



NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW



THE GOVERNMENT
OF ROMANIA

VOLUNTARY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AT DOMESTIC LEVEL

2021





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Voluntary Report on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law at Domestic Level



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I. INTRODUCTION

Romania is committed to defend an international system based on inclusive multilateralism and widely accepted rules designed to ensure peace, stability, respect for universal human rights and strengthening the rule of law.

As mentioned in the 2020-2024 Governing Programme, the promotion of and strict compliance with international law remains one of three pillars of Romania's foreign policy. This strategic guideline, a constant of Romania's action in the area of external relations, was best captured in a speech delivered in 1937 by a famous Romanian diplomat and former President of the General Assembly of the League of Nations, Nicolae Titulescu, who said that "it is in the peace created by the legal order that the human being can fulfill his/her destiny".


Romania believes that respecting international humanitarian law (IHL) is both a moral and strategic imperative. In today's world faced with an unprecedented number of conflicts, the significance of this set of norms aimed at limiting the effects of war and protecting civilians is greater than ever.

Originally designed for the classic war between sovereign states, the adequacy of international humanitarian law in contemporary armed conflict has been under scrutiny in recent years. However, current violations of IHL are not a proof of a lack of relevance of this body of law, but, in many instances, a consequence of deliberate acts of non-compliance.

While there is wide agreement on the importance of preserving existing standards of protection provided by IHL, the new conflict patterns involving non-state actors operating across borders, the urbanization of warfare, the use of new technologies, the privatization of security and the volatile distinction between armed conflict and criminal activities have prompted discussions with the view to examining and better adjusting the application of IHL to the new operational realities.

Romania shares the view that the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as other relevant international treaties have stood the test of time and must continue to regulate the conduct of hostilities, while supporting efforts meant to clarify any legal dilemmas and promote adequate solutions to specific operational problems.

In accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, states are under obligation to "respect and ensure respect" for these conventions in all circumstances.



Such efforts are to be carried out both in wartime, by ensuring that parties to an armed conflict comply with the law, and in peacetime, by undertaking preventive measures and dissemination activities.

Romania is eager to further work towards consolidating respect for IHL at the international and regional levels, through various initiatives meant to foster dialogue and cooperation in this field, as well as at the national level, through the adoption and enforcement of legislative, administrative and practical measures.

Spreading knowledge of IHL as widely as possible is one of the most effective means of supporting its effective implementation. These actions should not be limited to the armed forces, but they should target competent governmental authorities, policy makers and the general population, given the need to integrate the goal of IHL compliance in other relevant national policies, as well as to respond to the increased attention given to this topic against the constant display of the effects of war and violence in everyday news.

The National Commission on International Humanitarian Law (The Commission) is an interinstitutional body with the role of monitoring national implementation of IHL and encouraging the dissemination of its norms and principles.

This voluntary national report on the implementation of IHL at domestic level, elaborated under the coordination of the Commission, is meant to give an overall picture of Romania's actions in this area and further raise awareness about IHL in an accessible way to anyone interested in such matters, including the public.

The exercise was also aimed at stimulating inter-institutional cooperation and helping national authorities to identify any institutional and normative gaps and, consequently, to improve the coherence and effectiveness of actions in this field.

Contrary to most other branches of international law, the core IHL treaties have a limited number of mechanisms to ensure compliance with its norms and lack a mandatory reporting system on national implementation. Therefore, national voluntary reports could prove an important self-assessing tool in support of strengthening compliance with IHL and further stimulating dialogue on IHL issues both in the domestic and global arena.

II. POLICY INSTRUMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

1. Relevant treaties in the area of international humanitarian law (IHL) to which Romania is a party

Romania is party to the majority of the IHL treaties, as mentioned in **Annex no. I**.

Most recently, Romania became party to the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, relating to the adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem in 2015, as well as to the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014, directly contributing to the entry into force of this latter instrument.

In line with its commitment to respect international law, Romania undertook the necessary measures to incorporate international obligations into national legislation.

A New Criminal Code entered into force in Romania in 2014, which fully takes into account the relevant provisions of IHL treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).


Romania has also accepted the Hague amendment to Article 124 of the Rome Statute (2015) and has launched the internal procedure to accept the Kampala (2010), New York (2017) and the Hague (2019) amendments to Article 8 of the Statute on war crimes.

At the same time, the competent national authorities have prepared a draft law on cooperation with the ICC and initiated the formal approval procedure.

Moreover, according to Article 20 par. (2) of the Romanian Constitution, where any inconsistency exist between the covenants and treaties on the fundamental human rights Romania is a party to, and the national law, the international regulations take precedence, unless the Constitution or national laws comprise more favourable provisions.

2. The National Commission on International Humanitarian Law (the Commission)

The effectiveness of IHL depends primarily on the national implementation. In peacetime, this is mainly achieved through disseminating IHL as widely as possible and incorporating IHL into the national legal order. Necessary structures can be put in place



to oversee activities in this area and facilitate inter-institutional coordination, while IHL should be considered as part of the political agenda.

It is in this spirit that the Romanian National Commission on IHL was established by Government Decision no. 420 of 29 March 2006, as consultative body of the Government without legal personality.

Initially, the Commission was composed of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. As of 2011, following an amendment to the above-mentioned normative act, the Commission has included representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Culture.

Each institution designates a permanent member and may designate an alternate member, aiming to ensure the continuity of the Commission's activity. The Commission is overseen by an annual Presidency rotating among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of National Defence, at the level of State Secretary. Its work is guided by an annual plan of action coordinated by the Presidency.

At the same time, the headquarters of the Commission is the same as that of the Permanent Secretariat, respectively the headquarters of the Center for International Humanitarian Law from the "Carol I" National Defense University.

The Commission has regular meetings up to four times a year, with the possibility, if need be, to hold extraordinary sessions, and submits its annual activity reports to the Prime minister. It benefits of a Permanent Secretariat hosted by the Ministry of National Defence through the Center for International Humanitarian Law within the "Carol I" National Defence University.

Upon the President's proposal, representatives of various institutions can be invited to attend as observers to the Commission's meetings, such as members of the Parliament, representatives of the Ombudsman, the National Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as experts in the field of international humanitarian law.

The Commission is responsible for monitoring the fulfillment of Romania's obligations under the relevant treaties, as well as for identifying the most adequate means of implementing IHL at the national level. This is achieved by way of making recommendations on specific measures to be adopted, such as amending legislation or encouraging ratification of new legal instruments, as well as, should the case be, by issuing advisory opinions on IHL matters to the decision making authorities. At the same time, it promotes IHL through the activities of the institutions represented in this

structure and supports the organization of various meetings (e.g. two international seminars dedicated to fostering cooperation with the ICC) and training courses. By tradition, the Commission is one of the partners involved in the annual organization of the IHL and Refugee Law Competition for university students.

In essence, the Commission provides a useful inter-institutional platform for discussion on topics of interest in this area, especially in connection with developments at the international level. Consequently, the ministries represented in this structure are being kept informed and can provide input on all relevant IHL-related activities carried out within the government.

Based on the Second Resolution to the 1954 Hague Conference, which recommended the establishment of a national advisory body with competences in the field of protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, the Commission has also taken up this task, which fully concurs with its attributions, composition and expertise.

More than 10 years after its creation, this instrument has proved its usefulness. It has promoted initiatives to modify legislation to bring it in line with international obligations or to accede to new legal or political instruments. As recent examples, Romania's endorsement in 2017 of the Safe Schools Declaration was first discussed and recommended by the Commission. Similarly, the ratification of the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention was launched upon the recommendation of the Commission. The latter was also involved in the elaboration of relevant national reports, such as the ones on the implementation of the Hague Convention of 1954 and its two Protocols and in formulating the national pledges for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Commission's existence is a perfectible mechanism, its existence contributed to maintaining IHL on the political agenda, by ensuring a useful network of contact points at the ministerial level and, consequently, by creating avenues of keeping the decision-making level of competent public authorities informed via the traditional reporting after the Commission's sessions and its annual activity report submitted to the Prime Minister. Preserving the periodicity of the meetings has helped in consolidating the profile of this body.

