



# ICAR FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

ROMANIA

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**PROMOTING THE REHABILITATION OF TORTURE  
VICTIMS AND THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**



**MISSION:**

To contribute to the consolidation of democracy by assisting groups of vulnerable, marginalized people, victims of gross human rights violations

# Introduction

ICAR Foundation is a non-governmental, non-profit organization set up in 1991 by Dr. Camelia Doru with the support of 19 honorific members.

## Short history

It was legally registered in 1992 and its main aim was to provide free medical, psychological, social and legal assistance for those who, for political reasons, experienced the communist detention regime. ICAR Foundation is the first and also the only organization in Romania that has set out and implemented such a program. The Foundation operates three rehabilitation centers in Romania, one in Bucharest (opened in 1993), one in Iasi (opened in 1995) and one in Craiova (opened in 1998). The centers provide free medical, psychiatric/psychological, social and legal services to victims of torture and ill-treatment among former political prisoners and their immediate families either by in-house staff or by referral to external services with which the Foundation has contracts.

From 2002, ICAR Foundation has extended its target population by offering medical and psychosocial services also to refugees and asylum seekers. For this purpose ICAR signed a collaboration protocol with the National Office for Refugees (now the Romanian Immigration Office) that allows ICAR to operate an office in the “Vasile Stolnicu” refugee reception and accommodation centre, where the Foundation’s psychologist and volunteers organize psychosocial counseling sessions, Romanian language classes, information sessions, cultural orientation sessions and different social activities for asylum seekers and refugees living in the centre.

## Objectives

- Recognition of and gratitude for the survivors of gross human rights violations (i.e. arrest, condemnations on political, ethnical or religious grounds, deportation, exploitation, extermination in concentration camps, torture, inhuman or degrading treatments etc.) through creation and access to comprehensive rehabilitation services.
- Promotion of victims' and their families' right to medical and psychological rehabilitation, to moral, legal and social redress, including financial compensations.
- Contribution to the life standard of primary and secondary victims of gross human rights violations among former political prisoners, refugees and asylum seekers, through provision of comprehensive rehabilitation (medical, psychosocial and legal).
- Support to activities of prevention of gross human rights violations and of awareness raising concerning their consequences.



# Rehabilitation

## MEDICAL SERVICES AT ICAR CENTERS

The medical assistance that ICAR Foundation offers to survivors of gross human rights abuses includes both general medical services and specialized medical services: psychiatry, cardiology and internal medicine, urology, physiotherapy and basic laboratory investigations. For medical specialties that are not offered as in-house services (e.g. ENT, ophthalmology, special investigations, hospitalisations) ICAR refers its patients to medical cabinets or medical institutions outside the foundation.

During 2009 the ICAR centres assisted on a regular basis over 800 patients, victims of torture in Romanian communist prisons and asylum seekers and refugees in Romania

that have been subjected to torture and other gross human rights violations in their country of origin. The majority of asylum seekers and refugees seen at ICAR were from Iraq, Turkey, Congo, Somalia and Bangladesh.

The medical staff at ICAR's rehabilitation centres made over 8 000 consultations (general medicine, cardiology, urology, physiotherapy, psychiatry, basic laboratory investigations) and around 400 external referrals to other medical institutions during 2009.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

The clients' need for mental health assistance is first evaluated by general practitioners but any of other specialists from the centres may refer the victims to be assessed and to receive psycho-pharmacological and/or

psychosocial support sessions

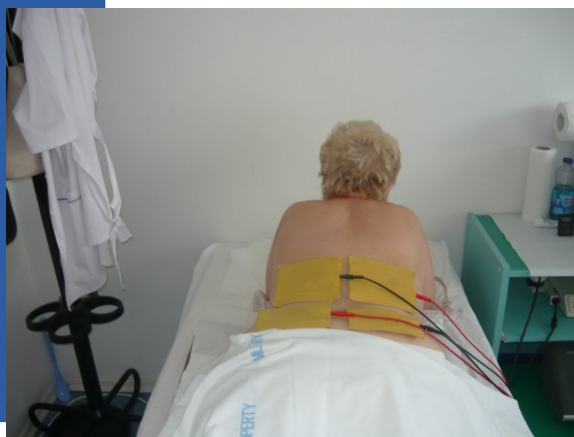
and conducts screening and needs assessment of inhabitants of the centre.

