



CENTRUL ROMÂN
DE POLITICI EUROPENE

CRPE

DEBATING EUROPE, PROVIDING EXPERTISE

CRPE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

WHO ARE WE?

Romanian Centre for European Policies (CRPE) is one of the leading Romanian think-tanks specialized in EU affairs, with over 10 years of experience in implementing European and regional projects.

CRPE was established in 2009 by a group of experts bound by the shared objective of supporting Romania's role in Europe.





Justice, Internal Affairs, Anti-
corruption



Education and
Entrepreneurship

Common Agricultural Policy

Youth and Civic Engagement



Republic of Moldova and
Eastern Neighbourhood

Human Rights

Social and Anti-poverty
policies



PROJECTS

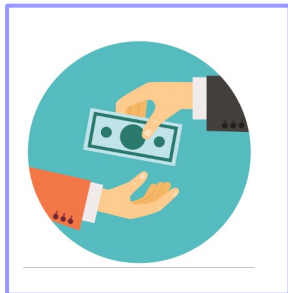
I. CRPE - Romania

CRPE has a significant portfolio of transnational projects and regional projects in the field of good governance, justice and foreign affairs (including EaP and Western Balkans), social inclusion and anti-poverty, youth and civic participation, rural development, education and entrepreneurship, human rights.

Within our projects, we strive to address pressing issues at the local, national, and European level to support our target groups - from young people to relevant actors at the local or regional level, experts, local and central public authorities, etc.

This year, we adapted the CRPE activities to the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic and thus we managed to organize over 10 online debates, workshops, roundtables, training courses with relevant stakeholders at the local and national level, and to write over 8 policy papers that addressed current issues such as: judicial cooperation in criminal matters, fake news, propaganda and disinformation, anti-corruption, youth, civic activism, etc.

CRPE has been developing a strong in-house research capacity based on the permanent staff, benefiting from the expertise of its 13 staff members and over 15 affiliated experts.



Whistleblowing Open Data Impact. An Implementation and Impact Assessment (WOODle)

Period of implementation: February 2019 – February 2021

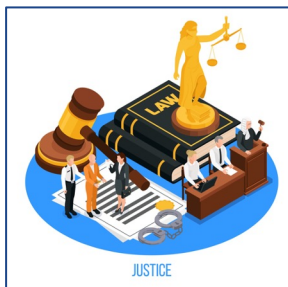
The project focuses on the current implementation and impact of whistleblowing legislation and open-data policy in public procurement in seven EU Member States, in order to develop an ICT tool for the public administrations (<https://www.woodietool.eu/>) to self-evaluate their policies.

Target group: Public administrations (which could apply the ICT tool to self-evaluate their policies) and citizens.

Partners: Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy); Amapola – Progetti Per La Sicurezza Delle Persone E Delle Comunità Associazione (Italy); Université d'Angers (France); Vienna Centre For Societal Security – Vicesse, Wiener Zentrum Fur Sozialwissenschaftliche Sicherheitsforschung (Austria); Univerza V Mariboru (Slovenia).

The project is financed by the European Commission – Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs

Find out more about the project [here](#).



Trust and Action - Judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Period of Implementation: October 2018 – October 2020

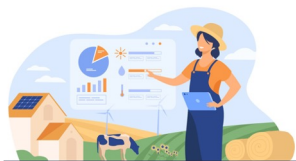
The project focuses on two acts concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU: Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition on judgments and probation decisions and Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA on mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention. The project aims to build trust and devise best practices for better judicial cooperation between Member States by involving universities, judicial experts and ministries of justice from Italy, Spain and Romania.

Target group: national authorities and practitioners in the field of justice from Italy, Spain, and Romania

The partners are the University of Turin (Italy), Amapola Progetti (Italy), University A Coruña (Spain), and the Italian Ministry of Justice (Italy).

The project is financed through the Justice Programme, Directorate General Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Find out more about the project [here](#).



Research and advocacy for positioning agriculture high-schools as hubs for small and medium farmers

Period of implementation: October 2015 – November 2021

The project aims to bring solutions for 50 high schools with an agricultural profile from Romania by improving teaching methods, connecting with the business environment, extracurricular activities, e-learning solutions, but also promoting agricultural activity of the high schools enrolled in the program. Within the project, CRPE interviewed over 120 students from agricultural high schools and designed an online platform (with over 2000 views) that includes relevant information and news in the field, but also a social media group to facilitate an informal forum of debates.

