

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Romania

RO-LOCALDEV Local Development and Poverty Reduction, Enhanced Roma
Inclusion

2021

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the [National reform programme 2021](#), the main objectives of Romania in the coming years are: strengthening the national social assistance system (in order to ensure the access of all categories of vulnerable people to efficient and quality social services), preventing and combating early school leaving and fostering an inclusive approach in education (by supporting rural pupils and disadvantaged groups such as Roma, consolidating the administrative capacity through decentralization and professionalization of the public administration personnel and strengthening the culture of transparency and participatory governance represents. These objectives are based on the existing situation and remain major problems at national level, also due to the fact that in some cases worsened during the pandemic, namely the high level of poverty and the limited access of the vulnerable people to social and public services.

As the Local Development Programme responds to all these key areas of intervention set up at national level, its implementation has benefitted of constant support throughout 2021, both from the Government and from all the other key stakeholders: Donor States, through the Financial Mechanism Office, the Programme Partners (the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe), ministries and other government structures and civil society entities represented in the Steering Committee of the Programme Operator, and in particular the Ministry of European Investments and Projects, through the National Focal Point. The changes at governmental level that took place in 2021 did not affect significantly the Programme Operator's activity, autonomous status and responsibilities. Also, there were no legislative changes to affect its activity and the funding flow has been stable and adequate from all donors. Significant risks in this regard are not foreseen in the next period either.

The biggest challenge during 2021 remained the pandemic context, which aggravated the socio-economic situation in Romania, making the Local Development Programme an important tool in improving the situation of vulnerable groups. In order to achieve the goals of the Programme, and also to mitigate the implications of the pandemic on the implementation of the Programme and the funded projects, the Programme Operator continued to improve its working procedures so as to ensure effective communication with the Project Promoters and to provide them with the necessary support in adapting the project activities to the pandemic context and in recovering delays in their implementation. The Programme Operator team has been enlarged (being almost at its full capacity), in the areas where it was found necessary to increase the support provided to the Project Promoters, the procedures were made clearer and more flexible and the assistance offered in the implementation of the projects was intensified.

The process of monitoring was gradually becoming the most important activity of the Programme Operator, as some projects have already entered the second year of implementation. The monitoring process involved both a constant communication with the Project Promoters, revision of the progress/ interim reports, as well as field visits, during which technical, financial and procurement aspects were verified. This process included a strong support component, as constant advices and assistance was provided to all the Project Promoters in order to analyse the existing situations and come forward with the best

approaches, very often meaning project readjustment, activities replenishment, revision of budget within the approved grant, etc., all implying the Programme Operator's analyse and agreement. For example, the pre-defined project implemented by the Romanian National University for Physical Education and Sports (UNEFS) has benefited from the Programme Operator's support in its efforts to adapt the activities to the existing legislative and epidemiological contexts; it required budgetary and methodological changes. The chosen project approach was to ensure continuous support to the target group regardless the educational method in place, by providing hot meals and sports equipment to children, organising individual or group online meetings with project specialists and sport personalities. As a result of switching most of the activities online, a lower absorption of funds is registered at project level, so the diversification of the project activities portfolio and the extension of the implementation period were measures taken into consideration together by the Project Promoter and Programme Operator, measures that will need further readjustments, in order to maximise the benefits for the target groups.

In this difficult national (and international) pandemic context, with all 7 planned calls for projects closed and 76 projects funded, with more than 90% of the Programme funds budgeted for funding projects contracted (about 73 million, out of about 80 million available) and few other projects already selected/ on the reserve list, the Programme has made significant progress in 2021, entering in an even more advanced stage of implementation. It could be noticed a slight shift in the Programme activities from launching calls and contracting projects (2018-2020) to monitoring the implementation of the contracted projects, tendency that would be even more visible starting with 2022.

Within the projects implemented under the Children and Youth at Risk area, out of the 10,500 children and youth at risk of early-school leaving targeted by the Programme, more than half (5,477 - about 52%) already started to receive services by the end of 2021. Significant progress was also made in providing support to children and youth with special education needs: out of the 1,500 targeted by the Programme, 659 (about 44%) starting to benefit of specific services by the end of 2021. On the other hand, under the Local Development and Poverty Reduction area, about a quarter (3,793 out of the 15,000) of the persons belonging to vulnerable groups targeted by the Programme received personalised services (information, counselling, social, education and medical services, support for employment etc.). 2021 was also the first year of effective implementation of Roma inclusion projects funded under the Programme. By the end of the year, Roma people from 14 counties, belonging to vulnerable groups, have benefited from services through the funded projects. For example, 569 (7.6% of the total of 7,500 Roma targeted by the Programme) received educational services, two awareness campaigns on Roma inclusion were carried out, reaching 1,671 people (of which 597 Roma), while 160 representatives of Roma communities benefited from empowerment measures.

In many cases, these results have been achieved with a consistent support provided by project partners from the Donor States. About a quarter (18 out of 76) of the projects contracted under the Programme by the end of 2021 are donor partnership projects, with a higher percentage in the case of pre-defined projects (2 out of 3 contracted projects are donor partnership projects, the third one being implemented with the support of an international organisation), projects financed within the restricted call on poverty reduction (2 out of 3) and projects

financed under the programme area Children and Youth at Risk (60%). The 18 donor partnership projects contracted have partners exclusively from Norway. The training sessions, workshops and study visits organized under these projects facilitated an important flow of information and experiences among partners, by the end of 2021, 36 specialists from Romania (out of the 200 estimated – 18%) and 15 Norwegian experts (out of the 30 estimated – 50%) being involved in such bilateral exchanges.

The most relevant results reached by the Programme and by its funded projects represented the main pillar on which the communication process was built in 2021. The fact that 2021 was a year of intermediary results on many of the inclusive education and Roma inclusion projects influenced the act of communication. Along the „classic” instruments of communication such as press-release, paid press announcements, website materials, online informative seminars and social media posts, the monthly electronic informative newsletter brought the impact of the projects closer to the public through two new types of articles, an interview with members of the project teams and a real “story” of a beneficiary reached by the project interventions. The success of the newsletter is measured by the number of new subscribers; in 2021, their number increased with more than 40%. A new communication tool used by the Programme in 2021 was a field visit of journalists in communities targeted by the projects, visit which highlighted in 5 published articles the importance of the Programme and of the EEA and Norway Grants for the improvement of the situation of beneficiaries, whether we are talking about communities as a whole or, more specific, about the education of pre-schoolers and schoolchildren or the medical and housing situation of adults.

Both the interest shown by the potential beneficiaries to each call for project proposals launched under the Programme and the need to successively change the initial financial allocation for each call, based on the demand (an important number of projects being placed on the reserve list), have shown the interest for continuing the strong focus on supporting children and young people at risk, social inclusion in Roma communities, as well as integrated services aimed at reducing poverty at local level through local development measures. On the other hand, the fact that, due to the pandemic situation, some of the projects’ activities with the target groups were slowed down or even postponed, which led to a lower level (than planned) of spending the funds by the contracted projects, demonstrated the importance of a flexible approach to project financing (procedures as flexible as possible, by allowing dynamic adjustments, depending on the local, national and international context), the need for a better targeted support to the Project Promoters and the need to be aware of possible project extensions. The pandemic context strongly affected the bilateral activities, as well the level of interaction with donor partners, both at project level and at programme level being lower than planned and expected, impacting also the used of bilateral funds.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

At national level, the high level of poverty and the limited access of vulnerable people to social and public services remain critical problems in Romania, which worsened during the pandemic. According to the draft of the 2021-2027 National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Combating, Romania aims to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

by at least 7% by 2027, compared to 2020. On the other hand, strengthening the national social assistance system to ensure the access of all categories of vulnerable people to efficient and quality social services is a key direction of the [National reform programme 2021](#). Strengthening administrative capacity through decentralization, professionalization of the public administration personnel, and strengthening the culture of transparency and participatory governance are seen as key elements that can contribute to this goal, these representing other essential objectives of the National reform programme. The document emphasises also the need to digitized public services, which has already been accelerated by the pandemic context and the restrictions associated with it (for example, new regulations have been introduced regarding the working relations and operating documents and most importantly, the relations with state institutions), a situation that - as a positive effect - boosted public administration reform to some extent.

According to the special report [Combating child poverty – Better targeting of Commission support required](#), published in 2020, in 2018, Romania had the highest percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) in the EU (38.1%),. Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the situation of children and young people already at risk has begun to deteriorate, especially in terms of access to education. According to the report [FRANET National contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2021 - Romania](#), the closure of schools and the decision to continue education through distance learning over the internet left approximately 900,000 students (32% of the total number of students) in pre-university education system with little or no access to education. In this context, preventing and combating early school leaving and fostering an inclusive approach in education, by supporting rural pupils and disadvantaged groups are major objectives of the National reform programme 2021.

Regarding children and young people with disabilities, the [Diagnosis of the situation of persons with disabilities in Romania](#), published in 2021 by the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions (ANDPDCA), indicates that they continue to face problems such as limited access to employment, vocational training programs, community social services necessary for independent living, quality education for all levels of pre-university education, cultural activities, sports, tourism, etc.

The measures taken by the Romanian Government in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 severely affected also the Roma communities. According to the [Report of the National Agency for Roma on the need for the intervention of competent authorities for the benefit of members of vulnerable communities with Roma in the context of the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID19](#), while the pandemic has affected all marginalized Roma communities in Romania, the most affected were members of Roma communities that are highly concentrated and lack access to water, who face a high degree of poverty and who are located in municipalities that do not have sufficient financial resources to cover basic needs in emergency situations. The report highlights the need to strengthen the capacity of the social assistance system in all localities of the country to provide social services to the elderly, children, people with disabilities, people in residential and care centres, and to ensure in good conditions the payment of social benefits to citizens. On the other hand, attention is drawn to the extreme situation of the Roma, from the perspective of the risk of conflicts motivated by

racial hate, given that in the public space Roma, especially those returning from abroad, are considered the main culprits of the spread of virus in Romania.