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The social rehabilitation services include social needs assessments, social interventions, social counselling, social events, and aim at establishing a support network for the beneficiaries in order to prevent their marginalization, isolation and stigmatization. Among the activities performed during 2009: Romanian language classes and cultural orientation sessions for the refugees and asylum seekers living in the Bucharest reception and accommodation centre of the Romanian Immigration Office; food transportation from the social canteen to beneficiaries' homes, support in home chores, errands and basic shopping etc. Also, the clients were invited and involved in different events organized by the centres throughout the year.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND COURT CASES

ICAR Foundation Bucharest provides legal counselling sessions to its clients on a weekly basis. During 2009 a number of 11 clients benefitted from legal counselling on issues related to local taxes,



Physiotherapy session

pension and other of their civil rights. ICAR also prepared and lodged a series of strategically selected cases for victims of the communist regime requesting reparation in court from the Romanian state, with the view of testing the Romanian judicial system in implementing national and international legislation concerning reparation.

#### **M E D I C A L DOCUMENTATION OF ALLEGED CASES OF TORTURE AND ILL- TREATMENT**

ICAR centres issued a total number of 33 medical certificates (17 somatic and 16 psychiatric) documenting physical and psychological consequences of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment suffered by asylum seekers in their country of origin. The medical examinations were requested by the asylum seekers' lawyers, or even by the Court itself in some cases. Most of the examinations were done on the basis of ICAR's partnership with the Romanian National Council for Refugees, a NGO that offers legal counselling and representation to asylum seekers in Romania. The reports issued were then used as evidence to support the asylum seeker's case in court.

In 2009 ICAR's specialists in Bucharest also performed a number of 176 psychological and psychiatric evaluations and examinations of the surviving victims of the Romanian revolution from December 1989 and their families (117

revolutionaries and 59 close family members, from Bucharest, Timisoara and Pitesti). This resulted in 67 psychiatric reports and 73 psychological reports that were used by the "21 December 1989" Association (association of Romanian victims of the December 1989 revolution) as evidence in their case against the Romanian state at the European Court of Human Rights.

#### **A C T I V I T I E S   I N   T H E REFUGEE RECEPTION AND A C C O M M O D A T I O N CENTRE IN BUCHAREST**

Based on the protocol of collaboration with the Romanian Office for Immigration, ICAR staff from the Bucharest centre had access and performed different activities in the refugee reception and accommodation centre of the Romanian Immigration Office, situated in the outskirts of Bucharest and hosting asylum seekers as well as legalized refugees who cannot afford to live in town.

ICAR's psychosocial counsellor was present weekly in ICAR Foundation's outreach office in the refugee centre and carried out screening and needs assessment of inhabitants of the centre in order to identify potential torture victims among new-comers and those requiring medical assistance. The psychologist offered specialized assistance to the torture victims identified,

conducting during 2009 over 80 individual psychological counselling sessions, family psychological counselling sessions and psychotherapy sessions.

ICAR's specialist in the refugee centre also offered social counselling on issues like emergency services in Romania, Romanian educational system, continuation of studies, opportunities of spending free time; medical counselling (information on personal hygiene, healthy eating and diets, facilitation of medical consultations, accompaniment to the hospital etc.); cultural orientation sessions (Romanian customs and traditions, Romanian cuisine, climate in Romania etc.); visits in the city to different cultural or religious sites. The volunteers coordinated by ICAR's psychosocial counsellor conducted 50 Romanian language classes in which over 100 refugees and asylum seekers participated.



**ICAR Bucharest reception area**

# Advocacy

## **ACTION FOR REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

ICAR initiated and signed open letters sent to national and international institutions to lobby for attention and support for the people of Moldova, after the violent aftermath

of the April 2009 presidential elections.

Following the open letters sent to Romanian authorities, ICAR Foundation's management met with Presidential Counselor Dr. Virgil Paunescu in April 2009 and

with Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Doru Costea in May 2009. Possibilities of humanitarian and specialized aid for the Moldovan people, especially the victims of violence, were discussed.