3. The National Strategy for the Application of International Humanitarian Law (the Strategy)

Another significant achievement was represented by the adoption of the first ever **National Strategy for the application of IHL in 2007**, which sets out general and specific objectives in support of ensuring respect for IHL and spreading knowledge of

these norms both domestically and internationally. These goals should be achieved through a joint effort of the competent national authorities and the nongovernmental organizations active in this field.

The Strategy has been developed by the Commission and submitted for the approval of the Prime Minister¹, in accordance with Art. 4 letter d) of the Government Decision no. 420/2006 on the organization and functioning of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law.

The elaboration of this instrument was meant to raise awareness about the importance of IHL at the national level, as well as to consolidate Romania's active profile in this area at the international level.

The *general objectives* envisaged by the Strategy are as follows:

- Monitoring the relevant developments at the global level regarding conventions in the field of international humanitarian law, with the goal to ratify, as appropriate, those to which Romania is not a party;
- Incorporating the norms of international humanitarian law in the Romanian legislation;
- Disseminating and spreading knowledge of the norms of international humanitarian law;
- Implementing the norms of international humanitarian law;
- Actively participating in international meetings in the field of international humanitarian law and in drafting new instruments and norms, if needed;
- Monitoring the respect of commitments taken by Romania in this area and reporting in due time cases of violations of norms of international humanitarian law to the competent authorities, as well as indicating the appropriate remedial actions based on proposals from line ministries;
- Promoting international cooperation, including with other national commissions on international humanitarian law.

The general objectives are complemented by *specific ones*, namely:

- Disseminating the norms of international humanitarian law within the Armed Forces and all other national structures with responsibilities in this field, as well as within the civil society;
- Achieving an efficient communication and an optimal information flow on IHL-related topics;
- Developing the relationship of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law with the national authorities;

¹ Approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of Romania no. 298 of 17 December 2007

- Adopting measures regarding the protection of cultural property in case of armed conflict;
- Providing adequate protection to civilians, women, children and disadvantaged persons in case of armed conflict;
- Striving to ensure adequate resources to achieve the objectives set out by the Strategy;
- Undertaking actions in support of promoting the international humanitarian law.

The necessary measures to implement the above-mentioned objectives are taken at the level of the ministries with responsibilities in this area and included in an annual Action Plan elaborated by the Commission.

Given the time passed since its adoption, the Commission has agreed on the need to prepare a new and modern Strategy, which should take into consideration the latest developments and lessons learnt at the national level, as well as the trends and challenges identified at the global level. The prior elaboration of this voluntary report is supposed to facilitate the process of updating the Strategy.

4. International Humanitarian Law Day in Romania (14 May)

The importance devoted to the dissemination of IHL and the contribution of the Commission to this end are illustrated by the adoption of Law no. 177 of 2013 through which the 14th of May was declared, upon the initiative of the Commission, as **“International Humanitarian Law Day in Romania”**.

The choice of date has symbolic meaning, representing the day on which Romania ratified, in 1954, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and, consequently, as an expression of attachment to the universal IHL values. In order to mark this anniversary, a series of events aimed at promoting IHL are regularly organized by the competent authorities, in collaboration with the Romanian Red Cross.

5. International Criminal Court (ICC) and international criminal justice

The Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocol I state that grave breaches of IHL must be punished. Legal consequences of violations of IHL are not limited to those under the law of State responsibility. The persons committing such crimes are subject to individual criminal responsibility.

By encouraging the national prosecution of war crimes and, more significantly, by establishing international bodies such as the ICC and the ad-hoc international criminal

tribunals, the international community has placed an increased focus on the repression of serious violations of IHL.

Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, serious violations of IHL and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions are classified as war crimes. More specifically, the Statute codified the well-established body of war crimes committed in armed conflicts. Thus, not all breaches of IHL fall within the jurisdiction of the Court, given that the less serious violations do not qualify as war crimes.

Romania is an active supporter of the activity of the ICC and of the global justice system, sharing the conviction that the pursuit of justice serves durable peace. Romania will continue to raise awareness about the Court's mandate, defend the impartial and independent conduct of its functions and ensure its improved performance as the sole permanent international criminal jurisdiction.

While States retain the primary responsibility to prevent, investigate and prosecute the gravest international crimes under the competence of the International Criminal Court, the existence of the Court has clearly contributed to combating impunity and consolidating the concept of accountability under international law.

The activity of the ICC has been a catalyst for passing relevant domestic legislation and for consolidating national justice mechanisms, in accordance with the complementary character of the Court. As ad country co-focal point on complementarity of the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) between 2017 and 2021, Romania constantly called for a renewed attention to supporting national proceedings, including by mainstreaming the Rome Statute concepts into the relevant development assistance programmes dedicated to the consolidation of the rule of law.

As part of the political support for the Court, in addition to the above-mentioned function, Romania also acted as co-facilitator of the Action Plan on the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute (2013) and held several mandates in the ASP Bureau.

6. Resettlement activities

Armed conflicts remain a major cause of forced displacement. Given the complexity of today's warfare, the reality of the multifaceted interactions between humanitarian law, refugee law, and human rights law cannot be overlooked in the context of ensuring the most effective protection for some of the most vulnerable victims of violence.

Resettlement, as a durable solution for refugees, is a form of responsibility sharing between countries and a key-instrument for the implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. It is the procedure for the selection and transfer of refugees from a state where they have applied for protection

in another state receiving them as refugees, with the possibility of permanent residence. Refugee resettlement also plays an important role in the EU policy on asylum.

The domestic legal framework for refugee resettlement is ensured by Law no. 122/2006 on asylum, which provides for refugee status eligibility, and the Government Decision no. 1596/2008 regarding the resettlement of refugees in Romania, which sets out the criteria², quota and procedures for resettlement.

The **National Committee for Refugee Resettlement**, a consultative body composed of representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, makes annual recommendations as regards the countries of asylum and refugee groups that the Romanian resettlement programme should focus on for the coming year. The Committee bases its recommendations on several aspects, including the UNHCR's projected global resettlement needs, Romania's foreign policy and the joint resettlement priorities of the European Union. The recommendations are submitted for approval to the minister of interior and the minister of foreign affairs.

Romania has also contributed to the global resettlement efforts through the establishment of an **Emergency Transit Center (ETC) in Timisoara** in 2008, following a Tri-Partite Agreement between the Romanian Government, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The ETC can accommodate up to 200 refugees who for reasons of security urgently need to be evacuated from a country of asylum, but have not yet been accepted for resettlement to a third country. The selection missions, orientation sessions and medical examinations of the resettlement countries can thus be conducted in the best possible conditions.

7. Other actions and initiatives at the regional and international levels

a) Romania has been a constant supporter of **initiatives aimed at strengthening compliance with IHL at the international level**, such as "the Geneva intergovernmental consultation process" co-facilitated by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It will continue to plead in favour of a non-politicized space for regular intergovernmental dialogue on topics of common interest in this field.

² Person eligible for resettlement:

- recognized as refugee according to the 1951 Refugee Convention by a State or by the UNHCR;
- does not enjoy an effective protection on the territory of the country of asylum;
- does not have any perspectives for integration in the country of asylum;
- does not have any perspectives for voluntary repatriation to the country of origin under conditions of safety and dignity;
- does not present a threat to public order, national security, public health or morals;
- expresses agreement to be resettled in Romania;
- displays potential for integration in the Romanian society;
- meets minimum health status requirements set by the Ministry of Health.

b) Romania has used the momentum offered by the sessions of the **International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IC)** to reaffirm its voluntary commitment to strengthen compliance, promotion, dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law, through the common pledges by the EU and its Member States. At the same time, Romania contributed to the reports on the status of implementation of the pledges submitted by the EU and its Member States to the International Conference. During the 32nd session of the IC (December 2015), Romania co-hosted with Poland a side-event on lessons learnt from voluntary reporting on national compliance with IHL, where it expressed its interest in elaborating a report of this kind.

c) Furthermore, Romania supported the preparation of **annual reports on the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL** as a means of better disseminating knowledge of the European Union's work in this field and helping to improve the coherence and effectiveness of its efforts.

