

Iceland  
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Norway grants



# „VioGen - RoJust” Project - strategic action to effectively implement the European Council human rights standards



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# General informations about „VioGen - RoJust”

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- 01** **Area of intervention:** The right to protection against gender-based abuse and violence
- 02** **Project timeline:** 22 months - February 2022 - November 2023
- 03** **Grant value:** 732.000 EUR

# „Viogen - RoJust” Summary



The project is a strategic action to effectively implement the European Council standards on human rights and is being carried out by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, as a Promoter of the project, in partnership with: TRANSCENA Association, ANAIS Association, FILIA Center and the GRADO Association, starting with December 2021.

The project received a grant of approximately 732,000 euros provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants under the Local Development Program, administered by the Romanian Social Development Fund.



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# Proiectului „Viogen” Summary

## The project aims at:

- **improving measures of protection** against domestic violence;
- **strengthening the capacity of the Romanian authorities** to ensure the proper implementation of the legislative framework on the protection and non-discrimination of victims;
- **national impact and the creation of new replicable measures and fundamental changes** for the effective application and implementation of ECHR recommendations and CoE human rights standards.

Another component of the project aims at the **professional training of the main categories of professionals who have specific responsibilities in domestic violence** (police officers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers).





**The project aims to improve the framework for cooperation and coordination of intervention focused on an integrated approach to domestic violence and gender-based violence by:**

- **informative and educational actions** for public institutions and professionals;
- **creating new support and informational opportunities** through a specialized digital platform;
- **advocacy actions;**
- **legal caravan;**
- **good practices interchange through the SINERGY network.**



**The project is a natural continuation of the efforts made by NAEO and the partner NGOs in the process of ratifying the Istanbul Convention and implementing its provisions /harmonizing the internal legal framework.**

**The project provides specific interventions, in the short, medium and long term, which are absolutely necessary to address domestic violence and gender-based violence, through specific measures to support, assist and protect victims.**

# **„VioGen - RoJust“ Overall Objective**

**The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Romanian authorities to implement/enforce the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, as well as the country recommendations issued by the Council of Europe in the field of abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence.**

**Through its activities, the project aims to:**

- to have a national level impact;**
- generate innovative measures to promote key changes to ensure the effective application and implementation of Council of Europe human rights standards;**
- generate positive long-term effects, that can help increase the understanding of the profile of victims of domestic and gender-based violence.**

# „VioGen - RoJust“

## Specific Objectives

01

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1:**

Ensuring better implementation / enforcement at national level of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, in the field of abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

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02

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2:**

Ensuring better implementation of country recommendations made by institutions of the Council of Europe and working groups in the field of abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

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03

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3:**

Raising awareness on gender violence, by conducting national campaigns among judicial specialists, the general public and young people aged 15-19.





## „VioGen - RoJust” Relevance

The project responds to the objectives and results of the call, acting in the direction of:

- **strengthening the capacity of the Romanian authorities** to implement the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg
- **country recommendations issued by the Council of Europe** in the field of abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

The report on Romania emphasizes the need for the Romanian authorities to intensify their efforts to combat gender-based violence and to promote "zero tolerance" towards domestic violence.

The project contributes to solving the existing needs at institutional level, as well as professionals through the activities proposed by measures such as:

- **creating, developing and promoting mechanisms** for the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons (victims of gender-based violence);
- **training programs for professionals in the field;**
- **conducting a national informative campaign;**
- **creating an online platform** - a resource point for informing the public and professionals in the judicial field
- **increasing the cooperation between Romania and the Donor States** in the field of promoting human rights and good practices.



# Current Situation Analysis

**Domestic violence victims face many administrative and legislative issues. Current legislation covers much of the victim's needs, but they are often confronted with the reluctance of public authorities and specialists. All these elements inevitably lead to situations that translate into human rights violations.**

**In 2020, a total of 43,712 reported criminal acts: 22,273 of crimes in urban areas and 21,439 in rural areas.**

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**Predimonates the number of offenses of hitting or other violence 26809, followed by family abandonment 6026, threats 4023, rape 226, home invasion 146 and violations of OP / OPP 2956.**

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**In the area of very serious crimes, 72 victims were killed and 58 were subjected to attempted murder.**

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**Regarding perpetrators: 38741 were committed by men, 5318 by women and 197 by minors. The total number of victims of crime was 45,676 (29,967 women and 8,122 minors).**

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**A relevant analysis of the current context - "VICATIS", indicates the problems that the victim faces in relation to the judicial system, recommending:**

- The need for intensive and multidisciplinary training of police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers;**
- Quickly resolving the divorce cases, custody and division of property, with domestic violence victims;**
- Improving the skills of judges in assessing the best interests of the child in domestic violence cases for custody / visitation rights of the aggressor parent / the need to include children in the OPP / OP;**
- Streamlining access to ex-officio legal assistance for all domestic violence victims and specialized training of lawyers.**

Through the proposed actions and the intervention model developed, the project contributes to addressing the specific needs of the main and secondary target group contained in national strategies, recommendations from the national reports.