## **26 OF JUNE - UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

On 26 of June 2009 ICAR Foundation Bucharest published a press release talking about the significance of the day, the victims from Romania and abroad (asylum seekers and refugees) and ICAR's efforts to offer support and rehabilitation. Also, ICAR took this opportunity to express satisfaction about Romanian Parliament's recent passing of the law that ratifies the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) – Law 109/14.04.2009, almost 6 years after Romania's signing the Protocol (24 September 2003). Besides the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment or punishment that states the general provisions related to a person's right not to be subjected to torture or ill-treatment, United Nations adopted on 18 December 2002 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in order to reinforce the prevention mechanisms. The OPCAT entered into force on 22 June 2006 and stipulates the establishment of prevention and monitoring bodies at international (the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture - that works mainly through periodic unannounced monitoring visits in detention centres) and national level (independent national preventive mechanisms).

## **26 OF JUNE IN CRAIOVA**

On the occasion of the United Nations International Day in

Support of Victims of Torture, on 26 of June 2009, MRCT Craiova organized a succession of activities with the aim of raising public awareness concerning the methods of torture used by the communist regime and the effects of those methods on the destinies and the health status of the persons that suffered these inhuman experiences, reminding us about the common responsibility we have in preventing torture.

Persons from different domains were invited at the event: representatives of the local authorities, the Medical College, the Public Health Authorities, the Health Insurance House, as well as representatives of the local business market, as potential donors. Patients of the center, members of the Romanian Association of Former Political Prisoners and





### Art exhibition in Iasi

ProBasarabia, were also present.

The event included also a memorial service in memory of the torture victims of the Romanian communist regime 1945-1989. During the day and the manifestations in and outside of the center booklets and presentation maps regarding 26 of June were offered to the guests and general public.

### 26 OF JUNE IN IASI

On the 26 of June 2009, Medical Rehabilitation Centre Iasi organized two projections of Alan Hartwick's documentary "Beyond Torture" at Moldova Mall Glendale Cinema Multiplex. Almost 300 people of all ages and background attended the projections. For a whole week before the documentary the centre with the help of volunteers distributed free invitations (3000 flyers with information regarding the 26th

of June Day and torture related issues, pennants and balloons bearing the 26 June logo) to people around the city. The teasing campaign during the week also included posters, radio ads, TV and radio interviews.

Thanks to the kindness of painter Radu Bercea, a former political prisoner, MRCT Iasi organized a Romanian Gulag related art exhibition. Around 50 of his sketches were displayed for a month at the centre's premises, the inauguration day being the 26th of June.

Another activity meant to mark 26 of June was an essay contest organized at "Petru Poni" school in Iasi. Pupils of different age had the possibility to write about torture related issues and meet some of the centre's beneficiaries. A jury selected the best essays that were later awarded during an event at the centre's premises.

Former political prisoners, representatives of the local community and the press attended the awards ceremony. The ceremony ended in a buffet, offering the participants the possibility to better interact.

The series of events began with a press conference to which members of the press, the former political prisoners, the local authorities and the non-governmental sector participated.

**INVITATIE LA FILM**

**INTRAREA LIBERA**

CINEMA GLENDALE MULTIPLEX, MOLDOVA MALL  
VINERI 26 Iunie, ORELE 17:00-18:00, 18:00-19:00

**"DINCOLO DE TORTURA"**

REGIA: ALAN HARTWICK

UN FILM DESPRE DRAMA SUPRAVIETUIITORILOR INCHISORILOR POLITICE ALE REGIMULUI COMUNIST  
OFERIT DE ASOCIATA "CENTRUL MEDICAL DE REABILITARE"  
CU OCAZIA ZILEI DE 26 Iunie, "ZIUA NATIUNILOR UNITE DE SOLIDARITATE CU VICTIMELE TORTURII"

ICAR Bethony trct GLENDALE CINEMA SC RARA COM SRL Radio Iasi VoxIT

## National events

### MEETING BETWEEN NGOS AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

In the beginning of 2009 (28 January 2009) ICAR Foundation was among the NGOs invited to the Lower House of the Romanian Parliament to meet with the leadership of the House – president Roberta Anastase. The main issues discussed were improving the legislation concerning the non-governmental organizations and how to improve the cooperation between the Parliament and the civil society. Afterwards there were parallel thematic workshops around the following three groups: environment, sustainable development, community, economic and urban development, protection of animals; social, health, education, youth, culture; and justice, human rights, citizen relations, minorities.