Along the same lines, in 2019, Romania supported the revision of the mandate of the **EU Special Representative for Human Rights (EUSR)** to increase EUSR's role in advancing and implementing the European Union's positions on IHL and International Criminal Justice. Such a decision was meant to respond to the need for strengthened internal coordination to adequately mainstream IHL and accountability issues in all relevant areas of EU's foreign policy, as well as to engage closer with partners in advancing respect for IHL and supporting the fight against impunity worldwide, while promoting public understanding of EU's contribution in this field.

d) Complementary to efforts in the global arena, Romania tried to seize the **opportunities for regional dialogue** as important avenues to foster observance of IHL through providing context-specific solutions.

On 13 October 2006, the Commission organised an **extraordinary meeting** with the National Advisory Committee on Coordinating the Application of International Humanitarian Law in the **Republic of Moldova** with the view to allowing for an exchange of information on the activity and added value of these inter-institutional mechanisms, as well as on useful means of widening the knowledge about IHL, especially in schools.

On the margins of "The Martens Readings" International Conference on International Humanitarian Law co-organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the St. Petersburg State University in Sankt Petersburg from 31 May to 2 June 2017, the Romanian representative, member of the National Commission on IHL, took part in an *informal meeting of the National Commissions/Committees on IHL* together with delegates from Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Belarus and Tadjikistan. The Russian Federation attended as an observer.

The Commission aimed at further contributing to stimulating regional cooperation by organizing, together with the ICRC, a **Regional IHL Conference for States in Central and South-Eastern Europe in Bucharest** on 27-28 March 2018. The idea of this event stemmed from informal discussions between interested delegations on the margins of the Universal meeting of National Committees and similar bodies on international humanitarian law organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2016. The purpose of the Regional Conference was to discuss IHL issues of common interest and encourage peer-to-peer cooperation.

The dialogue focused on the IHL-related work of the national authorities and in particular on the role and performance of national IHL commissions and similar bodies on IHL, with the view to exchanging information, both in terms of challenges and best practices, in support of enhancing their activity. Preparing an action plan, producing an annual report, making this report public, building ties with the relevant national stakeholders and having a dedicated webpage for the national commission were some of the good practices highlighted in this meeting.

Whilst the discussions pinpointed the absence of a standard model for the set-up and functioning of such committees, as the specific political and institutional realities of each state must be taken into account, the exchange of views confirmed their important role in ensuring respect for IHL at the national level and, potentially, more broadly. Therefore, their establishment was to be encouraged.

Participants agreed on the need to develop the regional dialogue on IHL as a way of boosting the impact of national mechanisms and processes, as well as expressed availability to contribute to establishing and maintaining a network of IHL focal points in the region with the purpose of exchanging information, experiences, best practices and possibly even identifying means of contributing collectively to strengthening IHL compliance at a more general level.

e) Taking into consideration the 2014 Strategy of the EU Network to combat impunity for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes within the European Union and its Member States, as well as the national requirement upon a Military Prosecutor's Office attached to the Appeal Court to assemble a multidisciplinary team to investigate a mass grave, the Romanian Government took action to invest in **the formation of national experts to support a multidisciplinary research of mass graves** with the aim of preventing such atrocities from happening.

On September 27-28, 2018, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Ministry, together with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, launched **the National Expert Network on Genocide Prevention and Multidisciplinary**

Research on Mass Graves. This project was aimed at bringing together and enhancing the knowledge of Romanian experts involved in criminal investigations, police and forensics work, criminology, pathology, anthropology and history. At the same time, the initiative was meant to contribute to the international efforts in the area of investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes under international law, by creating the possibility to lend the national expertise in the field, as needed.

In the period 2017-2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Ministry organised a series of national and regional seminars on the subject of genocide and mass atrocities that helped stimulate inter-institutional cooperation, consolidate relevant expertise and raise awareness about the importance of IHL.

8. The Romanian Red Cross Society

The Romanian Red Cross was established on 4 July 1876 and has been continuously operating since then. The Romanian Red Cross is the only humanitarian institution in the country that has clear duties as auxiliary to the public authorities, especially in the field of prevention and intervention in case of disaster.

Within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Romanian Red Cross was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the year of its establishment. It has also acted as the designated national affiliate of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies since 1919.

In 1995, the National Red Cross Society was recognized by law³ as a non-governmental, apolitical, autonomous legal entity, without patrimonial scope, auxiliary to the public authority, which carries out its humanitarian activity on the entire Romanian territory.

The Romanian Red Cross provides emergency assistance, disaster relief and education inside Romania, through a national network of 47 branches and over 10,000 active volunteers, who devote their time to assisting persons in difficulty.

At the same time, promoting IHL within the general public, in particular young people, remains at the core of the work of this institution. Consequently, one of the priorities of the Romanian Red Cross is to consolidate its role as an important provider of education in the area of IHL.

The Romanian Red Cross has a rich history of collaboration with the Romanian public authorities in delivering social, health and educational services, according to its mission. According to Art. 11 (i) of Law no. 139/1995, it can conclude protocols of cooperation and elaborate action programmes together with other competent entities, institutions or ministries. The National Society can also be invited as an observer to meetings of the National Commission on IHL where topics of common interest are discussed.

³ Law no. 139/1995 on the National Red Cross Society in Romania

III. DISSEMINATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

1. The personnel of the Ministry of National Defence

The Ministry of National Defence, through its specialized structures, gives special attention to the dissemination of the rules of international humanitarian law within the armed forces, in accordance with the specific objective set out in the National Strategy.

This goal is achieved through:

- a)** the integration of the IHL norms into the military doctrine, training and educational programmes;
- b)** the issuance of orders or instructions for the armed forces in compliance with Romania's obligations under the IHL.

Therefore, consolidating knowledge about IHL is part of the continuous professional training of the Romanian Armed Forces, the curricula of military educational establishments/ institutions, as well as of the planning and conduct of domestic or international military operations.

To this end, the Ministry of National Defence has taken the following concrete measures:

- *creating an organizational framework* to carry out the activity of integrating the norms of international humanitarian law into the training process of the armed forces composed of:
 - the Center for International Humanitarian Law (established since 1993) within the "Carol I" National Defence University, an institution of higher education and scientific research for the armed forces personnel;
 - legal offices with competences in the field of IHL established within the General Staff (Defence Staff);
 - legal advisers/trainers in the field of IHL within the Army, in accordance with Article 82 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;
- *organising relevant training and educational courses* by the Center for International Humanitarian Law and the "Carol I" National Defence University:

- an annual postgraduate course on international humanitarian law and rules of engagement (a career course for promotion to the rank of colonel), organized by the "Carol I" National Defence University, at the initiative of the Center for International Humanitarian Law, as of 2014;
 - maintaining the practice of introducing the international humanitarian law as a compulsory or optional discipline in the undergraduate, master's and postgraduate study programs of the "Carol I" National Defence University;
 - an annual course for trainers in the field of international humanitarian law (a "train the trainer" course), open to the personnel in the army, public order and national security fields, organized by the Center for International Humanitarian Law;
 - an online specialization course on the law of armed conflict, organized by the Advanced Distance Learning Department of the "Carol I" National Defence University (this course is held in English and open both to the personnel in the army, public order and national security fields, as well as to interested persons from the civil society).
- *encouraging the attendance of relevant training courses abroad, especially at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo and the Royal Higher Institute of Defence in Brussels;*
 - *introducing a course on international humanitarian law into the military institutions' curricula, in accordance with Article 83 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;*
 - *introducing humanitarian law topics into various training programs of military units;*
 - *creating scenario-based training sessions that require understanding the norms of humanitarian law;*
 - *introducing IHL in the training programmes for the military personnel participating to military operations/missions abroad;*
 - *developing and disseminating manuals on international humanitarian law for the training of military personnel, as well as translating and editing specialized works by the ICRC⁴;*
 - *cooperating with governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations in the area of promotion and application of international humanitarian law.*

⁴ The following specific documents have been elaborated under the aegis of the Center for International Humanitarian Law:

***IHL - 1, Manual for the training of the military personnel in international humanitarian law (individual, group, platoon, company-similar);
 ***IHL - 2, Romanian Army personnel training manual on the status of captured persons;
 ***IHL - 3, Manual for the training of the army personnel in international humanitarian law (officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers);
 ***Code of Conduct for Combatants;
 ***Handbook on the Law of War for the Armed Forces, Frederic de Mulinen;
 ***Essential Rules of the Law of War - summary for commanders, rules of conduct in combat (for training programs) - Summary of the Handbook on the Law of War for the Armed Forces, prepared by F. de Mulinen.

