profile of the Romanian gamer look like?

More than 3,000 respondents participated in a study.

Approximately three quarters (73%) of the gamers participating in the Gaming study "Project Winner" (Updated: 2020.01.11) conducted by Intel Romania.

Over 90% of Romanian gamers dedicate their evenings and nights to playing time. Only 4% are in the morning, while the rest, 6%, play at noon, according to the study "Project Winner", conducted by Intel.

After the actual time dedicated to gaming every day, there are 4 categories of players:

- 7% Extremes - spend on average over 6 hours a day playing
- 17% Heavy - between 4-6 hours
- 42% Averages - between 2-4 hours
- 34% Light - less than 2 hours.

The study shows that about three quarters (76%) of gamers spend at least two hours a day practicing their favorite electronic game. They thus subscribe to the global trend, according to which "average" gamers spend almost two hours a day practicing electronically controlled moves and about 13 hours a week.

Romanians' passion for gaming transcends the notion of "game", being a reason to improve and set new personal and group records. In other words, the Romanian gamer does not only aim to play, but to evolve and become the best in that game. He is a record hunter, individual or group.

Regarding the categories of games played, the Intel study shows that:

Literature review - ROMANIA

- 43% prefer action games, First Person Shooter (FPS);
- 18% approach Multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA), Massively online multiplayer role-playing game (MMORPG) or Role-playing game (RPG);
- 16% are passionate about simulators;
- 13% opt for Real Time Strategy (RTS) games;
- 10% play other types of games.

The desktop PC remains the "king" in gaming

About three-quarters (73%) of gamers participating in the "Project Winner" study say they use a desktop PC. It gives them the strength to run the game in optimal conditions and get the best results. 44% believe that in gaming, the processor is very important. For 32% it is essential, and for 20%, it is important enough. Only 3% think it is irrelevant, and 1% say it does not matter.

According to the desktop PC, the use preferences include laptop, Ultrabook or 2 in 1 device (24%). 3% of respondents say they play on other devices.

To play without limits, in terms of storage, 58% believe that the SSD is key in gaming. 25% opt for HDD and 17% for Hybrid HDD.

The ideal device for gaming is a computer with dedicated graphics for 72% of Romanian gamers, while the remaining 28% opt for integrated graphics.

Overclocking and the ability to play without limits offered by a gaming PC are very important for 29% of the participants in "Project Winner" and essential for 16% of them. 37% say they are important enough, 13% unimportant and 5% unimportant.

The study was attended by over 3,000 respondents, who provided details about the gaming activities they carry out, as well as about the technologies they use.

Almost 60 percent of the internet users with the age over 18 are spending their spare time playing online games, on different devices or on their mobile. They are motivated especially by the desire of getting rid of the everyday worries (waiting time or negative emotions), but also by the desire to prove their abilities.

From this segment, 80 percent of the users prefer to play on their mobile and from the percentage of those who chose to play online, 73 percent decide to play on the socializing networks. The results are revealed in a recent study made by Starcom MediaVest Group, about online gaming.

The players are both men and women, especially in the 25-34 years old segment. They are playing around 2,9 online games on average, mainly on specialized websites or social networks. Every games session takes an hour on average. The users prefer to play on the laptop/desktop or smartphone, especially in the afternoon and the evening.

During a week, the users are connecting to the Internet with the purpose of playing almost seven times. The action of playing online is more of a solo activity. The games the users are opting for are in general the free ones, most of them in the puzzle category, the educational, the aptitude developing games or AdventureQuest.

Moreover, almost a half of the users (46 percent) chose to play online on foreign websites, while only a 24 percent of them chose the Romanian websites. Besides the Facebook games, they are opting most of the time

Literature review - ROMANIA

for websites such as gameforge.com, goodgamesstudios and computergames. The most popular platforms are Xbox, Steam, PlayStation, GamersGate.

The persons that prefer the most to play on the mobile, different games installed as applications, are part of the category of 18-34. They are playing on medium 3 games daily. Unlike the online players, they are spending 30 minutes or less of a game session. This category prefers to play at home, in the public transport or at work and less on the social contexts.

The preferred games are also the free ones, such as Candy Crush, Angry Birds, Diamond Dash, Fruit Ninja or Temple Run 2. Only one in 10 users chose to pay for the mobile games.

Both the users that chose to play online and the ones that chose the mobile are willing to receive advertising during the online game, help a social cause and are open to other benefits that can be directly used in the games.

Online Gaming is the most recent infographic in the series HumanGraphExperience created by Starcom MediaVest Group and the only study about the video games realized at the urban level. The study has a sample of 2.563 persons, in the urban area.

