



Minute of the Meeting - Final Project Review

Project: 75020 - Social Economy – a solution for the development of Roma communities in Romania - POSDRU/69/6.1/S/34922

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| <p>Date: 27 February 2014</p> <p>Location: UN House, 48A Primaverii, S1, Bucharest</p> | <p>Participants: <u>Center for Institutional Analysis and Development</u> Ms. Alexandra Mocanu, Financial Manager <u>Government of Romania – Department for Interethnic Relations</u> Mrs. Rodica Precupetu, Head of Department, Programs and Relations with Civil Society and International Organizations Service <u>Roma Civic Alliance for Romania</u> Mrs. Mirela Faitas, Director (online via Skype) <u>United Nations Development Programme</u> Mrs. Monica Moldovan, Head of Programme Unit Mrs. Catalina Serban, Project Coordinator Mrs. Mihaela Timaru, PR Coordinator</p> |
| <p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final Project Review & Lessons Learned 2. Sustainability of the Project Outputs and Knowledge Products Management 3. Transfer/disposal of assets and transitioning of responsibilities to national counterparts 4. Effective date of project closure | |

Main points of the discussion:

The project “Social Economy – a solution for the development of Roma communities in Romania” was designed by UNDP to contribute to the efforts of the Romanian stakeholders for the development and implementation of the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma Citizens belonging to Roma Minority. Signed by the Management Authority in March 2011, the project is providing support for the development of the socio-economic interventions within Roma communities and is promoting social economy as a social inclusion tool for a group as vulnerable to the insertion on the labor market as that of the Roma.

Working closely with an array of other stakeholders in Roma communities before the project was launched; three primary objectives were set for the UNDP work in the project:

Objective 1: Generate and share strategic information regarding the applicability of SE practices within Roma communities from a social, an economic and an institutional point of view (by assessing the current situation, by documenting and disseminating lessons learned and good practices).

Objective 2: Enhance capacities of the target groups to initiate and develop social enterprises by providing training and technical and financial assistance.

Objective 3: Promoting social economy as a valuable instrument for social inclusion.

The project had a total budget of 4,417,376 RON (approx. 1.3 million USD) and it was financed by the European Social Fund (ESF), through the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013.

The project **key activities** were focused on:

1. *Assessment and development of good practice guidelines*
2. *Support for the development of social enterprises*
3. *Promotion of social economy*

In view of reaching the expected project outcomes and outputs, the team finalized and disseminated an analysis of the opportunities and the key challenges in developing social economy models within Roma communities and worked towards creating the tools for supporting the development of social enterprises (one guideline on how to set up a social enterprise and one compendium of business ideas). Moreover, within the project framework, the team organized events focused on the integrated, sustainable social economy models for Roma communities. Three forum events, six seminars, four trainings, one final conference were used to bring new actors into the national and local dialogue on social economy and Roma communities, including local authorities, Roma communities' members, and representatives of the business community. The developed documents from the project and the organized events within the project framework have been largely presented within local and national mass media due to highly active media campaign employed by the project team within the reported period.

Two social enterprises have been developed within Roma communities with financial and technical support of the project. Sukkarina SRL is a women focused social enterprise that manufactures traditional Roma costumes. The social enterprise gave access to employment for 5 Roma women. The second social enterprise is named SC Albinuta IS SRL and is located in a rural area from the South West region of the country where main occupations of Roma community are informal trade, seasonal work and subsistence agricultural activities. SC Albinuta IS SRL produces pickle products. 5 Roma community members received a job within this social venture. The project team provided technical assistance from the very beginning by offering legal counselling for the official registration of the enterprises, business consultancy and support for the development of the marketing and communication strategy

The project draws on the experience of project partners and on the significant expertise of other UNDP projects on social economy and Roma, both from the national and regional level.

