

Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021  
ROMANIA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM  
2014-2021

between

THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY,  
hereinafter referred to as "Norway"

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA,  
hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

WHEREAS the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 establishes a financial mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the "Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021") through which Norway will contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area;

WHEREAS the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 aims to strengthen relations between Norway and the Beneficiary State to the mutual benefit of their peoples;

WHEREAS the enhanced co-operation between Norway and the Beneficiary State will contribute to securing a stable, peaceful and prosperous Europe, based on good governance, democratic institutions, the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development;

WHEREAS the Parties agree to establish a framework for cooperation in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021;

HAVE AGREED on the following:

### **Article 1 Objectives**

1. The overall objectives of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States through financial contributions in the priority sectors listed in paragraph 2. Accordingly, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding shall endeavour to select for funding programmes that contribute to the achievement of these objectives.

2. The financial contributions shall be available in the following priority sectors:

- (a) Innovation, research, education and competitiveness;
- (b) Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction;
- (c) Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy;
- (d) Culture, civil society, good governance, fundamental rights and freedoms; and
- (e) Justice and home affairs.

### **Article 2 Legal Framework**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this Memorandum of Understanding, constitute the legal framework of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021:

- (a) the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement");
- (b) the Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation") issued by Norway in accordance with Article 10.5 of the Agreement;
- (c) the programme agreements that will be concluded for each programme; and
- (d) any guidelines adopted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "NMFA") in accordance with the Regulation.

### **Article 3 Financial Framework**

1. In accordance with Article 2.1 of the Agreement, the total amount of the financial contribution is € 1253.7 million in annual tranches of € 179.1 million over the period running from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2021, inclusive.
2. In accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement, a total of € 227,300,000 shall be made available to the Beneficiary State over the period referred to in Paragraph 1.
3. In accordance with Article 3.2.b) of the Agreement, 1% of the total amount referred to in paragraph 2 shall be set aside for a fund for the Promotion of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue.
4. In accordance with Article 10.4 of the Agreement and Article 1.9 of the Regulation, the management costs of Norway shall be covered by the overall amount referred to above. Further provisions to this effect are set out in the Regulation. The net amount of the allocation to be made available to the Beneficiary State is € 210,252,500.

### **Article 4 Roles and responsibilities**

1. Norway shall make funds available in support of eligible programmes proposed by the Beneficiary State and agreed on by the NMFA within the priority sectors listed in Article 3.1 of the Agreement and the programme areas listed in the Annex to the Agreement. Norway and the Beneficiary State shall cooperate on the preparation of concept notes defining the scope and planned results for each programme.
2. The Beneficiary State shall assure the full co-financing of programmes that benefit from support from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in accordance with Annex B and the programme agreements.
3. The NMFA shall manage the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and take decisions on the granting of financial assistance in accordance with the Regulation.
4. The NMFA shall be assisted by the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the "FMO"). The FMO shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and shall serve as a contact point.

### **Article 5 Designation of authorities**

The Beneficiary State has authorised a National Focal Point to act on its behalf. The National Focal Point shall have the overall responsibility for reaching the objectives of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 as well as for the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in the Beneficiary State in accordance with the Regulation. In accordance with Article 5.2 of the Regulation, the National Focal Point, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority, and the Irregularities Authority are designated in Annex A.

### **Article 6 Multi-annual Programming Framework**

1. In accordance with Article 2.5 of the Regulation, the Parties have agreed on an implementation framework consisting of the following financial and substantive parameters:

- (a) a list of agreed programmes and the financial contribution from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 by programme;
- (b) identification of programmes, their objective, their main focus, as appropriate, the grant rate by programme, the bilateral ambitions as well as any specific concerns relating to target groups, geographical areas or other issues;
- (c) identification of programme operators, as appropriate;
- (d) identification of Donor Programme Partners, as appropriate;
- (e) identification of International Partner Organisations, as appropriate;
- (f) identification of pre-defined projects to be included in relevant programmes.

2. The implementation framework is outlined in Annex B.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Fund for bilateral relations**

In accordance with Article 4.6 of the Regulation the Beneficiary State shall set aside funds to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary State. The National Focal Point shall manage the use of the fund for bilateral relations and shall establish a Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Regulation.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Annual meetings**

In accordance with Article 2.7 of the Regulation an annual meeting shall be held between the NMFA and the National Focal Point. The annual meeting shall allow the NMFA and the National Focal Point to examine progress achieved over the previous reporting period and agree on any necessary measures to be taken. The annual meeting shall provide a forum for discussion of issues of bilateral interest.

