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**Follow up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit**

**The Ministry of National Education of Romania** supports the process of integration of the children and youth that have obtained a form of international protection or the right to reside in Romania, through the following means:

**1. The provision of Romanian language courses for beginners**

The foreign families that have obtained a form of international protection in Romania and who have children aged below 18 years old or who are above this age threshold, but who have not completed their school education, have the right to request to the school inspectorates the enrolment of their children in the pre-university school system. In view of school enrolment, these categories of children benefit from free Romanian language courses for beginners. These courses are organized by the Ministry of Education through the network of school inspectorates.

The same methodology applies to the accompanied minor children form third states who have obtained a form of international protection or the right of residence or who have requested such right in Romania.

The language courses can be organized for three age groups (6-10, 11-14 and 15-18 years old, respectively, including in the latter category the youth beyond 18 years old who have not completed their school education) and lasts one year, with a frequency of 4 hours per week. The assessment of the acquired linguistic competences is ensured by the schools that organized the courses and, based on the results of the assessment, the decision about the proper study year for school enrolment is made.

In order to foster the smooth insertion of these children into the school system, the legal framework ensures the possibility that they take part in school activities of theoretical, practical or recreational nature, alongside the Romanian pupils.

By the Law no. 331/ 2015 which amends and supplements some legal acts, minor asylum applicants benefit, as well, under article 18, of a free Romanian language course for beginners in order to facilitate their enrolment in the national school system.

**2. The provision of access to education**

The national legislation provides the equal access of foreigners that have obtained a form of protection in Romania to all forms of education, under the same conditions as those laid down by law for the Romanian citizens, according to the Government Ordinance no 44 / 2004.

Moreover, the Law of National Education no 1 / 2011grants the following categories of persons: minors who applied for or obtained a form of protection in Romanian, foreign minors and stateless minors, whose residence in Romania is officially recognised according to law, the same rights as those provided to the national citizens regarding the access to all levels and forms of pre-university education and higher education, as well as regarding lifelong learning, without any form of discrimination. Law no 331 / 2015 guarantees the access to education of minor asylum applicants.

**3. The equivalence of studies**

The national legislation provides means of equivalence of studies for the minors that have obtained a form of protection or the right to reside in Romanian, addressing, as well, the case where study documents cannot be provided.

1. For the case where documents regarding the studies attended / completed in the country of origin can be provided, the equivalence procedure will be ensured by the specialized service within the Ministry of Education, in accordance with the legal provisions. The proposition regarding the enrolment of the applicant in the proper study year of the next school year is done after the assessment of linguistic competence and the equivalence of studies.
2. In the case of pupils with no study documents, the decision upon the study year in which these pupils are going to be enrolled is taken based on the studies declared, age, the result of the Romanian language competence assessment and the result of an additional test in mathematics. The final decision is taken based on the recommendation of the evaluation commission and after the consent expressed by the parents or the legal guardian of the respective pupil.
3. There is no methodology for the equivalence of higher education studies for the cases where study documents cannot be provided / do not exist.

**The recognition of professional competences**

In order to have their professional competences recognized, the foreign citizens who obtained a form of protection in Romania and who cannot provide professional certificates can follow the same certification procedures as those used for the attestation of professional competences / qualifications gained in non-formal and informal contexts, applicable for the Romanian citizens.

Therefore, the persons in this situation can refer to the Centres for the evaluation and certification of professional competences authorized in this respect by the National Qualifications Authority. Depending on the competences proven, the respective centres can issue either *certificates of qualification* for the candidates declared competent for all the competences associated with a certain qualification or occupation, or *certificates for professional competences* for the candidates competent for one or more competences associated with a certain qualification or occupation.

**4. The granting of scholarships and other facilities**

In 2017 Romania has offered scholarships to 16 refugee children from Syria, who have obtained a form of protection in our country and who have been enrolled in the Romanian educational system beginning with the school year 2016-2017.

Also, in order to facilitate the access to higher education, the Romanian State offered scholarships for 12 refugee students from Syria and Iraq, who benefitted of a form of protection in our country, during the attendance of the Romanian language preparatory year of the academic year 2016-2017.

In addition to these means of support, Syrian and Iraqi citizens can benefit from scholarships and other facilities offered unilaterally by the Romanian State.

We include below a table regarding the expenses incurred by the support offered to the Syrian and Iraq nationals by the Romanian State.

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| No | **Romanian contribution for Iraq and Syria in 2017**  | Currancy: Romanian Leu (RON) |
| 1 | Higher education scholarships and other facilities offered to Iraq | 325.399,00 |
| 2 | Higher education scholarships and other facilities offered to Syria | 1.869.538,00 |
| 3 | Scholarships for 16 refugee children ( from Syria) who receive some form of protection in Romania and entered the educational system in the school year 2016 -2017  | 255.801,00 |
| 4 | Scholarships for 12 refugee students (from Syria and Iraq) who receive some form of protection in Romania and entered the higher educational system\_ Preparatory year for Romanian language in the university year 2016 - 2017  | 84.966,70 |
|  | Total  | 2.535.704,70 ron  |
|  | Average exchange rate for 2017 1 euro = 4,568 ron |
|  | Euro |  approx. 555100 euro |