2. The law enforcement and judicial personnel

International Humanitarian Law was included in the curriculum and in the training programmes of the educational institutions belonging to **the Ministry of Internal Affairs**, such as the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Police Academy in Bucharest, the "Vasile Lascăr" School for Police Agents in Câmpina and the "Septimiu Mureșan" School for Police Agents in Cluj-Napoca.

At the same time, the personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs participating in peacekeeping, military or civilian operations/missions under the umbrella of UN, NATO, EU or OSCE receive specialized training in the field of IHL. Moreover, the training of the personnel of the General Inspectorate for Immigration also includes IHL.

Between 2017 and 2018, the **National Institute for Magistracy**, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), organised a series of training activities related to migration and asylum, open to the participation of judges assigned to deliberate in migration and asylum related cases. The training curriculum covered useful IHL notions.

As part of the activities of training and dissemination of professional experience in the field of IHL, the **military prosecutors** attended a series of national and international events, addressing IHL-specific topics and presenting aspects of the investigation of atrocities committed by the military during the World War II on the territory of Romania, while analyzing means of preventing these crimes by ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law.

3. Teaching international humanitarian law in schools

The Romanian authorities share the view that teaching about IHL as early as possible in the education process has the potential to instill the respect for peace, tolerance, multiculturalism and foster the civic conscience necessary for a healthy society.

On 9 December 2010, *the Ministry of Education and Research (MER), the National Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross concluded a protocol of cooperation* with the goal of rolling out ICRC's programme "Exploring humanitarian law" in schools. This latter programme is meant to familiarize young people with the basics of IHL and humanitarian issues at the international level, both in peacetime and in times of armed conflict. In this context, the ICRC's handbook "Exploring humanitarian law" (educational modules for young people) was adapted and used as a teaching support in various educational activities within the Romanian pre-university education system, among students aged 13 to 18 years.

As regards the *integration of IHL notions in the school curriculum*, the following pathways have been pursued:

- the inclusion of relevant information in the textbooks of other socio-humanistic disciplines, such as Sociology, Philosophy, Social Studies;
- the inclusion of elements from the ICRC's handbook "Exploring humanitarian law" in the curriculum of the existing optional course "Human Rights";
- the elaboration and approval of the curriculum for the optional course "International Humanitarian Law", as part of the national offer of optional courses for high school with the duration of one school year (MER recommended the inclusion of this optional course within their educational offer upon the school's decision, starting with the school year 2011-2012);
- the use of information from the ICRC's handbook "Exploring Humanitarian Law" in extracurricular school activities with a minimum number of 10 hours.

Concerning the *training of teachers*, the following measures have been taken:

- the organization of training sessions for teachers who have previously trained other teachers of socio-humanistic sciences and history; this activity was also attended by history teachers interested in addressing issues of international humanitarian law;
- the organization of two training sessions for school inspectors for socio-humanistic sciences;
- the organization of three training sessions for interested teachers;

All training sessions benefited from national and international trainers.

On 20 July 2017, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy and the High Court of Cassation and Justice concluded a protocol of cooperation with the objective of promoting legal education in the pre-university educational system. The legal information to be provided to teachers and students covers the Romanian Constitution, fundamental rights, freedoms and duties, as well as general aspects in the area of international relations. This programme is still in the development phase.

In 2018, the Commission discussed the situation of the IHL courses in the regular university curricula and recommended, through the Ministry of Education and in full respect of the principle of university autonomy, maintaining and further developing the teaching of IHL in universities, given the continuous relevance of this subject and the need for national specialists in this area.

4. Other relevant activities


The *celebration of the International Humanitarian Law Day in Romania* (the 14th of May) is used as an opportunity to further raise awareness about the importance of IHL. In order to mark this anniversary, a series of events are organized annually by the competent authorities and the Romanian Red Cross.

One of the above-mentioned events is the *traditional Round Table* entitled “The Importance of International Humanitarian Law in the Current International Security Environment”, which has been annually organized by the Center for International Humanitarian Law since 2015. This event is held with the support of experts and representatives of the academic world.

The “Carol I” National Defence University further took action to include IHL issues on the agenda of *scientific events*. Thus, during the International Scientific Conference “Strategies for the 21st Century” of 9-10 April 2020, the Security and Defence Faculty in collaboration with the Center for International Humanitarian Law introduced for the first time a section dedicated to international humanitarian law. The purpose of this demarche was to bring current issues in the field of IHL into the spotlight.

At the level of the *civil society*, the dissemination of international humanitarian law is carried out through the inclusion of specific courses within the academic curricula. Moreover, the *texts of the Geneva Conventions and of their Additional Protocols* have been published both in English and Romanian and widely disseminated in the society.

As a means of raising the interest of university students for this subject, the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University in Bucharest, in partnership with the Center for International Humanitarian Law of the “Carol I” National Defence University, the Country Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the National Red Cross Society, the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law, the “Cunescu, Balaciu & the Associates” Law Firm and the Sima Association are striving to organize annually the “*Nicolae Titulescu*” *International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law National Academic Competition*. This event is open to all interested universities that can designate a participating team of three students and a professor – coordinator to prove their legal knowledge, public speaking and debating skills to a jury of specialists. The competition has an interactive format, based on case studies and simulations, offering an innovative method of training into the two areas of expertise, respectively international humanitarian law and refugee law. At the same time, the three-day competition aims at stimulating cooperation between universities, non-governmental organizations and civil society, as well as to support the formation of future practitioners and specialists in these two fields.



As mentioned above, the *National Red Cross Society* is involved in the activities of dissemination and awareness-raising about IHL norms. It organises regular courses for interested students from the “Carol I” National Defence University and trains its own network of volunteers. In the summer of 2019, the Romanian Red Cross Society organised a training camp on IHL and refugee law for the Red Cross volunteers (capable of acting as future trainers in their own communities), with the support of the ICRC - the Regional Delegation in Belgrade and the Jesuit Refugee Service-Romania.

On 17 December 2019, the National Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Bucharest, launched *two landmark books of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* translated and published in Romanian, namely: “Memories from Solferino” (an adaptation after Henry Dunant’s book) and “The Story of an Idea” (a cartoons book made by the famous French artist Jean Giraud, known worldwide under the pseudonym Moebius, and inspired by “Memories from Solferino”). These books are meant to help teach the public, especially the young, in a user-friendly manner, about the history and importance of IHL to regulate the conduct of hostilities and limit the effects of armed conflict on the civilian population.

IV. DOMESTIC JURISDICTION OVER VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

1. Legal basis for the prosecution and punishment of violations of international humanitarian law

Under international law, both States and individuals can be held accountable in different ways for violations of IHL.

The state responsibility requires *inter alia* implementation of the obligations to search for and prosecute those who have committed grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, as well as the perpetrators of all serious violations of IHL. Moreover, all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions must cooperate in the search for and prosecution of those who commit such violations.

By Decree no. 183/1954, Romania ratified all four Conventions for the protection of war victims, adopted in Geneva on August 12, 1949. The reservations to the Geneva Conventions introduced in the above-mentioned Decree were withdrawn through the Law no. 277/2002. In addition, through the Decree no. 224/1990, Romania ratified the first and the second Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (1977).

Moreover, by Law no. 111/2002, Romania ratified the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), adopted in Rome on July 17, 1998. Under the Statute, serious violations of IHL and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions are classified as war crimes and their perpetrators must be held individually responsible. For the purposes of Art. 87 par. 1, letter a) of the Statute, the Ministry of Justice was notified as the Romanian central authority designated to receive the requests of the ICC, to send them without delay for resolution to the competent Romanian judicial bodies and to communicate the required documents to the Court.

The national criminal law that enables Romania to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law is the Criminal Code (Law no. 286/2009⁵, as subsequently amended and supplemented).

⁵ Published in the Official Journal no. 510 of 24 July 2009, in force since 1 February 2014, according to Art. 246 of Law no. 187/2012 for the application of Law no. 286/2009 on the Criminal code, published in the Official Journal no. 757 of 12 November 2012, with the subsequent amendments and additions.

