



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF REHABILITATION CENTRES  
FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

# Towards global health: Refugees and victims of torture in Europe today

THE 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK  
BUCHAREST, 12-14<sup>th</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2017



WE  
CARE!

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Gesundheit

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages





## 16th Annual Meeting of the European Network



organised by



Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
of Health

on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



**Sunday, November 12, 2017**

Romanian Athenaeum, 1-3 Benjamin Franklin St., Bucharest

10.30 – 12.00

**Visit to the ICAR rehabilitation centre and exchange and discussion with colleagues**

*Address: Unirii 70 Boulevard, Bloc J5, sector 3, Bucharest  
(near ZEPTER building)*

14.00 – 15.00

**Registration at Romanian Athenaeum**

15.00 – 15.15

**Welcome**

*Camelia Doru, ICAR Foundation*

*Elise Bittenbinder, Chair of the European Network*

*Facilitator: Mr Andrei Dimitriu, Director of G.Enescu Philharmonic*

15.15 – 15.45

**Celebration of 25 Years of ICAR Foundation**

**‘ICAR – 25 years of Rehabilitation work: Torture in the Romanian space under communist rule – from 1945-2017’**

*Emil Constantinescu, Former President of Romania*

*Radu Preda, Head of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of Romanian Exile*

*Germina Nagăţ, Researcher at the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives*

*Camelia Doru, President ICAR Foundation*

15.45 – 17.00

**‘ICAR Foundation – the lonely runner’**

**Welcoming words by other guest speakers**

*Ludmila Popovici, RCTV Memoria, Moldova*

*Teodor Mărieş, President `Association 21 of December’*

*Octav Bjoza, President of Former Political Prisoners Association*



## Launching of a Romano-Romanian interactive memorial project

17.00 – 17.15

*Coffee break*

17.15 – 17.45

### **Greetings to the Conference:**

#### **‘Towards global health: Refugees and victims of torture in Europe today’**

**Roxana Hainagiu**, Counsellor, Romanian Ministry of Health

**Eleodor Pîrvu**, Deputy Director of Asylum and Integration Directorate, Romanian Ministry of Interior

**Tomnița Florescu**, Deputy Mayor of Bucharest

**Ortwin Schulte**, Head of Unit Health Policy at the Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union, Brussels

17.45 – 18.00

*Press, Photographs*

18.00 – 19.30

### **Reception at Romanian Athenaeum**

*Informal exchange by finger food*



**Monday, November 13, 2017**

IBIS Parliament Hotel, 82-84 Izvor street, Bucharest

09.00 – 09.15

### **Introduction**

*Chairperson Nimisha Patel*

09.15 – 10.00

### **Keynote Speech**

**‘What role does MHPSS play in the context of forced displacement?’**

*Marianna Knirsch, Senior Policy Officer, Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*

10.00 – 11.00

### **Presentations from European Centres/ Initiatives:**

**Current state of health and social care services for refugees and torture survivors among refugees in Europe today**

*Spain: José Hormigo Ramos, SiR[a] Center*

*Poland: Maria Ksiazak, CVPP*

*Turkey: Levent Abbasoğlu, TOHAV*

*Denmark: Morten Sodemann*

*Germany: Dorothee Bruch, XENION*

11.00 – 11.30

*Coffee break*

11.30 – 12.15

### **Panel Discussion**

**‘Competing challenges in times of crisis: Rehabilitation for refugees and survivors of torture in Europe’**  
presented by *Chairperson Elise Bittenbinder*

12.15 – 13.00

### **Keynote Speech**

**‘Mass refugee movement in the Middle East and rehabilitation for refugees and victims of torture: Lessons learned in Lebanon’**

*Suzanne Jabbour, Director, RESTART Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and Violence*