Target group: 50 agricultural high schools in Romania, public and private stakeholders at local and national level.

Project partners: Civitas Foundation, World Vision Romania, Junior Achievement Romania, Foundation Center Entrepreneurship and Executive Development in Romania (CEEED).

The project is financed by Romanian-American Foundation (RAF).



YOUCooperATE: Youth Cooperation for Agricultural Renewal through Education

Period of implementation: March 2020 – August 2021

The project aims at consolidating the knowledge and capabilities of youth aged 15-17 years old engaged in agricultural education programs (T-VET), promoting formal and non-formal education opportunities, and best practices and tools on agricultural entrepreneurship. The project comprises modern teaching tools and e-learning methods to educate and encourage the development of the agricultural cooperative sector in the five countries of the project.

Target Group: T-VET Students aged 15-17 years old from Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Italy; T-VET education experts, agricultural cooperatives, researchers, decision-makers, representatives of the Government.

Project partners: National Institute for Cooperative Education - Irecoop (Italy), Civitas Foundation (Romania), National Union of Small Family Farmers and Producers Association NUSFFP (Bulgaria), Farmers' Parliament (Latvia), and National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre NAIK (Hungary).

The project is financed by DG GROW – DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs Find out more about the project [here](#).

Common Agricultural Policy



COOP NET - Network of facilitators in the development of associative structures

Period of implementation: January 2017 – November 2021

The project aims to train a group of 80 people to set up sustainable structures for farmers and to help small producers provide market access for their products. Coop Net is a network that supports the association and collaboration between Romanian farmers. It does this by training stakeholders to create associative structures in the territory of the Local Action Group (LAG) in which they apply for funding.

CRPE is responsible for updating the comprehensive agricultural cooperatives data-base and highlighting the evolutions of the cooperative sector in Romania (quantitative parameters) since the last iteration (in 2016-2017), advocating for measures conducive to the development of new and existing agri coops within the National Strategic Plan 2021-2027, documenting the development of the food hubs model, communicating it to stakeholders and advocating the model for the National Strategic Plan 2021 – 2027.

Partners: Civitas Foundation, World Vision Romania, Junior Achievement Romania, Foundation Center Entrepreneurship and Executive Development in Romania (CEED), Community Safety and Mediation Center, Foundation for the Development of the Civil Society (FDSC).

The project is financed by the Romanian-American Foundation (RAF).

Education and Entrepreneurship



Y-SEH – Youth Social Entrepreneurship Hub

Period of implementation: September 2020 – August 2023

The project aims to strengthen competencies for social entrepreneurship of young people and youth workers by developing learning materials and involving them in learning activities. The project envisages the creation of a virtual platform that will enable young people to create a business plan with financial reports and to track economic records. The goal is to teach real-world business skills by simulating the processes and activities that occur in a real company and its relationships with other companies and institutions.

Target group: 60 young people (15-22 years old) who will develop their entrepreneurial skills, understand the role of social entrepreneurship and its benefits both for personal and social development.

Project partners: Center for Nonprofit Legislation (Romania), DIESIS COOP, and Meuccio Ruini Consortium (Italy).

The project is financed by the Erasmus+ program. Find out more about the project [here](#).



NATO's response to the Covid-19 pandemic: How youth can understand NATO efforts and help fight propaganda

Period of implementation: September – December 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated disinformation campaigns targeting NATO and its member countries. Youth is one of the most vulnerable groups in this regard as they interact daily with web content that many times is harmful or fake. By informing youth on the positive contribution of NATO in the fight against the pandemic in the Black Sea Region, the project aimed to improve popular confidence in NATO.

The project envisages a set of interactive activities, among which a webinar and a set of videos with NATO representatives and experts in the field of communication and security during which youth have the opportunity to interact and ask more questions about NATO performances. Additionally, the project aims at designing two policy briefs and an online toolkit for deconstructing disinformation in the region. Finally, the project aims to engage youth through a quiz about NATO and the ongoing disinformation campaigns and how to protect against fake news.

