

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Romania

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

2022

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taking into account its solid results recorded by the end 2022, the Local Development Programme succeeded to perform very well despite a difficult social and economic context, marked by successive waves of pandemic, the outbreak of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the increase in energy prices and housing, the escalation of the inflation rate and the slowdown of economic growth. Beyond the flexible and open approach that has characterized its implementation since the beginning and good and timely management measures put into practice in 2022, its success is also due to constant involvement and effective long term cooperation that the Programme Operator has established with the Project Promoters and also, extremely important, with its main stakeholders from the Donor States, the Programme Partners (the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe), the Romanian Government, ministries and other government structures and civil society entities represented in the Steering Committee of the Programme Operator.

With 19 projects already finalized and other 91 under implementation, which ensured a disbursement of over 60% of the allocated funds, the Programme is constantly progressing towards its assumed general and specific objectives, making an important contribution to strengthening social and economic cohesion at the national and local level in Romania. The funds allocated through the Programme, both for supporting strategic measures at the national level, as well as for specific grassroots interventions in disadvantaged local communities, have already generated a meaningful impact in all its areas of action. True vehicles of change, the projects supported through the Programme bring, day by day, substantial benefits to many members of disadvantaged groups in Romania through: providing personalised social services for people in need/ integrated or specific services for Roma living in deprived communities, activities that combat school dropout phenomenon among children and youth at risk of early-school leaving or activities that involve thousands of specialists who work with disadvantaged groups in trainings so as to increase the quality of their work, promoting human rights and take measure for combating discrimination, laying the foundations for a lasting bilateral collaboration with entities from the donor states.

All the planned calls for projects and small grant schemes are closed and contracted (with one exception - a small grant scheme project), the PO reaching an outstanding contracting rate - 99.96% of the total allocated funds. Therefore, during 2022, the main focus of the Programme activity was to finalize the contracting process (34 contracts were signed in 2022), to monitor and provide support for projects' day by day implementation and to ensure that the expected results are achieved at a high-quality level. For this, the Programme Operator had to work at its maximum capacity in 2022. The monitoring process involved both a constant communication with the Project Promoters, revision/ approval of the progress/ interim reports, as well as field visits, during which technical, financial and procurement aspects were verified. Naturally, also due to the effects of pandemic as well as of the socio-economic context, the implementation process generated various challenges at projects level, especially in targeting and providing support for the final beneficiaries, that needed adaptation of methodologies and activities. Also, challenges were encountered at projects management level, including in accurately fulfilling the reporting requirements. All the above led, in some cases, to delays in implementation and to the need for project duration extension.

However, the excellent results recorded at the end of 2022 (especially for indicators corresponding to projects in last phases of implementation) are proportional with the efforts made by all those involved. Through inclusive education projects, 8,876 children and youth at risk of early-school leaving (about 85% of all those targeted by the Programme) and 1,476 (98.4%) children or youth with special education needs received support services through summer kindergartens, school after school programmes, non-formal education and personal development workshops, educational summer camps, counselling activities, workshops for the development of socio-emotional skills, remedial education activities, speech therapy etc. The local development and poverty reduction projects provided personalised social services (such as information, counselling, social, education and medical services, support for employment) to 11,074 persons belonging to vulnerable groups (about 74% of all those targeted by the Programme). In their turn, Roma inclusion projects (more than half were amongst last to be contracted) provided integrated or specific support for people from 21 counties (half of the counties of Romania), 224 individuals (44.8%) receiving employment services such as vocational assessment, information and counselling activities, professional training and qualification courses, mediation for insertion on the labour market and job retention or assessment and certification of skills acquired in non-formal contexts, 872 (43.6%) benefiting from health services such as medical consultations, medical and health education services, registration on the lists of family doctors or childcare support groups for mothers, and 1,383 (39.5%) receiving educational

services such as mentoring, dropout prevention and support groups activities or non-formal education activities.

In several cases, these results have been achieved with a consistent support provided by project partners from Norway. Almost 20% of the projects financed under the Programme are donor partnership projects (involving exclusively Norwegian entities), with a higher percentage in the case of bigger and more strategic projects, targeting poverty reduction or promoting good governance and inclusive education. 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 2022 123 specialists from Romania and 50 Norwegian experts being involved in such bilateral exchanges.

The communication process supported the Programme implementation, by promoting to the general public the most relevant results of the Programme. The impact of the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania was underlined with the help of both online and offline means of communication and also captured the positive changes in vulnerable people's life. The communication process follows, in 2022, the path opened in the previous years, by continuing to use the monthly electronic newsletter, social media posts and website informative materials in order to bring the impact of the projects closer to the public. Also, a new field visit of journalists at projects funded through the Programme was organised, the event being highlighted by special articles and local TV shows dedicated to the visited projects.

On the other hand, the bilateral cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian public authorities was in the spot in the Norwegian mass-media, which informed, in 2022, about the study visit in Oslo and Moss of 13 representatives of Romanian Municipalities, with the support of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, under the predefined project carried out by the Association of Communes from Romania.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

With significant intermediary results achieved by the end of 2022, the Local Development Programme is progressing towards its assumed general and specific objectives, making an important contribution to strengthening social and economic cohesion at the national and local level in Romania.

The strategic dimension of the interventions implemented by the predefined projects is generating a meaningful impact in their areas of action, being vehicles of progress on social and educational inclusion (through sports related activities), efficient and transparent local authorities as well as for a central administration guided by the principals of open governance, sustainable development, transparency, integrity and digitalization (through trainings/ transfer of knowhow from strategic partners as KS and OECD).

In addition, the financed projects bring, and shall continue to do so, substantial benefits to many members of disadvantaged groups in Romania. Following categories of activities are essential: provide personalised social services for people in need, integrated or specific services for Roma living in deprived communities, combat the school dropout phenomenon among children and youth at risk of early-school leaving, involves thousands of specialists who work with disadvantaged groups in trainings so as to increase the quality of their work, promote human rights and take measure for combating discrimination, lay the foundations for a lasting bilateral collaboration with entities from the donor states etc.

The quality and innovation that many of the projects financed under the Programme bring are its main added value. Very important is also the fact that these projects make an important contribution in filling the need of funding to local authorities but also to civil society for providing the so needed services, in a complicated pandemic and economic context.

The way the projects had reached to children at risk of school dropout, in order to increase the school attendance and to improve their knowledge during the pandemic is such an example. The way the integrated services - including educational, social assistance, medical, housing and occupational

services - were provided to Roma communities members, in new community centres established in partnership with local authorities, is another good example. The significantly improved quality of measures and services developed by the local development and poverty alleviation projects funded by the Programme and addressed to different high-risk categories of people - such as victims of domestic and gender violence from local communities, homeless people, elder ones, people in rural areas in need of palliative care - can also serve as good practices to be replicated at national level. The contribution of the human rights projects to the development, implementation and monitoring of public tools for fighting discrimination and human right violations are also of outmost importance. Not least, the bilateral activities organized under the Programme and the donor partnership projects raised awareness on different approaches with effective results on similar problems, and created sustainable bridges of cooperation on issues that can be better addressed by an international partnership.

Through the programme 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 both at local level (most of them organised in an integrated approach) as well as the national level, within authorities and civil society entities by:

- promoting the consultation with the target groups in the design and implementation of the interventions;
- promoting the importance of partnership, in general, and between authorities and NGOs, in particular, as well as with the donor states;
- increasing the level of experts' awareness and of the public at large towards the social inclusion and especially the Roma social inclusion;
- supporting the empowerment of the Roma, women, minorities;
- supporting the increase of capacities to apply the requirement of a good governance, both at local and at central level;
- offering support and guidance for increasing the capacity to implement projects by the PPs, as a PO help desk and monitoring tool, etc.

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 appropriate measures tailored for inclusive education that is 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 anti-discrimination and giving a chance to the marginalised to have a voice.

Thus, 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.

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, thus, becoming at their turn, active citizens in the process of strengthening the social and economic cohesion.

Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma

For the achievement of this outcome, within the Programme were launched:

- the call for projects (Call no. 1) "Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment"
- the small grant scheme (SGS no. 1) "Priority Interventions for Roma communities"

In order to contract all the funds allocated to the call for projects no. 1, it was necessary to organize two rounds of financing, the first one in 2019, and the second in 2021. By the end of December 2022, following several reallocations of funds, a total of 30 projects were financed under this call (the last one was

contracted in December 2022). One of these 30 projects (PN1014, IRIS - Integration of Roma through Innovative Skills) has already been finalised during 2022, achieving its proposed results.

