

Workshops to identify the barriers faced by children and young people with vision and hearing impairments

After the training courses, the next step in our project were the workshops where children and young people with visual and hearing impairments from the seven partner special schools worked together to identify the barriers they face socially, economically, educationally, access and mobility, etc. They are part of the awareness and advocacy campaign and are a first step for the development of the Position Paper that will result from the campaign. Fourteen such workshops with over 280 young people took place in the months of March - April 2022. The conclusions from the workshops were synthesized in a document as a basis for the youth manifesto that will be presented to the relevant authorities. The activity took place within the project **"Our voice counts!"**, project implemented by the Association Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21 in partnership with the National Association of Librarians and Public Libraries from Romania, Startlight Petra Association and Norsensus Mediaforum Norway, with the financial support of the Active Citizens Fund Romania, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through 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 advocacy activities that promote 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.

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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