Updates of the Prevalence of Problem Gambling in RO Teenagers

The aim of this study was to find out what is the prevalence of pathological in Romanian teenagers. We questioned one thousand thirty-two teenagers in Cluj-Napoca and Harghita counties. Participants completed a questionnaire with 40 items including gamblers anonymous twenty questions.

The sample included teenagers aged 11-19 years; 65.57% were male and 34.43% were female. The subjects were divided into three groups: non-gambling/recreational gambling or occasional gambling (0-1 positive answers -Level 1)-753 subjects (72.96%) [316 females and 437 males]; problem gambling (2-6 points-Level 2)-243 subjects (23.54%) [43 females and 200 males]; pathological gambling (above 7 points-Level 3)-36 subjects (3.48%) [3 females and 33 males].

The mean age of pathological gamblers was 16.48 years. Gender differences were as expected, males engaging in pathological gambling (91.66% from pathological gamblers) more than females did (8.33% from pathological gamblers).

Data revealed that the most encountered games practiced weekly were sport bets and slot machines in the case of 36.11% of the pathological gamblers; lotto, internet casino and pool bets each with 25%, followed by roulette and black-jack with 22.22%.

From those who reported practicing gambling at a pathological level 66.66% engaged in alcohol consumption, 13.88% illicit drug use and 19.44% licit drugs. Just 16.66% smoke cigarettes.

Data revealed higher rates of prevalence in Romanian teenagers than in other Central and Eastern European countries. A prevalence study at a national level should be designed.

Conclusions

The prevalence of problem gambling in the case of Romanian teenagers is 23.54%

(17.69% female and 82.30% male), and of pathological gambling is 3.48% (8.33% female and 91.66% male). Mean age of pathological gamblers is 16.52 ± 1.82 years the youngest gamblers being only 11 years old. The mean age in starting gambling is

Literature review - ROMANIA

14.94 ± 2.30 years. The majority prefers to gamble in groups (72.22%) the following: sport betting/slot machines; lotto/internet casino/polls bets; roulette/black jack; playing cards on money; horse betting/playing dice on money.

The highest amount of money gambled was 10–100 euro for 44.44% from pathological gamblers. 50% from the pathological gamblers consider they can control the game, and 50% considers that the chance has no importance in gaining. 1/3 from the gamblers has problems in adapting to school: absenteeism and underachievement.

Pathological gambling is associated with substance abuse: alcohol—66.66%, illegal drugs—13.88% and legal—19.44%, and 16.66% are smoking. There is a normal distribution in the incomes of the gamblers' families: low incomes on one hand and moderate and high incomes on the other hand.

In what regards the limits of these study there are some important issues. In the first

place the instrument for screening pathological gambling was not validated for Romanian speaking population and moreover, the 20-GA was translated and adapted for teenagers transforming work and employment with school and academic activities.

Another limit of the study is that the sample was not randomized one and this convenience sample does not give us the possibility to generalize the data. Data obtained can be correlated with other data in studies already mentioned, like the one in 2002, Lupu et al. and give more than descriptive outcomes.

As further directions we look for conducting a national study with a relevant sample respecting all scientific rules for generalization of the data. We conduct a study for validation of 20-GA, SOGS-RA, MAGS and DSM-IV-J for Romanian adolescents. Moreover we work at testing different gambling prevention programs in order to diminish the number of problem gamblers and possible pathological gamblers.

With 2020 on the horizon, the games industry in Romania is in a healthy position. The sector has started a clear shift towards full product development and moving away from services / outsourcing. The fast growth in the independent sector, an organizing body and educational opportunities all indicated a full-fledged game dev ecosystem starting to take form, laying the foundation for the first major Romanian original IP products.

Study about gamers in Romania, what is played and on what platforms

During the Dev.Play conference, the Romanian Game Developer Association published a survey about the gaming market in Romania, the profile of the Romanian game player, how, where and how much is played and how much money he pays for it.

Most gamers play to relax after a hard day or because this is their hobby. However, 22% answered that they also play out of curiosity when new games appear.

Regarding what the youngsters play, the statistics are as follows

7.9 million Romanians play video games on smartphones, PCs, consoles or tablets, according to a public study ever conducted on the relationship of Romanians with video games presented by RGDA (Association of Video Game Developers in Romania). The study was presented at Dev.Play 2020, the conference dedicated to video game developers in Romania and the region, which takes place online on November 3 and 4.

Video games have not been a marginal phenomenon for a long time, as evidenced by the numbers showing that the video game industry has surpassed the value of music and film together. The popularity of games is also very high in Romania, but there were no concrete figures on the relationship of Romanians with them (RGDA)

Literature review - ROMANIA

Of the almost 8 million Romanians aged between 15 and 64, 52% are men and 48% are women. 39% of adult players have higher education (college or postgraduate studies) and 48% of them are married or in a consensual union.

