



The Union of Mediation Centers of Romania (U.M.C.R.)

I. ABOUT U.M.C.R.

In full harmony with international regulations and practice, the Union of Mediation Centers of Romania, established in 2005, is a nationally representative federation. It brings together professional associations of mediators from each county in Romania, and is actively involved in the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

For the 2011-2013 term, the Union of Mediation Centers of Romania has taken on the role of an instrument of social peace within the community. Thus, dissemination programs have been developed, in order to promote the advantages of mediation as a way to end conflicts.

In the words of HRH Crown Princess Margarita of Romania from her message to the U.M.C.R., *Mediation, the youngest regulated profession in Romania, is an example of how something useful for society can be built where there was nothing. (...) I hope that, through the better promotion of mediation, more and more disputes will be solved amiably. I also hope that, through your professional initiatives you will give an example about the role that professional organizations can play in Romanian society.*

We have strived to promote mediation in the media, including through specialized publications such as the magazine *Mediation, Skill and Art* (Medierea, Tehnica si Arta - www.mediereatehnicasiarta.ro), the only relevant professional magazine for mediation. With monthly publication in both English and Romanian, the magazine is targeted towards mediators, legal practitioners but also anyone who wishes to inform themselves about mediation. Currently, the magazine is distributed in over 100 locations in Romania (mediators' organizations, courtrooms, town halls, universities, the National Institute of Magistrates, the Superior Council of Magistrates, the Ministry of Justice etc.), but also to



international professional organizations in the United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Malta and the United States. The issue of January 2013 was no. 28.

Websites like www.portalmediere.ro (web portal dedicated to the free promotion of mediators and professional associations, and used as the relevant database) and www.medieretv.ro (website hosting videos of practical examples and shows about different means of Alternative Dispute Resolution) have contributed to the promotion of ADR generally, as well as that of particular professionals within the field of mediation. They are a one-stop-shop for the public to find where, when, how and with whom they can solve their dispute amiably.

As mediation is a universal means of dispute resolution, the Romanian mediator is the peacemaker who understood that mediation does not have borders, and the term ADR can be made to mean also “Appropriate” Dispute Resolution.

II. PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING 2011-2012

II.A MEDIATION CARAVAN

In order to better promote mediation, U.M.C.R. became a partner in the National Project “Mediation Caravan - Mediation Close to You”. This is taking place throughout the country for 24 months and has as its purpose the promotion of mediation as an alternative means of dispute resolution. The Caravan is composed of monthly information events for the general public, about mediation and its advantages. Thus, the general public has the means to know local mediators and find out practical information regarding the procedure of mediation. The Caravan started in June 2011 in Bucharest, and until now has followed its path through 26 cities, enjoying a high rate of participations, both from citizens and business representatives.



Two special events took place on May 24, 2012 when the “Caravan” stopped in Brussels, Belgium, in partnership with Arthis - Maison Culturelle Belgo-Roumaine, and on August 23, 2012 in Kerkyra, Greece, in partnership with The Hellenic Mediation&Arbitration Center, as part of a campaign addressed to the Romanian communities abroad, but aiming also the exchange of experience with the local ADR organizations.

Within the campaign, there were prepared and distributed information flyers, special issues of the magazine [illustrating local mediators and professional organizations in each county] and presentations by mediators and trainers. The campaign involved developing partnerships with local institutions, both within the legal sphere [regional courts, in particular], but also within the wider community [town halls, businesses, volunteer organizations].

II.B NATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The year 2011 has seen the preparations required in order to establish partnerships with the Romanian Diplomatic Institute and the Union of Bilateral Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Romania. The purpose of the Protocol with the Romanian Diplomatic Institute, which was signed at the end of 2011, was the recognition of U.M.C.R. as the only relevant national structure of ADR and the promotion of diplomatic and cross-border mediation. In terms of diplomatic mediation, several of our members are diplomats working in state structures, and have developed special training and promotion activities related to the solving of inter-state conflicts.

U.M.C.R. has sought to establish a good co-operation with national and state institutions, in order to promote mediation not only amongst citizens and businesses, but also for local communities and state enterprises. It has achieved recognition through some landmark mediations involving state institutions, religious bodies, and large businesses, as well as in the criminal and family mediation field.