2. Legal basis for the prosecution and punishment of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide

Title XII (Art. 438-444) of the Criminal Code incriminates the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (war crimes against individuals, war crimes against property and other rights, war crimes against humanitarian operations and insignia, use of forbidden methods in combat operations, use of forbidden means in combat operations). The latter are incriminated both in the context of an international and non-international armed conflict. The attempt to commit these crimes is also punishable (Art. 445). A detailed description of the above-mentioned provisions is set out in **Annex no. II**.

According to Art. 153 par. (2) letter a) of the Criminal Code, *the statute of limitation does not remove the criminal liability in case of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes*, irrespective of the date when they were perpetrated.

The breaches of IHL are subject to the principle of universality of the criminal law. Thus, according to Art. 11 of the Criminal Code, the Romanian criminal law also applies to other violations than those stipulated in Art. 10⁶ (which provides for the principle of reality of the criminal law), if they were committed outside the Romanian territory by a foreign citizen or a stateless person who is located voluntarily on the Romanian territory, in the following cases:

- a) an offense was committed that the Romanian State has undertaken to repress on the basis of an international treaty, irrespective of whether it is incriminated by the criminal law of the State on whose territory it was committed;
- b) extradition or surrender of the perpetrator has been requested and denied.

3. Institutions in place for the prosecution of breaches of international humanitarian law

For violations of IHL, it is mandatory that the criminal investigation be conducted by a prosecutor, according to Art. 56 par. (3) letter a) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC)⁷, with subsequent amendments and additions. The Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of Appeal is competent to conduct the criminal investigation in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Military Prosecutor's Office attached to the Military Court of Appeal in Bucharest carries out the criminal investigation for violations of IHL committed by the Armed Forces service members.

⁶ Offences committed outside the Romanian territory by a foreign citizen or a stateless person against the Romanian State, a Romanian citizen or a Romanian legal person.

⁷ Published in the Official Journal no. 486 of 15 July 2010, in force since 1 February 2014, according to Art. 103 of Law no. 255 of 19 July 2013 for the application of Law no. 135/2010 on the Criminal procedure code and for amending and supplementing some normative acts that comprise criminal procedure provisions, published in the Official Journal no. 515 of 14 August 2013, with the subsequent amendments and additions.

As regards the courts' competences, the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) provides, in Art. 38 par. (1) letter a), that the court of appeal examines in first instance the crimes set out by the Criminal Code under Art. 438 – 445. Moreover, according to Art. 39 par. (1) letter a) of the CPC, the military court of appeal is competent to examine in the first instance the crimes set out by the Criminal Code under Art. 438 – 445, committed by Armed Forces service members.

The prosecutors' offices initiated a series of investigations into alleged crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which are described in **Annex no. III**.

4. Extradition to other States or surrender to the International Criminal Court of persons charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide

As a principle matter, the domestic law allows for the extradition of persons charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide to another state, as well as for the surrender of these persons to an international criminal court. However, there is no practice in the implementation of these provisions up to now.

Thus, according to Art. 19 of the Constitution:

- no Romanian citizen shall be extradited or expelled from Romania;
- by exemption from the provisions of paragraph (1), Romanian citizens may be extradited based on the international agreements Romania is a party to, according to the law and on a mutual basis;
- aliens and stateless persons may be extradited only in compliance with an international convention or on the basis of reciprocity;
- expulsion or extradition shall be ruled by the court.

Furthermore, according to Art. 14 of the Criminal Code:

- extradition may be granted or requested on the basis of an international treaty to which Romania is a party or on the basis of reciprocity, under the conditions set out by law;
- as regards the member states of the European Union, the surrender or extradition of a person is granted or requested under the conditions set out by law;
- the surrender of a person to an international criminal court is granted under the conditions set out by law.

As mentioned above, the competent national authorities have prepared a draft law on cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and initiated the formal approval procedure. In accordance with the Rome Statute, the ICC is complementary to the national criminal jurisdiction, meaning that the Court may exercise jurisdiction where the state is unable or unwilling genuinely to carry out the investigations or prosecutions.

V. PROTECTIONS

1. Protection of schools and educational facilities

Continued access to safe education can help protect children and youth from the impact of armed conflict and contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities.

The **2015 Safe Schools Declaration** is a non-legally binding intergovernmental document that allows states to reiterate support for the protection and continuation of education in wartime. The Declaration describes the immediate and long-term consequences of attacks on education and military use of schools and universities for students, teachers, and communities living in situations of armed conflict, highlighting the importance of putting in place key mechanisms, instruments, and initiatives that contribute to protecting education.

By joining the Declaration, States commit to use ***the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict***, which offer practical guidance to deter the military use of schools and universities and to mitigate the impact of this practice on students' safety and education. These Guidelines, the result of several years of consultations with governments, armed forces, and international organizations, do not create new international legal obligations, drawing on existing practice to better safeguard the civilian character of educational facilities.

By endorsing this document on 24 May 2017, Romania reconfirmed the importance attached to the continuation of education in emergencies and to the integration of the IHL obligations on which the Declaration and the corresponding Guidelines are based into relevant domestic policies, military doctrines and manuals. Moreover, Romania became part of the core group of countries led by Argentina and Norway that work to promote the endorsement of the Declaration worldwide and encourage governments to put their commitments into practice. More than half of the United Nations members have now joined the Safe Schools Declaration, which represents an important milestone in the global movement to protect learning at all levels during armed conflict.

2. Protection of the environment

The right of every person to a healthy environment is recognized in Art. 35 of the Romanian Constitution, whilst the exercise of this right is regulated by the relevant national legislation. Moreover, as an EU Member State, Romania transposes and implements the European Union's environmental law and policies.

Based on the premise that a healthy environment makes an essential contribution to maintaining human health and the quality of life, environmental requirements must be integrated into all other sectoral policies.

Armed conflicts can cause severe and long-lasting damage to the environment. The obligations regarding the protection of the environment in the context of armed conflicts are set out in the conventions and protocols in the field of IHL to which Romania is a party⁸.

While the domestic legislation does not contain additional provisions with explicit reference to the situation of environmental protection during armed conflicts, several normative acts in the field of environmental protection, including specific legislation on environmental damage⁹, can be applied to a wide range of exceptional situations with impact on the health of the population¹⁰.

Furthermore, the status of forces agreements to which Romania is a party¹¹ include provisions with regard to the protection of the environment.

⁸ Art. 35 (3) and Art. 55 (1&2) of the Additional Protocol (Protocol I) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, June 8, 1977; Art 23 of Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its annex: Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Hague, October 18, 1907; Art. 147 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of War;

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva, October 10, 1980; Art. I and II of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques/ ENMOD (Geneva, May 18, 1977).

⁹ Government Emergency Ordinance no. 68/2007 on environmental liability with reference to the prevention and remedy of environmental damage, with subsequent amendments and additions; Law no. 101/2011 for the prevention and sanctioning of certain facts regarding environmental degradation.

¹⁰ Government Emergency Ordinance no. 195/2005 on environmental protection, with subsequent amendments and additions; Water Law no. 107/1996, updated; Forest Code, updated; Law no. 59/2016 on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances; Law no. 211/2011 on the waste regime; Law no. 360/2003 on the regime of dangerous chemical substances and preparations;

¹¹ For example, Art. VIII (2) of the Agreement between Romania and the United States of America on the deployment of the United States Ballistic Missile Defense System in Romania (Washington, 2011) states that "The parties shall pursue a preventive approach to environmental protection. To this end, all problems that may arise shall be dealt with expeditiously in order to prevent any lasting damage to the environment or endangerment of human health and safety. The United States shall provide Romania information concerning the impact of the electromagnetic spectrum on human safety."

3. Protection of cultural property

Cultural property (historical monuments, archaeological sites and mobile heritage) is protected by the national law¹².

At the same time, Romania is party to the 1954 *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999, which focus on the protection of cultural property both in peacetime and wartime. As mentioned above, the Commission also took the role of the national advisory body with competences in the field of protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, as prescribed by the 1954 Hague Convention.

Consequently, Romania has adopted a number of preparatory measures in order to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict, such as:

- the elaboration of the inventory of the cultural property;
- the planning of emergency measures for the protection of cultural property in case of fire or destruction of structures, which covers situations such as natural calamities or armed conflicts.