Target group: high school and university students from Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

The project is financed by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division (NATO PDD).



A new narrative for Europe: Bringing more union into the European Union

Period of implementation: September 2018 – February 2020

The project aims to reconceptualize street protests and grass-roots civic mobilization as a new form of democratic participation by connecting them to high-level democratic decision-making within the EU. Main results: (1) an E-debate competition, (2) 16 video stories on the future of the EU made with street protesters in Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Germany, (3) 6 town hall meetings organized with more than 500 participants, and (4) 4 position papers on the state of civic mobilization and recommendations to improve engagement with the EU.

Target group: young participants in the street protests; in addition to policy experts and local authorities from Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, and Germany.

Project partners: Institute for European Politics (Germany), National University of Political and Administrative Studies (Romania), Risk Monitor (Bulgaria), and Inter Alia (Greece)

The project was financed by the European Commission, Europe for Citizens Program, Strand2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Find out more about the project [here](#).

Social and Anti-Poverty Policies



Let's make the Invisible Visible

Period of implementation: September 2020 – August 2023

The project focuses on the issue of vulnerable groups (taking up marginalized communities, discriminated women, Roma groups, migrants/refugees) that are facing multiple discrimination in the EU countries – the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Austria, and Slovakia. The project aims at increasing competences by testing innovative practices in the field of adult education and counseling (drama techniques and participatory coaching methods), and raising awareness of the phenomenon by creating video portraits of discriminated women.

Project partners: GIC NORA (Czech Republic), Peregrina (Austria), TRANSFER Slovensko (Slovakia), and Fundacja Kobiece (Poland).

The project is financed by the European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.

Find out more about the project [here](#).

Human Rights



E-Protect II: Enhancing the protection of children – victims of crime

The project is designed to build up on and expand the previous results of the E-PROTECT implementation through the Directive 2012/29 practical application and by raising awareness on children's rights granted by the act. The project is set to provide capacity building to professionals and improve the cooperation between competent authorities dealing with child victims. As a result, child victims of crime will be provided support, and also professionals, actively working in this field, will be empowered.

Target groups: child protection professionals (including lawyers, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, medical staff, psychologists, social workers, civil servants, and other experts), policy-makers, and the general public.

Partners: Law and Internet Foundation (Bulgaria), Defence for Children International (Italy), Italian Ministry of Justice (Italy), South East European Research Center (Greece).

The project is financed by European Commission – DG Justice program.

Find out more about the project [here](#).

II. CRPE - R. Moldova

In 2020, the Moldovan Branch of the Romanian Centre for European Policies continued to prioritize topics that responded to the needs of citizens, youth, and local civil society. Even though the pandemic context determined that our projects will be implemented mostly online, we focused on elaborating interactive activities and providing useful and timely content to our participants and the general public.

CRPE-R.Moldova tackled the globally renowned *infodemia*, discussed with youth from both sides of the Nistru river about stereotypes and the impact of recent history on their lives, and engaged in projects to bring visibility and know-how to local NGOs from Moldova. Online trainings, campaigns, workshops, papers, and art projects are only some of the activities we undertook this year at CRPE-R.Moldova.



Fostering cooperation in the Black Sea Region: Setting up a transnational civic situation room

Period of implementation: July 2020 – October 2021

The project sets up a functional civic situation room that puts together 18-20 experts from six countries to address potential threats to democracy and rule of law. The project entails creating a secured virtual space for discussions, encrypted communication, and capacity building for cyber-security experts, creating a knowledge repository, facilitating discussions, and setting up a rapid response mechanism.

Target group: experts – human rights lawyers, representatives of the NGOs, and civic activists from Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, and Azerbaijan.

Project coordinated by CRPE Romania. Project partner: Center for Criminal Justice and Security Studies

The project is funded by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation – A Project of the German Marshall Fund

Find out more about the project [here](#).