On the other hand, launched in 2021, the small grant scheme shall contribute by the end of the Programme to achieving the outcome through the results of the 10 approved projects, of which 9 have already been contracted by the end of December 2022 (the last one shall be contracted in January or February 2023).

Initially, the budget allocated to achieve this outcome was 17,647,059 euros (16,000,000 euros for the call and 1,647,059 euros for the small grants scheme). Through successive reallocations, the overall budget at the end of 2022 is 21,018,643 euros (20,556,379 euros for the call and 462,264 euros for the small grants scheme). Additional funds (in the amount of 3,371,584 euros) have been transferred from Outcome 4 (from the small grants scheme no. 2) and Outcome 6 (from the Call no. 5). By the end of 2022, 20,991,473 euros (99.8%) from the budget allocated to achieve this outcome was contracted, of these 11,948,495 euros (56.9%) being already disbursed to the Project Promoters.

Although in different stages of implementation (those financed under the first round of the call for projects are already in the second year of implementation, while those financed under the small grants scheme are at the beginning of this process), the 39 already contracted Roma inclusion projects (of which only one, funded under the call for projects, is a donor partnership project) have ensured/ provided already:

- ID documents secured for 144 Roma individuals (96% of the total of 150 targeted by the Programme), by counselling and legal assistance for obtaining identity documents such as birth certificates and identity cards;
- trainings for 716 professionals working with Roma (59.7% of the total of 1,200 targeted by the Programme) on topics such as: intercultural and inclusive education, anti-discrimination, Roma history and culture, experiential pedagogy;
- employment services for 224 Roma (44.8% of the total of 500 Roma targeted by the Programme) such as: vocational assessment, information and counselling activities (including support for CV preparation and submission of job applications), provision of professional training courses and qualification courses, mediation for insertion on the labour market and job retention, assessment and certification of skills acquired in non-formal contexts;
- health services for 872 Roma (43.6% of the total of 2,000 Roma targeted by the Programme), such as: medical consultations, medical and health education services, registration on the lists of family doctors, childcare support groups for mothers;
- education services for 1,383 Roma (39.5% of the total of 3,500 Roma targeted by the Programme) such as: mentoring services, dropout prevention and support groups activities, non-formal education activities, art therapy;

By the social inclusion services provided under the funded projects benefited Roma persons from 21 counties (84% of the number of counties targeted by the Programme, respectively half of the counties of Romania, including Bucharest).

Considering the different stage of implementation of the funded projects, it is estimated that all indicators shall be reached and there is a high chance that some will be even exceeded.

Funded under the call for projects "Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment", the project Community Centres for Integrated Services - A model of intervention in the process of inclusion and empowerment of Roma (PN1008), carried out by Roma Centre for Health Policies SASTIPEN, succeeded to create a complex program of community integrated services, based on a public-private partnership, which improved the lives of more than 1,000 Roma people from three localities: Ciucurova and Hamcearca from Tulcea County and Polovragi from Gorj County.

Based on the real needs of the targeted Roma communities, identified with the support of the local initiative groups, the project involved the children from these communities in educational activities meant to stimulate school performance and prevent early school leaving, provided primary medical assistance for all in need and monitoring services for pregnant women, assured legal assistance for obtaining identity documents and clarifying the housing situation of the community members, and also provided advice and

mediation on the labour market. Over 800 people benefited of these measures by the end of 2022. The services are provided in three Community Centres, established and equipped under the project. The centres also hosted awareness raising activities on the value of education and graduating a school, disease prevention, vaccination and registration to a family doctor, as well as trainings, empowerment and mentoring programs dedicated to Roma youth and Roma women, aiming to increase their involvement and participation in community life.

One of the biggest challenges of the project were the activities of providing legal assistance for obtaining identity documents and for clarifying the housing situation of the community members. While obtaining identity documents is quite a flexible legal procedure, for the legalization of the housing situation the procedure is much more complex and difficult. Despite the support offered by the local authorities, often such cases cannot be resolved locally, requiring the intervention of the courts. "We found that many people live in houses inherited from their parents, without having any document to prove ownership. Some do not have the financial resources to start the legal succession proceedings – in the case of houses inherited from parents who died and who had title deeds. Other cases encountered are those related to the delimitation of the boundaries of owned or concessioned lands, or those related to houses built without a construction permit on illegally occupied lands (the public domain, in flood zones, in the forest bypass area, on private lands in dispute with heirs, etc.) and which have no chance of becoming legal", explain the project representatives.

So far, through the three centres, 60 people have acquired new ID or renewed their identity documents or have been supported in preparing the documents necessary to obtain them. 70 persons have been helped to prepare the documents necessary to legalize their housing situation.

For the promotion of Roma heritage and traditions, the initiators organized also three cultural events, which gathered over 1,600 people, Roma but also Turks, Ukrainians, Macedonians, Tatars and Bulgarians who live together in these communities or in the surrounding areas. Paintings provided by the National Roma Culture Centre were exhibited during these events, creating the favourable context for discussions regarding the challenges but also the advantages of living in multicultural communities. Also, the project contributed to the empowerment process of Roma people at local level, through three local public debates entitled "Asserting citizenship rights and assuming participation in the decision-making process". During these events, were debated the main problems faced by the Roma people in their communities and were identified ways to promote the rights of Roma people and to combat discrimination.

Implemented by the Roma Centre for Health Policies SASTIPEN, in partnership with the Institute for Public Policies (IPP) and the town halls of Polovragi (Gorj County), Hamcearca and Ciucurova (Tulcea County), the project "Community Centres for Integrated Services – A model of intervention in the process of inclusion and empowerment of Roma" takes place between December 2020 and March 2023 and benefits from a grant of 793,557 euros.

Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth

In order to achieve this outcome, the Programme foreseen:

- the launching of the call for projects (Call no. 2) "Inclusive Education for Children and Youth in Risk" and
- financing the pre-defined project (PNP001) "Sustainable social and educational integration through sports activities", implemented by the Romanian National University for Physical Education and Sports (UNEFS), in partnership with the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo.

Within the call, following several reallocations of funds, 15 projects were financed, all of them being under implementation during 2022. One of these 15 projects (PN2025 - "Through education towards vocation!", coordinated by Alba Iulia Orthodox Philanthropy Association and having New School AS as Norwegian partner) has already been completed during 2022, achieving its proposed results. Two other projects, PN2041 ("Alături de Voi" Foundation) and PN2017 (County Centres for Resources and Educational Assistance Suceava) were extended until February, respectively March 2023, due to the fact that activities with children were slowed down during the pandemic and this created difficulties in reaching the quality indicators of the projects within the initial time frame.

Initially, the total budget allocated to achieve this outcome was 13,031,978 euros (8,581,978 euros for the call and 4,450,000 euros for the pre-defined project). Through successive reallocations, the overall budget at the end of 2022 is 21,272,214 euros (16,898,633 euros for the call and 4,373,581 euros for the pre-defined project). Additional funds (in the amount of 8,240,236 euros) have been transferred from Outcome 4 (from Call no. 3/ the restricted call), but also following the donor's decision to supplement the Programme's funds. By the end of 2022, 21,267,770 euros (99.9%) from the budget allocated to achieve this outcome was contracted, 15,212,560.33 euros (71.3%) being already disbursed to the Project Promoters.

Being in an advanced stage of implementation, the 16 inclusive education projects (including the pre-defined one) funded under this outcome have ensured/ provided, by the end of 2022:

- support services for 1,476 children or youth with special education needs (98.4% of the total of 1,500 targeted by the Programme), from 28 counties (more than planned, representing two thirds of Romania's counties, including Bucharest), such as: integrated educational and social services, personal development and counselling activities, workshops for the development of socio-emotional skills, remedial education, speech therapy;
- support services for 8,876 children or youth at risk of early-school leaving (84.5% of the total of 10,500 targeted by the Programme), from 33 counties (more than planned, representing almost 80% of Romania's counties, including Bucharest), such as: summer kindergartens, school after school programmes, non-formal education and personal development workshops, educational summer camps;
- trainings for 606 teachers working with children or youth with special education needs- SEN (80.8% of the total of 750 targeted by the Programme) on topics such as: inclusive education and SEN/ disability issues, communication within the educational environment, the rights of the child, the prevention of stress and professional exhaustion in the educational environment, the protection of the child against abuse and violence;
- trainings for 1,054 teachers working with children or youth at risk of early-school leaving (65.9% of the total of 1,600 targeted by the Programme) on topics such as: methods and techniques for the individual development of the child, the development of emotional intelligence, combating the bullying phenomena, communication with the child and the family in the educational environment, the rights of the child, the protection of the child against abuse and violence;
- support for 1,785 parents of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving (52.5% of the total of 3,400 targeted by the Programme) and for 189 parents of children or youth with special education needs (23.6% of the total of 800 targeted by the Programme), such as: parenting education programs, workshops of financial education, counselling services, psychological and motivational assistance services, information and awareness on topics related to gender equality and equal opportunities and the promotion of inclusive education.