13.00 – 14.15

Lunch at IBIS Hotel

14.15 – 16.00

### Workshops

**‘Lessons learnt in Europe: 30 years of working with refugee survivors of torture’**

**WS 1: Early access to care: Wishful thinking or reality?**

**Sibel Ağrali**, Centre Primo Levi, France; **Facilitator: Heinz-Jochen Zenker**

**WS 2: Inclusion of refugee communities and impact on health: Discussion**

**Sibel Atasayi & Nimisha Patel**, Organizing Committee EURONET

**WS 3: Prevention of long-term sequels of torture (e.g. chronicity, somatisation, cross-generational transmission): Helpful interventions**

**Ludmila Popovici**, RCTV Memoria, Moldova; **Facilitator: Camelia Doru**

**WS 4: Providing services to vulnerable refugees (communities, families, unaccompanied minors survivors of gender-based violence and torture)**

**Aisling Hearn**, Spirasi, Ireland; **Facilitator: David Rhys Jones**

**WS 5: Securing funding for direct services and related activities: Needs, expectations, challenges**

**Victor Madrigal-Borloz**, IRCT, Denmark; **Facilitator: Elise Bittenbinder**

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30

### Feedbacks from workshops and closing reflections

**Elise Bittenbinder**

**David Rhys Jones**

19.00

Dinner at IBIS Hotel



**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

IBIS Parliament Hotel, 82-84 Izvor street, Bucharest

09.00 – 09.45

### **Keynote Speech**

**‘The Role of the EU in health policy and in health system development?’**

*Ortwin Schulte, Head of Unit Health Policy at the Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union, Brussels*

09.45 – 10.30

### **Panel Discussion**

**‘Framing the health consequences of torture as a public health concern: Why? Benefits and risks? How?’**

- **Representative of Doctors of the World:**  
*Heinz-Jochen Zenker*
- **Member Steering Committee of EURONET:** *Camelia Doru*
- **IRCT:** *Victor Madrigal-Borloz*
- **Legal perspective from Dignity, Denmark:** *Ergun Çakal*

10.30 – 11.00

*Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.45

### **Workshops**

**‘Challenges, opportunities and risks of framing health consequences of torture as a public health issue’**

#### **WS 1: Health professionals/ Interpreters**

*Laurent Subilia, Fondation Autonomia et Association, Switzerland & Chakiba Marcolan*

#### **WS 2: Health professionals**

*Sibel Ağrali, Centre Primo Levi, France*

#### **WS 3: Lawyers**

*Ergun Çakal, Dignity, Denmark*

#### **WS 4: Managers**

*Ludmila Popovici, RCTV Memoria, Moldova*

#### **WS 5: Psychosocial care professionals**

*Elena Pătrăteanu, ICAR, Romania*



12.45 – 14.00

*Lunch at IBIS Hotel*

14.00 – 15.30

**Feedbacks from workshops and closing plenary**

**Open discussion: ‘Where do we go from here as an European Network?’**

***Chairperson David Rhys Jones***

15.30 – 15.45

*Coffee break*

15.45 – 16.30

**Closing remarks**

***Elise Bittenbinder***

***Camelia Doru***

***Nimisha Patel***

***David Rhys Jones***







## Guest Speakers



**Emil Constantinescu**  
**President of Romania 1996 – 2000**

Emil Constantinescu is professor emeritus and Honorary President of Bucharest University Senate, he currently is President of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization in Bucharest, member of the Board of Trustee World Academy of Art and Science and of the Board of Directors of many prestigious international organizations.

After the fall of the communist dictatorship he is elected rector of the University of Bucharest (1992–1996), president of the National Council of Rectors in Romania (1992–1996), member of the Permanent Committee of the Association of European Universities – CRE (1992–1993; 1994–1998) and of the International Association of University Presidents – IAUP (1994–1996). During his presidential mandate (1996–2000) Romania has engaged in a large scale process of reform in economy, justice and administration. President Constantinescu opens the crucial way for Romania towards NATO and EU.

