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PRESS RELEASE

Ethics counseling, a key instrument in integrity management

The Foundation Center for Legal Resources (CRJ) in partnership with **the National Agency of Civil Servants (NACS)** implemented between October 2013- April 2015 the project **“Training and Development for Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration”**, SMIS code 22242, which had as main objective to strengthen the capacity of central and local public institutions to answer the ethics and integrity requirements in the civil service.

In the project framework, CRJ and NACS provided 9 training sessions on the following themes: “Expert in preventing and combating corruption” (6 sessions), “Social and civil competences – communication and leadership” (1 session) and “Social and civil competences – conflict management” (2 sessions), attended by 174 ethics advisers, civil servants with integrity related tasks and management civil servants from 104 public institutions in 10 counties (Alba, Constanta, Covasna, Dâmbovița, Galați, Gorj, Ilfov, Teleorman, Valcea and the municipality of Bucharest). 163 participants graduated, with the new acquired competences certified at national level. The principles of equal opportunities and sustainable development were included in the project in a special session in each training on nondiscrimination, diversity and responsibility.

CRJ and NACS developed methodologies and instruments for ethics counseling: the guide “Good practices and tools for preventing corruption in public administration” and brochures “The management of integrity in public institutions” and “The advantages of ethics counseling”. The developed instruments were promoted among the public institutions participating in the project by organizing 12 on site visits to offer specialized counseling.

NACS developed an on-line application that allows the ethics adviser to report online, on a dedicated platform, on the compliance with the rules of conduct and on the implementation of disciplinary procedures. This platform will replace the old reporting system, rendering more efficient the ethics advisers’ activity and uploading of national reports.

A new positive approach on integrity policies was developed in the project, based on performance assessment of, ethical values, dialogue, accountability and good practices. This new approach was the theme of an international conference entitled “Ethics in public administration”, which took place on 27th of March 2015 gathering 100 experts and civil servants from 9 countries in Europe and region: United Kingdom, France, Poland, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova and Romania. The main objective of the conference was to identify good practices at regional level on integrity promotion in public administration.

The project “Training and Development for Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration”, SMIS Code: 22242, financed from The European Social Fund through The Operational Program Development of Administrative Capacity 2007-2013 had a total eligible value (without VAT) of **1.164.910,70 lei**, out of which: **1.141.612,49 lei** – non-refundable eligible value from the European Social Fund and **23.298,21 lei** – eligible beneficiary co-financing.

The Center for Legal Resources (CRJ) is a nongovernmental organization, founded in 1998, which works for the creation and functioning of a legal and institutional framework to ensure the respect of human rights, equal opportunities and free access to fair justice. The Center for Legal Resources has

two strategic directions – respect of human rights and promotion of the rule of law. CRJ runs monitoring and research activities, advocacy, professional training, strategic litigations and strengthening of institutional capacity. www.crj.ro

The National Agency of Civil Servants (NACSS) was founded on the basis of Law nr. 188/1999 on the Statute of Civil Servants republished, with subsequent modifications and completions. NACS functions in subordination of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, as a public institution, a specialized organ of central public administration with judiciary personality. NACS initiated The Code of conduct of civil servants, namely Law nr. 7/2004 republished and is the institution which introduced in the administrative system the “function” of ethics adviser and pursued the creation of a database with persons responsible of ethics counseling in a public institution/ authority. www.anfp.gov.ro

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