The Project Coordinator presented a situation on the **Project Indicators** according to ESF standards. With the understanding that the documentation for the last two reimbursement requests was transferred to the Main Implementing Partner the indicators were all reached as shown in the table below:

| Indicators | Targeted | Reached |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Number of social economy enterprises | 2 | 2 |
| Number of jobs created within the premises of the social economy enterprises | 10 | 10 |
| Number of vulnerable persons supported through the project activities | 80 | 82 |
| out of ID 129: Number of women | 40 | 38 |
| out of ID 129: Number of Roma | 80 | 82 |
| Number of social inclusion experts participating at the seminars | 160 | 164 |
| % of social inclusion experts that obtain official certification | 90 | 103.12 |
| out of ID 138: % of women | 45 | 66 |
| Number of raising awareness events dedicated to the social inclusion experts (6 seminars and 1 final conference) | 7 | 7 |
| Forum on social economy | 3 | 3 |
| Number of participants to the forums | 210 | 277 |
| Number of printed copies of the Situation analysis report | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Number of printed copies of the Guidelines on how to set a social enterprise | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Number of printed copies of the Compendium on good practices | 2,000 | 2,000 |

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| Number of promotional billboards | 200 | 200 |
| Number of articles on social economy and Roma groups | 50 | 50 |
| Website | 1 | 1 |
| Number of website visitors | 6,000 | 6,107 |
| Number of community leaders who receive project tools | 1,000 | 1,185 |

The UNDP Project Coordinator presented the Final Project Review Report focusing on the impact of the project and the sustainability of the results, reviewing also the lessons learned and formulating a list of recommendations. The project experiences and direct results, supported also by a number of studies, shows that the inclusion of Roma means that national strategy and policy needs to be translated into local action to support health, education, housing, jobs and social protection. It is critical for the integration of Roma, that there are social and economic interactions with the members of the entire local community. Within this context of integrated local development, with regards to the promotion of social economy, the project results recommend three specific measures:

- Social Economy Legislation and policies adapted to the needs of Roma and more generally poor and low-income communities;
- Community preparedness to support the transition of the economic strategies employed by Roma groups to more formalized economic activities; and,
- Development of business support and consultancy networks.

All the lessons learned and case studies were presented by the project team during the final conference organised by the project team on December 18th 2012.

During the project implementation 10 reimbursement requests were submitted to Managing Authority of the Human Resources Development Operational Programme. The last Reimbursement Request will be aggregated and submitted by the main implementing partner by May/June 2014.

Decisions:

The project board decided that the project had fulfil its objectives and consequently will be closed according to the initially established closing date (28 February 2013).

CADI will maintain hosting of the on-line platform www.economiesocialapentruromi.ro in order to ensure the availability of the Project's Knowledge Products.

The project's assest will be transferred to CADI by the end of April 2014, according to both ESF and UNDP Rules and regulations.

The project team's employment contracts will be ended at the end of February 2013. The members of the project team will be responsible for notifying the conclusion of contracts to national taxation bodies and provide the proof of payment for the taxes related to February 2014 salaries.

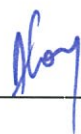
After the completion of the last financial transaction under the the project, CADI, the project beneficiary, will inform the project board about the Operational Closure of the project.


In order to compile the Final Reimbursement Request UNDP will transfer to CADI all the necessary supporting documents by end April 2014.

UNDP will submit for signature to CADI a financial statement for 2013 project expenditures under the form of UNDP Standard *Combined Delivery Report*, in April 2014 for 2013. The project will be financially closed according to UNDP rules on 31 December 2014.

Ms. Alexandra Mocanu, *Financial Manager*
Center for Institutional Analysis and Development

Mrs. Rodica Precupetu, *Head of Department*
Department for Interethnic Relations



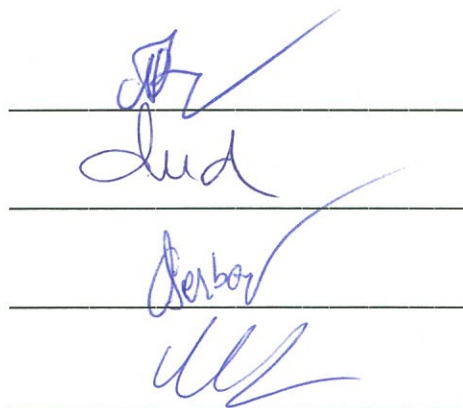


Mrs. Mirela Faitas, Director
Roma Civic Alliance for Romania

Mrs. Monica Moldovan, Head of Programme
United Nations Development Programme

Mrs. Catalina Serban, Project Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme

Mrs. Mihaela Timaru, PR Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme



The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink, each positioned above a horizontal line. The signatures are: 1. A stylized signature starting with 'M' and 'F'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Moldovan'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'Serban'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'Timaru'.