Upon the end of his presidential term (December 2000), Emil Constantinescu resumed his academic career and made further steps to consolidate the nongovernmental organizations role. In his capacity of member in the International Advisory Council of Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington and of President of Romanian Foundation for Democracy he has initiated the project „Fort 13 Jilava. Totalitarianism Memorial: Repression and Resistance”; „Coposu Centenary”; „Wings, a project for civic society solidarity to complete the Monument of Anti-Communism Fight”, he has also organized the „21st Congress of the International Association of Former Political Prisoners and of Communism Victims in Eastern Europe (INTERASSO)” in Bucharest.

For his activity in the democratic reforms, enforcing the rule of law and global peace, Emil Constantinescu received numerous international distinctions, among them: Aristide Calvani Prize for Peace, Democracy and Human Development – Paris, 1997; European Statesman of the Year for “Integrity, humanitarianism and vision”, East West Institute – New York 1998; European Prize, Coudenhove-Kalergi Foundation, for his role as actor of building Europe and stability in Central and Eastern Europe –Vienna, 1998; American Bar Association Prize for exceptional achievements in promoting the rule of law – Atlanta, 1999; Ambrose Vollard Prize for the education of professional and moral elites – Madrid, 2011; Gusi Peace Prize, the most important prize awarded in Asia – Manila, 2013; Lifetime Achievements Award – Institute for Cultural Diplomacy Berlin, 2013.



**Andrei Dimitriu**

Andrei Dimitriu graduated Politehnica of Bucharest. He was Secretary of state and President of the Romanian Agency for Development during the Democratic Convention. Ideologically he belongs to the Christian democracy. He was the President and General Director of the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company. Since March 2010, he has been the General Director of “George Enescu” Philharmonic. The Director of “George Enescu” Philharmonic, Andrei Dimitriu, believes that in the

Athenaeum music takes the listener directly into the atmosphere of the Greek ancient temples. He also believes in the crucial role of the intellectual elite in imposing in the public life the axiology of the free and democratic world. From the moment he became Director, the Philharmonic has hosted several cultural and artistic events. He is best known for the rigorous way in which he selects the events to happen at the Athenaeum. A special place was given to those events linked with our recent history and which have had a major impact upon Romanian society.

**Radu Preda** is a Romanian theologian, professor at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca. He studied at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Bucharest (1991-1995), followed by doctoral studies at Heidelberg, Paris and Rome. He attended a postdoctoral program in Thessaloniki and was a guest professor at the Universities of Mainz, Paris, Vienna, Florence and Hannover. He is the author and publisher of numerous volumes and articles published in Romania and abroad. He founded the first and only chair, so far, of Orthodox social theology (the ethics of the Eastern Church) in Romania. Since May 2014, Radu Preda is the executive president of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile.



**Germina Nagât**

Germina Nagât studied philosophy and history at the University of Bucharest. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. in philosophy (1999) and also post-graduate studies at Cambridge University – UK (1990) and Central European University in Budapest (1997). From 1991 to 2000 she worked as scientific researcher for the Institute of Philosophy at the Romanian Academy and lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy in Bucharest. Since 2001 she runs the Investigation

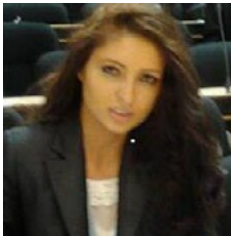
Department at the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives. In 2006, she was appointed to join the team of experts and authors of the Official Report released by the Presidential Committee for the Analysis of Communist Dictatorship in Romania. In 2013, she was awarded the Annual Prize of the Group for the Social Dialogue in Bucharest.



### **Octav Bjoza**

Born in Iași, 1938. He graduated the High School in Brasov and was expelled from the University at the end of the first year because he was involved with 14 other students in anti-communist organizations. He was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and forced labour, 10 years of civilian degradation and property confiscation. The penalties being excessively high, in 1962 the imprisonment period was reduced to 4 years. He was transferred to different prisons: Codlea, Gherla, Galati, Braila, Vacaresti and Jilava, the labor

camps of Brăila, Strâmba, Stoienești and Salcia, the Danube Delta as “Bacul 4” and Periprava. Released on June 23, 1962. In 1966 he was accepted to the Faculty of Electro-mechanics at the University of Brasov, which he graduated in 1972. After 1989, he was involved in many civil society activities, received medals, honorary titles in Romania and abroad. In 2008, he was elected as president of the Romanian Association of Former Political Prisoners. Since 2016 Deputy Secretary of State for problems regarding the revolutionaries.