At the same time, the Research Institute for Quality of Life, in its report [Quality of life during the pandemic: problems and response policies](#), states that Roma communities should be a priority in social policies, and emphasizes the disproportionate impact of the restrictions of movement on persons with precarious socioeconomic status. It draws attention to the risk of creating and consolidating pockets of poverty and expanding the culture of marginalization and social exclusion, and urges the Romanian authorities to give absolute priority to Roma children and young people.

The number of cases of human rights violations in Romania that have come to the attention of the [European Court of Human Rights](#) did not increase in 2021, but is still high (15 leading and 65 repetitive). The evaluations made in 2021 continue to signal problems in terms of protecting the rights of vulnerable categories, but also some relevant progress related to the situation of the victims of trafficking in human beings and regarding the prevention and combating of domestic violence.

According to the [Diagnosis of the situation of persons with disabilities in Romania](#), the main problems related to the effective protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania are their limited possibility to make decisions and limited access to the justice system. In order to be able to exercise all their rights and to make decisions about their daily lives, the laws restricting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities must be revised or repealed, a legislative framework has to be created in order to regulate decision-making support services, and these kinds of services should be piloted in certain local communities as a first step before implementing them nationwide. Regarding the access to the justice system, the report states that the institutions of the justice system (such as police precincts, prosecutor's offices, and courts) must be made accessible and that the way in which the institutions of the justice system work need to change in order to include appropriate procedures that meet the needs of persons with disabilities. Also, the state should provide free support in legal matters to all persons with disabilities who need it and it is necessary to provide training to lawyers, prosecutors, judges, police officers, and those administering penitentiaries in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities and should systematically collect data about the access of persons with disabilities to the justice system.

Regarding the access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings, the [Evaluation report](#), published by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the Council of Europe in 2021, notes that Romania has continued to develop the legislative and policy framework relevant to action against trafficking but faces problems with the frequent use of plea bargaining procedures or similar agreements, low access to financial compensation for victims, the practice of making names and addresses of victims of trafficking publicly available on judicial websites and the limited number of police investigators and prosecutors in human trafficking.

With regard to the prevention and combating of domestic violence, the monitoring mission undertaken in July 2021 by the representatives of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) in the Council of Europe noted the

institutional efforts and appreciated the commitment and dedication of the Romanian authorities regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. The relevant legal framework has been substantially and progressively improved, providing effective protection for a wide range of vulnerable people, with a focus on issuing the interim protection order as an effective measure to protect victims of domestic violence. However, the GREVIO delegation drew attention to the need: to strengthen cooperation and coordination at interinstitutional level, to support the activity of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), to focus efforts on implementing the existing legal framework, to ensure the necessary budget for the implementation of the national strategy in the area, to continue the actions to combat stereotypes and high tolerance in society in relation to domestic violence, to intensify the actions to inform the public and victims about their rights, to train the professionals acting in the field, to strengthen collaboration and partnership with NGOs and to develop integrated services for victims of sexual violence.

In order to examine the treatment of persons held in prison and police establishments, and to evaluate the measures taken by the Romanian authorities to improve their situation, in May 2021, a delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out an ad hoc visit to Romania. The conclusions of the visit have not been published yet.

Neither the changes at governmental level that took place, nor the legislative changes in 2021 did affect significantly the PO's activity, autonomous status and responsibilities. As pointed out above, the socio-economic situation in Romania in 2021, aggravated by the pandemic context, makes the Local Development Program even a more important tool in improving the situation of vulnerable groups. In order to achieve the goals of the Programme, and also to mitigate the implications of the pandemic on the implementation of the Programme and the funded projects, PO continued to improve its working procedures so as to ensure effective communication with Project Promoters and to provide them with the necessary support in adapting the project activities to the pandemic context and in recovering to the extent possible most of the delays in their implementation. The PO team was enlarged, in the areas where it was found necessary to increase the support provided to PP (project officers, procurement specialists, construction specialists, expenses verification officers), procedures were made clearer and more flexible, including by revising the Project Implementation Manual, information seminars on implementation rules were provided to the PPs and continuous assistance aimed at increasing the capacity to organise, report, respect the eligibility and implement the projects was ensured.

2. Programme results

Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma

Description and analysis of results

2021 was the first year of effective implementation of Roma inclusion projects funded under the Programme. By the end of the year, specific tools/methodologies were put in place in most of the projects and Roma people from 14 counties, belonging to vulnerable groups, had

benefited from services through the funded activities. As such, 569 (7.6% of the total of 7,500 Roma targeted by the Programme) received educational services, 38 (0.8% of the total of 4,500) received integrated services and another 22 (2.8% of the total of 800) benefited from health services. Two awareness campaigns on Roma inclusion were carried out in 2021, reaching 1,671 people, of which 597 Roma, while 160 representatives of Roma communities benefited from empowerment measures, 5 Roma experts and leaders being also trained to defend Roma rights.

These results have been achieved by the 12 Roma inclusion projects funded in the first round of the call for projects no 1 “Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment” and contracted at the end of 2020. Under the second round of the same call, launched in January 2021, 8 of the 12 approved projects were contracted, in December 2021. These projects’ contributions to the expected results of the Programme will be visible only in 2022.

The SGS1 “Priority Interventions for Roma communities” was launched in July 2021, with the deadline for submission November 15, 2021. At the end of December 2021, all the 41 projects submitted under this call were in the process of formal verification. The approved projects it is expected to be contracted by the end of the first semester of 2022.

One out of the 24 projects approved under the call no 1 “Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment” (both rounds) has a partner from Donor States, namely Sono AS from Norway (PN1014). None of the projects submitted at the small grant scheme no 1 “Priority Interventions for Roma communities” have partnered with donor state entities.

In Alba County, the project "Increasing the chances of social inclusion of Roma deprived of liberty in Aiud Penitentiary" (PN1013), conducted by Pakiv Romania Association and Aiud Penitentiary aims to contribute to the social integration of 635 persons deprived of liberty, mostly Roma, through personalized and integrated measures. In order to reduce the risk of recidivism and increase the chances for a normal life in the family and community after release, in 2021, socio-educational, pro-employment and health activities have been carried out; 200 people deprived of liberty being already included in the program, of these, 170 are Roma.

The 200 detainees were first assessed and then received personalized support program, according to their specific needs. Further, the detainees were participating at personal development activities, such as creativity and cultural-artistic workshops and in individual and group counselling and therapy programs, respectively parental counselling, in the case of detainees-parents. In addition, the beneficiaries received support services to improve their health (medical consultation, personal hygiene kit) and enter a pro-employment program that also includes participation in a professional training course. Already, 12 detainees participate, starting with November 2021, in an online qualification course in the occupation of “paver”. Also, within the project, a football championship was organized for detainees, which aimed to promote sports and health, and develop pro-social attitudes such as collaboration, respect for the rules, proper understanding and application of the notion of fair-play.

“At another level, the project aims to have a real impact in the direction of reducing discrimination, of any kind, in the penitentiary. Four awareness campaigns on the

phenomenon of discrimination as well as training programs addressed to the prison staff, regarding the work with Roma people and on anti-discrimination issues, were carried out in the project", explained Mr. Gruia Bumbu, president of the Pakiv Association and the project coordinator.

In this respect, 28 employees of the Maximum-Security Penitentiary in Aiud started the Social and Civic Competences course, which is meant to improve their skills in working with Roma people.

More information on the project is available on the dedicated social media account, <https://www.facebook.com/pn1013aiud>.

Pre-defined project(s)

There are no pre-defined projects targeting this outcome.

Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth

Description and analysis of results

Started in 2020, so being in a more advanced stage of implementation, out of the 10,500 children and youth at risk of early-school leaving targeted by the Programme, 5,477 (about 52%) started to receive services by the end of 2021 within the projects financed in this area of intervention. Progress was also made in providing support to children and youth with special education needs, 659 persons (about 44% of total number targeted within the Programme) starting to benefit of specific services.

These outputs include the results obtained within the pre-defined project covering this programme area (PNP001 - "Sustainable social and educational integration through sports activities"), as well as the results of the 12 (out of 15) projects financed under the open call no. 2 "Inclusive Education for Children and Youth in Risk" (3 projects contracts being signed in the second semester of 2021, after the approval of AA no. 5 of PA which supplemented the total allocation of outcome 2).

Within the call "Inclusive Education for Children and Youth in Risk" were submitted 117 projects, 7 projects have been approved for financing and contracted until the end of 2020. Other 12 projects were placed on a reserve list. Following the Donors approval to increase the allocated amount for this call up to 16,898,633.00 euros (according to the addenda no. 5 to the Programme Agreement), PO was able to contract another 8 projects from the reserve list. The total contracted amount is now 16,894,189.00 euros (almost double compared to initial allocation).

8 partners from Norway are involved in the implementation of 9 (60%) of the 15 projects contracted under the open call: Art for Change Foundation/ Stiftelsen Art for Change (involved in project PN2022), Save the Children Norway (PN2064), New School AS (involved in 3 projects - PN2025, PN2030 and PN2099), Terram Pacis (PN2114), Menneskerettighetsakademiet/

Human Rights Academy (PN2057), Fafo - Institute for Labour and Social Research (PN053), Universitetet i Sorost - Norge/ The University of South-Eastern Norway and Innovius AS (PN2058).

Coordinated by Save the Children as promoter, having as partners Ilfov County Centre of Educational Resources and Assistance and Save the Children Norway, the project "A school for everyone" (PN2064) have started in November 2020 and, despite the pandemic context which affected the educational process, achieved significant results. The aim of the project is to prevent early school leaving and improve the inclusion of 870 children at risk of dropping out of school and children with special educational needs, through integrated prevention and intervention services, in 4 rural communities and 2 urban communities from 4 regions of Romania.