#### **Article 9**

##### **Modification of the annexes**

Annex A and B may be amended through an exchange of letters between the NMFA and the National Focal Point.

#### **Article 10**

##### **Control and Access to Information**

The NMFA, the Office of the Auditor General of Norway and their representatives have the right to carry out any technical or financial mission or review they consider necessary to follow the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects as well as the use of funds. The Beneficiary State shall provide all necessary assistance, information and documentation.

#### **Article 11**

##### **Governing Principles**

1. The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall in all aspects be governed by the Regulation and subsequent amendments thereof.

2. The objectives of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 shall be pursued in the framework of close co-operation between Norway and the Beneficiary State. The Parties agree to apply the highest degree of transparency, accountability and cost efficiency as well as the principles of good governance, partnership and multi-level governance, sustainable development, gender equality and equal opportunities in all implementation phases of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

3. The Beneficiary State shall take proactive steps in order to ensure adherence to these principles at all levels involved in the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

4. No later than 31 December 2020, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding shall review progress in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and thereafter agree on reallocations within and between the programmes, where appropriate. The conclusion of this review shall be taken into account by the National Focal Point when submitting the proposal on the allocation of the reserve referred to in Article 1.11 of the Regulation.

#### Article 12

#### Entry into Force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the day after the date of its last signature.

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This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in two originals in the English Language.

Signed in Bucaresti on 13/10-16  
For the Kingdom of Norway

Espen T. Nord

Signed in Bucaresti on 13/10-16  
For the Government of Romania

G. C.

## **National management and control structures**

### **1. National Focal Point**

The General Directorate for Non-reimbursable Financial Mechanisms and Instruments (GDNFMI) shall act as the National Focal Point.

The GDNFMI is a General Directorate within the Ministry of European Funds, headed by a General Director and under the coordination of a Secretary of State. In addition to its role as National Focal Point, the GDNFMI is designated Paying Authority for the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme and holds various roles in a number of EU financed programmes.

The General Director of the General Directorate for Non-reimbursable Financial Mechanisms and Instruments shall act as the head of the National Focal Point.

The roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Point are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.3 thereof.

### **2. Certifying Authority**

The Certifying and Paying Authority (CPA) shall act as Certifying Authority.

The Certifying and Paying Authority is a General Directorate within the Ministry of Public Finance, headed by a General Director and under the coordination of a Secretary of State.

The CPA acts as the executive body of the National Authorising Officer (NAO) for EU pre-accession funds and Certifying Authority for the Structural and Cohesion Funds.

The General Director of the Certifying and Paying Authority shall act as the head of the Certifying Authority.

The roles and responsibilities of the Certifying Authority are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.4 thereof.

### **3. Audit Authority**

The Central Harmonization Unit for Public Internal Audit (CHUPIA) shall act as Audit Authority.

The CHUPIA is a directorate within the Ministry of Public Finance, headed by a Director and under the direct coordination of the Minister of Public Finance.

The CHUPIA is the national authority responsible for the preparation and implementation of the strategy and general normative framework for public internal audit, the coordination and evaluation of the public internal audit activity at national level, conducting public internal audit missions of national interest with multi-sectoral implications and Audit Authority for the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme.

The Director of the CHUPIA shall act as the head of the Audit Authority.

The roles and responsibilities of the Audit Authority are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 5.5 thereof.

The Audit Authority shall be functionally independent of the National Focal Point and the Certifying Authority.

#### **4. Irregularities Authority**

The Certifying and Paying Authority shall act as the Irregularities Authority.