### **Roxana Hainagiu**

Roxana studied European and international affairs and European Administration in Cluj Napoca UBB University and SNSPA, Bucharest. She started her career soon after graduation, at end 2007 as counsellor for EU affairs at the Ministry of Health. In 2011, she became the coordinator of the EU affairs and International Relations Unit of the Ministry of Health and three years later she became personal adviser of the Minister of Health (2014-2015). Currently, she

works as personal advisor of the secretary of state Dr. Cristian Grasu, Ministry of Health.



### **Eleodor Pirvu**

Eleodor studied Law at the Police Academy Bucharest and he graduated in 2000. Since then (with a short time missing) he worked at the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration in different positions. He started his career as research officer on specific countries about political, human rights, humanitarian situations. For almost two years (2011 – 2013) he was in the position of programme director at European Centre for the Rights of children with disabilities where he promoted their rights and facilitated their access to assistance and protection. In 2012 he returned to the General Inspectorate for Immigration as Head of Integration, Assistance, Centres Coordination and Resettlement

Department. Since 2016 he is Deputy Director - Asylum and Integration Directorate within General Inspectorate for Immigration.



**Teodor Doru Mărieș.**

Teodor Doru Mărieș is a civic anti-Communist activist from Bucharest, president of the Association „21 of December”.

Since 1989, he was involved in many activities aiming to find the truth about the killings and other serious human rights abuses during the Romanian revolution. Part of the marathon protest meeting at the University Square in 1990, he was arrested in June and declared hunger strike (46 days) while imprisoned. The president of Romania at that time, Iliescu, accused him of two “coup d’état” attempts.

In 1992, he enrolled in the Association 21 of December and become its president in 2002. In May 2011, he won a court case against Romania at European Court of Human Rights because he was under secret services surveillance in 1990. Through his tireless actions the files of the crimes regarding the events from the 1989- 1990 have been re-opened, also as a decision of the ECHR. These days the former Romanian president Iliescu is indicted for crimes against humanity, the penal case is ongoing.



**Tomnița Florescu**

Tomnița Florescu is member of the Bucharest City council from the party Liberals and Democrats Alliance. She is architect and professor at the University of Architecture and Urban Planning „Ion Mincu”, interior design and projects section – Bucharest. Since 2016, she is the Deputy Mayor of Bucharest. Tomnita is a board member of ICAR foundation since 1992.



**Ortwin Schulte**

Since 2017, Mr. Ortwin Schulte is head of Unit Health Policy at the Representation of Germany to the European Union. Previously he held several positions within the Federal Ministry of Health in Germany such as Head of Unit “Bilateral Health Relations” (2007-2016), Head of Task Force “German EU Presidency” (2005-2007). From 2001 to 2005, he was head of Unit Health Policy at the Federal Chancellor’s Office of Gerhard Schröder.

(Ortwin Schulte is also the Keynote-Speaker Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>)



## Speakers / Resource Persons



**Marianna Knirsch**

Marianna Knirsch, Senior policy officer, Division 321 – “Tackling the root causes of displacement, supporting refugees”, works since 2015 for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Her Previous work experience includes working for a number of German and International NGOs in Africa, the Middle East, Asia/Pacific and Latin America. Specific fields of expertise include: International Development, Humanitarian Aid

especially in complex emergencies, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, cooperation with business, politics and civil society and Corporate Social Responsibility. Marianna holds a Master of Business Administration from Durham University, and a Diploma in Politics/ Economics/ History/ Portuguese and Spanish from the University of Cologne.