Within the project, so far, the program Summer Kindergartens allowed a number of 97 children to improve their reading and writing abilities, to acquire skills of personal hygiene and independent living and increased the interest of parents in the education of their own children. In the School after School Programme, 293 children at risk of dropping out of school and 50 children with special educational needs benefited from integrated educational and social services. Of them, 40 children at risk of early school leaving and 47 children with special educational needs took part in personal development and counselling activities.

"Before taking part in this program, my child was more restrained in communication, shy. Now I can say that she shows more openness in expressing her wishes, in carrying out her homework and even in outlining her professional career she wants to pursue in life. In fact, she now wants to become a teacher!" said a parent of a student who participates in afterschool classes.

More information on the project is available on the dedicated webpage, <https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/ce-facem/educatie/prevenirea-abandonului-scolar/o-scoala-pentru-fiecare>.

Pre-defined project(s)

In achieving this outcome, a significant contribution has the pre-defined project "Sustainable social and educational integration through sports activities" (PNP001), implemented by the Romanian National University for Physical Education and Sports (UNEFS), the only pre-defined project funded under the Programme in this area of intervention.

Contracted in May 2019, in more than 2 years and half of implementation and despite the challenges caused by the pandemic context, the project has made important progress in achieving the objectives and expected results. By the end of 2021, 62 teachers were trained in working with children at risk of school leaving and 10 teachers were trained in working with children with special educational needs. Also, 2.034 children and young people at risk of early school leaving (from 22 counties) and 163 children and young people with special educational needs (from 15 counties) participated at project activities.

As a consequence of the measures taken at national level during the pandemic, the project had to adapt its activities to the existing legislative and epidemiological context (and even to temporarily suspend it for a period of 3 months, in 2020). That required budgetary and methodological changes (resulting in the school going periodically online). On the other hand, disruptions in the educational process have accentuated the vulnerabilities of the children in the target groups. Social distancing has increased the challenges that children from underprivileged backgrounds face to accessing education. Some of them have been left on the fringe of the educational process. Therefore, the project approach was to ensure continuous support regardless the educational method in place (face to face or online) by: providing hot meals and sports equipment to children; organising individual or group online meetings with project specialists and sport personalities; constant communication with the authorities in order to identify the best approaches and anticipate evolutions etc. During 2021, the overall number of schools where interventions took place increased from 32 to 42; while the number of schools with permanent activities remained the same (16), the number of schools with itinerant activities increased from 16 to 26.

Regarding the Norwegian partner involvement, the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo participated in 2021 in the conference to disseminate the interim results of the project, created (with students' involvement) 6 sports challenges to be posted online, participated (together with Romanian project experts) in 2 online sessions on evaluating the results of the project activities and developed the planning of joint actions with the promoter in order to motivate the main target group to stay in school activities. Also, 4 Norwegian expert from the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo participated on the UNFES workshop "Sustainable integration trough sports activities", part of the International Congress of Education health and Human Movement.

One key activity in 2021 that facilitated social interaction of children was the organisation of educational summer camps. Between July and September, 10 mountain camps and 8 seaside camps have been organised, attended by 696 children and 72 accompanying teachers. For many children, this was for the first time. The camps programme included both specialised interventions (motricity and psychological evaluation) as well as sport activities (physical exercises, trekking, orientation in nature in case of mountains camps, swimming classes in case of seaside camps, competitions with prizes) and leisure activities.

Given the lower absorption of funds caused by the pandemic related restrictions, the PP has expressed the intention to propose the diversification of the project activities portfolio and the extension of the implementation period, in order to maximise the benefits for the target groups.

In this respect, the PO pays special attention to the monitoring of this project and provides support to the PP to review the activities plan and budget in a timely manner.

More information on the project is available on the dedicated website, <http://integraresustenabilaprin sport.ro/home-en/>.

Outcome 4: Increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups

Description and analysis of results

By the end of 2021, out of the 15,000 persons belonging to vulnerable groups targeted by the Programme, 3,793 (about a quarter), from 48 localities, started to receive personalised services (information, counselling, social, education and medical services, support for employment etc.), under the projects financed in this area of intervention. Two of the 5 intervention models to be developed under the Programme and applied in working with vulnerable groups were also finalized.

These results were registered by the 16 projects financed under two calls directly targeting this outcome: the restricted call no. 3 "Poverty Reduction" and the open call no. 4 "Local Development". The small grant scheme, Access to financing (SGS2) has an indirect impact on achieving the outcome indicators, by supporting the PPs to access funds aimed to develop social services infrastructure for marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

Under the restricted call (no. 3) on poverty reduction, three projects are under implementation, promoted by Salvation Army Romania, Inter-Community Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area and UNICEF. The contracted projects total 9.75 million euros. The unused funds of the initially allocated amount (20 million euros) have been redistributed to other calls (no. 2 and no. 4), in order to finance viable projects on the reserve lists. The decision was taken after consistent discussions with programme partners, NFP and FMO during CC meeting of January 2021.

The project promoted by UNICEF was contracted at the end of May 2021. According to the data provided by the PP upon request (interim report not yet processed), in 2021 more than 2.000 children from Bacău and Braşov counties had access to the minimum package of services as a result of the outreach work performed by the community teams. Five in depth situation analysis were performed at the level of each integrated community centres, so that real time priorities are at the provision of specialized services. With the development of the Child Friendly City Initiative (CFCI) Index, significant progress was also done for the development of the national framework promoting for the first time in Romania the CFCI concept.

Under the open call (no. 4) "Local Development", 13 projects have been contracted (of which 7 from the reserve list). The projects under implementation total 16,455,625 euros. Out of the 13, three projects have a partner from Norway (PN4010 - Hedda Foundation, PN4039 - SOS Children's Villages Norway and PN4042 - Skyhoyt live scene). Almost half of them were contracted in August-September 2021 and it is expected their contribution to be more visible starting with 2022.

Through the project "GLORIA - integrated assistance for victims of domestic and gender violence" (PN4010), victims of domestic and gender violence from 250 local communities in Iași, Vaslui, Bacău and Neamț counties benefit from specific support and assistance services. The project started in March 2021, being implemented by the Institute of Forensic Medicine Iași, in partnership with the Centre for Mediation and Community Security, the Corona Foundation, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Hedda Foundation, Norway. Overall, 550 persons, adults and children, victims of domestic

and gender violence will benefit of social, medical, educational, occupational and housing services under the project.

Following the first 9 months of implementation, the early notable results of the project were the establishment of the Counselling Centre for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, which already started to provide services, and the set-up of a mobile team that provides transportation for victims. The newly created centre allows, in the first phase, that victims of violence to benefit from psychological and social assessment and forensic diagnosis in cases of physical trauma or sexual violence/rape. Furthermore, depending on the results of the assessment, victims and their children (where applicable) are included in a program of psychological, family, social, parental and educational counselling and legal assistance.

112 victims of domestic and gender-based violence benefited in 2021 from the centre's services. Of these, 66 people received social services and counselling, 28 victims received legal counselling, for 14 of them being open legal actions in court. Of these 14 cases, 12 victims were represented in court in order to obtain a protection order. Also, within the project, 108 individual psychological sessions were conducted for 23 victims of violence in order to overcome the traumas suffered. Within the measure of assistance and material support in crisis situations, 5 crisis packages were allocated for the assisted victims and 19 forensic examinations were paid for the victims.

"The centre is located inside the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Iași, so it could provide reception and counselling services for victims immediately after the aggression. Many women do not even know that they can ask for someone's help.", describes the project approach Mrs. Laura Albu, President of the Community Mediation and Security Centre.

More information on the project is available on the dedicated social media page, <https://www.facebook.com/ProiectGLORIA>.

A third (and the last one) round of the call, also targeting this outcome, under SGS2, has been launched in April 2021, in order to give another opportunity to potential PPs to re-apply. Out of the 53 projects submitted, 33 have passed the stage of formal verification, at the end of 2021 being in full process of content evaluation.

Within the first two rounds of this call, launched in 2019 and 2020, 17 projects were contracted and were under implementation in 2020 and 2021, with a total value of about 404,000 euro. The projects aim at elaborating technical documentation necessary for investments in educational, road, bridges and medical infrastructure and 8 projects contracted under 2019 call have already been completed during 2020. The other 9, contracted under 2020 call, in implementation in 2021, are going to be finalised early 2022.

7 projects proudly reported that the documentation elaborated within our Programme has been already submitted for approval for additional funds (national/ EU structural funds).

Pre-defined project(s)

There are no pre-defined projects targeting this outcome.

Outcome 5: Increased knowledge of central and local government to enact good governance principles

Description and analysis of results

By the end of 2021, 529 employees of the local public administration and politicians (15% of the 3,500 persons targeted by the Programme), from 172 communes and towns from Romania, were trained in good governance principles and two good governance tools were developed/improved with the Programme financial support. Only one of the two predefined projects funded by the Programme (ACoR) contributed to these results, the other project (GSG) starting only in October 2021.

Pre-defined project(s)

The predefined project "Improving access and quality of services to citizens – transparent, responsible and accountable local public administration" (PNP002), implemented by the Association of Communes in Romania (ACoR), in partnership with the Association of Romanian Municipalities (AMR) and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), started in September 2019, being in its third year of implementation.

Even though during 2021 the COVID-19 pandemics continued to raise concerns, the PP has made efforts to continue the project activities while maintaining high quality standards. By the end of 2021, 24 training sessions were reported as held (12 by the PP and 12 by the Romanian partner) and 529 elected official and civil servants were trained on the main topics of the project. Of these, 275 are representatives of the communes and 254 are representative of the municipalities.

Also, two study visits in Norway were organized in 2021 (29 representatives from the Romanian communes participated), but some further had to be postponed due to the pandemic situation.

