

***Joint Declaration***

**between**

**the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden**

**and**

**the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly of Romania**

Building on existing forms of cooperation at EU-level Sweden and Romania seek to strengthen their cooperation in the field of social policy by signing this declaration. This cooperation could include exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices and the promotion of common projects. This cooperation will focus on children's rights, gender equality, social welfare and social security.

Sweden and Romania are determined to jointly contribute to the fulfillment of the European Union's common values, principles and objectives.

**1. Cooperation in the field of children's rights by:**

- Exchange of good practice and expertise to strengthen the protection of the child and promote the best interest of the child;
- Exchange of good practices and expertise in respect to the community based services provided to the families with children at risk;
- Recalling Article 3 of the Treaty of the European Union and work together to enhance the rights of the child at EU-level.

## **2. Cooperation in the field of social welfare and social security by:**

- Exchange of good practice and expertise in the field of social inclusion and reintegration;
- Exchange of good practice and expertise in the area of establishing sustainable social protection systems in particular pension systems;
- Exchange of good practices and expertise in the field of persons with disabilities.

## **3. Cooperation in the field of gender equality by:**

- Exchange of experience and good practices on policies to enhance gender equality in the labour market, including policies for reconciliation of professional, family and private life, and measures to close the gender pay gap;
- Exchange of good practice and expertise on implementing gender mainstreaming in the public sector, including Government offices and national authorities;
- Exchange of experience and good practices on policies to combat gender based violence, including sexual violence.

Cooperation under this declaration may take the following forms; exchange of information and knowledge; exchange of experts; participation in conferences and other events; joint projects and training of staff.

The cooperation under this declaration also aims to promote and facilitate cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the two countries.

For the promotion of the cooperation under this joint declaration a joint working group could be established. This group would meet regularly in order to have in-depth discussions on topics of mutual interest concerning social welfare and gender equality policies and, where applicable, elaborate proposals on joint projects.

The Signing Ministries recognize that cooperation is important in contributing to the positive relationship between them and are willing to promote further

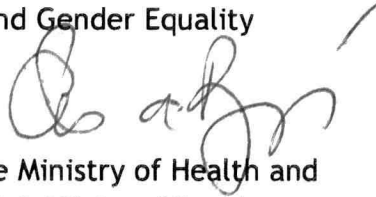
cooperation in the fields mentioned above and to discuss to further broaden their cooperation.

The declaration is not intended to create any legally binding rights or obligations.

Signed in Bucharest on the June, the 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 in duplicate in the English language.

Åsa Regnér

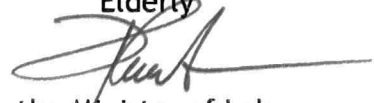
Minister for Children, the Elderly  
and Gender Equality



For the Ministry of Health and  
Social Affairs of Sweden

Rovana Plumb

Minister of Labour, Family,  
Social Protection and  
Elderly



For the Ministry of Labour,  
Family, Social Protection  
and Elderly of Romania