**Maria Książak**

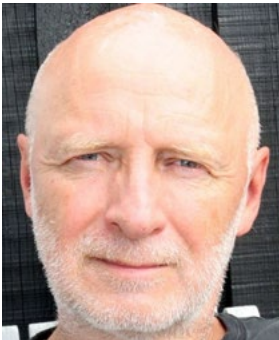
Maria studied psychology and afterwards crisis intervention. She is a founder of International Humanitarian Initiative Foundation. Spent 5 years working in Russia (North Caucasus) helping civilian victims of military conflict in Chechnya, since 2009 she worked to help to establish the first psychological service for tortured migrants in Poland. She also participated as trainer in programs in Georgia, Ukraine and since 2016 works partly in Belarus with victims of torture pushed back from EU borders. Currently, she works as psychologist and coordinator of the Polish Centre for Torture Survivors and as an Expert on Torture

Prevention Mechanism for Poland and was nominated an Expert on Migration to the Human Right Defender of Poland.



**Levent Abbasoğlu**

Levent studied medicine at Istanbul University, Cerrahpaşa Faculty. Since 2010, he works for TOHAV (Foundation for Society and Legal Studies), an organisation that works for human rights, minorities, women rights, refugees, migrants and victims of torture for 23 years. He works as coordinator doctor at the torture and rehabilitation center and as medical doctor at refugee health project.



**Morten Sodemann**

Morten Sodemann is senior consultant in infectious diseases, department of infectious diseases at Odense University Hospital, Denmark. He is professor of global and migrant health at University of Southern Denmark. Since 1987, longitudinal community and population health studies in Guiné-Bissau and Uganda. Started the Migrant Health outpatient clinic at Odense University Hospital in 2008. He is Vice chairman of the Danish Society for Migrant health, chairman of Globalhealthminders thinknet. He is involved in post doc training in cross disciplinary clinical skills and has established a migrant health curriculum at the medical school, University of Southern Denmark.



**Dorothee Bruch**

Dorothee Bruch moved to Oldenburg (the northeast North of Germany) where she studied educational science and social work (diploma). In addition, she has completed a training in systemic therapy. Since then she is engaged in various local and transnational networks, projects and initiatives against racism and sexism. Since 2001, she lives in Berlin, working as social worker/ counsellor/ legal adviser at XENION e.V. and is also supervisor for professionals and activists in the antiracist field. In 2007, with several other people from Berlin she founded “borderline-europe-human rights without borders”. Since 2015, she is also active in Bühne für Menschenrechte which is a stage for human rights. She is fighting for: Open borders, because freedom of movement is everybody's right.



### **Suzanne Jabbour**

Suzanne Jabbour is the Chief Executive officer of Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture-Lebanon. From 2012 to 2016, she served as the President of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) Copenhagen, Denmark. Concurrent to her duties, Mr. Jabbour was elected member and Vice-chairperson of the United Nations Subcommittee on prevention of torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) – Geneva from 2011 till 2016.

Starting 2004, Suzanne has initiated her work on monitoring places of detention in Lebanon, and became an International expert in Monitoring Places of detention worldwide and in promoting the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. She has conducted numerous monitoring visits to state parties to the OPCAT with the UNSPT, including Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and MENA region since 2010. The visits involved unrestricted access to all places where persons may be deprived of their liberty, their respective installations and facilities and all relevant information. She has also advised and provided assistance to states Parties on the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanisms. Ms. Jabbour has been the manager of projects funded by National and International donors such as the European Union, the UNHCR and the UNVFVT. The projects cover many areas of focus including the Rehabilitation for Torture and trauma Survivors, psychosocial intervention for prisoners and family members in Tripoli- Lebanon Prison, capacity building for law enforcement personnel and the protection of children affected by armed conflict in Lebanon. In addition, she is a discussant in conferences and seminars; she was a guest speaker at The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, UK to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OPCAT. Suzanne is an innovative and adaptive self-starter with a relentless passion and dedication for the defense of human rights and preventing and fighting against torture with international and national governmental and NGOs. She is intrinsically motivated to set and work toward goals, reflect on progress and act upon next steps. She is exceptionally skilled in managing stress and working in difficult environment with high security concern.