Other activities include broadcasting of two video material and one audio material on televisions and radios with national coverage, while 39 newly elected officials were involved in a training dedicated to them.

Due to the postponement of the activities, the PP expressed its desire to extend the project.

The predefined project "Capacity building in the field of public governance – a coordinated approach of the Centre of the Government of Romania", implemented by the General Secretariat of the Government of Romania (GSG), in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other Romanian entities was contracted in October 2021 (after successive modifications) and will start to make a significant contribution to achieving this outcome as of in 2022. While the ACoR project addresses issues at the level of the local authorities (i.e., incompatibility and conflict of interest), the GSG project addresses the authorities at the central level (i.e., open government, digital government, integrity etc.). Complementarity and possible synergy between the two projects are closely monitored during implementation.

Outcome 6: Increased implementation of judgements and case law issued by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of country specific recommendations on human rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe

Description and analysis of results

In order to achieve this outcome, one open call for project proposals (call no. 5 “Human Rights – national implementation”) was launched in January 2021 (allocated amount - 8,868,529.00 euros). Out of the 18 applications received until the deadline (April 22, 2021), 5 were approved for financing and contracted, by the end of 2021. No reserve list could be set up under this call.

The contracted projects total 5,649,994 euros (rather similar to the initial allocation). Following consultation with programme partners and NFP, PO asked for donor approval to reallocate the unused funds to the call no. 1 on Roma inclusion, in order to finance 4 projects from the reserve list.

Due to the fact that the 5 approved projects were contracted in November and December 2021, for the moment there are no relevant results to be mentioned as a contribution to achieving this outcome.

Pre-defined project(s)

There are no pre-defined projects targeting this outcome.

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements

Given the global pandemic context that dominated 2021 and hampered the development of bilateral cooperation, 14 (8%) out of the 172 projects submitted for funding in 2021 were developed in partnership with donor state entities (12 with partners from Norway and 2 with partners from Iceland), 8 (20.5%) of the 39 projects contracted in 2021 are donor partnership projects. Overall, by the end of 2021, 85 (17.7%) out of the 479 submitted projects and 18 (23.7%) out of the 76 contracted projects are bilateral projects, which indicates a satisfactory level of bilateral cooperation within the projects financed under the Local Development Programme, with a higher percentage in the case of pre-defined projects (2 out of 3 contracted projects are donor partnership projects, and the third one has an international agency as partner), projects financed within the restricted call on poverty reduction (2 out of 3, the third one being managed by an international agency as PP) and projects financed under the open call related to the programme area Children and Youth at Risk (60%). All the 18 donor partnership projects contracted under the Programme have partners exclusively from Norway.

The implementation of the bilateral projects started in favourable circumstances, as at the beginning of their collaboration the level of trust between partners was already high (6.44, on

a scale from 1 to 7), as well as at the level of satisfaction with the partnership (6.25, on a scale from 1 to 7), according to the available data at the end of 2021.

The bilateral activities organized under the projects in implementation already facilitated an important flow of information and experiences among partners; by the end of 2021, 36 specialists from Romania (out of the 200 estimated - 18%) and 15 Norwegian experts (out of the 30 estimated - 50%) being involved in bilateral exchanges.

Despite the health restrictions in both countries, during 2021, the 3 partners involved in implementing the predefined project "Improving access and quality of services for citizens - a transparent and accountable public administration" (ACoR - Association of Communes in Romania, AMR - Association of Romanian Municipalities and KS - Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) had a fruitful collaboration, facilitating a consistent exchange of experience and significantly contributing to the promotion of good practice models in areas such as transparency, ethics, incompatibility and conflict of interest in public administration.

Because the direct participation of the Norwegian partner in the training sessions organized in Romania was no longer possible due to the pandemic context, 4 videos were produced, showing examples of good practices from Norway ("Ethics in local public administration", "Conflict of interest in local public administration", "Transparency in local public administration in Norway" and "Norwegian Haugesund Municipality case study"), examples presented and analysed by the participants in the training sessions, during 2021.

The Norwegian partner also made a significant contribution to the development of the "Guide on Conflicts of Interest, Incompatibilities, Ethics and Transparency in Local Public Administration" (by elaborating a chapter targeting Ethics, Transparency, Conflict of Interest and Incompatibilities in Norwegian Local Government), respectively in the structuring of the "Handbook for the newly elected officials", by making available to the Romanian partners the contents of the TRUST Handbook, created by KS for the local public authorities in Norway.

The organization and conduct of two study visits to Norway, in October and November 2021, were mostly appreciated and considered by the 31 Romanian participants (29 representatives of Romanian communes and 2 representatives of the ACoR project team) as a good opportunity to exchange best practices, but also to develop collaboration between the associative structures of local public authorities in Romania and Norway. *"Professionally, I was pleased to find out how a town hall in Norway is organized. Of course, I was making comparisons in my mind. I was always wondering how I could apply what it was presented to me. I was impressed that any citizen can come to the mayor's office and express a need, which then falls into a certain category and later solved, including with the help of volunteers. And it reminded me of what the KS lawyer said, that the truth must always be told, no matter the consequences. Personally, I was impressed by their respect for the environment. I intend to tell the mayor and my colleagues what I have seen and together I hope that we will find solutions to be more efficient in support of the citizens' needs. This experience changed me. On both levels."*, said a participant from Romania, at the end of such a visit.

Another example for transfer of information and good practices was part of the project "Through education to vocation!". For 5 days, from August 30 to September 3, the Norwegian

partner Newschool Norway (an education design agency) provided an online training course in the field of inclusive and vocational education, attended by 18 Romanian specialists, representing the Project Promoter (Orthodox Philanthropy Association Alba Iulia), the two Romanian partners (HEKS/ EPER Romania Foundation and FAER Reghin Foundation) as well as school principals, teachers, school counsellors and psychologists involved in the project. The student-centred learning exercises and experiences presented in the 3 training modules (LEADING self, LEADING others and LEADING change) aimed at increasing self-knowledge and openness to others, teamwork, as well as ways to shape and maintain long-term change in the field of education.

Cooperation with DPP

The Programme is implemented by the Romanian Social Development Fund (RSDF) in partnership with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), as Donor Programme Partner and with the Council of Europe (CoE), as International Partner Organization. During 2021, the CC activity took place exclusively online, given the international pandemic context.

The cooperation with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) was very good and very productive. During 2021, DPP provided inputs on the documents related to all calls for project proposals to be launched under the Programme, participating at all the online CC and Selection Committees' meetings and was strongly involved in the preparation of joint bilateral activities with PO (assumed in the workplan for bilateral activities at Programme level and for which the PO received additional funds in 2020), participated at the revision of the annual programme, provided advise upon request. Online communication tools enabled a closer and frequent interaction and allowed a quick decision whenever needed, although the lack of face-to-face interaction was resented as lacking.

In order to start organising the bilateral activities planned to be carried on with the DPP, one partnership agreement was signed between PO and KS for the organisation of the study visit in Karasjok, established for January, 10th 2022 and important steps were taken towards putting it in place (but postponed by KS for May, from COVID-19 reasons).

The 3 Cooperation Committee meeting held (online) in January, April and November were attended by representatives of the PO, KS, CoE, NFP, the Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest and by the FMO. The meetings were focused mainly on the review of the Programme's implementation stage (calls launching, projects proposals evaluation and approval, pre-defined projects contracting and implementation, challenges), on the use of the bilateral fund at programme level (stage and perspectives on the implementation of the plan for bilateral relations, request for additional funds etc.), on planning the SC meetings for the calls for project proposals, on analysing different strategies for reallocating the funds among the calls for proposals and on the necessary subsequent amendments to the Programme Agreement. The CC also analysed the impact of the international pandemic context on the implementation of the Programme and concluded that, considering the context, the stage of Programme implementation is appropriate.

A special meeting was organized also in June 11, in order to analyse the situation of the pre-defined project promoted by the General Secretariat of the Government of Romania (GSG). On this occasion, CC members discussed (online) with representatives of the PP and its partners about the requested changes (changing the structure of the partnership, changing the project components, etc.) and about the commitment of the parties to implement the project in the last form presented. The CC's conclusion was that the project is still relevant to the Programme and the proposed changes are acceptable. As a result, the PO was encouraged to take the necessary steps to amend the Programme Agreement and to subsequently contract the project, on the condition that the PP meets all funding conditions.

3. Implementation

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

Cooperation with the Council of Europe, as IPO, was very good since the beginning of the Programme. During 2021, the CoE provided advice on the preparation of documents for the calls to be launched, and actively participated in all CC meetings and SC meetings, as enumerated above.

Conformity with specific requirements

As presented in detail in the Annex Agreement conditions, the compliance with the specific conditions set out in the Programme Agreement is in advanced stage.

Regarding the progress in implementing the Plan for enhancing the management capacity of the PO, all the measures assumed by the PO in the plan have been taken by the end of 2021, except the relocation of the PO headquarter. During the pandemic situation (when part of the activity was carried remotely), the headquarters proved adequate, as individual offices could be ensured to the staff.

C. LEARNING

1. Monitoring carried out

According to the procedures, the monitoring of the projects is done both at the office and in the field.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 health crisis, the PO conducted 6 monitoring field visits during 2021. Visits included financial and (in most cases) technical verification for 4 projects which were in the more advanced stage of implementation: two pre-defined projects (PNP001, implemented by UNEFS and PNP002, implemented by ACoR) and two from the restricted call (PN3006, implemented by the Christian Mission Salvation Army in Romania and PN3007, implemented by the Inter-Community Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area). Other two projects from the call no. 2 were visited by the project officer who checked the progress of the activities (PN2018 and PN2099). According to the monitoring conclusions, the projects are proceeding in accordance with the updated planning (which included

postponement of some activities and transformation of others), despite the general context. To face the current challenges, the PPs adapted the projects so as to better support the beneficiaries, who are even more vulnerable during this period and need more acute services and material support.