At the same time, by Decision no. 1222/2005, the Government established a *centralized procedure for carrying out and organizing the evacuation, including of cultural and patrimonial goods, in case of imminent armed conflict*. In support of implementing this Decision, the authorities elaborated the Methodology for organizing and carrying out the evacuation activities of persons, goods, documents and materials containing classified information in situations of armed conflict. According to the Methodology, the main evacuation actions of the population and of important material goods during military operations are established by plans prepared during peacetime, while the coordination of such actions at the central level is ensured by the *National Center for Management and Coordination of an Armed Conflict Evacuation*, led by a State Secretary from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, under the guidance of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and composed of representatives of the institutions with responsibilities in the field.

Moreover, one of the specific objectives of the *Romanian National Strategy on the Application of International Humanitarian Law* refers to the adoption of measures in order to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict, such as:

- the elaboration and adoption of certain normative acts in application of the provisions of relevant international treaties;

¹² Law no. 422/2001 on the protection of historical monuments; Government Ordinance no. 43/2000 on the protection of the archaeological heritage and declaring certain archaeological sites as national interest areas; Law no. 182/2000 regarding the protection of the movable national heritage.

- the training of qualified personnel to ensure the application of treaties concerning the cultural property¹³ ;
- the involvement of local authorities in administering the measures regarding the protection of cultural property;
- carrying out an inventory on the cultural property in order to have it labeled with the corresponding protection symbol.

According to the legislation in force, the *main institutions responsible for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict* are the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of National Defence.


These institutions must ensure, through a program of coordinated actions, the protection and integrity of *classified movable cultural property* in specialized and non-specialized institutions, cult units, as well as in private collections, against the risks arising from natural disasters, public disturbances or armed conflicts. In this respect, the Ministry of Culture endorses the regulations and methodologies developed by the competent public authorities and institutions regarding the special protection measures for historical monuments in case of armed conflict, acts of terrorism and emergency situations. The Ministry of Culture also establishes and controls the placement of the distinctive emblem attesting the regime of the historical monument in order to ensure its protection both in time of peace and armed conflict.

Equally, the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other public administration authorities with responsibilities in the field, establishes special measures to protect the museum heritage in case of armed conflict, civil unrest and natural disasters.

The *intangible heritage* is also protected by law¹⁴, given its importance for the preservation of cultural identity. As a state party, since 2006, to the UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Romania has been making progress in enhancing the implementation of its provisions, primarily in relation to issues such as community participation, elaboration of safeguarding activities, bottom-up inventorying, clarifying roles of different types of stakeholders and coordination between them. The National Inventory and Registry are two complementary instruments of identification of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which have been elaborated by experts in the field of ethnology and folklore research, in close cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Culture, as well as of communities concerned.

¹³ The curriculum of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Police Academy in Bucharest contains topic studies such as "IHL Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict"; similarly, the instruction of the personnel belonging to the Romanian Gendarmerie includes a subject entitled "Implementation of the rules of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999".

¹⁴ Law no. 26/2008 regarding the safeguarding of the immaterial heritage.



The *marking of cultural property* is a preparatory measure taken during peacetime to protect cultural property against the foreseeable effects of an armed conflict. In accordance with Art. 6 of the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, cultural property may bear a distinctive emblem to facilitate its identification. Its efficiency was proven in practice.

Currently, in Romania, in the absence of explicit provisions, the marking with a protective symbol does not constitute a legal obligation for the owners / administrators of cultural properties.

Consequently, the Ministry of Culture proposed a draft law amending Law no. 422/2001 on the protection of historical monuments, which provides, inter alia, for the obligation to mark historical monuments and archeological sites with a distinctive emblem, according to the relevant international conventions, namely the international symbol of the „**Blue Shield**” used since 1954 to protect the world’s cultural heritage from the threat of destruction in case of armed conflict.

Romania has also adopted specific criminal law provisions in the field of protection of cultural property. Thus, Art. 443 par. (1) letter h) of the Criminal Code incriminates as war crime the use of cultural assets protected as such by the international humanitarian law, especially historic monuments, buildings devoted to religious worship, education, art or science, to launch an attack on the enemy side by military means.

VI. MEANS AND METHODS OF WARFARE

1. Weapons forbidden by law

Given its objective of limiting the suffering caused by armed conflict, the international humanitarian law addresses both the behaviour of combatants and the choice of means and methods of warfare, including weapons.

Thus, IHL contains the basic principles and rules governing the choice of weapons and prohibits and restricts the employment of certain weapons which cause useless suffering, indiscriminating or disproportional effects.

Romania is party to the majority of international treaties in this area, including the following:

- *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC)*, opened for signature at London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972 and ratified by Decree no.253/1979;

BWC is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The use of potential biological agents is prohibited unless justified for protection or prophylactic activities, as well as for other peaceful purposes.

- *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)*, with Protocols I (non-detectable fragments), II (landmines, booby traps and other devices) and III (incendiary weapons), adopted at Geneva on 10 October 1980 and ratified by Law no. 40/1995, as well as Protocol IV (blinding lasers), adopted at Vienna on 13 October 1995 and ratified by Law 287/2003, and Protocol V (explosive remnants of war), adopted at Geneva on 28 November 2003 and ratified by Law no. 307/2007;

The CCW system aims to protect armed forces from inhumane injuries and prevent noncombatants from accidentally being wounded or killed by certain types of arms causing excessive injuries.

- *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction* signed in Paris, on 13 January 1993 and ratified by Law no.125/1994;

The Convention aims at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons. States Parties must undertake the necessary steps to enforce this prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

- *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction*, adopted at Oslo on 18 September 1997 and ratified by Law no. 204/2000.

The Convention seeks both to end existing suffering and to prevent future suffering caused by mine action. This legal instrument bans the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. In addition, States Parties commit to destroy both stockpiled and emplaced anti-personnel mines, and assist victims of landmines.

2. Arms trade

By Law no. 32/2014, Romania ratified the Arms Trade Treaty adopted in New York on 2 April 2013, the most important legal instrument elaborated under the aegis of the United Nations in the field of international trade with conventional weapons, munitions and their component parts.

The treaty requires states to refuse to authorise the export of arms if there is an overriding risk that the arms could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Consequently, the Romanian Government put in place a regime for the control of exports, imports and other operations with military products by adopting the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 158/1999.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Department for Export Controls, is the national authority in the field of export and import controls for military and dual use items and is responsible for the implementation of the governmental policy in this area.

VII. WAY AHEAD

IHL is no longer just the business of military and legal specialists; it is part of the headline news and defines the humanitarian landscape.

IHL does not rule out war. It sets limits to its conduct, thereby recognizing the very real dilemma of finding the balance between military necessity and humanitarian imperative.

IHL can be a powerful instrument if applied in good faith, and continually interpreted and developed to match new challenges. It must not be abused as a political instrument against adversaries, exacerbating already tense situations.

Romania remains committed to work to ensure compliance with IHL at all levels, heartened by the continued relevance of this body of law for the protection of civilians and the preservation of human dignity in times of armed conflict.

Based on its national experience, Romania will further advocate for the establishment of national IHL committees with the task to monitor and help improve domestic implementation of IHL, as well as to promote knowledge about these norms.

Along these lines, Romania has engaged in the preparation of this voluntary report as another means of increasing awareness about the importance of IHL within the national political-administrative system and within the public opinion.

Romania will continue to be an active supporter of the mandate and well-functioning of the International Criminal Court, whose activity represents an essential contribution in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes and will be a constant promoter of existing and future international legal instruments meant to consolidate further international humanitarian law.

