

Working together for a **green,**
competitive and **inclusive** Europe

EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014 FINAL STRATEGIC REPORT

Romania

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2009-2014 EEA and Norway Grants targeted a wide range of areas in which Romania is in need of support, such as children and health, cultural heritage, civil society, research and scholarships, environmental protection, climate change and green innovation and justice and home affairs, thus contributing to social and economic cohesion in the European Economic Area.

Programmes contributed to the two major objectives of the Grants – **reducing disparities between Romania and the EEA** and **strengthening bilateral relations** between Romania, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, by interventions in the agreed priority areas.

Over the six year period of implementation of the Grants, starting with the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding between the Romanian and Donor State governments in March 2012, Romania has experienced sustained economic growth and macroeconomic stability, decreasing unemployment, with GDP growth rates reaching some of the highest levels in Europe in the past two years. The period 2013-2014 was marked by recovery from the global financial crisis which drastically affected Romania in 2009-2010.

This was, however, doubled by continuing high rates of poverty, growing inequality, some of the lowest health and education status indicators in Europe, high rates of early school leaving and continuing workforce migration, which threaten the “catching-up” process Romania should undergo in order to narrow the developmental gap it suffers. Low levels of spending in research, development and innovation threaten to affect the long-term prospect of increased competitiveness, and the quality of higher education needs strengthening. The Romanian judicial and correctional systems also face important challenges, with great needs for capacity building and improvements in detention conditions and overcrowding.

The role of the Grants has been that more important, directly addressing these critical characteristics of Romanian society, with 70% of the financial allocation focused in the areas of **social and human development**, strengthening civil society, the judiciary and correctional services, combating poverty and domestic violence, discrimination and social exclusion.

Environment protection and climate change, including green innovation in industry, energy efficiency and renewable energy, was the second large area of intervention of the Grants, where Romania continued efforts for ensuring capacity for environmental protection, addressing the threats towards loss of biodiversity, protection of ecosystems and pollution control are needed.

The external evaluation of all Programmes is currently underway, estimated to be finalized by August 2018, and new data and insights into the results of interventions funded through the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania will be available and made public.

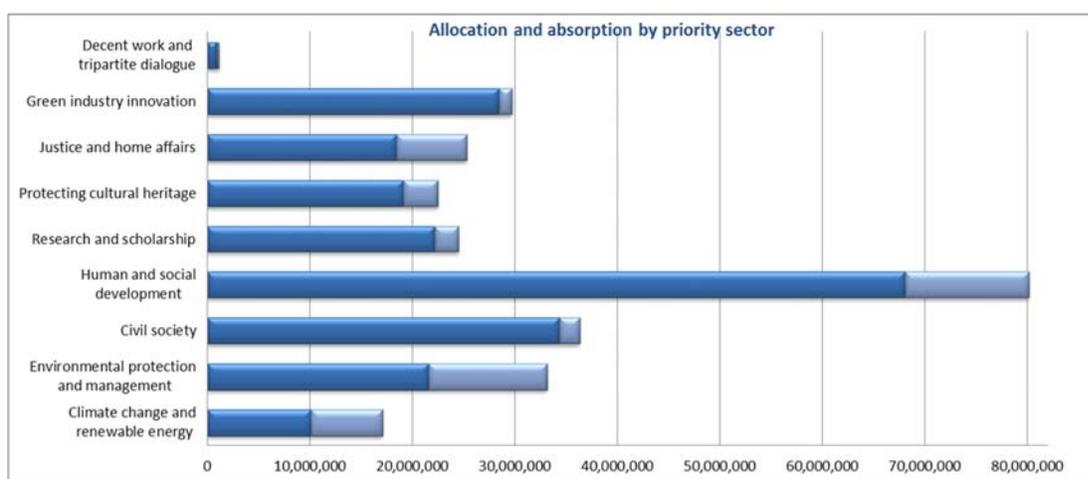
In the **22 Programmes** carried out, a number of **832 projects** have been supported, with the largest number implemented in the Programmes NGO Fund (388) and Children and Youth at Risk (100).



Pre-defined projects, mutually agreed between Romania and the Donor States (42), have been an efficient way to allocate funds in some specific areas (health, justice, correctional services). They were large projects with strategic significance and pre-defining allowed an early start to be made for complex interventions that required lengthy procurement, planning and risk assessments.

The selection of projects in open calls for proposals was used in the Programmes with the potential for competition between applicants (NGO Fund, research, children and youth at risk, cultural heritage, diversity in arts, green industry innovation, etc.). The generally high numbers of applications received compared to available funding, proved the relevance of objectives and visibility of the Grants.

The good level of absorption of funds of 85% was converted into significant and durable results contributing to the human and economic development of Romania and to the objectives of reducing disparities and strengthening bilateral relations.



Results for reducing disparities

The most vulnerable children and youth from Romania, but also the decision makers and the experts involved in providing social support services for these social categories, promoting measures and actions with impact in areas such as education, professional training, employment and social inclusion received support.

These interventions improved school attendance, the awareness regarding importance of education, as well as the local authorities' in disadvantaged communities of addressing the social exclusion and poverty facing their citizens, increasing their opportunities for development and improved economic and societal prospects.

61,800 children, young people and parents, members of vulnerable groups, including Roma, education and social services professionals, representatives of local authorities or non-governmental organizations active within disadvantaged communities have been the beneficiaries of the projects funded. Over 18,000 children and 11,700 young people at risk, benefited of educational services and activities.

Over 16,300 parents of children or young people at risk have received specific support services (information on the importance of education, psychological counselling, parenting, literacy, trainings) and over 9,600 social and educational specialists have acquired new knowledge and specific skills in working with children and youth belonging to various vulnerable groups.

42 social or educational facilities (educational and day care centres, multifunctional or counselling centres for children and youth at risk etc.) have been constructed or rehabilitated for the provision of specific services to children and young people in risk situations and 303 methodologies, tools and action plans have been developed to combat discriminatory practices, social and economic exclusion of people belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Poverty and social exclusion was also addressed through NGO support, with projects building on the outreach capacity of NGOs as well as on the particularities related to their beneficiary centred work. Over 30,000 vulnerable beneficiaries accessed welfare and basic services in education, health, employment, etc. Over 21,800 beneficiaries were from deprived / disadvantaged areas.

Some of the main public health issues in Romania were targeted through the Grants, like communicable diseases - tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis, non-communicable diseases - cancer, diabetes, obesity, alcohol and tobacco consumption, as well as increasing institutional capacity for national health programs implementation and for monitoring and prevention - build up community centres, enhance institutional capacity to properly diagnose and treat patients in neonatology and paediatric oncology areas, diseases registries. They resulted in 62,203 patients tested for TB with rapid methods, 1002 patients provided with correct, full and continuous treatment for multi-drug resistant TB, 10 national laboratories functional for rapid diagnosis of TB, 309 community nurses and health mediators trained in TB, pediatric oncology centers in Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi and Timisoara provided with new medical equipment (MRI machines, distance monitoring systems, anesthetic machines and others), 289 medical staff trained for improving their abilities in pediatric hematology and oncology, introducing new screening and diagnostic tests for hereditary thrombophilia, improving services for patients with malignant hematological diseases, new medical equipment (testing and echography machines, incubators and others) installed and functional in a newly renovated space, 10,000 free Babes Papanicolaou tests and 5,000 mammograms with double reading performed, 2 cancer screening programmes developed, 37,500 tests HIV, HVB, HVC tests performed within people with high risk of contracting this type of infections.

14 day-care centres offering services for 502 children, including children with disabilities, were established, allowing reintegration of women in the work field and contributing thus concretely to improving gender equality.

Strengthening civil society development and their enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development was a major impact of the EEA Grants. The NGO Fund was the most important donor compared to any other grant programmes for civil society in Romania. The Programme involved at least 2,300 NGOs in different types of interventions and they have made important steps towards increasing the efficiency of the interactions with authorities at all levels and constituencies, strengthening their role as important stakeholder. A number of 56 networks/coalitions (30 newly established) were supported by the Programme to take action in the fields of environment, health, justice, education, human rights, community initiatives, fighting violence against women etc. The NGOs have improved their expertise by training members in management, advocacy, PR, etc., have opened towards their constituencies such as to better represent their needs, have increased membership by gathering organizations with the same goals to become a stronger voice.

Contributions to economic and social development were achieved through investments in the conservation of cultural heritage, by increasing the tourist attractiveness, improving the cultural awareness of citizens and creating jobs. 11 historical buildings were restored and entered into the cultural life, such as Cinema Victoria in Slatina, the Kalnoky Castle in Covasna County, the wooden churches in Cluj, the medieval fortified walls of the church from Alma Vii, Sibiu County. The projects supported also the creation of 11 new museums or cultural spaces such as: the museum

created by ASTRA, Sibiu; Cinema Victoria in Slatina; two modern exhibition spaces using augmented reality and 3D converted items in Deva and Cluj. In addition to these, 3,487 objects of cultural value were restored, **38,460 items of cultural value were digitized**, 14 strategic documents related to cultural heritage and 7 business plans were developed, 9 cultural collections of minorities were created and more than 60 exhibitions and events related to the heritage of ethnical and cultural minorities were organized all over the country.

The measures for **improving detention conditions**, as well as implementing alternatives to prisons, reintegration programmes issues affecting disadvantaged groups in prisons will improve the chances of detainees re-entering society and Romania's observance of European level standards.

Significant investments in renovations and endowments were made in the infrastructure of Bacau and Gherla prisons, Craiova and Tichilesti detention centres and pre-trial remand centres in Brasov, Mures, Alba, Hunedoara and Arad, totalling **379 detention places that comply with the standards** provided by the relevant human rights instruments (i.e. the rules of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment). Moreover, adequate spaces and facilities were set up for specialized socio-therapeutic / educational programmes aimed at supporting and **preparing detainees for social reintegration**, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups (i.e. minors/ youngsters and women, including Roma). the programme supported measures aimed at increasing the focus on vulnerable groups in prison (e.g. minors/ juveniles and women, including Roma), to this end specialized prison intervention programmes and tools being developed and implemented on 437 minors, young people and 110 women, with a view to assist their educational and psycho-social recovery and to facilitate their social reintegration

The **competences of the organizations and people working within the judiciary** were increased by strengthening of the knowledge of a wide range of professionals. 8937 judges, prosecutors, court and prosecutor office clerks, judicial inspectors, mediators, lawyers etc., were trained in key areas such as: the new legal codes, European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence, judicial management, mediation, judicial ethics and professional deontology, case and time management and the management of the clerk's activity, fiscal law, consumer's rights, insolvency, and drafting of judgments. Along with the consolidation of the network of trainers, and the improvement of training curricula, and the elaboration of a series of guides and 331 training activities.

Important measures for improving **access to justice** for vulnerable citizens were taken through the 7 legal assistance offices were set up, within which lawyers provided orientation and specialised support regarding legal or administrative proceedings to vulnerable persons, including Roma (762 cases handled).

Furthermore, in order to support their activity, the institutional **capacity of judicial institutions** such as courts, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National School of Clerks, the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the Judicial Inspection was consolidated by their endowment with technical equipment.

Domestic violence was addressed through operationalization/improvement of 11 regional shelters nationwide, the programme facilitated access for 908 (women and children) victims of domestic violence to better-quality assistance services in line with European and international standards (such as: housing, psychological and legal counselling, social assistance, medical care, assistance in identifying jobs, and family and community reintegration etc.)

The Programmes in the field of **environment** targeted the main issues regarding the degradation of ecosystems and the improvement of the knowledge of economic contribution of ecosystems, integration of biodiversity aspects into sectorial policies and halting the loss of biodiversity in Romania, preventing injury and adverse health and environmental effects caused by chemicals

and hazardous waste and increasing the degree of preparedness to a changing climate as well as terms of awareness, education and administrative capacity regarding adaptation to climate change.

The **competitiveness of Romanian businesses** was increased through investments in innovative environmental technologies, leading to the re-use or recycling of almost 130,000 tonnes of waste, 110,000 tons of reduced CO2 emission, 3000 megawatt hours of energy and 60.000 litres of fuel saved, as well as approximately 350 new jobs.

Internationalisation of Romanian **research and higher education**, strengthening their quality and outputs were the results of the Research and Scholarships Programmes with 495 researchers, 142 PhDs and postdocs involved in 23 research projects and 296 students and 212 education staff involved in mobility to higher education institutions in the Donor States.

Subscribing to the national policy objective of increasing the use of renewable energy, investments in **geothermal heating plants** have been supported, with utilizing state-of-the-art technology in the field and Icelandic expertise and laid out the basis for future prospects for geothermal use in Romania and future bilateral cooperation.

One of the main objectives of the Grants was to **improve the situation of the Roma people** in Romania, by directing at least 10% of the funds in relevant Programmes (civil society, health, culture, children and youth at risk justice, etc.) towards such measures.

At the end of the implementation, **approximately 29% of funds** were used for interventions which improved Roma citizens access to healthcare, education, social services, justice, housing and jobs, strengthened the Roma cultural heritage, as well as awareness of their human and civil rights, providing them with skills and a better environment to practice these rights. Detailed information of these measures is presented in Attachment 5.

Results for strengthening bilateral relations

The 2009-2014 EEA and Norway Grants contributed conclusively to strengthened bilateral relations between Romania and the Donor States, fostering enhanced cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding between Donor and Romania.

13 of the 22 Programmes (60%) implemented were managed in partnership between Romanian Programme Operators and a total of 15 Donor State entities or international organisations, with some of them having 2 or 3 partners. A good indication of the excellent cooperation had is the fact that all programme level partnerships are continuing in the next period (with new ones being added).

Institutions such as Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, Icelandic Centre for Research, National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Police Directorate, Norwegian Directorate of cultural heritage, Arts Council Norway, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, National Agency for International Education Affairs of Liechtenstein worked together with Romanian Programme Operators in all matters pertaining to the good preparation and implementation of Programmes in Romania leading to increased knowledge and mutual understanding

30% of all 830 projects funded (247) have been prepared and implemented in partnership with organizations from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

The mid-term evaluation of the support to strengthened bilateral relations under the EEA and Norway Grants contracted by the FMO and issued in 2016 concluded that, at the overall level, the EEA and Norway Grants have strengthened bilateral relations. The analysis indicates that many

'bilateral results' have been achieved in the projects and programmes giving a positive picture of the achievements of programmes funded by the Grants.

Additionally, according to the Mid-Term Review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14, there has been a substantial increase in bilateral co-operation compared to the previous period, many projects being implemented together with the Donor Project Partners. Moreover, a part of the programmes involved the Donor Programme Partners (DPPs), whereas this role did not exist under the project-based approach of the previous period. DPPs have had a positive impact on the design and implementation of programmes.

The large number of donor partnership projects, as well as the hundreds of bilateral activities supported through the bilateral relations funds, involving thousands of people in a wide range of domains, led to significant strengthening of bilateral relations as expressed through increased extent of cooperation, shared results, improved knowledge and mutual understanding and wider effects, described in section 3.2 of the Report.

Overview of implementation and management issues

The negotiations between the Romanian Government and the Donor States for the conclusion of the Memoranda of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA & Norway Financial Mechanisms officially began in November 2011 and the final form of the documents was established after three negotiation meetings, in January 2012. The Memoranda of Understanding for the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, which constituted the legal basis for beginning all subsequent preparatory phases, entered into force on 22 March 2012

They comprised a number of 24 Programmes, with allocations ranging from EUR 4 million to 40 million, covering almost all programming areas defined by the Donors. 3 Programmes – Green Industry Innovation, Decent Work and NGO Fund – were to be operated by Donor State entities with another one - Poverty Alleviation added in late 2013.

After the signature of the MoUs, the designated POs in collaboration with the NFP have begun drafting the programme proposals, which, with two exceptions, have been submitted within the deadline provided by the Regulation – November 2012. After the submission, a four-month period of programme proposals appraisal has followed.

The programme proposal preparation process has involved a considerable effort on the part of the involved institutions, including stakeholder consultations, analysis of national priorities in the given programming areas, consultations with other involved state institutions and Donor Programme Partners, identification and analysis of funding gaps, defining outputs and indicators, etc.

It has also required a learning process within the designated institutions, particularly with regard to the specific requirements set by the implementing regulations, as well as the principles of result based management.

In parallel, the NFP has initiated the development of the required national legislation which would form the basis for the management and control system: a legal act for the establishment of the institutional framework (entered into force in December 2012) and a legal act for the set-up of national rules for the financial management of the EEA and Norway Grants, entered into force in April 2013.

2013 marked the closure of the programming phase - by the end of the year all 22 programmes had been approved by the Donors and 18 were in the implementation phase, as both Programme agreements and Programme implementation agreements had been signed.

Two programmes – Carbon Capture and Storage and Maritime sector, have been cancelled, due to the difficulties faced in constructing viable Programmes in the absence of a solid background for

these sectors in Romania. Almost a fifth of the total net financial allocation for Romania had to be reallocated (55 mil. Euro).

In October 2013, the parties agreed on the set-up of a new programme “Poverty alleviation”, to be managed by FMO, and on the increase of financial allocations to existing programmes – Public Health, Children and Youth at Risk, Renewable Energy, Green Industry Innovation and Schengen Cooperation

In 2014, all programmes entered the implementation phase, with last Programme Agreements having been concluded. All the calls for proposals included in Programmes have been launched by the end of the year, with some programmes in a more advanced phase – NGO Fund, Green Industry Innovation, Renewable Energy, Research and Scholarships.

The management and control system description for all Programme Operators and related compliance audit opinions were finalised and submitted according to the provisions of the Regulations.

A second reallocation of funds was agreed in October 2014, considering the Regulation deadline for such modifications and an analysis of needs and absorption capacity. It resulted in increased available amounts for programmes RO12 – Conservation and revitalisation of cultural heritage, RO19 – Public Health Initiatives and RO15 – Scholarships.

In 2015, following the closure of all calls for proposals, contracting was finalized and implementation of projects began on all Romanian programmes. A contracting rate of 94% of the budget was achieved.

Considering the delays accumulated during the preparation phase of the MoUs and programmes, the Romanian NFP has requested the extension of the implementation period for projects until 30 April 2017, as a measure of mitigating the risk of lack of necessary time for implementation and low level of results achievement. The positive decision of the Donor States in this respect was communicated on 26 May 2015; subsequently, the extension requests for projects were sent and approved in July/August 2015 and September/October 2015.

The relatively late start of the Programmes due to lengthy negotiations and prolonged preparatory phase have been recovered, thanks to the decision of extending the period allowed for project implementation, as well as the efforts of all those involved, with tangible and durable results being obtained at the end.

In parallel, the National Focal Point and Programme Operators monitored the savings resulted from contracting at programme level, and measures were taken in order to ensure their allocation towards projects and the maximisation of the use of allocated funds. This was the case for programmes RO10 – Children and Youth at Risk, with the open call for additional activities “Plus” being launched at the end of 2015.

Lack of capacity in public institutions designated as Programme Operators and changes in public administration have jeopardized the implementation in some cases, like the Energy Efficiency and Environment Programmes, which faced delays and lower levels of progress. Measures have been taken in order to address these issues for the next period of the Grants, by appointing institutions with proven capacity and results as Programme Operators.

The progress achieved in 2016 was the most significant for the implementation of projects, with a number of 668 projects being completed by the end of December 2016 of the total number of the 837 contracted on all Programmes. Within Programmes implemented by beneficiary state POs, most of which have benefited from extensions of the eligibility period, 228 projects of the total number of 386 being finalized (60%).

By the final deadline for project implementation - 30 April 2017, all the Programmes achieved and over-achieved their set results targets to a very large degree, with tangible and durable results being obtained.

2 ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE GRANTS

2.1 Cohesion

The 2009-2014 EEA and Norway Grants targeted a wide range of areas in which Romania is in need of support, such as environmental protection and climate change, civil society, children and health, cultural heritage, research and scholarships, green innovation and justice and home affairs, thus contributing to social and economic cohesion in the European Economic Area.

The 22 Programmes implemented in Romania addressed the following areas, pre-identified in programming documents as key factors in addressing the reduction of disparities between Romania and the rest of the EEA:

- # Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- # Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control
- # Reduction of Hazardous Substances
- # Energy Efficiency
- # Renewable Energy
- # Adaptation to Climate Change
- # Green Industry Innovation
- # Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations
- # Children and Youth at Risk
- # Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion
- # Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance
- # Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage
- # Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage
- # Research within Priority Sectors
- # Scholarships
- # Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue
- # Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation
- # Public Health Initiatives
- # Domestic and Gender-based Violence
- # Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime
- # Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation
- # Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

The objectives set for the Programmes were, with few exceptions, overreached, proving an adequate level of impact, to be assessed in correlation with their financial allocations and scope.

As concluded in the Mid-Term Review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14, contracted by the FMO and issued in September 2016, the Grants generally deliver short-term economic benefits in localities hosting projects (very often in poorer localities) through the expenditure of funds and the consequent multiplier effects. Beyond that, the Grants offer the potential to deliver long-term economic benefit as a by-product of improvements in environmental protection, energy efficiency, public health, etc., i.e. through a healthier population, lower energy bills, reduced costs of dealing with pollution, etc. They also contribute to reducing social disparities where disadvantaged groups are specifically targeted by activities.

Programmes in Romania have been aligned with national challenges and needs, as identified in EU level analyses and national strategies, policies and objectives

The external evaluation of all Programmes is currently underway and new relevant data and insights into the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions funded through the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania will be available and publicised.

Poverty, inequality and social exclusion

General economic performance data points to continuing positive trends for Romania, beginning with 2012. The European Commission's Romania Country Report for 2018 (*"2018 European Semester: Assessment of progress on structural reforms, prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances"*) notes that per capita GDP is converging towards EU averages but regional disparities persist. GDP per capita in Romania increased from slightly more than 40 % of the EU average at the time of accession in 2007 to almost 60 % in 2016. Nevertheless, Romania remains one of the EU countries with the lowest GDP per capita.

High economic growth is accompanied by high inequality. The income of the top 20% of the population exceeds by seven the income of the bottom 20% compared to a ratio of five for the EU-28. Meanwhile, inequality at the lower end of the income distribution appears more pronounced, with the bottom 10% of the population earning 14 times less than the bottom 50%, one of the highest ratios in the EU.

According to Eurostat, in 2017, 6.7% of the population or around 33 million people in the European Union (EU) were severely materially deprived. Across EU Member States, Romania had the third highest rate of material deprivation with 19.4%, after Bulgaria and Greece. In contrast, the severe material deprivation rates were below 3% in Sweden (0.8% in 2016), Luxembourg (1.6% in 2016), Finland (2.0%) and the Netherlands (2.6%).

In 2016 the risks of poverty and social exclusion increased, affecting 38.8 % of the population and reversing a decreasing trend of several years. The trend does not appear to improve, driven by increases in equivalised disposable income for all households except for the poorest 10%. The divide between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban areas remains high. High poverty risks are mostly associated with high inactivity levels. Child poverty is high and rising.

Opportunities are also unequal, with educational outcomes and risk of poverty for children highly correlated with parents' education levels.

As stated in the new National Strategy for Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights for 2014-2020, came into force in 2015, "one of 3 Romanian children is poor, even if they are living in households where adults work. Nearly 1 in 5 children from households' active on labour market is poor although adults are working more than 80% of their active time. Romania recorded for both indicators the highest poverty rates in Europe (according to Eurostat)".

Measures for counteracting these trends were promoted and supported through the Children and Youth at Risk Programme - increasing children's access to education, development of facilities for recreational activities and leisure of children, development of integrated community services, increasing the quality of social services for children, increased quality of education, stimulating the transfer of best practices in providing services and developing policies for children, raising professional quality of human resources in social, education and health services for children, developing parenting skills in taking care and educating their children, increase access to education, health and social services to children in rural areas, facilitate Roma children's access to social, educational and health care services, development of specific measures and services for children with parents working abroad, developing life skills of children, to prepare them for leaving the special protection system etc.

The General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection, acting at county level, were involved in the implementation of 21 out of the 100 projects implemented under the Programme, providing services for children and youth institutionalized or under a protection measure. New

services were established in this respect and the quality of already provided services were improved through trainings and networking or new working tools created, some of them addressing all or the most educational units in the county, by applying the same tools and making coherent interventions. As a result, life skills, abilities and opportunities of the children and youth institutionalized or under a protection measure for a better integration in society and on the labour market increased.

The National Strategy for the period 2015-2020 in the Youth Policy Area was adopted by the Romanian Government in January 2015. Citing Eurostat data, the strategy mentions that more than a quarter of young people between 18 and 24 years old from Romania is in relative poverty (28.1% in 2011), which places Romania among the 3 countries with the worst situation in the EU-27. It states also that more than a third of young people are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, i.e. 40.3% versus 24.3% in the EU-28, that the employment rate of young people (15- 24 years old) was 20.6% in the first quarter of 2014, or that Romania has the highest poverty of young adults between 18 and 24 years old that are working: 30.7% of them were poor in 2011, while in EU the value is 11.2%. To mitigate this situation, the strategy propose actions in 4 main areas of intervention: Labour and Entrepreneurship area, Formal, Non-formal Education and Culture area, Health, Sport, and Recreation area, and Participation and Volunteering area.

The main measures included in the action plans of the strategy such as: expanding school counselling and vocational guidance, implementation of prevention, intervention and compensation measures for reduced early school leaving, improve the supply of non-formal education, supporting health and quality of life of young people, preventing injuries, nutrition disorders, addiction and substance abuse, youth involvement in voluntary activities, providing better opportunities to access and maintain employment of young people, through the acquisition and development of skills and competencies, promoting entrepreneurship at all levels of education and training for young people etc., were financed through the Children and Youth at Risk Programme Programme.

Thus, under the funded projects focusing on youth at risk multifunctional type centres for children and youth were established, formal and non-formal educational programmes to improve their life skills and the competences they need to access to the labour market, so as support services such as literacy courses, remedial education sessions, psychological and career counselling were provided etc.

The NGO Fund supported over 30,000 vulnerable beneficiaries access welfare and basic services in education, health, employment, etc. Over 21,800 beneficiaries were from deprived / disadvantaged areas. Among them there were vulnerable children and youth and their families: Roma, with disabilities, affected by migration, victims of violence, living in poverty, in remote rural areas, etc. Target groups were considered in the broader context of family, community, living conditions, social life, employment, etc. Therefore, there were created more than 150 new basic and welfare services". Some were in locations where such services were not available (such as "home kindergartens" or "mobile schools" in remote rural areas); other were specialized services developed based on needs identified (such as palliative care, early intervention centres for children with developmental disorders, therapies for children with autism, etc.); while most of them were meeting the community needs (after-school centres, socio-medical centres for elders, etc.).

Unicef Romania has developed a universal package of preventive social services (health, education, social protection) in an integrated/coordinated way to children and their families in order to reduce the equity gaps and reduce the deprivations children suffer while also reducing the medium and long-term costs in the social sector, with support from Programme RO25 – Poverty Alleviation. 17,521 were identified and vulnerable children and their families have

benefited from the provision of tailored services in health, education and social/child protection. Common examples include: helping parents to obtain a birth certificate, to register their children with the family doctor for the first time or (re)enroll their children in school, providing counselling services to children and women victims of violence and to parents perpetrating violence, etc. Over 1,385 teachers from pre-school, and primary and lower secondary education, including school directors, were involved in activities aiming at improving teaching methods, promoting child participation, supporting inclusion and extra-curricular activities, improving school management, support parenting classes and promoting positive role models. 132 community workers were selected, trained and actively delivering community services.

Discrimination

According to the study on the “Perceptions and attitudes of the Romanian population towards the national strategy for preventing and combating discrimination”, launched by the National Council for Combating Discrimination in 2015 and realized within the pre-defined project funded under the RO10 Programme, discrimination is still considered a phenomenon widespread in Romania. Thus, “two out of three Romanians consider it an actual problem that occurs often in Romania” (comparing with 51% of Romanian that considered discrimination one of the current problems, in 2012). But the dominant perception regarding groups that are discriminated against in Romania changed in the meantime. If in 2012 the most discriminated social groups in Romania, according to respondents' opinion, were the Roma people, people with physical or mental disabilities, those with HIV/ AIDS, the homeless, orphans and drug addicts, according to the study realized in 2015, the groups that are discriminated against in Romania refers to people with HIV/AIDS (65%), people addicted to drugs (57%) or people with physical or psychical disabilities (55-56%), Roma people (49%), people with a different sexual orientation (49%), and institutionalized children (48%).

In the area of anti-discrimination, the RO10 Programme had a strategic intervention. With the Programme support, under the predefined project "Strengthening anti-discriminatory measures at national level through large participation of professionals and civil society" implemented by the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE), a new national strategy in the area was developed. The new National Framework Strategy for Preventing and Fighting against Discrimination "Equality, inclusion, diversity" for 2017-2021, estimated to be approved by the Romanian Government in the near future, aims to reduce the number of cases of discrimination in the Romanian society, to promote equal rights and opportunities for all, by adopting coherent integrated and inter-institutional measures, in order to contribute to building an inclusive and diverse society. Specific objectives of the strategy refers to: inclusion of an educational program for equality and non-discrimination in the educational units at the primary, secondary, high school and vocational levels, initial and continuous formation of teaching staff regarding equality and non-discrimination, create an infrastructure of human resources for promoting equality and non-discrimination, elimination of the segregation of students, ensure the respect of equality between women and men, dissemination and awareness regarding equality, non-discrimination and diversity in relation to employment and work, promote a model of independence and inclusion of vulnerable persons and/or disadvantages related to work, improve the legislative framework by replacing the provisions meant to promote equality and non-discrimination in relation to housing, adapt houses and public spaces in order to make them more accessible, improve the institutional framework regarding the access to health services, promote equality and non-discrimination at the level of public administration, monitor and implement equality and non-discrimination in the area of public administration, uniform the case law in the area of the right to dignity, train the public opinion on the right to dignity for vulnerable groups and make public influencers aware of the consequences for abusing of the free speech when promoting discriminatory messages etc.

Health

The European Commission's Country Report on Romania for 2018 concludes that healthcare reform is progressing at a slow pace. Since 2013, the Romanian authorities have made some progress in implementing health-related country specific recommendations on a yearly basis, albeit with some difficulties due to the modest administrative capacity of the Ministry of Health, shifting priorities, poor investment planning and in some cases the lack of political commitment. The shift to outpatient care remains at an early stage, with most efforts concentrated on hospital care. Past measures on reporting informal payments need more time to deliver visible results

The health status of the population has improved, but remains below EU standards. Access to healthcare remains a key challenge, also in relation to equality of opportunities, with negative repercussions on child development, workforce employability and healthy ageing. Low funding and inefficient use of public resources limit the health system's effectiveness, against the background of a sizeable shortage of doctors and nurses. Health infrastructure and the prevalence of informal payments remain sources of concern. The gap in unmet healthcare needs between the richest and the poorest households (6.5 %) is one of the widest in Europe.

The World Health Organization (WHO) statistical data shows that the Romanian health system is facing severe challenges with some of the worst indicators across the EU. These figures include a particular mix of morbidity and mortality indicators that are on the one hand side specific to developed countries such as high mortality by diabetes complications, cardiovascular diseases and neoplastic diseases, and on the other hand side indicators specific to developing countries including resurgence of infectious diseases from tuberculosis and sexually transmissible diseases and lack of basic medical services such as primary and community care especially in rural areas. The main health issues which have a major impact on public health in Romania are high rates of infant and maternal mortality, major non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, respiratory diseases, endocrine diseases, musculoskeletal diseases and oral health, communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (Romania has the highest incidence rate in Europe), Hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS, mental health, rare diseases and nosocomial infections (hospital acquired infections, also called HAI).

The health status of the Romanian population is influenced by different factors, the most important being socio-economic determinants and lifestyle factors (poverty, environmental factors, smoking, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, inappropriate diet) and the performance of the health system in Romania (the capacity to respond to peoples' needs, the degree of equity and efficiency and sustainability) which is currently suboptimal being too focused on treatment instead of on prevention and health promotion.

The OECD Report on State of Health in the EU - Romania Country Health Profile 2017 points out that per capita health spending of EUR 814 in 2015 is the lowest in the EU, and under a third of the EU average. This equals 4.9% of GDP – down from 5.7% in 2010 and well below the EU average of 9.9%. However, on a par with the EU average, 78% of health spending is publicly funded, despite the share of out-of-pocket spending having increased recently. The practice of informal payments, particularly for hospital-related care, is widespread and adds to the financial burden on patients.

Infant mortality represents a particular challenge for Romania: at 7.6 deaths per 1 000 live births, it was the highest in the EU and over twice the average of 3.6 in 2015. Several infectious diseases still pose major threats to the health of the Romanian population. While the rate of newly reported cases of HIV remains below the EU average (a notification rate of 3.8 per 100 000 population compared to 5.8 in the EU), it has increased nearly three-fold since 2000.

On the other hand, the rate of newly reported cases of tuberculosis has fallen substantially since 2003. But it is still by far the highest across all EU countries, at 76.5 new cases per 100 000 population in 2015. Worryingly, Romania also notifies more than one third of all multidrug

resistant tuberculosis cases. Undiagnosed viral hepatitis also poses a significant problem with sub-optimal testing and surveillance making it difficult to quantify the scale of the issue.

In the context described above, the Public Health Initiatives Programme funded the largest scale project on tuberculosis control, significantly improved the capacity for diagnosis and treatment of TB - 62,203 patients were tested by rapid methods, 10 laboratories were equipped with equipment for rapid testing of TB and 1,002 patients with MDR-TB received a full course treatment. Significant contributions were also made through trainings, equipment and provision of medical services in specific areas related to pediatric oncology, high-risk pregnancy, premature birth and hematological diseases, strengthening the network of medical services provision for vulnerable Roma citizens, organized screening for cancers, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in Romania, prevention of lifestyle related and non-communicable diseases.

Research, higher education and innovation

Performance in the area of research and innovation remains modest. Despite a solid IT infrastructure and the rapid development of the ICT sector, Romania continues to score low on all European Innovation Scoreboard indicators and there are no signs of improving performance. The degree of digitization of both the public and private sector remain very low. Despite increasing public funding and a dynamic start-up ecosystem, technology adoption, internationalisation and scaling-up of companies remain significant challenges. The weak innovation performance could have a negative impact on growth prospects.

Low and inefficient public R&D funding results in a low-quality science base. Inefficiencies in funding are linked particularly to the high fragmentation of the research and innovation system and its lack of international openness. Only 46 % of Romanian publications are internationally co-authored. Recent provisions adopted for the evaluation process of R&D projects funded from the national budget (58) will further reduce the

Romania will not reach the R&D intensity target by 2020. The country's R&D intensity in 2016 was only 0.48% of GDP. To reach its 2020 target, R&D in Romania will need to grow by an average of 42.7% per year over the period 2016-2020. Moreover, the Romanian R&D intensity fell annually by 2% in the period 2007-2016. In 2016, public R&D intensity was 20% lower than in 2015, while business R&D intensity increased by 24%. Business R&D intensity reached 0.27% of GDP in 2016 (26th in the EU) while public R&D intensity fell to 0.22% of GDP (27th in the EU). EU-funded investments in R&D infrastructure are slowly taking off, but they are unlikely to have a significant impact on R&D performance before 2020.

The weak performance of the education system limits growth prospects in the long run. Low attainment levels in basic skills and digital skills, persistently high early school leaving, poor Roma inclusion and rural-urban disparities in education result in lost human capital and growth potential. Quality assurance and initial teacher education programmes face challenges. Vocational education and training remains a second choice option and in most cases is not adapted to labour market needs. Access to adult learning is limited, in particular for the low-skilled.

The Green Industry Innovation Programme contributed to supporting innovation, competitiveness of green enterprises, including the greening of existing industries, and to creating green innovation and green entrepreneurship. Areas supported were development and implementation of environmentally friendly technologies, increased productivity, creation or improvement of green products and services, reduction and re-use of waste and energy efficiency measures.

The Research in Priority Areas Programme also contributed directly to address some of these challenges faced by the Romanian research, development and innovation field, by means of its complementary nature to the main funding instruments available at national level. It funded joint

research projects (23) are the large number of researchers (495), PhDs and postdocs (142) involved in partnerships, the considerable number of research partners (86 altogether, out of which 79 research organizations and 7 SMEs), and last but not least the sizeable amount of publications (288 publications, out of which 213 internationally referred scientific publications and 75 internationally referred joint scientific publications). 9 patent applications were filled in, 40 new project applications submitted under various calls of the European/international programs or initiatives, 66 PhD or Master thesis defended and 95 conferences and workshops.

The Scholarships Programme complemented the national efforts towards the development of internationalisation priorities, which is an important aim for higher education institutions in Romania. It contributed to enhance the human capital and knowledge base in Romania through higher education student and staff mobility between Romania and the Donor States and increased institutional cooperation at higher education level between Romania and the Donor States. Also, through the projects financially supported by the Programme, it contributed to enhancing the quality of teaching and to develop the international dimension of higher education.

Environment and climate change, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

According to preliminary estimates in 2016, greenhouse gas emissions not covered by the EU ETS decreased by 4% between 2005 and 2016, while the target for 2015 allows an increase of 7% compared to

2005. According to the latest national projections based on existing measures, non-ETS emissions will increase by 1% between 2005 and 2020. The target is consequently expected to be met with a margin of 18 percentage points.

With 24.8% renewable energy share in gross final consumption, Romania is well on track and even above in attaining its renewable energy target for 2020. Emergency Ordinance No 24/2017 was adopted on 30 March 2017, approving the amendments to the renewable energy support scheme. This provides support to promoting renewable energy in a sustainable manner while ensuring a reasonable consumer impact. This approach brings the much needed stability and predictability to the Romanian renewable energy sector, which may be used in the implementation of the 2014-2021 Programmes in the Energy sector.

The 2009-2014 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programmes targeting these objectives resulted in relatively low impact. Through the Green Industry Innovation, 110,000 tonnes of reduced CO₂ emissions were achieved and 2.784 MWh of energy savings and - 631 MWh of green energy produced.

Programmes targeting environment protection, climate change biodiversity and ecosystems were mainly capacity-building activities have been implemented, i.e. new methodologies for data collection in specific fields have been developed, new integrated approaches to identify corridors and tools for identification, assessment, monitoring and management activities. Also, awareness and education activities in biodiversity and ecosystem services have been developed. Important measures for increasing the capacity for monitoring and controlling hazardous substances were implemented, with impact for a clean and safe environment.

Culture

Culture is an important factor in socio-economic development. The protection and conservation of cultural heritage contributes to social cohesion and to the preservation of history for future generations. Promoting cultural diversity is essential in order to strengthen democratic values in Europe and to contribute to social and economic cohesion. Culture and cultural actors contribute to the development of values, principles and norms at an individual and societal level, thereby influencing people's behaviour and social dynamics. Recognition of cultural diversity as a key

factor in society enhances individual freedom and creativity, and opens new perspectives on cultural identity.

Romania has a poorly funded cultural sector and lack of resources necessary for the investments in restoration of cultural heritage. Cultural sites and activities have been largely neglected and are in need of restoration and modernisation, constituting a potential for economic revival of an area, through tourism and job creation. Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Culture and Arts Programmes made significant contributions to these goals. Only 16% of Romania's 32.000 listed monuments are in a good state of conservation.

The need for funds for restoration was confirmed by the request for funding during the EEA Grants 2009-2014 for the cultural sector which exceeded approx. 12 times the available budget. Besides the built heritage, there is a rich and diverse intangible and mobile heritage which needed conservation and capitalization. In this context the Programme involved digitisation of cultural content which could foster the expansion of trans-European tourism networks while identifying ways to create a European cultural tourism offer based on tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a competitive factor.

Considering that all projects dealing with restoration of historical monuments involved providing access of the general public to the restored monument, the Programme contributed to ensuring greater awareness about the diversity of Romania's built cultural heritage and also about the need to safeguard and protect this heritage for future generations. The financed projects included the restoration of diverse types of heritage such as wooden churches, medieval mansions, fortified churches, cathedral towers, medieval fortified walls, located both in the rural and the urban area, in all regions of the country. The Programme provided a fair balance from the geographical point of view, thus reducing the economic and social disparities through the implemented projects.