For the other projects, the monitoring process was mainly based on the reports provided by PPs (intermediary reports, progress reports and ad-hoc reports) and on the permanent communication with the PP representatives (including by analysing the requests for modification of the financing contract). In the case of projects financed through the Small Grant Scheme "Access to Financing", the monitoring is performed exclusively in this way (no monitoring field visits were planned).

During 2021, PO analysed and solved 154 notifications regarding projects modification received from PPs implementing projects financed under the calls and from the pre-defined projects, most of the notifications issued as a response to specific pandemic situation, to changes in legislation, increase of prices, local elections/administrative changes, necessity to reduce private co-financing, staff turn-over, etc. 41 intermediate reports were approved and 85 progress reports were analysed by the PO staff.

For 2022 field monitoring visits of the projects are planned as presented in the attached Monitoring plan; this plan might suffer alterations depending on the restrictions/ identified needs.

2. Evaluations carried out

A mid-term evaluation of the Local Development Programme has been carried out in 2021, by consultants of the consortium led by Blomeyer & Sanz. The main purpose of this assessment was to identify and evaluate the extent to which the local development programmes financed by EEA and Norway grants contribute to structural change at local level. The assessment also aimed to extract lessons learned at strategic level to supports the design of local development programmes, in the next programming period.

During the evaluation, the consultants had extensive discussions with the management and the PO specialists and with representatives of the Donor Programme Partner (KS) who provided answers/ valuable input to the evaluators, but also with many representatives of the PPs. The discussions were focused on both general elements related to the implementation of the Programme, how it contributes to structural changes at the local level, but also related to its efficiency and effectiveness, coherence with national and local policies and strategies, potential added value, complementarity with structural funds etc.

The PO and DPP have not received a report on this assessment, yet.

3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation

Projects addressing social inclusion in poor, marginalised areas usually lacking capacities and experience in project design and implementation (i.e., small grant schemes), as well as projects addressing sensitive issues, like human rights, especially when expected to have as result public policies, mechanisms to be implemented at national level, increased capacities within the public administration (large projects mainly addressed to central administration) need to

be fostered more. Specific activities like facilitation, technical support for project design and implementation should be budgeted as a **capacity building and networking component** in the programme.

Contracting, as process, proves to be very time consuming and needs to be more carefully budgeted in terms of human resources and planned in terms of milestones.

Waiving co-financing for NGOs helped speeding up the implementation in projects and gave more freedom to PPs to plan and implement activities with beneficiary (instead of fund raising) but put more pressure on the PO (being introduced during the implementation).

Sustainability, as imposed by the Regulation, is very often considered a future burden for the potential PPs, limiting the willingness to develop projects; solutions should be envisaged for future programmes, in terms of giving the PO the possibility to waive some of the obligations (as it was in the previous Mechanism as provision in the PA for the equipment).

On-line activities/ lack of possibilities to develop real bilateral activities (face to face) generated by the pandemic context, lead to a lower rate of disbursement, less interest at the level of final beneficiaries and many PPs expressing the need to extend the duration of the projects beyond the eligibility period in order to properly reach the objectives and use the grants for the benefit of the target groups and exchange of know-how (even in projects not having donor partners, as part of the bilateral activities during implementation).

Partnership with donor states in calls addressing local Roma communities is very little envisaged and initiated by PPs. A possible explanation (verbally expressed) is the specificity of the issues the Roma groups living in Romania are facing, in general, many of them being more specific depending on the geographical area, in particular. Bilateral activities aimed at improving the collaboration in future are planned to be organised by PO in partnership with KS (as predefined bilateral initiative) to potentially mitigate this approach and put together some of the Romanian local decisional with Norwegian ones.

Procurement remains a weakness at the level of the projects, needing specific attention from the PO as successive changes in legislation and norms put more pressure on the PPs.

Although a usual solution especially in the pandemic context, **online information seminars**, organised to support PPs during implementation have a less significant impact and bring less benefits than face-to-face ones, especially when working with less experienced PPs, limiting the possibility to properly communicate.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Updated achievements in the results framework**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

Objective: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of Roma individuals with ID documents secured	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	8	150	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received education services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	569	7,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	354	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	215	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received employment services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	5	400	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received health services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	22	800	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received housing services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	3	150	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received integrated services	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	38	4,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Level of acceptance by majority population (within the project intervention areas) of Roma	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	Reported 2022, 2024			(+10%)	-
Number of Roma reached by empowerment measures	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	160	8,000	-
Output 1.1: Social inclusion services provided to Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of counties where social inclusion services are provided to Roma	Cumulative number	0	6 (IFR 2021)	-	-	14	25	-
Output 1.2: Awareness raising campaigns on Roma inclusion conducted								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of awareness raising campaigns targeting majority population	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	1	10	-

Number of awareness raising campaigns targeting Roma	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	1	5	-
Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns	Cumulative number	0	500 (IFR 2021)	-	-	1,671	7,500	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	597	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,074	-	-
Output 1.3: Professionals working with Roma trained								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of professionals trained in working with Roma	Cumulative number	0	80 (IFR 2021)	-	-	164	1,000	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	73	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	159	-	-
Output 1.4: Roma experts and leaders trained to defend Roma rights								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of Roma experts and leaders trained to defend Roma rights	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	5	600	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.5: Anti-discrimination tools developed to be applied in working with Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of anti-discrimination tools developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	5	-
Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of children or youth with special education needs that have received support services	Cumulative number	0	86 (APR 2020)	-	-	659	1,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	275	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	384	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	559	-	-
Number of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving that have received support services	Cumulative number	0	1,397 (APR 2020)	-	-	5,477	10,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2,732	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2,745	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								

<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,262	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	4,215	-	-
Number of children or youth that have improved their school attendance by at least 10%	Cumulative number	N/A	-	Reported 2022 and then annually			3,500	-
Rate of transition to lower secondary education (ISCED 2) in supported schools	Percentage	TBD	-	Reported 2022 and then annually			(+1%)	-
Rate of transition to higher secondary education (9th grade) (ISCED 3) in supported schools	Percentage	TBD	-	Reported 2022 and then annually			(+1%)	-
Output 2.1: Support services provided to children or youth at risk								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of counties where educational or social services were provided to children or youth with special education needs	Cumulative number	0	8 (IFR 2021)	-	-	26	10	-
Number of counties where support services were provided to children or youth at risk of early-school leaving	Cumulative number	0	12 (IFR 2021)	-	-	31	30	-
Output 2.2: Teachers trained in providing education services to children and youth at risk								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of teachers trained in working with children and youth at risk of early-school leaving	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	206	1,600	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	175	-	-

<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	203	-	-
Number of teachers trained in working with children and youth with special education needs	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	108	750	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	108	-	-
Output 2.3: Outreach provided to parents of children or youth at risk								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of parents of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving reached	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	711	3,400	-
Number of parents of children or youth with special education needs reached	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	58	800	-
Outcome 4: Increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of individuals that have received personalised social services	Cumulative number	0	1,254 (APR 2020)	-	-	3,793	15,000	-

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3,793	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,496	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2,297	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1,388	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2,405	-	-
Level of satisfaction with the social services provided	Scale 1-10	N/A	-	Reported 2023, 2024			6.50	-
Output 4.1: Intervention models applied in working with vulnerable groups								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of intervention models applied in working with vulnerable groups	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	2	5	-
Output 4.2: Social services provided to people from vulnerable groups at local level								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of municipalities/towns where social services were provided	Cumulative number	0	9 (IFR 2021)	-	-	48	200	-
Outcome 5: Increased knowledge of central and local government to enact good governance principles								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Level of knowledge of good governance principles of trained staff and politicians	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	Reported 2022, 2024			(+25%)	-
Output 5.1: Tools of good governance developed/ improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of good governance tools developed/improved	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2021)	-	-	2	6	-
Output 5.2: Public administration staff and politicians trained in good governance principles								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of public administration staff and politicians trained in good governance principles	Cumulative number	0	34 (IFR 2021)	-	-	529	3,500	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	251	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	278	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	529	-	-
Number of municipalities/towns covered by the training on good governance principles	Cumulative number	0	17 (IFR 2021)	-	-	172	1,100	-
Outcome 6: Increased implementation of judgements and case law issued by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of country specific recommendations on human rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe								

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations on children's rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe, implemented under the Programme, at national level	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	1	-
Number of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations on detainees' rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe, implemented under the Programme, at national level	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	1	-
Number of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations on minority rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe, implemented under the Programme, at national level	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	1	-
Number of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations on rights of people with disabilities put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe, implemented under the Programme, at national level	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	3	-
Number of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations on women's rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe, implemented under the Programme, at national level	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	1	-
Output 6.1: Mechanisms established to protect the rights of people from vulnerable groups *(Mechanisms include public structures/ entities, networks, sets of procedures)								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Number of mechanisms established to protect the rights of people belonging to vulnerable groups	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	3	-
Output 6.2: Measures for combating discrimination and/or promoting human rights piloted at national level								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of experts working with vulnerable groups trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	400	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of people from vulnerable groups reached by anti-discrimination or human rights pilot measures	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	600	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of measures for combating discrimination piloted	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2021)	-	-	0	3	-

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.25	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary State and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.44	-	-	-	-	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of letters of intent on future collaboration	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	25	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	60.00 %	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Exchanges between beneficiary and Donor State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of participants from Beneficiary States in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	32 (IFR 2021)	-	-	36	250	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Output 2: Professional exchanges with representatives of relevant entities from Romania and Donor States supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of participants from Donor States involved in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	13 (IFR 2021)	-	-	15	30	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
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Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best practice examples

We can do mare together!