### KERRY KENNEDY IN ROMANIA

ICAR's Director was invited to attend the event organized on the occasion of Kerry Kennedy's visit to Romania on April 7, 2009. The niece of the famous American president and daughter of Robert F. Kennedy launched the book

“Speak Truth to Power” – a collection of 51 interviews with human rights activists around the world – and a program dedicated to promoting human rights in Romania.

### TRAINING ON PSUBLIC PROCUREMENT

During the 23rd and the 30th of April, our executive director attended a training session on public procurement. The training was organized by Teramold Foundation and Equal Chances for Women Association and aimed to offer attendants the information needed to legally organize the public procurement process. For a few years now Romania has specific rules regarding the spending of public money, whether it comes from the state, the Euro-

pean Union or other public donors. Some of the issues addressed were: procedures, methods and common rules in public procurement contracts, main steps of procurement, the electronic system of procurements etc.

### 2% CAMPAIGN IN IASI

In April and May MRCT Iasi organized the 2% campaign. The primary role of the campaign was to make the community more sensitive and willing to help the organization to solve the former political prisoner's problems by redirecting 2% from the income tax to the Medical Rehabilitation Center Iasi.

The centre followed two different directions for the campaign: public informing and getting in touch with the companies.



Meeting Mrs. Kerry Kennedy



The public informing campaign represented the most important part of the efforts for the 2% campaign, as well as of the fundraising policy for 2009.

One first approach of taxpayers from Iasi happened during the participation to 'Expovolunteer' – a fair organized for NGOs and public institutions in Iasi with the purpose of promoting activities in need of public support. The employees and volunteers of the Medical Center informed the public about MRCT's projects and ways they can help. People were given approximately 200 flyers, and whoever wanted to redirect 2% from income tax was offered counseling and the necessary documents.

During 4 – 14 May the volunteers helped the centre organize a campaign for informing the citizens who were not entirely familiar with the 2% mechanism. They answered questions like what 2% is, who can use it and how, why the taxpayer should redirect this percentage for the rehabilitation of the former political prisoners. 9 volunteers distributed flyers for 9 days in the most important areas of the city: Unirii Plaza, Stefan cel Mare Blvd., Podu-Ros, Alexandru – Minerva, Tatarasi, Civic Center. Approximately 1000 flyers were distributed.

The second approach of the 2% campaign targeted the economic agents with whom we usually collaborate. The management of the centre had meetings with key-persons of the companies to emphasize

the utility of their employees' contribution and the way MRCT understands to improve the rehabilitation services with that financial help. Relevant documents to be filled in were distributed to medical cabinets, pharmaceutical companies and medical services, labor protection companies, printing houses etc.

#### **NATIONAL NGO FORUM**

ICAR Foundation's project coordinator attended the National NGO Forum that was held at the House of Parliament between 11 and 13 of May 2009 and organized by the Foundation Civil Society Development Foundation and Centras. Under the slogan „Solidarity, Participation, Development”, the aim of the forum was to do an overview of the 20 years of civil society in Romania 1989 – 2009, as well as to set out the civil society's goals for the next 20 years. The participants also tried to identify the main problems of the sector and suggest possible solutions to them.

#### **DEBATE “HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”**

On the 20th of May 2009 ICAR's Director attended the debate “Human Rights in the European Union”. The event was organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Romania with the participation of Mrs. Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Germany's former Justice Minister (1998-2002), currently Chairwoman of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the Bundestag and president of the Committee for Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parlia-

mentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The debate analyzed how to ensure a balance between sovereignty of national governments and human rights, which are EU's mechanisms for guaranteeing them within member states and outside, as well as the challenges and the risks associated with this endeavor.