Transnistrian conflict in the eyes of youth through street art

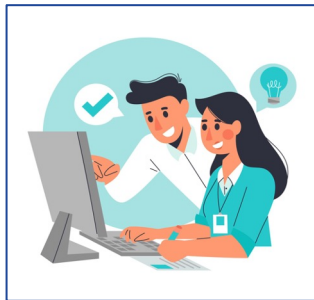
Period of implementation: February 2020 – October 2020

The project encompasses an online training course on the Transnistrian conflict, the impact of mass-media and social media, the importance of civic activism and unconventional art in erasing stereotypes and furthering interactions between different communities. The participants joined a workshop on graffiti and painted two murals – one in Chisinau and one in Dubasari. The murals, located in school courtyards, reflected young people's ideas on unity and friendship between the people from the both sides of the river Nistru.

Target group: High school students from the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region.

The project is financed by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

You can find out more about the project [here](#).



Enhancing the capacity of the local civil society for monitoring local public authorities

Period of implementation: August 2020 - June 2021

The project seeks to improve the expertise and the capacity of the local civil society on the functioning and monitoring of public authorities, as well as methods to ensure promotion and visibility for NGO activities. A guide on local civic activism has been developed and comprises relevant legislation pieces, best practices on collaborations between public administration and civil society and tools for implementation of projects and initiatives at local level that can benefit the community. Productive training sessions on the functioning and transparency of public administrations were organized and allowed the participants to explore ways to monitor public authorities. As a result, the participants will conduct a three-month monitoring campaign of their local or central public authorities and present a monthly report on the main findings and recommendations.

Target group: local civil society from Cimișlia, Căușeni și Basarabasca, and Report.md, experts in public administration, civic involvement, transparency from Romania and Moldova, public authorities.

The project is financed by the European Union & Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in the framework of the grant program carried out by Dezvolt.md.

Find out more about the project [here](#).



Deconstructing and exposing Russian fake news campaigns and propaganda during the Covid-19 crisis in the Republic of Moldova and the broad Black Sea Region

Period of implementation: April - December 2020

The project aimed at deconstructing and countering fake narratives in the the Republic of Moldova and the entire Black Sea Region. Together with our partners, journalists from the Report.md media outlet, we published more than 10 explanatory investigative articles and interviews about COVID-19 experiences of health workers, public figures and regular citizens. We drafted two policy briefs in which we synthesized the main fake narratives and actors that spread disinformation in Moldova and in the wider Black Sea region, and one report in which we presented a close up on the presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova and the use of the pandemia motif to gain electoral support. We also designed an interactive map of the broad Black Sea region in which we compiled and categorized popular fake narratives, actors, and channels of propaganda in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The map is available [here](#). The articles can be found on report.md website.

Target group: general public, youth, journalists from the Republic of Moldova and the wider Black Sea region.

The project is financed by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation. Find out more about the project [here](#).

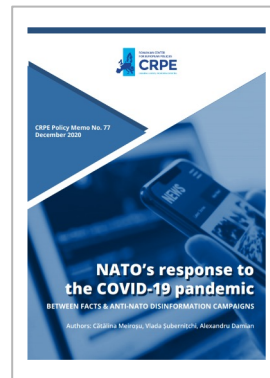


"We are stronger together" - one of the murals painted by the participants of the project in Chisinau



Common
Agricultural Policy

Publications



Youth and Civic Engagement



Justice, Internal
Affairs and Anti-
Corruption

The Republic of Moldova
and the Neighborhood
Policy



The efficiency of judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU

CRPE provides a case study that discusses extensively how Romania, Italy, and Spain put into practice the same three EU framework decisions related to the sentences of those convicted in other countries or alternative measures that apply to them. Together with practitioners, magistrates, and experts in judicial cooperation, the consortium sought to reveal what the limitations are, both in terms of intra-state and national cooperation, what obstacles face the magistrates in the proper use of these instruments, but also a set of proposals for improving the practical framework in the implementation of the framework decisions.

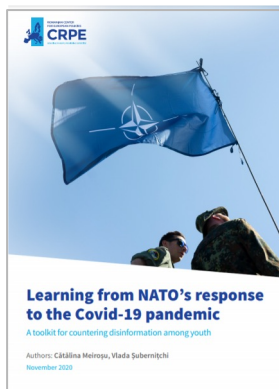
The report is available [here](#).