Promoter: „Împreună” Agency Foundation

Partners: Romano-Kher National Roma Culture Center, “Amare Rromentza” Roma Center Association, Marginalized Communities Association, Făgăraș Roma Association, DANROM Făurei Association, „Buzău Community Development Agency” Association, Ursari Roma Association.

Budget: 897.454 euro (EEA Grants)

Implementation period: January 2021- December 2022; [Putem mai mult împreună](#)

The project supports the skills development of 2,200 people from 20 Roma communities in Botoșani, Iași, Brașov, Brăila and Buzău counties, so as to increase Roma participation in community decision-making.

After the first year of implementation, 20 local initiative groups were formed and mobilized in the intervention communities. Based on the identified needs, 20 action plans of the local initiative groups were developed, 5 of which were already submitted to the local public authority.

Also, on the empowerment component, the initiative managed to make 100 Roma from the 20 communities become active voices at the community level by participating in 2 courses: community development and communication, fundraising and advocacy. Also, 50 representatives of the mayor's offices developed their knowledge and skills on public policies for Roma after participating in 2 trainings on the topic. "I liked the connection that formed between the town hall and the Roma" and "A fantastic course with exceptional trainers during which I was like a family", are two of the testimonials offered by the participants.

Complementary, 218 teachers from 20 communities have acquired skills in the field of intercultural education by participating in an accredited course on this topic.

We are shaping the future!

Promoter: YANA- You Are Not- Alone Charitable Foundation

Partners: FAVOR Association, St. John Calabria Foundation

Budget: 1.365.854 de euro (Norway Grants)

Implementation period: November 2020 – December 2022

Contact: <https://www.formamviitorul.org>; [Formam viitorul](#)

The project aims to combat the phenomenon of early school leaving of children and young from Nicolae Bălcescu, Răcăciuni, Filipeni and Mărgineni communes (Bacău county) and Roman municipality (Neamț county) by promoting inclusive education in an integrated manner, both educationally and in the community.

After the first year of implementation, despite the pandemic context, the project activities reached notable results. No less than 277 children participated in afterschool sessions and non-formal activities, while 170 parents had participated in 15 workshops of financial education. 25 teachers were also trained in working with children and youth in risk of school drop-out.

The “Inclusive Community” activity allowed, in 5 meetings, to inform the representatives of local authorities who interact with young people (local police, social workers, etc.), about the consequences of alcohol consumption. and other harmful substances among minors but also the development of joint initiatives (parents-children-teachers), greening, tree planting/renovation of neglected areas of interest to children.

2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

Improving access and quality of services to citizens – transparent, responsible and accountable local public administration

Promoter: The Association of Communes of Romania - ACoR

Partners: The Association of Local and Regional Authorities of Norway - KS and the Association of Municipalities of Romania - AMR

Budget: 3.277.088 Euro (Norway Grants)

Implementation period: December 2019 – September 2023

Contact: <https://e-tic.ro>; [Centrul de informare E-tic](#)

Addressing 3,300 representatives of local administration (mayors, deputy mayors, local councillors, civil servants, and heads of departments), the project provides information, training, based on best practices in good governance in administration between Romanian and Norwegians. After two years of implementation, the project succeeded to train 139 local administration representatives in key areas for their work such as conflict of interest, incompatibility with function, decision-making transparency, and integrity. In 2021, 19 of them were certified as trainers and trained other 1.069 local administration representatives in 49 sessions of training. Also, [an online information centre](#) is providing real-time updated information on legislation in the field of conflicts of interest, integrity, decision-making transparency, and incompatibilities. The centre enrolled already about 2,000 of visits. In October 2021, a public campaign started for the promotion of the information centre and includes two videos and an audio spot. Audio-video materials were broadcast on national radio and TV stations and were presented to all the 3,300 mayors communes and municipalities.

ZEST4EDU – A new perspective in education

Promoter: Prahova County School Inspectorate (ISJ Prahova)

Partners: Go Ahead București Association, Art For Chance Foundation (Norway)

Budget: 1.120.896 Euro (Norway Grants)

Implementation period: December 2019 – September 2023

Contact: <https://zest4edu.ro>; [Zest 4 edu](#)

Knowing that lack of access to quality inclusive education dramatically reduces children's chances of fulfilling their potential, the project is fighting against school dropout through programs of inclusive education for 590 children from 19 schools in Prahova and Neamț counties. After the first year of implementation, an initial study on the school drop-out challenges was conducted in the schools from the project, the conclusions drawing the attention to the need of the students to be guided and counselled. 10 classrooms and school counselling cabinets were equipped with furniture and 2 trainings on the Active Citizenship and Entrepreneurial Education were organized for non-formal education experts. Also, an [online portal for personal development](#) for children was developed and 220 teachers were trained in order to combat the bullying phenomena. "For me, this course was a complex one, from which I learned a lot. I believe that it is absolutely necessary for every teacher to take this course, given the situation in schools" (teacher, participant). The Art for Change Foundation (Norway) organized 15 online workshops for Romanian teachers, on the concept of Affirmative Art. "It gives us the chance to become artists through our own creation, to discover new talents and values of our self" (teacher, participant).

3. The programme in a nutshell

<p>What is the added value of this programme?</p>	<p>The great value of the Local Development Programme is that it has a direct impact on the lives of the vulnerable members of local communities, and this impact could be a life changer one, especially when intervening early, like in children and young people lives, but it also supports measures that contribute to structural changes.</p> <p>Through the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are created/developed social services (including the creation/development/equipment of facilities for the provision of these services), - are build capacities to implement and provide the services (most of them organised in an integrated approach), at local level, as well as the national level, in authorities and civile society, - is promoted the consultation with the target groups in the design and implementation of the interventions, - Is promoted the partnership, in general, and between authorities and NGOs, in particular, as well as with the donor states - is increased the level of experts' awareness and of the public at large towards the social inclusion and especially the Roma social inclusion - is supported the empowerment of the Roma, women, minorities, - is supported the increase of capacities to apply the requirement of a good governance, both at local and at central level - is offered support and guidance for increasing the capacity to implement projects by the PPs, as a PO help desk and monitoring tool, etc. <p>All these are contributing to the improvement of social services quality in many localities of Romania and to the local development at large, both being important factors for: (1) the leverage of pressure put on the vulnerable groups by the deprivation, (2) the implementation of</p>
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	<p>appropriate measures tailored for inclusive education, the key to create opportunities for the future generations, (3) the increase of social inclusion, as part of a fair and inclusive society, aside with interventions for antidiscrimination and giving a chance to the marginalised to have a voice.</p> <p>Bringing closer to the vulnerable groups the opportunity to improve their lives, lead to increasing their capacity to actively contribute, on the long run, to the future local development of their community/county, becoming at their turn, active citizens in the process of strengthening the social and economic cohesion.</p>					
<p>Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.</p>	Quote 1					
	<p>"The support provided by EEA and Norway Grants and, implicitly by the RSDF, is crucial for young people in these communities. If they and their families understand how important it is to stay in school, their lives may look completely different. Instead of doing a heavy job at an early age, they can study or learn a trade that will give them a different future. Unfortunately, our organizations are often the only ones who still believe in the chances of these young people to succeed in life. "</p>					
	Author	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Name</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gabriela Mateiu</td> <td>Director, Foundation YANA- You Are Not Alone Charitable Foundation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Gabriela Mateiu	Director, Foundation YANA- You Are Not Alone Charitable Foundation
	Name	Title				
	Gabriela Mateiu	Director, Foundation YANA- You Are Not Alone Charitable Foundation				
Quote 2						
<p>"When we found out about the launch of the Local Development Programme and of the financing line "Enhancing Roma inclusion and empowerment", we decided to access it, given that the development of day centres is a need at the Ialomița county level. I think that accessing and implementing projects, although not at all easy to do, can add value to social assistance in Ialomița County, and the results and impact you will get through implementation simply make you forget all the difficulties you have".</p>						
Author	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Name</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Paul Marcu</td> <td>Director, Ialomița Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Paul Marcu	Director, Ialomița Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection	
Name	Title					
Paul Marcu	Director, Ialomița Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection					

4. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

The visibility of the Local Development Programme and of the Donor States contribution was ensured by the PO in 2021 through various and personalized communication instruments and channels, covering all the country and a wide variety of audience. The communication process focused, on one hand, on promoting the new calls launched (such as the calls for proposals Human Rights – national implementation and Priority Intervention for Roma Communities and the new rounds of funding under the "Access to Financing" Small Grant Scheme and Enhancing Roma inclusion and Empowerment), and on the other hand, on assuring a high level on information regarding the implementation condition of the projects funded under the

Programme throughout informative seminars dedicated to project promoters. Also, the communication measures covered the processes of disseminating to the public the results of the previously launched calls for project proposals (in terms of projects submitted, results of formal and content evaluation, contracted and closed projects). Although online instruments were highly used for the visibility of the Grants and Donors, the PO reached out to the public also in the classic way by organizing a field visit dedicated to journalists at projects implemented in Călărași and Giurgiu counties, a visit which spotted the results of the projects and their impact in the communities and area of interventions. One of the result of the action was a number of 5 articles written by the journalists who participated in the field visit: [Agerpres](#), [Fonduri-structurale.ro](#), [Călărași Television](#), [Atitudinea din Călărași](#), [Giurgiuveanul](#) and [Jurnalul Giurgiuvean](#).

Press releases and paid announcements in national written press were also used intensively to promote the Programme in 2021. The launching of the calls Human Rights – national implementation, Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment - 2nd round and Priority Intervention for Roma Communities were accompanied by paid announcements in national written press. Also, press materials regarding relevant topics on the Programme were distributed to the journalists on national, regional and local level, being published by [Fonduri-structurale.ro](#) or [Suceava News](#).