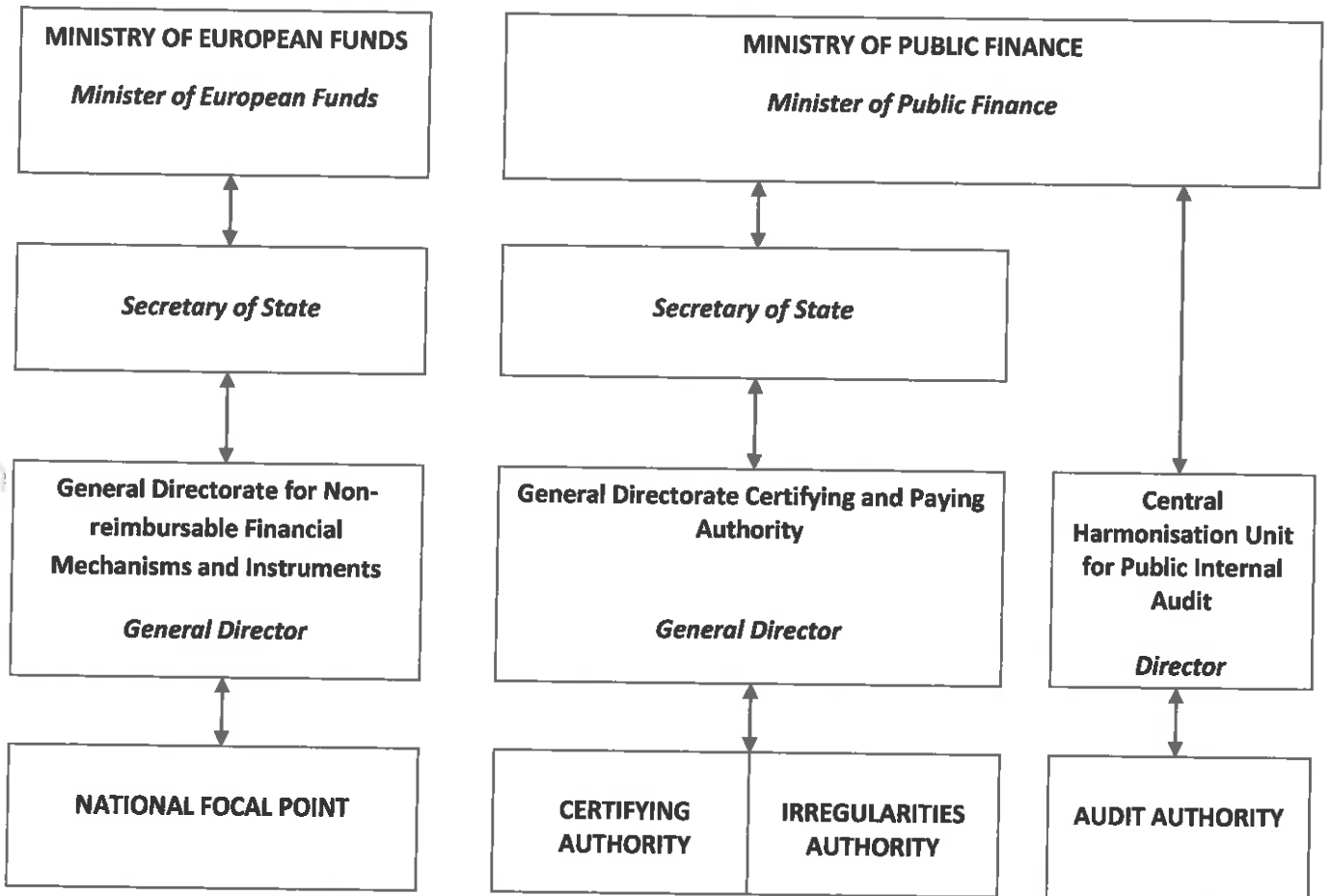
The Certifying and Paying Authority is organised as General Directorate within the Ministry of Public Finance, headed by a General Director and under the coordination of a Secretary of State.

The roles and responsibilities of the Irregularities Authority are stipulated in the Regulation, in particular Article 12.3 thereof.

#### **5. Strategic Report**

In accordance with Article 2.6 of the Regulation, the National Focal Point shall annually submit to the NMFA a Strategic Report on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in the Beneficiary State. The Strategic Report shall be submitted to the NMFA at least two months before the annual meeting unless otherwise agreed.

6. Organigram





ANNEX B

**Implementation framework**

In accordance with Article 2.5 of the Regulation, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have agreed on an implementation framework outlined in this Annex.