Disinformation and propaganda in the management of the COVID-19 crisis in the Republic of Moldova

The policy brief analyses the impact of COVID-19 related disinformation on individuals in the Republic of Moldova. It outlines the main geopolitical goals of Russia and China, how state and church officials enabled their propaganda, and how the predominantly Russian media contributed to their spread. It also shows how disinformation affects measures meant to control the pandemic, but also Moldova's relations with the EU, Romania and the breakaway Transnistrian region.

The paper is available [here](#).



Learning from NATO's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A toolkit for countering disinformation among youth

This toolkit is meant to provide a short overview of NATO and its efforts in providing security and aid to its member states in the context of and during the Covid-19 crisis. Besides, it provides a set of information on NATO and its response to the Covid-19 crisis in terms of communication strategy and countering disinformation.

The toolkit can be accessed [here](#).



Bulgaria: Over 100 days of protests against corruption.

An overview on the 2020 anti-corruption protests in Bulgaria, the report presents to the Romanian public the political and social reality in neighbouring Bulgaria. Who the protesters are, what they demand and who the main political players are. The 2020 anti-government protest wave is even more critical in the margins of the Bulgarian parliamentary elections in April 2021. The report presents several insights from Bulgarian experts.

The report in Romanian is available [here](#).



Conspiracy theories and pro-Russian propaganda in EaP countries

The report presents an overview of the disinformation campaigns and conspiracy theories popular in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership during the COVID-19 pandemic. We explored the main disinformation subjects, drivers, beneficiaries and target groups. The paper speculates on what the potential short term and long term consequences of disinformation could be on the societies' resilience overall, and, in particular, how it can affect the image of the European Union in the countries of the EaP.

The report can be accessed [here](#).



Toxic election campaigns: Disinformation and propaganda in Chisinau

The report provides an overview of the main propaganda messages and fake narratives that were promoted in the margins of the presidential campaign in the Republic of Moldova in November 2020. We present an analysis of the main perpetrators, hot topics, target groups and the effect of the whirlwind propaganda and fakes. The pandemic motif was indispensable in this campaign and the publication reviews the impact of the COVID-19 themes in the electoral campaign.

The material can be accessed [here](#).

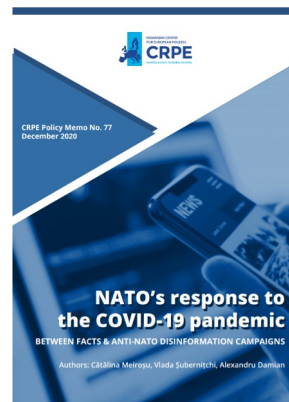


A Guide on Civic Activism

The guide brings to the fore legislation, instruments and best practices in the field of civic activism in the Republic of Moldova.

Dedicated to NGOs, civic activists and citizens, the material guidelines the decision-making processes and reviews collaboration opportunities between the civil society and the public authorities. The guide is tailored as a support for aspiring civic activists and experienced NGOs on how to pursue initiatives such as: watchdog activities, monitoring campaigns, advocacy.

The material can be accessed [here](#).



NATO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Between Facts & Anti-NATO Disinformation Campaigns

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a rise of fake news and conspiracies targeting NATO and other international organizations. This paper gathers the facts and information on NATO's activities in countering the COVID-19 crisis in its member and partner countries. It also includes chapters on how the Alliance fights against propaganda and fake news. The paper presents a set of further recommendations on how NATO can improve its performance in the region and reduce the impact of propaganda.

The paper is available [here](#).

EVOLUȚIA SECTORULUI COOPERATELOR AGRICOLE DIN ROMÂNIA PERIOADA 2017-2020

CRPE, decembrie 2020

Autori: Alexandra Toderiță, Oana Ganeș, Ruxandra Popescu



The evolution of agricultural cooperatives in Romania (2017-2020)

Since 2014, CRPE has been analyzing the development of the agricultural cooperatives sector in Romania with a focus on its dimension, performances, results and trends. For 2020, the study shows that only 49% of the Romanian coops are functional mostly in the cereal and large crops sector. In the meantime, the production, marketing and processing in the field of fruits and vegetables have registered a spectacular leap in the last 3 years.

The report in Romanian is available [here](#).