#### **ADVOCACY AND LOBBY METHODS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

The executive director from ICAR centre in Iasi attended two training sessions organized by ACCEPT Association on Advocacy and lobby methods for Human Rights, beginner and advanced level. The two sessions took place between 22nd - 25th of February and between 14th - 16th of September in Sinaia. The training was meant to give the attendants both basic and advanced methods on advocacy and lobby and facilitate the networking between human rights activists in Romania. The training sessions addressed issues such as introduction to human rights, advocacy and lobby, developing an advocacy strategy, lobbying methods, debate and negotiation, interaction with mass media, and a lot of role playing.

#### **S E M I N A R “PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE PERSONS AMONG FOREIGNERS ON ROMANIAN TERRITORY”**

On the 24 of September ICAR's psychologist participated in the seminar “Psychological assistance to



**ICAR staff participating in JRS seminar**

vulnerable persons among foreigners on Romanian territory. Traumatic experiences from the country of origin", organized by the Jesuit Refugee Service - Romania in collaboration with the Faculty of Psychology within „Spiru Haret” University. The main issues discussed were: categories of persons facing the risk of trauma, causes and reactions to traumas in the country of origin, useful landmarks in trauma psycho-therapy for refugees, international standards in the field of assistance for vulnerable persons, legal assistance for victims of torture, traumatic effects of torture on vulnerable persons.

#### **CONFERENCE “LET’S MANAGE MIGRATION TOGETHER”**

Between the 29th and the 30th of September 2009 ICAR’s Medical Director, Financial and Planning Director and Project Coor-

dinator attended the conference “Let’s Manage Migration Together” organized by the Romanian Immigration Office. During the first of the two working days the immigration officials presented the Framework Programme “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows”, the available funding under the Programme – the European Refugee Fund, the European Integration Fund and the European Return Fund – and the eligible actions under the 2008 and 2009 Annual Programmes. The second day was dedicated to more practical activities (working groups, workshops and simulations of projects applications).

#### **SEMINAR “ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS IN ROMANIA”**

On the 19th of November 2009 Jesuit Refugee Service - Romania in partner-

ship with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Romania organized a seminar for the relevant professionals working with refugees, migrants and foreigners on Romanian territory. The agenda included lectures on access to social services for refugees from a European perspective, UNHCR standards related to access to medical services, medical services that refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to under Romanian law, relevant international jurisprudence, approach during medical consultation for foreigners. ICAR Foundation’s psychologist, Mrs. Anca Bucur, delivered a lecture on special medical assistance for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, followed by a case study presented by ICAR’s psychiatrist, dr. Radu Teodorescu.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVENT IN IASI**

On the 16th of December 2009, Medical Rehabilitation Centre Iasi organized at its premises a Christmas event for the beneficiaries. Bethany Social Services Foundation, Christian Orthodox Student’s Association and Magic Pizza joined their efforts in organizing the activities. For about two hours, 40 of MRCT Iasi’s clients enjoyed the special moments prepared for them: In the opening of the evening, both children

from the Bethany Social Services Foundation and students from Christian Orthodox Student's Association played various Christmas carols and wished the centre's beneficiaries all the best for the coming year. As a token of gratitude, the clients prepared gifts for the children: clothing, school items, games and candies.

MRCT's psychologist prepared a panel for discussions meant to help the clients visualize the things they are grateful for in 2009 and the things they expect or set as objectives in 2010. The evening ended with

a reception, an informal setting for them to interact.

#### **WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

MRCT Craiova's director, Ms. Simona Smarandache, participated in the workshop "The competition of social enterprises Nesst 2009", held between 16 and 17 December 2009 in Brasov, Romania. During the workshop the general sustainability of the centre was analysed, as well as its degree of qualification for developing or extending a social enterprise.



**Children singing carols for the former political prisoners in Iasi**

## **International events**

#### **MEETING BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND NGOS ON TORTURE PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION**

On 3 June 2009 the EuropeAid Co-operation Office of the European Commission held a meeting in Brussels with NGOs in the field of prevention of torture and rehabilitation of victims. There were about 30 NGOs present, including 13 rehabilitation centres. In addition a dozen of people from the European Commission (EC), mainly Europe Aid, attended the meeting.