Considering these intermediary results, which are proportional with current stage of project implementation, PO considers that the results assumed at the outcome level shall be achieved by the end of the Programme, and some of them might be even exceeded.

The project "We invest in inclusive education!" (PN2041), carried out by Alaturi de voi Romania Foundation, implements a model of correlated intervention at the child/youth-family-school-community level, aiming to improve the school participation of children and youth in risk of dropping out school and with special educational needs in 4 communities in Iași and Botoșani counties (3 rural communities in Iași county: Miroslava, Cornești and Horlești, and one urban community in Botosani county: Botoșani Municipality).

In the 4 newly established educational centers, equipped with modern furniture, IT equipment and educational materials, the project provided personalized inclusive educational services to more than 670 children and youth. Here, the beneficiaries are included in afterschool programs, receive psycho-social and pedagogical support, and participate at non-formal education activities.

The educational services provided by the project succeed to have an important impact on combating early school leaving and enhanced the transition rate of the children from primary school to gymnasium and from gymnasium to high school. As interim results show, after the school year 2020-2021, 98.66% of children at the end of primary cycle, that received services under the project, continued to secondary cycle.

Also, 93.61% of the children finishing secondary cycle have succeeded to continue their education to high school.

In order to change the way children are perceiving the importance of attending school/ education, within the project are also organised personal development and recreational activities, including camps, which generates new experiences and creates long lasting memories.

"The educational camps were loved by both the children, experts and volunteers from the project. 80 children participated this year in 4 camps, and enjoyed wonderful experiences, through engaging activities carried out in a wonderful natural mountain setting, far from their communities of residence", emphasized the representatives of the project. One of the camps facilitators, Sebi Cupsan, described what this experience meant to him: "It was an organizational effort rewarded by smiles, new learning experiences, samples of friendship and gratitude. We are happy to have contributed to these wonderful results and we hope that all the children included in this project will build the Romania we dreamed of."

Helping children to reach their full potential is an ongoing challenge for parents and legal guardians. Sometimes, the adults do not have the necessary knowledge and skills or do not have access to resources that would allow them to provide the child with optimal conditions for development. The project reached-out to more than 200 parents through counselling, social intervention, and training programs on parenting etc.

More than 130 teachers were trained on integrated approaches for working with children and young people at risk of dropping out school and with special educational needs. Also, 10 webinars were organised in order to identify ways of improving school participation (500 teachers from all over the country attended).

Implemented by Alaturi de voi Romania Foundation, in partnership with Star of Hope Romania Foundation, Romanian Literacy Association, Stejarii Argintii Local Action Group Association, the project "We invest in inclusive education!", takes place between October 2020 and February 2023, and benefits of a grant of 1.147.488 euros.

Outcome 4: Increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups

In order to achieve this outcome, within the Programme were launched:

- the restricted call for projects (Call no. 3) "Poverty Reduction", within which 3 projects were contracted;
- the open call for projects (Call no. 4) "Local Development", with 13 projects contracted;
- the small grant scheme (SGS no. 2) "Access to financing", with 32 projects contracted (under all the 3 rounds for financing, launched in 2019, 2020 and 2021).

Initially, the total budget allocated to achieve this outcome was 31,090,640 euros (20,000,000 euros for the call no. 3, 10,090,640 euros for call no. 4 and 1,000,000 euros for the small grant scheme). Through successive reallocations, the overall budget at the end of 2022 is 27,056,178 euros (9,753,600 euros for the call no. 3, 16,455,625 euros for the call no. 4 and 846,951 euros for the small grant scheme). The unallocated funds (in the amount of 4,034,462 euros) have been partially transferred within to the same outcome for the open call Local Development, and to the Outcome 2 Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth (to the call "Inclusive Education for Children and Youth in Risk"), to finance projects initially placed on the reserve list.

By the end of 2022, 100% of the budget allocated to achieve this outcome was contracted, 16,996,238.51 euros (62.8%) being already disbursed to the Project Promoters.

Of the 32 projects financed under the small grant scheme no. 2, the 17 that were contracted under the first two rounds and one project (PND076) funded under the last round were already finalised by the end of 2022. The projects financed under this scheme do not have a direct impact in terms of achieving the outcome, given that they consist in the preparation of technical documentation necessary for local authorities to attract other funding for social infrastructure components, aimed to improve the access to social services for disadvantaged/poor communities. Nevertheless, it is important to underline that out of

first 17 projects closed, 15 already submitted for funding project proposals and were selected for financing from national funds dedicated to infrastructure. This demonstrates the importance and success of the small grant scheme.

On the other hand, the 16 projects funded under the two calls for proposal, that were still under implementation during 2022, have already ensured/ provided by the end of the year:

- 6 intervention models to be applied in working with vulnerable groups (compared to 5 assumed by the Programme - target exceeded by 20%), such as: 3 integrated and coordinated models of palliative services for family doctors, community nurses and paediatricians, a multiregional community intervention model to provide social inclusion services (for disadvantaged groups - people in poverty or in need), an intervention model on the prevention of abuses and human trafficking and an integrated model of intervention (UNITARA) to increase the degree of use of public social assistance services (social-medical services, employment, housing, education, etc.);
- personalised social services for 11,074 individuals (73.8% of the total of 15,000 targeted by the Programme), from 257 municipalities (compared to the 200 assumed by the Programme - target exceeded by 28.5%) that have received information, counselling, social, education and medical services, support for employment, housing services and legal assistance for victims of domestic and gender violence etc.

Considering these intermediary results, along with current status of projects' implementation, PO considers that all assumed results shall be achieved by the end of the Programme and some even exceeded.

The project "Romania for every child. Ensuring social inclusion - breaking the vicious circle of exclusion in the case of the most vulnerable children in Romania", carried out by UNICEF Romania, aims to ensure access to quality educational, health and social care services for disadvantaged children from 16 local communities in Bacău County and in Braşov Municipality.

To achieve the project results, the initiators set-up and operationalized 5 Integrated Community Centres, in cities of Bacău and Moineşti, and in the communes of Coloneşti and Corbasca (Bacău County), respectively in the city of Braşov, where, so far, over 6.000 children and their parents benefit from consistent packages of support services. Social workers, nurses and school counsellors are providing basic services, while doctors, speech therapists, psychologists or physiotherapists provide specialized and personalized services.

For instance, in Corbasca, the Integrated Community Centre proposes an innovative approach in terms of social inclusion. Vulnerable children come to the centre for psychological therapy sessions, for physiotherapy, but also for health educational and recreational activities, such as dental hygiene, education for health, and personal development workshops.

"Currently there are around 120 children who come regularly for therapy. But, in addition to them, there are other children, as well as parents, who come for various problems. Sometimes I also request the presence of the parents, to inform them about the evolution of their child. The children are aged between 6 and 15 years and face a variety of psychological disorders, such as autism spectrum disorder, mild and moderate mental retardation, receptive and expressive language delay, hyperkinetic syndrome, emotional disorders, behavioural disorders, etc. We can understand the difficulties that both children and parents face", says Marina Balcan, psychologist at the centre in Corbasca.

At the same time, the project is contributing to strengthening the capacity of school staff to promote quality inclusive education. Consequently, over 100 teachers were trained as trainers on parental education and more than 600 parents were attending the parental training sessions.

Another important component of the project is the one regarding the improvement of children's participation in local decision-making processes. 5 Local Children's Councils were established and over 100 children were familiarized with the principles of participation on the communities matters. In addition, more than 500 have been part of workshops on human rights.

Implemented by UNICEF Romania, in partnership with the Bacău County Council, Bacău General Social Assistance and Child Protection Directorate, Bacău Public Health Directorate, Bacău Social Assistance Directorate and the Moineşti Social Assistance Directorate, Moineşti City Hall, Bacău City Hall, Coloneşti

City Hall, Corbasca City Hall, respectively with the Braşov City Hall and the Braşov Social Assistance Directorate, the project "Romania for every child. Ensuring social inclusion - breaking the vicious circle of exclusion in the case of the most vulnerable children in Romania" takes place between June 2021 and December 2023, and benefits of a grant of 4,2 million euros.

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

For the achievement of this outcome, within the Programme are financed two pre-defined projects:

- "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) and
- "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.

The total budget assigned to achieve this outcome is 6,297,088 euros (not subject to reallocations). By the end of 2022, 100% from this budget was contracted, of these 3,696,724.47 euros (58.7%) being already disbursed to the two Project Promoters.