The digitised archives and databases created through the selected projects increased the protection of the cultural heritage and also the accessibility of information for the general public. The programme supported the digitization and 3D reconstruction of ancient artefacts, medieval documents, religious documents from different eras, which are extremely useful for students, researchers, experts and also for the general public.

The cultural facilities or museums created through the supported projects constitute the fundament for the organization of future cultural events and represent modern spaces hosting exhibitions which display various types of heritage such as religious icons, artefacts depicting the way of living of different cultural minorities and more. The number of visitors to the newly created or enhanced cultural spaces will be monitored by PO during the sustainability period in order to assess the impact also from the economic point of view in the local communities where the projects were implemented. However, the predefined project implemented by Astra Museum, due to the longer period in implementation, already reported an increase of the number of visitors after the new museum was opened and the cultural events were organized in the project.

[Justice, correctional services, domestic violence](#)

The correctional system in Romania (i.e. penitentiary, probation and pre-trial detention systems) has faced serious challenges, with detention conditions being ruled in breach of the European Convention of Human Rights by the European Court of Human Rights.

In terms of specific developments registered in the penitentiary, probation and pre-trial detention systems since the reform of the criminal legislation has been implemented, positive changes have occurred, the most notable being a constant reduction of the prison population, after years of continuous increase (i.e. compared to 2014, in 2015 the prison population decreased by 6,04%, in 2016 by 8,96% and in 2017 there were 14,42% less detainees than in 2014). In correlation with the downward trend in the prison population, it was registered an upward trend in the number of

convicted persons under probation supervision, reaching a 195% increase in 2017 compared to 2014, which attests to the increased importance given to the application of alternatives to prison. As regards the number of persons remanded in custody in the pre-trial detention centres, it can also be noticed a reduction in their numbers (i.e. 8,22% decrease in 2017 compared to 2014).

The Correctional Service Programme took the actions needed for improving compliance with the relevant international human rights instruments, by overcoming challenges connected to growing prison populations and prison overcrowding, increasing the application of alternatives to prison, improving the situation of vulnerable groups in prison and improving competences of both inmates and correctional staff (i.e. prison, probation and police pre-trial detention staff).

Significant investments (i.e. renovations and endowments) were made in the infrastructure of several prisons of 379 detention places that comply with the accommodation standards of 4 sqm/detainee provided by the relevant human rights instruments (i.e. the rules of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment). Although these infrastructure investments did not increase the total inmates' capacity of the renovated prisons/ detention centres, they contributed however to reducing overcrowding and, implicitly, to safeguarding the fundamental rights of detainees, by ensuring improved living conditions for them, in line with the European standards. Moreover, through these investments, adequate spaces and facilities were set up for carrying out specialized socio-therapeutic/ educational programmes aimed at supporting and preparing detainees for social reintegration, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups (i.e. minors/ youngsters and women, including Roma).

The Programme also supported the *application of alternatives to prison measures*, such as the specific probation interventions/ programmes in the community. The development of programmes like the "My Choice" programme for drug/ alcohol addicted adult offenders under probation supervision, the civic education programme for young offenders sentenced to non-custodial educational measures, or the mentoring programme for Roma offenders under probation supervision, and their implementation on 101 adult offenders, 26 young offenders and 26 Roma offenders respectively, strengthened the capacity of the probation to deliver alternative to prison customized interventions for targeted offenders. On the long run, this will contribute to increasing the rate of successful social reintegration of offenders and, implicitly, to diminishing the risk of reoffending, as convicted persons under probation supervision are more easily reintegrated in society than those deprived of liberty, due to the fact that they are able to continue to live in their familiar environment, to work and to maintain the connection with society, which contributes significantly to changing their anti-social behaviour.

Furthermore, the programme supported measures aimed at *increasing the focus on vulnerable groups in prison* (e.g. minors/ juveniles and women, including Roma), to this end specialized prison intervention programmes/ tools being developed and implemented on 437 minors/ youngsters and 110 women, with a view to assist their educational and psycho-social recovery and to facilitate their social reintegration (i.e. the integrated tool for the evaluation of the relapse risk and the modular type educational and psycho-social recovery programme for minors/ youngsters deprived of liberty; the specialised protocols for assisting women detainees suffering of certain psychological disorders and the programme for their personal optimization).

Training was provided to 126 vulnerable detainees (e.g. uneducated, Roma) as qualified workers in less than common jobs (e.g. eco-constructions, carpentry, eco-agriculture, rush weaving), allowing them to gain the necessary knowledge and skills for producing goods that are useful in daily life, thus increasing their chances of earning a living after their release from prison and, ultimately, contributing to reducing the relapse rate, by facilitating their transformation from socially assisted persons into active, responsible members of society.

Gender based violence has not represented a topic of public debate in Romania before 1995 and the offence has not been distinctly incriminated in the Criminal Code before 2000. It is a serious social phenomenon in Romania, affecting basic fundamental rights of victims such as dignity, access to justice and equality between women and men. Its real dimensions are unknown, official statistics (only the tip of the iceberg) showing an increase in domestic violence despite annual fluctuations: in 2012 - 14,376 cases were registered, in 2013 - 15,358, 2014 - 11,598, 2015 - 12,273, and in 2016 - 13,019.

Over the last years, Romania has undertaken an active attitude toward harmonization of domestic violence legislation and policies to European and international standards. In November 2012, the National Strategy for prevention and combating domestic violence for the period 2013 – 2017, providing for a set of measures designed to reduce or contribute to reducing domestic violence, alleviate the victim's sense of insecurity, reduce the risk of relapse and facilitate social reintegration of the perpetrators, was adopted. In 2015, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) was established as a specialized coordinating body of policies and work of all actors involved in preventing and combating domestic violence. In May 2016, Romania ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). One of the Government's priorities is the harmonization of the internal legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. Hence, a significant legislative package is intended to be adopted for amending and complementing the current legal framework in line with the Istanbul Convention (e.g. regulating the "gender-based violence" concept, introducing new offences and harsher sanctions for the perpetrators violating the protection orders, ensuring a new victim-centred approach, etc.).

Trafficking in human beings (THB) has experienced a dynamics whose main features did not fundamentally change the previous years' situation, both from a socio-demographic perspective and as a whole. Criminal patterns and the socio-demographic profile of traffickers remained almost unchanged comparing to previous years. For example the number of identified victims increased from 757 in 2014 to 880 in 2015 and then dropped again to 756 in 2016. The annual fluctuation in the number of victims finds its explanation rather under contextual conditions or factors (higher migration for work in certain periods or in some areas) than in findings related to new operation modes, criminal trends, and new techniques for investigating or detecting this crime.

Essential developments were registered in terms of policy and legislative changes. The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons transposed the provisions of the EU Directive 36/2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims into national legislation. The National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons for 2012-2016 was developed and adopted in December 2012, aiming primarily at reducing the impact and dimension of human trafficking at national level by prioritizing and streamlining the intervention measures. In 2014, the updated Law no 678/2001 on prevention and combating trafficking established harsher punishments for offences against minors, aligning its provisions with the new Criminal Code; while in 2015, the new Criminal Procedure Code was amended providing a victim centred-approach, more rights being ensured to victims of trafficking choosing to participate in criminal proceedings, etc.

In this context, the programme Domestic and Gender-based Violence supported legislative reforms by developing specific and coherent intervention procedures for the professionals involved, providing them with continuous specific training in accordance with the new legal provisions, adequate financial aid for the implementation of the support measures for victims and for making them aware of their rights and protection offered by the law. It also supported the development of shelters 11 regional shelters nationwide and access for 908 (women and children) victims of domestic violence to better-quality assistance services in line with European and

international standards. Ensuring a financial allocation of 4,705,882 Euro (national co-financing included) under the Norway Grants, the Programme had a significant contribution in complementing Government's efforts in reducing domestic violence and supporting victims of trafficking.

Improving efficiency of the court systems and enhancing the access to justice, in the context of the adoption of the new legislative codes was a very important objective with impact over the Romanian society.

In 2011-2014, the Civil Code, the Civil Procedure Code, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, have been substantially reformed, as new fundamental principles and new institutions have been introduced and large revisions and modifications have been operated with the purpose of creating a coherent and modern legislative framework, reducing the length of judicial proceedings and ensuring citizens' access to simpler and more accessible procedural means.

The Judicial Capacity Programme facilitated the implementation of the above legislation, by providing large scale specialised training for magistrates and other categories of legal professionals (8937) in order to assimilate the new provisions and overcome the challenges implied by the legislative changes. The programme also consolidated the technical capacity and improved efficiency of the judiciary institutions through provision of IT infrastructure and equipment.

The issue of improving the access to justice for vulnerable citizens was addressed, with the expertise of the Council of Europe; 7 legal assistance offices were set up, within which lawyers provided orientation and specialised support regarding legal or administrative proceedings to vulnerable persons, including Roma and 762 cases were handled.

2.2 Bilateral relations

The 2009-2014 EEA and Norway Grants contributed conclusively to strengthened bilateral relations between Romania and the Donor States, fostering enhanced cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding between Donor and Romania.

13 of the 22 Programmes (60%) were implemented in partnership between Romanian Programme Operators and a total of 15 Donor State entities or international organisations, with some of them having 2 or 3 partners. A good indication of the excellent cooperation had is the fact that all programme level partnerships are continuing in the next period (with new ones being added).

Institutions such as Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service, Icelandic Centre for Research, National Energy Authority of Iceland, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norwegian Police Directorate, Norwegian Directorate of cultural heritage, Arts Council Norway, Norwegian Courts Administration, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education, National Agency for International Education Affairs of Liechtenstein worked together with Romanian Programme Operators in all matters pertaining to the good preparation and implementation of Programmes in Romania leading to increased knowledge and mutual understanding

30% of all 830 projects funded (247) have been prepared and implemented in partnership with organizations from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

The mid-term evaluation of the support to strengthened bilateral relations under the EEA and Norway Grants contracted by the FMO and issued in 2016 concluded that, at the overall level, the EEA and Norway Grants have strengthened bilateral relations. The analysis indicates that many 'bilateral results' have been achieved in the projects and programmes giving a positive picture of the achievements of programmes funded by the Grants.

Additionally, according to the *Mid-Term Review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14*, there has been a substantial increase in bilateral co-operation compared to the previous period, many projects being implemented together with the Donor Project Partners. Moreover, a part of the programmes involved the Donor Programme Partners (DPPs), whereas this role did not exist under the project-based approach of the previous period. DPPs have had a positive impact on the design and implementation of programmes.

Stakeholder interviews confirm the overall tendency of higher awareness and better visibility. People are generally more aware of the grants and have a higher opinion of them than was the case in earlier phases of EEA and Norway Grants. Interviews at strategic and programme level show that visibility has increased, particularly at regional and local level and in rural districts, where the projects tend to be very visible, such as the renovation of a school or a cultural object - projects that are likely to have significant impact on the community.

The large number of donor partnership projects, as well as the hundreds of bilateral activities supported through the bilateral relations funds, involving thousands of people in a wide range of domains, led to significant strengthening of bilateral relations as expressed through increased extent of cooperation, shared results, improved knowledge and mutual understanding and wider effects.

Moreover, at programme level in Romania, as many as 90% of respondents found that the programmes have raised awareness of the donor states' efforts to assist beneficiary states to a high or very high extent.

Some examples are presented below:

Extent of cooperation

One of the examples of durable and significant strengthened bilateral relations is Programme *RO23 – Correctional services including Non-custodial Sanctions*. The collaboration between the Norwegian Correctional Services, the Romanian Ministry of Justice, Administration of Penitentiaries and prisons led, beyond the successful implementation of the Programme, to important knowledge and best practice exchange. Romania benefited of the Norwegian correctional system expertise, one focused on rehabilitation, new ways of support for prisoners' reintegration as productive members of society, and achieving one of the lowest rate of recidivism in the world. The Romanian prisons system is, in turn, confronted with deficiencies, related to over-crowding, non-compliance with European prison conditions, lack of staff, etc. The continuing of this cooperation over the 2014-2021 period, will contribute to increasing the very good results obtained and improvement of the situation of the Romanian correctional system.

This was doubled by the cooperation at project level – all projects being implemented in partnership between the National Administration of Penitentiaries, National Probation Directorate and donor partners - the Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy, Bjørgvin Prison, Bredtveit Prison and Rogaland Probation Office.

The active and supporting involvement of the Programme partners in the Scholarships, Research and Culture Programmes were instrumental for their good implementation, helping in fostering partnerships in projects and building long-lasting relations and cooperation between organizations and people.

The projects supporting mobility of students and university staff contributed to a large extent to consolidate the bilateral relations between universities from Romania and Donor State, improving exchange of knowledge and understanding.

The Renewable Energy programme benefited of the constant and supportive involvement of the Icelandic National Energy Authority and Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate and

the bilateral relations developed can be considered one of the greatest achievements of the Programme. Seven of the nine projects under the programme had at least one donor partnership agreement in place. A considerable number of those partnerships that emerged under the programme, both on the hydropower and the geothermal components, stand real chances of further capitalizing on the bilateral relationship and continue the cooperation, either by undertaking new projects, or by developing the current projects (as the case may be for the Asachi University).

In the aftermath of the open call, yearly bilateral and complementary actions have been organized, in Romania, Iceland and Norway, hence bringing together all stakeholders (Donor Programme and project partners, Programme Operators, companies, public bodies, etc.).

Representatives of more than 20 Icelandic and Norwegian companies have visited Romania and contacted potential partners, not only for the Programme, but on a much broader level. The number of persons involved in experience exchanges between the donor and beneficiary states well exceeded 100. The number of attendees from all sides/countries exceeded 500.

The PO's and the DPPs' personnel has pro-actively benefited from the study trips organized under the Complementary Actions Fund. The Romanian, Icelandic and Norwegian counterparts involved in managing the programme have been exposed to each other's work procedures and experience, and most importantly have seen different approaches to hydro and geothermal plant undertakings, both from a technical and a business perspective. Challenges and risk mitigation plans have been debated among programme operators from beneficiary countries, during joint visits to and from Poland, Hungary and Greece. Overall, more than 100 persons benefited of these visits.

Programmes RO02 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and RO04 – Reduction of Hazardous Substances increased the extent of cooperation between Romania and the Donor States in the field of environment protection, both through the significant involvement of the Donor Programme Partner – the Norwegian Environment Agency as well as the results of the partnership projects.

The predefined project implemented by “Romanian Waters” National Administration in partnership with the Norwegian Environment Agency resulted in increased knowledge and capacity building, as 14 Romanian experts received specialized, up-to-date training in Norway, as well as the subsequent dissemination of expertise to other Romanian specialists within the national network of water quality laboratories and all stakeholders. The project increased mutual knowledge by supporting the experts from both countries to meet, to share their experience in the water policy field, to establish working relations, while ensuring the foundations for new collaboration opportunities.

The implementation of the two partnership projects under RO18 – Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation, led to increased cooperation and knowledge exchange, as well as shared results in areas of nuclear safety and tax administration.

The project successfully carried out by the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN), the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued and scaled-up the results of their previous cooperation during the 2004-2009 Norway Grants, and the common capacity building efforts will continue also in the next period of the Norway Grants.

The Romanian Agency for Fiscal Administration worked together with the Norwegian counterpart – Tax Norway, in improving integrity and anti-corruption in the institution responsible for tax collection - a major issue in Romanian society. The links established during this project will

certainly give rise to future cooperation, in other areas of the administration of taxes, to the mutual benefit of the institutions.

Shared results

Under Programme RO10 – Children and youth at risk, 12 out of the 100 projects financed were implemented in partnership with entities from the Donor States, and 87.6% of the Project Promoters were involved in joint activities with entities from the Donor States, 64 entities from the Donor States participating in such activities. On the other hand, the partnerships in projects led to shared results, consisting of guides, methodologies and tools to combat discrimination and social exclusion of people with autistic spectrum disorders, to facilitate socio-educational reintegration of the re-migrant children, to increase child safety in school, to adapt curricula for autistic and special needs children and to elaborate local strategies in the field for conflict prevention management and social inclusion.

Programme RO12 – Cultural Heritage achieved a large number of important results stemming from the collaboration between Romanian and Donor state entities, such as the organization of a contest for architectural solutions by the Cluj County Council together with Nordic Urban Design Association, organization of Aromanian Culture Weekend in Reykjavik by the Armana Community in Romania together with Katalonska Huseid a Islandic, documenting ethnic minorities' cultural heritage concluded with one joint exhibition in Norway and one scientific study published in English by the Astra Museum together with Museum of South-Trøndelag, a scientific workshop on visual anthropology by Hungarian University Foundation in Cluj Napoca together with Museum of Bergen University and Norsk Antropologisk Film Forening), the archaeological research in Alma Vii by Mihai Eminescu Trust Foundation together with the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, the strategic development plan for Slatina City and one workshop on international cultural cooperation achieved by Slatina Municipality together with Evris Foundation Iceland, a Master Plan for the development of the National Ethnographic Park "Romulus Vuia" by Cluj County Council together with Nordic Urban Design Association) and a summer school on restoration techniques by the Kalnoky Foundation together with INTBAU Scandinavia.

Important shared results were also obtained in the very impactful Programme RO19 – Public Health Initiatives. As a result of the cooperation under the predefined project implemented by the "Ion Chiricuță" Oncology Institute in Cluj-Napoca and the Oslo University Hospital, a feasibility study for cervical cancer screening program operating in line with European norms and guidelines and procedures / software support for the implementation of two organized cancer screening programs were produced, through the transfer the expertise and know-how between partners.

Improved knowledge and mutual understanding

All donor partnership Programmes and projects undoubtedly led to increasing knowledge and mutual understanding, the key being the great number of people, from researchers, professors and students, professionals in the field of culture, correctional services, law enforcement, environment protection, geothermal and hydro energy, nuclear safety working together to reach common goals.

In the Culture Programmes, good examples of such effects are the visits organized in Romania by ASTRA National Museum Complex together with Museum of South-Trøndelag, the Slatina Municipality together with Evris Foudation Inceland, Alba County Council together with University of Bergen. Also, the transfer of knowledge between partners in managing cultural spaces and creating strategic development plans for the "Victoria Intercultural Atelier" in Slatina.

The cultural events organized in Romania, (representatives of Norsk Antropologisk Film Forening, hosted by the Romanian partner Hungarian University Foundation in Cluj Napoca, lead a workshop

on visual anthropology) and Donor States (the Aromanian Culture Weekend in Reykjavik), also led to increased transfer of knowledge.

The cooperation between the Romanian and Norwegian partners under the RO23 – Correctional Services Programme, which was materialized in specific activities (e.g. conferences, joint workshops/ seminars, trainings, working meetings) contributed to the improvement of the knowledge of the involved specialists and of the mutual understanding of the peculiarities of their respective correctional systems, regarding for instance the organisation, functioning and strategic development priorities of counterpart entities having competences in the correctional sector.

Programme RO17 – Green Industry Innovation contributed significantly to strengthening bilateral relations, through increased knowledge and shared results. Every second project was implemented with a Norwegian partner or contractor. A series of 29 networking events were conducted, capacity building workshops and experience exchanges on business conduct and implementing modern technological solutions. Contributions from Norwegian partners were sector related know-how, expertise in efficient production processes, research and development-specific support, training and competence transfer within corporate social responsibility, health, safety and environment, lean production as well as awareness raising campaigns. This way of promoting cooperation was welcomed as unique approach and door opener by companies from both Romania and Norway.

Wider effects

Oradea University's predefined project under Programme RO06 – Renewable Energy has contributed by training 4 Romanian students in the UNU-GTP 6-month course and by organizing the geothermal workshops that 130 persons attended. The ties and long-term relationships that both the students and the attendees developed, together with the knowledge and skills gained throughout the course and workshops, will most likely underpin any future geothermal endeavor they or their organizations would embark on.

Other wider effects, achieved under RO12 – Cultural Heritage Programme, stem in the fact that some of the bilateral partnerships are planned to continue beyond the project completion – Cluj County Council will continue the cooperation with NUDA, Mihai Eminescu Trust Foundation will continue the cooperation with NIKU in order to promote the fortified churches; the Hungarian University Foundation plans to implement a restoration project of Banffy Castle from Nuszfalau together with Museum of Bergen University and Norsk Antropologisk Film Forening.

The wider effects of the programme RO14 lies in the fact that implementation goes beyond the actual funding provided, the allocated EEA grants worth of 20 million euro. It has proved wider effects over the implementation period, such as: raising research capacity, better international collaboration of the Romanian research community with their counterparts in Norway and Iceland, greater international exposure and use of the research and innovation potential, wider access to European networks of excellence, strengthening bilateral cooperation, transfer of knowledge and know-how, improved research management and coordination skills, increased number and quality of the partnerships between research organizations from Romania, Norway and Iceland, contribution to reducing the gap between research and industry in Romania by involving SMEs in the joint research projects, improved skills in applying to E.U. research funding and not only.

Programme RO17-Green Industry Innovation also achieved wider effects were through the matchmakings organised targeted at the programme's most prominent sectors, that helped finding potential future collaboration partners and preparing joint follow-up project applications for Horizon 2020 and other European programmes. Particularly successful was a training for

twenty Romanian clusters on how to build strategies for cooperation and internationalisation, to expand R&D initiatives and find financing for cluster activities.

The development of bilateral relations through the Programme represented a stepping stone to capture more easily the interest of business towards development of a diversified portfolio of projects, a wider perspective of activities and strategies, access to more expertise and increased knowledge for the entities involved in bilateral initiatives.

The Norwegian project partners clearly appreciated the benefits of their project involvement: Two-thirds of the respondents of a survey conducted in the end of 2016 confirmed that their project involvement led to increased knowledge and skills, typically within internationalisation, business culture and industry / market insights. Nine out of ten partners reported that they would like to get involved another time, if they had the opportunity and also would recommend the same to others.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe was involved as partner for 5 Programmes: RO20 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence, RO23 - Correctional Services, RO21 - Schengen Cooperation, RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion and RO24-Judicial capacity building and cooperation, as well as 4 predefined projects.

The active participation of the Council of Europe led to important results in combating domestic violence, strengthening anti-discriminatory measures at national level, strengthening the capacity of the pre-trial detention system to comply with the relevant international human rights instruments and the compensation of victims of human trafficking.

One of the most important results of this involvement was the development, under the pre-defined project implemented in Programme RO10 by the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE), of a new National Framework Strategy for Preventing and Fighting against Discrimination for 2017-2021 was developed. The strategy aims to reduce the number of cases of discrimination in Romania, to promote equal rights and opportunities for all, in order to contribute to building an inclusive and diverse society and addresses the recommendations made by the Council of Europe in the area of anti-discrimination. To support the strategy development process, CoE experts have developed an external evaluation of the previous anti-discrimination strategy and a study on non-discrimination in the education systems, identifying 28 examples of good practice at European level. CoE experts also participated in regional workshops with stakeholders from all over Romania and at some meetings of the working group that developed the anti-discrimination strategy, and drafted a report containing recommendations to be used in drafting the strategy for 2017-2021.

Implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at national level

According to the approved Work Plan and implementation system, the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level was implemented through open calls for proposals and mutually agreed predefined activities.

The final **financial implementation status** is summarized in the table below:

	Budget	Contracted	Spent	%
TOTAL	1 529 750	1 418 241	1 248 967	81
Pre-defined activities	691 211	495 066	487 862	71
2012-2013	229 509	229 509	226 791	
2014 - 2015	189 094	189 094	184 420	

2016-2017	280 000	76 463	76 651	
Open Calls	838 539	923 175	761 105	91
Call I	250 000	99 239	78 727	
Call II	736 000	578 210	471 483	
Call III	200 000	245 727	210 896	

i. Open Calls

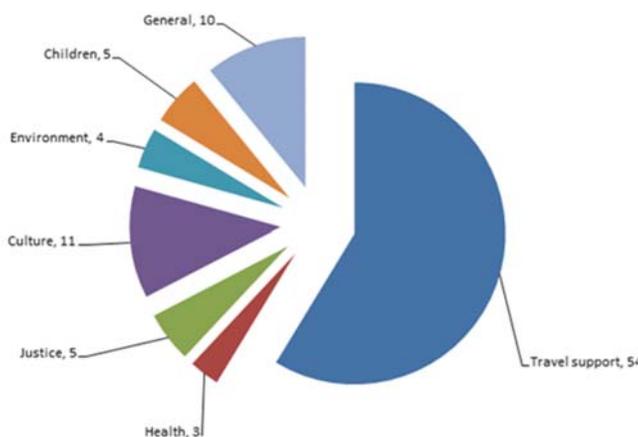
The open calls were held during 29 October 2013 – 31 March 2014 (Call I), 11 April 2013 - 31 December 2015 (Call II) and 25 March 2016 - 30 June 2016 (Call III). The grant applications submitted was continuously evaluated as they were registered, until the entire financial allocation was spent.

The calls targeted two general measures: measure I - Travel Support facility and measure II – “Priority Areas” where more complex

A large number of applications were received, demonstrating a high level of visibility and interest for the Fund, while the high number of rejected applications (55%) ensured the quality and relevance of supported bilateral activities:

Call	Received	Approved	Rejected
Call I	24	15	9
Call II	134	57	77
Call III	46	20	26
Total	204	92	112

In terms of distribution of bilateral activities funded over the measures and priority areas, a great interest can be observed for the travel support facility and culture priority area:



Snapshot of results achieved under the open call Bilateral Fund at National Level

- 92 initiatives financed with a total amount spent of approx. EUR 760,000
- 355 persons directly involved in bilateral activities (195 persons from Romania and 160 persons from the Donors States);

- 12,379 persons participated in the activities organized (festivals, workshops, conferences, etc.);
- 216 entities from the Donor States involved in bilateral activities;
- 738 articles developed in partnership published.

Some examples of successful bilateral activities implemented under the open calls:

[Norwegian art section at Transylvania International Film Festival \(TIFF\) under the project Norwave - Focus Norway](#)

One of the most successful initiatives of bilateral cooperation in the cultural field between entities in Romania and Norway was the organization of a [Norwegian art section at Transylvania International Film Festival \(TIFF\) under the project Norwave - Focus Norway](#).

The project, amounting to approx. 52,000 euro was implemented by the Romanian Film Promotion Association in partnership with the Norwegian Film Institute (NFI). The successful story of this bilateral action is primarily due to the fact that TIFF is already a nationally and internationally known brand and to the experience of the Norwegian partner and beneficiary in organizing large-scale projects. The collaboration between the two partners aimed at an integrated approach to the Norwegian arts through artistic, musical and educational activities and the greatness of the event was reported in local and national media (press, TV, radio reports or the web sites of the two partners). Thus, they provided an extended visibility of donor states, of their contribution and the purpose of this type of funding. The Norwegian section of the festival proved its consistency and impact considering the large number of direct attendees (approx. 7200) and the diversity of their background (Romanian and Norwegian artists and directors, Norwegians lecturers, students, pupils, teachers, representatives of state authorities and of some cultural institutes, representatives of some embassies and international cultural centers). Furthermore, the two partners have also signed an agreement for future collaborations in the field of cinematography.

[Transparency International Romania: Increasing the role of the judiciary in preventing corruption in business](#)

The project, amounting to approx. 23,000 euro was implemented by [Transparency International Romania Association in partnership with Transparency International Norway](#).

The collaboration between the two partners aimed at an integrated approach to strengthen the capacity of Romanian business to align to the highest standards for ethics and integrity, by providing stakeholders with the necessary resources to promote transparency in business practices. Three regional conferences were organized (Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta), entitled "Integrity of Prosperity Summit", attended by 96 people. The conclusions of the three regional conferences, together with proposals and solutions from the business environment and identifying good-practice examples by Transparency International Norway have constituted the basis for the formulation of a public policy proposal. This will be used by Transparency International Romania to support efforts to achieve the objective 3.7 of the National Anticorruption Strategy 2016-2020, regarding „Increasing the integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and corruption risks in business”.

[Study visit and training course on efficient public lighting for representatives of Satu Mare County](#)

Within the project, promoted by [The Intercommunity Development Association Satu Mare](#) in partnership with the International Development Norway Research, entitled „Partnership for an enlightened future!” has developed the cooperation relations already established between the partners during the implementation of the project „Building partnership for a green future”.

The project was aimed to continue the cooperation in the field of energy savings strategies for regions and municipalities and to contribute to the transfer of knowledge and best practices in the field of public lighting between the partners. The project budget was approx. 12,500 euros.

A training course on public lighting for all members of the Intercommunity Development Association Satu Mare (43 participants during the first day and 42 participants during the second day) was organized, a study visit for 3 representatives of the Intercommunity Development Association Satu Mare to the partner organisation in Trondheim (Norway) and a best practices guide on energy savings strategies and public lighting was elaborated and printed.

The best practice guide elaborated during the project was distributed to all relevant public authorities and institutions in the county, contributing in this way to obtaining the objectives of saving energy in the Satu Mare County. The partners have also decided to start an application for a small project on climate change.

[Travel support to initiate, organize and get into operation a Romanian NGO that will secure the day-to-day activities for homecoming beggars and for other poor people](#)

Within the project, promoted by the [From Beggar Cup](#) in partnership with the City Hall Târgu-Cărbunești, entitled „Travel support to establish From Beggar Cup in Romania”, the main objective with the three travels to Romania was to initiate, organize and get into operation a Romanian NGO that will secure the day-to-day activities for homecoming beggars and for other poor people (both Roma people and Romanian people) in the municipality of Tg-Cărbunești – Târgu-Jiu and beyond. The project budget was approx. 12,000 euros. The initiative secured a good collaboration with the officials within the municipality of Târgu -Cărbunești and Târgu-Jiu, set up non-corruption routines and secure implementation and enforcement of national laws for paying local taxes and routines for export/import expenditures, established relationship with stakeholders and associations in Romania focusing on the same purpose and helped to look for and initiate business opportunities locally in Romania for the association to secure more employment and self-employment for poor people.

The Norwegian promoter concluded that the projects revealed a great lack of understanding, respect and appreciation among Norwegians for people who are different. The two associations, From Beggar Cup and the new NGO association in Romania will continually combat such attitudes in both countries.

[Survey on the bilateral fund at national level](#)

In order to assess the beneficiaries' experience regarding the open calls, a survey was sent to the 79 Romanian beneficiaries who implemented 98 activities financed within the Fund for bilateral Relations at national level, as well as at the level of the two programmes managed by the NFP as PO (RO05 – Energy Efficiency and RO18 – Capacity Building). 55 submitted answers, representing 69.62% out of which 28 are public organizations (ministries, museums, universities, prefectures, penitentiaries), and the rest are NGOs (foundations, professional associations, etc.). Having in mind that the survey was sent after some time since the finalization of the activities, the percentage of the respondents is significant and leads to the conclusion the perception of the beneficiaries in what concerns the EEA and Norway grant is a positive one.

Analysing the results of the survey, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- beneficiaries obtained the initial information about the funding from the dedicated website www.eeagrants.ro (85%);
- beneficiaries have a positive general perception about the Fund for Bilateral Relations at national level, the guidelines of the applicant are considered to be clear and the activities

- concerning the application/financing/evaluation/contracting are considered to be facile and less bureaucratic comparing with other non-reimbursable external funds;
- the correspondence with NFP staff was rate good and very good by 96% from respondents;
- the activities implemented are considered to have a significant impact on the organizations the beneficiaries are part of;
- 43% of beneficiaries considered the identification process of the partner was difficult and very difficult and 43% of them had correspondence/ partnership prior to these fundings with partners, other 43% have identified and contact direct the partners, 7% within other projects funded by EEA and Norwegian grants or other 7% through a Partner Identification Platform and none with the support from Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Romania;
- using pre-financing had an important impact on the way the activities are implemented;
- the cooperation with the partners from the Donor States is appreciated by the beneficiaries and the majority took important steps to continue the bilateral relations once the activities were finalized.

The successful implementation of projects depends on a number of factors such as:

- the background history of the applicant / partner and the experience in implementing projects financed from grants (implementation capacity), which are likely to determine the correctness of implementation and the assurance of sustainability;
- the reputation and good name of the applicant / partner in the field of work, with a direct effect on the dissemination area of results and their credibility;
- a good communication relationship between the applicant and the partner;
- good cooperation relationship with the funding authority (pro-active actions and providing assistance during the project implementation);
- the specific funding area.

The visibility of EEA and Norway Grants and of Donor States was ensured by various means starting from press releases in partner countries to postings on own websites and social media networks, leaflets, brochures or other publications.

The sustainability of activities funded is also supported by the fact that there are beneficiaries that have submitted a second application (National Anticorruption Directorate, Prader Willi Association etc.) and by the increase of number of a certain beneficiaries category (e.g. universities / police inspectorates) that have submitted applications after having received information on funding opportunities from similar institutions that had already implemented such projects and have disseminated the results of those projects in specific environments.

ii. Predefined activities

Regarding predefined activities, the NFP has proactively informed the POs and other relevant public entities in order to develop such initiatives and organised meetings in order to present the opportunities offered by the Fund for Bilateral Relations at National Level. However, few concrete initiatives materialized.

The Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest has had a very important contribution in identifying predefined activities and also implemented the following activities:

Contemporary Norwegian Architecture #7 – The main objective of the project was to open a stage for intercultural dialogue and exchange of knowledge between Norwegian and Romanian entities and professionals from cultural areas related to the city, urban issues and contemporary culture. The central element of this program was the Contemporary Norwegian Architecture #7, owned by the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo. A second objective of this project was to strengthen the bilateral relations between professionals from the two countries, as related to creative and cultural domains of architecture, urban

activation, contemporary arts, music, performing arts and literature. The aim was to generate a cultural phenomenon that would create interest and awareness both ways. At the same time, it would represent a platform for acknowledging each other's capacities and capabilities and a starting point for future collaborations.

[Bicentenary of the Norwegian Constitution](#) - The main objective of the project was to open a stage for intercultural dialogue and exchange of knowledge between Norwegian and Romanian entities and professionals from cultural areas. The purpose was to shed light on important issues related to constitution and democracy and their fundamental role in the process of creation of a nation. The starting point of the events was the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Norwegian Constitution. More than celebrating the past, the jubilee should represent an investment into the future, a platform for debates and exchange of ideas among relevant people from Norway and Romania. The significance of the constitution, as unifying symbol of freedom, independence and democracy, should be at the core of the event. It was also an occasion to bring out key messages related to the rule of law and inclusion. A second objective of this program was to strengthen the bilateral relations between professionals from the two countries, as related to the civic implication of young people, to the higher degree of attention that should be given to the constitution. A program of events aims to generate a cultural phenomenon that would create interest and awareness both ways. At the same time, it would represent a platform for acknowledging each other's capacities and capabilities and a starting point for future collaborations.

["Helge Rønning events" - program of cultural events](#) - The main objective of the project was to open a stage for intercultural dialogue and exchange of knowledge between Norwegian and Romanian professionals from different cultural areas, mainly literature, media and book industry. The central element of this kaleidoscope of events was the Norwegian professor Helge Rønning, a specialist with relevant experience for each of the topics considered in the project

A predefined project with significant impact and which has involved a large number of entities in Romania and Norway is the one implemented by the [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in partnership with FAFO Research Institute in Norway](#). The project trained 27 specialists in mediating labour disputes, involved a good practices exchange visit and a training course. The specificity and success of the project were based on the number of participants (12 people / study visit and 27 people attending the course) and at the involvement of some entities in the public and private sectors in both countries, such as the ministry and territorial subordinated institutions, some national outstanding trade unions and employers' organizations and the Union of Mediators in Romania. The Norwegian practices, the working manner and the extent of involvement of social partners in solving labour disputes through mediation procedure represented discussion topics during the visit of the Romanian delegation in Norway with experts and decision makers from the Norwegian institutions (the National Mediator of Norway, the Labour Court, the National Confederation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises, the Norwegian Parliament - Parliamentary Committee for Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Another predefined projects with significant impact and which has involved a large number of entities in Romania and Norway is the one implemented by the [Ministry of Energy in partnership with Innovation Norway](#). The project objective was to facilitate a study visit of Romanian researches to Norwegian institutes from the energy sectors.

The Romanian delegation consisted of 15 people (12 researchers and 3 representatives of the Ministry of Energy) and has held visits and meetings at institutions such as: Research Council of

Norway, Norwegian Environmental Agency (NEA), Norwegian Water Resource and Energy Directorate (NVE), University of Oslo, Oslo Renewable Energy and Environment Cluster (OREEC), SINTEF Energy, Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU.

It developed the exchange of knowledge and experience in energy research between the two countries: hydro, nuclear and renewables and helped to identifying funding sources for Romanian energy research and the future projects of common interest between the Romanian and Norwegian parts for the financial framework for EEA and Norway 2014-2021, closely related to the Romanian Energy Strategy 2016-2030.

Implementation of the Funds for bilateral relations at programme level

To strengthen bilateral relations between relevant entities in Romania and the Donor States or with international organizations, constantly during Programmes implementation POs encouraged and provided support, first for potential beneficiaries, and then for PPs and their project partners in order to identify relevant entities from the Donor States and to develop bilateral activities with them.

The bilateral activities implemented under the Programmes were organized based on the needs and interests expressed by the Project Promoters and their partners and managed to improve knowledge and mutual understanding of the needs. The initiatives created the appropriate context for future cooperation and bilateral activities between entities in Romania and in the Donor States attending the bilateral events. The participants had the chance to present their work and interests, to share contact data and to discuss about future activities.

A 60% rate of use of the Funds for bilateral relations at programme level was achieved (2,953,327 EUR) of the total allocation of 4,912,311 EUR.

The relatively low level of use could be explained by the fact that allocations to these Funds were not tailored to the actual needs or bilateral potential of the Programmes, but based on a minimum fixed-rate. Programmes without DPP found it much more difficult to implement bilateral activities. In some cases, the lack of capacity of Programme Operators affected also the use of the bilateral component. Section 3.3, as well as the final Programme reports, contains detailed information regarding the use of the funds for bilateral relations.

3 REPORTING ON PROGRAMMES

3.1 Overview of Programme achievements

For each Programme Area covered by the MoUs for 2009-2014, a very brief summary of the overall achievements of all programmes contributing to it presented, as well as main observations.

EEA Grants

PA 2 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Programme RO02 contributed to the general objective of the PA - *Halt loss of biodiversity*, by supporting the production of studies regarding the contribution of protected areas natural ecosystems to main economic sectors, reports advising on the current policies, developing a national database of ecosystems and their services, the development of methodologies for establishing ecological corridors and training the administrators of the protected areas for their better management, training of staff in protected area administrators, public institutions, economic operators, landowners, etc. on methods of identifying and establishing ecological corridors, as well as to ensure the monitoring of ecological corridors, conducting workshops for consulted on stakeholders on the identification and use of ecosystem services, ecosystem services evaluation methodologies, development of ecological corridors guides, etc.

The lack of capacity of the PO has negatively affected the implementation of the projects – delays in verifications and payments, lack of support to promoters, delays in reporting towards NFP and Donors, etc. POs should ensure staff with adequate experience in management of funding programmes.

However, the Programme has achieved the agreed targets, and, considering Romania's vast needs in terms of environmental protection measures, made an adequate contribution to the PA objective.

NOTE: At the time of preparation of this report, the PO did not submit the final balance, final project level information and final programme for this Programme.

PA 3 Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control

Programme RO03 contributed to the general objective of the PA - *Improved compliance with environmental legislation* through measures implemented for strengthening the capacity of the Romanian institution responsible for mapping to prepare geographic information needed for environmental monitoring and reporting in Romania, for dealing with climate change effects and the integrated planning and for implementation of the EU Directive on harmonization and exchange of geographic information (INSPIRE).

This meant the production of new maps (digital terrain model, maps and ortophotos), a national database of geographical names established and updated in accordance with INSPIRE rules and made available on the Internet, equipment for safe storage, efficient distribution and backup for geographical information was purchased and installed, trainings and study visits in the Donor States for staff within the Agency for increasing education and exchange of information with similar institutions from Norway and Iceland for modern mapping production and quality assurance procedures

The single predefined project under this Programme experienced significant delays in implementation, due to unforeseen delays in procurement. Thus the contribution of the Programme was not up to the set targets, until the issuing of the current report. However, the project will be continued through the PP's own resources and the set targets are estimated to be met by end of 2018.