II.C EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION

During 2011, U.M.C.R. established a co-operation with the FMMM Romania Training School and Lord Slynn of Hadley European Law Foundation in London with the purpose of developing training sessions with a cross-border perspective, and of exchanging know-how with colleagues abroad.

U.M.C.R. also worked towards obtaining its recognition as a relevant national structure of Alternative Dispute Resolution. To this end, 50 mediators have followed advanced mediation techniques courses in June 2011, December 2011 and June 2012, which have prepared them for complex disputes as they were held by local and international trainers.

The partnership with the Union of Bilateral Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Romania involves conferences, presentations and debates organized at the headquarters of bilateral Chambers of Commerce and Industry from EU and other states, where the members can find out about the means to solve disputes in Romania, can get to know mediators proficient in their language, and those specialized in cross-border disputes, and can get to know more about mediation procedure. We plan on extending the same activity to the local Embassies and Consulates in Bucharest and major cities of Romania.

II.D INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In terms of non-European international mediation, U.M.C.R. established a co-operation with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, DC, U.S.A., partner with FMMM Romania Training School. The FMCS proposed advanced training courses for 20 persons, who may now also become trainers for other colleagues



in Romania. The National Conference in December 2011 was also the graduation ceremony for this first promotion of dual-trained mediators.

III. REGULATORY BODIES AND DOCUMENTS

U.M.C.R. wishes to support the preparation at a high standard of professionals within the organizations, by becoming a benchmark of quality, promoting professionals who see mediation as a lifetime vocation. To this end, mediators and mediation trainers within the Union have taken part in development courses and have received international certificates from renowned organizations in the field: the Lord Slynn of Hadley European Law Foundation in London, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, DC, USA.

In terms of promoting the profession, U.M.C.R. proposed a unitary team of three members for the Mediation Council of Romania [the national regulatory body] for the 2012-2016 mandate. The team proposed a development strategy, with a view to keeping up the advances in the field of mediation made by Romania. In Romania, mediation is a young profession, and the mandate of the team, which was elected, is to ensure that the profession is better known and continues to establish itself [both in image, as well as from the legal point of view] as an efficient, cost-worthy and accessible means of amiable dispute resolution. The election of our team to the Mediation Council shows the trust of mediators both within and without the U.M.C.R. place on the organization. U.M.C.R. will fully support its proposed members in the Mediation Council by participating in the activities and initiatives of the Council for the 2012-2016 Mandate.



IV. NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND FINANCING

The national conference “Mediation Close to You!” (Medierea Aproape de Tine!), which took place on the 4th of December 2011, at the Palace of Parliament in Bucharest, was the main event of the information campaign. The interest shown by prestigious institutions in Romania, such as the Royal Household and the Romanian Diplomatic Institute, or by high-level diplomatic representatives, confirms that the mediation profession has achieved an established status in Romanian society, and is called to perform an essential social function. The FMMM Romania Training School and the Mediation Centers of Bucharest and Constanta were the main partners helping to organize the event.

Amongst the participants who presented speeches at the Conference were Mrs. Elena Mitrea, Senator, Mrs. Alina Gorghiu, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Mrs. Eileen B. Hoffman and Mrs. Linda I. Lazarus, trainers of mediators and Commissioners with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, USA, Mr. Ioan-Luca Vlad, Honorary Private Advisor to the Romanian Royal Family, Mrs. Nadjat Karabemou, President of the Bilateral Chamber of Commerce Romania-Algeria, Mrs. Ana Maria Lucia Zaharia, from GEMME Romania (as representative of judges promoting mediation), Mrs. Simona Valeria Malescu, from the Diplomatic Institute of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Stanescu, from the National Bank of Romania. These participants reflect the wide-ranging appeal of mediation and U.M.C.R.'s partnerships with the full spectrum of Romanian institutions and stakeholders.

All projects have been either self-financed or externally supported. We have strived to keep the contributions of Mediation Centers low, so as to save resources, while identifying external partners with the financial capacity to support U.M.C.R.'s projects. Self-financed activities include the organization of conferences and seminars, as well as training sessions, while important external partners were the FMMM Romania Training



School, the Palace of Parliament, but also the Mediation Centers of Constanta, Buzau, Bacau, Piatra-Neamt, Baia-Mare, Ploiesti, Sibiu and Bucharest.

Mugur Bogdan Mitroi
Chairman

www.ucmro.ro

office@ucmro.ro

1 Dimitrie Marinescu, district 2
Bucharest, Romania