

Brief profile

Contact details

- **Postal address:** 1-3 Valter Maracineanu Square, District/Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania
- **Website:** www.cncd.org.ro
- **General email address:** support@cncd.org.ro
- **Helpline and telephone number:** +40 21 312 65 78
- **Person of contact for media enquiries:** Istvan Haller (Spokesperson) or Denisa Lazar (Head of Communication and Public Relations Office, denisa.tudor@cncd.org.ro, +40 730 240 540)

Overview

The National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) is the autonomous state authority, under parliamentary control, which performs its activity in the field of discrimination.

At European level there are institutions assigned to human rights protection and combating discrimination but NCCD is unique, its activity combining 14 discrimination criteria, no other institution having such a vast sphere of action, including sanctioning.

Powers

The *National Council for Combating Discrimination* is a predominantly quasi-judicial body¹.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered		
Grounds	Fields *	
	Employment	Beyond employment (education, goods & services, housing, etc.)
Gender	◆	◆
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆
Age	◆	◆
Disability	◆	◆
Sexual orientation	◆	◆
Religion and belief	◆	◆
Other *	◆	◆

* Nationality, language, social category, chronic non-infectious disease, HIV infection, being part of a disfavoured category, as well as any other criterion aiming to or resulting in impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, in conditions of equality, of human rights and fundamental freedoms or of rights granted by law in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

¹ According to a [European Commission study on Equality Bodies](#), predominantly quasi-judicial bodies are “impartial institutions which spend the bulk of their time and resources hearing, investigating and deciding on individual instances of discrimination brought before them” (page 43).

Detailed profile

Brief history

- **Date of establishment:** August 2002;
- **Mode of establishment and legal basis:** the National Council for Combating Discrimination was established pursuant to the adoption of the Government Ordinance no. 137/2000 and Government Decision no. 1194/2001 on the organisation and function of the NCCD. These legal acts represented the transposition of the community legislation in the field at national level, and have been amended and supplemented in 2003 (Government Decision 1279 from October 4) and 2006 (Law no. 324 from July 14).
- **Status:** the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) is the autonomous state authority, under parliamentary control, which performs its activity in the field of combating discrimination.

Mandate

- **Powers:** the National Council for Combating Discrimination is a predominantly quasi-judicial body;
- **Litigation powers:**
 - Formally deciding on complaints by decisions or recommendations (*legally binding*);
 - Monitoring cases of discrimination brought before the Court;
 - Expert interventions before the Court in cases of discrimination;
 - Mediation of discrimination cases;
 - Investigation, ascertainment and sanction of discriminatory acts;

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields					
	Employment	Education	Housing	Social protection	Goods and Services	Other **
Gender	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Age	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Disability	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Sexual orientation	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Religion and belief	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Other *	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

* Nationality, language, social category, chronic non-infectious disease, HIV infection, being part of a disfavoured category;

** Political, economic, social, cultural, or any other field of public life.

Activities

- Promotional activities aimed at duty bearers (by way of trainings, guidance material, etc.);
- Promotional activities aimed at potential victims (trainings, awareness raising, etc.);
- Communication activities;
- Publications and research projects;
- Monitoring of discrimination acts;
- Specialised assistance to victims of discrimination (the NCCD juridical advisers explain the legislation to those interested through assisted guidance regarding the activity of filing a petition and additional information that results from this);
- Number of inquiries / complaints lodged and cases handled per year: **478** (2010) and **465** (2011).

Structure

1. Management structure

- Type: single headed equality body (led by a President);
- Details:
 - The management is assured by the President or the Vice-President when the President delegates his authority by Internal Decision. The President and the Vice-President are members of the Steering Board.
 - The Steering Board of NCCD is a collective and deliberative body responsible for the tasks provided by law. It is made up of 9 members having the rank of Secretary of State.

2. Institutional structure

- Type: stand alone dedicated national equality body.

3. Nomination of senior staff and board

The Steering Board of the NCCD is a collective and deliberative body that takes responsibility for the tasks provided by law and the President and the Vice-president are members of the Steering Board. The Steering Board is made up of 9 members having the rank of secretary of state, appointed in the plenary session by the two Chambers of the Parliament. Nominations for the Steering Board shall be filed at the Standing Bureaus of Chambers of Deputies and Senate, within 30 days of the date when the mandates become vacant. The nominees shall have attached: curriculum vitae, criminal record, and statements of the candidates from which results that they don't fall under the provisions of the art.19, paragraph (3), subparagraphs (e) and (f).

The Standing Bureaus of the two Chambers of the Parliament shall publish the list of candidates on their websites and submit their nominees to the standing specialty committees so that candidates can be interviewed in a joint session. Within 15 days of the date when the list of candidates is published, well-substantiated objections against candidates can be filed in writing.

Once candidates have been interviewed, the standing specialty committees shall prepare a joint report that will be read in a joint session of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

Candidates can be approved by the majority of present deputies and senators.

4. Number of staff:

Of the total 91 positions foreseen in the organisational chart of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, 65 positions were filled, of which:

- Dignitaries (state secretaries): 8 (at present)
- General secretary: 1
- Civil servants: 45
- Contracting personnel: 11

From these 65 positions only **47** employees are dealing directly with equality issues.

Operating budget (for the parts of the organization dealing with equality issues)

The Council's budget is covered from the state budget. The draft budget is drawn up by the Council with the approval of the Public Finance Ministry.

The budget allocated to projects/programmes:

2011: 131.000 €

2012: 128.000 €

Accountability (reporting to)

The NCCD reports to the Ministry of Finance and to a specialised Court (Court of Accounts) who has the authority to check these issues.

Contact details (address, key contact person, website)

Address:

1-3 Valter Maracineanu Square

District/Sector 1, Bucharest

Romania

Tel.: +40 21 312 65 78/79

Fax: +40 21 312 65 85

E-mail: support@cncd.org.ro

Main contact person:

Denisa Lazar

Head of the Communication and Public Relations Office

Mobile: +40 730 240 540

E-mail: denisa.tudor@cncd.org.ro

Website: <http://www.cncd.org.ro>