



**F.E.D.R.A.**

Federația pentru Drepturi și Resurse pentru  
Persoanele cu Tulburări în Spectrul Autist

# Activity Report

## 2013



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## **Brief presentation of FEDRA**

The Federation for Rights and Resources for People with Autistic Disorder (FEDRA) is made up of associations and foundations active within social protection for persons with disabilities.

FEDRA is a Romanian legal entity, private, non-governmental, non-profit, operating in accordance with its Statute and the Romanian laws. It is an apolitical, open, non-confessional, non-profit, autonomous and independent organization.

FEDRA aims to create and maintain a suitable environment in order to stimulate and support people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families.

FEDRA was founded in November 2010 by a group of six associations and foundations active in the field of social protection of disabled people. All the organization have family members belonging to this category.

The first meeting took place in Baia-Mare.

Before this meeting the first step taken was attending the 11th International Congress organized by Autism Europe in Italy (Catania) in October 2010. The main theme of the congress was – a future for autism. Also, this participation was represented the first step in the collaboration with Autism Europe, european network who militates for the rights of persons with autism and for improvement their life.

## **FEDRA members**

The founding members of the Federation are:

- „Autism Baia Mare” Association - <http://www.autismbaiamare.ro>
- „Crystal Children” Association Braşov- <http://www.copiiidecristal.ro>
- „Transylvania Autism” Association Cluj Napoca- <http://www.autismtransilvania.ro>
- „Black Sea Therapeutic Center” Constanţa- <http://www.psihologieconstanta.ro>
- „Association for Supporting People with Autism” (A.S.P.A.) Suceava, - <http://www.aspasv.ro>
- „Universe Plus Foundation” Piatra Neamţ- <http://www.neamt-autism.ro>

They were subsequently joined by:

- “Defeat Autism” Association Bucharest - <http://invingemautismul.ro>
- „The Romanian National Association for Children and Adults with Autism” (ANCAAR), Iaşi - <http://www.ancaar-iasi.ro>
- „Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation (RAA), Bucureşti - <http://www.raa.ro>
- „Autism Europe” Association – Centre for Resources and References “Little Prince” Bistriţa- <http://www.crra.ro>
- “Beyond Autism” Association Craiova - <http://www.dincolodeautism.ro>
- „The Romanian National Association for Children and Adults with Autism” (ANCAAR), Craiova - <http://www.ancaar-craiova.ro>
- „Help Malin” Association, Bucureşti - <http://www.helpautism.ro>
- „The Romanian National Association for Children and Adults with Autism” (ANCAAR), Argeş - <http://www.argesautism.ro>



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“Beyond the Silence” Association Galati

AUTISM ROMANIA- Association of Parents with Children with Autism Bucharest

<http://www.autismromania.ro>

Association for Helping Children with ASD from Romania „Horia Moțoi” Bucharest

<http://www.centrul-horiamotoi.ro>

“Centre for Psychology Danube Delta” Association Tulcea

Swedish Organization for Individual Relief Bucharest [www.organizatia-suedeza.ro](http://www.organizatia-suedeza.ro)

In 2013, the General Assembly took place in Bucharest and it was an important moment for the Federation because during the meeting the members have participated in a process of improving the Statute. Moreover five new organizations joined FEDRA.



## Activities

### Advocacy and lobby activities

In 2013, FEDRA has been actively involved and made efforts to amend the Order regarding the criteria for establishing the degree of disability which regulates that Autistic Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong condition, not a condition only for children, as it was previously.



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Also, FEDRA representatives were involved in the process of elaborating the Methodological Normes for Law 151/2010 regarding the specialized integrated health, social and educational services for people with autistic spectrum disorders and associated mental health disorders.

## Public events

On the World Autism Awareness Day public events were organized in 12 counties. They took the form of: solidarity marches, simultaneous release of blue balloons, press conferences, centre opening, trainings, charitable concerts, flash-mob.

As part of the „Light it up blue!” International Campaign initiated by Autism Europe some of the most important buildings from Romania were lighted up in blue.

## Institutional development

Starting with 2013, FEDRA in partnership with Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation has implemented the project „Together we are a voice!”. The project will be implemented during 2013 and 2016 and the main objective is to integrate innovative and effective **applied interventions & methodologies**, proposed by NGOs, into the public policies that are to be designed for the period 2015 - 2020 with regard to social services for people with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) in Romania. The project is funded by Switzerland through the Swiss – Romanian Cooperation program.

An important component of the project is the institutional development of FEDRA. This section was included in the project taking into account the decisions taken in the General Assembly. Thus in 2013 a course on advocacy issues was organized and also a meeting on developing the strategy. The first meeting, regarding the strategy development was held in Iasi and the main purpose was to create an organizational strategy and an action plan. FEDRA members had the opportunity to establish the directions for the next year. In the following months of implementation meetings to improve the strategy and the action plan will be held, lobbying and advocacy actives will be organized and there will be an emphasis on increasing FEDRA's visibility. In this line the website of the Federation will be improved.





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## Networks

As an Autism Europe member, FEDRA has been represented by its members („Autism Baia Mare” Association, „Transylvania Autism” Association, „Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation) at the 10th International Congress “New Dimensions for Autism” organized by Autism Europe in Budapest. FEDRA participated as one of the 80 Autism Europe members from 30 European countries.

During the conference specialists held presentations on different topics (researches, lobby and advocacy activities, specialized interventions for children and youth, support services for families). The most appreciated presentations were those held by persons with autistic disorders (Ros Blackburn from UK and Michael McManmon from SUA), who talked about ASD people’s needs and the challenges they have to cope with as an autistic person.

Also at the request of Autism Speaks USA FEDRA asked The Ministry of Health to nominate a representative for Romania (National Coordinator) for the South East European Network for Autism (SEAN). The coordinator has been appointed but a Governmental agreement has not been signed due to diplomatic conflicts.

## Other

In 2013, Cristian Ungurianu (the President of Univers Plus Foundation) represented FEDRA in the process of developing the Alternative Report on children’s rights in Romania.

**The Alternative Report** is the result of the monitorization of compliance/enforcement of the UN Convention of the Children’s Rights. It aims to be the voice of the civil society that can express in public, open views on emerging gaps between theory and practice in reality. The Convention grants a great importance to monitoring the process developed by NGOs involved in the field of children’s rights at national and international level.

The end of the year brought about an important victory for the Federation. The CNCD’s decision regarding the Campaign "Hate" remained final, even though contested by Secom company. In 2012 CNCD fined SECOM company for its "Hate" Campaign.

## Budget of incomes and expenditures in 2013

In 2013 FEDRA incomes consisted of its members contributions, a donation from Vodafone Foundation and funds through the project „Together we are a voice!”.

The total budget for 2013 was 44.120 RON

The income from subscriptions **in 2013: 11.950 RON**

**Vodafone Foundation donation: 9.277 RON**

**Funds within the project „Together we are a voice!": 22.092,97 RON**

Expenditures: 35.411RON

## Contact

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