The agenda included discussions on recent developments regarding EU policy against torture and ill-treatment, outcomes and main recommendations of the Evaluation on Support to Prevention of Torture and

Torture Rehabilitation Centres (done in June 2008), the 2009 Call for proposals on Support to Human Rights and democracy actions on Torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as forthcoming Calls for Proposals.

A sensitive subject regarded EC's phasing out strategy (i.e. reducing the EC contribution to EU based centres whose funding should be taken up by the Member States). The NGOs argued that phasing out would give the wrong signal to the Member States, who hadn't taken their responsibilities so far to support rehabilitation centres in their own countries. It was also mentioned that there was a lot of expertise in the EU centres and to reduce EU support would decrease their capacity to help centres in third countries.

Another disputed issue was EC's compulsory prevention component to every project. Several NGOs underlined the difficulties to do prevention, according to the circumstances, either for security reasons or because other organizations are already doing it. Also, they underlined the difficulties to promote rehabilitation activities.

The meeting ended with advice and recommendations from each side that the other committed itself to take into consideration.

#### **CONFERENCE "MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION"**

The conference, organized by the Austrian Red Cross in Vienna between June 30 and July 2, focused on identifying key aspects of best practice in





the field of mental health for asylum seekers and strengthening the cooperation between governmental and non-governmental service providers in Europe. The conference program included plenary sessions on asylum and mental health – government, NGO and refugee perspectives, followed by presentations of projects and good practices on community oriented approaches, approaches for specific target groups, therapeutic approaches, as well as a series of thematic workshops. ICAR's Project Coordinator attended the workshop on mental

health policies on the national and EU level and was part of the working group responsible for drafting the final conference recommendations on policy level.

#### **EUROPEAN PROJECT "GOOD PRACTICE IN TORTURE CARE"**

In 2009 ICAR Foundation was part of a European Refugee Fund financed project entitled "Good Practice in Torture Care" (2008-2010). The project was coordinated by the German Association of Psychosocial Centres for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAFF) and had as

partner centres AMC/ Equator – Amsterdam (Netherlands), Exil – Barcelona (Spain), ICAR– Bucharest (Romania), Primo Levi – Paris (France), Xenion – Berlin (Germany) and Zebra – Graz (Austria).

The purpose of the project was to develop a common approach within the European Union to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups among asylum seekers and refugees, especially those who have undergone torture and other gross human rights violations.

In order to attain this objective, each centre first carried out a self-evaluation through three team days (January – July 2009). Based on this, the partners then developed joint criteria and recommendations for good practice in reception of and assistance to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, during a final project meeting held in Bucharest between 11 and 14 of October 2009. The meeting brought together European experts from the centres involved in the project, as well as the two external consultants to the project:

Sibel Agrali, Psychologist, Director of care services, PRIMO LEVI Centre, Paris, France; Dr. David Becker,

psychologist, Project consultant, Office for Psychosocial Issues, Free University, Berlin, Germany; Elise Bittenbinder, Psychologist, President, German Association of Psychosocial Centres for Refugees and Torture Victims & Director, Psychotherapeutic Advice Centre for Refugees XENION, Berlin, Germany; Dr. Brandon Hamber, Psychologist, Project consultant, Research associate University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; Uta Wedam, Head of Division, MA (psych), Intercultural Centre of Counselling and Therapy ZEBRA, Austria; Pim Scholte, MD, Psychiatrist, EQUATOR Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Esther Schoonbeek, Psychologist & Coordinator, EQUATOR Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Prof. Erik Holst, MD, International Consultant; Camelia Doru, MD, Medical Director, ICAR Foundation, Bucharest, Romania; Iuliana Florea, MA, Project Coordinator, ICAR Foundation, Bucharest, Romania.

The above mentioned criteria and recommendations, together with the project results were included in a publication "Good practice in torture care" that will be distributed to the members of the European Network of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres for Victims of Torture and Human Rights Violations, as well as to other interested professionals at the European or national level.

#### CONFERENCE „VICTIMS OF TORTURE – MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND REHABILITATION”

ICAR Foundation had the initiative to support the rehabilitation centre MEMORIA from Chisinau, Moldova, after the repressive events of April 7, by combining a steering committee meeting of the European Network of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres for Victims of Torture and Human Rights Violations with the conference: "Victims of torture – medical documentation, access to justice and rehabilitation" organized by MEMORIA on the occasion of the 10 year celebration of its establishment. The event took place on 13 November 2009 in Chisinau.