**1. Financial parameters of the implementation framework**

	ROMANIA	Norwegian FM contribution	National contribution
	<b>Programmes</b>		
1	Business Development Innovation and SMEs	€ 20,000,000	N/A
2	Research	€ 25,000,000	€ 4,411,765
3	Social Dialogue - Decent Work	€ 2,273,000	N/A
4	Local Development and Poverty Reduction, Enhanced Roma Inclusion	€ 45,000,000	€ 7,941,176
5	Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security	€ 32,933,500	N/A
6	Justice	€ 45,000,000	€ 7,941,176
7	Home Affairs	€ 24,000,000	€ 4,235,294
	<b>Other allocations</b>		
	Technical assistance to the Beneficiary State (Art. 1.10)	€ 1,500,000	N/A
	Reserve (Art. 1.11)	€ 10,000,000	N/A
	Reserve for completion of projects under FM 2009-2014 (Art. 1.12)	N/A	N/A
	Fund for bilateral relations (Art. 4.6.1)	€ 4,546,000	N/A
	<b>Net allocation to Romania</b>	<b>€ 210,252,500</b>	<b>€ 24,529,412</b>

**2. Specific concerns**

Bilateral relations between Norway and Romania shall be strengthened with the aim of stimulating and developing long-term cooperation within all areas listed in the Annex to the Agreement. It is also an ambition to strengthen bilateral cooperation at political level and European level in areas of common interest.

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree that, in addition to measures implemented under the programme 'Local Development and Poverty Reduction, Enhanced Roma Inclusion', at least 10% of the combined total eligible expenditure of the programmes 'Research', 'Justice' and 'Home Affairs' and the programmes 'Research', 'Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship', 'European Public Health Challenges' and 'Cultural Entrepreneurship, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Exchange' under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, shall target the

improvement of the situation for the Roma population. The Parties shall agree on how to reach this target through a plan to be coordinated by the National Focal Point.

### 3. Substantive parameters of the implementation framework

The programmes described below are to be implemented subject to the approval of the NMFA, in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Regulation.

#### A. Programme: Business Development, Innovation and SMEs

<i>Programme objective:</i>	Increased value creation and sustainable growth
<i>Programme grant:</i>	€ 20,000,000
<i>Programme co-financing:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Programme Operator:</i>	FMO in accordance with Article 6.13 of the Regulation. Innovation Norway is appointed Fund Operator in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 6.13 of the Regulation.
<i>Programme area(s):</i>	Business Development, Innovation and SMEs
<i>Special concerns:</i>	National Programme Partner could be considered in order to build up capacity and transfer knowledge.  In developing the concept note and during the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme <b>Research</b> , the programme <b>Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security</b> , the programme <b>Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship</b> (implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021) and other programmes, where relevant.
<i>Bilateral ambitions:</i>	€ 200,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

The programme will be implemented in conjunction with the programme **Business Development, Innovation and SMEs** implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

#### B. Programme: Research

<i>Programme objective:</i>	Enhance research-based knowledge development
<i>Programme grant:</i>	€ 25,000,000
<i>Programme co-financing:</i>	€ 4,411,765
<i>Programme Operator:</i>	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding
<i>Donor Programme Partner(s):</i>	Research Council of Norway (NFR)
<i>Programme area(s):</i>	Research
<i>Special concerns:</i>	The programme shall, inter alia, include support to research in the following areas: energy, environment, health, social

sciences and humanities including gender studies and social inclusion studies. Research on carbon capture and storage shall be encouraged.

The programme should support basic and applied research selected on the basis of research excellence.

This programme shall contribute to the improvement of the situation for the Roma population and shall contribute towards the target set in section 2 'Specific concerns' of this Annex.

In developing the concept note and during the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme **Business Development, Innovation and SMEs**, the programme **Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security**, the programme **Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship** (implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021) and other programmes, where relevant.

*Bilateral ambitions:* € 200,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

The programme will be implemented in conjunction with the programme **Research** implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

#### **C. Programme: Social Dialogue – Decent Work**

*Programme objective:* Strengthened tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and the promotion of decent work

*Programme grant:* € 2,273,000

*Programme co-financing:* Not applicable

*Programme Operator:* FMO in accordance with Article 6.13 of the Regulation. Innovation Norway is appointed Fund Operator in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 6.13 of the Regulation.

