

UN Youth Romania - Constanța Branch Six years of activity

The Constanta Branch of the Association began its activity in November 2012, at the initiative of three members; five more members joined it in 2013. In the same year a protocol was signed with the Faculty of History and Political Science at Ovidius University in Constanta.

UN Youth Constanta is an extremely active association in conducting scientific, academic or global awareness projects that are the focus of the United Nations. They are organized and carried out by the almost exclusive effort of young people who have understood the importance of civic activism and volunteering in shaping a better world.

A brief inventory of the events organized and the projects carried out by UN Youth Constanta is a demonstration of involvement and a model to follow.

- **The Photo Laundry project** was held in the **summer of 2014**, the joint project of all subsidiaries on poverty. This is an international photography project organized for the first time in Saint Petersburg in 2010. Gradually the event was held in 40 cities in 7 different countries, gathering over 90,000 participants. What does this project mean? The idea is simple: the park will stretch the string in a way similar to laundry dryers and will expose photographs expressing the vision of their authors about the given theme.
- **A conference on nuclear disarmament held by The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons-ICAN Romania in November 2014** together with our friends and colleagues, Anda Șerban and Hrant Jaghinyan. ICAN is the largest non-governmental organization in the world that fights for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The conference focused on the large number of nuclear warheads on the globe and the dangers they pose to humanity.
- The celebration of the **UN-2014 Day**. The members of the association, with the help of Ovidius University and the Faculty of History and Political Science, raised helium balloons in the colors of the United Nations, in front of the university campus. The moment was immortalized with a drone.
- **Conference on "Islamic State"** held in **December 2014** by Professor Metin Omer, Middle Eastern Specialist. The feedback exceeded expectations, the public suggesting more projects on international security.
- **United Nations Day celebrated on October 24, 2015**. In the week of the United Nations celebration, our branch decided to

promote this important event through an informative session presenting the new Sustainable Development Objectives (former Millennium Development Goals). Thus, a stand was arranged inside the campus, and students and teachers were encouraged to take photos with posters that support the Sustainable Development Values. These range from poverty eradication, access to education, responsible consumption, environmental protection, to gender equality, economic growth, peace and justice. In this way, 70 years have been celebrated since the establishment of the United Nations.

- **Plant your future** - The association, with the approval of Ovidius University, managed to carry out a tree planting campaign in the park in front of the campus. The importance of this project was to draw attention to the illegal deforestation that takes place in Romania.
- **Romania's 60th anniversary at the UN.** Together with the Dean of the Faculty of History and Political Science, Mr. Emanuel Ploeanu, we organized a conference that aimed to mark the 60th anniversary of Romania's membership at the UN.
- **Film screening: "The invisible war", March 11, 2016** - Violence against women is a cruel reality, and UN estimates show that abuses not only persist but are rising. Unfortunately, most of the time, these facts are either not known or ignored. Strongly linked to values and tradition, deeply rooted in mentality, in the way women are considered, this reality is hard to accept and, harder to change. Women affected by violence are found in all social categories, regardless of their level of education, social status, age or ethnicity. In most cases, they do not report the traumas they are subjected to. That is why the UN Youth Association of Romania - the Constanța branch wanted to bring to the attention of young people the horrors women face by watching the movie "The Invisible War".
- One of the biggest projects organized by the Constanta branch was **Constanța International Model United Nations (CTAMUN) April 21-24, 2016** - Model United Nations (informally abbreviated as Model UN or MUN) is an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about civics, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. Participants in Model UN conferences, known as delegates, are placed in committees and assigned countries, or occasionally other organizations or political figures, where they represent members of that body. They are presented with their assignments in advance, along with a topic or topics that their

committee will discuss. Delegates conduct research before conferences and formulate positions that they will then debate with their fellow delegates in the committee, staying true to the actual position of the member they represent. At the end of most conferences, outstanding delegates in each committee are recognized and given an award certificate. MUN involves substantial researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities. The insight participants do gain from their exploration of history, geography, culture, economics and science contribute to the authenticity of the simulation once the actual role playing gets underway and ensures a lively and memorable experience. It gives all participants an insight look into the way things are done, and also allow them feel how challenging it is to negotiate with adversaries.