ANNEXES



List of the main legal instruments in the area of international humanitarian law to which Romania is a party

TITLE	Ratification/Accession:
Convention (II) on the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Hague, 29 July 1899	
Declaration (IV.2) concerning Asphyxiating Gases, The Hague, 29 July 1899	Royal Decree no. 2150/1900 (Official Journal no. 68 of 25 June/8 July 1900)
Declaration (IV.3) concerning Expanding Bullets, the Hague, 29 July 1899	
Convention (III) on the Opening of Hostilities, the Hague, 18 October 1907	Royal Decree no. 442/1912 (Official Journal no. 272 of 11/24 March 1912)
Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its Annex: Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Hague, 18 October 1907	Royal Decree no. 442/1912 (Official Journal no. 272 of 11/24 March 1912)
Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, Geneva, 17 June 1925	Royal Decree no. 3050/1929 (Official Journal no. 128 of 1 October 1929)
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, New York, 9 December 1948	Decree of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania no. 547/1969 (Official Journal no. 83 of 30 July 1969)
Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, Geneva, 12 August 1949	
Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked of Armed Forces at Sea, Geneva, 12 August 1949	Decree of the Grand National Assembly no. 183/1954 (Official Journal of 25-21 May 1954); The reservations formulated on the occasion of the ratification were withdrawn by Law no. 277/2002 (Official Journal no. 368 of 31 May 2002)
Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Geneva, 12 August 1949	
Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, Geneva, 12 August 1949	
Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict, Geneva, 8 June 1977	
Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict, Geneva, 8 June 1977	Decree of the Temporary Grand Assembly Council no. 224/1990 (Official Journal no. 68-69 of 14 May 1990)
Additional Protocol (III) to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem, Geneva, 6 December 2005	Law no. 21/2015 (Official Journal no. 174 of 13 March 2015)

TITLU	Transpus în dreptul intern prin:
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Regulations for its Execution, the Hague, 14 May 1954	Decree of the National Grand Assembly no. 605/1957 (Official Journal no. 6 of 28 January 1958)
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Hague, 14 May 1954	
Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Hague, 26 March 1999	Law no. 285/2006 (Official Journal no. 621 of 18 July 2006)
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972	Decree of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania no. 253/1979 (Official Journal no. 57 of 7 July 1979)
Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, Geneva, 18 May 1977	Decree of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania no. 100/1983 (Official Journal no. 23 of 1 April 1983)
Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva, 10 October 1980	
Protocol (I) on Non-Detectable Fragments, Geneva, 10 October 1980, amended at Geneva, on 21 December 2001	Law no. 40/1995 (Official Journal no. 103 of 29 May 1995);
Protocol (II) on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, Geneva, 10 October 1980, amended at Geneva, on 3 May 1996	Law no. 287/2003 (Official Journal no. 505 of 14 July 2003)
Protocol (III) on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons, Geneva, 10 October 1980	
Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons), Vienna, 13 October 1995	Law no. 287/2003 (Official Journal no. 505 of 14 July 2003)
Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons), Geneva, 28 November 2003	Law no. 307/2007 (Official Journal no. 794 of 22 November 2007)
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, New York, 25 May 2000	Law no. 567/2001 (Official Journal no. 692 of 31 October 2001)
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, Paris, 13 January 1993	Law no. 125/1994 (Official Journal no. 356 of 22 December 1994)
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Oslo, 18 September 1997	Law no. 204/2000 (Official Journal no. 590 of 22 November 2000)
Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, New York, 15 May 1993	Law no. 159/1998 (Official Journal no. 283 of 31 July 1998)
Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, New York, 8 November 1994	Emergency Government Ordinance no. 31/2002 (Official Journal no. 214 of 28 March 2002)
Statute of the International Criminal Court, Rome, 17 July 1998	Law no. 111/2002 (Official Journal no. 211 of 28 March 2002)



Relevant provisions of the Romanian Criminal Code

(Law 286/2009, with subsequent amendments and additions)

Article 75

Mitigating circumstances

(1) The following situations represent legal mitigating circumstances:

(...)

d) covering all the material damage caused by the crime during prosecution or trial, until the first hearing, if the offender has not benefited from this circumstance within 5 years prior to committing the crime. Mitigating circumstance does not apply if the following crimes are committed: (...) genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (...)."

Article 153

Statute of limitations for criminal liability

(...)

(2) Limitation of liability does not remove criminal liability in case of:

a) genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, irrespective of the date when they were committed;

(...)

Article 161

Limitation of service of penalties

(...)

(2) Limitation does not remove the service of main penalties as follows:

a) in case of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, irrespective of the date when such crimes were perpetrated;

(...).

TITLE XII

Crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes

CHAPTER I

Crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity

Article 438

Genocide

(1) The act of committing, with the goal of destroying, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, one of the following offenses:

- a) killing members of the group;
- b) harming the bodily or mental integrity of members of the group;
- c) subjecting the group to living conditions of a nature that will lead to their physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) enacting steps to prevent births within the group;
- e) forced transfer of children belonging to one group to a different group,

shall be punishable by life imprisonment or no less than 15 and no more than 25 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) If the acts described in par. (1) are committed in times of war, shall be punishable by life imprisonment.

(3) Conspiracy to commit the crime of genocide shall be punishable by no less than 5 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(4) Incitement to commit the crime of genocide, committed directly, in public, shall be punishable by no less than 2 and no more than 7 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

Article 439

Crimes against humanity

(1) The act of committing, as part of a generalized or systematic attack on a civilian population, one of the following offenses:

- a) killing persons;
- b) subjecting a population or parts of it to living conditions of a nature that will lead to their physical destruction in whole or in part, with the goal of destroying it;
- c) slavery or trafficking in human beings, especially women or children;
- d) deportation or forced transfer, in violation of the general rules of international law, of persons legally located on a certain territory, by expelling them to another state or territory or by using other means of constraint;
- e) torturing persons who are under the perpetrator's guard or under control in any other form, causing them to sustain physical or psychological harm, or grave physical or psychological suffering, that goes beyond the consequences of penalties accepted by international law;

- f) rape or sexual assault, compelling to engage in prostitution, forced sterilization or illegal detention of a woman who was forced to become pregnant, with a goal to change a population's ethnic composition;
 - g) harming certain persons' physical or psychological integrity;
 - h) causing certain persons to go missing, by force, with a goal to deprive them of the protection of the law, for an extended period, by kidnapping, arresting or detention, on orders or authorization from a state or a political organization, followed by refusal to admit that the person is deprived of freedom or to provide genuine information on the intentions concerning them or on their location, as soon as such information is requested;
 - i) imprisonment or any other form of serious deprivation of freedom, in violation of the general rules of international law;
 - j) persecution of a specific group or community, by deprivation of fundamental human rights or by grave restriction of their exercise of those rights, on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, or sexual grounds or based on other criteria recognized as inadmissible under international law;
 - k) other similar inhuman acts that cause grave suffering or physical or psychological harm,
- shall be punishable by life imprisonment or no less than 15 and no more than 25 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) The same penalty applies to acts stipulated in par. (1) and committed as part of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination of one racial group over another, with the goal of maintaining the existence of that regime.

CHAPTER II

War crimes

Article 440

War crimes against individuals

- (1) The act of committing, as part of an armed conflict, with or without an international character, against one or several individuals protected by international humanitarian law, one of the following offenses:
- a) murder;
 - b) taking hostages;
 - c) applying cruel or inhuman treatment, thus causing physical or psychological harm or grave physical or psychological suffering, especially by torture or mutilation;

d) rape or sexual assault, compelling to engage in prostitution, forced sterilization or illegal detention of a woman who was forced to become pregnant, with a goal to change a population's ethnic composition;

e) deportation or forced transfer, in violation of the general rules of international law, of persons legally located on a certain territory, by expelling them to another state or territory or by using other means of constraint;

f) applying or executing severe punishment, especially the death penalty or a penalty of imprisonment, to a person who has not been tried as part of a legal impartial procedure that provides the guarantees required by international law;

g) exposing an individual to danger of death or serious health harm by:

1. performing experiments on them without their voluntary, specific and previous consent, or that are not necessary for their health or are not performed in their best interest;

2. harvesting tissues or organs from them for the purpose of transplant, with the exception of taking blood or skin for therapeutic purposes, in compliance with generally recognized medical principles and with the person's voluntary, specific and previous consent;

3. subjecting them to methods of treatment that are not recognized by medicine, without them being necessary for the individual's health and without their voluntary, specific and previous consent;

h) subjecting an individual to a degrading treatment,

shall be punishable by life imprisonment or no less than 15 and no more than 25 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) The same penalty shall apply to recruiting or drafting juveniles who have not turned 15 years of age to the armed forces or armed groups, as well as making them, by any methods, to take active part in hostilities.