Both pre-defined projects (of which one is a donor partnership project, the other one being implemented in partnership with an International Organisation) were under implementation in 2022 and have ensured/ provided by the end of the year:

- trainings for 2,117 employees of the local public administration and politicians (60.5% of the 3,500 persons targeted by the Programme), from 789 communes and towns from Romania (71.7% of the 1,100 targeted by the Programme) on ethics and transparency, conflicts of interest and incompatibilities in local public administration;
- development or improvement of 2 good governance tools (of the 6 targeted by the Programme): guidelines for incompatibility and conflict of interest, transparency and ethics and a handbook for newly elected officials.

Considering the stage of projects implementation and the intermediary results already achieved by these projects, it is estimated that the results assumed at the outcome level shall be achieved.

An efficient public sector, especially the administrative body that serves the Prime Minister and the Government of Romania, has to elaborate and enforce public policies in the spirit of sustainable development, transparency, integrity and digitalization. The project "Development of administrative capacity in the field of public governance - a coordinated approach of the Romanian Government Centre" (PNP003), carried out by The General Secretariat of the Government (GSG), aims to strengthen the public governance in terms of innovation, transparency, integrity and digitalization, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, assumed by Romania within the United Nations Organization (UN).

In order to address the perceived discrepancies between government policies and the real needs of the population, especially of the vulnerable groups, the central administration must advance towards an open government, in accordance with the recommendations for Romania of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), project partner. In this respect, in May 2022, a mission of OECD came in Bucharest, to try to identify and overcome the difficulties regarding the elaboration of the National Action Plan to facilitate the implementation of Romania's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. The event gathered around 200 participants and included meetings with representatives from sustainable development hubs, from the ministries responsible of the policies, representatives of the Department for Sustainable Development, the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development and the Romanian Parliament. Following the mission, Mrs. Carina Lindberg (OECD) stressed that an important progress has been made towards a consolidated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), a process which will be finalized with the elaboration of a national action plan and a national strategy of sustainable development.

To assess the current state of progress made by Romania regarding the application of the open government principles in public administration, under the project were organised 15 workshops with representatives of ministries, authorities subordinate to ministries, autonomous authorities and local public administration authorities, both at the decision-making and at the execution level. Also, two other such sessions were organized with representatives of academic and civil society organizations, active in the field of open government.

In addition, the project made important progresses in the direction of developing the innovation capacity of the Romania Government. In October 2022, the initiators, with the contribution of OECD Public Sector Innovation Observatory, finalized the initial assessment, a report which identifies the needs and barriers to innovation in the public sector. The collected information will support the development of an innovation national strategy of the public sector.

The integrated measures proposed by the project will contribute considerably to the achievement of one of the strategic objectives of Romania's foreign policy, namely the accession to the OECD.

Implemented by The General Secretariat of the Government (GSG), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Agency for Digitization of Romania (ADR) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the project "Development of administrative capacity in the field of public governance - a coordinated approach of the Romanian Government Centre", takes place between September 2021 and October 2023 and benefits of a grant of 3.020.000 euros.

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

In order to achieve this outcome, an open call for project proposals (Call no. 5 "Human Rights – national implementation") was launched in 2021. From the final amount allocated to the call (following all the reallocations that took place), 5 projects were contracted under this call, all being under implementation during 2022.

Initially, the budget assigned to achieve this outcome was 5,868,529 euros. Through successive reallocations, the overall budget at the end of 2022 is 5,649,994 euros. The rest of the funds (in the amount of 218,535 euros, but also the additional funds allocated to this call following the donor's decision to supplement the Programme's funds) have been transferred to Outcome 1 (mainly to the Call no. 1 "Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment", in order to finance projects from the reserve list). By the end of 2022, 5,649,994 euros (100%) from the budget allocated to achieve this outcome was contracted, of these 2,645,186.61 euros (46.8%) being already disbursed to the Project Promoters.

The 5 human rights projects under implementation (of which, one is a donor partnership project) have ensured/ provided by the end of 2022:

- training for 29 experts working with vulnerable groups, on topics such as: mental health, mechanisms for the protection of the rights of institutionalized disabled persons, ECtHR standards that refer to anti-discrimination, investigating hate crimes. These trainings will continue throughout the project duration, especially in the second part of the project;
- piloting one measure for combating discrimination (of the 3 targeted by the Programme): introducing the methodology for providing comprehensive assistance in working with LGBTI;
- support for 144 people from vulnerable groups to be reached by anti-discrimination or human rights pilot measures (24% of the total of 600 targeted by the Programme): representing persons with disabilities in relation with the competent authorities, providing legal advice services, psychological counselling, transition guidance for trans people and assistance through community outreach. This activity was foreseen for the second part of the project.

Considering the stage of project implementation and the intermediary results of the human rights funded projects, it is estimated that the assumed results shall be attained.

The project "Partnership for the equality of LGBTI persons: the implementation of ECHR jurisprudence on sexual orientation and gender identity" (PN5017), carried out by the ACCEPT Association, aims to contribute to speeding up the resolution of cases involving hate crimes directed against LGBTI persons and monitoring the number of cases that end with the conviction of the guilty persons.

Important steps in ensuring equal access to the justice system for people belonging to sexual minorities were made under the project, by organizing two training of trainers (ToT) programs on the topic of investigating hate crimes against LGBTI people. The ToT was attended by 8 Romanian participants - psychologists, human rights experts and prosecutors. Until December 2022, over 180 Romanian police officers and prosecutors have been also trained on investigating hate crimes, thus ensuring that the rights of LGBTI persons are respected. The sessions will continue in 2023, as the project targets to train at least 440 magistrates and police officers.

The project is also reaching directly to LGBTI people, victims of rights violations, through a program of comprehensive assistance. More than 100 people have already benefited of legal advice services, psychological counselling, transition guidance for trans people and assistance through community outreach.

On the other hand, the project is making important steps towards the implementation of ECtHR decisions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in Romania, by organizing meetings of the Working Group on the implementation of ECtHR decisions. The group was created under the project and brings together representatives of institutions with an important role in the implementation of these decisions, such as: the Institution of the People's Advocate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Directorate for the Administration of Databases subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Ministry of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

As next steps, the initiators are planning to launch an online system for reporting violations of rights suffered by LGBTI people and to publish a manual for investigating hate crimes. Also, the project will run a public campaign, which will inform more than 500,000 people about the situation of LGBTI people in Romania.

Implemented by the ACCEPT Association, in partnership with the Public Ministry - the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation, the project "Partnership for the equality of LGBTI persons: the implementation of ECHR jurisprudence on sexual orientation and gender identity" takes place between December 2021 to November 2023 and benefits of a grant of 937,819 euros.

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

18 (about 20% of the projects contracted by the end of 2022) are donor partnership projects, which indicates a good level of bilateral cooperation within the Local Development Programme. The highest level of bilateral cooperation is registered in the case of pre-defined projects (2 out of 3 contracted projects are donor partnership projects, the third one having an international agency as partner - OECD), of projects financed within the restricted call on poverty reduction (2 out of 3, the third one being managed by an international agency as Project Promoter - UNICEF) and of inclusive education projects (60%).

All the 18 bilateral projects contracted under the Programme have partners exclusively from Norway (despite all the PO's efforts in promoting and encouraging partnerships with entities from the other two Donor States). All of them were under implementation in 2022 (two of them being finalised by the end of the year).

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 2022.

The bilateral activities organized within these projects facilitated an important flow of information and experiences among partners. By the end of 2022, 123 specialists from Romania (almost half of the estimated number - 250) and 50 Norwegian experts (66% more than the estimated number - 30) being involved in bilateral exchanges such as: trainings focused on inclusive and vocational education, intervention in crisis situations, combating human trafficking, work and communication techniques with children and young people with limited opportunities and emotional vulnerability, workshops on sustainable integration of children (including through sports activities), use of "Affirmative Art" methods in working with pupils at risk of dropping out of school, use of the method "Path of Hope", which provides safety and empowerment to women and their children escaping family and domestic violence, but also study visits in Norway for Romanian authorities focused on good governance, good housing and housing policies, social inclusion and equal opportunities for all.

The project "Step by step grow with dignity!", carried out by the Association for Development and Psychotherapy through Action (DePsi), aims to ensure the respect of the rights of children from Dolj county who go through violent events, offering them support to overcome the traumas.

Abuse, domestic violence, bullying, criminality are phenomena that affect the lives of children all over the world. In Romania, every hour, two children are victims of violence, and the number of reported cases of abuse increases annually. To improve the skills of Romanian professionals in the judicial and child protection systems in working with this vulnerable category thus becomes a must.

