



NEWS REPORT

Date: 13 December 2010
Expert: Romanița Iordache
Title: A poll commissioned by the national equality body assesses the situation of discrimination in Romania
Country: Romania
Context
Issue at stake: The National Council for Combating Discrimination published a poll discriminatory practices and stereotypes
Ground of discrimination: all grounds
Source: Independent research
Field: all fields

Content

Development: The National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) published a report entitled “*Fenomenul Discriminării în România*” [the Phenomenon of Discrimination in Romania] which was produced by Totem Communication as commissioned by the NCCD.¹ This is the third consecutive year when the NCCD is commissioning a study on perceptions and attitudes regarding discrimination and vulnerable groups in Romania.

As a general finding, the report found that 62 per cent of the respondents considered that the phenomenon of discrimination is either present or widely present in Romania. One third of the interviewees consider that the phenomenon of discrimination worsened after the accession to the EU (31%). The vulnerable groups perceived as being mainly the targets of discrimination are: persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (70%), LGBT (61%), Roma (60%), persons with disabilities (58%). The three areas perceived as triggering the highest exposure to discrimination are: access to employment, presence in the public space and the relation with the authorities.

¹ The methodology used entailed 1400 interviews with persons over 18, carried out in October-November 2010. The error margin is of +/- 2,6 % for a level of trust of 95 per cent. The quantitative study was conducted after a qualitative research entailing three focus groups.

The paradox evidenced in previous years remains: while 61% find that LGBT are discriminated against, only 5 per cent would accept an LGBT member of the family (compared to 4.9 per cent in previous 2009 report) and only 10 per cent would accept an LGBT friend (compared to 23 per cent in the previous 2009 report). A slight increase in homophobia is evidenced by the report: 56 per cent of the respondents would not have lunch with a homosexual, 85 per cent would not drink from the same glass, 55 per cent declare that they would not feel at ease with an LGBT person around, 47 per cent would accept an LGBT colleague at work.

In relation to the Roma minority there are also several paradoxes evidenced: while more than 60 per cent of the respondents believe that Roma are discriminated against and 70 per cent consider that it is more difficult for a Roma to find a job or to be promoted at work, 44 per cent consider that Roma are discriminated in education, 45 per cent think that Roma are discriminated against in hospitals and 48 per cent think that Roma are discriminated in public places, only 33 per cent of the respondents would have lunch with a Roma, 72 per cent would not drink from the same glass, only 11 per cent would accept a Roma in the family and only 17 per cent would have a Roma friend.

The report also found that 48 per cent of the respondents would not feel at ease in relation with a person living with HIV and 50 per cent would take lunch with a person living with HIV.

Interestingly, the research found that more than 50 per cent of the population attribute discrimination in the public sphere to the actions and statements of politicians. One out of four interviewees thinks that the national minorities pose a problem to the national state. Also, 56 per cent of the Romanians accordingly to the research, think that the phenomenon of discrimination will be amplified due to the example provided by public figures.

The presence of the NCCD in the media evidenced that a total of 64 per cent of the interviewees being familiar with the work of the NCCD.

Internet link source and additional information: www.cncd.org.ro (accessed on 13.12.2010).