By the end of 2021, the PO estimates that up to 176.574 people (out of 50,000 people assumed initially) have had access to information on the EEA and Norway Grants and on the Programme mission, objectives and impact, as follows:

- 1.633 participants in communication events (launch conference, informative seminars for promoting open calls, matchmaking seminars, informative seminars addressed to the funded project teams), overall
- at least 95.250 unique visitors to the PO website/ Programme web page
- at least 31.691 people who reacted to the posts on the Programme social media pages
- at least 48.000 people who received newspapers in which paid advertisements were published regarding the launching of the calls for proposals

Also, 2.120 people (out of 1,000 people assumed initially) have had access to data regarding the funding opportunities provided by the Programme:

- 1.413 participants in information seminars for promoting open calls and in matchmaking seminars
- 707 people who used help desk services provided by PO.

Also, in Norway, through various communication channels like printed media and web, the two PNP0002 study tours to Norway (held in October and November 2021) were largely promoted.

5. Media coverage

Example 1

Coverage	Type	Regional
Description	The article highlights the importance of funding under the small grant scheme Priority Intervention on Roma Communities for the vulnerable communities from Satu Mare County.	
Relevant links	https://www.gazetanord-vest.ro/2021/09/dezvoltare-locala-reducerea-saraciei-si-cresterea-incluziunii-romilor-un-program-care-ajuta-comunitatile-defavorizate/	

Example 2

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the launch of the small grants scheme Priority interventions for Roma communities, within the Local Development Programme, financed by the EEA and Norway Grants 2014 - 2021.	
Relevant links	https://www.agerpres.ro/social/2021/07/15/frds-a-lansat-o-schema-de-granturi-mici-pentru-interventii-prioritare-destinate-comunitatilor-rome-748613	

Example 3

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the launch of the call for proposal Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment - second round, within the Local Development Programme, financed by the EEA and Norway Grants 2014 - 2021.	
Relevant links	https://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/stiri/25384/frds-o-noua-runda-de-finantare-pentru-cresterea-incluziunii-si-abilitarea-romilor-a-fost-deschisa	

Example 4

Coverage	Type	Local
Description	The article highlights the desire of local authorities of Lupeni, Hunedoara County, to address Roma community vulnerabilities by running a project funded under the call for proposal Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment - second round.	
Relevant links	https://ziarulexclusiv.ro/2021/04/09/primaria-lupeni-aplica-pentru-un-nou-program-social-destinat-incluziunii-romilor/	

Example 5

Coverage	Type	Regional
Description	The article is covering the launch of the project "IRIS – INTEGRATION OF ROMA THROUGH INNOVATIVE SKILLS", funded by the Local Development	

	Programme, through Alba Iulia City Hall and the Local Action Group (LAG) Association Alba Iulia Inclusive, in partnership with the Norwegian organization, Barnas Musikkteater give a new chance to the marginalized Roma communities in Alba Iulia.
Relevant links	https://ziarulunirea.ro/comunicat-de-presa-aproape-2-000-000-de-lei-bani-nerambursabili-pentru-dezvoltarea-zonelor-urbane-marginalizate-din-alba-iulia-709963/

Example 6

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the launch of the project "Avdives, khetanes", implemented by the Amfiteatru Foundation and funded by the Local Development Programme, a project aimed at sustainably increasing the quality of life of Roma communities in Belin commune in Covasna and Ferentari neighbourhood, Bucharest.	
Relevant links	https://www.radioromaniacultural.ro/avdives-khetanes-proiectul-care-vizeaza-cresterea-sustenabila-a-calitatii-vietii-comunitatilor-de-romi-din-comuna-belin-din-covasna-si-cartierul-ferentari-bucuresti/	

Example 7

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the relaunching by the RSDF of the small grant scheme "Access to Finance-2021" under the Local Development Programme.	
Relevant links	https://www.stiri.org/finantari-si-csr/articol/programul-dezvoltare-locala-frds-a-relansat-schema-de-granturi-mici-acces-la-finantare-2021	

Example 8

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the relaunching by the RSDF of the small grant scheme "Access to Finance-2021" under the Local Development Programme.	
Relevant links	https://romanioliberal.ro/economie/frds-a-relansat-schema-de-granturi-mici-acces-la-finantare-2021-839362/	

Example 9

Coverage	Type	Local
Description	The main news is that, in the context of the launch of the project "Ensuring social inclusion - breaking the vicious circle of exclusion for the most vulnerable children in Romania" initiated by UNICEF in Bacău County and	

	funded by the Local Development Programme, the Vice President of the Bacău County Council - Gelu Panfil - participated in the event.
Relevant links	https://www.desteptarea.ro/lansare-de-proiect-unicef-pentru-judetul-bacau/

Example 10

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The Ministry of Norway Foreign Affairs informed about the first study visit organized in Norway (at Porsgrunn Kommune) within the pre-defined project Improving access and quality of services to citizens – transparent, responsible and accountable local public administration. The Facebook post noted that Romanian participants received inspiration on how to fight corruption and ensure more transparency and cooperation with their own citizens.	
Relevant links	https://www.facebook.com/pg/eosmidlene/posts/	

Example 11

Coverage	Type	National
Description	The article is covering the study visit of 16 mayors from Romania at Ringerike municipality (the second study visit organized in Norway within the pre-defined project Improving access and quality of services to citizens – transparent, responsible and accountable local public administration). The objectives of the visit and the activities of the project are reviewed and it is stated that the event was a success.	
Relevant links	https://www.ringerike.kommune.no/aktuelt/rumenske-ordforere-imponert-over-kommunens-arbeid-med-etikk--og-antikorrupsjon/	

6. Website and social media

6.a. Links to the programme website and social media accounts

Link to programme website			
https://dezvoltare-locala.frds.ro			
Total number of page views in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)	Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)
474960	195765	27285	9375

	Facebook	Twitter	LinkedIn
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Specific link or handle for the account	https://www.facebook.com/dezvoltare.l...	https://twitter.com/LocalDevProgram	https://www.linkedin.com/company/2853...
Posts published in the reporting year	144	65	75
Total likes in the reporting year	409	14	23
Total comments in the reporting year	108	0	0
Total shares/Re-tweets etc. in the reporting year	495	3	3
Followers gained since programme launch	1542	657	198

6.b. Results of website and social media activities

Regarding new calls launches or call results (submitted, evaluated, contracted), the online channels were a major factor for an efficient process of communication. In this respect, in the pandemic context, the PO organized 3 online seminars were addressed to potential projects promoters highlighting the funding opportunities represented by the calls for proposals Human Rights, Priority Interventions for Roma communities and Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment, seminars broadcasted on social media channels and YouTube, events which was viewed live by **487 people**.

Also, 2 online seminars were organized by the PO to inform the contracted project teams on the specific conditions regarding the implementation of the projects. The events were attended by **87** participants, members of **35** project teams.

The PO covered the main news from the projects funded by the Local Development Programme which are in implementation. As a consequence, a total of 95 articles were published along the year on the Programme website. Another vehicle used to transmit the information was an online monthly newsletter, which at the end of the December 2021 had 285 subscribers.

7. Visuals

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	20	1	€ 12,880,552	72.99 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	20	1	€ 12,880,552	72.99 %
Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 4,373,581	20.56 %
	Contracted through open calls	15	8	€ 16,894,189	79.42 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 2	16	9	€ 21,267,770	99.98 %
Outcome 4: Increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	16	5	€ 26,209,226	96.32 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	17	0	€ 432,319	1.59 %
	Total Outcome 4	33	5	€ 26,641,544	97.91 %
Outcome 5: Increased knowledge of central and local government to enact good governance principles	Pre-defined	2	1	€ 6,297,088	100.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 5	2	1	€ 6,297,088	100.00 %
Outcome 6: Increased implementation of judgements and case law issued by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of country specific recommendations on human rights put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	5	1	€ 5,649,994	63.71 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 6	5	1	€ 5,649,994	63.71 %
Programme	Total	76	17	€ 72,736,948	89.47 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Frequent political and governmental changes which involve modifications in Steering Committee structure / composition and / or in the co-operation relationship PO-Government/ co-operation with PPs (national/local elections in 2020)	Both objectives	2	1	1.41	Accept	
	Description of planned response	The PO will continue to adapt its communication approaches used so far and to make its activity transparent, in order to meet the information and knowledge needs of the interested decision-makers.				
	Description of actual response	Proactive communication with the new decision makers, from all political and administrative levels, high transparency regarding the PO and PP activity, through face-to-face or online meetings, periodic or punctual reports, provision of data and clarifications, etc. (no relevant issues could be reported so far).				
	Planned future response	The PO will continue to adapt its communication approaches used so far and to make its activity transparent, in order to meet the information and knowledge needs of the interested decision-makers.				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
Delay or blockage due to: lack of interest of final beneficiaries, lack of motivation to participate (no financial resources for transportation, books, food etc.), cultural causes (beliefs), social reasons, lack of confidence in education system	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	The PO will ensure an active monitoring of the projects being implemented and will support the PPs and the project partners in improving the approach used in working with the project beneficiaries.				
	Description of actual response	Within the funded projects, it was allowed to finance measures meant to contribute to increasing the interest and motivation of beneficiaries to participate in planned activities (prizes, food, consumables, camps, trips, sanitary supplies etc). PPs are encouraged to accompany the provision of services with various distinct campaigns and measures, aiming				