NATO & Youth involvement in the Black Sea Region Current progress and recommendations

This paper provides an overview on NATO's take on the youth with a focus on two frontline member states – Romania and Bulgaria, and two NATO partner countries – Moldova and Ukraine. Countries from the Black Sea Region are exposed to the growing presence of the Russian Federation through election meddling, propaganda, and disinformation campaigns, as well as historical political and economic links. This exposure may pose a threat to democracy, the rule of law, citizens' liberties, and to security in the region. In the long run, it may also affect the citizens' overall perceptions of NATO and of the West, as a whole.

The report is available [here](#).

The next generation of
farmers

Vocational education
and training

The next generation of
political leaders

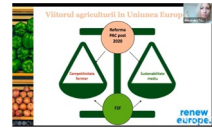
Events

Education and
entrepreneurship

Youth and Civic
engagement

Judicial cooperation in
criminal matters





Food: Security and sustainability in times of COVID-19

Two-days training course on the Transnistrian conflict, civic and media activism

Online seminar on cyber hygiene rules, cyber security and secure communication

Training sessions for monitoring public administration in the Republic of Moldova

Online Debate: Farm Association - a solution for a modern and green agriculture



Debate on the Future of the European Union (co-organized together with Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Romania)

“Stronger Together” - Painting two murals in Chisinau and Dubasari

Informational warfare in Eastern Europe: new challenges in times of Covid-19

Efficiency of judicial cooperation in crime matters in the EU

Online Quiz on NATO's performance during COVID-19 pandemic and fight against disinformation

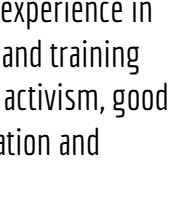




Team

With more than 7 years' experience, key staff part of the project have implemented several transnational projects targeting both the domains of EU affairs and youth sector, with an emphasis on youth and their active participation.

Our colleagues have a track record of experience in European and transnational projects and training expertise in the field of youth and civic activism, good governance, social policies, education and entrepreneurship.



Board of Directors



Alexandra TODERITĂ

Executive Director

Since 2012, Alexandra has been coordinating CRPE's projects in the fields of rural development, vulnerable groups and VET. Alexandra has over 12 years experience in the NGO sector – both as a volunteer and as a project manager.

Areas of expertise: Rural development, agriculture, social policies, TVET



Bianca TOMA

Program Director

Coordinates CRPE's programs on Good Governance, Justice and EU Affairs. Specialised trainer in European policies, Bianca is also the author of CRPE's policy recommendation on various fields and of the Sustainability INDEX of the National Anti-corruption Directorate.

Areas of expertise: Justice and Home Affairs, Good Governance, EU Regional Policy, EU Enlargement



Ruxandra POPESCU

Program Director

Coordinates CRPE projects in the field of youth, social entrepreneurship, human rights and social justice. Ruxandra obtained in 2013 a Master's degree in International Economics and European Affairs within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Faculty of International Business and Economics. Currently, she is also pursuing her PhD in economic diplomacy.

Areas of expertise: European Union Law and its applicability, European Economic Governance, International Economic Diplomacy

Permanent Staff



Alexandru DAMIAN

Alexandru is part of CRPE's projects dealing with European Affairs, European Elections, Justice and the Neighborhood Policy of the European Union. He is most interested in the European path of the Republic of Moldova and the Western Balkans.



Cătălina MEIROȘU

Cătălina is involved in projects related to social policies and the integration of vulnerable groups, youth and civic participation. She has over 4 years experience in regional and EU projects.



Vlada ȘUBERNIȚHI

Vlada is part of CRPE's projects involving Eastern Partnership and the Republic of Moldova in particular. She is interested in political communication and the post Soviet space.



Adina LICA

Adina has extensive knowledge in the field of Europeanization, the European Governance and social policies and has over 3 years experience in NGOs sector.



Andrada CILIBIU

Andrada is involved in projects regarding gender studies, education in disadvantaged environments and minorities studies.



Oana GANEA

Oana is a sociologist with over 15 years of experience in market and social research. Fields of expertise include quantitative and qualitative research.



ROMANIAN CENTER
FOR EUROPEAN POLICIES

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