PA 4 Reduction of Hazardous Substances

Programme RO04 contributed the general objective of this PA - *Prevent injury and adverse environmental effects caused by chemicals and hazardous waste* through improving the monitoring of hazardous substances in the environment, by creating the capacity for screening and monitoring new priority substances in waters, training of relevant staff in environmental and health evaluation and on hazardous chemicals and waste legislation, strengthened support for the decision-making process in the field of hazardous chemicals and waste by producing and making available registers, databases, exchange information systems, procedures, guidelines, scenarios of exposure for the environment and human health, methodologies to estimate risks associated with hazardous substances for health and environment, studies.

PA 5 Energy Efficiency

Programmes RO05 – Energy Efficiency and RO07– Adaptation to Climate Change contributed to the general objective of this PA - *Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants* through the measures implemented for improving energy efficiency in public buildings, by the replacement of obsolete lighting system with LED technology in a public hospital and achieved savings in consumption of electrical energy of 382 MWh/year.

Programme RO05 – Energy Efficiency under-performed compared to the initial goals. Due to lack of capacity of the initially designated PO (Ministry of Economy) and cancellation of the open call launched in 2014, the Programme was restructured during 2016, with only one predefined project approved and a reduced budget. Thus, its contribution to the objective is very limited.

Programme RO07 – Adaptation to climate change, contributed also to this PA, through a component of the single predefined project, by supporting investments in for improving energy efficiency in 3 public buildings, with a total value of energy saved of 361 kWh/m² year.

Lessons learned: The future Programmes are to be allocated to POs with the needed experience, for maximizing results.

PA 6 Renewable Energy

Programme RO06 contributed to the general objective of this PA - *Increased share of renewable energy in energy use* through the measures implemented in

- increasing renewable energy production by increasing the yearly geothermal heat supply as a result of investments in 2 geothermal heating plants
- increasing the level of education in renewable energy solutions by supporting geothermal workshops and short courses, supporting students completing the UNU-GTP six month course in geothermal energy, completed pre-feasibility studies in geothermal capacity and research studies on the implementation of hydropower pilot projects.

The Programme did not reach the targets set for increasing electricity supply from hydropower sources. None of the selected projects were carried-out due to the lack of the necessary co-financing and legislative changes which negatively affected the economic viability of the investments. Environmental issues related to micro-hydro power plants was also an issue which risked to the project, had they began. Thus, its contribution to the objective is quite limited.

Given the above, the promoters' financial capacity should be more thoroughly assessed during evaluation and selection process for projects involving significant amount of co-financing. In order to avoid environmental issues, hydroelectric investments should focus on expanding production capacity of existing facilities.

PA 7 Adaptation to Climate Change

Programme RO07 contributed to the general objective of this PA - *Reduced human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change*, through developed strategies and measures for adapting to changing climate, implementation at regional level of the National Strategy on Adaptation to climate Change and established the practical steps necessary for the development of similar strategies in the other *regions* of the country, investments in climate change resilience in the city of Sibiu and raising awareness among students, representatives of local authorities or non-governmental organizations active within climate change adaptation.

The project implemented had a beneficial impact over the region of Sibiu and achieved a good level of visibility for the issue of climate change. However, implementing programmes through only 1 project was not a solution which can be considered adequate, considering the administrative activities necessary.

PA 10 Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations

The Programme RO09 – NGO Fund made significant, nation-wide contributions to the objective of *Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development*. It reached at least 2,300 NGOs in 380 projects in carrying-out measures for improving the advocacy capacity of NGOs, increasing citizen engagement in public decision making, enhancing volunteer contribution to NGOs activities, involving in NGOs in tackling issues related to fighting against sexual harassment, trafficking, violence against women, increasing NGO's contribution to fighting racism, xenophobia and discrimination, measures for the empowerment of vulnerable groups, increasing citizens engagement in environment protection/sustainable development actions, etc.

The importance of strengthening the role of NGOs in the Romanian society for their contribution to the promotion of human rights, democracy, social inclusion, combating discrimination, providing social services, environment protection, is well recognized.

With the EEA Grants, now in its 3rd cycle, has been and continues to be the most important funding source to the Romanian civil society, reducing its vulnerability associated with the lack of reliable sources of revenue. This role could be further emphasised by reducing the “gap”/preparation periods of new NGO Programmes.

PA 11 Children and Youth at Risk

Programme RO10 targeted the objective of the PA - *Improved well-being of children and young people at risk*.

The Programme contributed significantly to the this objective, supporting children, young people, as well as their parents, members of vulnerable groups, including Roma, education and social services professionals, representatives of local authorities or non-governmental organizations active within disadvantaged communities. Vulnerable children and young people directly benefited from the Programme with educational and social inclusion measure, and a significant part of them being Roma. It succeeded in reaching the poorest and most disadvantaged areas in all the regions of Romania.

The Programme had a significant impact in Romanian society overall, it's positive contribution being also acknowledged by the results of the evaluation study conducted, and brought important changes in the lives of tens of thousands of children and young people at risk and of other vulnerable groups.

PA 12 Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Programme RO10 made important contributions to the objective of the PA - *Strengthened social and economic cohesion at national, regional and local levels* by supporting projects resulting in the

development methodologies, tools, projects, action plans or local development plans etc. aiming to ensure the internalization of anti-discriminatory, inclusive culture and practices, based on the principle of equal opportunities etc. in working with / addressing disadvantaged groups developed under the Programme, supporting the development of new networks aiming to combat discriminatory practices, social and economic exclusion of the disadvantaged groups jointly initiated by representatives of public sector, of civil society actors and of private sector, supporting the creation of networks of local, regional and national authorities, as well as private sector and civil society actors for exchange and transfer of good practices, partnerships, coalitions and other associations to combat discriminatory practices, social and economic exclusion of disadvantaged groups, etc.

When the RO10 Programme was initiated, the studies made by the National Council for Combating Discrimination showed that, in 2012, 51% of Romanians considered the discrimination one of the current problems, the most discriminated social groups being Roma people, people with physical or mental disabilities and those with HIV/ AIDS. The fact that 53% of respondents considered that the economic situation (crisis) has increased the phenomenon of discrimination, showed a lack of consistent measures against social exclusion and discrimination and the need for an intervention aiming to implement new and adequate measures, tools etc. in order to reduce the discrimination against the vulnerable groups. Setting this up as a major objective, the Programme succeeded in supporting the development of 303 such methodologies, tools and action plans.

A very important input of the Programme towards the objective, was the development of the new National Framework Strategy for Preventing and Fighting against Discrimination for 2017-2021, by the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE). The strategy aims to reduce the number of cases of discrimination in Romania, to promote equal rights and opportunities for all, in order to contribute to building an inclusive and diverse society and addresses the recommendations made by the Council of Europe in the area of anti-discrimination

PA 14 Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance

Programme RO11 contributed to the objective *Gender equality and work-life balance promoted*, by implementing measures for the support of reintegration of women in the workplace, through the establishment of 14 new day-care centres for 502 children, out of which 135 Roma, as well as organization of workshops to raise awareness of work-life balance issues.

Through a mix of hard measure investments and awareness and educational activities regarding gender equalities, with a comparatively limited amount of funds, it achieved a significant and durable impact at the local level, creating new facilities and services registering an acute deficiency in Romania, and the needed support to women wishing to continue working which will have for a long-time effects in those communities.

PA 16 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Programme RO12 positively contributed to the objective of *Cultural and natural heritage for future generations safe-guarded and conserved and made publicly accessible* by supporting the development of communities, improving their tourist and investment attractiveness through works of conservation, restoration and valorisation of cultural and natural heritage, as well as the conservation and valorisation of intangible heritage, with an aim towards strengthening cultural identity of ethnical, social and cultural minorities, including Roma people.

The impact of the Programme in at the local level of intervention targeted is significant. However, given that only 16% of Romania's 32,000 heritage buildings is properly restored, and the lasting impact of such measures over the economic and cultural well-being of Romania, continuing funding in this domain is certainly needed.

PA 17 Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Programme RO13 contributed significantly to the PA objective - *Cultural dialogue increased and European identity fostered through understanding of cultural diversity* by supporting a large number of artists and cultural professionals taking part as performers or specialists within fairs, festivals, exhibitions, performances, production of cultural workshops and seminars sharing experience in the cultural sector; films, short films and documentaries pictured; concerts performed by artists from Romania and Europe, etc.

The Programme was highly visible and well-received, providing a much needed funding source opportunities for artistic expression and collaboration in the European context for the Romanian cultural sector.

PA 18 Research within Priority Sectors

Programme RO14 contributed to the PA objective - *Enhanced research-based knowledge development in the Beneficiary States* by funding joint research projects, involving a significant number of researchers (495), PhDs and postdocs (142) involved in partnerships and a sizeable amount of publications (288 publications, out of which 213 internationally referred scientific publications and 75 internationally referred joint scientific publications).

The Programme prompted great interest among researchers, with a large number of eligible application received (412), while the budget allowed for the selection of 23 high-quality research projects, which generated very good results.

PA 19 Scholarships

Programme RO15 contributed to the objective of *Enhanced human capital and knowledge base in the Beneficiary States* by supporting mobility of higher education students and staff between Romania and the Donor States, as well as collaborative research and study projects, resulting in joint publications.

Through fostering mobility and knowledge exchange, it resulted in positively influencing internationalisation and quality of the Romanian higher education.

Norway Grants

PA 21 Green Industry Innovation

Programme RO17 made contributions to the objective of Increased competitiveness of green enterprises, including greening of existing *industries, green innovation and green entrepreneurship*. It provided support to the Romanian private sector for realizing eco-initiatives related to material efficiency and improved waste management, adapting environmental technologies, increasing the efficiency in business operations, material handling and improved waste management, creating green jobs, etc.

The programme had a direct contribution to the increased competitiveness of the financed companies which is reflected by new products and services developed for the market and new jobs created. It made the innovative environmental technologies more accessible to Romanian companies. Moreover, it produced positive changes within the financed companies, by giving them the possibility to develop the businesses in a sustainable way, through improvements related to the way the business operation is carried out or a better material flow in manufacturing and supply-chain. The products and services created with Programme support have less of an impact of the environment (less polluting and less resource-intensive) or less impact on human health than traditional equivalents.

The span of the Programme reached 50 small, medium and large enterprises, as well as NGOs and led to sustainable developments for the Romanian industry.

PA 22 Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue

Programme RO22, implemented by Innovation Norway, contributed to the objective - *Decent work promoted and tripartite cooperation improved between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities in supporting equitable and sustainable economic and social development*

The 4 projects financed under the Programme enabled the Romanian entities to communicate and reach a common understanding on issues related to the decent work agenda and tripartite issues, including concrete proposals for modifications to improve the legal framework for professionalization of public servants.

PA 25 Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

Programme RO18 contributed to the objective of *Strengthened institutional capacity and human resource development in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the Beneficiary States within the agreed priority sectors through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions and authorities in Norway*

It supported 2 donor partnership projects, leading to the increased capacity and knowledge, experience and best practice exchange between two important public institutions in Romania (Commission of Nuclear Activity Control and National Fiscal Administration) and their Norwegian counterparts (Radiation Protection Authority and Tax Norway).

The Programme led to improved staff abilities and skills for performing their tasks, better working conditions leading to improved quality and efficiency of their activity, having a positive impact over the beneficiaries of the activities and results - civil servants and public administration staff of the two institutions, as well as citizens and private entities benefiting of improved public services.

The successful cooperation established between these institutions under the Programme will continue under the 2014-2021 period of the Grants.

PA 27 Public Health Initiatives

Programme RO19 addressed the objective *Improved public health and reduced health inequalities* by supporting measures which improved medical facilities, tools and equipment available in 7 important hospitals in Romania, providing medical assistance for disadvantaged people, training of medical staff, have contributed to the improvement of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, to the access of vulnerable groups to health services, as well as the strengthening of the evidence-based health policy in Romania

Tackling the severe deficiencies of the Romanian health system is a very challenging task; by targeting specific areas and issues, the Programme succeeded in producing tangible positive developments in those areas: diagnostic and treatment of tuberculosis, pediatric oncology, high-risk pregnancy, premature birth and haematological diseases, improving the access to health for the Roma through health mediators and medical centres in disadvantaged areas, organized cancer screening, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, prevention of lifestyle related and non-communicable diseases.

The high level of involvement of the project promoters was the key to the Programme's successful implementation and results obtained in improving the situation of the health sector in Romania.

PA 29 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Programme RO20 contributed to the objective - *Gender-based violence prevented and tackled*, by the operationalization/improvement of regional shelters nationwide for victims, facilitating access for victims of domestic violence (women and children) to better-quality assistance services in line with European and international standards (such as: housing, psychological and legal counselling,

social assistance, medical care, assistance in identifying jobs, and family and community reintegration etc.), as well as the creation of an innovative counselling programme focusing on perpetrators behaviour. Intensive campaigning was conducted nationwide for raising public awareness on the harmful effects of domestic violence and reducing vulnerability to trafficking in human beings. The campaigns targeted vulnerable persons, including Roma communities

The measures implemented considerably improved the existing infrastructure in Romania for victims of domestic violence, as well as education in matters of legal framework for the protection of victims.

PA 30 Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups

Programme RO21 contributed to the PA objective - *Increase citizen's security through improvement of the efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the Schengen Member States in fighting organised crime, including trafficking in human beings* by supporting joint missions by Romanian police officers with Norwegian colleagues to fight criminal activities conducted by Romanian citizens in Norway, very large number of police officers receiving training in specialized workshops/seminars/formation modules regarding the prevention and investigation of crime committed by itinerant groups, analysis and information strategy, as well as the purchase of specialized equipment was a very important issue as well, as it is a key measure to increase the technical capacity of the Romanian police (specialized surveillance and communication systems, forensics on mobile terminals, vehicles equipped with special technique etc.

The Programme was instrumental in achieving cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian law enforcement entities, with valuable results for the strengthening their capacity.

PA 31 Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

Programme RO24 contributed to the objective of the PA - *A fairer and more efficient judicial system*, being prepared and implemented in the context of the adoption in Romania of new legal codes. The programme was thus very important for ensuring *the competences of the actors within the judiciary* by strengthening the knowledge of a wide range of professionals judges, prosecutors, court and prosecutor office clerks, judicial inspectors, mediators, lawyers etc. in key areas such as: the new legal codes, European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence, judicial management, mediation, judicial ethics and professional deontology, etc.

capacity of the following judicial institutions was consolidated by their endowment with over 1.700 pieces of technical equipment (computers, printers, servers, forensic scene works systems, mobile IT investigation hardware, etc.): courts, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National School of Clerks, the Prosecutor's Office Attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and the Judicial Inspection. The needs and obstacles for Roma and other vulnerable groups to access justice were assessed, and a study was elaborated providing recommendations for actions in the field. The project gave course to the recommendations and 7 legal assistance offices were set up, within which lawyers provided orientation and specialised support regarding legal or administrative proceedings to vulnerable persons, including Roma.

PA 32 Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

Programme RO23 contributed to the objective of the PA - *Improved correctional services system in compliance with relevant international human rights instrument*, by implementing measures leading to ensuring the respect of human rights of persons deprived of liberty, including proper conditions of detention, the necessary support for facilitating their social reintegration (with special focus on vulnerable groups of detainees, such as minors and youngsters, women and Roma ethnics), the improvement of the overall performance of the Romanian probation system in

providing alternative to prison interventions, as well as highly professional and properly trained prison, probation and police staff.

The Programme was successful in paving the way for tangible exchange of knowledge and practice between the Norwegian and the Romanian correctional authorities, putting the necessary accent on reintegration of detainees and alternatives to prison. This cooperation will continue, with increased funding, in the new programming period. The programme was also successful in combining needed investment measures (refurbishment of detention spaces) with soft measures, developing programmes for reintegration and avoiding re-offending (job trainings, counselling, etc.)

3.2 Calls and disbursements

Information on the number of calls and financial figures on commitments/disbursements, per programme:

Programme	Calls	Commitments (euro)	Disbursements (euro)
RO02 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Call 1	2 798 897	2 586 574
	Call 2	1 805 724	1 796 580
	Call 3	5 357 225	3 700 591
	<i>Total</i>	<i>9 961 846</i>	<i>8 083 745</i>
RO04 - Reduction of Hazardous Substances	Call 1	7 080 784	6 560 732
	Call 2	1 253 358	995 049
	<i>Total</i>	<i>8 334 142</i>	<i>7 555 781</i>
RO06 - Renewable Energy	Call 1	11 668 312	5 061 719
	<i>Total</i>	<i>11 668 312</i>	<i>5 061 719</i>
RO09 - NGO Fund	Call 1	8 090 154	7 464 904
	Call 2	4 481 401	4 054 941
	Call 3	4 012 066	3 697 609
	Call 4	9 657 766	9 027 575
	Call 5	5 410 507	4 915 884
	<i>Total</i>	<i>31 651 894</i>	<i>29 160 913</i>
RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion	Call 1	6 352 941	6 108 739
	Call 2	8 057 059	6 756 437
	Call 3	6 590 000	5 609 275
	Call 4	6 723 304	6 187 144
	<i>Total</i>	<i>27 723 304</i>	<i>24 661 595</i>
RO11 - Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance	Call 1	4 697 514	3 748 722
	<i>Total</i>	<i>4 697 514</i>	<i>3 748 722</i>
RO12 - Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage	Call 1	9 821 004	9 165 751
	Call 2	1 176 470	977 406
	<i>Total</i>	<i>10 997 474</i>	<i>10 143 157</i>
RO13 - Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage	Call 1	6 430 305	5 893 486
	Call 2	521 217	466 097
	<i>Total</i>	<i>6 951 522</i>	<i>6 359 583</i>
RO14 - Research within Priority Sectors	Call 1	21 681 064	20 967 578
	<i>Total</i>	<i>21 681 064</i>	<i>20 967 578</i>
RO15 - Scholarships	Call 1	3 116 332	2 445 515
	<i>Total</i>	<i>3 116 332</i>	<i>2 445 515</i>
RO17 - Green Industry Innovation	Call 1	17 186 985	15 450 919
	Call 2	10 226 000	10 052 439
	<i>Total</i>	<i>27 412 985</i>	<i>25 503 358</i>
RO20 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence	Call 1	1 034 000	591 473
	Call 2	1 591 000	1 127 206
	Call 3	1 361 000	1 081 937
	Call 4	3 986 000	2 800 616
	<i>Total</i>	<i>7 972 000</i>	<i>5 601 232</i>

RO22 - Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	Call 1	1 134 720	984 342
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1 134 720</i>	<i>984 342</i>
TOTAL		145 890 124	124 773 882

3.3 Individual Programme summaries

Summary of achievements for each Programme:

RO02 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services // Ministry of Environment

The Programme supported the starting of the evaluation and mapping process of the ecosystem services at national level, the preparation of studies on the contribution of natural ecosystems in protected areas, increasing the level of knowledge, information and awareness of the general public related to the day-to-day benefits produced by the services of the ecosystems and the importance of maintaining the ecosystems in a favourable condition, development of methodologies for establishing ecological corridors, including criteria for designation of ecological corridors and identification of critical zones where ecological corridors are needed and the restoration of protected areas.

The result targets set for the Programme were generally achieved, through the implementation of 15 projects selected under 3 open calls and 1 predefined project. 1 project was not completed by the end of the implementation period. The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 75%.*

The National Agency for Environment Protection developed a national database of ecosystems and their services, with main focus on key ecosystems that need awareness. Also, 9 ecosystems at the national level were mapped and 4 ecosystems that need a special attention were identified and evaluated, respectively forestry, freshwater, agricultural and urban.

For the objective of avoiding the fragmentation of ecosystems, 13 methodologies were elaborated, 1180 technical experts were trained and in 5 protected areas large reconstruction activities were executed. Also, restoration schemes of peatlands for 50 *Natura 2000* sites from Romania and a National program for the restoration of the degraded peatlands was elaborated.

The methodologies and studies obtained during the Programme implementation will be the basis of the Ministry of Environment's implementation of the normative document setting the necessary documentation for the designation of the ecological corridors and the training of the persons will contribute to the identification and establishment of the ecological corridors as well to ensure the monitoring of ecological corridors.

Sustainability of the program will be ensured by using the two databases by completing them with new data. The databases can be consulted by public authorities and decision-makers on the approval of territorial development projects and programs.

In order to improve knowledge and policy advise on the contribution of protected areas ecosystems to economic sectors in place, 26 studies regarding the contribution of protected areas natural ecosystems to main economic sectors and 10 studies offered conclusions and recommendations that can be help in establishing the policy approach for future projects.

More than 50 workshops, meetings and roundtables were organized in the projects, attended by more than 1200 stakeholders; during these meetings, stakeholders were consulted on the identification and use of ecosystem services, ecosystem services evaluation methodologies, development of ecological corridors guides, etc.

The objectives of the Programme were achieved in close cooperation with the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), the Donor Programme partner for this Programme and other Norwegian Project Partners within the implemented projects.

7 projects were implemented in partnership between Romanian promoters and the prestigious Norwegian entities such as the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Norwegian

Institute of Bio-economy Research (NIBIO), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), The Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research (SINTEF) and Comput AS Norway – ensuring the achievement of shared results and increased cooperation.

The implementation of the Programme increased the extent of cooperation between Romania and the Donor States. 5 bilateral activities were financed with a total contracted value of 97,036 euro. The bilateral activities implemented under the Programme were organized based on the necessities identified at the Programme level and the relevance of the proposed activities in accordance with the main objectives of the RO02 Programme (study visits, workshop, one handbook of good practices in the field of biodiversity protection, 2 information campaigns focusing on biodiversity & ecosystem services, an exhibition on biodiversity topic).

During the implementation period of the Programme, there were multiple changes in the PO structure, most of them caused by the political changes occurred in Romania. The name of the Ministry was changed 3 times and this included also modifications in the organisational chart. The Unit for implementation of the Programme was established through Minister Order in 2014 and it was changed through Minister Order six times. Besides the coordinator, programme manager and reporting officer, and financial officer number 1 the other staff are from support directions within the Ministry. Most of the changes at the programme implementation units (for the Programme RO02 and Programme RO04) were on the positions for financial experts and the last modification was in June 2017 when chief of service for the EEA Grants Assistance Unit was introduced. The disbanded positions were for: financial manager, expert for bilateral/complementary actions.

**NOTE: At the time of preparation of this report, the final balance, final project level information and final programme report for this Programme were not finalized.*

RO03 - Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control // Ministry of European Funds

With an allocated budget of 9,625,000 Euro, the programme supported one predefined project, “Geographic Information for Environment, Climate Change and EU Integration” (“LAKI II”), for the production of high quality geographic information targeting prioritized types of data and areas of the Romanian territory.

The result targets set for the Programme were not achieved by the time of issuing this Report; the predefined project was not completed by the end of the implementation period.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 17%.

As an EU member state, Romania is legally required to provide access to geographic information in accordance with the EU Inspire Directive. Access to updated geographic information in Romania was far from satisfactory. Land mapping is a highly technical operation, with an impact on a broad number of activities and stakeholders in Romania. National, regional and local authorities with activities related to nature conservation, protected areas management and environmental education, NGOs, protected areas custodians/administrators, R&D institutes, universities, municipalities, local and regional authorities, shall be directly interested in the programme outcome.

The project was carried out by the Romanian Agency for Cadaster in partnership with the Norwegian Mapping Authority (NMA) and Registers Iceland (RI) and was developed to further the results of a previously project funded under the EEA Grants 2004-2009 “Land Administration Knowledge Improvement” (“LAKI I”).

The overall objective of the project was to enhance the capacity of the Romanian Cadaster Agency to prepare geographic information as needed for environmental monitoring and reporting in

Romania, for climate related disaster preparedness and mitigation, for dealing with climate change effects, for integrated planning and for implementation of the EU Directive on harmonization and exchange of geographic information domestically and across national borders. Also, the project included a substantial component of bilateral cooperation, shared results and knowledge exchange, thus contributing to the outcomes related to strengthened bilateral cooperation of the programme.

By the end of the implementation period, the project partially achieved the set results. Main results achieved were:

- 48,000 sqkm of orthophotos, 9,500 sqkm of high accuracy terrain model for flood risk areas and 23,000 sqkm of appropriate digital terrain model have been produced
- a national database of geographical names was established and updated in accordance with INSPIRE rules and made available on the Internet through NACLR's Geoportal;
- equipment for safe storage, efficient distribution and backup for geographical information was purchased and installed, allowing to extend the capacity of the Romanian Agency for Cadastre to set-up a new disaster data recovery centre and to be able to provide the technical capacity needed to store the new data obtained through the project;
- 37 people within the Romanian Agency for Cadastre participated in 5 study visits and trainings organized for increasing education and exchange of information between NACLR and the similar partner intuitions from Norway and Iceland, for modern mapping production and quality assurance procedures.

Through the cooperation and exchange of knowledge activities supported, the programme further consolidated the bilateral relations already established, the collaboration between the Romanian Cadastre Agency, the Norwegian Mapping Authority (NMA) and Registers Iceland (RI) brought significant added value and helped the in establishing a modern and efficient national mapping authority for Romania.

This pilot project was strategically important for the Romania as the impact on the development of mapping will be very high. The implementation of the project was difficult due to the technical specificity it presented and to the application of the national public procurement law.

Due to delays during the bidding process, the progress in aerial photography, production of maps, laser scanning and production of terrain model was greatly delayed compared to the initial planning and the project could not be finalized until the end of the approved implementation period (30 April 2017).

Considering the importance of this project and its results for Romania, the Project Promoter continued to implement the project from its own financial sources, managing by the end of 2017 to achieve approximately 75% of the activity related to the production of the terrain model and maps, the rest to be completed in the first quarter of 2018. All other activities and indicators within the project were 100% achieved during the eligibility period of the project.

RO04 - Reduction of Hazardous Substances // Ministry of Environment

By targeting the prevention of injury and adverse health and environmental effects of chemicals and hazardous waste, the Programme contributed to filling the gap into the preparedness and readiness of Romanian authorities to respond and fulfil responsibilities under EU legislation in the field of chemicals and waste and ensure a safe environment for people. The better management of hazardous substances and waste will contribute to changing safety conditions for both the environment and human health.

The Programme over-achieved the result targets by completing 9 projects selected in 2 calls for proposals and 1 predefined project.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 89%.

The Programme strengthened the capacity of 13 public entities responsible for implementing and enforcing EU strategies and legislations on chemicals and hazardous such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Waters and Forests, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, National Environment Guard with its 42 local branches, the National Environment Protection Agency with its 42 local branches, the National Institute for Health Protection, the National Administration Romanian Waters with 8 county basin administration, the Labour Inspection with its 42 local branches, Customs, Border Police, Ministry of Interior and Romanian Intelligence Service.

358 experts received training in environmental and health evaluation and on hazardous chemicals and waste legislation, facilitating the growth of expertise

Increasing capacity was also achieved through 6 instruments developed for supporting the decision making of responsible authorities in the field – methodological guide for monitoring antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance in the environment, a national monitoring system of bioaccumulation of heavy air-carried metals, an integrated system for acquisition and transmission of monitoring data from hazardous substances in the Cluj County, a database with hazardous chemical substances resulted from ammunition exploitation and decomposition of explosives materials resulted from the defence industry, as well as risk maps for each geographic area of the country, a database on POPs pollution (organochlorine compounds, organo-phosphorus and dioxins) of Mures river basin, guides, methodologies and systems of information exchange.

The Programme also contributed significantly to improving the monitoring of hazardous substances in the water environment via the predefined project “Towards a proper aquatic environment”, which increased the knowledge and awareness in the field of water policy by expanding the actual monitoring activity based on the new European requirements. The project Romanian Waters Agency in partnership with the Norwegian Environment Agency

The project increased the number and quality of screening and monitoring of priority substances in Romanian waters, with 22 new priority substances analysed for surface water and 14 for groundwater and 5 new priority substances monitored for surface water and 7 for groundwater. The final results achieved surpassed the initial targets.

6 awareness campaigns were conducted, by way of conferences, workshops and roundtables, production and issuing of brochures and leaflets which provided the general public and authorities with information on hazardous chemicals and waste and leading to increased knowledge and safety.

The implementation of the Programme increased the extent of cooperation between Romania and the Donor States. Eight projects were implemented in partnership and 10 prestigious Norwegian institutions and entities were actively involved in sharing know-how and expertise with the Romanian counterparts.

An important contribution for the development and implementation of bilateral cooperation was the Donor Programme Partner – the Norwegian Environment Agency. Two international conferences were organised in Bucharest in collaboration between NEA and the Programme Operator, which supported multi-stakeholder dialogue and promoted exchange of information among institutions and raising awareness regarding the effects of hazardous substances, the possibilities to reduce their impact and the contribution of the Programme RO04 through its projects.

More, through the workshops organised by the Programme Operator, Project Promoters and their partners had the possibility to find relevant potential collaborations and innovative ideas for synergies among projects. These actions, financed under the Fund for Bilateral Relations of the Programme, were significant, considering that the RO04 Programme was a pilot programme in Europe.

The added value of the Programme is that the results of the Projects financed can be used to expand research on a national scale. Developing highly skilled human resources, developing methodological guidelines, developing/upgrading laboratories equipped with modern, building databases and monitoring systems, conducted to elaborating a comprehensive legislative framework in the field of hazardous substances, effective monitoring and controlling systems to be in place. Romania will thus benefit from more accurate information on the quality of environment and citizens will beneficiate from a safer environment.

During the implementation period of the Programme, there were multiple changes in the PO structure, most of them caused by the political changes occurred in Romania. The name of the Ministry was changed 3 times and this included also modifications in the organisational chart. The Unit for implementation of the Programme was established through Minister Order in 2014 and it was changed through Minister Order six times. Besides the coordinator, programme manager and reporting officer, and financial officer number 1 the other staff are from support directions within the Ministry. Most of the changes at the programme implementation units (for the Programme RO02 and Programme RO04) were on the positions for financial experts and the last modification was in June 2017 when chief of service for the EEA Grants Assistance Unit was introduced. The disbanded positions were for: financial manager, expert for bilateral/complementary actions.

RO05 – Energy Efficiency // Ministry of European Funds

After the modification, decided in 2016, of the specific parameters initially set for this Programme, and with a modified allocated budget of 612,426 Euros, the Programme focused on energy efficiency measures in public buildings.

The Programme achieved the result targets by implementing 1 predefined project.

The rate of absorption reached at programme level (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 69%. The Final Programme Report was approved on 13.04.2018 and a Debit Note was issued on 14.04.2018.

The predefined project has resulted in the improvement of energy efficiency and energy savings of the Emergency Clinic Hospital Prof. Dr. Agrippa Ionescu, through the modernization of the indoor and outdoor lighting system. The modernization had a positive impact on sustainable development, leading to:

- energy savings for public lighting operation (with positive results, such as decreased level of emissions resulting from the production of electrical energy) - 273 tCO₂/year
- reduced costs for consumption of electrical energy - 382 MWh/year
- reduced environmental impact, namely carbon dioxide emissions by reducing energy consumption - 0,96 tCO₂ reduction/1,000 Euro invested
- efficiency and optimization of technical-functional lighting system components of energy in the hospital;
- effective management and reduced electricity consumption;
- reduced costs for maintenance of the public lighting system reduced maintenance and operational costs in running the lighting system at the hospital.

Similar entities (hospitals, medical clinics), wishing to implement measures to improve energy efficiency and energy savings, will also benefit from the experience of this project, through useful information necessary for the initiation of steps to improve efficiency technologies in terms of energy through classic lighting modernization or replacement of systems with LED technology.

The programme contributed to the development of bilateral knowledge exchange in the field of energy efficiency. Following the open call organized under the bilateral fund, 3 initiatives, with a total budget of 134,408 Euro, have been supported:

- the Technical University of Cluj Napoca, Cluj Napoca City Hall and Smart Innovation Norway organized a workshop for enhancing the transfer of research and development methods in energy-related clusters from Norway to Romania
- Green Energy Association with the Norwegian partner Norsk Energi had an exchange of experience in order to increase the energy efficiency in public infrastructure from rural areas in Romania
- Ilfov County Council and the Icelandic partners ISOR Iceland GeoSurvey studied the development of Geothermal Potential in Ilfov and Bihor Counties

A major deviation of plan was decided under this programme, for which, according to the initial provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and Programme Agreement, the Ministry of Economy was designated as PO for Programme RO05 - Energy Efficiency (8 million euro grant). The call for proposals specified in the PA was launched by the PO in 2013 but encountered difficulties and delays, due mainly to the lack of administrative capacity, as well as the application of state aid schemes.

Consequently, by 2015, no project was contracted and ME requested the termination of the Programme Implementation Agreement signed with the Ministry of European Funds as NFP, due to the lack of administrative capacity to continue to implement the Programme.

In this context, the NFP proposed to the Donors to take over the Programme as PO, revise its objectives and identify possible predefined projects in the field of energy efficiency in public buildings.

Due to the relatively short time left for implementation, approx. 1 year, only 1 predefined project was approved out of the 7 projects proposed, namely *Improving energy efficiency by optimizing the technical and functional parameters of the lighting system at the Emergency Clinic Hospital "Prof. Dr. Agrippa Ionescu"*.

Through a Programme Agreement modification of 20.05.2016, new outputs were defined, the budget was revised (total eligible expenditure: €612,426) and a predefined project was included.

RO06 - Renewable Energy (RONDINE) // Environmental Fund Administration

In line with Romania's commitments and targets regarding the highest environmental standards and renewable energy development, the Programme addressed two sectors of renewable energy sources - hydro power and geothermal energy, contributing to increasing renewable energy production, as well as the increasing awareness and education in renewable energy solutions.

The Programme partially achieved its result targets; 2 projects selected under open calls and 3 predefined were completed; 1 predefined project was uncompleted and 3 projects under the hydropower component selected under the open call were terminated.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 49%.

Investments in 2 geothermal heat plants were supported, developed by two local authorities, one in the Western and the other in the Southern part of Romania - Oradea and Ilfov, with the added value of a strong bilateral cooperation and efficient knowledge exchange between the promoters and their Icelandic project partners.

These projects contributed to protecting the environment and decreasing the natural gas dependency, but also to reducing the social/economic disparities by considerably decreasing the heating costs, on the one hand, and enhance bilateral cooperation between entities from donor and beneficiary states, on the other hand. The Ilfov hospital hosts more than 11,000 patients yearly, and Oradea heat plant services about 50 residential buildings and a high-school, meaning a population of almost 900 citizens, whose heating and hot water costs are considerably decreased and the consumption is reset on more sustainable grounds.

Increasing the awareness of and the education in renewable energy solutions has been the other pillar of the programme, and has been strongly supported, on the geothermal side, by the university and the city hall from Oradea.

The predefined projects implemented by Oradea and Beius City, both benefiting of donor project partnerships, have delivered 2 prefeasibility studies on the geothermal potential of the areas, which are publicly available, thus setting the grounds for any legal person, be it public or private, in fostering this unexploited potential.

Oradea University's predefined project has contributed by training 4 students in the UNU-GTP 6-month course in geothermal energy and by organizing the geothermal workshops attended by 130 persons. The ties and long-term relationships that both the students and the attendees developed, together with the knowledge and skills gained throughout the course and workshops, will most likely underpin any future geothermal endeavour they or their organizations would embark on.

On the hydropower component, 8 research studies on alternative power solutions that are suitable in remote communities, and even in protected areas, where the connection to the grid is not available have been developed by the Asachi University from Iasi, in a close cooperation with a range of six local and international project partners - 2 Norwegian public entities (one research institute – Sintef, and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology from Trondheim), 2 Romanian universities and 2 Romanian public authorities. Both the academic and business environments, as well as the population by and large are targeted through these studies, as the solutions they entail are equally valuable for further research and readily deployable in remote and even protected areas.

The bilateral relations developed and the complementary actions undertaken can be considered two of the greatest achievements of the programme. The Programme Operator benefited a great deal of expertise on both programme components, from its programme partners, The Icelandic National Energy Authority and The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate. Seven out of nine projects which entered the programme had donor project partners from the donor states, and two of the seven projects even had two partners from the donor states.

Long-term cooperation grounds have been created through these partnerships, at multiple levels including academia, local and national authorities, research institutes and private companies. Bilateral relations, once concluded, are a stand-alone, potentially long-term achievement.

Throughout the 4-year timespan, due to unforeseen legal and economic circumstances with significant negative impact over the investment perspectives in new hydro energy production facilities and a lack of support from financial institutions necessary for ensuring co-financing, the programme results have fluctuated as compared to the initial targets, ending up underachieved on the hydropower component.

Missing the initial targets for the objective of increased hydropower production, can be turned into valuable lessons learned, considering the entire economic context that acted against this type of investments. Let alone the “time-buffers in the projects’ roadmap” recommendation, the most important piece of advice for any new endeavours would be aligning the banks’/financial institutions interests with the requirements of the programme from the programme design phase, so the income projection of the projects does not depend on any external incentive scheme, but rely on the grant only.

Nevertheless, the support for this type of investments should continue, given their long-term positive effects both for environmental reasons and from the potential bilateral business/cooperation perspective that the asset-based projects are prone to enhance.

RO07 – Adaptation to climate change // Ministry of Environment

The Programme supported 1 predefined pilot project – “A Green Way to Sustainable Development” implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu with the Association of Local Authorities from Norway (KS) as partner; it also involved Romanian public authorities (Sibiu, Brasov and Tg. Mures municipalities), academic and university society (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), authorities from transport, energy, construction, forestry and relevant NGOs.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 87%.

Through the project, the degree of preparedness to a changing climate was increased, as well as the degree of awareness, education and administrative capacity regarding adaptation to climate change in Region 7 Centre of Romania.

3 strategies and action plans for adaptation to climate change in Sibiu, Brasov and Tîrgu Mures municipalities were developed and the Programme has contributed to the implementation at regional level of the National Strategy on Adaptation to climate Change and established the practical steps necessary for the development of similar strategies in the other regions of the country.

5 Guidelines on adaptation to climate change in vulnerable sectors, 1 Guide for municipal adaptation to climate change strategy municipalities, 4 meteorological studies aiming at supporting climate change adaptation plans at regional Level (Region 7 Centre),

One training module for students and one post graduate course for specialists in adaptation to climate change, 1 Educational Center in Tg. Mures, for dissemination and training sessions regarding adaptation to climate change for target groups: students, college students, representatives of local public authorities, citizens, local investors, NGOs etc

Measures for climate change resilience in Sibiu Municipality were implemented - 10,089.5 meters of underground electric and communication cables, 1 study for efficient traffic in Sibiu Municipality realized, improving public transport conditions in case of heat by 30 trees planted in bus stations.

The project also supported investments in improved energy efficiency in 3 public buildings - the Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu headquarters, Grimm Brothers Kindergarten and Tîrgu Mures Social Centre, with a total value of energy saved of 361 kWh/m² / year.

The results obtained through the implementation of the RO07 Program will constitute the programming basis for the adaptation component of the EU 2014-2020 financial framework for all measures and policies identified through the implementation of this program in Region 7 Centre.

Cooperation and exchange of experience between Romanian and Norwegian public institutions was sustained through two visits in Norway (with participation of the Project management team

and stakeholders involved in various sectors vulnerable to climate change), 2 internships for students from different universities and six training sessions on adaptation to climate change with the involvement of Norwegian Experts from the Donor Project Partner (KS), universities and Emergency Inspectorates.

The Fund for Bilateral Relations was used to widen the scope of the project, with 5 initiatives implemented for networking and exchange of experience between the Project Promoter, the project partners and entities from the Donor States, leading to increased sharing and transfer of knowledge.

RO09 - NGO Fund // Civil Society Development Foundation

Considering the dimension of the funds made available (36.3 million Euro), the NGO Fund was the most important donor to the civil society in Romania, compared to any other grant programmes. Also, during 2013-2017, it was the only programme at national level that consistently funded projects that specifically targeted the promotion and protection of *human rights and democratic values*.

Through the 388 completed projects implemented, the Programme overachieved by far its result targets and had a strategic contribution to building the NGOs capacity in relation to strengthening their representativeness and increasing constituencies and supporters.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 95%.