### **Sibel Ağralı**

Sibel Ağralı is a founding member of the Primo Levi Center, set up 22 years ago in Paris - France, for exiles who have undergone torture and political violence in their country of origin. She studied psychology and sociology and has worked for 15 years as an interpreter in the field, for Turkish-speaking patients. For over 20 years by now, she is the director of the Center's multi-disciplinary health-care department and is actively involved in training and advocacy.





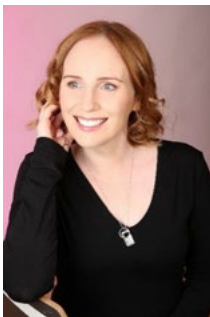
### Ludmila Popovici

Ludmila studied epidemiology, microbiology, immunology and public health in the Medical and Pharmacy University in Moldova “N.Testemitanu” and Clinical psychology in Free International University of Moldova (ULIM). She worked for 10 years as University assistant (1991-2001) and since 2000 is leading the only rehabilitation center for torture victims in Moldova. In about 17 years of work, Ludmila has gained extensive experience in rehabilitation and documentation of torture, including certification for national Courts and the ECtHR. The most known cases won in Strasburg vs Moldova are: Gurgurov, Colibaba, Tretiacov, Repescu, Taraburca, Calancea, Buhaniuc, Iurcu, Moroi, etc. In 2012 RCTV Memoria hosted the European Network Conference “Documentation of torture – providing evidence for justice” and Ludmila was an excellent organizer and speaker. In period 2012-2013, as Expert/ Country Coordinator in Moldova, for regional Project of UNICEF, Ludmila led the team for performing the Country research/Report “Monitoring of Torture and ill-treatment in context of the Juvenile Justice”.



### Heinz-Jochen Zenker

Prof. Dr. Heinz-Jochen Zenker is physician for Psychiatry, Epidemiology, Public Health and Social Medicine. He is the retired director of the Public Health Department at the Bremen City in Germany. Since 2008, he holds the position as president of Ärzte der Welt/ Médecin du Monde Germany. And since 2009, he is member of the Board of the German umbrella organization of the Psychosocial Centers for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAff e.V.). He has several publications along his field of interest such as health services for excluded populations, migration and health, international development cooperation and humanitarian crisis intervention.



### Aisling Hearn

Aisling studied psychology, cognitive science and psychotherapy in Dublin, Ireland. She has gained extensive experience in the area of trauma and cross-cultural psychotherapy in her work with Spirasi, in addition to various other organisations in Ireland. Aisling has been working in Spirasi, with victims of torture since 2013. Her current role is Therapy Coordinator which involves managing the therapy department, being part of the wider management team for the organisation, writing court reports to support clients’ asylum process, assessing new clients, and maintaining her own caseload of clients.



#### **David Rhys Jones**



David Rhys Jones has a legal background. He has worked in the asylum law field since 1986 with first the UK Immigration Advisory Service, UNHCR in Hong Kong and Thailand between 1989 and 1994; Refugee Legal Centre in London then private practice before moving into the NGO field; first as National co-ordinator for Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees then with Bail for Immigration Detainees. David worked Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture as Advocacy Officer (Refugee Issues) from January 2002 to March 2010. David was the co-author of the Medical Foundation's *Methodology Employed in the Preparation of*

*Medico-Legal Reports* with Dr Juliet Cohen. David is the leader of the working group on legal and advocacy issues for the European Network of Torture and Trauma Centres. Between March 2010 and May 2016 David was the Helen Bamber Foundation's advisor on law, policy and practice. David drafted many of the Foundation's responses to domestic and international legislation, practice and guidance in the trafficking, asylum and refugee field. David is now employed as a Legal Officer at the Helen Bamber Foundation advising clinicians at the Foundation on medico-legal matters. David is the chair of trustees of the Centre for the Study of Emotion and Law (CSEL). David is a Co-Director of Forrest Medico-Legal Services, a community interest company.