A user plays on average on 2-3 devices. The most popular platforms that Romanians play are mobile phone (64%), PC / laptop (60%), followed by tablets (20%) and consoles (15.5%). Next are online games, played by 14.3% of players and social media games, played by 6.7% of them.

Although mobile games are the most popular, they are preferred by only 23%,

Romanians prefer to play on a computer or laptop (42%) or on a console (29%). Among mobile game players, the most common operating system is Android (78%), mentioned at a considerable distance from iOS (15%).

The study also reveals the motivations and gaming preferences of Romanians. 7 out of 10 players have as their main reason to play the desire to relax after a hard day in while for 5 out of 10 games are a hobby. 40% play to get rid of boredom, while 30% do it to learn something new.

Almost all respondents have as a favorite place to play the privacy of their own home, 21% mentioning that they also play with friends at home, and 15% in public transport.

Multiplayer games are preferred by 53% of respondents, followed by single player (47%).

Regarding the type of games, in the top of preferences are adventure games 54%, strategy games 51% or first person shooter (FPS) games 47%.

The study, conducted by iZi Data at the request of RGDA, targeted 1005 CAWI questionnaires, men and women, aged between 15 and 64, which are played on at least one of the PC / laptop, console, mobile / tablet platforms. Incidence study: 1020 CAWI questionnaires, national representative, men and women aged 15 to 64, internet users.

10. If any, reports, projects, programmes regarding gender equality, violence towards woman, cyberbullying, and etc. in RO

GENDER EQUALITY IN ROMANIA - STATISTICAL DATA AND CULTURAL NORMS

The article presents shortly women's involvement in the major sectors of social life (labor market, political involvement and decision making, educational system, domestic tasks) in Romania, both from the point of view of the official data as well as from people's opinions and perception in regard to this. Some of the indicators taken into consideration (such as employment and unemployment rate, political representation, etc.) are analyzed on a longer period of time in order to see the changes that occurred and also, when available, comparison with data available at EU level is performed. Another aspect approached is related to violence against the women in Romanian society, especially that related to domestic violence. The paper brings in discussion the perceptions in regard to this phenomenon, the beliefs and norms that regulate the conduct within the family, the incidence of violence against women and the efforts made so far in order to eliminate it. Keywords: gender, equality, labor market, culture, violence.

In Romania, the policy on equal opportunity and equal treatment between women and men was first legislated, in 2002, while the main government body for equal opportunities was established as a national agency in 2005. Several changes have since taken place in both legislation and the institutional architecture of the government bodies.

Literature review - ROMANIA

During the process of accession to the European Union (EU), and particularly in the pre-accession years, the pace of implementation of gender mainstreaming was intensified and received special attention from the government.

The Romanian Constitution enshrines gender equality at work and in the labour market. It establishes equal opportunities for women and men in accessing public, civil or military jobs (Article 16(3)) and equal pay (Article 41(4)). Constitutional law provisions also grant equal access to social security and social assistance, explicitly mentioning the right to paid maternity leave. The right to other leave is implicitly referenced under the right to other forms of social insurance and social assistance stipulated by law (Article 47(2)).

Methods and tools

Note: the methods and tools listed under this section were the focus of EIGE's 2018-2019 assessment. If certain methods and tools are not mentioned in this section, this does not necessarily mean that they are not used at all by Romania.

Several methods and tools are applied to gender equality policy, such as gender analysis, gender awareness-raising, gender equality training, gender stakeholder consultation, and gender statistics. The tools to monitor gender mainstreaming advances are not finalised and there has been no recent national evaluation of the progress in gender mainstreaming in Romania. However, in 2018, the European Parliament provided an evaluation within the analysis of the improvements in the gender dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy [10].

Training and awareness-raising

There is no commitment or obligation to provide gender equality training for government employees. EU-funded projects usually include training but this is not provided systematically as part of a unified approach. Training is open to all employees and its participation is, in principle, voluntary. There are no specific procedures for either the organisation or monitoring of training results or participation. No information is available on awareness-raising initiatives related to gender equality within government bodies.

Gender statistics

Law 178/2018 states that the National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection (coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice) and the Development Institute of Occupational Safety (coordinated by the Ministry of Education) have specific responsibilities in promoting and ensuring equal opportunities and equal treatment between women and men in their respective areas of activity. They also have a responsibility to provide data and information necessary for the development of equal opportunities strategies and policy [11]. However, there is no legal obligation for any institution to collect sex-disaggregated data, nor is any unit specifically charged with producing such data.