It involved at least 2,300 NGOs in different types of interventions and they have made important steps towards increasing the efficiency of the interactions with authorities at all levels and constituencies, strengthening their role as important stakeholder. A number of 56 *networks/coalitions* (30 newly established) were supported by the Programme to take action in the fields of environment, health, justice, education, human rights, community initiatives, fighting violence against women etc. The NGOs have improved their expertise by training members in management, advocacy, PR, etc., have opened towards their constituencies such as to better represent their needs, have increased membership by gathering organizations with the same goals to become a stronger voice

The Programme succeeded to *engage* more than 3,000,000 *citizens* throughout the country and mobilized over 25,000 *volunteers*. Through civic engagement, people identified community needs and carried out activities to address them and to create a better community for themselves and the others. Projects facilitated the change in attitudes and behaviours by providing participation tools (some of them used for the very first time) such as platforms for signing petitions, public spending monitoring, submitting request for public information, formulating complaints and submitting them to the authorities in charge, organizing community meetings, debates/consultations with public authorities, advocacy campaigns for law amendments, etc.

The Programme consistently contributed to advance the work of human rights organizations in the country, but also to develop awareness on human rights issues to other NGOs and the general audience. Among the main problems addressed by the projects there are: rising extremist views in the media and society in general; stereotypes and prejudices not coherently addressed in school education hence setting the tone for larger social discrimination towards vulnerable groups; lack of education for human rights on one hand and the impossibility to apply coherent antidiscrimination legislation on the other hand, these affecting the society, especially the less privileged. The main target groups benefiting were minorities, such as Roma, women, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, etc.

In the context of widening disparities within society and between urban and rural areas and persistent poverty and social exclusion, the projects built on the outreach capacity of NGOs as well

as on the particularities related to their beneficiary centred work. Over 30,000 vulnerable beneficiaries accessed *welfare and basic services* in education, health, employment, etc. Over 21,800 beneficiaries were from deprived / disadvantaged areas. Among them there were vulnerable children and youth and their families: Roma, with disabilities, affected by migration, victims of violence, living in poverty, in remote rural areas, etc.

Over 20,000 citizens became more responsible towards *environment issues* and more active in their communities, while 43,000 teachers and students involved in innovative environmental education activities. Illegal and environment harming activities (such as illegal mining, forest exploitation, green space destruction) were addressed in order to be stopped through lawsuits and visible campaigns as well as through watchdog and advocacy.

Almost 4,000 NGOs staff were trained in areas such as community development, advocacy, fundraising, etc.

Bilateral cooperation was strengthened through the 44 projects with partners from Norway and Iceland were implemented; 180 organisations and institutions from Norway and Iceland have been involved or reached out through the bilateral projects and activities; 250 persons (129 women and 121 men) were part of mobilities, exchanges and bilateral events organized within projects; other 59 representatives of Romanian organisations were part of 5 thematic study visits and experience exchanges organised in donor countries, acquiring knowledge on specific fields, facilitating new contacts and channels of cooperation among entities and promoted projects achievements; 54 Romanian NGOs staff attended thematic training sessions delivered by donor states experts (NGO branding and communication; working with victims of violence and abuse, advocacy and influencing public policies; integration of human rights issues in the daily practice of NGOs).

These partnerships created space for achieving joints results, improved knowledge and mutual understanding. Among the successful initiatives, there are new partnerships started from simple direct contact among organisations which did not know each other before, such as Norsensus Media Forum (NO) and Center for Independent Journalism (RO). Another successful project was implemented by Adina Stiftelsen Foundation (RO) with Adina Stiftelsen Norway and the Kirkens Bymisjon Bergen, who successfully introduced and pilot-tested two new concepts increasing parents' involvement in education of children. Other projects succeeded to develop products or methods of interventions in Romania with the involvement of experts from the donor countries, transferable to other set-up as well: Young Initiative Association and Norsensus Media Forum adapted in English and Norwegian the first board game for strategic planning in NGOs (Replan) and further disseminated it on the Norwegian market.

RO10 - Children and youth at risk, local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion // Romanian Social Development Fund

The Programme targeted the most vulnerable categories of children and youth in Romania, but also the decision makers and the experts involved in providing support services for these social categories, promoting measures in areas such as education, professional training, employment and social inclusion.

The Programme over-achieved its results targets, through the 100 completed projects selected under 4 open calls and 1 predefined project. The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 88%.

It had a significant impact and supported over 61,800 beneficiaries from different target groups: children, young people and parents, members of vulnerable groups, including Roma, education and social services professionals, representatives of local authorities or non-governmental organizations active within disadvantaged communities.

The interventions funded under the projects, especially within very poor and disadvantaged communities, will continue to be developed on the long term, with the support of the public institutions and local authorities, which were fully involved in the projects implementation.

The Programme functioned as a catalyst in establishing partnerships between the public institutions and non-governmental organizations involved in promoting social inclusion and implementing anti-discrimination measures and resulted in changing the specialists' attitude towards the compliance with the non-discrimination and social inclusion principles when working with disadvantaged groups and it contributed to their acquirement of knowledge and their application of the appropriate methods and procedures to this regard. The impact of these measures and activities will be visible on the long run.

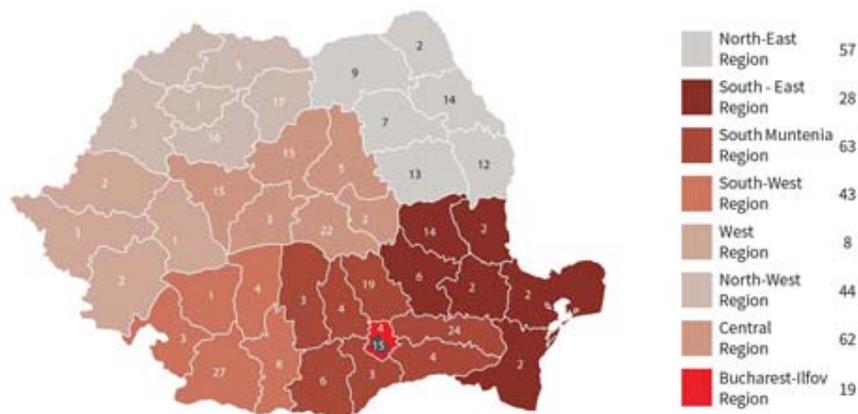
Over 18,000 children and 11,750 young people directly benefited from educational services and activities. Over 8,460 of these were Roma children and over 3,950 were Roma young people. 42 social facilities (buildings, offices etc.) for the delivery of services for vulnerable groups of children and young people established and 303 methodologies, tools and action plans have been developed to combat discriminatory practices, social and economic exclusion of people belonging to disadvantaged groups. Over 16,300 parents of children or young people at risk (of which 22.4% Roma) have received specific support services (information on the importance of education, psychological counselling, parenting, literacy, trainings) and over 9,600 social and educational specialists have acquired new knowledge and specific skills in working with children and youth belonging to various vulnerable groups.

32 initiatives that developed and promoted anti-discriminatory measures and inclusive culture and practices were generated and/or implemented at community, local, regional or national level, in order to assure equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

A model of interventions addressing the needs of the children with parents abroad was developed under the Programme and other children and youth from this target group benefitted of the services provided by the educational and multifunctional centres created at local level under the Programme.

Roma children and youth at risk were the main focus of the Programme. Thus, out of the 100 projects implemented, 77 targeted Roma inclusion at least partially. Within the Programme, the small grant scheme (LOCAL) was special designed to respond to the needs of Roma children and youth at risk.

In terms of geographical reach, projects are spread all over the country (in 35 out of the 42 counties/ including Bucharest), and implemented activities in 324 localities (villages, communes, and towns), most of which located in the poorest regions of Romania (North-East, South-West Oltenia, South Muntenia and South-East regions).



In terms of local and regional initiatives to reduce national inequalities and to promote social inclusion the Programme funded projects which encouraged and provided support for local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, to develop initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion.

A very impactful result of the Programme is the development of the Under the pre-defined project implemented, a new National Framework Strategy for Preventing and Fighting against Discrimination for 2017-2021 by the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE). The strategy aims to reduce the number of cases of discrimination in Romania, to promote equal rights and opportunities for all, in order to contribute to building an inclusive and diverse society and addresses the recommendations made by the Council of Europe in the area of anti-discrimination.

As the external evaluation of the Programme results shows, the good practices that were used in the projects regarding policies and strategies to promote antidiscrimination and social inclusion are being undertaken or have the potential to be undertaken to a very large or large extent by local and central institutions. Some examples of good practices that have multiplication potential at a greater level which were identified by analysing the experiences of specialists that participated in the study are: (1) focusing on beneficiaries and on their need assessment, both in the planning stage, as well as in the implementation one; (2) identifying concrete resources and operational improvements for disadvantaged persons, as well as (3) creating specialist networks/multidisciplinary teams, following the example of those created in the Programme projects.

Following the financial support provided to potential beneficiaries of the Programme and the organisation of a range of bilateral activities (match-making event, workshops, trainings, study visits, conferences), 12 out of the 100 projects financed were implemented in partnership with entities from the Donor States. These partnerships led to shared results, such as: toolkits to combat discrimination and social exclusion of people with autistic spectrum disorders in school, in community and on the labour market (developed with the support of The Icelandic Autistic Society), training methodologies for socio-educational reintegration of the re-migrant children (developed with the support of InterCultural Iceland), guide on child safety in school (made with the support of Child Safety House, Iceland), recommendations for adapting curricula for autistic and special needs children and for elaborating the county strategy in the field (provided with the support of Stiftelsen Radarveien Foundation, Oslo), guide on inclusive planning - Norwegian academic perspective in conflict prevention management and social inclusion (developed by the University of Tromso, Norway).

On the other hand, as a result of the bilateral events organized by the Programme Operator under the Bilateral Fund (workshops, trainings, study visits, conferences), 64 entities from the Donor states were involved in bilateral activities with entities from Romania and 87.6% of the Project Promoters were involved in joint activities with entities from the Donor States.

RO11 - Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance // Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

The Programme aimed to raise awareness of gender equality issues, including aspects related to the Roma community, and also to improve the balance between family life and work, which equally affects women and men and which has a special impact over their participation to the labour market.

In order to provide *de facto* a balance between family life and work, an integrated approach was adopted, at legislation level, as well as at public policy level.

The Programme over-achieved its targets for outcomes and outputs through the implementation of 14 projects selected under 1 call for proposals. The rate of absorption at programme level,

calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 70%.

Through the Programme, financial support and guidance was granted to 14 local administrative entities to establish day-care centers for children aged 0-3 years old (0-7 in what concerns children with disabilities) that offer social, medical and educational services for children, in order to allow the parents' reintegration on the labor market.

The projects carried-out also had an awareness raising component, tackling issues regarding Roma integration, women participation on the labor market, alternative means of labor market integration, etc., specifically designed according to the needs and demands of each specific local community.

The 14 centers are hosted in refurbished buildings provided by the local administration, brought up to standards and providing children with all the necessary amenities and services for an integrated approach in education and personal development. The centers now host a total number of 502 children out of which 135 Roma.

Due to the services developed in the Programme, mothers were able to return to their previous workplaces, and some of them (as it is described in the Seini Project) were able to find new workplaces, due to the partnership agreements between the public authorities, who were the Project Promoters and the local entrepreneurs.

Another important contribution of the projects are new workplaces created in the new daycare centers. Being newly open facilities, all of them have created new jobs, such as: social workers, nurses, daycare supervisors, cooks, etc.

The expected results in terms of increasing bilateral cooperation between Romania and the Donor States have not been met, due mainly to the fact that our promoters are small local entities that do not have a lot of contacts in that concerns international relations. Therefore, they were not able to find relevant international partners to initiate the bilateral activities.

In November 2017, representatives of the Programme Operator attended the Gender Mainstreaming conference organized by the Czech Open Society Foundation, where they had the opportunity to exchange opinions and good practices with representatives of other similar Programmes in the EEA, and also to meet representatives of Public Authorities and NGO working in the gender mainstreaming and gender base violence in the Donor States. The information gathered and established contacts will be extremely valuable in developing future gender based actions.

RO12 - Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage // Ministry of Culture

The Programme positively contributed to the development of communities by improving their tourist and investment attractiveness through the conservation, restoration and valorisation of cultural and natural heritage, as well as the conservation and valorisation of intangible heritage, with an aim towards strengthening cultural identity of ethnical, social and cultural minorities, including Roma population.

It implemented 15 projects selected in 2 open calls and 1 predefined project and achieved / overachieved all its result targets. The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 82%.

The results obtained include the restoration of 11 historical buildings - Cinema Victoria in Slatina, the Kalnoky Castle in Covasna County, the wooden churches in Cluj, the medieval fortified walls of the church from Alma Vii, Sibiu County, Gabriel Popescu house fom Dambovita County, the

southern tower of the Saint Michael Cathedral in Alba Iulia, the Benedek Manor House from Gheorgheni, the mural paintings of the fortified church in Dârjiu, Harghita County.

As it can be observed the Programme provided a geographically balanced distribution of funds, thus reducing the economic disparities at country level.

The projects supported under the Programme included also the creation of 11 new museums or cultural spaces such as: the museum created by ASTRA, Sibiu; Cinema Victoria in Slatina; two modern exhibition spaces using augmented reality and 3D converted items in Deva and Cluj; one museum dedicated to a famous Romanian engraver opened in a picturesque area of Dambovită County; one cultural space in the southern tower of the Saint Michael Cathedral in Alba Iulia endowed with a special elevator for people with disabilities; one permanent bilingual exhibition in Buzău promoting the revival of cultural identity among young students.

In addition to these, 3,487 objects of cultural value were restored, 38.460 items of cultural value were digitized, 14 strategic documents related to cultural heritage and 7 business plans were developed, 9 cultural collections of minorities were created and more than 60 exhibitions and events related to the heritage of ethnical and cultural minorities were organized all over the country.

The Sibiu ASTRA Museum's predefined project created the necessary cultural infrastructure - the construction of the Multicultural Museum Pavilion PaMM and restoration and conservation activities for monuments and cultural goods, as well as a new cultural programme for heritage interpretation and education.

The project managed to develop cultural awareness of ethnic diversity and facilitate the access of a wider public, especially young people, to the multi-ethnic heritage collection exhibited, conserved and restored on the Path of Ethnic Minorities. The new pavilion building is the new access gate to the open air museum and, at the same time, the headquarters for ASTRA Museum of Transylvanian Civilization, hosting both heritage storage rooms, permanent and temporary exhibitions, Folk Art Galleries, multicultural museum shop and offices for curators and staff. It provides proper welcoming conditions for the visitors of the two museums, by modern amenities and facilities.

Craftsmen and SMEs related to handicrafts are involved in the programs and offered a new location (Folk Art Galleries) for selling and displaying their products for the public. 38 jobs were created in ASTRA museum directly related to the project. Due to the new facilities and the cultural offer the number of visitors increased by 20% in the first year since the opening of the new building.

The bilateral cooperation between the Romanian and Donor States cultural operators strengthened as a consequence of Programme implementation. This assertion is supported by the extent of cooperation (out of the 28 financed projects 11 were implemented together with Donor project partners), by the shared results achieved (bilateral documentation of ethnic minorities' cultural heritage, bilateral drafting of methodologies), study-visits in Romania and the Donor States, joint organization of cultural events (summer school on restoration techniques, seminars, exhibitions, etc). Furthermore, the implementation of the Fund for bilateral relations allowed 48 partnership actions to be financed and thus supported the cultural operators to search for project partners and allowed networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between entities from Romania and the Donor States.

RO13 - Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage // Ministry of Culture

Over a period of 3 years, 81 projects were successfully implemented under the Programme, enabling mobility for artists and culture professionals and their works at international level,

education through art and culture, projects concerning stage fine and visual arts, as well as documenting, enhancing and promoting the cultural history of minorities and cultural events involving minorities.

The Programme achieved / over-achieved all its result targets and the rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 91%.

Various cultural fields were represented, thus offering a wide range of events and performances, fine and visual arts. Moreover, the Programme contributed to strengthening European identity and values, by tackling tolerance, peace, democracy, human rights and human dignity.

The artistic and professional interaction between artists and cultural professionals was supported by the large number of persons who contributed to the increased mobility of artists and their works at international level:

- 950 artists and cultural professionals taking part as performers or specialists within fairs, festivals, exhibitions, performances etc.;
- 175 cultural workshops and seminars sharing experience in the cultural sector;
- 386 films, short films and documentaries pictured;
- 79 concerts performed by artists from Romania and Europe;
- 64 exhibitions and art installations displayed;
- 12 festivals organized (also on the culture of minorities);
- 49 dance shows presented to the public;
- 32 theatre shows performed in Romania and the Donor States;
- 22 research studies conducted (also on the culture of minorities)
- 26 projects and 58 partnership actions were implemented with entities from the Donor States.

The Programme had an important bilateral dimension. The most important pillar of bilateral cooperation and the key of the Programme success was the active involvement of the Donor Programme Partner - Arts Council Norway, public institution and the main governmental operator for the implementation of the Norwegian cultural policy.

As a result of the activities financed under the fund for bilateral relations dedicated to developing partnerships – a matchmaking seminar and calls for proposals, 26 projects were implemented between Romanian and Donor State partners. 10 bilateral activities for collaboration and exchange of experience in the cultural field selected under open calls were also supported.

RO14 – Research in Priority Areas // Ministry of Research and Innovation

The Programme has contributed directly to address the challenges faced by the Romanian research, development and innovation field, by means of its complementary nature to the main funding instruments available at national level.

At the main call for proposals launched from November 2013 until January 2014, 412 eligible applications were submitted, out of which 23 joint high-quality research projects were selected for funding. Projects were carried out in partnership between research organizations and SMEs from Romania, Norway and Iceland for nearly 3 years (from 30 June, 2014 to 30 April, 2017).

The results of the 23 joint research projects funded were translated in the large number of researchers (495), PhDs and postdocs (142) involved in partnerships, the considerable number of research partners (86 altogether, out of which 79 research organizations and 7 SMEs), and last but

not least the sizeable amount of publications (288 publications, out of which 213 internationally referred scientific publications and 75 internationally referred joint scientific publications).

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 94%.

Other achievements worthwhile to be mentioned are 9 patent applications filled in, 40 new project applications submitted under various calls of the European/international programs or initiatives, 66 PhD or Master thesis defended and 95 conferences and workshops.

The impact of the programme implementation goes beyond the actual funding provided, the allocated EEA grants worth of 20 million euro. It has proved wider effects over the implementation period, such as: raising research capacity, better international collaboration of the Romanian research community with their counterparts in Norway and Iceland, greater international exposure and use of the research and innovation potential, wider access to European networks of excellence, strengthening bilateral cooperation, transfer of knowledge and know-how, improved research management and coordination skills, increased number and quality of the partnerships between research organizations from Romania, Norway and Iceland, contribution to reducing the gap between research and industry in Romania by involving SMEs in the joint research projects, improved skills in applying to EU research funding and not only.

Under the fund for bilateral relations open call, 28 support projects were funded, dedicated to strengthen bilateral relations in the field of research, regardless of the thematic area, through networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice. The thematic areas addressed by these support projects were environment (10 projects), social sciences (6 projects), medicine (5 projects), food (3 projects), energy (3 projects) and advanced materials (1 project).

In addition, the collaboration between the Programme Operator and the Donor Program Partners, the regular consultation, mutual exchange of good practices and experience, have resulted in a better administrative capacity with increased competences and skills of human resources and hopefully a long-lasting relationship at institutional level.

It was enhanced through dedicated joint events, like the periodically held workshops, organized for the Programme Operators in the research area on relevant issues related to programme implementation, the interim programme conference held in Bucharest on December 2015, two seminars on communication and ethical issues held in Sibiu on May 2016, a study visit held in Oslo, Norway on October 2016, a study visit organized in Reykjavik, Iceland, on September 2017, and the Programme Final Conference, held in Cluj-Napoca on December 2017.

All these activities resulted in strengthened cooperation with Donor Programme Partners and other Programme Operators, exchange of best practices and experiences in programmes' implementation, raising administrative capacity and organizational skills, exchange of views on project management, funding instruments and research landscape in our countries, enhanced institutional partnerships, and also promotion of new opportunities for continuing and expanding collaboration in research and innovation beyond this programme through the next EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms for 2014-2020.

RO15 – Scholarships // National Agency for Community Programmes for Education and Vocational Training

The programme supported the mobility of higher education students and staff, as well as institutional cooperation at higher education level between Romania and the Donor States, through 58 projects selected in 3 open calls. All targets were achieved or over-achieved with one exception (number of mobile students).

296 students from Romania or the Donors States received scholarships to attend higher education programmes in the Donors States (or Romania), 212 staff (including teachers) of higher education institutions were part of mobilities and 150 high education students benefitted of work placements, as part of vocational trainings.

The rate of absorption at programme level (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 73%. The Final Programme Report was approved on 16.04.2018 and a Debit Note was issued on 07.05.2018.

As a result of collaborative projects supported, 61 joint papers, articles, publications and reports were prepared, including those for peer reviewed academic journals.

Targets foreseen for staff mobility and for the number of students benefitting from placements were over-reached.

The key impact areas of the Programme are the high relevance of the measures for the Romanian higher education institutions' needs, in terms of quality improvement and internationalisation, the positive impact on the students, staff and institutions and the strengthening of the bilateral relations between Romania and the Donor States, both at individual and institutional level.

Another aspect is the strong level of trust and satisfaction within the partnerships established through the projects and confirmed to a large extent the transfer of knowledge/skills/competences acquired by the staff during the mobility, into their daily teaching or administrative activities.

Some of the positive effects of the Programme, supposed to continue beyond the funding period, were the continuation of the cooperation and research through involvement in other types of projects, identifying the common interest in long term research collaboration, and continuation of the collaboration of the staff in order to issue common publications.

New modules/courses introduced in the curriculum as a result of the projects will continue to be available and beneficial for further students, extending the finalised projects by Summer Schools financed from own funds.

Confirmed mutual participation at conferences organised throughout 2017, improved quality of teaching, enhanced internationalisation of the participating HEIs.

The strengthening of bilateral relations was enhanced through the additional funds dedicated to this domain and through the big number of projects financed. The targets for the output indicators for increased institutional cooperation between HEIs (showing academic cooperation in producing joint publications or events) were overreached by far, and also the promotion of results was successful.

RO17 - Green Industry Innovation // Innovation Norway

Due to the broad definition of the Programme framework, the 50 projects funded represented various sectors of the economy and included a range of different activities.

Among them were the development and implementation of environmentally friendly technologies, increased productivity, creation or improvement of green products and services, reduction and re-use of waste and energy efficiency measures. The project budgets ranged from 65,000 Euros to 3 million Euros.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 96%.

The most prominent environmental results of the programme are in the area of material efficiency: the projects led to the re-use or recycling of almost 130.000 tonnes of waste. Also, the projects led to 110,000 tonnes of reduced CO2 emissions. This amount of emissions can be

compared to the emissions caused by the yearly car use of a larger Romanian town (75,000 inhabitants).

The projects in Romania also saved 3000 megawatt hours of energy, which equals the yearly energy consumption of 2600 households. They also saved 60.000 litres of fuel, which is five-and-a-half times as much as would fit into a Concrete Mixer Truck.

Approximately 350 new jobs were created, with a good geographical distribution throughout Romania. The programme also contributed to internalizing the sustainability concept in Romanian enterprises, as well as 76 temporary jobs created (1-24 months).

The programme had a direct contribution to the increased competitiveness of the financed companies which is reflected by new products and services developed for the market and new jobs created. It made the innovative environmental technologies more accessible to Romanian companies. Moreover, it produced positive changes within the financed companies, by giving them the possibility to develop the businesses in a sustainable way, through improvements related to the way the business operation is carried out or a better material flow in manufacturing and supply-chain. The products and services created with Programme support have less of an impact of the environment (less polluting and less resource-intensive) or less impact on human health than traditional equivalents. All the positive results achieved within the Programme contributed to the overall objective of the Norway Grants – to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area.

An important objective of the Programme was to strengthen bilateral cooperation mainly between Norway and Romania. In Romania, every second project was implemented with a Norwegian partner or contractor.

Bilateral relations were strengthened through a series of networking events, capacity building workshops and experience exchanges on business conduct and implementing modern technological solutions. Typical contributions from Norwegian partners were sector related know-how, expertise in efficient production processes, research and development-specific support, training and competence transfer within corporate social responsibility, health, safety and environment, lean production as well as awareness raising campaigns. All in all, Innovation Norway organised 29 of these bilateral activities. This way of promoting cooperation was welcomed as unique approach and door opener by companies from both Romania and Norway. Matchmakings were organised targeted at the programme's most prominent sectors, that helped finding potential future collaboration partners and preparing joint follow-up project applications for Horizon 2020 and other European programmes. Particularly successful was a training for twenty Romanian clusters on how to build strategies for cooperation and internationalisation, to expand R&D initiatives and find financing for cluster activities.

The development of bilateral relations through the Programme represented a stepping stone to capture more easily the interest of business towards development of a diversified portfolio of projects, a wider perspective of activities and strategies, access to more expertise and increased knowledge for the entities involved in bilateral initiatives.

The Norwegian project partners clearly appreciated the benefits of their project involvement: Two-thirds of the respondents of a survey conducted in the end of 2016 confirmed that their project involvement led to increased knowledge and skills, typically within internationalisation, business culture and industry / market insights. Nine out of ten partners reported that they would like to get involved another time, if they had the opportunity and also would recommend the same to others.

RO18 - Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities // Ministry of European Funds

The Programme contributed to strengthening the capacity and the human resource development in two Romanian public institutions, through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions and authorities in Norway.

Through the 2 predefined projects funded, regulations, guidelines, methodologies and working procedures were developed and improved, staff of the two institutions participated in specific training sessions, as well as in knowledge and experience exchange activities with Norwegian counterparts, new IT solutions were developed and equipment was procured.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 85%. The Final Programme Report was approved on 26.06.2018.

The National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control with the Norwegian partner – the Radiation Protection Authority and the IAEA implemented the Project *Regional Excellence Programme on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania* addressing the eight functional areas of nuclear activities safety in Romania.

CNCAN improved its capabilities by acquiring state of the art equipment and software tools, establishing or revising regulations, guides and methodologies based on the current International and European Standards and developing expertise through staff training and exchange of experience at international level. In addition, a full-scale national nuclear emergency response exercise was organized at the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant which tested the integration of the National Emergency Management System and the responsibilities and the ability to respond of the participating organizations involving central authorities (ministries of interior, defence, etc.), local authorities in the area of the power plant, hospitals, schools as well as citizens.

The project “Improving Integrity of the National Authority for Fiscal Administration through Institutional Cooperation and Capacity Building” was implemented in partnership between NAFA and the Norwegian Tax Administration, and contributed to increasing the capacity of the General Directorate for Integrity in preventing and combating integrity violations within the Romanian fiscal administration.

Through the project, employees of NAFA acquired new skills and knowledge by taking part in integrity trainings and awareness raising sessions, have participated in study visits for gaining experience with fiscal administration from other EU countries, working procedures were improved and new modern IT tools and equipment for carrying out activities in an efficient manner were deployed.

Overall,

- 850 staff was involved in trainings for improving their skills
- 64 regulations, policies, guidelines, methodologies or procedures developed or improved
- 54 training sessions were organized
- 37 activities facilitating exchange of experience and best-practices between Romanian and Norwegian institutions were organised
- 374 participants to activities facilitating exchange of experience and best-practices between Romanian and Norwegian institutions
- 155 staff benefit of improved technical capacity (ITC or other)
- 12 ITC solutions have been implemented for improving capacity

Increasing bilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange between Romanian and Norwegian public institutions was an essential aspect of the Programme and of the 2 projects implemented in partnership. The programme and projects benefitted of the involvement of major Norwegian institutions and experts in their field – the Norwegian radiation Protection Authority and the Norwegian Tax Administration and the activities and results were based on the collaboration between the partners.

The operation of the programme was carried out in cooperation with the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, in their capacity of programme partner.

The bilateral fund supported ten smaller scale initiatives – workshops and study visits for knowledge and best practices exchange between Romanian and Norwegian institutions and public authorities selected through an open call in various areas such as prosecution of economic crimes, correctional services, pensions, immigration, sustainable urban mobility and identification of fraudulent transactions conducted by using offshore entities. These bilateral activities, in a diverse range of fields, contributed to achieving an increased level of mutual knowledge and understanding, paving the way for future cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian public and local authorities.

RO19 - Public Health Initiatives // Ministry of Health

The results obtained in the 8 predefined projects supported - improving medical facilities, equipment and tools available in hospitals, providing medical assistance in remote areas and training of medical staff, have contributed to the improvement of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, to the access of vulnerable groups to health services, but also to the strengthening of the evidence-based health policy in Romania.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 91%.

“Marius Nasta” Pneumology Institute with the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA), and LHL International of Norway have successfully implemented by far the largest project in terms of allocation, for the control of tuberculosis in Romania. It significantly improved the capacity for diagnosis and treatment of TB - 62,203 patients were tested by rapid methods, 10 laboratories were equipped with equipment for rapid testing of TB and 1,002 patients with MDR-TB received a full course treatment.

Pediatric oncology and hematology services were improved through the acquisition of new medical equipment and training of medical staff in the main pediatric oncology centers in Romania - “Trestioreanu” Institute of Oncology in Bucharest, “Louis Turcanu” Children's Emergency Hospital, Timisoara and “St. Mary” Emergency Hospital for Children, Iasi.

Contributions to improving the health of the Roma people, affected by a lack of access to medical services, were made through interventions in strengthening the national network of Roma health mediators through a project developed by the National Institute of Public Health. 45 new community care centres were established and are functioning and staffed and 31,351 vulnerable people were served by Roma health mediators and community workers.

The University Emergency Hospital Bucharest improved its capacity for providing healthcare for high-risk pregnancy, premature birth and hematological diseases by acquiring new medical equipment - 1016 infants and 1516 women with high-risk pregnancy have been tested for thrombophilia, TORCH testing, new molecular diagnostic tests for hematological malignancies and other services are now available.

The capacity of the Romanian health sector to implement organized screening for cancers amenable to cost-effective early detection interventions was Increased through the project

developed by the for “Ion Chiricuță” Oncology Institute in Cluj-Napoca and the Oslo University Hospital - 10,406 PAP tests, 5,000 mammograms and 2,000 HPV tests were performed; 3 mobile unit for cancer screening were made functional and 100 cancer screening visits were made in isolated communities. Also, 3,005 persons received training for lifestyle clinical guidelines and cancer screening programs and 2 information and education campaign carried out.

The National Institute of Infectious Diseases “Matei Bals” Bucharest in partnership with the Roma Centre for Health Policies – SASTIPEN carried-out activities for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in Romania - 1000 HIV tests were performed, 37,500 tests carried out for detecting infections of HIV, HBV, HCV; 13,501 persons have been trained in TB, HIV, HVB and HVC control, 1,000,000 disposable syringes were distributed 8,572 Roma were part of information sessions to reduce the harm of drug use, 2 information and education campaigns for TB, HIV, HVB and HVC were carried out.

The National Institute of Public Health has implemented a multi-level campaign for the prevention of lifestyle related and non-communicable diseases in Romania by developing and implementing 1 guideline for healthy nutrition intervention and physical activity in kindergartens and schools developed; providing preventive information related to unhealthy lifestyles to 411,464 children and youth, developing and implementing 4 clinical prevention guidelines for adults and providing 29,306 adult persons with preventive interventions for their health through the PREVENT app.

5 diseases registries were developed and are functional at the level of the National Institute of Public Health, leading to better patient outreach and services planning.

Under the Bilateral Fund of the Programme, two bilateral initiatives were implemented, one on Cancer screening amounting 69,200 euro (partners: Institute for Oncology “Ion Chiricuță” (IOCN), Cancer Registry of Norway, Centre for Diagnosis of Breast Cancer in Drammen and Porsgrunn) and the other one on TB control amounting 39,171 euro (partners: Institute of Pneumology "Marius Nasta" and LHL International Tuberculosis Foundation).

Although within the programme only 2 out of the 8 initially estimated bilateral initiatives were implemented, the results achieved have targeted all four bilateral outcomes, i.e. extent of cooperation, shared results, knowledge and mutual understanding, wider effects. More than that, the partnerships created will also continue within the new programme European Public Health Challenges financed by the EEA Grants 2014-2021. The funds used amounting 101,723 euro.

The Programme also contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of the Programme Operator, through the fund for complementary actions by participating to the meetings of the Programme Operators from all beneficiary states in the field of health organized in Norway and other Norway Grants beneficiary countries including the POs meeting on health organized in Bucharest on 23-25 November 2016. The amount used was 11,121.93 euro.

RO20 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence // Ministry of Justice

The Programme achieved its aim of preventing and tackling domestic violence and trafficking, through 15 projects (2 pre-defined and 13 projects selected through 1 open call). Main beneficiaries were victims of domestic violence and trafficking, including victims belonging to vulnerable groups such as Roma, professionals working in the field of victim support, law enforcement and judiciary, as well as policy makers and public administration.

The Programme over-achieved its targets and the rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 72%. The Final Programme Report was approved on 26.06.2018.

Through the operationalization/improvement of 11 regional shelters nationwide, the programme facilitated access for 908 (women and children) victims of domestic violence to better-quality

assistance services in line with European and international standards (such as: housing, psychological and legal counselling, social assistance, medical care, assistance in identifying jobs, and family and community reintegration etc.). The setting up/supporting of the centres considerably improved the existing infrastructure in Romania for victims of domestic violence.

Also, with a view on reducing domestic violence, the programme supported the creation of an innovative counselling programme, focusing on perpetrators behaviour, regardless of whether the person is imprisoned or not. The programme was standardized and approved by the National Administration of Penitentiaries, following to be implemented throughout the entire Romanian penitentiary system. It constitutes an important step forward in the adoption of appropriate measures for perpetrators, given the latest legislative developments.

Intensive campaigning was conducted nationwide for raising public awareness on the harmful effects of domestic violence and reducing vulnerability to trafficking in human beings. The campaigns targeted vulnerable persons, including Roma communities. The promotion achieved its scope using maximum impact actions such as: direct meetings with local representatives to identify the main causes generating the vulnerability to traffic with emphasis on child begging; street theatre performances designed to express a powerful anti-trafficking message; informative stand set up at a concert in Bucharest attended by 4,000 persons; thousands of questionnaires applied to assess the level of information on the legal provisions in the field, and the preventive measures and support assistance services for victims; caravan type events and seminars to inform the public on their rights, legislation and institutions responsible for activities to prevent and combat the DV phenomenon; flash-mob representations; short films/documentaries illustrating the life stories of victims; public debates on domestic violence phenomenon and its incidence in Romanian society; radio and TV spots, etc.

A significant component of the awareness-raising measures targeted the Roma communities. The adopted campaigning strategy facilitated the communication and cooperation between the Roma population and representatives of the local authorities

1,399 persons were trained in accordance with the new legal provisions regarding domestic violence. This helped to build capacity in acknowledging and enforcing Romanian legislation on domestic violence among law enforcement agencies (in particular police officers), magistrates (prosecutors and judges), and specialists in the field (ranging from social assistants to doctors, professors and so on). Additionally, 149 specialists from governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations with responsibilities in providing social services to victims of trafficking were trained.

In terms of changes in the initial plan, a major component of the RO20-0001 predefined project - setting up a shelter for victims of trafficking in Bucharest, was cancelled due to the lack of a building for this purpose. Thus, an amount of 1,031,176 Euro was reallocated to supplement the budget of the call for proposals. Thus, more projects than originally planned were financed.

Under the bilateral fund on Programme level was implemented the project "Capacity building and training for magistrates in domestic violence case management", promoted by the Public Ministry - Prosecutor's Office High Court of Cassation and Justice, in partnership with the Council of Europe and the National Institute of Magistracy. Through this project the capacity of Romanian judicial authorities in fighting domestic violence with a view to applying a victim-centred approach and a non-discrimination principle was enhanced. The project facilitated a successful direct contact and exchange of experience between the Romanian practitioners and the CoE experts.

The funding provided for bilateral relations in the programme have enabled decision-makers, specialists dealing with domestic violence cases and respectively with victims of trafficking in human beings, and community stakeholders to share experiences, know-how, lessons learned and

good practices, as well as to set the grounds for future cooperation between government institutions, experts, local institutions with responsibilities in the field and NGOs in Romania and Norway. Thus, the partners (CoE and/or Norwegian entities) had direct impact on the outputs and outcomes of the project, the partnerships contributing to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and Romania.

RO21 - Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups // Ministry of Internal Affairs

The main objective the Programme, to increase citizens' safety, by improving the efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in Schengen Member States in combating organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, was reached by implementing 6 predefined projects, developed and managed by specialized structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs - the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police (3 projects); the General Inspectorate of the Border Police (1 project); the General Directorate for Internal Protection (1 project) and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (1 project).

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 73%.

Joint missions performed by 25 Romanian police officers that granted operative support to the Norwegian colleagues in several police district from Norway, to fight criminal activities conducted by Romanian citizens in different domains, and the enhancement of the police cooperation between Romania and Norway by common trainings and exchange of experience, (including in the framework of two modules of Joint Investigation Teams – JITs under the coordination of EUROJUST).

Several thousand police officers participated to specialized workshops/seminars/formation modules regarding the prevention and investigation of crime committed by itinerant groups, analysis and information strategy, including in the form of training of trainers (many of the meetings were organized with participation of staff from Norway or other European countries, having in mind the need of improvement of the police cooperation).

The purchase of specialized equipment was a very important issue as well, as it is a key measure to increase the technical capacity of the Romanian police (specialized surveillance and communication systems, forensics on mobile terminals, vehicles equipped with special technique etc.), and, accordingly, it created the possibilities to fulfil the commitments regarding the prevention and fight against crime.

The improvement of the situation of the Roma people was achieved by performing a study at national level that aimed to assess the problems related to Roma victimization, by enhancing the knowledge of relevant national/European actors in the field of victimization and training of anti-victimization counsellors, by evaluating the effects of exclusion for society and to develop the capacity of Roma NGOs to raise awareness on victimization and crime prevention within Roma communities.

One important component of the project was to provide, through a specialized NGO, direct support for Roma people to obtain identity documents (IDs and certificates of birth), but also to ensure assistance for victims of human trafficking to get compensations for the mistreatments they faced, considering that many of the victims are Roma ethnics. Another key element of the programme was to ensure proper conditions and specific trainings for Romanian police officers in Roma language proficiency, traditions and customs, in order to increase the communication between police staff and Roma ethnics, but also to enhance their level of trust in the police as well.

Amongst the key achievements that led to reaching the objectives at Programme level, we can emphasize the large number of police officers trained in the domain of hate crime and Roma issues (nearly 3,000), the prevention and awareness campaigns (more than 2,300 people were directly informed, by face-to-face counselling, more than 500,000 people informed by mass-media campaigns), support for obtaining about 2,000 identity documents for Roma etc.

The bilateral relations were tackled especially through two 3-days international seminars, both organized by PO in the city of Sibiu (“Diversity and inclusion of minorities within the police”, held in October 2016, respectively “Police Cooperation Romania - Norway” in October 2017). The attendance was composed by officials and experts from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice, the National Police Department and law enforcement specialized units from Norway, foreign Internal Affairs attachés in Romania, Romanian specialists from specific units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor’s Office, the National Directorate of Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism, EUROPOL, NFP and others.

The first seminar, in 2016, was focused on hate crime issues in Norway and Romania, such as: identifying hate crime incidence, multidimensional profile of crime victimization, but also on the challenges regarding diversity, both in Norway as in Romania, topics related to recruitment and selection, open and equal treatment, institutional solutions, Roma integration and strategies in this specific area, etc. The key topics of the seminar from 2017 were related to European, Norwegian and Romanian approaches in the home affairs domain, both at legal and operative level, such as the legal framework (explaining and implementing the European Investigation Order in criminal matters, the Freezing of Assets order, the confiscation of proceeds of crime) but also the fight against mobile organized crime groups, policing prostitution and THB, combatting economic crimes, etc.