#### **Victor Madrigal-Borloz**



As Secretary General, Mr. Madrigal-Borloz serves as IRCT Chief Executive Officer, providing strategic leadership, representing the organisation globally, ensuring engagement with the membership, managing the Secretariat and ensuring adequate resources to deliver the strategic goals of IRCT. A Costa Rican jurist, he has over 18 years of experience as a human rights advocate: He was the member of the UN subcommittee for Prevention of Torture and his experience includes 9 years of Chief Litigator, Head of the Registry Section and Principal Human Rights Specialist at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington D.C., and five years as team leader at the Danish Institute of Human Rights.



**Ergun Çakal**

Ergun is a legal advisor with DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture, working primarily on projects in Asia and Africa and with thematic projects including the documentation of psychological torture. He has previously worked as a refugee lawyer, with UNHCR Turkey and the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (now Refugee Rights Turkey), and as a legal-aid lawyer in Melbourne, Australia. He studied law, politics and philosophy and holds a master of laws from the

University of Melbourne.



**Dr. Laurent Subilia**

After biological and medical studies in Geneva University, Dr. Subilia is enrolled in 1989 as medical resident in Travel and Migration Medicine Unit (UVM), Department of Community Medicine, Geneva University Hospital with a specialization in tropical medicine. He also has the responsibility of managing a consultation for asylum seekers (vaccination program and medical screening). 1995 he follows training in medical care to survivors of torture in the RCT, Copenhagen and in 1996-98 a course in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. 1995-2000 he takes part as chief resident in the development of a medical and social network providing global support for refugees' survivors

of war and torture. 2004-13, he starts and leads a Consultation for survivors of Torture and War (CTG, HUG) with the support of the Swiss Red-Cross, the UNVFTV and the Geneva University Hospital. The CTG provided a global multidisciplinary coordinated approach to the treatment of severely traumatized survivors of organized violence. Since in retired from HUG in 2013, Dr. Subilia works as medical consultant for the Association Puriels. He is the Vice-president of the Autonomia Foundation and maintains specialized clinical activities in a private practice for survivors of organized violence.



### **Elena Pătrăţeanu**

Elena studied journalism and conflict reporting and has an MA Degree in Islamic Studies from the University of Bucharest. She lived for two months in Amman (Jordan), where she built and knocked down Lego castles five hours a day with Hamza, a three-year-old boy with autism. In 2013, she stayed for 3 days in Za'atari, the second biggest refugee camp in the world at the time. During those days she decided to start working with refugees arriving in

Romania. She has attended numerous international trainings and courses on refugee health and trauma and in 2016 she has been a US State Department Professional Fellow for NGO leaders working with refugee communities in Europe. Since August 2014, she has been ICAR's go-to person for migrants in Bucharest in their interaction with public and medical institutions and in accessing social rights, offering culture-and-trauma-informed interventions with a focus on human rights and vulnerable people like survivors of torture or GBV.



## Organizing Committee



**Nimisha Patel**

Nimisha Patel is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist based in the UK. She is the Director of the International Centre for Health and Human Rights, an NGO and Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of East London, UK. Her specialist clinical, academic, research and policy areas of interest include torture; gender-based violence; individual and institutional racism; and human rights in mental health services. She has extensive experience working with survivors of torture and in developing rehabilitation services, monitoring and evaluation and interdisciplinary research and policy-related activities in this field. She has worked in NGOs, in the British National Health Service, and internationally in many countries for a number of international agencies and UN bodies. She has received several awards, including in 2011, the prestigious Award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychology by the British Psychological Society.



**Elise Bittenbinder**

Elise is the founder and director of BAfF – the German association of psychosocial and treatment centres for Refugees and Victims of Torture based in Berlin, deputy director and psychotherapist at XENION, Psychosocial center for Politically Persecuted, Berlin. She is founder and chairperson of the European Network of Rehabilitation Centres for Survivors of Torture. By training, Elise is couple & family therapist, child psychotherapist (KJP) and supervisor (DGSv). Besides her extensive years of expertise working with survivors of torture and human rights violations she works as trainer, senior consultant and supervisor in projects in the Middle East. She has received the Diotima award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Psychotherapy by the German Chamber of Psychotherapists.