The objective of the conference was to show solidarity with colleagues working in risky political environment, to strengthen the position of the centre at the national level, to raise its profile, to mobilize the local actors to help victims and to prevent torture by sharing various experiences of rehabilitation practiced in other European centers.

The audience included representatives of Moldovan presidency, top officials from Military Prosecutor's office, Forensic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, parliamentarians, Ombudsman, EU Delegation, lawyers'

associations, IGOs, NGOs.

Experts from centers in France, UK, Denmark, Netherlands, Romania, and Germany were present. Dr. Camelia Doru, ICAR's director delivered a presentation on the "Development of rehabilitation services for victims of torture in Central and Eastern Europe after 1990 - Lessons to be learned".

The outcome of the conference was very positive: a working group of centres specialists and the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights was established to draft a working plan with concrete actions to be taken by state institutions in order to prevent torture; a calendar of meetings - with participants and main topics for discussion - was agreed by the end of the conference.

The event enjoyed very good media coverage and as an overall effect encouraged our colleagues to continue their difficult work.



**Participants in the seminar "Good practice in torture care", Bucharest, October 2009**

# Partners

ICAR is pleased to acknowledge the fruitful partnership with various institutions and organizations, both at the national and international level.

## National partners

- Romanian Association of Former Political Prisoners (AFDPR)
- Romanian Immigration Office
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- ARCA- The Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) - Romania

## International partners

- European Network of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres for Victims of Torture and Human Rights Violations
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
- Association for Prevention of Torture (APT)
- German Association of Centres for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAFF)

# Donors

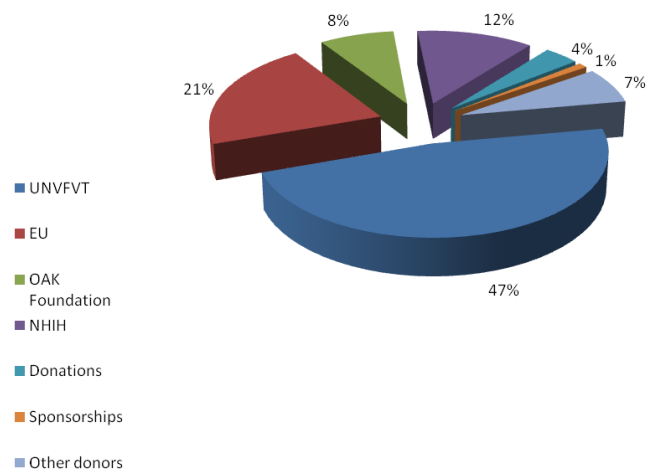
ICAR Foundation's activity in 2009 was possible thanks to the financial support from:

## International donors

- United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT) – 122,358 EUR
- European Union (EU) – 54,290 EUR
- Oak Foundation – 20,000 EUR

## National donors

- National Health Insurance House – 31,286 EUR
- Donations – 9,569 EUR
- Sponsorships – 2,569 EUR
- Other donors - 17,824 EUR



ICAR is grateful to all the donors that supported the foundation's activities and projects, as well as to the city halls' of Bucharest, Iasi and Craiova that have made available the premises the centers currently use.





## Help the survivors

**ICAR Foundation helps torture survivors and their families.  
You can do it, too!**

**ICAR's bank accounts:**

**BRD Decebal Branch**

**IBAN: RO42BRDE44ISVI9070944410 (RON)**

**or**

**IBAN: RO019BRDE44ISVI9071404410 (EUR)**

**Swift code: BRDEROBU**



***ICAR centers' management team***



**Address:**

**70 Unirii Bd., bloc J5, 030836  
Sector 3, Bucharest, Romania**

**Tel: +40 21 321 22 21**

**Fax: +40 21 327 54 74**

**E-mail: [icar@icarfoundation.ro](mailto:icar@icarfoundation.ro)**

**Web: [www.icarfoundation.ro](http://www.icarfoundation.ro)**