Bilateral cooperation was also addressed within predefined project no.1, implemented by the Romanian Police in partnership with the Norwegian Police Directorate, at the occasion of the joint missions of the Romanian and Norwegian police officers in Norway and other common activities.

Strengthening bilateral relations between the Norwegian and Romanian authorities led to initiatives of mutual interest, and within the new projects a special focus on the continuation of the positive effects obtained is being envisaged.

RO22 – Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue // Innovation Norway

The Programme has shown to be of great interest from the side of the Project Promoters and to some degree the local media. It enabled the different entities to communicate and reach a common understanding on issues related to the decent work agenda and tripartite issues, thus contributing to the programme outcomes.

- Improved Social Dialogue and Tripartite Dialogue structures and practices
- Enhanced understanding of the benefits of Decent Work

A general trend has been observed, like a high involvement and strong commitment by all project parties. It is important to note that all meetings/workshops have promoted the Norwegian/Nordic model and the cooperation/discussions have centred on the applicability of the model in the beneficiary state. The model stimulated round- tables and workshops and is being used as an argument to establish social dialogue and foster tripartite dialogue. It is also accepted that such communication will enhance economic and social development.

The measurable outputs and indicators made it possible to report the impact of the project and if they achieved their goals.

- 126 people involved in capacity building on decent work issues
- 3 web portals created on Decent Work issues

- 7 guidebooks/materials on Decent Work issues were developed
- 384 participants to 12 seminars/workshops/events/trainings on experience and best practices exchange in social/tripartite dialogue
- 460 people participated in seminars/workshops/events/conferences for improved Tripartite Relations
- 4207 people and 200 companies benefitted of raised awareness and enhanced understanding on Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue issues

The results were good, providing Innovation Norway with essential definitions and overview of achieved results by the projects. The collected indicators show Innovation Norway that the indicators are in compliance with the submitted project proposals. The mix of entities/partnerships shows how important the dialogue was for achieving the targeted outcomes defined by the applicants.

On one project in Romania, the promoter was able to develop concrete proposals for modifications to improve the legal framework for professionalization of public servants.

The joint project in Romania between two project promoters and two Norwegian partners on social dialogue structures in education had achieved official accreditation of a project developed OHS training course for teachers as a professional vocational education course by the Ministry of Education.

Concerning the funds for bilateral relations, the activity has remained at a very high level and all involved reports very positive about the good contact and dialogue taking place. In addition to 3 successful partnership projects several workshops took place where Romanian promoters travelled to Norway to take part in workshops on the programme objectives.

RO23 – Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation // Ministry of Justice

The Programme achieved important measures to ensure the respect of human rights of persons deprived of liberty, this including proper conditions of detention, the necessary support for facilitating their social reintegration (with special focus on vulnerable groups of detainees, such as minors and youngsters, women and Roma ethnics), the improvement of the overall performance of the Romanian probation system in providing alternative to prison interventions, as well as highly professional and properly trained prison, probation and police staff.

The specific activities carried out in the framework of the Programme's 6 pre-defined projects, led to sustainable results which contribute to a more efficient correctional system.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 81%.

In this regard, significant *investments* (i.e. renovations and endowments) were made in the *infrastructure* of Bacau and Gherla *prisons*, Craiova and Tichilesti *detention centres* and *pre-trial remand centres* in Brasov, Mures, Alba, Hunedoara and Arad, totalling 379 detention places that comply with the accommodation standards of 4 sqm/detainee provided by the relevant human rights instruments (i.e. the rules of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment).

These infrastructure investments contributed reducing overcrowding and, implicitly, to safeguarding the fundamental rights of detainees, by ensuring improved living conditions for them, in line with the European standards. Moreover, adequate spaces and facilities were set up for specialized socio-therapeutic / educational programmes aimed at supporting and preparing detainees for social reintegration, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups (i.e. minors/ youngsters and women, including Roma).

The Programme also supported the application of alternatives to prison measures, such as the specific probation interventions/ programmes in the community.

The development of programmes like the “My Choice” programme for drug/ alcohol addicted adult offenders under probation supervision, the civic education programme for young offenders sentenced to non-custodial educational measures, or the mentoring programme for Roma offenders under probation supervision, and their implementation on 101 adult offenders, 26 young offenders and 26 Roma offenders respectively, strengthened the capacity of the probation to deliver alternative to prison customized interventions for targeted offenders. On the long run, this will contribute to increasing the rate of successful social reintegration of offenders and, implicitly, to diminishing the risk of reoffending, as convicted persons under probation supervision are more easily reintegrated in society than those deprived of liberty, due to the fact that they are able to continue to live in their familiar environment, to work and to maintain the connection with society, which contributes significantly to changing their anti-social behaviour.

Furthermore, the programme supported measures aimed at *increasing the focus on vulnerable groups in prison* (e.g. minors/ juveniles and women, including Roma), to this end specialized prison intervention programmes/ tools being developed and implemented on 437 minors/ youngsters and 110 women, with a view to assist their educational and psycho-social recovery and to facilitate their social reintegration (i.e. the integrated tool for the evaluation of the relapse risk and the modular type educational and psycho-social recovery programme for minors/ youngsters deprived of liberty; the specialised protocols for assisting women detainees suffering of certain psychological disorders and the programme for their personal optimization).

Additionally, training was provided to 126 vulnerable detainees (e.g. uneducated, Roma) as qualified workers in less than common jobs (e.g. eco-constructions, carpentry, eco-agriculture, rush weaving), allowing them to gain the necessary knowledge and skills for producing goods that are useful in daily life, thus increasing their chances of earning a living after their release from prison and, ultimately, contributing to reducing the relapse rate, by facilitating their transformation from socially assisted persons into active, responsible members of society.

Moreover, steps were taken in order to improve the competences and practice of the human resources in the correctional area by providing extensive specialized trainings for 383 prison, 840 probation and 984 police staff, on various topics relevant for their specific work (e.g. human rights - ways of preventing minorities’ discrimination, radicalization in prison, educational and psychological assistance programme for minors and youngsters deprived of liberty, psycho-diagnose and clinical evaluation for assisting detained women suffering of specific psychological disorders, alternatives to prison in view of the new Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes. Also, the investments made with regard to improving the training facilities of the penitentiary system (i.e. Arad Centre for Training and Specialization) consolidated the existing infrastructure for delivering future trainings to current or newly recruited prison staff.

The programme also attained important achievements with regard to *improving the situation of Roma people* - 90 Roma minors and youngsters deprived of liberty were made subject to the integrated tool for the evaluation of the relapse risk and another 23 participated in the modular type special assistance programme (i.e. educational and psycho-social recovery programme); 32 detained Roma women were involved in the piloting of the specialised protocols for assisting women detainees suffering of specific psychological disorders (i.e. depression, anxiety, personality disorders), as well as in the piloting of the programme for their personal optimization (e.g. developing skills for independent and critical thinking, communication, assertive behaviour and personal resources).

58 Roma detainees from Tulcea Prison (Chilia section) were trained theoretically and practically as qualified workers in eco-constructions (27 Roma detainees), carpentry (29 Roma detainees) and

rush weaving (2 Roma detainees), with a view to increase their competitive advantage on the job market and to facilitate their social reintegration; 26 Roma offenders under probation supervision participated in the mentoring programme for encouraging their pro-social behaviour and positive attitude, as well as for supporting the development of their skills etc.

The programme provided the framework for an extensive *bilateral cooperation* between the Romanian and Norwegian partners. Thus, the Programme Operator collaborated with the donor partner (i.e. the Norwegian Correctional Service) in what concerns the preparation, implementation, monitoring and risk management of the programme. Similarly, the cooperation between the project promoters (National Administration of Penitentiaries and National Probation Directorate) and the donor project partners (the Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy, Bjørgvin Prison, Region South, Bredtveit Prison and Rogaland Probation Office) was conducted in the context of the implementation of the pre-defined projects. Also, these project promoters implemented a series of initiatives financed under the fund for bilateral relations at programme level, either in partnership or with the involvement/ participation of the donor programme partner.

The bilateral cooperation between the Romanian and Norwegian partners led to the achievement of shared results, by exchanging experience, knowledge and know-how (e.g. the handbook on the transfer of sentenced persons, the booklet on the social inclusion needs of the Roma people). Moreover, the cooperation between the Romanian and Norwegian partners, which was materialised in specific activities (e.g. conferences, joint workshops/ seminars, trainings, working meetings) contributed to the improvement of the knowledge of the involved specialists and of the mutual understanding of the peculiarities of their respective correctional systems, regarding for instance the organisation, functioning and strategic development priorities of counterpart entities having competences in the correctional sector. Last but not least, the bilateral initiatives carried out on the duration of the Programme set the premises for achieving wider effects in terms of strengthening the bilateral relations, as the cooperation will continue outside the framework of this programme, considering the networks/ relationships that have been established between the professionals within the partner correctional systems.

RO24 – Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation // Ministry of Justice

The Programme's overall objective was the creation of a fairer and more efficient judicial system. In the context of the adoption of the new legislative codes, the strategic approach chosen aimed to increase the competences of the actors within the judiciary and improve efficiency of the court systems, and at the same time to enhance the access to justice for all the citizens, including the Roma population and other social vulnerable groups.

The specific activities carried out in the framework of the 3 predefined projects, led to sustainable results which contribute to a more efficient justice system.

The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 67%.

The competences of the actors within the judiciary were increased by strengthening of the knowledge of a wide range of professionals (8937 participants – judges, prosecutors, court and prosecutor office clerks, judicial inspectors, mediators, lawyers etc.), in key areas such as: the new legal codes, European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence, judicial management, mediation, judicial ethics and professional deontology, case and time management and the management of the clerk's activity, fiscal law, consumer's rights, insolvency, and drafting of judgments. Along with the consolidation of the network of trainers, and the improvement of training curricula, and the elaboration of a series of guides, 331 training activities were implemented (e.g., workshops,

seminars, sessions of training of trainers, conferences, summer schools etc.), ensuring thus a wide impact.

Furthermore, in order to support their activity, the institutional capacity of the following judicial institutions was consolidated by their endowment with over 1.700 pieces of technical equipment (computers, printers, servers, forensic scene works systems, mobile IT investigation hardware, etc.): courts, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the National School of Clerks, the Prosecutor's Office Attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and the Judicial Inspection.

Concerning the improvement of the efficiency of the court systems, taking into consideration the need for a revamped and extended ECRIS, which represents the case management system implemented nationwide, supporting the activity of all major actors within the judicial system – courts, prosecutor's offices etc., first of all it was strengthened the knowledge and know-how of key personnel within the Romanian judiciary on implementing major IT projects with a special focus on the case management systems, by:

- elaborating a study providing recommendations and best practices on the planning and functioning of case management systems with a focus on ECRIS, tackling specific topics, including an assessment of ECRIS and suggestions for possible improvements, but also relevant topics for professionals involved in the development and implementation of IT projects concerning such systems (e.g., business process analysis and project management);

- providing specialised trainings to a total of 258 participants (specialists in the judiciary involved in the preparation and implementation of IT projects, respectively IT staff and users – e.g., judges, prosecutors, clerks, Ministry of Justice personnel, penitentiary and probation specialists) in subjects such as business process analysis and project management for the development and implementation of case management and other IT systems.

Secondly, the IT network infrastructure of the judiciary was consolidated in order to support the functioning of the case management system (current and the future enhanced version), together with the other IT core-infrastructure systems used by the beneficiaries in their current activities, more than 540 institutions (the Ministry of Justice and subordinated institutions, the High Court of Cassation and Justice and courts, the Public Ministry and prosecutor's offices, probation services, penitentiaries, the National Anticorruption Directorate, the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism, Judicial Inspection) benefitting of 787 pieces of equipment (routers, switches, Network Attached Storage, Storage Area Network, and servers).

The needs and obstacles for Roma and other vulnerable groups to access justice were assessed, and a study was elaborated providing recommendations for actions in the field. The project gave course to the recommendations and 7 legal assistance offices were set up, within which lawyers provided orientation and specialised support regarding legal or administrative proceedings to vulnerable persons, including Roma (762 cases handled). Other measures included the dissemination of an informative package tackling specific issues pertaining to the access to justice, tailored to respond to the needs of the Roma people and other vulnerable groups, a local awareness campaign, and trainings on combating discrimination for legal professionals and other stakeholders.

The programme also provided the framework for an extensive bilateral cooperation between the Romanian and Norwegian partners. The Programme Operator collaborated with the donor partners (NCA, COE) in what concerns the preparation, implementation, monitoring and risk management of the programme.

The implementation of the predefined projects and of other actions financed under the fund for bilateral relations at programme level, lead to the achievement of shared results, by exchanging

experience, knowledge and know-how (e.g., the feasibility study on the access to justice of vulnerable groups, with a focus on the Roma population; training activities for the personnel at the level of the Romanian judiciary on various topics, such as conferences on the new legislative codes, seminars on ECHR, the workshops in the field of judicial management, seminars on antidiscrimination; the study with recommendations on relevant best practices regarding the use of case management systems in Europe and how they can be adapted to the Romanian ECRIS etc.).

RO25 – Poverty Alleviation // Deloitte

The Programme's overall goal of reducing the gap between the most deprived and the rest of the society in Romania and aimed at intensively contributing to Roma inclusion and empowerment.

The specific activities carried out in the framework of the 5 predefined projects, led to sustainable results which contribute to a more efficient justice system. The rate of absorption at programme level, calculated based on information available at the time of this report (expenditure incurred / programme allocation) is of 73.38%.

Following the implementation of the projects, a database and the set of national maps with the socio-demographic and economic profile of Roma communities are now available and provide a better understanding of the problems and needs of Roma communities. They indicate priorities for action and substantiate interventions or funding programs relevant to the real needs of Roma communities.

Another result is having now the Roma community from Pata Rat better organized and capable to cooperate with authorities. The people in the Roma community have been supported in obtaining identification papers, in improving access to school (for children and adults), medical, legal and social services (social allowance, employment services, medical service etc.), accessing basic hygiene infrastructure, clothing and food for children. Employability and living conditions increased as well. An innovative social housing methodology was developed, which enabled 35 families to move out from the marginalized communities in Pata Rat into social apartments in integrated areas of the city and its metropolitan area. The participative methodology of developing the housing criteria can become a model, once the consultation processes becomes consolidated, in housing projects as well as in other development initiatives.

With a larger geographical coverage, in other areas of the country, 14 kindergarten classes and 10 playgrounds have been built, along with numerous teachers being trained and other professionals in facilitating the development of various activities involving vulnerable children and their parents. At preschool level, over 200 teachers improved their knowledge of pedagogical practices, benefitting over 4,000 children. Numerous representatives of preschool / school management, together with representatives of local authorities participated in training activities, exchange of good practices, group discussions on child development stages and needs organized at local level.

The project "Community Centers Iasi and Ploiesti" offered vocational training and counselling, mediation, on the job trainings within the programme and jobs (up to one-year contracts) equipped the participating Roma with skills and confidence needed to access the labour market. Additionally, a total of 673 medical consultations and treatments were provided on the street with the Mobile Street Clinic, out of which 73 were for homeless people with mental health problems and more than 40 health care services were provided to people affected by addiction.

Parents and the communities were continuously involved in all the activities performed, in parenting sessions, in community conversations meant to identify problems and potential solutions (e.g. raising awareness on the prevention of violence and abuse, promoting healthy behaviours, organizing extracurricular activities, promoting non-discrimination). Community consultative structures became functional at the level of all the communities covered by the

projects. Over 3.000 parents improved their parenting skills through various activities organized (some parents even learned how to read during the programme).

Thousands of children and families have been included in active surveillance for provision of integrated package of services in targeted communities. As a result of the activities conducted under the programme, the Government Programme adopted by law includes explicitly the scale-up of integrated community centres and the progressive scale-up of integrated community services, based on the model tested by UNICEF and partners. High-level meetings with the Prime Minister, Vice-Prime Minister, line ministers and State Secretaries (Health, Education, Child Rights Authority) occurred during the programme and confirmed the commitment of the Government to invest and scale up both intervention packages (Minimum Package of Services and Quality Inclusive Education Package) tested in the Bacau project. For the first time, the Country Specific Recommendations from the European Commission to Romania included recommendations to increase the availability and quality of inclusive education and the development on integrated social services at local level. Evidence and information from the model are used to develop the secondary legislation related to the Law on Community Health adopted by Government in February 2017. The Ministries of Social Protection, Health and Education approved a cross-sectoral order to promote coordinated, community-based services for vulnerable populations, especially children and their families. The Ministry of Education adopted ministerial orders to accelerate school desegregation and improve the quality of education.

Services set up under the programme will continue also after the programme closing, such as the SalvaTex stores that are self-sustained, the Mobile health clinic, the community groups, kindergarten groups have been established and included in the national education plan and will continue to integrate pre-schoolers, methodologies have been developed and further distributed to interested third parties, professionals have been trained (teachers, public servants, policemen, social workers, school mediators etc.) and will continue to benefit numerous beneficiaries and also several of the promoters have continued to finance the interventions from various sources for a limited period of time (usually until the end of the school year).

4 MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Management and control systems

Several changes in the administrative framework took place during implementation – the ministries where the NFP and PO structures were set-up have been rearranged, names changed, created or removed, but the specific NFP and PO structures and procedures remained largely the same.

The Programme Operator for Programme RO05 – Energy Efficiency was modified, as the Ministry of Economy requested the termination of the Programme Implementation Agreement, to the lack of administrative capacity and failure to successfully contract projects after the call for proposals conducted. The National Focal Point was designated PO and continued to implement the Programme.

The PO within the Ministry of Environment was subject to restructuring, in order to increase its capacity, add new staff for the three Programmes managed Ro02, RO04 and RO07.

Following the repeated rearrangements of the institutions dealing with research in Romania, the PO for Programme RO14 Research in Priority Areas was transferred between them, but with the same staff and structure.

4.2 Compliance with EU legislation, national legislation and the MoU

The European, national and the specific regulatory framework of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms was complied with at all levels of implementation.

The Programme Agreements and the Programme Implementation Agreements included also provisions aiming at ensuring that national and EU legislation are complied with at all levels during the implementation of the Programmes. The same obligations were transferred to project promoters by way of the project contracts. Observance of the legislation was checked during project monitoring and verifications.

The EU legislation on state aid is directly applicable in Romania, therefore all grantors have the obligation to comply with its provisions (if applicable). The Romanian Competition Council ensures that all the conditions regarding state aid granting, monitoring and reporting, including compliance with the accumulation rules, are included in the regulatory/administrative documents which establish state aid measures.

According to the national legislation in force, the Romanian Competition Council monitors the state aid awarded in Romania based on the reports, information and data sent by state aid grantors within set deadlines. The Competition Council keeps and updates the State Aid Inventory, elaborates the Annual State Aids Report, and any other report necessary to fulfilling Romania's commitments in the field of State Aid as an EU Member state.

Compliance with public procurement requirements remained a challenge for all actors involved in the EEA and Norway Grants and was the main reason for delays and errors.

During 2016, the national legal framework in the public procurement was changed by the transposition of Directives 2014/23/UE, 2014/24/UE and 2014/25/UE and the adoption of a national strategy in public procurement.

These legislative changes did not improve the situation as expected – heavy bureaucratic requirements remained the same or new ones were added, uncertainty in the correct application of all primary (law), secondary (implementing rules) and tertiary (instructions issued by the National Agency for Public Procurement) is high. It especially affects smaller public organizations that lack experienced personnel (local authorities or local branches of national agencies), but also entities with a high level of expertise, such as the National Agency of Cadastre whose project under Programme RO03 was uncompleted as a result of delays in the public procurement procedure. Accountability for the correctness of the public procurement process lies solely with the contracting authority, so outside guidance or even the ex-ante verifications by the National Agency for Public Procurement cannot exonerate or provide assurance.

Since 2017, all procurement within projects implemented in partnership between private and public entities will follow the law on public procurement, irrespective of the nature of the contracting authority (public or private). Thus, private entities as partners were heavily affected, having to apply the complex legislation on public procurement as a public entity would, without the necessary expertise or experience in such matters.

Following consultations conducted between Romanian parties involved in the management of Grants, and advice received from representatives of donor states to conduct more flexible implementation of programmes and projects, changes to the national legislation on the financial management of the grants (GEO no. 23/2015) were made, granting greater flexibility in the payment process and adequate cash flow for projects.

Irregularities and complaints

During the year 2017, CPA reported the irregularities and suspicions of irregularities to FMO, according with the provisions of the Implementing Regulations, based on the reports on irregularities received from POs. Thus, 47 cases of suspicions of irregularities/irregularities and 5 suspicions of fraud were reported via DoRIS, either as new irregularities or follow-ups of existing irregularity cases.

For the period 2013-2017, the total amount that had an impact on the EEA/Norwegian programmes, investigated and confirmed as cases of irregularities is of 221,353 euro grand total (we mention that we used the Inforeuro exchange rate as reported in FPR). This represents **0,101%** of the total budget managed by CPA (218 mil euro).

Of this total amount, the value of 149,368 euro has already been recovered through adjustments, deductions from IFR/ FPR or transfers to FMO. This represents 67.48% from the value confirmed as cases of irregularities.

The amount of 71,984 euro is still pending to be recovered/corrected, pending a final decision in Court. This represents 35.52% from the value of confirmed as cases of irregularities. There is one suspicion of irregularity case for RO06 (IR-0922) which is still under investigation.

In relation to the suspicions of fraud, beside the 3 cases already reported in DoRIS for RO12 programme (case no IR-0278 in DoRIS), RO13 programme (case no IR-0282 in DoRIS) and for RO19 programme (case no. IR-0582), which are still under investigations, and RO23 programme (case no. IR-0238 in DoRIS – suspicion of fraud not confirmed), in 2017 a new suspicion of fraud was reported for RO04 programme (case no. IR-0807). The new suspicion of fraud was identified following the financial verification activity performed by the PO on the PP's Technical and Financial Report no. 2 related to the TARCHS Project, implemented by the National Institute for Research and Development for Environment Protection (NIRDEP) and refers to expenditures on legal assistance services paid from the project account without being included among the project budget expenditure. Though, the PO informed that the legal assistance expenditures were not included in the PP's Technical and Financial Report no. 2.

The suspicions of irregularities/irregularities reported in 2017 by CPA to FMO via DoRIS either as new irregularities or follow-ups of existing irregularity cases are the result of the followings:

A. On the spot verification missions performed by CPA (8 cases):

- 2 irregularities - ANCSI - National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (RO14): ineligible expenditure: unjustified personnel expenditures authorized by the PO in relation to the activities developed by the programme co-manager (IR-0275 in DoRIS) and the quality of the audit performed by an independent external auditor which issued a certificate of financial audit without referring to any ineligible expenditure while certain expenditures have been considered by CPA on the spot report as necessary to be further investigated in terms of eligibility (IR-0276 in DoRIS). The cases were under investigations by the PO that issued the control note by which the irregularities were not confirmed (cases closed).

- 3 irregularities - UMP Cultura - Ministry of Culture (RO12 and RO13) with regard to management expenditures - the two suspicions were confirmed by the General Directorate of Economic and Financial Inspection (DGIEF) from the Ministry of Public Finance and they are as follows:

- RO13 - IR-0581 in DoRIS: it was identified that for the acquisition of expert services, the PO selected external experts for monitoring the project implementation, verification of progress reports and procurement procedures based on an announcement on the PO website, without applying the procurement law provisions. The control note established an outstanding debt of 21.924,91 euro (equivalent of 100.668,25 lei using Inforeuro exchange rate RON/EUR of 4,5915 for September 2017). The PO appealed the decision. A final decision is pending.

- RO12 - IR-0579 in DoRIS: it was identified the fact that the PO director was paid for his activity within PA16 programme based on a service contract and not a labour contract, having in view the type of activity and the legal provisions in this respect. As per the control note, the ineligible amount is of 5.497 euro (equivalent of 24.829 lei, using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,5172 RON/EUR), which was returned in the bank account of the Programme on 19.12.2016 (case closed).

- RO12 – IR-0711 in DoRIS: For the acquisition of expert services, the PO selected external experts for monitoring the project implementation, verification of progress reports and procurement procedures based on an announcement on the PO website, and it did not apply the procurement law provisions. Finding Report no. 5015/13.03.2017, issued by the control structure in charge for investigations within the Ministry of Public Finance (DGIEF), established Programme management costs amounting to 112.725,25 lei as ineligible (24.550,85 euro using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,5915 RON/EUR). The PO appealed in Court. A final decision is pending.
- **2 new irregularities – Environment Fund Administration (RO06):**
 - IR-0710 in DoRIS: with regard to the international flights expenses, it was identified that for the acquisition of flight tickets, the PO did not comply with the requirements of the applicable law, as the arrival of various international flights was different from the city of departure, while the PO did not provide sufficient explanation to the reason of choosing different flight destinations. Finding Report no. 5069/29.06.2017 was issued by the control structure in charge for investigations within the Ministry of Public Finance (DGIEF). The report concluded that an amount of 6,046.48 lei is ineligible, which was recovered in September 2017. The Environment Fund Administration formulated an administrative appeal concerning the conclusions of the finding report no. 5069/ 29.06.2017 on 20.07.2017. The administrative appeal was rejected as per decision no. 16/CA/12.09.2017. The Environment Fund Administration made an appeal in court on 8.02.2018. A final decision is pending.
 - IR-0921 in DoRIS: it was identified that the accommodation and flight expenses for Mr. Sigurdur Ingi Fridleifsson business trip did not comply with the requirements of the applicable law, as the provisions of the certain tender documents stipulate that for Mr. Sigurdur Ingi Fridleifsson - accommodation and flight expenses - should have been borne by the guests. Report to be issued following the finalization of investigation by the control structure in charge.
- **1 irregularity – Ministry of Health (RO19),** IR-0712 in DoRIS: Following the on the spot verification performed by the CPA of the supporting documents related to the program-level expenditure included in IFR no. 7 for the Programme RO19 Public Health Initiatives, an error was identified in the financial offer of the winning bid - SC IV Advantage Solutions SRL, related to the procurement procedure for the purchase of information and publicity services. The final price of the offer (57.617,03 lei excluding VAT) was incorrectly calculated, affecting the final bid outcome. The Certifying and Paying Authority considered that the tender finalized with the signing of the contract no. 42 / 30.06.2015 with SC IV Advantage Solutions SRL did not observe the provisions of art. 36 paragraph (2) of GD no. 925/2006. A financial correction was proposed of 25% to the contract value (which can be reduced to 10% or 5%). It was issued the finding report no 5047/16th of May 2017 by which the amount of 7,376.88 Ron (1,645.57 euro) was declared ineligible; the amount corresponding to the grant share was recovered in June 2017.

B. Verifications performed by PO at the level of PP (17 cases):

- **3 from Ministry of Justice (RO 24):**
 - IR-0273 in DoRIS: public procurement procedure deviations: PP procurement of IT, technical equipment and furniture and it consists of: the introduction of a restrictive requirement in the tender dossier and the lack of signature by two members of the evaluation commission on the award procedure report. The conclusion of the control note was that the detected irregularities did not have a financial impact and therefore no financial correction was applied (case closed).

- IR-0337 in DoRIS: public procurement procedure deviations: PP procurement of support services to organize training activities included in pre-defined projects. The control note and the rectifying note established a financial correction of 4.739,87 euro (equivalent of 21.763,10 lei using Inforeuro exchange rate RON/EUR of 4.5915 for September 2017), which was recovered on 8.12.2016; the PO appealed in Court the report. According to the Amended Notice of Finding of Irregularities and Establishment of Financial Corrections no. 18/103255/26.05.2016, for the contract no. 28/4041/22.05.2014 concluded between SCM and SC Media Consulta Internațional SRL, a correction of 10% (22.616,17 RON – 5.006,68 Euro/ Inforeuro exchange rate for December 2016 – 4,5172) was applied to the amount actually paid (226.161,66 RON). Following the verification of the expenditure related to this contract, the PO found that the amount of 8.530,68 RON (out of the amount of 226.161,66 RON), represented non-eligible expenditure. Therefore, the 10% correction was applied only to the eligible expenditure, thus resulting a difference between the amount ascertained by the Amended Notice and the one authorized for this contract. This difference was adjusted within the final balance of the project, the PP having to reimburse the ineligible costs diminished with the difference for the correction of 10% for the unauthorized expenditure (10% of the non-eligible amount of 8.530,68 RON). A final decision is pending.
- IR-0409 in DoRIS: public procurement procedure deviations: PP's direct purchase of a flight ticket Bucharest-Warsaw during 11-13.09.2014: even if the PP received 2 offers for the same flight coordinates (461 euro and 552 euro), the most expensive one was selected (552 euro). The control note established a financial correction of 53,98 euro (equivalent of 242,92 lei using Inforeuro exchange rate RON/EUR of 4,5005 for November 2016), which was recovered on 22.11.2016 (case closed).
- 8 from UMP - Ministry of Culture (RO 12 and RO 13):
 - RO 13 - IR-0338 in DoRIS: an error by PO in authorizing an expenditure for the project website housing which covered a period of time exceeding the duration of the implementation of the project. The amount of the expenditure wrongfully incurred is 379.86 lei equivalent of 85,35 euro (grant + cofinancing), using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,4505 of September 2016, included in IFR 11) and the PO recovered the debt from a subsequent payment to PP (case closed).
 - RO 12 - IR-0406 in DoRIS: an error by PO in authorizing an ineligible amount related to equipment insurance in the content of the authorizing note corresponding to the second and third interim progress report of the PP, the insurance amount representing in fact the total insurance premium for the entire insurance period, which exceeds the eligibility period of the project. As per the control note, the ineligible amount was established at 357,93 euro (equivalent of 1.619,76 lei, using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,5253 RON/EUR), which was recovered through a diminished subsequent payment to PP (case closed).
 - RO 12 - IR-0407 in DoRIS: The amount of 316,27 euro (equivalent of 1.393,19 lei) refers to PP own contribution which was incorrectly authorized by PO and does not affect the EEA grant amount that has been or will be paid as reflected by the corrective authorizing note. The irregularity case is closed (it represents an error not an irregularity) (case closed).
 - RO 12 - IR-0408 in DoRIS: The amount of 234,96 euro (equivalent of 1.036,74 lei) refers to PP own contribution which was incorrectly authorized by PO and does not affect the EEA grant amount that has been or will be paid as reflected by the corrective authorizing note. The irregularity case is closed (it represents an error not an irregularity) (case closed).
 - RO 13 - IR-0504 in DoRIS: an error by PO in authorizing expenditures - costs that refer to international travel, accommodation, per diem and medical insurance, for two of the

members of the project management team travelling to Norway (for which service provider contracts have been concluded, as freelancers). Following the control note, the PP incorrectly transferred the amount of 1.533,96 euro (equivalent of 6.971,56 lei, using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4.5448 for April 2017 included in IFR 12) in the project account, not in the PO accounts. Therefore, the PO recovered the amount by diminishing the subsequent payment to PP (case closed).

- RO 12 - IR-0578 in DoRIS: Following the verification of the final report submitted by Turda Municipality, the PO concluded that one project indicator was not 100% achieved. Mainly, the website of the project is only functional in Romanian, while the English version was not operational by the end of the implementation period. Thus, it was established that 50% of the costs related to website creation and maintenance, representing 370.75 euro (equivalent of 1.650 lei, using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,4505 RON/EUR), are not eligible (as per the control note). The amount was recovered through a diminished subsequent payment to PP (case closed).
- RO12 – IR-0617 in DoRIS: Following the verification of the final report submitted by Hungarian University Federation from Cluj-Napoca, the PO concluded that two project indicators were not 100% achieved. Mainly, the monitoring officer recommended a financial correction of 25% for the costs with salaries of the implementation team - project manager, manager assistant, responsible for communication. The internal control structure of PO analysed the financial documents and recommended, in the Control note no. 20/04.01.2017, to correct the authorizing note for the third interim progress report with the amount of 1.261,25 lei (280.23 euro using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,5008 RON/EUR), taking into consideration the fact that the final payment for the project was not yet approved. On January 6th 2017, the PO issued and signed the corrective authorizing note containing the authorised expenditures and the final payment was decreased with the amount of 1.261,25 lei. The final payment was performed on February 17th 2017 (it was reflected in IFR 12) (case closed).
- RO12 – IR-0760 in DoRIS: The implementation officer received an administrative appeal from PP regarding the costs declared not eligible after the PPs final report was analyzed by the PO. While verifying the arguments of the project promoter (PP), the implementation officer identified that a payment from July 2015 was not declared in the next two consecutive interim reports, which resulted in declaring it not eligible. Finding Report no. 1488/09.06.2017, issued by the control team within the PO - Project management costs amounting to 6.972,15 lei (1.539,51 euro using Inforeuro exchange rate of 4,5288 RON/EUR). The PP returned the amount of 6.972,15 lei on May 23rd 2017 (case closed).
- [1 from Ministry of Environment \(RO 02\)](#), IR-0445 in DoRIS: OP has drawn suspicion irregularity no. 150252/11.07.2016. The suspicion of irregularity was evaluated according to the national regulations by a control team from the PO. Investigations have been completed and PO issued the Control report. Following the investigations, it has resulted that the irregularity is not confirmed because the land acquisition did not materialise and payments were not made for the land acquisition (case closed).
- [5 from Ministry of Health \(RO19\)](#):
 - IR-0757 in DoRIS: Payment of salaries to Mrs. Stela Eftene in amount of 24,795 lei (5,400.20 euro), which does not fulfil eligibility criteria as there are no supporting documents for the position held. The debt note was challenged in the court of law by the project promotor on 20th of July. No solution was issued yet. The recovery procedure was suspended until court decision.

- IR-0755 in DoRIS: The taxes paid to the State Budget for expert Dan Popescu - project partner ARAS - RHRN Association exceeded the amount needed with 641 Ron (139,61 euro). Therefore, the amount of 641 Ron was declared ineligible expenses. The amount affected by irregularity was recovered (case closed).
- IR-0756 in DoRIS: Salaries paid to Mr. Cristinel OGREZEANU in total value of 27,947.38 Ron (6,086.76 euro) which doesn't fulfil all eligibilities criteria. The debt note was challenged in the court of law by the project promotor on 10th of August 2017. No solution was issued yet. The recovery procedure was suspended until court decision.
- IR-0759 in DoRIS: Expenses with salaries and services for project promoters and project partners in value of 47,481.34 Ron (10,341.14 euro) doesn't fulfil all eligibilities criteria. The amount affected by irregularity was recovered (case closed).
- IR-0808 in DoRIS: Expenses with audit services (SC Alfa Cont Audit SRL) in value of 45,780 Ron (9,970.60 euro) were made without performing the services. The amount affected by irregularity was recovered (case closed).

C. Verifications performed by Audit Authority at the level of PO/ PP (15 cases):

- **1 irregularity from Ministry of Interior (RO 21), IR-0505 in DoRIS:** public procurement procedure deviations: the auditors identified some calculation errors in the statements that were corrected during the audit mission and inconsistencies regarding the accommodation expenses; the PP misapplied the provisions of art. 19 of Emergency Ordinance No. 34/2006, for air transport services. The total amount of the expenditure presumably wrongfully incurred was in amount of 44.138,93 lei: - the amount of 9.253 euro (equivalent of 40.970,68 lei), representing transport expenses, was recovered by PO on 05.09.2016; - for the amount of 3.168,25 lei, representing accommodation expenses, the suspicion of irregularity was not confirmed (case closed).
- **1 new irregularity from Ministry of Environment (RO04), IR-0922 in DoRIS:** Four supply contracts, signed by PP "Univ. L. Blaga", Sibiu do not bear own preventive financial visas. Expenditure has been included by the PP in the interim financial reports for the reporting periods, and the authorization of expenditure by the PO was performed by the experts responsible for verifying payment request through the authorization notes that are signed by: the person responsible with the granting own preventive financial control visa, by an expert who checks the payments and an accountant expert. Out of the sample of expenditure selected for RO04, UCAAPI auditors found that the process of financial verifications and authorization of expenditure was carried out correctly, it wasn't additional eligible than those previously identified by the OP for the selected sample. The Finding Report no 137175/19.02.2018 mentioned that the financial transactions are legal and regular, no ineligible expenditure is found, the suspected irregularity is unintended. Also, the investigation team recommends to the Project Promoter to apply in the future its own internal procedure for preventive financial control. No financial consequences (case closed).
- **3 irregularities from National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (RO14):**
 - IR-0512 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that 10 euro (equivalent of 44 lei) representing salary expenditure of the PP were authorised by PO in addition to the payroll of November 2014 under the Project Snowball, amount recovered (case closed);
 - IR-0513 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that for the amount of 173,51 euro (equivalent of 762,78 lei) representing indirect expenses (repairing of laptop battery) performed and declared by the PP and authorised by the PO, there are no justifying documents to certify the expense performed under the Project Snowball, amount recovered (case closed);

- IR-0514 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that for the amount of 6.184,26 euro (equivalent of 27.186,65 lei) representing indirect expenses declared by the project partner P4 - UVT during the period July - October 2014 and authorised by the PO, there are no justifying documents to certify the accounting record and payment, amount recovered (case closed).
- 2 irregularities from Scholarships (RO15):
 - IR-0805: Authority it was identified that the agreements concluded by the PPs with the participants to mobility and/or suppliers were not presented for visa to Financial preventive internal control (FPIC), although all the subsequent payment documents have been checked and stamped accordingly by (FPIC). No financial impact (case closed).
 - IR-0806: it was identified that the invoice no. 10058570/31.01.2017, in amount of 17.515,56 Eur, issued by the Norwegian partner University of Science and Technology, Trondheim has been paid by the Romanian promoter without concluding in advance a bilateral agreement. No financial impact (case closed).
- 2 irregularities from Ministry of Culture (RO 12 and RO 13):
 - RO 12 - IR-0502 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the amount of 315,04 euro (equivalent of 1.425,64 lei using Inforeuro exchange rate RON/EUR of 4,5253 included in IFR 10) representing salary expenditures, employer and employee contributions is not eligible. The amount was recovered by PO deducting the amount of 1.425,64 lei from a subsequent payment to PP (case closed).
 - RO 13 - IR-0580 in DoRIS: the Audit Authority identified several non-eligible expenditures for PA17/RO13 – LP106/08.04.2014 project, in total amount of 341,36 euro (equivalent of 1.551,41 lei, using Inforeuro exchange rate RON/EUR of 4,5448 for April 2017 included in IFR 12), resulting from the following: difference between the wrongfully reported amount regarding the net salary and the employer contributions and the correct amount set by the audit experts; one invoice that was paid outside the reporting period; an amount paid to one of the facilitators within the Summer School, but no proof could be found as to the actual performance of such service. The PO recovered the debt by deduction from a subsequent payment to PP (case closed).
- 6 irregularities from Ministry of Health (RO 19):
 - IR-0585 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the amount of 8.555,58 euro (equivalent of 37.938 lei), representing salary costs, do not observe art. 7.2, section 2, para. (A) of the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, these expenditures were performed outside the eligibility period of project; amount recovered (case closed).
 - IR-0586 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the amount of 186,13 euro (equivalent of 825,34 lei) were partly paid outside the eligibility period of the financing contract and partly fell under art. 7.6 "Excluded Expenses" Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, pt. 2, paragraph (h) - "excessive and reckless spending." amount recovered (case closed).
 - IR-0587 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the amount of 9,25 euro (equivalent of 41 lei) representing bank fees are not eligible as per art. 7.2 of Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, as well as according to Art. 5.12, point b) of the financing contract "commissions related to financial transactions and other costs strictly financial, except costs imposed by the FMO accounts, PNC or required by applicable law and contractual funding costs will not be eligible"; amount recovered (case closed).

- IR-0583 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the amount of 52,93 euro (equivalent of 236 lei) is not eligible (represents undue pecuniary rights granted to a person within the Foundation PARADA by ignoring Decision No. 77 /12.01.2014 issued by the Executive Director, which stipulated that this person is working for the project 4 hours / day, yet the salary paid was calculated for 8 hours / day worked for the project); amount recovered (case closed).
- IR-0584 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the ineligible amount of 17.395,35 euro (equivalent of 77.557,16 lei) represents services for organizing training seminars for general practitioners in nine regional centres delivered by SC BORDUN TEHNOLOGICA SRL from Braila county is considered ineligible; amount recovered (case closed).
- IR-0713 in DoRIS: the auditors identified that the ineligible amount of 64,379.88 Ron (14,021.54 euro) representing salaries paid to Mrs. Stela Eftene in total value of 28,693 Ron and miscellaneous expenses totalising 35,837.08 lei which do not comply with eligibility rules. The finding report was challenged in the court of law by the Project Promotor on 18th of July 2017. No solution was issued yet. The recovery procedure was suspended until court decision. A final decision is pending.