*Programme area(s):* Social Dialogue – Decent Work

#### **D. Programme: Local Development and Poverty Reduction, Enhanced Roma Inclusion**

*Programme objective:* Strengthened social and economic cohesion

*Programme grant:* € 45,000,000

*Programme co-financing:* € 7,941,176

*Programme Operator:* Romanian Social Development Fund

*Donor Programme Partner(s):* Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)

*International Partner Organisation(s):* Council of Europe (CoE)

*Programme area(s):* Local Development and Poverty Reduction  
Roma Inclusion and Empowerment

## Human Rights – National Implementation

### Children and Youth at Risk

#### Good governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency

*Special concerns:*

The programme shall include measures that address education, including combating early school leaving, housing improvement, employment and health components.

Municipalities in disadvantaged areas with a high percentage of Roma population shall be given priority.

The programme shall strengthen the national implementation of human rights standards and norms, focusing on anti-discrimination legislation.

The possibility of pre-defining project(s) with the Council of Europe and, as relevant, other international stakeholders, shall be explored when developing the concept note.

The possibility of pre-defining project(s) with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shall be explored when developing the concept note.

A minimum of € 20 million shall be set aside for further developing the results of projects funded by the Programme 'Poverty Alleviation' under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. The modalities, including any pre-defined projects, shall be specified during the development of the concept note.

A maximum level of funding available from the total eligible expenditure of the programme for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be identified in the concept note.

The National Focal Point and the Programme Operator shall at the latest by the submission of the programme concept note, submit a plan to ensure adequate programme management capacity of the Programme Operator.

*Bilateral ambitions:*

€ 150,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

The programme will be implemented in conjunction with the programme **Local Development and Poverty Reduction, Enhanced Roma Inclusion** implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

### **E. Programme: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security**

<i>Programme objective:</i>	Less carbon intensive energy and increased security of supply
<i>Programme grant:</i>	€ 32,933,500
<i>Programme co-financing:</i>	Not applicable

<i>Programme Operator:</i>	FMO in accordance with Article 6.13 of the Regulation. Innovation Norway is appointed Fund Operator in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 6.13 of the Regulation.
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	Romanian Ministry of Energy
<i>programme partners:</i>	Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
<i>Donor Programme Partner(s):</i>	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)
<i>Programme area(s):</i>	Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Security
<i>Special concerns:</i>	<p>Special concern shall be given to electricity supply solutions in areas where connection to the electricity network is not feasible with the aim to increase access to energy to at least 5000 households not connected to the energy network.</p> <p>Special concern shall be given to research and development related to Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security.</p> <p>In developing the concept note and during the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme <b>Business Development, Innovation and SMEs</b>, the programme <b>Research</b>, the programme <b>Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship</b> (implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021) and other programmes, where relevant.</p>
<i>Bilateral ambitions:</i>	€ 200,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

The programme will be implemented in conjunction with the programme **Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security** implemented under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

#### **F. Programme: Justice**

<i>Programme objective:</i>	Strengthened rule of law
<i>Programme grant:</i>	€ 45,000,000
<i>Programme co-financing:</i>	€ 7,941,176
<i>Programme Operator:</i>	Ministry of Justice
<i>Donor Programme Partner(s):</i>	Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ) Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI) Norwegian Courts Administration (DA)
<i>International Partner Organisation(s):</i>	Council of Europe (CoE)
<i>Programme area(s):</i>	Correctional Services and Pre-trial Detention Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Judicial System, Strengthening the Rule of Law Domestic and Gender Based Violence

*Special concerns:*

**Good Governance, Accountable Institutions, Transparency**

No more than 60% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme and no more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme area 'Domestic and Gender Based Violence' shall be available for infrastructure (hard measures).

The programme shall include measures to increase the use of alternative sanctions to imprisonment.

This programme shall contribute to the improvement of the situation for the Roma population and shall contribute towards the target set in section 2 'Specific concerns' of this Annex.

In developing the concept note and during the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme **Home Affairs** in order to strengthen the justice chain, inter alia, regarding access to justice, good governance, gender based violence and trafficking in human beings.

Synergies between the programme areas within this programme shall be ensured to strengthen the justice chain, inter alia, regarding the use of alternative sanctions to imprisonment.

Interaction and cooperation with relevant civil society organisations shall be encouraged.

*Bilateral ambitions:*

€ 250,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

*Pre-defined projects:*

The programme will include the following pre-defined projects:

**1. Correctional Services**

Project with the objective of establishing up to five pilot correctional centers (possibly in Baia Mare, Vaslui, Iasi, Targu Mures, Botosani) that will improve the capacity to provide social reintegration services to inmates, former inmates and persons supervised by the probation services, through the collaboration of the penitentiary and probation systems and of local authorities in Romania.