Between April and June 2022, 10 Romanian psychologists participated in a training for trainers (ToT) in work and communication techniques with children and young people with limited opportunities and emotional vulnerability, according to the work model used in Norway.

The Romanian trainers as well as the representatives of the Norwegian organization Moreno Huset AS (project partner), familiarized the participants with unique techniques for working with minors who have suffered trauma. The presentation included elements of psychodrama (the role play, the soliloquy, the empty chair, the socio-psychological atom), the ESPERE method and playback theatre elements, useful tools for the staff involved in hearing the victims.

"It was a very interesting experience to work together with specialists from such different areas of expertise, sharing knowledge to develop new structures for the future, in order to help children with emotional difficulties in a new way", emphasizes the importance of the training one of the Norwegian trainers.

"In my daily work, I encounter trauma with its different faces. Sometimes it is shown as it is, domineering, fearsome, fangs bared, and the confrontation is face-to-face, with all the weapons at their disposal. At other times it camouflages, hides, insinuates itself appearing shy and fragile, but its effects and the force with which it acts are equally difficult to manage. To fight with it I need strong, effective and different weapons, I need to be strong and stable, to have people with me who have fought such fights and with their experience to enrich my arsenal of techniques. This is what I got by participating in this training: authenticity, information, tools, the strength that an involved, wise, informed, empathetic and strong group gives you", declared one of the training participants.

Following this ToT, the trained psychologists trained at their turn 70 professionals from the judicial and child protection systems in techniques for dealing with children in vulnerable situations, so that the rights of children involved in judicial investigations are respected and protected. In addition, a counselling centre for victims will be established, and appropriate spaces for judicial investigations intended for minors will be set up within the Police Inspectorate of Dolj County and in the Craiova Juvenile Detention Centre.

Implemented by the Association for Development and Psychotherapy through Action, in partnership with the Dolj County Police Inspectorate, the Craiova Detention Centre and Moreno Huset AS (Norway), the project "Step by step grow with dignity!" takes place between December 2021 and July 2023 and benefits from a grant of 1,848,440 euros.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

According to the internal procedures and requirements, the monitoring of the project implementation process is done both at the office and through the field visits.

According to existing planning, during 2022, the PO conducted field visits for 29 projects under implementation. Of these, 24 projects were visited by the project officers, who checked the general progress of the activities, the stage of achievement of objectives and results, the progress in reaching the indicators, the way relations with Roma community are maintained (where the case) etc. In case of 5 projects, which were in a more advanced stage of implementation of the construction component, monitoring visits were focused also on the progress of construction/ rehabilitation works. Also, out of the 29 projects, 7 were subject to financial and technical verification and 5 projects were visited by procurement experts. In case of the project PN1014 – IRIS "Integration of Roma through innovative skills" (implemented by Alba Iulia City Hall, and having Sono AS from Norway as partner from the Donor State), which ended in September 2022, the visit was focused on all the monitoring areas.

For the rest of projects, for which no field monitoring visits were foreseen in 2022, the monitoring process was mainly based on the assessment of 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 adaptation the interventions at the current conditions in the area of implementation). In this regard, during 2022, PO received for approval 397 notifications for projects modification, most of them being analysed and solved during the same year. The majority of the notifications were issued as a response to specific pandemic situation (which required adaptation/ modifications at the project intervention level, timeline of activities, corresponding budgetary reallocations), changes in legislation, increase of prices (had an important impact on the projects that required procurement of land/ buildings/ apartments), local elections/ administrative changes, necessity to reduce private co-financing, staff turn-over etc. In 2022, overall, 88 intermediate/ final reports were approved (of which 6 final reports from projects developed under SGS no. 2) and 141 progress reports were analysed by the PO staff.

According to the monitoring conclusions (both from field visits but also from desk monitoring), the projects are implemented according to the updated planning (which in many cases included postponing some activities and revision of others). To face the existing challenges, the PPs adapted the projects' methodologies and activities so as to better reach and support the final beneficiaries, who were/ continue to be even more vulnerable during this period and need more acutely the services and the material support. Moreover, the monitoring process highlighted the fact that for many projects it is necessary to extend the initial implementation period. Thus, in order for those projects to be completed before April 30th 2024, upon request, the PO decided to approve the request for extending the project implementation period, based on a case-by-case analysis, in order to achieve the proposed results.

As during 2022 the restrictions specific to the pandemic have been removed, the projects were in full implementation process, which implied a large number of purchases (as for the case of project implemented by the Inter-communitary Development Association Cluj metropolitan area, where 30 social apartments are to be bought), activities to be carried out, expenses to be incurred etc. Given that by the end of the year the OP achieved a close to maximum degree of contracting projects (the last project to be financed under the Programme will be contracted at the beginning of 2023), in order to manage about 90 projects (under implementation) simultaneously, PO worked in 2022 at its maximum capacity.

The large number of field visits that were planned, doubled by the significant increase in the number of reports received from PP and rather high number of requests for project modification challenged the PO for even a more efficient organization of work. Consequently, the PO took all the necessary measures needed for a good planning and organization of all activities, so as to maintain the appropriate quality of work within the set deadlines. Considering the reduced capacity of some PPs to accurately fulfil the reporting requirements and to ensure the administrative management of the projects (for example, the provision of supporting documents in accordance with the Project Implementation Manual, the adequate presentation and argumentation of the proposed changes in the implementation of projects, either technical or financial, the low capacity to comply with procurement procedures, etc.), all PO staff involved in project monitoring and expenditure verification (project officers, expenditure verification officers, procurement experts, construction specialist officers) have dedicated a generous amount of time to support the PP management teams in overcoming difficulties and in complying with all contractual requirements. PO's

internal staff turnover in certain key positions (project officers, procurement experts) - due also to the uncertainty regarding the implementation by the PO of a future financial mechanism (to ensure the continuation of the organization's activity/ financing) - as well as the intense and long-term 2 national audits from Central Harmonization Unit for Internal Public Audit (first on the description of the Control and Management System of the Programme and second on verification of expenses incurred/ authorized within the Programme - lasting about 6 month, in total) had further increased the workload for existing PO staff. In this context, significant efforts were made to solve all requirements (including audit ones)/ reports/ notifications in time, within the legal deadlines. Despite all these difficulties, there are no delays in the implementation of the Programme.

For 2023, monitoring field visits of the projects are planned as presented in the attached monitoring plan. This plan might suffer alterations, depending on the identified needs.

2. Evaluations carried out

In June, the Local Development Programme was the subject of an evaluation on how the gender equality is approached by the programme. The evaluation was carried out by the Ecorys company, at the FMO initiative, and aimed to analyse and compare efforts to promote gender equality and reduce gender-based violence in the period 2009-2014, to assess current needs and formulate recommendations to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the planning and implementation of gender equality aspects in the programmes financed by the EEA and Norwegian Grants. In this regard, the PO representatives participated in an interview with the research team, providing all the requested information and data. By end of 2022, the PO did not receive the conclusions of this evaluation/ evaluation report.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Strengthened social and economic cohesion								
Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusion and empowerment of Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of Roma individuals with ID documents secured	Cumulative number	0	8 (APR 2021)	-	-	144	150	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	6	-	-	83	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	2	-	-	61	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received education services	Cumulative number	0	569 (APR 2021)	-	-	1,383	3,500	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
<i>Gender</i>								

<i>Female</i>	-	-	354	-	-	845	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	215	-	-	538	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received employment services	Cumulative number	0	5 (APR 2021)	-	-	224	500	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	99	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	5	-	-	125	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received health services	Cumulative number	0	22 (APR 2021)	-	-	872	2,000	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of

								beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	10	-	-	597	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	12	-	-	275	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received housing services	Cumulative number	0	3 (APR 2021)	-	-	73	250	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).