# „VioGen - RoJust” Target Groups

- 01 750 Employees of public institutions, especially employees working with vulnerable groups
  - 02 200 MAGISTRATES (JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, ETC.)
  - 03 820 LAWYERS
  - 04 828 EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC ORDER INSTITUTIONS (POLICE OFFICERS, RIOT COPS, LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS, LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS, ETC.)
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- 01 102.000 PUPILS AND STUDENTS (YOUNG PEOPLE 15-19 YRS OLD)
  - 02 100 TEACHERS
  - 03 OTHER CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT (EMPLOYERS, PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION, PEOPLE WITH PUBLIC NOTORIETY, ETC.)
  - 04 100 OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS MENTIONED IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS LGBTQ+ PEOPLE, RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, ETC.

# „VioGen -RoJust” Activities

A1

**Creation, development and promotion at regional / multi-regional / national level of mechanisms for the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons and of measures dedicated to combat discrimination and / or to promote human rights, piloted at national level, with a focus on victims of discrimination on the criteria of sex and domestic violence or gender-based violence;** - 155,000 lei, activity carried out by ANES, with the support of partners. The activity consists in the elaboration of two mechanisms and two measures for the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons.

A2

**Initiation and promotion of initial and continuing training / education program for judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police officers, regarding the implementation of international human rights documents ratified by Romania (ECHR, ECHR, Istanbul Convention, Istanbul Convention Lanzarote) and the avoidance of procedural defects** that led to the ruling by the ECHR of some Decisions by which Romania was sentenced to pay sums as compensation; - 845,585 lei, activity carried out by P4 Grado.

# „VioGen-RoJust” Activities

**A3**

**Carrying out a national informative and awareness campaign of public opinion and professionals in the field of justice and in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence with regard to respect for victims' rights, avoidance of victimization and non-discrimination;** - 397,760 lei made by P1 FILIA Center, P2 Transcena Association and ANES.

**A4**

**Creating an online platform as a resource point for informing the public, with a segment dedicated to professionals in the field: judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and a component dedicated to reporting abuses in the judiciary (police, prosecutor's offices, courts) and providing counselling / guidance vulnerable persons), regarding the protection of their rights and the modalities of notification of the competent authorities** - 148,000 LEI, activity implemented by ANES and P2, with the support of the partners.

# „VioGen -RoJust” Activities

**A5**

**Organizing a „VioGen RoJust” virtual legal caravan at national level, in order to increase the capacity of national institutions to put into practice the recommendations resulting from ECHR decisions and other country-specific recommendations; - 74,000 lei, activity carried out online by ANES.**

**A6**

**Carrying out advocacy activities that allow the creation of effective communication mechanisms between different institutional actors with responsibilities in the process of implementing country decisions and recommendations on abuse, domestic violence and gender violence; - 400,319 lei made by P1 Centrul Filia and P2 Transcena.**



# „VioGen -RoJust” Activities

**A7**

**Elaboration of a Study on the ECHR jurisprudence relevant for professionals in the judicial field and examples of good practice.**

- 274,210 lei, activity carried out by P4 GRADO and P1 FILIA Center.

**A8**

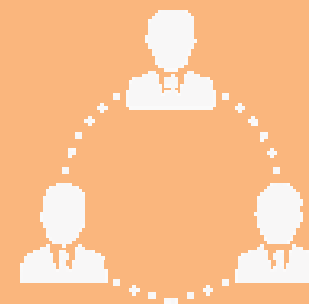
**Promoting the project and disseminating the results.**

**A9**

**Project management.**

# "VioGen - RoJust"

## Partener Role



**GRADO** - provides complex expertise in human rights protection for creating mechanisms and measures for the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons, training / information for professionals in the judicial field, development of the digital platform with dedicated sections and elaboration of the study on the implementation of ECHR decisions;

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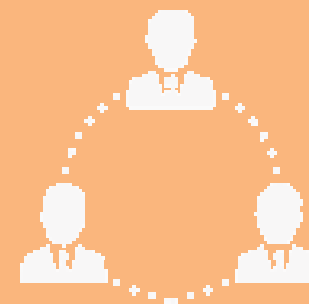


**Transcena** - ensures the innovative approach through long and successful experience in using new training methods, working with children and young people through interactive methods - forum theater and advocacy activities, supports the realization of other activities.

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# "VioGen - RoJust"

## Partener Role



**FILIA Center** - provides specific expertise for conducting attractive, modern and successful campaigns, is involved in advocacy activities, and supports the implementation of other activities.

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**ANAIS Association** - participates in the training of professionals and provides valuable expertise in the field of legal representation and in-depth knowledge of the justice and social system in which it operates. It is involved in carrying out project activities.

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# Thank you for your attention!



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