		to bring about changes in mentalities/ beliefs/ prejudices that may be encountered at the level of beneficiaries.				
	Planned future response	The PO will ensure an active monitoring of the projects being implemented and will support the PPs and the project partners in improving the approach used in working with the project beneficiaries.				
Delay or blockage due to: PPs lack of capacity to timely and correctly perform requested procedures, (e.g., public procurement), due to absence of qualified and experienced personnel, timing of and ability to manage procedures for large & medium contracts	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	The PO will periodically bring improvements to the implementation manual, depending on the feedback received from the project teams and will organize informative sessions for the management teams, in order to familiarize them with the provisions of the manual. Guidance and technical support will be provided by the officers responsible for each project throughout the implementation of the projects and for the project closure.				
	Description of actual response	A comprehensive manual describing in detail the project implementation procedures was made available to PP and project partners. Informative meetings with the project management teams were organized by the PO shortly after contracting the projects and will be organised in 2022 for the rest of contracted PPs. Project officers provide guidance and technical support to project teams, when needed.				
	Planned future response	The PO will periodically bring improvements to the implementation manual, depending on the feedback received from the project teams and will inform the management teams, in order to familiarize them with the provisions of the manual. Guidance and technical support will be provided by the officers responsible for each project throughout the implementation of the projects and for the project closure.				
Changes in the national legislative framework, in particular relating to taxation and procurement, which can	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	2	2.00	Accept	

negatively influence both the implementation of projects and their monitoring	Description of planned response	The PO will continue to monitor the changes brought to the national legislative framework, will analyse their potential impact on the implementation of the Programme and projects and will adapt its procedures/ update its guidelines and/ or inform PP and other relevant project stakeholders on the situation, providing recommendations, if considered necessary.				
	Description of actual response	External risk, out of PO control. Nevertheless, the PO constantly monitors the changes brought to the national legislative framework, analysis their potential impact on the implementation of the Programme and projects and identifies solutions to address these changes. PO provides support to PP whenever needed following the principle “better to prevent than treat”.				
	Planned future response	The PO will continue to monitor the changes brought to the national legislative framework, will analyse their potential impact on the implementation of the Programme and projects and will adapt its procedures/ update its guidelines and/ or inform PP and other relevant project stakeholders on the situation, providing recommendations, if considered necessary.				
Low level of interest from eligible entities in the Donor States to participate in donor partnership projects and in bilateral activities with eligible entities in Romania	Strengthening bilateral relations	2	2	2.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	If the case, new relevant bilateral activities will be identified, adapted to the current context, for which additional funds from the Bilateral Fund at national level will be requested. If necessary, the conditions set out in the guidelines for bilateral initiatives will be reviewed and certain planned activities will be moved online. PO and DPP will continue to facilitate the identification of Norwegian partners for interested entities in Romania.				
	Description of actual response	A realistic work plan for bilateral activities was developed at programme level, and updated whenever necessary. Specific information activities were conducted in all the Donor States, promoting the Programme opportunities for bilateral cooperation. Matchmaking seminars were organized for each relevant call for project proposals. Constant support is provided for entities in Romania, to identify partners in Donor States.				

	Planned future response	If the case, new relevant bilateral activities will be identified, adapted to the current context, for which additional funds from the Bilateral Fund at national level will be requested. If necessary, the conditions set out in the guidelines for bilateral initiatives will be reviewed and certain activities planned at Programme level will be rescheduled or moved online.				
Failure to implement all measures included in the Capacity Plan or delays in proposed timing	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	1	1.41	Mitigate	
	Description of planned response	Permanent monitoring and early identification of specific measures delayed or at risk of not being applied. Mitigating measures will be provided. Finding, with the support of the PO Steering Committee and the NFP, alternative solutions to keep the proposed organizational capacity at the required level.				
	Description of actual response	Measures have been taken to implement all the actions provided in the plan. The PO continues to monitor and implement the proposed measures, in the context of all future planned activities (information and communication campaign, management, irregularities, etc.). Attention is paid to the existing management financial resources, which are rather limited, this having impact on the recruiting processes for future personnel, especially for financial and procurement verification and monitoring of projects.				
	Planned future response	Permanent monitoring and early identification of specific measures delayed or at risk of not being applied. Mitigating measures will be provided. Finding, with the support of the PO Steering Committee and the NFP, alternative solutions to keep the proposed organizational capacity at the required level. PO shall continue to make all the necessary efforts in ensuring that adequate and qualified personnel is employed.				
Risk of fraud at project level	Reducing social and economic disparities	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	

	Description of planned response	The PO will continue to implement the planned measures. It is considered for the future including the verification, by sampling, of the management and control systems implemented at project level.			
	Description of actual response	A relatively large sample for verifying the declared expenses was set for all projects. The purchases were verified 100%. Degrees of risk were established, according to specific criteria and were updated according to the procedure. Complete audit at project level. Verification of all expenditures at the first IFR of a project. 100% expenditure verification for the projects where fraud risk was identified. On-site verification sample. Checking the existence of MCSs for all projects.			
	Planned future response	The PO will continue to implement the planned measures.			
	Both objectives	2	2	2.00	Mitigate
Risk of failure to achieve some indicators at project level as a result of the health crisis caused by COVID-19 (external risk)	Description of planned response	The PO project officers will pay special attention to projects with such risks. PP will be encouraged to request changes to the project, if the situation requires (rescheduling activities, budget review, etc.). Risks at project level will be reviewed as often as necessary.			
	Description of actual response	The PO project officers have communicated with the PPs on situations where the Covid pandemic threatened to affect the implementation of certain project activities. Where needed, changes to the project were made and risks at project level were reviewed.			
	Planned future response	The PO project officers will continue to pay special attention to projects with such risks. PP will continue to be encouraged to request changes to the project, if the situation requires (rescheduling activities, budget review, etc.). Risks at project level will be reviewed as often as necessary.			
Overall risk of the programme					
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		2	2	2.00	

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Not Available

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1. For Outcome 1 indicator “Level of acceptance by majority population (within the project intervention areas) of Roma,” where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO for approval the baseline value no later than 6 months after the last relevant project selected under the open call for Roma inclusion has been contracted. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - No Comment</p> <p>This condition could not be met until now, because, given that the second round of funding was launched in 2021, the last relevant project approved under this call has not yet been contracted. The PO also requested, through an amendment to the Programme Agreement, a supplement to the budget allocated to the call "Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment", in order to finance 4 new projects, now on the reserve list, and in this regard, awaits the donors' decision. By the time of reporting, the PO had agreed with FMO on the methodology for collecting the data needed to calculate this indicator, which was communicated to all projects contracted in the first round of the open call. In the case of the 12 projects contracted under the first round of financing, the data necessary to determine the baseline value of the indicator are in the final phase of collection and analysis, PO providing PPs with technical support for the smooth running of this process.</p>
<p>2. For Outcome 2 indicators “Rate of transition to lower secondary education (ISCED 2) in supported schools” and “Rate of transition to higher secondary education (9th grade) (ISCED 3) in supported schools” where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO for approval the baseline value, together with a description of the data collection methods used, no later than 6 months after the last relevant project selected under the open call for Children and Youth at Risk was contracted.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - No Comment</p> <p>At the end of 2021, the data necessary to determine the baseline value of the two indicators were in an advanced stage of collection and analysis, the PO providing technical support to PPs to go through this process in good conditions. It is estimated that the baseline value of the two indicators, at Programme level, will be communicated to the FMO in April 2022.</p>

<p>The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	
<p>3. For Outcome 5 indicator “Level of knowledge of good governance principles of trained staff and politicians” where the baseline value is “to be determined” (TBD), the Programme Operator shall submit to the FMO a description of the data collection methods to be used by PPs, no later than 6 months after both of the pre-defined projects proposed by the Association of Romanian Communes in Romania (ACoR) and the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG) are contracted, and, as soon as this could be available (based on the methodology), the baseline value of the indicator. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - No Comment</p> <p>Both pre-defined projects that contribute to the achievement of this indicator have been contracted, but according to the data collection methodology, the baseline value of this indicator will be reported to the FMO only towards the end of the implementation period of the two projects. The methodology for collecting the data necessary for the calculation of this indicator was agreed by the PO with both the two project promoters and the FMO, the PO closely monitoring its application - operatively and correctly - by the two PPs.</p>
<p>4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that synergies with the programmes ‘Health’ and ‘Active Citizens’ Fund’ are further elaborated and opened up for in the calls for proposals.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The PO maintains contact with the other two POs in order to identify potential synergies between the programmes. For example, the 3 institutions work closely together and inform each other about the projects being approved (there are representatives of the programmes that ensure synergy in the various Selection Committees organized within the Local Development Programme and vice versa). For example, during 2021, the FDSC (PO for the “Active Citizens Fund” programme) nominated a voting member within the Selection Committee for the call no. 1, round 2. Similar, PO RSDF nominated a voting member to the Selection Committees for the calls launched under the programme managed by FDSC.</p>
<p>5. The Programme Operator shall ensure that an ex-ante control of public procurement procedures and documentation carried out within projects implemented</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p>

<p>under the Programme is carried out by a competent independent entity, other than the respective project promoter, in accordance with the applicable Romanian public procurement legislation.</p>	<p>The ex-ante control function is exercised through a specialized structure within the National Agency for Public Procurement (ANAP), organized at central and local level. They verify the public procurement process following a specific sampling methodology.</p>
<p>6. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 60%.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The PO has included this conditionality in the documents of all open calls for project proposals and envisages close monitoring during the implementation of the Programme.</p>
<p>7. No payments shall be made from the programme to pre-defined project no. 1 (number under Section 5.1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement) prior to the signature of a partnership agreement, in line with Article 7.7 of the Regulations, between the project promoter and the donor project partner, the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH).</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The partnership agreement between UNEFS and NIH was signed on 19.12.2018 and the first payment to UNEFS was made on 21.06.2019.</p>
<p>8. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that Project Promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; * Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally 	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The PO ensured that the Project Promoters will comply with these provisions, by inserting these obligations and the specific means of implementation in the text of the calls and consecutively in the project financing contract, both agreed with the NFP.</p>

<p>insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and</p> <p>* Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.</p>	
<p>9. The Programme Operator shall in the Annual and Final Programme Reports, report on the implementation of the 'Plan for enhancing of the management capacity of the Programme Operator', submitted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>The PO reported and will continue to report in the Annual Programme Reports the stage of fulfilment of the "Plan for enhancing of the management capacity of the Programme Operator".</p>