

# AdaptJust

## Accessible justice for people with disabilities



### Dictionary of terms:

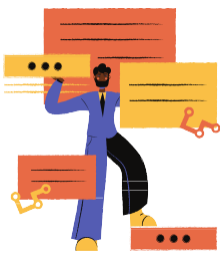


### Access to justice:

People with disabilities can claim their rights in court and these rights are respected. Specifically, access to justice means several things, including:



- to have what the law says and what the lawyer, judge or prosecutor tells you explained to you.



- when you go to court, take your needs into account, such as: you are spoken to slowly and in simple words; you are explained what is going to happen; you are translated into sign language; you are given a separate, quiet room; you are allowed access with the guide dog and so on.



- have the right to ask for or choose a lawyer.

### CRJ:

Short for Legal Resource Centre.



## **ECHR:**

Short for European Court of Human Rights



## **Funding:**

An amount of money someone receives for doing a project or activity.



## **National Protection Mechanism:**

More measures being taken across the country for the benefit of certain individuals. In this case, the measures relate to people with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.



## **Abuse:**

A bad or unjust deed that happens to you.

Examples of abuse: being beaten, being forced to have sex if you don't want to, being locked up without being allowed to leave a room or building, being tied up or punished in any way, having your personal belongings taken away, not being allowed to make phone calls.



## **NGOS:**

Short for Non-Governmental Organisation (association).

## What is AdaptJust?



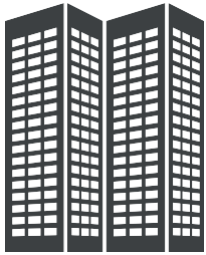
The AdaptJust project is a project run by the Centre for Legal Resources (CRJ) in partnership with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice.



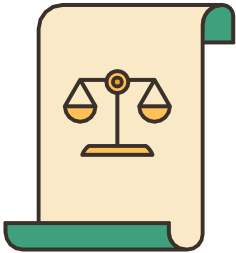
AdaptJust is a project to make it easier for people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health problems to access justice.



The project benefits from a funding (money) of € 1.324.994 provided by several countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants under the Local Development Programme.



There are currently almost 17,500 people with disabilities living in institutions in Romania. Half of these people have a mental disability.



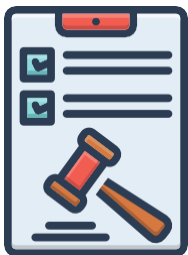
The law says that people with disabilities have the right to access to justice.

This is written into the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is why the Romanian state is obliged to train, through courses, all those working in the justice system about the needs of people with disabilities and respect for their rights.

## The aims of the project:



- the justice system to become simpler and better for people with disabilities in residential homes.



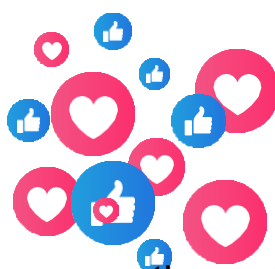
- Romania to do what the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decides about people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in residential homes.



- To teach legal professionals and mental health practitioners about the rights of people with disabilities and how to enforce them.



- Teach self-represented people with disabilities to complain to the authorities when their rights are violated.



- to get the message across through radio, TV and social media (Facebook) campaigns about the rights of people with disabilities so that everyone knows and applies them.



## Who organises the project?

Legal Resource Centre

## Who is a partner in the project?

Public Ministry - Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice.

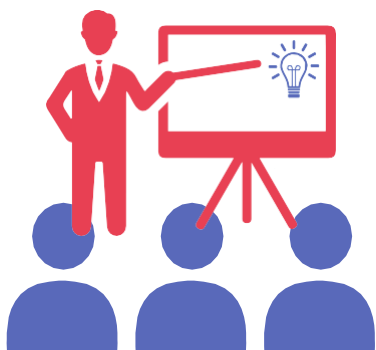


## What does the project propose?

Through this project, the Legal Resources Centre and the Public Ministry - Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice aim to:



- Romania to apply the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the Decisions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in residential homes.



- to teach judges, prosecutors and people from NGOs to defend the rights of people with disabilities.
- to provide the Government with an Action Plan for people with disabilities to be treated with respect in the institutions where they live.

## Other project objectives:



- Helps people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health problems to deal with the justice system.



- Creates a national mechanism to protect the rights of people with disabilities living in residential homes or psychiatric hospitals.



- It organises courses for prosecutors, judges, lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers on the rights of people with disabilities.

## Project activities:



- Disability rights courses.  
Courses on how to apply the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the Decisions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in residential homes.



- Courses for people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and courses for those working in NGOs on how to lodge complaints with the ECHR and the European Commission when abuse happens.

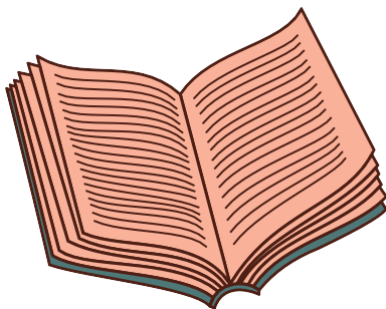


- Mechanism for the protection of the rights of people with institutionalised disabilities.





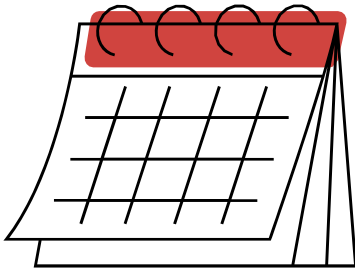
- Training of a network of psychosocial specialists in the field of mental health and rights of people with intellectual disabilities in public prosecutor's offices and courts (in Bucharest sector 4, Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj, Bihor, Buzau and Sibiu).



- Writing and publishing a manual (book or document) on how to deal with people with disabilities or mental health problems.



- Writing a Plan for Romania, called the National Action Plan, whereby the authorities ensure that people with disabilities or mental health problems are treated with respect. These people can be people in psychiatric hospitals, residential centres for people with disabilities, prisons or jails.



## When does the project run?

From November 2021 to October 2023.



## Funding:

The project benefits from a funding (money) of € 1.324.994 provided by several countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants under the Local Development Programme.

The project is implemented by the Centre for Legal Resources in partnership with the Public Ministry - Public Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice and benefits from a grant of € 1,324,994 offered by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA Grants under the Local Development Programme. The objective of the project is to facilitate access to justice for people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health problems.

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