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**Active
citizens** fund

CONSULTATIVE MIGRANTS' FORUM ADVOCACY TRAINING

PROMISE: Protecting Unaccompanied Migrant Minors

Training for Consultative Migrant Forum

Proiect derulat de:



WELCOME! **سَلَامٌ لَّيْكُمْ**

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

Kumusta!

Soyez les bien venus!

Добрий день!

Привіт!

Bine ați venit!



PROMISE PROJECT

PROTECTING UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT MINORS

The PROMISE project aims to enhance the access for migrant minors and young people to their fundamental rights and to public services. We will achieve this through advocacy services, free legal assistance, information, training and increasing the capacity of vulnerable groups to be involved in decision making and consultative process. Also, we seek to support collaboration between institutions and between the institutions and the foreigners to ensure that the best interest of the child is respected and to improve the policies, legislation, practices, and attitudes.

POWER

- the ability to achieve a purpose. Whether or not it is good or bad depends on the purpose.
- ..many leaders understand power negatively, as being control and domination; something that cannot be shared without shaking its centre, rather than seeing it in a positive light as something that enables ..
- the degree of control over material, human, intellectual and financial resources exercised by different sections of society. The control of these resources becomes a source of individual and social power. Power is dynamic and relational, rather than absolute — it is exercised in the social, economic and political relations between individuals and groups. It is also unequally distributed – some individuals and groups having greater control over the sources of power and others having little or no control. The extent of power of an individual or group is correlated to how many different kinds of resources they can access and control.



STARTING AN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN



AN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

... Is a plan, that includes information about:

- Who you are and what you want
- Analysis the environment in which you act: the legislative framework, as well as the people who have a say in the issue – the stakeholders
- Sets long term goals and short term objectives
- Plans activities – what to do, with what resources, who is doing it and when
- Establish what to say and through which communication channels

WHO YOU ARE?

- It clarifies to public who is addressing him
- It allows bringing supporters
- You make your issue more visible to the public
- It brings power to your issue through clarity, organization, structure
- You can evaluate your own resources

ELEMENTS OF A GROUP IDENTITY

- The name
- How many persons are involved?
- What resources can each of these persons bring (time, experience, expertise, connections etc.)
- Which are the communication channels for the group?

EXAMPLE:

	Name	Phone	Email	Studies/ Profession	Involvement/ Resources for the group
1	x	x	x	Journalist	Communication, graphic (Canva)
2	x	x	x	Legal studies	Legal framework research, events organisation, online questionnaires
3	x	x	x	High school student	Organising activities with kids/ teenagers (drawing) , short movie maker (CapCut), meme creator
4					



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE WANT



WHAT YOU WANT? DETAILS ABOUT THE ISSUE/ THE PROBLEM

- Who has the problem? How many people are affected? How they are affected?
- Which are the consequences of the problem? What happens if it is not addressed?
- Since when is this problem?
- Who is in charge to solve it?
- Which is the solution? How is it addressed/ solved in other places of the country/ world?
- Are there any examples or studies we can use?
- Which is the relevant legislation?
- Anything else important?

Examples of Problem Statements

SHORTHAND DESCRIPTIONS	PROBLEM STATEMENTS
Inadequate Girls' Education <i>(from Ghana)</i>	There is a higher school drop-out rate among girls because many parents believe that investing in girls' education is a waste of resources since they will get married. In addition, teachers and school materials do not reinforce the importance of girls' education. Some parents also need to put their kids to work to be able to survive.
Poor Healthcare <i>(from Zimbabwe)</i>	Basic health care is too expensive for low-income and poor people, and inaccessible to most rural residents. Drugs are unavailable and costly. Hospitals and clinics are understaffed or staffed by poorly qualified personnel. People are not educated about their health and are unable to demand better treatment or clarify what ails them and their families. This problem has a greater impact on women and children, who have specific healthcare needs, and who must look after other family members when they are ill.
Labor Rights Abuses <i>(from India)</i>	Workers work 12-hour days in poorly lit plants. Wages are less than 50 cents per hour. Frequently workers do not receive their wages for extended periods of time. They are unable to make demands because of threats that they will lose their job.

WHAT YOU WANT?

- You agree at the group level about the group aim
- You will now what to tell to others
- You will know what to ask and to whom
- You will buil best arguments (and then messages) to use with public institutions

Different levels:

- ~~At general level = the mission of the group~~
- ~~At more specific level = different specific objectives~~

THE GOAL OF ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

The goal of an advocacy campaign = **the solution**

Recommendations for choosing a goal:

- It worth the effort, results in a real improvement in people's lives
- It can be won
- It is easy to understand
- It is clear who is responsible to put in practice the solution
- It respects the values of the group

EXAMPLE:

- “The Parents of Cireșari – Domenii Market” is a group of active people determined to change the Domenii Neighborhood in a modern, clean and friendly place for all its inhabitants. What brought them together is the permanent refusal of public institution to grant access to green area in of “Ciresari Sportive Base”.
- The civic group “Iași loves the tile trees” is made of 15 active members and has more than 20.000 supporters. From 2013 they ask to Iași City Hall to plan again on the main boulevard the tile trees. More about the group and their actions can be found on [Facebook/lasuliubesteteii](https://www.facebook.com/lasuliubesteteii).

WORK TOGETHER

Write down on flipchart paper in a few sentences:

- Who you are (include the name of the Forum)
- What is the problem you want to be solved
- What is the solution you advocate for



LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DECISION MAKING



GETTING INFORMATION – THE LAW NO.544/2001

Romanian legal framework: Law on access to public information no. 544/2001

- The citizens right to ask for public informations related to institutions' activity
- Each public institution has a responsible dedicated to this law
- No need to justify the request
- Free of charge, unless printed copies are needed etc.
- Will not be released: personal data, military information, classified information etc.
- Can be asked though phone, email, letters. It has to be signed and to give contact data.
- Terms of answer from the institutions: 5 days for press, 10 days for ordinary citizen / or maximum 30 days since they have received the request (ask for registration number!)
- There is a formal model, provided by the law, available on internet.

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GETTING INFORMATION – THE LAW NO.544/2001

Information made available without request: organization's legislative base (laws, regulations etc.), structure, budget, newsletters, strategies, annual report about application of law no.544/2001 (how many request they have receive, what topics, etc.)

Tips & Tricks:

- To find the appropriate contact: search on internet: name of the institution + responsabil legea 544/2001
- Ask for a registration number
- Be clear about what you want

If they don't answer, you can make an administrative complaint to the chief of the public institution within 30 days from getting the refusal or since you have made the request.

WRITING A PETITION

Addressing the public authorities a petition to ask their intervention (law changes, budget allocation etc.) is a fundamental right written in the Romanian Constitution, reglemented by Law 233/2002.

- Petitions / letters can have attached a list of supporters
- Can be send online or on paper
- The institution must answer in a 30 days delay
- Always ask for registration number

Online petition websites, created by civic comuunities:

www.declic.ro

www.avaaz.org

PARTICIPATING IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

According to Law no. 52/2003, the public administration authorities from have the following obligations:

- Announce the public when a normative act (decision of minister, city/hall etc.) is about to be adopted, publishing its written draft.

Usually, they have a separate section on their websites called “transparenta decizionala” or “proiecte in consultare publica”

- Receive suggestions from the public/ civil society for at least 10 days for each project of normative act
- If asked by an NGO, organize a consultation meeting about the draft with public participation

MEETING OFFICIALS

Most of the public officials, including the elected ones (mayors, local councilors, ministers, directors, members of Parliament etc.), have the obligation to have an audience schedule.