The remaining cases of irregularities reported in DoRIS by CPA (3 irregularities: IR-0064, IR-0081, IR-0082) are registered in DoRIS as closed since 2015 and no follow-ups were uploaded in 2017. With regard to the irregularity cases IR-0203, IR-0204, IR-0274 and IR-0277, they are also closed by DoRIS in 2016 and no follow-ups were uploaded in 2017.

As per April 2018, there are a total of 24 irregularity cases closed in DoRIS system.

For the first semester of 2018, new irregularity cases will be reported, such as: 1 for RO03 programme (PO – Ministry of European Funds) and 6 new irregularity cases for RO19 programme (PO – Ministry of Health).

Complaints

The complaint mechanism has been established the level of the NFP, according to the provisions of Article 1.8. of the Regulations. During the implementation of the Grants, a total number of 30 complaints were received through the dedicated e-mail address: sesizarisee@fonduri-ue.ro.

The complaints were related to unfavourable outcome of the evaluation process calls for proposals, delays in approval of payments claims and delays in payments to the projects, complaints related to implementation of projects. 5 complaints were made for potential irregularities (in programmes RO02, RO04, RO13, RO17, RO25),

All the complaints have been investigated according to the national law and none was confirmed.

Programme conditions and post-completion obligations

The NFP permanently monitored the fulfilment of the conditions set in programme agreements through quarterly progress reports, annual programme reports, final programme reports, technical meetings with POs, etc.

The Programme Operators reported on the programmes compliance with the conditions set in annex I, art. 2 of the Programme Agreements and confirmed compliance with each condition separately and all aspects of each condition were addressed.

The Programme Operators ensured that Article 7.16 of the Regulation, as well as national and European Union law on public procurement have been complied with at any level in the implementation of the Programme and the projects. The Programme Operators had to maintain written records of all assessments concerning the organization of procurement procedures and compliance with procurement rules the Programme Operators has ensured that Project Promoters in their tender documents did not describe the object of the contract in a manner which could

restrict fair competition, e.g. by reference to trade marks, patents or origin, unless such references are specifically authorized by law.

Based on the Programme Agreements, the Programme Operators ensured that an ex ante control of public procurement procedures and documentation carried out within projects implemented under the Programmes was carried out by a competent independent entity, other than the respective project promoters. The ex-ante control of public procurement was performed according to the applicable provisions of the national legislation on public procurement, by the National Agency for Public Procurement (NAPP), the public authority responsible for the monitoring and verification of public procurement in Romania. The NAPP performed the ex-ante verification of procurement documentation (procurement notice and technical documentation) prior to its publication in the single public procurement system (the public procurement in Romania is conducted through an on-line system e-licitatie.ro). NAPP positive assessment on the documentation is a precondition for the launching of the procurement procedure. Also, NAPP performed, on sample basis, ex-ante verifications of the entire procurement process: an ex-ante verification team took part/monitored all the steps in the procurement process and issued ad-hoc recommendation and a final conformity report.

Related to durability conditions for projects, clear obligations in the project contracts signed by the Project Promoters: to sustain the results of the projects, to keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed/excepted equipment under the projects properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during projects implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the projects, to keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed/excepted equipment under the projects in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the projects and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the projects for the same period, to set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the projects for at least 5 years following the completion of the projects.

4.3 Monitoring, reviews, evaluations and audit

The NFP ensured the permanent monitoring of programmes through quarterly progress reports, annual programme reports, final programme reports, technical meetings with POs, participating at the meetings of the Cooperation Committees and of the Selection Committees as observers, the as well as permanent contact with POs in order to be able to take corrective measures where needed.

Quarterly programme reports and Final programme reports submitted by the POs constituted the basis for the monitoring by the NFP and each programme officer within the NFP performed an analysis of the reports.

The NFP also performed on-the-spot monitoring visits at the level of POs (14) and PPs (77) resulting in:

- Findings and recommendations on the PO's ability to implement and manage the programme in accordance with Regulations
- Recommendations on financial and accounting issues
- Recommendations on verification of public procurement

- Poor capacity in the case of some PO, without experience in managing external grants, resulting in delays regarding contracting, verifications of expenditures, payments and monitoring of projects (RO02, RO04, RO07, RO11).
- Revisions of financial and accounting procedures and reduce processing time of payment claims received from project promoters;
- In the case of Programme RO11, deficiencies in the provisions of the project contracts signed were observed and remedies were requested and undertaken;
- Necessary updated of programme websites - populating the section of the financed projects with relevant information about projects / any stage of their implementation, pictures / information after monitoring visits and links to pages of the website, entering a motor to quantify the number of visitors; updating information on bilateral relations, according to the plan to use the fund for bilateral relations at programme level reported for the forthcoming period.

The NFP has also kept updated information on the following topics, based on reports from POs: payments made/authorized by POs (monthly), implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level (quarterly), information regarding the objective of improvement of the situation for the Roma population, etc.

Public procurement remained the most important issue that delayed the implementation of projects and the achievement of results. The new public procurement legislation, adopted in 2016, has not shown any positive change in this process. Promoters / project partners as contracting authorities continued to face serious difficulties and uncertainties in the application of the provisions of this legislation, while project activities recorded significant delays.

NFP monitored the issue of projects at risk of being uncompleted in order to have an overview of measures taken by Programme Operators and providing the useful clarifications and guidance from the FMO regarding the right approach.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9 – Reviews and Evaluations, article 9.1 - "Responsibility of the Beneficiary State" of the Regulations on the Implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, in April 2018, the NFP signed a service contract (in accordance with the public procurement legislation) in order to carry out evaluations of all programmes. Evaluation shall be carried out by an entity independent of the National Focal Point, the Certifying Authority and the Programme Operator, in accordance with the provisions included in the Evaluation Guidelines and is expected to be finalized in August 2018.

Audits contracted by FMO

The Financial Mechanism Office contracted several audits during the implementation of the 2009-2014 period in Romania, performed by Moore & Stephens, which did not result in irregularities or financial corrections:

1. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the national structure in Romania for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 – NFP, CA, AA
2. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs – Programme RO21
3. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of Justice – Programme RO24
4. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of National Education – Programme RO14

5. FMO REF 44 (2016) - Agreed-upon procedures engagement related to the suspected double-funding of activities under projects financed from the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms 2009-2014 in Romania (2016). At the request of the Donors, the findings of this audit were further investigated by the Romanian Audit Authority (CHUPIA), in 2018.
6. FMO REF 58 (2017) Systems Audit of the Programme RO19
7. FMO REF 57 (2017) - Systems Audit of the Programme RO11
8. FMO REF 56 (2017) - Systems Audit of the Programme RO10
9. Special Investigation of the contract Award Process for the First Call for Proposals for Programme RO 05 performed by Moore Stephens at the level of the Programme Operator - Romanian Ministry of Economy, Directorate for Industrial Policy and Competitiveness and National Focal Point

Monitoring by FMO

The Financial Mechanism Office, through the consultants Horvath & Partners Management Consulting SRL and BalCon Consulting, conducted the special monitoring of the Romanian Programme Portfolio under Norwegian and Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, between 2014 – 2017. The consultant conducted monitoring of all Programmes on a monthly basis - interview and fact-check based methodology, with current information collected from all relevant stakeholders (FMO, NFP, POs /Fund Operators). Monitoring reports were issued to the FMO on programme risks and programme specific issues.

Other audits

1. Audit by EFTA Board of Auditors (EBOA) in Romania (March 2018) – audited entities – NFP, CA, AA, POs for Programmes RO02, RO06 and RO12 and 4 projects under these Programmes

Reviews and evaluations contracted by FMO

1. Rapid Assessment of Research Programmes 2004-2009 and 2009-2014, Coffey International Ltd., November 2017

Main findings

- The Grants are going beyond initial expectations in terms of impact. Researchers in beneficiary countries and donor countries are accruing substantial benefits through their collaboration. Grant recipients report added-value in a number of key areas, including increasing research competence and skills, to supporting know-how on how to develop larger funding proposals.
 - Donor project partners also reap significant benefits, including access to state-of-the-art facilities, new methodologies and networks, and enthusiastic and ambitious researchers who are keen to publish results
 - Grant recipients and donor project partners, are generally very satisfied with the collaborations supported through the EEA and Norway Grants. There is a shared strong impetus for partners to work together in the future.
 - The success rate of project teams supported by the EEA and Norway Grants in applying for EU funding appears to be high.
2. Rapid Assessment Report - Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants: results from Romania and Bulgaria, CREDA Consulting Ltd. / Blomeyer & Sanz, August 2017

Main findings

- Beneficiary state authorities implement important programmes relevant to Roma inclusion in the sectors of health, children and youth at risk, justice and home affairs, culture and

research. In addition, the Grants are the primary funding for civil society in the beneficiary countries

- Overall, the relevant programmes focus on three Roma inclusion areas: 1) Empowering Roma – enabling Roma to change their own lives through education and training for work; 2) Enhancing the inclusiveness of institutions – securing rights, improving access to welfare services and participation in decision-making; 3) Fighting prejudice – among
- Two main questions guided the assessment: a) What were the most significant results (outputs and outcomes) achieved? and b) Which types of interventions have worked particularly well and why?
- The evidence gathered by the assessment outlines substantial visible achievements and processes of positive changes triggered by the reviewed projects.

3. Mid-Term Review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014, The Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP (CSES), February 2017

Main findings

- Many programmes will produce long-term impacts without further intervention.
- The potential for impact is seen as greater in programmes with a specific focus, rather than attempting to address the full breadth of issues within a programme area.
- The programmes deliver short term economic benefits in local communities where projects are implemented. As a by-product of investments in environmental protection, energy efficiency and public health, the support also have the potential to deliver long-term economic benefits.
- The programme-based approach has improved the efficiency and the potential effectiveness of the Grants compared to the previous period, and has forged the opportunity for Donor Programme Partners to have a positive impact in the design and implementation of programmes.

4. Rapid assessment of EEA and Norway Grants' support to gender programmes, NCG Norway, November 2016

Main findings

- The Grants' contribution to the overall funding for gender equality in some countries is low; however the Grants played a role in filling funding gaps. For example, the Grants enabled the expansion of work into certain geographical areas or support for specific target groups that had been underfunded or overlooked (such as ethnic minorities or rural areas).
- Broadly speaking, the programmes have responded to beneficiary needs, such as the need for physical protection, legal/administrative recourse, or labour market participation.
- Levels of effectiveness are often determined by how project interventions are combined. For example, (in difficult contexts) building the capacity of the police/judiciary leads to increased reporting of domestic violence/gender-based violence ONLY when coupled with research AND campaigns for the general public.

5. Communication review for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014, Coffey International Ltd., November 2016

Main findings

- Several countries from Central and Eastern Europe perceive the requirements set out in the Regulations / Annex 4 as finite and intentionally do not carry out activities other than those explicitly listed therein. This means that there is scope to enhance the Regulations / Annex 4 to better meet their communications needs by including a clear, unambiguous explanation that the requirements are not intended to set limits to activities and that additional activities are encouraged.

- All of the beneficiary countries have dedicated websites in national languages and in English. However, the study highlights great variability, particular at programme and project level, which undermines the effort of showing the impact the Grants have in a consistent manner.
 - There is a lack of consistency in the monitoring and evaluation frameworks, which translates into a lack of consistency in the presentation of the information provided across the beneficiary countries.
 - One of the main challenges to perceptions and awareness-levels relates to the confusion with EU Structural Funds.
6. Mid-term Evaluation of the support to Strengthened Bilateral Relations under the EEA and Norway Grants, Written by COWI A/S, August 2016

Main findings

- Stakeholders in programmes and projects confirm the positive experience of working towards common results. Such mutual experiences have a higher effect on bilateral relations than more traditional ways of providing external support.
 - Stakeholders in both donor and beneficiary countries have increased their knowledge and mutual understanding of the partners' culture and institutions. 73% of survey respondents strongly agreed that awareness, attitudes and trust had increased through the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14. Several strategic stakeholders state that both programmes and projects open doors at the political level.
 - Continued cooperation and development of networks are significant, particularly via projects with grant support for partnerships in research programmes. The development of international and EU networks are supported under the Grants where the funding is an important facilitator for the first international cooperation for both parties. 76 % of survey respondents from projects expect that they will continue the dialogue and cooperation with partners in future - well beyond the projects' completion.
7. Study on Roma inclusion in the EEA and Norway Grants, PITIJA, June 2016

Main findings

- There is evidence of a significant increase in the number of Roma NGOs successfully applying for EEA and Norway Grants, compared to the previous Financial Mechanism.
 - High-quality project partnerships have been formed in some of the larger projects between Project Promoters and local NGOs.
 - Regarding institutional capacity on Roma inclusion; the emphasis on mainstreaming the Roma inclusion concern has produced some positive effects on institutional awareness and raised the profile of Roma inclusion concern. This is in particular relevant for those state institutions which do not feature Roma inclusion as a key part of their remit.
 - The EEA and Norway Grants are well suited to fund innovative or pilot approaches with potential for scaling up or mainstreaming
8. Review of Decent work and Tripartite dialogue, Nordic Consulting Group A/S, February 2016

Main findings

- The Global Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue has improved practices and social dialogue structure and increased understanding of Decent Work principles.
- 97% of the promoters considered that their projects had concrete effects on their own organisations, and 84% on improving relations to other social partners.
- Overall, a higher level of trust, inspired by the Nordic Model, has been created between bipartite partners.
- The programme has strengthened bilateral relations at institutional level.

9. Mid-term evaluation of the cultural heritage sector under the EEA Grants 2009-2014, Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services, November 2015

Main findings

- The cultural heritage programmes can contribute substantially towards safeguarding cultural heritage in Europe, and generate an economic and social impact, including job creation, tourism, new skills and competences and education and social cohesion.
- The vast majority of funds have been allocated to the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites, as well as to a range of artistic disciplines promoting diversity in culture. This is in line with the overall aims of the programmes.

10. Mid-term evaluation of NGO Programmes under EEA Grants 2009-2014, CREDA Consulting, December 2014

Main findings

- The NGO Funds have contributed significantly to ongoing NGO sector development. NGO Funds have demonstrated innovation, new responses to need and problems, and assisted in addressing inequalities.
- NGO Funds have resulted in strengthening the capacities of the NGO sector and in addressing the needs of local communities.
- The NGO Funds are perceived positively and have addressed both gaps in funding and also challenges in the local environments of the beneficiary states.
- The key criteria for successful Intermediaries have been identified. NGO consortia can be particularly effective in delivering results. Direct contracting of Intermediaries by the FMO has been successful, but it is recognised that this may not be possible in all beneficiary states.

11. Study on Roma Inclusion in the EEA and Norway Grants, CREDA Consulting, May 2013

Main findings

- Roma inclusion was not an explicit donor priority and request for the implementation of the 2004-2009 EEA and Norway Grants. Roma inclusion has graduated into a horizontal priority in the programming of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009–2014, backed up by new and expanding strategic partnerships.
- Most of the programmes in the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism were defined in direct negotiations with the governments and they largely reflect the level of their willingness to address Roma issues.
- Whether the potential for substantial contributions to Roma inclusion will be unleashed will depend on (a) effective outreach to Roma communities; (b) development of common standards on “Roma targeted measures”; (c) exchange of information, and (d) clear outcome-oriented approach to Roma inclusion.

4.4 Information and publicity

During the implementation of the 2009-2014 EEA and Norway Grants, the National Focal Point, Programme Operators, as well as Project Promoters, conducted public information and communication actions aimed at creating awareness among Romanian citizens on both the positive effects and results of the Grants, as well as transparency with regard to their management and opportunities for potential beneficiaries, in accordance with the Communication Strategy and Communication Plans of the Programme.

In terms of measuring results achieved, in 2014, a quantitative public survey at national level was conducted in order to measure the awareness degree regarding the EEA and Norwegian Grants in Romania. Regarding the notoriety of the EEA and Norway grants, 2% of the respondents mentioned spontaneously these funds, and 8% recognized the Grants.

In 2017, at the end of the implementation of Programmes, another public survey was conducted to analyse the evolution of the awareness degree. The quantitative survey was conducted by AB European Research and offered also an evolution analysis report, which drew the following conclusions:

- In terms of the general public's degree of information regarding the EEA and Norway Grants, the main difference can be seen for unassisted notoriety, with a 16.7% increase at national level.
- The level of people's awareness considering the benefits provided by the EEA and Norway Grants to all citizens has increased by an average of 9.4% between 2014 and 2017, all areas to which EEA and Norway Grants are being allocated having significant increasing values
- The volume of attributes / characteristics spontaneously associated with the EEA and Norway Grants has doubled in 2017 as compared to 2014. The most significant increase, in statistical terms, was recorded in the category of "financed projects", one in ten respondents saying that this is the first thing they think about when considering the EEA and Norway Grants. Other categories benefiting of important development are also those targeting the financial assistance and support provided to our country for development, supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.
- For the general public, the perception of the possibility of accessing the funds provided under the EEA and Norway Grants oriented towards an institutional approach, between 2014 and 2017. Most respondents (51.1%) consider that local public authorities are the main institutional actors that can submit projects funded under the EEA and Norway Grants. This perception has been strengthened, at national level, by the practical mechanism according to which funds have been allocated in most structural fund programs, most of them envisaging public institutions as main beneficiaries.
- Another significant aspect for the qualitative increase in the information on the EEA and Norway Grants consists in the significant drop in the share of those individuals who attribute this financial support to the EU member states, a drop from 33% in 2014 to 8.1% in 2017.
- The evolution in terms of the means perceived as appropriate / useful for information considering the EEA and Norway Grants is marked by a number of interesting changes:
- The report finds remarkable, in the Romanian social context, the statistically insignificant alteration of the image of the EEA and Norway Grants by the perception of corruption.
- A significant increase of requests for information on official channels, in traditional (print) format, was perceived. This type of request, which we have come across in our assessment experience for other external financing programs, comes as a result of several significant trends in recent years: 1) excessive use of informal channels, especially social networks (Facebook) for communicating official information, means of communication that come into conflict with the formal, official nature of information and creates persuasive conflict; 2) the need to receive written information on the official channels, broader in the Romanian society, is correlated with the need to be able to request information as being certain and to clearly direct the responsibility for that piece of information; From the same perspective, of building confidence in the possibility of accessing the funds provided under the EEA and Norway Grants, we can see that in the period 2014-2017 the perception of the lack of information as a blocking factor in project submissions decreased significantly, but the perception of bureaucracy and lack of eligibility increased as barriers to submitting an eligible project.

Communication by the National Focal Point

The main communication tools used have been the eeagrants.ro website, as well as the Facebook account of the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania, managed by the NFP.

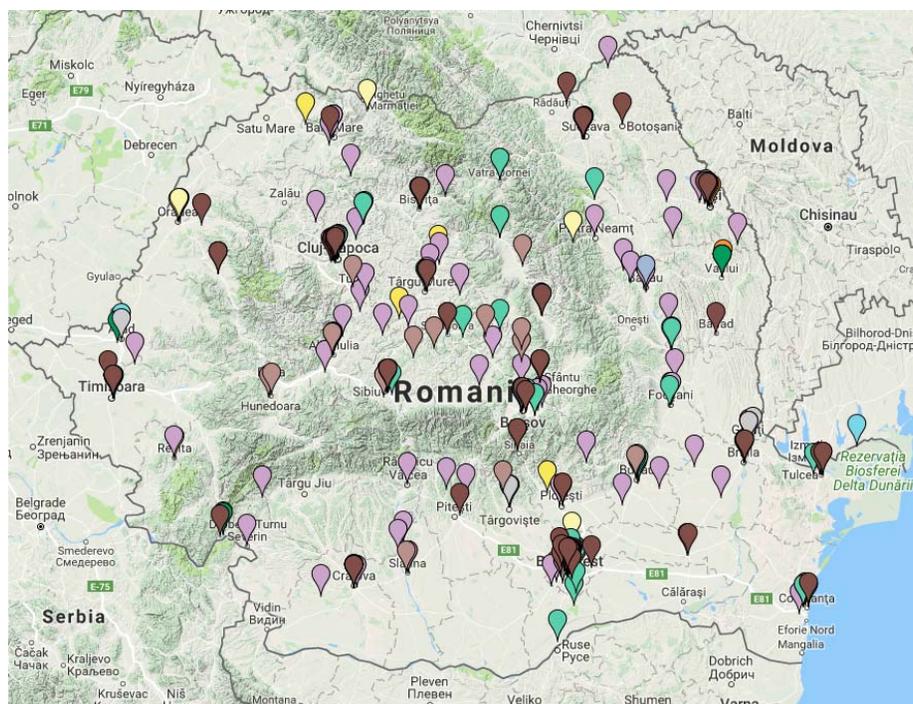
Presentations and details of Programmes, relevant documents – the Memoranda, Programme Agreement, Strategic Reports, etc. were made available, as well as all calls for proposals organized under Programmes and the National Bilateral Fund.

The website was constantly updated with information and press releases with the occasion of relevant events in programmes and projects. Also, significant news and information regarding successful projects, project visits, etc. were posted. 150 articles were published on the NFP website.

As a result, the website has gathered the following results in the last year:

- number of sessions of the website is 30,220
- number of users: 18,836
- pageviews: 107,725

In 2016, a presentation of all projects funded on the map of Romania was elaborated by the NFP and published on the website, offering a view of the geographical span of the Grants and information on each project, grouped by priority sector (project promoter, Programme, budget, title and link to Programme and Project websites).



The dedicated Facebook page „Granturi SEE&Norvegiene”, launched in May 2016, was constantly updated with postings on relevant news, events, information on calls for proposals and photographs related to programmes and projects, achieving the following organic results:

- 62 posts
- 1544 followers
- 900 likes to posts
- Reviews - 5 stars
- The most viewed post: the Anniversary of 10 years of EEA & Norway Grants in Romania – 6.000 views

The NFP managed also the dedicated helpdesk e-mail address „asistenta.see@fonduri-ue.ro”, where those interested are provided quick answers to a large number of requests for information regarding the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania.

Main events organized

The Launching Conference for Justice and Home Affairs programmes under the Norway Grants was organised on the 28th of June 2013. The conference was organised on the occasion of signing the first Programme Agreements (justice and home affairs programmes) and was combined with the press release and press conference. The event was took place at the Government Palace, Transilvania Room, and more than 100 participants attended. Mrs Grete Faremo, the minister of Justice and Public Assurance in Norway took part, along with representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FMO, Royal Norwegian Embassy, other embassies accredited in Romania and Romanian public officials.

In order to promote all the programmes financed under the EEA&Norway Grants in Romania, on the 29th of October 2013, the NFP organised the Launching Seminar. With this occasion each Programme Operator briefly presented the programme, its objectives and proposed structure (calls or predefined projects). The event was attended by some 250 participants, representatives of FMO, Norwegian Embassy, Donor States, other Embassies in Romania, Programme Operators, Donor Programme Partners, NFP, other relevant public or private entities. Media were present and the event benefitted of good press coverage in the following days, highlighting the contribution of the Donor States, the objectives of the Financial Mechanisms and the programme areas to be financed in Romania under the grants.

During April 2014, the NFP produced and distributed the first brochures with the relevant information regarding EEA & Norway Grants.

The NFP task managers collaborated with the PO teams for launching conferences for each programme and the events were organised according with the requirements of the Communication and Design Manual. Some of the launching conferences were followed by match making seminars or information seminars. The relevant information about the events was posted on the PO and NFP websites. Promotional materials were produced for such occasions.

During 2017, communication was targeted towards publicizing the developments in the implementation of the Grants in Romania, with focus on positive news regarding the progress and results achieved.

In accordance with the Communication Strategy, a Media Event marking the anniversary of 10 Years of presence of the EEA and Norway Grants in Romania was organized in partnership between the NFP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The event took place on 13 June 2017, in Bucharest, at Hanul Gabroveni (renovated with 2004-2009 EEA Grants):

- The media event had two objectives: (1) to highlight the results of the projects supported under the Grants during the two funding periods as well as to give some perspectives on the future (the period 2014-2021) and (2) to promote the achievements in terms of partnerships and bilateral cooperation. The event contributed to increasing the awareness among the general public about the results obtained during the implementation of the Grants, in terms of reducing social and economic disparities, on the one hand, and in terms of enhancing the cooperation between Romania and Norway and the mutual knowledge and understanding, on the other hand.
- Over 60 participants, including the Ambassador of Norway and the Minister of European Funds, 11 journalists, Programme Operators, project promoters and FMO.

- A short film highlighting results was produced and presented. A leaflet presenting relevant information on the three funding periods – the main results of 2004-2009, 2009-2014, as well as main parameters of the 2014-2021 period was produced and distributed.
- In terms of coverage, articles on the event and the main messages were published in 33 media outlets.

Working group for information and publicity

In order to coordinate the informational and publicity activities, the NFP communications officers have participated in all programme and project level monitoring visits, conducting specific verifications on the correct implementation of the Communication and Design Manual and to advice on any problems occurring during implementation. The communication requirements at the level of the Programmes are monitored through reports from POs, as well as consultations on specific issues.

The NFP has followed-up the fulfilment of the requirement related to the development of Programmes dedicated websites, launching events, seminars, leaflets and press releases for the programmes.

Next steps

Results obtained under the 2009-2014 Programmes and Projects will continue to be promoted and presented, on the website of the NFP as well as the websites of the Programme Operators, which will continue to be available.

Also, the closing event for the 2009-2014 period will be organized in conjunction with the launching of the 2014-2021 Programmes.

Communication and publicity at the level of the Programmes

All Programme Operators implemented the communication actions in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and the Communication Plans of the Programme and have provided information on the existence, the objectives, and the implementation of the Programmes, as well as on the cooperation with Donor State entities.

A number of 120 events were organized – launching conferences, seminars, press conferences, closing events, where an approx. 3.000 participants from Romanian and Donors States stakeholders, as well as high level participation from the Norwegian Embassy, Icelandic honorary Consulate, ministers and state secretaries.

All Programmes have created websites, presenting up to date information on the projects funded, highlighting results obtained and relevant news.

RO02 – www.eeagrantsmediu.ro

RO04 – www.eeagrantsmediu.ro

RO05 – www.spitalulagripaionescu.ro

RO06 – www.rondine.ro

RO07 – www.eeagrantsmediu.ro

RO09 – www.fondong.fdsc.ro

RO10 – www.granturi-corai.ro

RO11 – www.ro11gender.ro

RO12 – www.fonduri-patrimoniu.ro

RO13 – www.fonduri-diversitate.ro

RO14 – www.research.gov.ro/ro/articol/3452/granturi-see

RO15 – www.see-burse.ro

RO17 – www.norwaygrants-greeninnovation.ro

RO18 – www.eeagrants.ro

RO19 – www.initiativeinsanatate.ms.ro

RO20 – www.norwaygrants.just.ro

RO21 – www.norwegian.mai.gov.ro

RO23 – www.norwaygrants.just.ro

RO24 – www.norwaygrants.just.ro

Examples of very well managed Programme websites are www.fonduri-patrimoniu.ro for Programme RO12- Cultural Heritage and www.fonduri-diversitate.ro, RO13 – Diversity in Culture, which were thoroughly updated, with an up-to-date agenda for all the events happening under the projects and offering a summary of results for all projects, with relevant photos and other materials.

Two diversity catalogues were published to tell the story with precise facts and figures about the projects financed within the Programme RO13 - Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage .The catalogues were distributed within different cultural events and activities organized at national and international level; the catalogues were also published on the dedicated website of the Programme and Facebook page with over 5,000 views and downloads.

The 1st Diversity Catalogue is available here: http://www.fonduri-diversitate.ro/Files/catalog/Catalog_Diversitate_EN.pdf

The 2nd Diversity Catalogue is available here:
<http://www.fonduriiversitate.ro/Files/brosura/BrosuraEng.pdf>

The film of the Programme gathers testimonials of project promoters and outlines the changes brought by the project implementation with the support of EEA Grants. It talks about audience development, consolidation of bilateral partnerships, education through arts and culture, as well as promotion of the culture of minorities. The film was made public online and gathered more than 1,000 views in the first day of the release:

Social media was also a communication tool used successfully by some POs.

The social media accounts of the Programme RO10 – Children and youth at risk (Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, YouTube), channels through which the PO disseminated news/ videos/ information regarding the activities/ results of the PO and the projects, reached up to 95,556 people.

The NGO Fund Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FondulOng>) had almost 600,000 unique users and generated almost 1,700,000 impressions;

The social media accounts of the Programme RO 10 – Children and Youth at Risk (Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, YouTube), channels through which the PO disseminates news/ videos/ information regarding the activities/ results of the PO and the projects, and which reached up to 95,556 people.

The results and activities of the Grants were also promoted through the visibility of the activities of the projects implemented in mass-media, which generated a very significant boost.

For example, under Programme RO10 – Children and Youth at risk, all the 100 projects published at least one press announcement regarding the launching, progress or the completion of the projects in the local/ regional/ national press, a fact which made the Programme to be mentioned in more than 500 press articles.

A project with good results in terms of visibility was the predefined under RO07 – Climate Change Adaption, carried out by Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu which carried out the following

activities regarding awareness to climate change and the need to adapt to climate change through 37 Press Releases through the mass-media, online news sites, web sites, over 200 appearances, interviews in the press, radio and TV, 4 press conferences: at the launch and the closing of the project, and 2 for the implementation phase of the project, over 3000 students and teachers from Region 7 Centre participants in the events organized, over 1500 informed people about climate change, over 450 informed representatives of local, regional and national stakeholders.

The Green Innovation Programme has promoted 12 projects to journalists that would like to write about and inserted their articles into specific mass media channels. The results were that 11 articles have been generated after the press release and further 2 after the media pitch. Second promotion element was that 5 success stories articles have been written by journalist while thoroughly visiting the projects and 20 media reflections (with Radio or online press). During 2017 the photo exhibition has continued its travel in Bucharest and other cities from Romania. Through the photo exhibition that has been present in Constanta (during 14 December 2016 to 5 of January 2017) at the Port Administration building from Constanta. It continued with Invest Romania event that took place at the chamber of Commerce in Ploiesti in April 2017 and the National Day of Norway from May 2017 in Bucharest. About 700 persons have been exposed to the photographs during these above-mentioned events. The canvas will be future used as a testimonial during other events that are relevant to promote the grants.

On Programme RO11 – Mainstreaming gender equality, more than 60 seminars and workshops have been held on issues ranging from gender equality and its implications for the balance between the personal and professional life of women in the community to issues regarding the Roma community. Besides the seminars and workshops, the promoters have also reported holding awareness raising events at a local level (more than 30 events in total) and awareness raising campaigns. Some of the promoters also held focus groups with the parents, in order to assess the perception held at the beneficiary level of such services as the ones the projects offer, and to estimate the impact they have for the local community.

Two conferences for the launching and, respectively, for the closing of the 3 programmes, including RO20, for which the Ministry of Justice is PO, were organised on February 14th 2014 and November 15th 2017, in Bucharest. The final conference was attended by 120 participants (e.g. State Secretaries from the Norwegian and Romanian Ministries of Justice, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Romania, representatives of the donor programme partners, of the Council of Europe, of POs from other beneficiary states, of the PPs and project partners, of NGOs, etc.) Impact – over 1000 people took knowledge of the event and its purpose.

[Assessment of the results of the communication and publicity activities](#)

Based on the above, the NFPs assessment is that the communication and measures undertaken have ensured a very good level of knowledge regarding the Grants both for potential applicants and the general public and a substantial increase in the level of awareness regarding the EEA and Norway Grants was achieved.

5 SUMMARY LIST OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The long negotiation, preparation and programming process has delayed the start of projects and meant that implementation has been condensed to only the final few years of the programming period. The extension of the 2014-2021 period from 5 to 7 years will address this issue.
- The programme-based approach has improved the efficiency and the potential effectiveness of the Grants compared to the previous period. It has also enabled the Grants to be targeted in a more strategic way. The programmes are generally considered to be strategic, focused, customised to the needs and priorities of each country and in line with national policy.
- Project grants remained unspent due to over-estimation of budget have negatively affected the absorption rate and results obtained. Generally, the public procurement processes carried out during project implementation lead to contracts with significant lower values than initially estimated. Also, a clear tendency from Project Promoters to over-budget, in order to secure sufficient resources, has been witnessed. This raises the need for a more realistic assessment of budgetary estimations for pre-defined projects and a more thorough appraisal of budgets in the evaluation and selection phase. Also, a clear, flexible mechanism allowing reallocations to be made in due time should be set.
- The large number of Programmes implemented proved to be a challenge and required additional management and control capacity. On the other hand, the wide range of areas targeted increased the visibility of the Grants and opportunities for strengthening bilateral relations.
- Project durability conditions should be clearly defined in the call text and the capacity to ensure them thoroughly assessed during the evaluation and selection phase.
- The main challenge for the Programme Operators was to ensure sufficient support and control to the Project Promoters, as some of them were facing lack of human resources (lack of qualified staff, unmotivated staff due to legal limitations on pay) resulting in lack of knowledge or discipline in reporting, legislative changes during project implementation (e.g. law on public procurement), difficulties in mobilising the financial resources for sustainability or co-financing, blockages during the local elections (followed sometimes by lack of political will from the newly elected) and low access to information. The situation requested an intense monitoring and additional assistance from the Programme Operators.
- Public procurement was the main risk affecting implementation, generating delays and errors.
- Call documents and reporting requirements need to be very clear, to provide the necessary information to the applicants and to allow a safe level of flexibility.
- Programmes should allow a reasonable duration for implementation of projects, in direct relation with the objectives of the project and target groups has to be established.
- In order to increase the visibility and sustainability of financed projects, larger projects should be financed, addressing needs in a larger area with higher impact at regional and county level, implemented by PPs with enough resources to ensure the necessary capacity for implementation and the sustainability;
- Partnerships with local/county authorities, co-operation between NGOs and authorities should be encouraged, as well as synergies of the interventions in the targeted areas.
- Partnerships with entities from the donor states should be supported and facilitated by the DPPs, as being beneficial to the quality of the projects and to their sustainability;

- Information seminars and bilateral exchange of information and experience sharing have an important impact on the motivation for a good implementation and sustainability of the projects;
- Planning the reporting dates at projects level such as to assure a continuous flow of reports all through the year for the project officers;
- Representatives of the PPs are willing to develop partnerships and to learn from other experiences, but they lack the capacity to organise bilateral activities by themselves and should be supported by the POs or should be included in the target groups for the bilateral activities organised at the level of the Programmes by the POs.
- Relevant actors from the financed areas, other than the PPs should be more involved in bilateral activities, in order to be more participative, aware about the potential of the projects and more supportive in taking over the sustainability;
- At programmes level, informative seminars for promoting the specific calls at local level proved to be a useful tool to increase the number of applicants and it should be used extensively in the future programmes;
- In dealing with local authorities, due to their general lack of resources and knowledge, POs should promote during the implementation an open attitude and offer support and assistances in specific issues (financial reporting, acquisitions), which provides valuable increased capacity for such Promoters to use funds on the long-term.
- The needs for trainings and networking at local level is very high and the financial support for these activities must to be considered in new programmes for Romania;
- Assuring the development of skills and professional knowledge of Programme Operators staff through internal and external training and sharing of experience activities.