<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	1	-	-	43	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	2	-	-	30	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Roma that have received integrated services	Cumulative number	0	38 (APR 2021)	-	-	1,956	10,000	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	11	-	-	946	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	27	-	-	1,010	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Level of acceptance by majority population (within the project intervention areas) of Roma	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	-	-	-	(+10%)	The baseline and final values have not yet been determined at the level of all contracted projects.
Number of Roma reached by empowerment measures	Cumulative number	0	160 (APR 2021)	-	-	1,642	9,200	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more

								than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Output 1.1: Social inclusion services provided to Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of counties where social inclusion services are provided to Roma	Cumulative number	0	16 (IFR 2022)	-	-	21	25	-
Output 1.2: Awareness raising campaigns on Roma inclusion conducted								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of awareness raising campaigns targeting majority population	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2022)	-	-	5	15	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this

								indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the campaigns very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Number of awareness raising campaigns targeting Roma	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2022)	-	-	6	20	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, b) the campaigns very often stretch until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns	Cumulative number	0	2,220 (IFR 2022)	-	-	4,823	15,000	For the achieved value see the explanation above. The people included in the "not specified" category are, mainly, those targeted by awareness raising campaigns for majority population

<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	1,200	-	-	2,540	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	1,020	-	-	2,283	-	-
Output 1.3: Professionals working with Roma trained								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of professionals trained in working with Roma	Cumulative number	0	473 (IFR 2022)	-	-	716	1,200	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, the vast majority of trained professionals did not declare themselves Roma.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	356	-	-	554	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	117	-	-	162	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	14	-	-	14	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	459	-	-	702	-	-
Output 1.4: Roma experts and leaders trained to defend Roma rights								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of Roma experts and leaders trained to defend Roma rights	Cumulative number	0	67 (IFR 2022)	-	-	268	750	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been

								contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022 and b) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	18	-	-	163	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	49	-	-	105	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.5: Anti-discrimination tools developed to be applied in working with Roma								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of anti-discrimination tools developed	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	10	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) more than half of the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022, and b)
Outcome 2: Enhanced social inclusion of children and youth								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of children or youth with special education needs that have received support services	Cumulative number	0	659 (APR 2021)	-	-	1,476	1,500	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this

									context, the vast majority of children or youth with special education needs that have received support services are not Roma
<i>Gender</i>									
<i>Female</i>	-	-	275	-	-	601	-	-	
<i>Male</i>	-	-	384	-	-	875	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	
<i>Roma</i>									
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	100	-	-	142	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	559	-	-	1,334	-	-	
Number of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving that have received support services	Cumulative number	0	5,477 (APR 2021)	-	-	8,876	10,500		The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, majority of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving that have received support services are not Roma
<i>Gender</i>									
<i>Female</i>	-	-	2,732	-	-	4,234	-	-	
<i>Male</i>	-	-	2,745	-	-	4,642	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	
<i>Roma</i>									
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	1,262	-	-	2,087	-	-	
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	4,215	-	-	6,789	-	-	
Number of children or youth that have improved their school attendance by at least 10%	Cumulative number	N/A	-	-	-	2	3,500		For the achieved value see the explanations above. In addition, this is an indicator that is measured at the end of the projects that include such measures. The activities that

								contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, the children in question are not Roma
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Rate of transition to lower secondary education (ISCED 2) in supported schools	Percentage	96.25 %	-	-	-	-	97.25 %, Target value was set to +1% fro the baseline value	-
Rate of transition to higher secondary education (9th grade) (ISCED 3) in supported schools	Percentage	90.90 %	-	-	-	-	91.90 %, Target value was set to +1% from the baseline	-
Output 2.1: Support services provided to children or youth at risk								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of counties where educational or social services were	Cumulative number	0	27 (IFR 2022)	-	-	28	10	-

provided to children or youth with special education needs								
Number of counties where support services were provided to children or youth at risk of early-school leaving	Cumulative number	0	32 (IFR 2022)	-	-	33	30	-
Output 2.2: Teachers trained in providing education services to children and youth at risk								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of teachers trained in working with children and youth at risk of early-school leaving	Cumulative number	0	848 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1,054	1,600	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, the vast majority of trained teachers did not declare themselves Roma
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	658	-	-	847	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	190	-	-	207	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	844	-	-	1,050	-	-
Number of teachers trained in working with children and youth with special education needs	Cumulative number	0	428 (IFR 2022)	-	-	606	750	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, the vast majority of trained teachers did not declare themselves Roma
<i>Gender</i>								

Female	-	-	383	-	-	539	-	-
Male	-	-	45	-	-	67	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Roma								
Roma	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	428	-	-	606	-	-

Output 2.3: Outreach provided to parents of children or youth at risk

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of parents of children or youth at risk of early-school leaving reached	Cumulative number	0	1,293 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1,785	3,400	-
Number of parents of children or youth with special education needs reached	Cumulative number	0	112 (IFR 2022)	-	-	189	800	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the number of beneficiaries is reported at the end of the specific project activities targeting them, which very often stretch until the end of the projects and b) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).

Outcome 4: Increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of individuals that have received personalised social services	Cumulative number	0	3,793 (APR 2021)	-	-	11,074	15,000	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, majority of individuals that have received personalised social services are not of Roma ethnicity
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	3,793	-	-	11,074	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	1,496	-	-	5,857	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	2,297	-	-	5,217	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	1,388	-	-	2,231	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	2,405	-	-	8,843	-	-
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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of intervention models applied in working with vulnerable groups	Cumulative number	0	4 (IFR 2022)	-	-	6	5	-
Output 4.2: Social services provided to people from vulnerable groups at local level								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of municipalities/towns where social services were provided	Cumulative number	0	189 (IFR 2022)	-	-	257	200	-
Outcome 5: Increased knowledge of central and local government to enact good governance principles								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of knowledge of good governance principles of trained staff and politicians	Scale 1-10	TBD	-	-	-	-	(+25%)	The baseline value has not yet been determined at the level of all contracted projects and there are no completed projects that contribute to this indicator.
Output 5.1: Tools of good governance developed/ improved								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of good governance tools developed/improved	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2022)	-	-	2	6	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the development of such tools very often stretches until the end of the projects and b) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Output 5.2: Public administration staff and politicians trained in good governance principles								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of public administration staff and politicians trained in good governance principles	Cumulative number	0	1,126 (IFR 2022)	-	-	2,117	3,500	The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, none of the public administration staff and politicians trained in good governance principles declared themselves Roma
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	597	-	-	1,011	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	529	-	-	1,106	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	1,126	-	-	2,117	-	-
Number of municipalities/towns covered by the training on good governance principles	Cumulative number	0	222 (IFR 2022)	-	-	789	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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement 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 2021)	-	-	0	1	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often

								stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
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 2021)	-	-	0	1	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
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 2021)	-	-	0	1	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target

								corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
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 2021)	-	-	0	1	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
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 2021)	-	-	0	1	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last

								reports are not yet validated by the PO).
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 value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of mechanisms established to protect the rights of people belonging to vulnerable groups	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	0	3	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the development of such mechanisms very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Output 6.2: Measures for combating discrimination and/or promoting human rights piloted at national level								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of experts working with vulnerable groups trained	Cumulative number	0	0 (IFR 2022)	-	-	29	400	For the achieved value see the explanations above. The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this

								context, none of the trained experts declared themselves Roma
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	21	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	8	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	29	-	-
Number of people from vulnerable groups reached by anti-discrimination or human rights pilot measures	Cumulative number	0	142 (IFR 2022)	-	-	144	600	For the achieved value see the explanations above. The activities that contribute to the achievement of this indicator did not explicitly target the Roma. In this context, the vast majority of people from vulnerable groups reached by anti-discrimination or human rights pilot measures are not Roma. Individuals with unspecified gender are beneficiaries of a project addressed to LGBTQ people.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	62	-	-	64	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	20	-	-	20	-	-
<i>Roma</i>								
<i>Roma</i>	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	138	-	-	140	-	-
Number of measures for combating discrimination piloted	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2022)	-	-	1	3	The value achieved for 2022 shall be read in the

								context in which: a) the projects contributing to this indicator have been contracted at the end of 2021, b) the implementation of such measures very often stretches until the end of the projects and c) this achieved target corresponds to the approved intermediary reports (figures in the last reports are not yet validated by the PO).
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement 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	-
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	-

Number of letters of intent on future collaboration	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2021)	-	-	0	25	The letters of intent for future cooperation are to be concluded at the end of the projects that have partners from Norway.
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	60.00 %	-
Bilateral Output 1: Exchanges between beneficiary and Donor State entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of participants from Beneficiary States in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	72 (IFR 2022)	-	-	123	250	This is an indicator that is achieved throughout entire projects duration.
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	72	-	-	123	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	45	-	-	78	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	27	-	-	45	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	18	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	54	-	-	105	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Output 2: Professional exchanges with representatives of relevant entities from Romania and Donor States supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of participants from Donor States involved in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	27 (IFR 2022)	-	-	50	30	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	27	-	-	50	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	13	-	-	25	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	14	-	-	25	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	0	-	-	10	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	27	-	-	40	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

PN5012

The project “AdaptJust - Accessible Justice for people with disabilities”, carried out by the Centre of Legal Resources (CRJ), aims to facilitate the access to justice for the persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health problems, contributing to the achievement of the Local Development Programme result regarding the implementation of ECtHR judgements and case-law and of country specific recommendations put forward by other bodies of the Council of Europe in this respect.