Project promoter: National Administration of Penitentiaries

Donor project partners: TBD

Maximum grant amount: : € 31,870,000

**2. Judiciary Training and Capacity Building**

Project on judiciary training and capacity building, addressing, inter alia, the concept of European judicial culture, the European Convention on Human Rights and upgrading the

training infrastructure.

Project promoter: Superior Council of Magistracy/National Institute of Magistracy

Donor project partner: Norwegian Courts Administration

Minimum grant amount: € 2,500,000

3. Project on Domestic and Gender Based Violence addressing recommendations of Council of Europe based on the Istanbul Convention. The project shall be designed to strengthen the justice chain in this domain and ensure cooperation with civil society.

Project promoter: TBD

Project partner: TBD

Minimum grant amount: € 2,500,000

#### 4. Fighting Criminality and Corruption

Project on fighting criminality including corruption and good governance which will, inter alia, improve the knowledge and capabilities of staff, upgrade the technical equipment needed to carry out these measures.

Project promoter: General Prosecutors Office in partnership with its specialised departments, the National Anticorruption Department and the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism

Project partner: TBD

Maximum grant amount: : € 4,250,000

#### **G. Programme: Home Affairs**

*Programme objective:* Strengthened rule of law

*Programme grant:* € 24,000,000

*Programme co-financing:* € 4,235,294

*Programme Operator:* Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)

*Donor Programme Partner(s):* Norwegian Ministry of Justice (NMOJ)

National Police Directorate (POD)

Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)

Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) - TBD

*International Partner Organisation(s):* Council of Europe (CoE)

*Programme area(s):* International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime

Asylum and Migration

Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

*Special concerns:*

No more than 60% of the total eligible expenditure of the programme shall be available for infrastructure (hard measures).

This programme shall contribute to the improvement of the situation for the Roma population and shall contribute towards the target set in section 2 'Specific concerns' of this Annex.

In developing the concept note and during the implementation of the programme, the Programme Operator shall seek to ensure synergies with the programme Justice in order to strengthen the justice chain, inter alia, regarding access to justice, good governance, gender based violence and trafficking in human beings.

Synergies between the programme areas within this programme shall be explored during the concept note phase and implementation of the programme.

The projects shall enhance the interaction and cooperation with relevant civil society organisations.

*Bilateral ambitions:*

€ 250,000 shall be allocated to the programme from the fund for bilateral relations. This does not prevent the Joint Committee for Bilateral Funds from allocating additional funds to the programme.

*Pre-defined projects*

The programme will include the following pre-defined projects:

1. Project on International Police Cooperation and Combatting Crime

The project will include bilateral cooperation and possibly deployment of Romanian and Norwegian police, combatting trafficking and economic crimes and improving the technical capacity of the Romanian police and other specialized structures of the MoIA in fighting crime to international standards.

Project promoter: General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police

Donor project partner: TBD

Project partner: TBD

Maximum grant amount: € 10,000,000

2. Project on asylum and migration mainly focusing on improving the conditions for the most vulnerable asylum seekers, improving quality related to reception facilities and case handling and preparedness towards mass influx of asylum seekers.

Project promoter: General Inspectorate for Immigration

Donor project partner: TBD

Project partner: TBD

Maximum grant amount: € 5,000,000



**3. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (Nuclear and Radiology Safety)**

The project on disaster prevention and preparedness, including the continuation of the project 'Regional Excellence Project on Regulatory Capacity Building in Nuclear and Radiological Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Response in Romania' financed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

Project promoter: National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN)

Project partner: TBD

Donor project partner: The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA)

Maximum grant amount: € 3,500,000

**4. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (Emergency Capacity)**

The project shall mainly focus on preventing and reducing the risk of disasters and associated vulnerabilities, enhancing cooperation in the area of disaster prevention and preparedness between relevant Romanian and Norwegian authorities and strengthening the capacity of the emergency situations personnel, by increasing professional skills, creating/upgrading the training infrastructure and enhancing the hosting capacities of temporary shelters

Project promoter: The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations

Donor project partner: TBD

Maximum grant amount: € 5,000,000