

## Position paper of young people with visual and hearing impairments

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a meeting took place during which young people from mainstream and special schools, together with volunteers and teachers, worked together to develop the manifesto identifying the barriers faced by young people with visual and hearing impairments and the requirements for their remedy addressed to the authorities. The meeting 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.

Some of the young people's demands are: medical services provided for the approvals necessary to obtain the certificate of a person with disabilities, the inclusion of the minimum necessary information (prospectus) in braille for medicines, the employment of mime-gestural interpreters in public institutions to facilitate the access of people with hearing disabilities to public services, the purchase of braille devices in institutions and companies to facilitate the employment of people with visual disabilities, the development of textbooks adapted to people with visual and hearing disabilities for both secondary, tertiary and higher education. These are just some of the needs identified at the meeting. The full manifesto can be read [here](#).

### 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](http://www.activecitizensfund.ro). For more information about the EEA and Norway Grants, go to [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org).

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