Changing the mindset of employees in institutions responsible for the well-being of institutionalized people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities is the biggest challenge of the project. Therefore, multidisciplinary training sessions for magistrates, lawyers, psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers were held, starting with May 2022, in 12 cities from 24 counties and in Bucharest. 300 people have participated in these trainings so far, and other 150 trained professionals will follow in 2023.

On the other hand, the project is looking for professionals to be able to identify, in their daily work, human rights violations of the persons with mental disabilities. Through the training program "Piloting Mechanisms for the Protection of the Rights of Institutionalized People with Disabilities", held in March 2022, 20 psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers and self-representatives with disabilities were trained in this respect. During the training, participants put themselves in the roles of members of a monitoring team, beneficiaries of residential centres and their employees, experiencing the various situations that can arise during the monitoring visits. At the end, they drafted a report in which they listed the conclusions of the visit. After the training, all the 20 trainees were contracted for ad-hoc monitoring and litigation.

“The project is important because it trains legal, psychiatry and social assistance specialists in respecting and enforcing the rights of people with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities institutionalized or at risk of being institutionalized”, emphasized the importance of the project Georgiana Pascu, the project coordinator.

The next challenge of the project is to ensure that essential steps are taken towards completion of the National Action Plan for the prevention of ill-treatment in psychiatric hospitals and residential centres, an extremely important instrument in fighting for the rights of the people from mental health institutions. A first step taken in this regard was the participation of the PP representatives, in December 2022, in a debate organized at the Parliament, with the support of the Senate Human Rights Commission and of the Romanian Government. The event gathered 45 participants, including 10 managers of the biggest psychiatric hospitals. At the end of the meeting all the stakeholders reached a consensus to have a working committee to prepare the National Action Plan, which will be submitted by the Romanian Government to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment within the Council of Europe.

To support all these project initiatives, an awareness social media campaign regarding the rights of people with mental disabilities residents in state-owned mental health facilities was initiated, having a deep eco in the Romanian society. The message promoted through the campaign reached over 70,000 people, during the campaign the Centre of Legal Resources received feedback from many persons with disabilities, currently living in residential centres, such as *“I want to leave the centre, I don't want to be held against my will in the welfare system, I appeal to the authorities to help me. I would rather be homeless than in a residential centre”* or *“I'm not well. I don't like it. I want to apply to get out. I was brought here. It was summer. I didn't know I was coming here. I found work and I want treatment, but not here.”*

Implemented by the Centre of Legal Resources in partnership with the Public Ministry - the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the project "AdaptJust - Accessible justice for people with disabilities" takes place between November 2021 and October 2023, and benefits of a grant worth of 1,324,994 euros.

PN4077

The project "PALCommunity - Increasing access to palliation services for beneficiaries from disadvantaged communities", carried out by the Hospice Casa Speranței Foundation, aims to include in palliative care programs more than 1,500 children and adults with progressive chronic diseases, from over 100 small and disadvantaged rural and urban communities from 6 counties (Alba, Bacău, Bihor, Brașov, Giurgiu and Ilfov). The project contributes to the achievement of the Local Development Programme result aiming an increased use of social services by disadvantaged groups.

"Beyond the support we are providing for approximately 1,500 patients suffering from chronic progressive diseases, as well as for their families, we aim to develop an integrated and coordinated model of palliative services, which can later be taken up in other communities as well. Also, the project aims to train in palliative care a total number of 170 doctors and nurses.", explain Petruța Anania, project coordinator.

While the patients with basic needs receive palliative programs from professionals in the communities of intervention, in the case of the patients with complex needs, the Project Promoter HOSPICE Casa Speranței, and its partners provide palliative care services at their homes, in outpatients and in day care centres. So far, more than 610 patients from 126 communities received support at their homes, and over 1,800 participated in the activities organised by day care centres. In order for all these services to be provided at a high-quality level, 145 specialists were trained in palliative care, until now.

In addition, in order to improve the situation of patients' families, the project included recreational activities, conflict mediation, support and information, as well as other types of personalized measures. An event with a great impact among the beneficiaries is the summer camp, organized annually. Hosted by the socio-medical centres in Adunații-Copaceni Commune (Giurgiu County) and Brașov City (Brașov County), the camps organized in 2022 offered participants unforgettable experiences, with a therapeutic effect. 110 children with incurable diseases, their siblings, children of adult patients and of deceased patients forgot for a while about illness, treatments and heavy interventions, oppressive experiences and losses. They found instead the joys of carefree childhood, with lots of play, loud laughter, empathy and normality.

Alexandru, aged 15, enjoyed every moment spent in the camp. His younger brother, aged 8, is in care programs of the foundation. *"In everyday life, the world is very bad, many harsh words are said. The camp is the place where there is no malice, quarrels, bad words. I have made many friends here, in fact we have become like a family here and I like it very much"*, Alexandru says.

A camp for mothers who lost their children due to an incurable disease was also organized, in the spring of 2022. Here, they have been supported in processing the loss through therapy and support groups.

Implemented by the Hospice Casa Speranței Foundation in partnership with Brașov County Council, Lumina Association, Eliana Hospice Association and Emanuel Hospice Association, the project "PALCommunity - Increasing access to palliation services for beneficiaries from disadvantaged communities", takes place between July 2021 and December 2023 and benefits of a grant worth of 2,091,652 euros.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

In 2022 the communication process focused, on one hand, on assuring a high-level transparency regarding the management of the Programme, by informing the public on the funded projects (as results of the launched calls for proposals: projects submitted, results of formal and content evaluation, contracted and closed projects etc.) and, on the other hand, on highlighting the important results reached by these projects.

Although online instruments (web page, social media, newsletter) 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 for a group of journalists a field visit to projects implemented in Neamț and Bacău counties. The visit spotted the results of the projects and their impact at community level. These were positively reflected by the publications and journalists present at the visit: [TVR Iași](#), [Deșteptarea](#), [24Iași](#), [Ziarul de Bacău](#), [Euro Tv Bacău](#) and [Liliana Roibu](#). Also, the two projects were topics of other 2 tv-shows, broadcasted by [TVR Iași](#) and by [News Moldova](#).

PO participation in the Annual Meeting of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, held in Iași during May 12-13, was also a good opportunity to highlight the impact of the Programme so far. During the event, participants visited one of the funded projects - "GLORIA - integrated assistance for victims of domestic and gender violence", carried-out by the Institute of Forensic Medicine Iași - respectively the new counselling centre for prevention and combating domestic violence, where the initiators are providing social, medical, educational, occupational and housing assistance for victims of domestic and gender violence from 250 local communities in the counties of Bacău, Iași, Neamț and Vaslui. The extremely sensitive issue addressed by the project, as well as the professional way of working of the project team, created a strong impression among the participants, as emphasized by Mrs. Sheena Elaine Keller, Senior Sectoral Officer within the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO), responsible for the implementation of the Local Development Programme in Romania: *"It was an inspired project visit. The project targets rural areas underserved by this type of service and connects with those who may not even know that support services exist for victims of domestic and gender violence. The staff have shown a high degree of sensitivity to the individual needs of all their beneficiaries and a commitment to providing personalized support services to those who come to the Counselling Centre for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence"*.

In June, another project funded under the Programme - "Replicable integrated interventions for inclusive housing and combating marginalization in the Cluj Metropolitan Area", implemented by Intercommunity Development Association Cluj Metropolitan Area - received the visit of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Romania. Her Excellency, Mrs. Siri Barry, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Romania, met both the project team and members of two of the families who live in the "Canton" part of Pata-Rât marginalized area, which were selected to benefit from a social housing, through the project. *"During the last two weeks, I have visited a selection of inspiring EEA and Norway Grants projects in Timiș and Cluj counties. A big thank you for taking your time to make this useful experience possible and congratulations to you and your teams for the valuable work!"*, expressed her appreciation for this experience, Mrs. Siri Barry.

The intervention in Pata-Rât area and the steps made to ensure decent living conditions for members of the Roma community, by relocating them to social housing in the Cluj area, were presented as a successful model at the World Family Summit 2022. Organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 28 June 2022, the event aimed to highlight various ways in which local authorities can support families through mitigation efforts of combating extreme poverty, promoting quality education and reducing inequalities.

Another project funded by the Programme - "Improving access and quality of services for citizens", implemented by the Association of Communes from Romania, was brought to light in the media, due to its important bilateral component. Between September 19 and 23, 2022, 13 representatives of the Romanian municipalities visited, with the support of the KS, the Norwegian partner, the municipalities of Oslo and Moss. The event, which was highlighted in the [Norwegian media](#), strengthened the bilateral sharing of practices and knowledge on the way local authorities can serve, with the respect of the rule of law and on transparent grounds, its citizens.