6 ATTACHMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC REPORT

1. Extracted DoRIS report - For each programme, a table showing the breakdown of applications received and projects selected / contracted, as well as the types of intervention supported.
2. Extracted DoRIS report - For each Programme, a table providing information about donor partnership projects (names of Donor State entities, number and proportion of partnership projects) and a summary table on donor partnership projects at the Beneficiary State level.
3. Extracted DoRIS report - A list of irregularities detected at the Beneficiary State level and at programme level during the reporting period and the remedies taken. Provide an update on previously reported irregularities.
4. Extracted DoRIS report - For each programme, a list of irregularities detected at project level during the reporting period and the remedies taken. Provide an update on previously reported irregularities.
5. Overview of the monitoring and audit activities carried out (non-public attachment)
6. Report on Roma target
7. TA report

Annex - Strategic report attachment 1

14-May-18

Applications in Romania

Reporting year 2017

Supported export format word, excel and .pdf

Calls for Proposals

Applications for R002 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						1						1
1 "STUDIES AND TRAINING REGARDING PROTECTED AREAS' NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS CONTRIBUTION TO MAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS"	16	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	16	3	8
2 "INCREASED CAPACITY IN MANAGING AND MONITORING ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS"	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	2
3 Large Ecosystems restoration scheme	6	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	2	5
Total	25	6	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	25	6	16

Open call related outcomes:

- Avoided fragmentation of ecosystems
- Improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Research

Applications for RO03 Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			1			1
Total			1			1

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO04 Reduction of Hazardous Substances

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			1									1
1 Call for proposals 1	19	11	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	19	11	6
2 Call for proposals 2	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	3
Total	22	13	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	22	13	10

Open call related outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity to enforce and implement EU chemicals and hazardous waste legislation

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Research

Applications for RO05 Energy Efficiency

Calls for proposals	2014			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						1			1
1 Open call 1	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
2 Open Call 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased energy efficiency in industry and the transport sector

Predefined project measures:

- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO06 Renewable Energy

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU						4						4
1 Hydropower and geothermal heat plant projects	10	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	6
Total	10	6	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	10	6	10

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased renewable energy production

Predefined project measures:

- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Research

Applications for R007 Adaptation to Climate Change

Calls for proposals	2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			1			1
Total			1			1

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

Applications for R009 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 open call number 1	1493	128	0	0	0	214	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 open call number 2	0	0	0	919	65	0	0	0	177	0	0	0
Total	1493	128	0	919	65	214	0	0	177	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with government organisations at local, regional and / or national level
- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Increased contribution to sustainable development achieved
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Total		
Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1493	128	214
919	65	177
2412	193	391

Applications for RO10 Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal						1						
1 Local - Small Grant Scheme focused on Roma	0	0	0	148	2	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Synergies for the future – children at risk	0	0	0	91	5	1	0	0	16	0	0	0
3 Synergies for the future – youth at risk	0	0	0	79	3	1	0	0	14	0	0	0
4 Coherent - Local and regional initiatives (medium size projects)	0	0	0	100	9	0	0	0	33	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	418	19	41	0	0	63	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Effective and efficient measures addressing vulnerable groups of children and youth facing particular risks implemented
- Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

Applications for RO11 Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Balance between work, family and private life improved	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	0
Total	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Balance between work, private and family life improved

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
		1
148	2	38
91	5	17
79	3	15
100	9	33
418	19	104

Applications for RO12 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			2									
1 Call for individual projects	0	0	0	186	51	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Call for small grant scheme	0	0	0	132	14	0	0	0	17	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2	318	65	5	0	0	17	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected
- Local communities further developed and economically sustainable livelihoods established through the revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Applications for RO13 Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Large projects "Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened and cultural history documented"	215	69	33	0	0	12	0	0	0	215	69	45
2 Small projects "Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened and cultural history documented"	115	15	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	115	15	39
Total	330	84	33	0	0	51	0	0	0	330	84	84

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
		2
186	51	5
132	14	17
318	65	24

Open call related outcomes:

- Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened
- Cultural history documented

Applications for RO14 Research within priority sectors

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Call for Proposals 2013	414	414	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	414	414	23
Total	414	414	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	414	414	23

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased research cooperation between the EEA EFTA and Beneficiary States

Applications for RO15 Scholarships

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Call for proposals 2013	21	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Call for proposals 2014	0	0	0	27	17	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Call for proposals 2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	18	0	0	0
Total	21	17	17	27	17	23	18	18	18	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of the education sector (school education, higher education, vocational training/education and adult education) between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States

Total		
Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
21	17	17
27	17	23
18	18	18
66	52	58

Applications for RO17 Green Industry Innovation

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
1 Open Call - Individual Project Grant Scheme				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Open Call - Individual Project Grant Scheme				24	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Open Call - Small Grants Project Scheme	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Open Call - Small Grants Project Scheme				6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	40	20	0	30	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Realisation of the business opportunities of greening of the European economy

Applications for RO18 Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			1						1
Predefined in Programme Proposal						1			1
Total			1			1			2

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Capacity-building
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
0	0	0
24	13	1
40	20	0
6	1	0
70	34	1

Applications for RO19 Public Health Initiatives

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			6						6
Predefined in MoU			1			1			2
Total			7			1			8

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services
- Research
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO20 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Calls for proposals	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal						2						
1 Supporting the network of units in the framework of the Law on domestic violence	0	0	0	30	6	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
2 Awareness and sensitizing activities	0	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
3 Training activities for the professionals activating in the field of domestic violence	0	0	0	22	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	68	11	2	0	0	13	0	0	0

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
		2
30	6	8
16	1	3
22	4	2
68	11	15

Open call related outcomes:

- Domestic violence reduced

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

Applications for RO21 Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in MoU			6			6
Total			6			6

Predefined project measures:

- Advocacy
- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Applications for RO23 Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			6			6
Total			6			6

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO24 Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

Calls for proposals	2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			3			3
Total			3			3

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO25 Poverty alleviation

Calls for proposals	2014			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Predefined in Programme Proposal			4						4
Predefined during implementation						1			1
Predefined in MoU						1			1
Total			4			2			6

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services
- Research
- Capacity-building
- Education and training

- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Bilateral Calls for Proposals

Applications for RO05 Energy Efficiency

Calls for proposals	2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
RO05 Bilateral call	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased energy efficiency in industry and the transport sector

Predefined project measures:

- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO09 Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			2013		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Funds for Bilateral Actions	27	15	0	0	0	0	44	44	31	0	0	0
Fund for Bilateral Actions	0	0	0				0	0	0	50	50	24
Total	62	42	25	0	0	0	44	44	31	50	50	24

Open call related outcomes:

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with government organisations at local, regional and / or national level
- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
106	86	56
50	50	24
156	136	80

- Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Increased contribution to sustainable development achieved
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups

Applications for RO10 Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Call for bilateral funds RO10	13	13	8	1	1	0	14	14	8
Call for bilateral funds R010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	13	8	1	1	0	14	14	8

Open call related outcomes:

- Effective and efficient measures addressing vulnerable groups of children and youth facing particular risks implemented
- Local and regional authorities, as well as private and civil society actors, are developing initiatives to strengthen anti-discriminatory measures for groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

Applications for RO12 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			2013		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Open call for bilateral relations cultural heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	25	3	3	0
Open call for bilateral relations	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	25	3	3	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Cultural heritage restored, renovated and protected

Total		
Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
33	33	25
0	0	0
33	33	25

- Local communities further developed and economically sustainable livelihoods established through the revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Provision of services

Applications for R013 Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Fund for bilateral relations measure B round 2: collaboration and exchange of experience	4	4	4							4	4	4
Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage - Fund for Bilateral Relations - Measure A: Partnership Development/Building	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	20	23	23	20
Fund for bilateral relations measure B: collaboration and exchange of experience	0	0	0	7	7	6				7	7	6
Total	4	4	4	7	7	6	23	23	20	34	34	30

Open call related outcomes:

- Awareness of cultural diversity raised and intercultural dialogue strengthened
- Cultural history documented

Applications for R014 Research within priority sectors

Calls for proposals	2016			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Funds for bilateral relations	32	32	13	32	32	13
Total	32	32	13	32	32	13

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased research cooperation between the EEA EFTA and Beneficiary States

Applications for RO15 Scholarships

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			2013		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Bilateral cooperation, study visits	21	21	21									
Preparatory visits	0	0	0	11	11	10	13	13	11	3	3	3
Total	21	21	21	11	11	10	13	13	11	3	3	3

Open call related outcomes:

- Increased higher education student and staff mobility between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States
- Increased and strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels of the education sector (school education, higher education, vocational training/education and adult education) between Beneficiary and EEA EFTA States

Applications for RO17 Green Industry Innovation

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted									
Open Call - Second call, Individual Project Grant Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open call, seed money and travel support	0	0	0							0	0	0
Total	0	0	0									

Open call related outcomes:

- Realisation of the business opportunities of greening of the European economy

Total		
Received	Partner ship	Projects Contracted
21	21	21
27	27	24
48	48	45

Applications for RO18 Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			2014			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
ROMANIA - Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities - Bilateral Fund	8	8	6	0	0	0	5	5	2	13	13	8
Total	8	8	6	0	0	0	5	5	2	13	13	8

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment
- Capacity-building
- Infrastructure development and provision of equipment

Applications for RO20 Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Calls for proposals	2016			2015			Total		
	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted	Received	Partnership	Projects Contracted
Funds for Bilateral Relations	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	0
Total	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	0

Open call related outcomes:

- Domestic violence reduced

Predefined project measures:

- Capacity-building
- Education and training
- Information and awareness raising

Annex - Strategic report attachment 2 & 3

Prepared on 14-May-18

Projects with donor project partners in Romania

Supported export format word, excel and .pdf

RO02 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO02-0002	Demonstrating and promoting natural values to support decision-making in Romania	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO02-0003	A study into the economic and ecological potential of conservation enterprises to enhance the local economy, ecosystem services, and biodiversity in the Fagaras Mountains Natura 2000 site (ECOSS)	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO02-0005	Restoration of aquatic ecosystems in the Sontea-Fortuna area-component of Natura 2000 sites ROSPA0031 and ROSCI0065 of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve [RESTORATION-DD].	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO02-0007	Development of the methodology for establishing ecological corridors and training the administrators of the protected areas for their better management	No	Norway	Computas AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO02-0008	Restoration of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems complex, from Fundu Mare Island, part of the Small Wetland of Brăila	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO02-0013	Integrated study on the contribution of ecosystems in sustainable development of local communities in protected Natura 2000 areas: Pricop-Huta Certeze and Tisa Superioara	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO02-0016	Mapping and assessment of the ecosystem services in divici-pojejena wetland and identification of their contribution to the economic sectors	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
Projects with donor project partners 7 out of 16 (43.8%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 7,692,272		

RO03 - Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning and Control

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO03-0001	Geographic Information for Environment, Climate Change and EU Integration	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Mapping Authority	National agency
			Iceland	Registers of Iceland	Government ministry
Projects with donor project partners 1 out of 1 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 7,690,375		

RO04 - Reduction of Hazardous Substances

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO04-0001	Towards a proper aquatic environment	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Environment Agency	National agency
RO04-0002	Methodological guide for monitoring antibiotic residues and antimicrobial resistance in the environment as a supporting instrument for an enhanced quality management of surface waters and groundwater	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO04-0003	SIDPOP - Support instrument for decision making in POP management: case study - Mures catchment area	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO04-0006	Implementation of an integrated system for acquisition and transmission of monitoring data from hazardous substances in Cluj County	No	Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO04-0007	Consolidating knowledge on chemical substances for efficient and effective decisions (CONOSCEDE)	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	National agency
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Western Norway Research Institute (WNRI)	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO04-0008	Promoting the expertise in evaluation and monitoring of chemicals and hazardous substances in the environment - ProExpert	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	National agency
RO04-0009	Training and awareness campaigns regarding the potential human health and environmental risks associated to hazardous substances and waste (TARCHS)	No	Norway	Athene Prosjektledelse AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	Hjellnes Consult AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	InErgeo	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO04-0010	Increasing the Capacity of the National Environmental Guard to Apply the EU Legislation and Strategy Regarding Dangerous Waste and Chemical Substances	No	Norway	Computas AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
Projects with donor project partners 8 out of 10 (80.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 6,930,346		

RO06 - Renewable Energy

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO06-0001	Power plants on the Tarcău River and its tributaries, Ata and Brateş	No	Norway	Sweco Norge AS	Large enterprise
RO06-0002	Capitalizing on the hydropower potential in the Somes – Tisa area: The investment of MHC Green Investments SRL in the Mara hydropower ensemble in Maramures County	No	Iceland	Landsvirkjun Power Ltd.	Large enterprise
			Iceland	Verkis Ltd.	Large enterprise
RO06-0004	Development of geothermal energy to produce heat for consumers and the reinjection of geothermal water in reservoirs	No	Iceland	Icelandic Geothermal Engineering Ltd.	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)

RO06-0006	Intelligent Energetic System in protected areas	Yes	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO06-0007	Geothermal Training for Romanian Professionals by the Geothermal Training Programme of the United Nations University in Iceland (UNU-GTP)	Yes	Iceland	United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP)	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO06-0008	Pre-feasibility Study of Geothermal District Heating in Oradea	Yes	Iceland	The Icelandic National Energy Authority	National agency
RO06-0009	Pre-Feasibility Study of Geothermal District Heating in Beius	Yes	Iceland	The Icelandic National Energy Authority	National agency
Projects with donor project partners 7 out of 9 (77.8%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 8,907,915		

RO07 - Adaptation to Climate Change

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO07-0001	A green way to sustainable development	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	Other
Projects with donor project partners 1 out of 1 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 3,934,255		

RO09 - Funds for Non-governmental Organisations

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO09-0011	International Child Development Program - strategy to prevent inequalities, social and family violence	No	Norway	Association SOS Children's Villages Norway	Service provision organization (NGO)
			Norway	Oslo Municipality	Regional or local authority
RO09-0023	Traditional seeds - key to protecting biodiversity	No	Norway	The Royal Norwegian Society for Development	Community-based Organization (NGO)
RO09-0029	Volunteers Management from A to Z	No	Norway	IOGT Tippetue Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0031	"NGOs Stronger Together! - Lobby and advocacy for equal opportunities in accessing public funding"	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0036	Recovery network mobile complex for children and youth with disabilities in rural areas	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0037	Early intervention program for children with disabilities	No	Norway	AHEAD Norway	Service provision organization (NGO)
RO09-0053	Media Literacy for High School Students against Discrimination	No	Norway	Norsensus Media Forum	Advocacy organization (NGO)
RO09-0058	Developing the watchdog capacity through the Alliance for a Clean Romania	No	Norway	Vellenes Fellesorganisasjon	Grass root initiative (NGO)
RO09-0066	Chance and Challenge-Improve social services provided to victims of human trafficking	No	Norway	Pro Sentret	Other type of NGO

RO09-0069	ICAR - Service and Resource Centre for Migrants	No	Norway	Resource Centre on Violence, Traumatic Stress and Suicide Prevention Region West (RVTS-Vest) Helse Bergen HF, Haukeland University Hospital	Regional or local authority
RO09-0071	My Body belongs to me	No	Iceland	Stigamot	Advocacy organization (NGO)
RO09-0072	"I, an Oltenia-Based Peasant, Need an Education"	No	Norway	Adina Stiftelsen - AS	Foundation
			Norway	Stiftelsen Kirkens Bymisjon Bergen	Foundation
RO09-0091	Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence	No	Iceland	Stigamot	Advocacy organization (NGO)
RO09-0092	Young people from Romania and Norway - Promoters of Civic Community Volunteering	No	Norway	Bergen Municipality	Regional or local authority
RO09-0095	Public participation for all	No	Iceland	Citizens Foundation of Iceland	Other type of NGO
RO09-0101	The Climate Change Forum	No	Norway	Grid-Arendal	Foundation
RO09-0103	URBOTECA PIPE:LINE - planning with the city for the city	No	Norway	NUDA - Nordic Urban Design Association	Professional association
RO09-0111	Participation in Decision Making - Reducing School Violence in Cluj-Napoca	No	Norway	Norwegian Peace Council - NPC	Umbrella organization / Network of NGOs
RO09-0117	"Hand in Hand" in Sângeorgiu de Mures	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0143	Sustainable Cohabitation of Man and Nature in Retezat National Park and Adjacent Areas	No	Iceland	Ranger Association of Iceland	Other type of NGO
RO09-0148	Fighting And Limiting The Phenomenon Of Domestic Violence	No	Norway	The Norwegian Women and Family Association (K&F)	Community-based Organization (NGO)
RO09-0152	Human Rights for Roma	No	Norway	The Norwegian Centre against Racism	Service provision organization (NGO)
RO09-0161	Greenovation Challenge: forming competences of innovation in sustainable development for youth	No	Norway	Ungt Entreprenørskap I Sogn og Fjordane	Other type of NGO
RO09-0162	Padurea Craiului – ecotourism destination	No	Norway	Ethical Travel Portal	Micro-enterprise
RO09-0184	Biodiversity Conservation, Ecotourism and Ecological Education in the Bison Land	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO09-0185	YOUTH WITHOUT LABELS - project on promoting diversity in the Romanian high-schools	No	Iceland	INTERCULTURAL ICELAND	Micro-enterprise
RO09-0223	Citizen Rights Network- We need a real Ombudsman!	No	Norway	Helsinki Committee Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0243	NoRo-Frambu, partnership for the future	No	Norway	Norwegian Resource centre for rare diseases, Oslo (Frambu)	National agency
RO09-0262	Seniors - Resources in the community: Volunteering at old age	No	Norway	The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network	Other type of NGO
RO09-0266	Volunteers for School	No	Norway	Romanian Association from Bergen	Community-based Organization (NGO)

RO09-0273	The role of NGOs in alternative care for children	No	Norway	Association SOS Children's Villages Norway	Service provision organization (NGO)
RO09-0295	Direct Impact!	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0297	Strengthening the Role of NGOs in Developing Social Services	No	Iceland	INTERCULTURAL ICELAND	Micro-enterprise
RO09-0319	Improving the quality of social services and rehabilitation for children with ASD	No	Norway	The Institute of Applied Behavior Analysis	Other type of NGO
RO09-0324	I want to be involved in my community	No	Norway	Roma Rights	Other type of NGO
RO09-0325	Active citizenship – a powerful instrument to consolidate rule of law	No	Norway	County Governor of Sogn og Fjordane	Regional or local authority
RO09-0326	Young Caritas - Create future!	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0341	Support services for school integration for ASD	No	Iceland	State Diagnostic and Counselling Center Iceland	National agency
RO09-0343	Open Doors - Access to Innovative Social Services for Institutionalised Elders	No	Norway	Norwegian Moreno Institute	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO09-0349	Teaching diversity	No	Norway	Norsensus Media Forum	Advocacy organization (NGO)
RO09-0350	Know and claim your rights!	No	Norway	Helsinki Committee Norway	Other type of NGO
RO09-0352	Coalition - Equal rights and representation for young people with disabilities	No	Norway	Star of Hope Norway	Foundation
RO09-0381	Urban Investigation Center	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 43 out of 391 (11.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 4,780,430		

RO10 - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO10-0001	Strengthening anti-discriminatory measures at national level through the participation of professionals and civil society	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
RO10-0043	A model of integrated services for youth from rural areas and from the child protection system	No	Norway	Association SOS Children's Villages Norway	Service provision organization (NGO)
RO10-0051	Reintegrating migrant children in Vrancea county	No	Iceland	INTERCULTURAL ICELAND	Micro-enterprise
RO10-0068	Socio-professional inclusion centres for youth at risk	No	Norway	Roma Rights	Other type of NGO
RO10-0069	A chance for the future - Integrated services for young people at risk within a multifunctional social centre	No	Norway	Jazzmontør	Other
RO10-0082	MASPA	No	Iceland	The Icelandic Autistic Society	Other type of NGO
RO10-0085	Network and pilot center for center for children's safety and inclusion in schools in Brasov	No	Iceland	Child Safety House Iceland	Other type of NGO

RO10-0086	ASPIR - Access to public services for the integration of Roma in Vrancea County	No	Iceland	INTERCULTURAL ICELAND	Micro-enterprise
RO10-0088	Collaboration prevents discrimination	No	Iceland	INTERCULTURAL ICELAND	Micro-enterprise
RO10-0092	Developing strategies and policies to grant equal chances to children	No	Norway	Stiftelsen Radarveien	Government ministry
RO10-0093	Integrated initiative for social inclusion of marginalized communities	No	Norway	Caritas Norway	Other type of NGO
RO10-0098	Support for victims of violence through multiple discrimination	No	Norway	HEDDA Foundation	Foundation
RO10-0100	Reducing the Exclusion within G.A.L SUDOLT (R.E.G.A.L. SUDOLT)	No	Norway	Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences & Education	Regional or local authority
Projects with donor project partners 13 out of 103 (12.6%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 3,956,249		

RO12 - Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO12-0001	OPEN HERITAGE. Increased public accessibility to multi-ethnic heritage values in ASTRA Museum	Yes	Norway	Museum of South-Trøndelag AS (MiST)	Other
RO12-0002	Heritage Initiative – the Museum of Transylvanian Life	No	Norway	INTBAU Scandinavia	Foundation
RO12-0003	Victoria Intercultural Atelier	No	Iceland	EVRISS FOUNDATION ses	Foundation
RO12-0004	Victoria Intercultural Atelier	No	Iceland	EVRISS FOUNDATION ses	Foundation
RO12-0005	Conserving - Restoring and Showcasing the wood churches Petrindu and Cizer	No	Norway	NUDA - Nordic Urban Design Association	Professional association
RO12-0007	Digitization of medieval documents from the National Archives of Romania	No	Norway	The National Archives of Norway	National agency
RO12-0008	MUSEIKON. New Icon Museum revitalises a restored heritage building in Alba Iulia	No	Norway	University Museum of Bergen	Other
RO12-0010	Restoration and valorization of Brukenthal's Assembly cultural heritage in Avrig as a resource for revitalization and regeneration of the community	No	Norway	The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO12-0013	Centre for interpretation of traditional culture Alma Vii - Restoration and functional conversion of the fortification	No	Norway	The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO12-0014	Centre for interpretation of traditional culture Alma Vii - Restoration and functional conversion of the fortification	No	Norway	The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO12-0020	ANVEATSÂ ARMÂNEASHTI- Safeguarding AROMANIAN Culture/THE ARMÂN LANGUAGE	No	Iceland	KATALÓNSKA HÚSID Á ÍSLANDI (A.K.A. CASAL CATALÀ A ISLÁNDIA)	Other type of NGO
RO12-0025	Culture and nature in Transylvania: Past and Future	No	Norway	Nordic Anthropological Film Association	Other type of NGO

RO12-0025	Culture and nature in Transylvania: Past and Future	No	Norway	University Museum of Bergen	Other
RO12-0027	RROMANE PARAMIĆA (ROMA STORIES) – inventory and safeguarding measures of the intangible Roma heritage in Hunedoara region	No	Norway	Fjellugla Kompetanse	Other type of NGO
RO12-0032	Roma Culture: Preserving and revitalising crafts as part of intangible heritage	No	Norway	Roma Rights	Other type of NGO
RO12-0039	OPEN HERITAGE. Increased public accessibility to multi-ethnic heritage values in ASTRA Museum	Yes	Norway	Museum of South-Trøndelag AS (MIST)	Other
Projects with donor project partners 15 out of 38 (39.5%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 11,518,977		

RO13 - Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO13-0010	Historical Re-enactment - a tool for cultural valorisation and sustainable development of the local community	No	Norway	Trondheim Vikinglag	Other type of NGO
RO13-0012	Chororo – music of Europe beyond prejudices	No	Norway	Roma Rights	Other type of NGO
RO13-0014	Romanian traditional and cultural event: Cuckoos' Day	No	Norway	NOproductions	Other type of NGO
RO13-0015	Balkanik Arts & Culture Festival	No	Norway	Intercultural Museum/ Oslo Museum	Other
RO13-0016	Minorities Film Festival	No	Norway	Intercultural Museum/ Oslo Museum	Other
RO13-0019	Maramures - A Living Treasure In The EU Cultural Heritage	No	Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO13-0023	Carol Factory Halls	No	Norway	Stiftelsen Kulturhuset USF	Other type of NGO
RO13-0024	Platform Of Political Theater 2015	No	Norway	NOproductions	Other type of NGO
RO13-0025	Revitalisation and promotion of the Oltenia minorities' cultural heritage in the context of cultural diversity	No	Norway	MF Norwegian School of Theology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO13-0027	Photo Romania 2015	No	Norway	NORDIC LIGHT EVENTS AS	Other
RO13-0028	Raising awareness about European cultural diversity through Cinema and Dance	No	Iceland	Edinborg Cultural Center	Other type of NGO
			Iceland	RIFF - Reykjavik International Film Festival	Other type of NGO
RO13-0029	The Celebration of Multiculturalism Here and Now	No	Norway	International Organization For Democracy And Human Rights – IODHR	Other type of NGO
RO13-0030	Cultural Agora@Your Library	No	Norway	Jazzmontør	Other
RO13-0031	Foreign Bodies - Stimulating artistic mobility	No	Iceland	Reykjavik Dance Festival	Other type of NGO
			Norway	Wee-Scavetta/ Kipperberg Foundation	Other type of NGO

RO13-0032	Multi-ethnic Holographic History of Brăila	No	Norway	Jazzmontør	Other
RO13-0034	Theater Dialogue Box	No	Norway	Concordia Oslo Association	Other type of NGO
RO13-0037	Roma Culture - Learn. Explore. Experience	No	Norway	HL-Centre - Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities	Foundation
RO13-0038	Lipatti Evenings	No	Iceland	The Icelandic Chamber Music Festival	Other
			Norway	Valdres Festival	Other
RO13-0039	Say it now!	No	Norway	Company B. Valiente	Other type of NGO
RO13-0054	Bucharest new minorities	No	Norway	Telemark Research Institute	Micro-enterprise
RO13-0055	BRAILA LABORATORY - Alternative approaches to urban peripheries	No	Norway	Bergen School of Architecture / Bergen Arkitekt Skole	Other type of NGO
RO13-0074	Artists as Agents of Institutional Exchange	No	Iceland	Skaftell Center for Visual Art	Other
RO13-0078	Center for intercultural education	No	Norway	International Organization For Democracy And Human Rights – IODHR	Other type of NGO
RO13-0082	Romanian Culture Promotion in Akureyri, Iceland	No	Iceland	School of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO13-0083	Tandem Dance	No	Norway	Kjersti Engebretsen Dance	Other type of NGO
RO13-0088	Another face of Roma Culture	No	Norway	Barentsjazz - Tromsø International Jazz Festival	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 26 out of 84 (31.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 3,158,139		

RO14 - Research within priority sectors

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO14-0004	Upgrading and Life Cycle Extensions of Geothermal Energetic Pumps and Turbines by Thermal Spray Process and Multi Composite Technology – GEOTUR	No	Iceland	INNOVATION CENTER ICELAND	National agency
			Iceland	Our Nature - ON	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Iceland	Velvik	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO14-0005	Engineering Yeast and Plants for Heavy Metal Applications: from Bioremediation to Bioextraction	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0006	Applied research for sustainable development and economic growth following the principles of geoconservation: Supporting the Buzău Land UNESCO Geopark initiative	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Telemark Research Institute	Micro-enterprise
RO14-0007	Towards a better protection of children against air pollution threats in the urban areas of Romania	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute for Air Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO14-0008	Forest response to climate change predicted from multicentury climate proxy-records in the Carpathian region	No	Iceland	Iceland Forest Service	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	Other type of NGO
RO14-0009	Monitoring human impact in show caves - a pilot project on monitoring protocols and remediation techniques to be implemented in Romanian show caves Project Acronym CAVEMONITOR	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0010	Engineered group III-N-(As) alloys and low-dimensional heterostructures for high efficiency intermediate band solar cells Project Acronym	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0011	Remote sensing model and in-situ data fusion for snowpack parameters and related hazards in a climate change perspective	No	Norway	Norwegian Computing Center	Other
RO14-0012	Cervical Cancer Control for Roma and Other Disadvantaged Groups in the North-Western Region of Romania	No	Norway	Oslo University Hospital	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0013	DEVELOPMENT OF A COST EFFECTIVE ROMANIA-NORWAY JOINT PLANT-BASED TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR PRODUCTION OF VACCINES AGAINST HUMAN HEPATITIS VIRUSES B (HBV) AND C (HCV)	No	Norway	NIBIO	Other
			France	The Center for Infection and Immunity of Lille	Other
RO14-0014	Improving food safety through the development and implementation of active and biodegradable food packaging systems	No	Norway	NOFIMA	Other
RO14-0015	Perovskites for Photovoltaic Efficient Conversion Technology	No	Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0016	NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR CONFOCAL LASER ENDOMICROSCOPY TO IMPROVE OPTICAL BIOPSY OF PERIPHERAL LESIONS IN THE LUNGS	No	Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	St. Olavs Hospital	Other
RO14-0017	Genetic epidemiology of Cancer in Romania	No	Iceland	Islensk Erfdagreining	Micro-enterprise
			Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0018	Hepatocellular carcinoma stratification based on noninvasive markers	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO14-0018	Hepatocellular carcinoma stratification based on noninvasive markers	No	France	Nuclear Organization and Oncogenesis Unit - Institut Pasteur	Other
RO14-0019	Molecular authentication of complex herbal food supplements for safety and efficacy	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0020	Early literacy in Roma children from Romania: Predictors, literacy levels and enhancement strategies	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0021	The Untold Story. An Oral History of the Roma People in Romania	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0022	The Ethnography of the Prisoner's Transitions	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0023	Historical Population Database of Transylvania 1850-1914	No	Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromsø University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0024	Qualitative Research on Professional Integration of Vulnerable Categories	No	Norway	University of Nordland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0025	Dcombat: A Computerized Preventative and Therapeutic Intervention for Depression	No	Norway	CheckWare AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO14-0026	Less Hate, More Speech: An Experimental and Comparative Study in Media and Political Elites' Ability to Nurture Civil, Tolerant, Pro-Democratic Citizens	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 23 out of 23 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 18,428,605		

RO15 - Scholarships

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO15-0004	Mobility Project No. 1	No	Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0005	Mobility Project no. 2	No	Iceland	University of Bifrost	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0006	Mobility Project No.3	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0007	Mobility Project No. 4	No	Norway	Moderno AS	Micro-enterprise

RO15-0007	Mobility Project No. 4	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0008	Mobility Project No. 5	No	Norway	Artist house in Lofoten	Other
RO15-0009	Mobility Project No. 6	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	Fosshotel Husavik	Micro-enterprise
			Iceland	Hotel Anna	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Iceland	Hotel Borgarnes	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Sør-Trøndelag University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Stavanger	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Vatnahalsen Hoyfjellshotell	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0010	Mobility Project No.7	No	Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0011	Mobility Project No. 8	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0012	Mobility Project No. 9	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0013	Mobility Project No. 10	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Hedmark University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromsø University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0014	Mobility Project No.11	No	Norway	Ostfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	United World College Red Cross Nordic	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0015	Mobility Project No. 12	No	Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Bifrost	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0016	Mobility Project No. 13	No	Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0032	Nanotechnology approach in Acute Myeloid Leukemia management	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0033	Development of multidisciplinary innovative strategies for the care of the Romanian individuals with cleft lip and/or palate	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0034	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	United World College Red Cross Nordic	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0035	Transnational cooperation for research consolidation through knowledge and innovation transfer	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0036	Digital Factory: Concepts, Implementations, Present and Future Challenges	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0037	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Hedmark University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0038	Mobility Project	No	Norway	MF Norwegian School of Theology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Ostfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0038	Mobility Project	No	Norway	United World College Red Cross Nordic	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0040	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0041	Mobility Project	No	Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0042	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0043	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0044	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0045	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Moderno AS	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Norut Narvik	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO15-0046	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Bifrost	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0047	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	Fosshotel Husavik	Micro-enterprise
			Iceland	Hotel Anna	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Iceland	Hotel Borgarnes	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Sør-Trøndelag University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0047	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Stavanger	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Vatnahalsen Hoyfjellshotell	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0048	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Aalesund University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0049	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Bergen University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Telemark University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromso University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Stavanger	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0051	New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice	No	Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Bifrost	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0052	Mobility project	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0053	A piece of culture, a culture of peace	No	Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0053	A piece of culture, a culture of peace	No	Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0055	Mobility project	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Public Health	National agency
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0056	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Bergen University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Telemark University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0057	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0058	Augmented Reality for Technical Entrepreneurs	No	Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0059	PUBLIC SECTOR RENEWAL THROUGH ICT, A LIFE-LONG LEARNING APPROACH	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0060	Mobility project	No	Norway	MF Norwegian School of Theology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Ostfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0061	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0062	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0063	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0063	Mobility Project	No	Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0064	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromso University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0065	Mobility Project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0066	Mobility Project	No	Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0067	Mobility project	No	Norway	Bergen University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0068	Mobility project	No	Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0069	Mobility project	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Nesna University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Bifrost	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0070	Mobility project	No	Norway	Bergen University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Telemark University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	UiT The Arctic university of Norway, Tromso University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Stavanger	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank

RO15-0071	Mobility project	No	Iceland	Bifrost University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	Fosshotel Husavik	Micro-enterprise
			Iceland	Hotel Anna	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
			Iceland	Hotel Borgarnes	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Sør-Trøndelag University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Akureyri	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Oslo	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	University of Stavanger	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
			Norway	Vatnahalsen Hoyfjellshotell	Micro-enterprise
			Norway	Volda University College M4	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0072	Mobility project	No	Norway	Aalesund University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0073	Opportunities and Challenges for Tertiary Educational System in Promoting Evidence-Informed Good Governance Society	No	Iceland	University of Iceland	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0074	Institutional Change for International Exchange of Students with Disabilities	No	Norway	University of Agder	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0075	3D Modelling Techniques for BioMedical Engineering	No	Iceland	Reykjavik University	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0076	Innovative Nanoparticles-based Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia	No	Norway	University of Bergen	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO15-0077	Mobility Project	No	Norway	Buskerud and Vestfold University College	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 56 out of 58 (96.6%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 3,323,070		

RO17 - Green Industry Innovation

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
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RO17-0001	Green innovation in professional laundry services	No	Norway	Athene Prosjektleidelse AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0002	Innovative waste management at Vrancart Romania - Green industry – Romania	No	Norway	Athene Prosjektleidelse AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0004	Greencare	No	Norway	Trilobite Microsystems AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0007	RESPONSIBILITY & DEVELOPMENT IN HYDROPOWER BUSINESS	No	Norway	RAINPOWER NORWAY AS	Large enterprise
RO17-0009	Business and Environmental Approach for Sustainable Use and Recovery of Resources	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0010	GREEN LIGHT DRIVE	No	Norway	Q-Free ASA	Large enterprise
RO17-0012	Sustainable solution through innovative recyclable waste collection points	No	Norway	GREEN BUSINESS NORWAY	Social enterprise (NGO)
RO17-0013	Invest in innovative multi-waste collection points	No	Norway	GREEN BUSINESS NORWAY	Social enterprise (NGO)
RO17-0014	Resourcing the waste by intelligently selected collection system	No	Norway	GREEN BUSINESS NORWAY	Social enterprise (NGO)
RO17-0017	Sustainable green waste management	No	Norway	The Royal Norwegian Society for Development	Community-based Organization (NGO)
RO17-0019	Reused, Upcycled & Redesigned Clothes and Accessories	No	Norway	Lisbeth Løvbak Berg	Micro-enterprise
RO17-0020	Greening the Agro-Tourism Business in Romania	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency
RO17-0024	Ecosystem services from High Nature Value farmland	No	Norway	The Royal Norwegian Society for Development	Community-based Organization (NGO)
RO17-0025	IMPLEMENTING SUPERIOR EFFICIENCY IN WOOD FINISHING	No	Norway	Stokke AS	Large enterprise
RO17-0026	Greener WEEE and CRT Recycling Process	No	Norway	Tronrud Engineering	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0028	Steps for WEEE	No	Norway	InErgeo	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0029	Green innovation in surface protection in the automotive industry	No	Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO17-0030	Biomass - the green business	No	Norway	Oxford Research AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0031	W.I.S.E W.E.E.E : Green Environmental Technology	No	Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO17-0033	Partnership for Zero-Waste Industrial Activities	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0034	Development of new green product for Romanian market: green roof adapted for local resources and climate conditions – donor partnership project	No	Norway	ISOLA AS	Large enterprise
			Norway	NIBIO	Other
RO17-0035	Green processing of wild berries social enterprise	No	Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	National agency

RO17-0036	Moving the market towards improved environmental performance and sustainability reporting in South and South-East development regions - Romania	No	Norway	The Royal Norwegian Society for Development	Community-based Organization (NGO)
RO17-0038	Greener production and management processes in the ceramic tiles industry in Romania	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0040	Innovative process through Inline Technical application	No	Norway	SINTEF Energy Research	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO17-0041	Greening the process flow for molded elements	No	Norway	Variér Furniture As	Large enterprise
RO17-0044	Building eco-innovative towage capacity	No	Norway	Ålesund Kunnskapspark	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0048	Green efficiency in professional laundry services for working clothing	No	Norway	Athene Prosjektledelse AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0049	Increased efficiency in business operations and superior added value for waste cardboard recycling	No	Norway	InErgeo	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0050	Business Environmental Approach for Sustainable Use and Recovery of Resources - BESURE	No	Norway	International Development Norway AS	Micro-enterprise
RO17-0051	Increasing Economical Competitiveness Of Company From Perspective Of Introducing Electric Cars	No	Norway	Sivilingenior Carl Christian Stromberg AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
RO17-0052	Zona Verde/ Green Zone Innovative Waste Collecting	No	Norway	Athene Prosjektledelse AS	Small or medium sized enterprise (SME)
Projects with donor project partners 32 out of 54 (59.3%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 18,556,397		

RO18 - Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Romanian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO18-0001	Regional Excellence Project on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority	National agency
RO18-0002	Improving Integrity in the National Agency for Fiscal Administration through Institutional Cooperation and Capacity Building	Yes	Norway	Norwegian Tax Administration	National agency
Projects with donor project partners 2 out of 2 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 5,600,193		

RO19 - Public Health Initiatives

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO19-0001	Improving the health status of the Romanian population in Romania by increasing Tuberculosis control	Yes	Norway	LHL International	Foundation
RO19-0006	Increase the Capacity of the Romanian Health Sector to Implement Organized Screening for Cancers Amenable To Cost-Effective Early Detection Interventions	Yes	Norway	Oslo University Hospital	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
Projects with donor project partners 2 out of 8 (25.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 10,880,869		

RO20 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO20-0001	Best practice model on assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings - Pilot project	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
			Norway	Oslo Police	Other
RO20-0007	JAD - Joint action against domestic violence	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
			Norway	National Police Directorate	Government ministry
RO20-0013	CONNECT - CONstruct NETwork in Counselling for Trauma	No	Norway	The TISIP Foundation	Foundation
RO20-0014	Preventing and combating violence against children by training specialists in three key areas: child protection, education and health	No	Norway	Redd Barna - Save the Children Norway	Other type of NGO
Projects with donor project partners 4 out of 15 (26.7%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 1,134,072		

RO21 - Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO21-0001	"National approach to compensation of victims of human trafficking"	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
RO21-0006	PDP 1 "Strengthening the police cooperation between Romania and Norway, to fight criminal itinerant groups and human trafficking"	Yes	Norway	National Police Directorate	Government ministry
Projects with donor project partners 2 out of 6 (33.3%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 2,701,262		

RO23 - Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO23-0001	Strengthening the capacity of the penitentiary system in the area of human capital development at the level of prison staff	Yes	Norway	Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO23-0002	Establishing a therapeutic community centre for women in Gherla Prison	Yes	Norway	Bredtveit Prison	Government ministry
RO23-0003	Strengthening the capacity of the Bacau prison for minors and youngsters to comply with the relevant international human rights instruments	Yes	Norway	Bjergvin Prison	Government ministry
			Norway	Correctional Service of Norway Staff Academy	University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank
RO23-0004	Strengthening the capacity of the pre-trial detention system to comply with the relevant international human rights instruments	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
RO23-0005	Strengthening the capacity of the Romanian probation system for delivering effective alternative to prison interventions	Yes	Norway	Rogaland Probation Office	Government ministry

RO23-0006	Setting up an eco-reintegration mechanism for inmates	Yes	Norway	The Correctional Service Region South	Regional or local authority
Projects with donor project partners 6 out of 6 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 7,484,134		

RO24 - Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO24-0001	Strengthening the capacity of the Romanian judicial system to face new legislative and institutional challenges	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
			Norway	Norwegian Courts Administration	National agency
RO24-0003	Improvement of the Electronic Court Register Information System (ECRIS)	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
			Norway	Norwegian Courts Administration	National agency
RO24-0005	Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups	Yes	France	Council of Europe	International institutions council of Europe
			Norway	Norwegian Courts Administration	National agency
Projects with donor project partners 3 out of 3 (100.0%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 7,388,000		

RO25 - Poverty alleviation

Project id	Project Name	Pre-defined project	Donor state	Donor project partner	Type of organisation
RO25-0003	Community Centres Armata Salvarii Iasi and Ploiesti	Yes	Norway	Frelsesarmeen (The Salvation Army in Norway)	Faith-based organization (NGO)
Projects with donor project partners 1 out of 6 (16.7%)			Planned grant amount for projects with donor project partners € 4,162,796		

Romania - Summary

Project grant amount total	€ 293,747,721
Number of projects	849
Number of projects with donor project partners	254
Proportion of projects with donor project partners	29.92 %
Number of programmes *	23
EEA and Norway grants committed	€ 272,863,040

* Excluding Technical assistance programmes and PA22

Annex - Strategic report attachment 4
Programme and country irregularities in Romania as initially reported
Reported by designated entities in or before 2017

Prepared 14-May-18

Irregularities detected at Beneficiary state level

No irregularities have been reported

Irregularities detected at Programme level

Irregularity case	Irregularity status	Case opened	Case closed	Irregularity period	Followed up	Initial nature of irregularities	Amount of recovered funds	Grant amount reduced
IR-0050	Closed	30/05/14	10/06/15	Immediate	2015Q4	deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0064	Closed	28/08/14	02/07/15	2014Q2	2015Q1	deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0081	Closed	26/11/14	13/05/15	2014Q3		deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0082	Closed	26/11/14	13/05/15	2014Q3		deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0273	In Review	02/12/15		2015Q3	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0274	Closed	02/12/15	27/10/16	2015Q3	2016Q2	deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0275	In Review	02/12/15		2015Q3	2017Q4	deviation from programme agreement		
IR-0276	In Review	02/12/15		2015Q3	2017Q4	deviation from programme agreement		
IR-0277	Closed	02/12/15	27/10/16	2015Q3	2016Q2	deviation from public procurement procedures	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0278	In Review	02/12/15		Immediate	2017Q4	fraud/corruption		
IR-0282	In Review	31/12/15		Immediate	2017Q4	fraud/corruption		
IR-0337	In Review	01/03/16		2015Q4	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0409	Closed	31/05/16	18/01/18	2016Q1	2017Q3	deviation from public procurement procedures	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0579	Closed	06/12/16	11/01/18	2016Q3	2017Q3	deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0581	In Review	06/12/16		2016Q3	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0710	In Review	31/05/17		2017Q1	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0711	In Review	31/05/17		2017Q1	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0712	In Review	31/05/17		2017Q1	2017Q4	deviation from public procurement procedures		
IR-0731	Closed	31/05/17	30/04/18	2017Q1	2017Q3	deviation from project contract	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0805	Closed	29/11/17	09/02/18	2017Q3		deviation from programme agreement	€ 0	€ 0
IR-0921	In Review	02/03/18		2017Q4		deviation from public procurement procedures		
Total							€ 0	€ 0

Attachment 5 - Overview of monitoring and audit activities

The NFP ensured the permanent monitoring of programmes through quarterly progress reports, annual programme reports, final programme reports, technical meetings with POs, participating at the meetings of the Cooperation Committees and of the Selection Committees as observers, the as well as permanent contact with POs in order to be able to take corrective measures where needed.

The NFP did not carry out audits.

Quarterly programme reports and Final programme reports submitted by the POs constituted the basis for the monitoring by the NFP and each programme officer within the NFP performed an analysis of the reports.