- **UN at 71 - Life Below Water, 24 October 2016** - On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the United Nations, the event took place simultaneously in all branches of the UN Youth Association of Romania, more precisely in Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi, Craiova, Roman and Constanta. These actions aim to draw attention to the Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015. There are 17 Global Objectives: poverty eradication, hunger eradication, health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable energy, decent work and growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reducing inequalities, cities and sustainable communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, aquatic life, terrestrial life, peace, justice and efficient institutions, and partnerships to achieve the goals. The UN at 71 - Life Below Water conference focused on aquatic life, namely on sustainable management and protection of marine ecosystems, to avoid significant negative effects on the prevention and reduction of marine pollution of all types, especially those from land-based activities, marine litter and nutrient pollution. Valeria Abaza, a marine biologist at the "Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development Constanta, was invited to the event, who gave a speech on "The Black Sea - Current Challenges".
- **National Council of the UN Youth Association of Romania, 3 - 5 March 2017** - The first National Council of the UN Youth Association of Romania, organized in Constanta.
- **Bringing the UN back home, March 18, 2017** - The campaign aimed to familiarize young Romanians with the work of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda and especially their role as actors able to build their own future and work

on the society they want. This included events organized in collaboration with NGOs, institutions and the private sector. Within each event, young people were provided with information on UN work, the UN Youth Delegates program at the UN and the Sustainable Development Objectives. These were followed by practical activities, activities that created the context favorable to the debate and in which they contributed and made their views known. The "Youth Delegate of Romania to the UN" Program was developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the program was to train young people with potential, aged 18-25, in the work of the largest global decision-making force and to mobilize them in youth activities in the country.

- **Workshop Constanța Social Impact Award România, April 25, 2017** - Social Impact Award 2017 is a competition of ideas and an educational program in social innovation present in 20 countries and dedicated to young people who want to build innovative solutions to current social issues.
- **UN at 72, October 24, 2017** - The 72nd anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reflect, look at the history of this organization and analyze its achievements. Together with the international community, the United Nations needs to multiply its efforts to cope with current and future challenges in the three pillars of its work: peace and security, development and human rights. The UN Youth Association of Romania - Constanta Branch organized the "UN at 72 - Refugees: Towards a Better World" event to celebrate the 72th anniversary of the UN. Invited to this conference was assistant lecturer, PhD Gabriel Stelian Manea.
- **62 years of Romania's membership at the UN, December 18, 2017** - The UN Youth Association of Romania - Constanta Branch organized a conference marking the 62 years since its status as a UN member of Romania. The guest of this conference was assistant lecturer, PhD Adrian Herța.
- **UN Youth Constanța Christmas, November 23 - December 20, 2017** - On the eve of the holiday, the humanitarian campaign "UN Youth Constanta Christmas", organized by the UN Youth Constanta and the Faculty of History and Political Science, carried out its last and most important stage, and the end was a happy one because the modest intentions of the initiators were overtaken by the large number of those who wanted to donate clothes, footwear, food or toys. The contribution of the latter was as consistent as possible, and for almost a month the organizers' most optimistic expectations were overcome. At the end of the campaign, a group

of students and members of the UN Youth Constanta distributed the packages for five families, about twenty children from Săcele village.

- **„Resolution 827 of 1993”, February 22, 2018** - The UN Youth Association - Constanta Branch organized the conference on Resolution 827 of 1993 "International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)". Speaker: Assistant professor, PhD Emanuel Plopeanu.
- **Training Model United Nations, April 21, 2018.** A training session was held in Constanta on a Model United Nations conference. We enjoyed the presence of Ioana Dospinescu and Valentin Florea, who have a rich experience in such events.
- On **April 23, 2018**, a workshop on the **Social Impact Award** was held in Constanta. UN Youth Constanta was a partner of the event. The Social Impact Award is a competition for social business ideas and an educational program for young people who want to make a change in society in a constructive way.
- On **April 26, 2018**, the conference "**Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Syrian Conflict**" was held. Speaker was assistant lecturer, PhD Adrian Herța. For implementing the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), based in The Hague, Netherlands, was established. At present, 192 States are part of the CWC and are members of the OPCW. The mandate of the OPCW is to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons and to verify the implementation by States Parties of the provisions of the CWC, including by inspections. By the Convention, the States Parties undertake to give up chemical weapons definitively, a primary objective of destroying existing stocks and production facilities.
- **Future Makers - Entrepreneurship Workshop - May 12, 2018**, the first edition of the Future Makers workshop was held in Constanta. The young participants at the event found a space of conversation about how different industries will evolve and what types of solutions need to be built today that will be sustainable in the future. They also learned more about how to apply in the competition and what types of ideas are looking for Future Makers.
- **UN at 73, October 24, 2018** - The UN Youth Association of Romania - Constanta Branch organized the "UN at 73" event in partnership with the Faculty of History and Political Science. The subject of the discussion was the sustainable development objective

number 4: Quality Education. Invited to this conference was assistant lecturer, PhD Georgiana Țăranu.

- **National Council, Constanta, 2-4 November 2018** - The National Council of the UN Youth Association of Romania was organized for the second time in Constanta.

Annually, in October and April, recruitments take place in the Constanța branch.

You can find us here:

- UN Youth Association of Romania
<http://www.unyouth.ro/en/home-2/>
- UN Youth Association of Romania - Constanța Branch
<http://www.constanta.unyouth.ro/index.php>
- Facebook: UN Youth Association of Romania - Constanța Branch
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