Overall, by the end of 2022, the PO estimates that almost 200,000 people (out of 50,000 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 109.553 unique visitors to the PO website/ Programme web page
- at least 40.718 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

On the other hand, more than 2.120 people (out of 1,000 people assumed initially) have had access to data regarding the funding opportunities provided by the Programme, about 1.413 by participating in information seminars organized by PO for promoting the open calls and in matchmaking seminars, and other 713 by using help desk services provided by PO.

2.b. Project stories

The PO published, in the reporting period, a number of 40 project stories on the Programme's webpage.

3. Media coverage

[Launching of the project "Good Governance and Equal Opportunities in Iana Commune" \(PN1049\) was covered by a local television, Vaslui TV](#)

[Fair and the exhibition IMPACT at schools from Rucăr, Muscel TV Campulung](#)

[The Integrated Community Center from Colonești, the first in Romania, received the certificate of operation signed by the Minister of Health](#)

[The City Hall of Sector 1 is developing a project with European funds for the inclusion and empowerment of Roma people from the communities in the sector](#)

[The government launched today the "Innovation Capacity Assessment Report"](#)

[Project in Călărași through which 630 ethnic Roma will benefit from education and integration on the labour market](#)

[Integrated services – the key to the successful inclusion of the Roma population](#)

[The "Through Education for Vocation!" project, has come to an end](#)

[Through the VioGen - RoJust project, 750 employees of specialized institutions will be taught how to manage the situation of victims of domestic violence](#)

[Meeting of the Embassy of Romania in Oslo with Association of Municipalities from Romania and Association of Communes of Romania delegations](#)

[Romanian municipalities, study visit in Norway, to meet with Moss local authorities](#)

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://dezvoltare-locala.frds.ro/		261680	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/dezvoltare.locala	245	2100
Twitter	twitter.com/LocalDevProgram	56	704
LinkedIn	linkedin.com/company/frds	48	306

5. Visuals

- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/24364/Representatives%20of%20the%20Roma%20from%20Boto%20C8%99ani%20C%20Bra%20C8%99ov%20C%20Br%20C4%83ila%20C%20Buz%20C4%83u%20C%20Ia%20C8%99i%20and%20Vaslui%20counties%20have%20developed%20the%20necessary%20knowledge%20and%20skills%20in%20order%20to%20be%20actively%20involved%20in%20solving%20community%20problems>
- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/23495/The%20debate%3A%20The%20role%20of%20community%20integrated%20service%20centers%20in%20building%20inclusive%20and%20strong%20communities>
- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/23494/The%20testimonial%20of%20a%20Community%20center%20beneficiary%20from%20Polovragi%20C%20Gorj%20County>
- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/20811/Conference%20on%20intermediary%20results%20of%20Institute%20of%20Forensic%20Medicine%20Iasi>
- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/20810/Study%20visit%20in%20Norway%20>

- <https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/24365/Health%20promotion%20campaigns%20in%205%20Roma%20communities%20in%20Oltenia>

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	110	€ 81,262,501	€ 1,992,433
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	3	€ 10,670,669	€ 958,931
Number of projects with a donor project partner	18	€ 28,164,369	€ 1,992,433
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	18	€ 28,164,369	€ 1,992,433
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
Call for bilateral initiatives aiming at facilitating the exchange of knowledge, technology, experience and good practices between Project Promoters and project partners from Romania and relevant entities from Donor States/ international organizations		€ 65,700	01/05/2024	0	€ 0	0.00 %	0	€ 0		€ 0
Call for bilateral initiatives aiming to identify partners for donor partnership projects, the development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project to		€ 41,300	13/09/2021	28	€ 127,306	308.25 %	12	€ 41,167	11	€ 0

be submitted under the Local Development Programme										
Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment - round 1	Outcome 1	€ 8,021,844	30/01/2020	32	€ 21,092,420	262.94 %	12	€ 8,021,844	12	€ 8,021,844
Enhancing Roma Inclusion and Empowerment - round 2	Outcome 1	€ 12,534,535	15/04/2021	60	€ 42,706,708	340.71 %	12	€ 12,534,535	18	€ 12,534,535
Human Rights - National Implementation	Outcome 6	€ 5,649,994	09/04/2021	18	€ 23,085,627	408.60 %	5	€ 5,649,994	5	€ 5,649,994
Inclusive education for children and youth at risk	Outcome 2	€ 16,898,633	28/05/2019	117	€ 126,956,614	751.28 %	7	€ 16,894,189	15	€ 16,894,189
Local Development	Outcome 4	€ 16,455,627	25/02/2020	101	€ 131,749,400	800.63 %	6	€ 16,455,625	13	€ 16,455,625
Poverty Alleviation - Restricted Call	Outcome 4	€ 9,753,600	08/05/2019	7	€ 20,432,168	209.48 %	4	€ 13,235,466	3	€ 9,753,601
SGS1 - Priority Interventions for Roma Communities	Outcome 1	€ 462,264	15/11/2021	41	€ 2,042,918	441.94 %	10	€ 466,710	9	€ 435,094
SGS2 - Access to financing 2019	Outcome 4	€ 198,472	24/04/2019	11	€ 308,230	155.30 %	9	€ 198,472	8	€ 198,472
SGS2 - Access to financing 2020	Outcome 4	€ 233,845	27/07/2020	35	€ 1,219,193	521.37 %	9	€ 233,847	9	€ 233,845
SGS2 - Access to financing 2021	Outcome 4	€ 414,634	17/06/2021	53	€ 1,695,340	408.88 %	15	€ 429,815	15	€ 414,634

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2023
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)	2 medium low	1 low	1.41	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.
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	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	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 negatively influence both the implementation of projects and their monitoring	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	If the case, new relevant bilateral activities will be identified, adapted to the current context, for

projects and in bilateral activities with eligible entities in Romania				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	2 medium low	1 low	1.41	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	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	The PO will continue to implement the planned measures.
Risk of failure to achieve some indicators at project level as a result of the health crisis caused by COVID-19 (external risk)	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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.
Delays or blockages in the implementation of projects caused by the economic effects of the war in Ukraine and / or by the impact of the presence of the refugees (external risk)	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	The PO project officers will continue to 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.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			1.00	

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
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.	General	One-time fulfilment	N/A		This condition could not be met until now, due to the fact that the last relevant project approved under the second round of the call for project proposals was contracted only in December 2022 (after the PO, with the agreement of the Programme partners, obtained approval to supplement the budget allocated to the call "Enhanced Roma Inclusion and Empowerment", by reallocating unused amounts within the Small Grants Scheme no. 1. 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 the contracted projects. In the case of the 12 projects contracted in the first round of the call, the baseline value of the indicator has already been collected, the PO providing technical support to PP for the successful completion of this process. Of the projects contracted in the second round of the call, 10 already reported the related baseline values (in case of 5 of the 18 projects contracted in the second round, this indicator does not apply).
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”	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	15/06/2022	The baseline value of the two indicators were communicated to the FMO in June 2022.

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. The updated baseline value shall be agreed upon through a modification of the programme agreement.					
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.	General	One-time fulfilment	N/A		Both pre-defined projects that contribute to the achievement of this indicator have been contracted and are under implementation. However, according to the data collection methodology, the reporting to the FMO of the baseline value of this indicator will be possible only after the completion of all the training courses planned within the two projects (in August 2023, according to the latest estimates). The data collection methodology necessary for the calculation of this indicator was agreed by the PO with both the two Project Promoters and with the FMO, the PO closely monitoring its operative and correct application by the two PPs.
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.	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		The PO maintains contact with the other two POs in order to identify potential synergies between the programmes. During the first part of Programme implementation, 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. Currently, there is a close connection with the two above-mentioned institutions as well as with the representatives of the National Agency for Community Programmes in the field of education and vocational training, on the Roma component.
5. The Programme Operator shall ensure that an ex ante control of public procurement procedures and documentation carried out within projects implemented 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.	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		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.
6. The maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be 60%.	General	Continuously tracking	N/A		The PO has included this conditionality in the documents of all open calls for project proposals and envisages closely monitoring during the implementation of the Programme. This is closely monitored during projects’ implementation.

<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>General</p>	<p>One-time fulfilment</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>19/12/2018</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 insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and * Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years 	<p>General</p>	<p>Continuously tracking</p>	<p>N/A</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>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>General</p>	<p>Continuously tracking</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>All the measures assumed by the PO in the Plan for enhancing the management capacity have been fulfilled. The last one (relocation of the PO headquarters) was fulfilled as of august 1st 2022. 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>