The NFP also performed on-the-spot monitoring visits at the level of POs (14) and PPs (77) resulting in:

- Findings and recommendations on the PO's ability to implement and manage the programme in accordance with Regulations
- Recommendations on financial and accounting issues
- Recommendations on verification of public procurement
- Poor capacity in the case of some PO, without experience in managing external grants, resulting in delays regarding contracting, verifications of expenditures, payments and monitoring of projects (RO02, RO04, RO07, RO11)
- Revisions of financial and accounting procedures and reduce processing time of payment claims received from project promoters;
- In the case of Programme RO11, deficiencies in the provisions of the project contracts signed were observed and remedies were requested and undertaken;
- Necessary updated of programme websites - populating the section of the financed projects with relevant information about projects / any stage of their implementation, pictures / information after monitoring visits and links to pages of the website, entering a motor to quantify the number of visitors; updating information on bilateral relations, according to the plan to use the fund for bilateral relations at programme level reported for the forthcoming period.

The NFP has also kept updated information on the following topics, based on reports from POs: payments made/authorized by POs (monthly), implementation of the Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme Level (quarterly), information regarding the objective of improvement of the situation for the Roma population, etc.

NFP monitored the issue of projects at risk of being uncompleted in order to have an overview of measures taken by Programme Operators and providing the useful clarifications and guidance from the FMO regarding the right approach.

Regarding the overall progress of implementation, public procurement remained the most important issue that delayed the implementation of projects and the achievement of results. The new public procurement legislation, adopted in 2016, has not shown any positive change in this process. Promoters / project partners as contracting authorities continued to face serious difficulties and uncertainties in the application of the provisions of this legislation, while project activities recorded significant delays.

Audits contracted by FMO, performed by Moore & Stephens, summarized as follows:

1. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the national structure in Romania for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 – NFP, CA, AA

Findings:

- Monitoring Committee Meetings not held in 2014 / Auditors recommend that the Monitoring Committee should meet formally on a periodic basis (at least once a year) to review the progress of the programme.
- Deficiency in PO's publicity and communications plan not highlighted by the NFP to the PO / auditors recommend that the NFP should provide feedback to the POs after they have submitted their documented publicity and communication plans for review so that they can make the necessary improvements.

2. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs – Programme RO21

Findings:

- Report review checklists do not contain an assessment of the projects technical progress or its compliance with national and EU procurement laws.
- Information and publicity requirements not fully met
- Reports not submitted within contractual deadlines

3. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of Justice – Programme RO24

Findings:

- auditors have no Management Control Findings to report

4. FMO REF 20 (2015) Systems audit of the Ministry of National Education – Programme RO14

Findings:

- Potential conflicts of interest identified for members of the Programme Committee;
- Full amount of annual interim payments to project promoters delayed

5. FMO REF 44 (2016) - Agreed-upon procedures engagement related to the suspected double-funding of activities under projects financed from the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms 2009-2014 in Romania (2016):

Findings:

- The Resource Center for Public Participation – CeRe - We identified instances of double-funding and staff costs claimed as indirect costs totalling a minimum of € 14,114
- Romano ButiQ -We identified instances of double-funding totalling a minimum of € 13,474
- Save the Children Association Iasi - We identified instances of a double-funding totalling a minimum of € 2,602
- Save the Children Romania (Bucharest) We identified instances of double-funding totalling a minimum of € 2,065
- Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies Romani CRISS - We identified instances of double-funding totalling a minimum of € 2,071

Other findings:

- ActiveWatch Association - Weaknesses were identified in the preparation of the monthly payroll and timesheets

- ActiveWatch Association – Project names or numbers were not evident on some invoices / receipts
- The Resource Center for Public Participation – CeRe - Staff did not prepare detailed timesheets and staff costs claimed for all activities were in excess of the actual salaries per the payroll records
- The Resource Center for Public Participation – CeRe - Project names / numbers were handwritten in pencil on original invoices
- 'Impreuna' Agency for Community Development - Weaknesses were identified in the preparation of the monthly payroll and timesheets
- 'Impreuna' Agency for Community Development – Project names or numbers were not evident on some invoices / receipts
- Romano ButiQ Association - Weaknesses were identified in the recording of payroll costs and payment of staff salaries
- Romano ButiQ Association - Contractual arrangements in place with the Head of the administrative and accounting function were unusual and fees paid to him were not adequately supported
- Romano ButiQ Association – Project names or numbers were not evident on some invoices / receipts
- Save the Children Association Iasi - Staff did not prepare timesheets covering all projects and activities
- Save the Children Association Iasi - Project names or numbers were not evident on some invoices / receipts
- Save the Children Romania (Bucharest) - Weaknesses were identified in the preparation of timesheets
- Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies Romani CRISS - Weaknesses were identified in the preparation of the monthly payroll and timesheets
- Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies Romani CRISS - Project names and numbers were not always referenced on all invoices / receipts

At the request of the Donors, the findings of this audit were further investigated by the Romanian Audit Authority (CHUPIA), with the following general conclusions:

- Following the analysis conducted in the five audited organisations, within the powers mandated to CHUPIA, we found that expenses with salaries were paid from funds pertaining to Programme RO09 - NGO Fund, which did not fully comply with the provisions of the NGO Programme Implementation Agreement in Romania and the provisions of the national labour legislation.
- In the opinion of the CHUPIA audit team, the expenses with salaries that were not fully compliant with the provisions of the NGO Programme Implementation Agreement in Romania and the provisions of the national labour legislation are undue additional expenses; however, they cannot be seen as double funding, since they do not fall under the provisions of art. 65 - Eligibility, par. 1 of the EU Regulation no. 1303/2013.

6. FMO REF 58 (2017) Systems Audit of the Programme RO19

- Insufficient measures to prevent situations of Conflict of Interest (priority 2);
- Weaknesses in the PPs' staff time recording system not identified and addressed by the PO

7. FMO REF 57 (2017) - Systems Audit of the Programme RO11

Findings:

- Insufficient measures to prevent situations of Conflict of Interest
- Insufficient advertising of the Call for Proposal
- Procedures for ranking projects not in compliance with the Regulation
- No re-evaluation made before providing grant to a project on the reserve list
- Important provisions left out of project contracts
- Important provisions left out of project partnership agreements
- Weakness in the checklist used to verify project expenditure
- Weaknesses in the PPs' staff time recording system not identified and addressed by the PO
- Final payments made before review of project financial report
- Monitoring visits carried out only after the end of the project implementation period
- Project promoters did not meet the publicity requirements

8. FMO REF 56 (2017) - Systems Audit of the Programme RO10

Findings:

- additional technical expertise is required in the area of construction;
- the application process could benefit from some minor improvements;
- there were indications of moderation of the expert evaluators' scoring;
- deadlines for the submission of deliverables to the FMO were not fully met;
- the PO's sampling methodology did not include a random element and was not fully documented;
- weaknesses in the PPs' staff time recording systems were not identified and addressed by the PO;
- civil servant staff are paid higher than normal rates;
- report review time was in excess of contractual deadlines established with PPs;
- the report review process has scope for some improvements;
- Annual Programme Reports for all years did not include details of irregularities.

9. Special Investigation of the contract Award Process for the First Call for Proposals for Programme RO 05 performed by Moore Stephens at the level of the Programme Operator - Romanian Ministry of Economy, Directorate for Industrial Policy and Competitiveness and National Focal Point

Findings:

- Insufficient publication of the call for proposals
- Cover for key Programme staff not handled adequately
- Delay in the selection of experts / process of obtaining clarifications concluded too late
- Inappropriate contracting of experts
- Failure to notify / report to FMC and NFP
- Lack of conflict of interest procedures
- Lack of communication within the Ministry of Economy
- Applications were reviewed by the Counsellor of the Secretary of State prior to recommending signature
- Contract signature date not amended to reflect actual signature date

Other audits

1. Audit by EFTA Board of Auditors (EBOA) in Romania (March 2018) – audited entities – NFP, CA, AA, POs for Programmes RO02, RO06 and RO12 and 4 projects under these Programmes

Monitoring by FMO

The Financial Mechanism Office, through the consultants Horvath & Partners Management Consulting SRL and BalCon Consulting, conducted the special monitoring of the Romanian Programme Portfolio under Norwegian and Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, between 2014 – 2017. The consultant conducted monitoring of all Programmes on a monthly basis - interview and fact-check based methodology, with current information collected from all relevant stakeholders (FMO, NFP, POs /Fund Operators). Monitoring reports were issued to the FMO on programme risks and Programme specific issues.

Attachment - Report on the objective regarding the improvement of the situation of the Roma people

The EEA and Norway Grants programmes relevant for the Roma target carried out measures addressing the social and economic challenges faced by the Roma people in Romania as identified in the relevant strategies and analysis reviewed above, such as: improving access to social services such as health and justice, combating discrimination, combating poverty, improving access to education, etc., while the financial allocation for the Roma objective amounts to approximately 29%.

Presentation on Programmes

Programme RO 09 – NGO Fund

The entire construction of the NGO Programme in Romania took under consideration the Roma situation and the need to address it. A dedicated Sub-Component (2.1 Rural Interethnic Communities Development) was designed to support Roma social inclusion in the local community, increase the local community's capacity to identify and solve problems activating and mobilizing local resources (human, financial, material). Particular needs of Roma population were addressed as well under the other components of the Programme, related to welfare and basic services, social justice, encouraging democratic values, participation in decision-making and community engagement, volunteering, as well as NGO capacity development.

Out of the total number of 390 projects financed under the Programme, 100 projects were relevant for Roma integration and empowerment (expenditures in amount of 6.63 million euro, representing over 21% from re-granting). Out of them, 56 were funded under the dedicated Sub-Component 2.1 Rural Interethnic Communities.

The projects were mainly implemented in partnership at local or regional level, including County Prefectures, County Councils, Public Health local Directions, City Halls and other local institutions - schools, police departments and NGOs. The 100 projects are relevant for 9 out of 10 Programme outcomes (outcome 8 is an exception). Overall, the 100 projects relevant for Roma integration and empowerment have developed interventions in 35 out of 41 counties and Bucharest.

The 56 projects funded under the "Community development in rural interethnic communities" subcomponent were implemented by 18 Roma organizations and 32 non-Roma organization. The targeted localities were from rural areas, in which the Roma communities are considered as marginalized, and generally having a significant Roma population (around 20% of the total population). In terms of areas of intervention, projects can be grouped into five main areas: more than half (30) of the projects were in the area of education and participation of children, 19 projects were focusing on community development, 4 on income generating activities, 2 on women empowerment and 1 on health issues:

Education initiatives and training: over 8,500 beneficiaries (30 projects) participating in after-school programmes, summer kindergartens, remedial education for children, "second chance" educational programmes for children, teenagers and adults, vocational courses (entrepreneurship, IT courses, agricultural activities, construction, project cycle management, home care workers), non-formal education through educational camps, mobile school, workshops on different educational topics with the aim to develop life and social abilities, cultural and sport activities, parenting, professional training for school teachers and training courses for school mediators.

Community development: over 8,660 persons participating in civic initiatives for developing and monitoring implementation of local action plans, involving local authorities in solving Roma communities problems, capacity building for local Roma leaders and grassroots activists, developing

multi-ethnic initiative groups, participating in public consultations, signing petitions and proposals for legislative changes.

Income generating activities: over 100 persons have participated in activities, such as counselling and training, establishing income generating activities in agriculture, construction and home healthcare.

Women empowerment: over 800 women have participated in activities, such as workshop for personal development, counselling sessions, trainings, community needs assessments, community actions and regional women networks.

Health (medical services, health mediation and education): 287 (70 pregnant) women received gynaecological examinations, information and advice regarding the medical process, while 13 Roma women, health mediators, received advanced training in medical issues (hygiene, anatomy, pregnancy, infectious diseases etc.), communication, legislation(children and mother rights, family, mediation) were trained as health mediators.

The estimated number of indirect beneficiaries that is also significant in the field of education and community development is over 8,000 each.

Under the activities developed to strengthen the capacity of NGOs, there was implemented a complex training programme for 27 young Roma activists - young leaders from NGO sector. The topics covered were: communication, leadership, project management, community development, human rights, antidiscrimination, assuming own identity in society, the future role in Roma movement.

Programme RO 10 (PA 11&12) - Children and Youth at Risk and Local and Regional Initiatives to Reduce National Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion

Concerning Roma inclusion, following the strong information campaign promoting the objectives of the Programme developed by PO, out of the 100 projects implemented, 77 targeted Roma inclusion at least partially. The total amount of these projects was about 20.97 million Euros (grant allocation), representing double than planned. As a result, all the Programme targets assumed on the Plan on Roma Inclusion were practically exceeded. Thus, over 12,410 Roma children and youth directly benefited the Programme (compared to 2,800 Roma children and youth, initially estimated), 3,673 Roma parents/ tutors received specific support services (compared to 3,000 Roma parents, initially estimated), and 1,831 representatives of local or county authorities from areas/ localities with a high percentage of Roma acquired new and specific knowledge regarding gender equality, equal opportunities, discrimination, intercultural understanding, respect for diversity etc. (compared to 100 representatives, initially estimated).

Within the Programme, the small grant scheme (LOCAL) was specially designed to respond to the needs of Roma communities. All the 36 projects financed under this scheme were implemented in communities with high percentage of Roma population. These projects were developed and implemented in partnership with an initiative group from the Roma community and, in some cases, with the support of an NGO with experience in working with Roma. This measure assures the involvement of the Roma beneficiaries in projects activities and offers guaranties that the data provided by the PP regarding Roma inclusion reflects the reality.

An external evaluation conducted in Romania at FMO request (see the study "Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants: Results from Romania and Bulgaria"¹), during June and

¹ Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants: Results from Romania and Bulgaria - Rapid Assessment report, prepared for Financial Mechanism Office by a team of consultants from CREDA and Blomeyer & Sanz, between June and August 2017.

August 2017, highlighted the positive results of the RO10 Programme in terms of Roma inclusion, the following 4 projects – 3 of them providing integrated education-centred services for children at risk and their parents, the other one implementing preventive measures to overcome health risk of Roma children - funded under the Programme being mentioned as examples of good practice:

- RO10-0002. Centres for Inclusive Education - Integrated Services for Children from Vulnerable Groups. PP: “Save the Children” Organisation, Bucharest; Project Partner: National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Children and Adoption, Bucharest.
- RO10-0041. Educational Centre “Equal Opportunities”. PP: Ocna Mureş Municipality, Project Partner: Asociația Alternative Sociale prin Măsurile Educaționale Active (ASME).
- RO10-0013. Multifunctional Social Centre, PP: Verguleasa Commune, Ilt County.
- RO10-0079. Non-Discrimination Means Equal Rights! PP: Institute for Public Policy, Bucharest. Project Partners: Bacau County Council, Giurgiu County Council, Ministry of Health, National Council Against Discrimination (CNCD), National Institute of Public Health, Roma Centre for Health Policies- SASTIPEN.

On the other hand, the external evaluation of Programme results, made by the Romanian Institute for Evaluation and Strategy – IRES, revealed that:

- the projects that are addressed to children and youth at risk, which used the provision of school supplies, meals or clothing items as means of stimulating school participation, as well as non-formal activities (such as afterschool services) were ideally tailored to the needs of disadvantaged Roma families. Consequently, in the case of Roma beneficiaries, the most notable results of the projects were an increase in their interest for education, as well as a decrease in absenteeism and especially in school dropout;
- both during and after the end of the projects within the Programme, part of the Roma parents continued to make efforts to support their children’s school participation, despite their families’ poor financial situation. However, a significant proportion of parents still have an indifferent attitude towards their children’s educational track;
- through the provision of daily meals, as well as school supplies and clothing items within the projects there are noticeable results in the increased of Roma school attendance rates, and through the socializing of Roma children and youth with those of the majority ethnic background there has been an increase in their social inclusion. But the living conditions of these children and youth have not been changed structurally and the precarious financial situation in their families, their parents’ lack of education, as well as their community’s traditions all lead to their continued vulnerability and keep them at a greater risk compared to the children and youth in the other ethnic communities.

As the conclusions of the study stated, future projects addressing Roma inclusion should focus more on changing the parents’ attitude towards education, by organizing parenting courses, so that the beneficial effects of school attendance stimulation can be sustainable following the projects’ end. In addition, supporting the institution of school and community mediation could play a major part in catalysing the dialogue between schools and Roma parents. Fighting discrimination and ethnic marginalization by promoting projects that are focus on providing, through schools, material support that some Roma children and youth do not have at home (tools for maintaining their personal hygiene, warm meals and appropriate school clothing), as well as by perpetuating the afterschool programmes remains key measures to be taken within the future projects addressed to Roma communities.

Programme RO 11 - Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance

All 14 projects implemented under the Programme for establishing child day-care centers had a solid Roma target.

Out of the 502 children hosted by the 14 centres, 135 are Roma, providing thus support to the Roma communities, as the children benefit from services free of charge, including food and daily use products (diapers, soap, etc.).

More than 300 Roma people have been reached either through 55 awareness raising events or through meetings with the Roma community representatives. Most promoters have planned to involve the informal leaders of the Roma community, in order to maximize the involvement and openness of the community to the services that the projects have to offer.

Programme RO12 - Conservation and Revitalization of Cultural and Natural Heritage

According to the plan submitted at the beginning of the implementation, the improvement of the situation for Roma population was ensured under PA16/RO12 Programme through 2 measures:

Measure 1 - improving the situation of the Roma population was achieved on the one hand through the activities implemented under the predefined project "Open Heritage", submitted by ASTRA Museum (60% of the total budget) as follows: 60% of PaMM facility is dedicated to Roma Inclusion within cultural programs; Cultural Program Path of Ethnic Minorities – 50% dedicated to Roma population; Cultural documentation while developing bilateral relations - 80% dedicated to Roma population; Management activities – 67% focused on Roma; Publicity – 67% focused on Roma population. Thus, the total amount spent under Measure 1 was 2.150.634 Eur.

Measure 2 - under the Small Grant Scheme 150,000 Eur were allocated to cultural projects related to Roma population. Out of the selected projects 3 were 100% dedicated to Roma. 1 of these projects was suspended due to fraud investigation while the other 2 projects were finalized during 2016. In addition to these, 2 other projects included activities partially involving Roma population. The total amount spent under Measure 2 was 101,313 Eur.

Programme RO13 - Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage managed by the Ministry of Culture

The PO paid a special attention to Roma related issues.

Within the Programme, 81 projects were implemented out of which 44 included Roma related issues (i.e. Roma culture related events/productions, combating hate speech, extremism, racism, tolerance, homophobia etc.). There were 36 large projects and 8 small projects which touched on the Roma related activities in various percentages, between 10% to 100%. The approximate amount (calculated on the basis of the grant value) targeting Roma population exceeds 1,600,000 Eur for large projects and 70,000 Eur for small projects. Therefore, the 10% of the Programme total eligible costs targeting the improvement of the Roma situation was exceeded.

Projects entailing the Roma component outlined the following achievements: 4,166 ethnic people, including Roma people involved in projects activities (children, artists etc.), 18 music concerts, 3 documentary films, 8 theatre shows, 1 festival, 3 dedicated exhibitions, 11 workshops, 3 fairs.

Programme RO14 - Research within Priority Sectors

A concise plan on the manner in which the allocation of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the Programme to target the improvement of the situation of the Roma population was defined, sent and approved by the Financial Mechanism Committee.

The condition set by the Donor States to grant at least 10% of total eligible costs of the programme, of minimum 2.353.000 euro, for the improvement of the situation of the Roma population was

fulfilled. Six joint research projects (representing 26% of the total number of projects), with a total contracted budget of 4.974.000 euro, targeted the improvement of the situation of the Roma population in the priority fields of “Social sciences and humanities” (5 projects) and “Health and food safety” (1 project).

Research results of the projects addressing the Roma issue are the following: 20 joint publications plus 52 publications, 89 researchers out of which 28 PhDs and postdoc researchers, 4 new project proposals, 8 PhD/Master thesis defended, 9 published books, 91 policy recommendations, 1 film, 1 debate at national TV channel, 1 award at Hate Gala, Active Watch, and 7 presentations at national and international conferences.

Programme RO 15 – Scholarships

The final situation is of limited satisfaction related to the conditionality in the area of improving the social integration of Roma. Although the PO made all efforts to positively discriminate projects addressing Roma issues or Roma students in the mobility projects, at the level of the whole Programme there were only 2 cooperation projects and one small size cooperation project addressing Roma issues, (amounting to around 3.47% of the budget). The HE system—at least taking into account its actual situation in Romania- is not the most appropriate environment to absorb funds that could really make a difference in the Roma population conditions. The main component of our Programme being the mobility of the students, the discussions between the PO and several organisations dealing with Roma revealed some pertinent reasons of reluctance of Roma students to go in mobility abroad: they consider the language as a barrier, most of them start to be employed after the 1-st study year and they do not want to lose the job through going abroad; moreover, there is a problem to identify them at university level, since most of them do not want to officially declare their ethnicity.

Programme RO19 - Public Health Initiatives

The Programme has also targeted the improvement of the situation of the Roma, an amount of 2,418,193 euro being dedicated to this objective which represents 9.95% of the certified expenses of the programme. More than 55,529 Roma benefited of the measures financed by the Programme in 7 out of 8 predefined projects mentioned within the Final Strategic Report.

As noted by the Rapid Assessment report *Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants: Results from Romania and Bulgaria* -, prepared for Financial Mechanism Office by a team of consultants from CREDA and Blomeyer & Sanz, between June and August 2017 , impressive health initiatives in Romania organised new types of pro-active outreach campaigns directly in Roma communities, thus raising the awareness on health issues, rights and services. As a result, Roma people (mostly Roma women, mothers and infants, as well as Roma youth) received medical consultations, examinations and diverse specialised tests. Doctors, nurses and health care specialists worked directly within Roma communities. Increased trust between medical specialists and Roma patients has raised the number of Roma women, who have started visiting health care facilities. The project “Strengthening the National Network of Roma Health Mediators to Improve the Health Status of the Roma Population” increased Roma access to basic health care information and services with the help of Community Health Centres set up in 45 vulnerable communities with a significant share of Roma population. 20 Community Health Teams of Roma health mediators and community nurses worked intensively with Roma families and children to study their health needs, organise specialised informational campaigns and facilitate their access to the general practitioners (family doctors). The project is excellent example of effective preventive health care services provided directly in the targeted communities, including increased awareness of health rights and

basic literacy on health issues as a preparatory step for increased access to mainstream health care services.

Programme RO 20 - Domestic and gender based violence

Regarding the objective of improvement of the situation for the Roma population, the Roma inclusion plan was implemented through the pre-defined project no RO20-0001 “Best practice model on assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings – Pilot project”, promoted by the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, as well as through 2 projects selected under the call – RO20-0012 „Together for Change”, promoted by AEPADO – European Association for Human Rights Protection and RO20-0006 „CONSENS: Awareness raising campaign on the negative effects of domestic violence in the regions Bucharest-Ilfov and South Muntenia”, promoted by The Association Club Ecotur Dora D’Istria.

Within the project no RO20-0001 “Best practice model on assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings – Pilot project”, a national prevention campaign aiming at reducing the risks associated with trafficking in human beings within vulnerable communities, including Roma, was successfully carried out nationwide. The campaign focused on child begging, identified particularly among Roma communities, having a negative effect both at national and inter-national level (considering the migration characteristic of Roma peoples). Thus, the campaign increased the level of information and awareness among Roma communities on trafficking in human beings, which led to a reduction of the number of THB victims.

Within the project no RO20-0012 „Together for Change”, a regional² awareness campaign on the domestic violence phenomenon targeting deprived communities, inhabited mainly by Roma population, was successfully implemented. The events focused on informing and sensitizing the community members and/or victims of domestic violence about the gravity of this phenomenon, the protective measures and the existing legislative framework on the promotion and protection of their rights.

Within the project no RO20-0006 „CONSENS: Awareness raising campaign on the negative effects of domestic violence in the regions Bucharest-Ilfov and South Muntenia”, awareness raising seminars were organized at the level of the Roma communities in Bucharest, Buftea, Pantelimon, Popești Leordeni, Călărași, Giurgiu, Pitești, Câmpulung, Ploiești, Slobozia, Alexandria and Targoviste. Further, a video illustrating the life stories of female victims of domestic violence was produced and disseminated among the target group of the project. Moreover, questionnaires were applied among Roma women in the Bucharest-Ilfov and South-Muntenia regions and a study was developed reflecting the Roma population's awareness of the domestic violence legislation in force in Romania. The project contributed to increased level of knowledge among Roma women on the new rights conferred by recent legislative changes in the field of the fight against domestic violence, especially the benefits presented by the introduction of the protection order.

Programme RO21 - Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organized Crime, including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups

The Programme RO21 included horizontal measures, targeting vulnerable communities. In this respect, the related activities regarding Roma issues were designed having into regard the specific competencies of the PO (the Ministry of Internal Affairs), in order to ensure an effective implementation of the measures, according to the legal provisions.

Thus, according to the Programme Agreement, 15% of the total budget of the Programme was dedicated to improve the situation of Roma communities. The issues were targeted particularly by a

² The campaign was organized at regional level, reaching the counties of Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Mures, Alba and Sibiu.

specific project (the PDP4, named “Integrated approach for prevention of victimization in Roma communities”), which included support for increasing the living conditions of Roma communities. Amongst the key activities of the project, we can mention: performing a study at national level that aimed to assess the problems related to Roma victimization; enhancing the knowledge of relevant national/European actors in the field of victimization and training of anti-victimization counsellors; evaluating the effects of exclusion for society; to develop the capacity of Roma NGOs to raise awareness on victimization and crime prevention within Roma communities.

One important component of this project was to provide, through a specialized NGO, direct support for Roma people to obtain identity documents (IDs and certificates of birth). Another key element of the programme was to ensure proper conditions and specific trainings for Romanian police officers in Roma language proficiency, traditions and customs, in order to increase the communication between police staff and Roma ethnics, but also to enhance their level of trust in the police as well.

Indirectly, the project PDP3 (named “National approach to compensation of victims of human trafficking”) contributed to the enhancement of the quality of life for some Roma ethnics, by measures aiming to ensure assistance for victims of human trafficking to get compensations for the mistreatments they faced, considering that many of the THB victims are Roma ethnics. Even PDP1 contributed in some extent to the improvement of the situation, by the prevention measures undertaken in Roma communities, aimed to decrease the occurrence of more important crimes with more dramatic consequences.

Amongst the key achievements that led to reaching the objectives at programme level, we can emphasize the large number of police officers trained in the domain of hate crime and Roma issues (nearly 3,000), the prevention and awareness campaigns (more than 2,300 people were directly informed, by face-to-face counselling, more than 500,000 people informed by mass-media campaigns), support for obtaining about 2,000 identity documents for Roma ethnics, etc. The improvement of VoTs’ situation was an important concern of the programme, and the assessment of the real issues, combined with the awareness campaigns dedicated to the victims in the field of receiving compensations, but to specialists from the authorities as well (20,000 brochures were elaborated and disseminated), is one of the first steps that will lead to a better situation in the future.

Programme RO23 - Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

The programme also attained important achievements with regard to improving the situation of Roma population, by supporting both measures specifically targeting Roma and measures benefitting Roma, along with other vulnerable/ disadvantaged groups, in line with the “10 Common Basic Principles on Roma Inclusion”, a document of the European Commission which recommends, among others, the open group approach (e.g. vulnerable groups, disadvantaged groups etc., with an explicit mention that this includes the Roma, but doesn’t exclude other people who share similar circumstances), as well as with the provisions of the “Strategy of the Government of Romania for the inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2012-2020”, by following the directions of action that could be addressed within the correctional programme area.

Thus, among the achieved results concerning Roma, the following can be highlighted: 90 Roma minors/ youngsters deprived of liberty were made subject to the integrated tool for the evaluation of the relapse risk and another 23 participated in the modular type special assistance programme (i.e. educational and psycho-social recovery programme); 32 detained Roma women were involved in the piloting of the specialised protocols for assisting women detainees suffering of specific

psychological disorders (i.e. depression, anxiety, personality disorders), as well as in the piloting of the programme for their personal optimization (e.g. developing skills for independent and critical thinking, communication, assertive behaviour and personal resources); 58 Roma detainees from Tulcea Prison (Chilia section) were trained theoretically and practically as qualified workers in eco-constructions (27 Roma detainees), carpentry (29 Roma detainees) and rush weaving (2 Roma detainees), with a view to increase their competitive advantage on the job market and to facilitate their social reintegration; 26 Roma offenders under probation supervision participated in the mentoring programme for encouraging their pro-social behaviour and positive attitude, as well as for supporting the development of their skills etc.

Programme RO24 - Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation

Regarding the Roma inclusion plan, it was implemented through the predefined project no. 3 „Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups”. In order to achieve the 10% target for the improvement of the situation of the Roma population, despite the lack of the statistical data related to ethnicity or race within the Romanian judicial system, the approach was the following:

Supporting the fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategy for the inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority (2012-2020) by following the directions for action related to the “justice and public order” which could be addressed within the current programme area;

Observing the recommendations within the “10 Common Basic Principles on Roma Inclusion” (document of the European Commission), with reference to the ‘open’ groups approach (e.g. vulnerable groups, disadvantaged groups, etc.) with an explicit mention that this includes the Roma (explicit mention of Roma population, but not excluding other people who share similar circumstances).

Thus, the following results have been achieved:

- A feasibility study on the access to justice of vulnerable groups, with a special focus on the Roma was carried out and it assesses the main difficulties faced by vulnerable groups in Romania, and provides for recommendations to improve access to justice for them, including the Roma population.
- 7 legal assistance offices were set up, within existing court buildings in geographical areas with large communities of Roma population. 762 cases were handled by the lawyers.
- An awareness campaign was organised in the regions where the legal assistance office were set up in order to promote relevant information on their activity of the free legal assistance offices, and the informative package;
- 139 participants (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) attended 5 training activities on anti-discrimination;
- An informative package was elaborated on specific domains pertaining to access to justice, tailored to respond to the needs of the Roma population and other vulnerable groups, based on the conclusions of the study on access to justice;
- 7 regional workshops (234 representatives of local and central public authorities, social NGOs, courts, bars, local Roma communities etc.) were organised in order to present and disseminate the informative package to relevant stakeholders, and to discuss various ways of improving access to justice and solutions to problems faced by local communities.
- 10 training sessions on improving access to justice and combating discrimination were organised and 236 participants attended – representatives of central and local authorities, courts, prosecutor’s offices, bars, NGOs).

Furthermore, an activity implemented by the Superior Council of the Magistracy was financed out of the fund for bilateral relations, which implied the organisation of an international seminar in order to disseminate the conclusions and recommendations of the study on access to justice elaborated by the team of experts selected within the project “Improving access to justice. An integrated approach with a focus on Roma and other vulnerable groups”. The seminar was attended by relevant national and international stakeholders (e.g., the National Council for Combating Discrimination, the National Agency for Roma, Council of Europe, the World Bank department dealing with Roma, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest, national and international NGOs etc.).

Last but not least, in order to address this concern, the SCM concluded a partnership with the National Agency for Roma - a relevant institution having competencies over the Roma specific problems.

Programme RO25 – Poverty alleviation

The programme aimed at intensively contributing to Roma inclusion and empowerment in Romania.

Following the implementation of the projects in the RO25 Programme, a database and the set of national maps with the socio-demographic and economic profile of Roma communities are now available and provide a better understanding of the problems and needs of Roma communities. They indicate priorities for action and substantiate interventions or funding programs relevant to the real needs of Roma communities. The mapping initiative, pursued by the SocioRoMap project, was addressing an important issue - lack of reliable data and information regarding Roma population. Relevant data on the situation of Roma communities, the needs and priorities, the structure of human and material capital are essential in order to identify policy and intervention that respond to real needs. The project aimed to contribute in combating the social exclusion of Roma by providing research tools and to develop the local capacities for data collection. The novelty of the project stays in clear focus on the local level in data gathering analysis and data validation, as well as on the involvement of a large number of local resources.

Another remarkable result is having now the Roma community from Pata Rat better organized and capable to cooperate with authorities. The people in the Roma community have been supported in obtaining identification papers , in improving access to school (for children and adults), medical, legal and social services (social allowance, employment services, medical service etc.), accessing basic hygiene infrastructure, clothing and food for children. Employability and living conditions increased as well. An innovative social housing methodology was develop, which enabled 35 families to move out from the marginalized communities in Pata Rat into social apartments in integrated areas of the city and its metropolitan area. The participative methodology of developing the housing criteria can become a model, once the consultation processes becomes consolidated, in housing projects as well as in other development initiatives. The project in Pata Rat piloted the transformation of the institutional process of “allocating” social housing units, a process with a usually top-down approach carried out by public authorities, into a process in which the needs and perspectives of the community are embedded into the system, which thus becomes more comprehensible and culturally “translatable” for the targeted individual and the community. Nevertheless, the objective of the project was to pilot participatory methodologies, which can serve as a basis for interventions undertaken by public authorities in order to fulfil their responsibility in implementing national policies of social inclusion.

With a larger geographical coverage, in other areas of the country, 14 kindergarten classes and 10 playgrounds have been built, along with numerous teachers being trained and other professionals in facilitating the development of various activities involving vulnerable children and their parents,

especially from Roma communities. At preschool level, over 200 teachers improved their knowledge of pedagogical practices, benefitting over 4.000 children. Numerous representatives of preschool / school management, together with representatives of local authorities participated in training activities, exchange of good practices, group discussions on child development stages and needs organized at local level.

The project “Community Centres Iasi and Ploiesti” was extremely valued by the set of specifically targeted activities in the field of employment and by the transfer of experience from the Norwegian partners in effective community work, as well as in setting up social enterprises. Offering vocational training and counselling, mediation, on the job trainings within the programme and jobs (up to one-year contracts) equipped the participating Roma with skills and confidence needed to access the labour market. Additionally, a total of 673 medical consultations and treatments were provided on the street with the Mobile Street Clinic, out of which 73 were for homeless people with mental health problems and more than 40 health care services were provided to people affected by addiction.

Perhaps one of the outputs with the strongest effect was the continuous involvement of the parents and the communities in all the activities performed, in parenting sessions, in community conversations meant to identify problems and potential solutions (e.g. raising awareness on the prevention of violence and abuse, promoting healthy behaviours, organizing extracurricular activities, promoting non-discrimination). Community consultative structures became functional at the level of all the communities covered by the projects. Over 3.000 parents improved their parenting skills through various activities organized (some parents even learned how to read during the programme). Some of the parents and the children went outside their hometown for the first time in their life, thus discovering new universes, growing new ambitions and desire for education. Also, discrimination and disparities between Roma and non-Roma have been reduced.

Numerous children and families have been included in active surveillance for provision of integrated package of services in targeted communities. As a result of the activities conducted under the programme, the Government Programme adopted by law includes explicitly the scale-up of integrated community centres and the progressive scale-up of integrated community services, based on the model tested by UNICEF and partners. High-level meetings with the Prime Minister, Vice-Prime Minister, line ministers and State Secretaries (Health, Education, Child Rights Authority) occurred during the programme and confirmed the commitment of the Government to invest and scale up both intervention packages (Minimum Package of Services and Quality Inclusive Education Package) tested in the Bacau project. For the first time, the Country Specific Recommendations from the European Commission to Romania included recommendations to increase the availability and quality of inclusive education and the development on integrated social services at local level. Evidence and information from the model are used to develop the secondary legislation related to the Law on Community Health adopted by Government in February 2017. The Ministries of Social Protection, Health and Education approved a cross-sectoral order to promote coordinated, community-based services for vulnerable populations, especially children and their families. The Ministry of Education adopted ministerial orders to accelerate school desegregation and improve the quality of education.

Therefore, the programme is likely to have long lasting positive effects, both from the perspective of the projects under the programme, as well as the bilateral cooperation. First of all, at least one project is likely to continue in a Romanian –Norwegian partnership that has been developed under the current agreement. Second of all, if we are to look at the sustainability of the project interventions, we see not only children that have enrolled in school and declared their intention to continue their studies even without the programme intervention, but also a higher level of

engagement from all the stakeholders that have been involved in the projects implementation, from the parents of the Roma children and from the responsible local authorities. Services set up under the programme will continue also after the programme closing, such as the SalvaTex stores that are self-sustained, the Mobile health clinic, the community groups, kindergarten groups have been established and included in the national education plan and will continue to integrate pre-schoolers, methodologies have been developed and further distributed to interested third parties, professionals have been trained (teachers, public servants, policemen, social workers, school mediators etc.) and will continue to benefit numerous beneficiaries and also several of the promoters have continued to finance the interventions from various sources for a limited period of time (usually until the end of the school year).

In this general context, the programme RO25 – Poverty Alleviation is a singular, coagulated and integrated initiative that through the financed projects has tried to cover different domains - education, social services, employment and social housing. As it is mentioned in “Increasing Roma Inclusion via the EEA and Norway Grants: Results from Romania and Bulgaria. Rapid Assessment report” 2017, projects implemented by Roma Education Fund and Salvation Army in Romania were considered “successful interventions contributing to increased access to education of Roma children and youth.” In most of the initiatives developed, the key success factors for the initiatives were the partnerships created, involving not only public authorities, but also experienced Roma and pro-Roma NGOs, as well as building upon methodologies previously tested. Involvement of Roma in the local implementation teams also contributed significantly to better assessing the needs, facilitating access and developing trust and support in the Roma communities.

Attachment 7 - Work plan for the next period, including post-completion activities

National Focal Point

- Preparation and submission to CA of the Final Report for Technical Assistance and Final Balance for Programme RO01 - by October 2018
- Follow-up on any outstanding issues regarding the closure process at the level of the AA and CA
- Follow-up on the finalization of the FPR for Programme RO02 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – July/August 2018
- Finalization of the evaluation of Programmes and dissemination of the conclusions – August 2018
- The NFP will monitor the activity performed by POs for the verification of project sustainability conditions, as established by the Regulation, Programme Agreements and project contracts, in accordance with Article 7.15 of the Regulations. The NFP will request plans for the monitoring of project-level sustainability conditions from POs, in a standard format, to be reported on once a year. In addition, the NFP will perform own checks of project sustainability, on a sample basis – beginning with the approval of the FPRs, for a duration of minimum 5 years.

Certifying Authority

Activities for the next period, including post-completion

- re-submission of revised versions of FPRs to FMO via DoRIS
- certification and submission to FMO of FPR for Programme RO02;
- payment of the debit notes issued by FMO;
- certification and submission to FMO of the FPR for Programme RO01 by the deadline (end of November 2018)
- submission of quarterly/ immediate reports on irregularities to FMO: follow-up of already reported irregularities still opened in DoRIS in the context of programme closure (33 cases of irregularities still opened in DoRIS), and new cases of irregularities which may occur in the next period of time;
- answer to FMO`s requests for clarifications in relation to the closure of the programmes.

Audit Authority

Regarding the closure process, the Audit Authority will issue a single Closure Declaration that will have attached all the final audit reports. The final audit reports will assess the final balance declared in the Final Programme Reports and the treatment of irregularities. Within the final report an operational audit will also be performed on a representative sample from all the expenditures not verified by the Audit Authority until the final report.

For each final audit mission the AA has allocated a time budget of 20 working days (10 days operational audit and 10 days closure audit). During closure activity we have encountered some difficulties that may affect the presentation of the final declaration due on the 31 December 2018:

- the information presented in the financial reports was not correlated with the information provided by the accounting system. In this context the audit team had to perform supplementary work to identify the errors and to correct them before sampling;
- due to reduced number of staff allocated for the closure activity at the level of POs the information and the supporting documents requested by the AA were not presented in due time;
- the late submission of the Final Programme Reports and the audit mission requested by the FMO regarding the double financing mentioned in the audit report of Moore Stephens LLP (4 months/4 persons) have delayed the closure process at the level of AA.

Until 30th of June 2018, the AA has finalized and endorsed 5 final audit reports for RO 03, RO 05, RO 10, RO 15 and RO 18. For the other Programmes the stage is the following:

- RO12, RO21 - the audit reports were drafted;
- RO11, RO13, RO20 - the audits are performed at the level of POs;
- RO23, RO24 - the PO is preparing the supporting documentation regarding the sample that will be verified;
- RO19, RO07 - the information provided by the PO in the financial reports and accountancy is verified in order to select the sample;
- RO06, RO14, RO01 - not started;
- RO02, RO04 - the information requested by AA in order to draw the sample not presented to the AA.