The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) generates and disseminates sex-disaggregated information at national level in its Yearly Statistical Yearbook (Anuarul Statistic) on population, labour market participation by economic sector and occupation, earnings, levels of education and enrolment in education. Publications on topics relevant to gender equality issues are issued sporadically.

The ANES organisational chart includes a data analysis and research department that collects and analyses data on relevant gender equality issues. It has carried out studies on women and men in decision-making positions in the central public administration (2016), women's and men's representation in the parliamentary elections (2016), and the participation of women in companies' shareholding (2017). The results were included in the Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for Equal Opportunities and Treatment between Women and Men 2014–2017.

Literature review - ROMANIA

U-Report survey on gender equality

Almost half of the young people were harassed due to their gender.

62% of young people interviewed by UNICEF through the U-Report platform believe that, at this moment, in Romania, girls and boys do not benefit of equal opportunities and treatment. Half of the respondents know concrete examples in which adolescents among their friends have faced difficult situations or differentiated treatment due to their gender grounds.

Among the main problems that teenagers face due to the fact that they are girls or boys are: the pressure related to physical appearance (32%), the difference in expectations and encouragement between what girls and boys can do (29%) or online harassment (19%). Other problems are related to harassment at school and outside the school and differences in opportunities they can benefit of.

42% of respondents said they were harassed or assaulted on gender grounds.

One third believe that being a girl or a boy has so far influenced their parents' expectations regarding home and school behavior, 15% teachers' expectations regarding school behavior and learning results, 18% the choice of school and extracurricular activities in which they were involved, 16% their relationships with friends.

The vast majority of respondents (92%) believe that equal opportunities between girls and boys is a matter that should be discussed at school.

Only 38% believe that the Romanian school promotes equal opportunities and treatment between girls and boys and the overwhelming majority of respondents (92%) believe that equal opportunities between girls and boys is a matter that should be discussed in school. Young people would like to receive information on how to recognize situations of discrimination and harassment in everyday life, how to promote equal opportunities or how to recognize and address gender stereotypes. Almost a quarter of respondents want to know more about the human body and health education. More than half (55%) want this information to reach them through group discussions with experts, 29% through group discussions with teachers, and 11% would like to be informed through social media channels.

More than half (55%) want the information to reach them through group discussions with experts.

Regarding the recent adoption by the Romanian Parliament of the amendment to the Education Law prohibiting the exchange of information on gender equality in schools and universities, 48% of respondents said they were aware of this issue, and 52% were concerned or concerned about it.

The U-Report survey was answered by over 2,800 children and young people from all over the country, most (86%) being between 15 and 19 years old. Three quarters of the respondents - 1952 people - are girls and only 700 boys.

Gender roles and stereotypes-INT_CEDAW_NGO_ROU_27790_E

NGO Shadow report complementing the Romanian Government's report to the CEDAW - This shadow report is a joint effort of E-Romnja Association, the Coalition for Gender Equality and the Network for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women . The report covers the period 2009 - 2016.

List of issues raised within the report:

- Gender roles and stereotypes both in the public area and especially in the private (family) context, which prevent women from occupying highly paid jobs or highly ranked positions in the decision making process.

Literature review - ROMANIA

-Trafficking in persons in Romania, with the aim to be sexually abused in other European countries – 74% of the trafficked persons in 2014 were women and 68% of them were sexually exploited – but the most serious issue is that girls represent the majority of the trafficked group of women.

-Presence of women in elected and appointed bodies, Romania has one of the lowest percentage in Europe - 19 % in the national parliament

- Education - In Romania, in 2011, 1,36 % is the rate of illiteracy and more than a half is made-up of women (1,74%). The illiteracy rate is 3 times higher in rural areas and Roma women represent the most vulnerable group (more than 40,000 women).

- Labor market The employment rates of men and women still show a 15,4 % difference in favor of men in 2014 but the unemployment rate is higher for men than for women by 0,8 %.

-Health system in Romania. The discrimination within the health system that limits access for women from vulnerable groups, such as women from rural areas, Roma women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV.

- Multiple discrimination – as intersectional discrimination, occurs when discrimination is based on more than one ground. The lack of cases based on multiple ground, lack of awareness on multiple discrimination in statistics, the impossibility of developing the concept in legal cases and lack of acknowledgment of the issue within the work of courts and legal institutions are some of them.

-Roma Women – disadvantage women within the policies for Roma and gender issues: Women's rights are neglected among the ethnic group as well as among the majority of population defining them, as one of the most vulnerable groups is Romania.

Literature review - ROMANIA

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