**Annette Kieser**

Annette studied at the Freie Universität Berlin and holds a diploma in Geography. She successfully completed a further training in project management and has long experience in coordinating and implementing of national and international projects and conferences. Since 2008, she works for the German umbrella organization of the Psychosocial Centers for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAfF e.V.).



**Sibel Atasay**

Sibel studied psychology, public and international affairs in Heidelberg and Princeton University. She has gained extensive experience in mediation and national dialogue processes in post-conflict countries through working for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Common Space Initiative (CSI) in Lebanon and for the Berghof Foundation in Berlin and Turkey. Since 2015, she works as a psychotherapist with migrants, refugees and survivors of torture. Currently, she works for the German umbrella organization of the Psychosocial Centers for Refugees and

Victims of Torture (BAfF e.V.) and for its member organization Xenion e.V. – Psychotherapeutic counselling and treatment centre for traumatized refugees and survivors of torture in Berlin. Besides providing psychosocial and psychotherapeutic counselling to mainly Afghan refugees and survivors of torture, she works as a psychotherapist at the German umbrella organization for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in Berlin.



**Daniela Krebs**

Daniela studied journalism and communication studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Hamburg. She has worked as a freelance journalist for several newspapers and news agencies before starting to take on more and more public relations work. For the Heinrich-Boell-Foundation Brandenburg she coordinated the PR work and lead workshops with the main focus on diversity management and work against right-wing extremism. She is responsible for the

public relations and the maintenance of the homepage and social media channels for the BAfF.



**Melissa Tosun**

Melissa studies Sociology and Psychology at the Martin-Luther-University in Halle (Saale). Throughout various volunteer projects, national as well as international, she has gained experience in working with vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied minor refugees and women. She is completing an internship at the German umbrella organization of the Psychosocial Centers for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAfF e.V.) in Berlin.



**Camelia Doru**

Camelia Doru is medical doctor and founder of ICAR in 1992. Specialised in Intensive care and anaesthesiology, she practised in several hospitals in Romania. In 1990 she had a scholarship in Switzerland for 6 months. Many training courses in the field of health and human rights followed. Her vision about bringing a change in Romania after the shift from dictatorship to democracy materialised in her engagement in the relevant activities at the civil society level where she brought professionalism, imagination, courage and perseverance. She built organisations, created services, shared her experience and stayed loyal to the values she believed in: solidarity, respect of human dignity, justice, freedom and a deep love for her country (“The European civilisation was born in my mother’s courtyard, in the middle of Carpathian mountains”).



**Irina Conduruță**

Irina graduated the Law School and specialised in European Law, at Bucharest University. She has more than 14 years of experiences in project implementation, event organizing, and training programmes and in co-coordinating multidisciplinary and multicultural project teams. Through her work, she developed strong communication and interpersonal skills, dynamic and flexible attitude with energy to meet new challenges. She is working with ICAR Foundation since 2006 as a documentarist, project coordinator or legal counsellor. Currently, she is coordinating the activities of three projects implemented by ICAR Foundation, related to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection (financed through AMIF programme and ERASMUS +).



**Octavian Doru**

Octav graduated the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Faculty of Commerce. Before 1989 he worked for several state companies. After ‘89, when in Romania a change of political regime took place, he moved to the private sector and became active in the establishment of various associations and foundations (e.g. Euromedia-Bucharest, Romanian Anti-Totalitarian Forum, ICAR Foundation, Memoria Association-Chisinau etc). Since 1993 he is the Financial Manager of ICAR Foundation. Over the years, he enriched his professional experience by participating in different workshops, professional exchanges and trainings courses (IRCT training seminars - Copenhagen, USAID Financial Management Training and Information for PVO Worldwide - Washington DC etc). Octav is having today a valuable expertise in managing EU and international funded projects (budgeting, planning, reporting, training new staff, organising seminars, conferences, staff exchanges etc).



**Notes:**