(3) Inflicting injury, as part of an armed conflict, with or without an international character, to a member of the enemy armed forces or a combatant thereof, after such person has surrendered unconditionally or who has been taken out of the fighting in any manner, shall be punishable by no less than 5 and no more than 12 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(4) Commission, as part of an armed conflict with an international character, of one of the following offenses:

- a) illegally keeping in detention or unjustified delay of repatriation of one or several individuals of those described at par. (5) letter a);

- b) direct or indirect transfer, by an agent of the occupying power, of a part of the civilian population to whom he belongs, in the occupied territory;

c) compelling, by violence or threat, of one or several individuals of those described at par. (5) letter a) to serve in the enemy's armed forces;

d) compelling the citizens of the enemy power to take part in war operations against their own country

shall be punishable by no less than 3 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(5) The persons protected by international humanitarian law are:

a) in an armed conflict with an international character: persons protected under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977, especially the wounded, the sick, the shipwrecked, the war prisoners and civilians;

b) in an armed conflict without an international character: the wounded, the sick, the shipwrecked and the persons who are not directly involved in the hostilities and are under the power of the enemy side;

c) in an armed conflict with or without an international character: members of the armed forces and combatants of the enemy side, who have laid down their arms or who, for any reason, can no longer defend themselves and are not under the power of the enemy side.

Article 441

War crimes against property and other rights

(1) The act of a person who, as part of an armed conflict, with or without an international character, robs or, in violation of international law and without it being justified by military necessity, destroys, appropriates or commandeers assets belonging to the enemy side which are under the power of the side the perpetrator is a member of, shall be punishable by no less than 3 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) Declaring, as part of an armed conflict with an international character, the rights and actions of all citizens of the enemy side or a significant part of them as nullified, suspended or inadmissible in a court of law shall be punishable by no less than 3 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

Article 442

War crimes against humanitarian operations and emblems

(1) The act of a person who, as part of an armed conflict, with or without an international character:

a) launches an attack against the personnel, facilities, goods, units or vehicles that are involved in a humanitarian aid mission or a peace-keeping mission under the

Charter of the United Nations and which enjoy the protection guaranteed by the international humanitarian law to civilians or civilian assets;

b) launches an attack against the personnel, facilities, medical units or medical transportation vehicles that are using the distinctive insignia stipulated in the Geneva Conventions, according to the provisions of international humanitarian law, shall be punishable by no less than 7 and no more than 15 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) The act of a person who, as part of an armed conflict with or without an international character, unlawfully uses the distinctive emblems stipulated in the Geneva Conventions, the parley flag, the enemy's or the United Nations Organization's flag, military emblems or uniform, thus causing the death or injury of one or more individuals, shall be punishable by no less than 7 and no more than 15 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

Article 443

Use of forbidden methods in combat operations

(1) The act of a person who, as part of an armed conflict with or without an international character:

a) launches an attack by military means against a civilian population or civilians who are not directly involved in hostilities;

b) launches an attack by military means against civilian assets that are protected as such by the international humanitarian law, especially buildings devoted to religious worship, education, art, science, charities, historic monuments, hospitals, locations for the sick or the wounded, as well as against towns, villages, houses or buildings that are undefended or located in demilitarized areas, or against facilities or equipments that contain hazardous substances, insofar as those are not used for military operations;

c) carries an attack by military means, knowing it will cause loss of human lives among the civilian population, destruction of civilian assets, that would be visibly disproportionate to the overall specific and anticipated military advantage;

d) uses a person protected by the provisions of international humanitarian law to avoid that certain locations, areas or military forces become a target for military operations by the enemy side;

e) uses, as a method to wage war, deliberate starvation of civilians, depriving them of goods indispensable to survival or preventing them, in violation of international humanitarian law, from receiving aid intended for them;

f) declares or orders that there shall be no mercy for the defeated;

g) kills or wounds a member of the enemy armed forces or a combatant of the enemy forces by using deceit;

h) makes use of cultural assets protected as such by the international humanitarian law, especially historic monuments, buildings devoted to religious worship, education, art or science, to launch an attack on the enemy side by military means,

shall be punishable by no less than 7 and no more than 15 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

(2) The carrying of an attack by military means, as part of an armed conflict with an international character, knowing that it will cause extended, lasting and grave damage to the environment, which is visibly disproportionate to the overall specific and anticipated military advantage, shall be punishable by no less than 3 and no more than 10 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

Article 444

Use of forbidden means in combat operations

The act of a person who, as part of an armed conflict with or without an international character:

a) uses poison or weapons carrying poisonous substances;

b) uses asphyxiating, toxic or similar gas and any similar liquids, materials or procedures;

c) uses weapons that cause unwarranted physical suffering

shall be punishable by no less than 7 and no more than 15 years of imprisonment and a ban on the exercise of certain rights.

Article 445

Punishment for attempt

The attempt to commit the offenses stipulated in this Title shall be punishable.



Relevant criminal investigations regarding international humanitarian law and human rights violations

1. The identification of the first mass grave near the Popricani village in the Iași County

In October 2010, the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania notified the Public Ministry with regard to the identification of three human skeletons in the Vulturi woods near the village of Popricani (Iasi county). The case was under investigation by the Iași Military Prosecutor’s Office. The investigation led to the discovery of a mass grave with 36 victims: men, women and children. It was found that the victims were Jewish civilians originating from the Republic of Moldova, murdered by the Romanian Armed Forces and, possibly, by the German Armed Forces during the first days of the Barbarossa Operation, in June 1941. Consequently, the case was placed under the competence of the Military Prosecutor’s Office attached to the Military Court of Appeal in Bucharest, which has the responsibility to investigate the crime of genocide. The case was closed on the grounds of *res judicata*, as the persons responsible for the perpetration of such crimes (civilians, military staff within the Army, Gendarmerie and Police) had been investigated, prosecuted and convicted by the Romanian judicial authorities after the conclusion of the Second World War, during the communist regime.

2. The identification of the second mass grave near the Popricani village in the Iași County

In June 2019, the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania notified the Iasi Military Prosecutor’s Office with regard to the identification of other human bones in an area nearby the first mass grave. The Military Prosecutor’s Office opened the investigation, identifying another mass grave out of which 25 more victims, as well as fragments of human bones were extracted. The investigations have been extended to a larger area in the Vulturi Woods, under the suspicion that more mass graves with remains of the Jewish people executed by the Romanian and German armies involved in the Barbarossa Operation, could be found in that proximity. The investigations are still ongoing.

**ANNEX
IV**

Photos from the archives
of the National Commission on
International Humanitarian Law



International Humanitarian Law Day event
("Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest, 14 May 2017)



International Humanitarian Law Day event
("Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest, 14 May 2018)



International Humanitarian Law Day event
(“Carol I” National Defence University, Bucharest, 14 May 2019)



International Humanitarian Law Day poster – 14 May 2020



Ordinary session of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law
(The Ministry of Justice, Bucharest, 16 June 2016)



(Sursa: <https://dpap.mapn.ro/app/webroot/fileslib/upload/images/evenimente/aac.jpg>)

Ordinary session of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law
(The Ministry of National Defense, Bucharest, 19 December 2019)



Ordinary session of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law
(The Ministry of Justice, Bucharest, 05 March 2021)



Extraordinary session of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law from Romania with the National Advisory Committee on Coordinating the Application of International Humanitarian Law in the Republic of Moldova
(The Ministry of National Defence "Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest, 13 October 2016)



The "Nicolae Titulescu" International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law National Academic Competition ("Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest, 8-10 December 2017)



The winners of the "Nicolae Titulescu" International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law National Academic Competition ("Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest, 8-10 December 2017)



The High level Conference “The EU Day against Impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes” (Eurojust Headquarters, the Hague, 23 May 2019), organised by the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission, the Genocide Network and Eurojust (From left to right: The Eurojust President Ladislav Hamran, the International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, the Romanian Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands Brândușa Predescu, the representative of the Romanian Ministry of Justice Lorin Ovidiu Hagima)



The participation of the Romanian National Commission on IHL at the Universal meeting of National Committees and similar bodies on international humanitarian law organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2016



Members of the National Commission on IHL at the Romanian Red Cross Day event (4 July 2017), upon the invitation of Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown, President of the National Red Cross Society



Regional IHL Conference for States in Central and South-Eastern Europe (Bucharest, 27-28 March 2018)