**Managing Authority**

**Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration**

*Joint Operational Programme Romania – Republic of Moldova 2014-2020*

First draft

Bucharest, January 2015

This document is subject to modifications and will be submitted to the JPC for approval in March 2015

# 

**Abbreviations**

CBC – Cross Border Cooperation

CC – County Council

DG DEVCO – Europe Aid Development and Cooperation

EaP – Eastern Partnership

EC – European Commission

ENI – European Neighborhood Instrument

ENPI – European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument

EP – European Parliament

EU – European Union

GIZ – German Society for International Cooperation

JOP – Joint Operational Programme

JOP RO-UA-MD – Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine - Republic of Moldova

JPC – Joint Programming Committee

JTC – Joint Technical Secretariat

HCOP – Human Capital Operational Programme

LIPs – Large Infrastructure Projects

MA – Management Authority

MC – Municipal Council

MD – Republic of Moldova

MEF – Ministry of European Funds

MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MRDPA – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

NGO – Non Governmental Organisation

NPRD– The National Programme for Rural Development

NE – North-East

NRP – National Reform Program

NUTS – Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

OP – Operational Programme

OPAC – Operational Programme Administrative Capacity

OPLI – Operational Programme Large Infrastructure

OPC – Operational Programme Competitiveness

ODA – Official Development Assistance

PA – Partnership Agreement

RA – Regional Authority

R&D – Research and Development

RO – Romania

ROP – Regional Operational Programme

SIDA – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SME – Small and Medium Enterprises

SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats analysis

TWG – Thematic working groups

TA – Technical Assistance

TO – Thematic Objectives

UA – Ukraine

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

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# Introduction

Cross border cooperation at the external borders of the EU continues to represent a top priority for the European Union during the 2014-2020 programming period. In this framework, the cross border cooperation under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) will create added value for the border regions building on its predecessor, the ENPI.

The ENI CBC aims to create “an area of shared prosperity and good neighborliness between EU Member States and their neighbors”. To this purpose, the ENI has three strategic objectives:

* (A)Promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders;
* (B)Address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security;
* (C)Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital.

Each programme has to address at least one strategic objective. Additionally, in order to generate a significant impact for the border area each programme has to focus its strategic intervention in the area on a maximum of four thematic objectives from the following:

1. Business and SME development (Strategic objective: A)
2. Support to education, research, technological development and innovation (Strategic objective: A)
3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage (Strategic objective: A)
4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty (Strategic objectives: A, B, C)
5. Support to local & regional good governance (Strategic objectives: A, B, C)
6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation (Strategic objective: B)
7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems (Strategic objective: C)
8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security (Strategic objective: B)
9. Promotion of energy cooperation (Strategic objective: B)
10. Promotion of border management, and border security (Strategic objective: C)

In the general framework created by the Programming Document 2014-2020, EU Regulation 232/2014 establishing a European Neighborhood Instrument and of the Commission Regulation no 897/2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation 232/2014, the programme partners have to cooperate in order to identify the needs of the programme area and select those thematic objectives and priorities that are most relevant to the programme area.

Within this context, the partner countries nominated the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration from Romania as Managing Authority and have established the Joint Programming Committee (JPC) as decisional body for the programming process. Additionally, two working groups were created, one for the identification of Large Infrastructure Projects and one for the Management and Control structures.

The Romania-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme ensures the legal framework for the financing of cross border cooperation programmes between the two countries during the 2014-2020 programming period.

The methodology for the elaboration of the Romania-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme included stakeholder consultations, socio economic analysis, SWOT and multi-criteria analysis as well as a review of the lessons learnt from the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme. The main steps of the development of the Ro-Md Programme were:

* Socio-economic and SWOT analyses
* Preliminary consultations: interviews, focus groups, online survey
* Coherence analysis and multi-criteria analysis
* Public consultations on the first draft JOP

***Socio-economic and SWOT analyses***

The socio-economic and SWOT analyses were drafted considering the most important features of the eligible area and their likely positive or negative impact. The main areas covered were:

1) Geography;

2) Demography;

3) Economy and Labor Market;

4) Transport and Infrastructure (including public utilities and ICT);

5) Environment and Energy;

6) Health, Social, Safety and Security;

7) Education, Culture, Society;

8) Public Administration and Governance

As a result of the socio-economic and SWOT analysis, the thematic objectives 3 (Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage) and 5 (Support to local & regional good governance) were ruled out.

***Preliminary consultations: interviews, focus groups, online survey***

The preliminary consultations with the Programme stakeholders included interviews with local, regional and national authorities and focus-groups with civil society organizations, universities, Commerce, Industry & Agricultural Chambers and other relevant stakeholders. The preliminary consultation included 15 regional/local level authorities/ institutions and a total number of 29 representatives were interviewed.

The purpose of these consultations was to identify the main needs in the eligible area and to collect the views of the local stakeholders in regards to the activities that would create the most added values for the cross border area. For each type of stakeholder a specific interview guide was drafted (based on a semi-structured questionnaire). The approach to consultations was to identify the central tendency of the distribution of the choices expressed by the interview subjects.

Additionally, 4 focus groups were organized in Romania and 3 in Republic of Moldova involving representatives of local and central administration as well as civil society. The focus groups were used to gather information regarding issues encountered in the implementation of the trilateral programme and to identify the funding priorities for the 2014-2020 programming period.

An **on-line survey** was sent to potential eligible applicants’s from the programme area. The survey was done using a web-based research tool and was submitted via e-mail to 655 potential respondents from the eligible area of the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova JOP (*respondents were asked to select their own country, region and the programme they express their opinions on*). The response rate was of 8%, with a total of 84 answers received.

**Overall results of preliminary consultations** indicated the main preferences of the stakeholders in the eligible area in regards to the thematic objectives to be financed as follows:

* TO1. Business and SME development;
* TO2. Support to education, research, technological development and innovation;
* T0 3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage
* TO4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty
* TO5. Support to local & regional good governance
* TO7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems
* TO8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security

***Past experience analysis***

A review of the lessons learnt from the previous programming period was done in order to gather information for the strategy development. The main findings followed the typical life stages of a project: generation (including identification of partners), application, evaluation, contracting and implementation and provided valuable inputs for the implementation section.

***Coherence and multi-criteria analysis***

According to CBC programming regulations for 2014-2020 period, the CBC programmes must deliver real cross-border added value and not cover elements which are already funded or could more suitably be funded from other ENI or EU programmes. In order to narrow down the thematic objectives to be addressed by the Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme to those that can create the most added value for the region and that are not financed through other funding mechanisms coherence analysis was undertaken.

Based on the CBC programming document 2014-2020, the coherence analysis followed three types of criteria:

* Convergence with European, National and Regional Strategies;
* Potential financing overlaps (in order to be avoided);
* Effectiveness & Complementarity (of the thematic objective with the programme).

As a result of the consistency analysis with other programmes and strategies it was considered that thematic objectives 4 and 5 are already covered through other funding mechanisms and it was decided to exclude them from the list of thematic objectives to be considered for the Romania-Ukraine Programme. Moreover, the Thematic Objective 9 has been introduced as a need to be covered by the Programme.

***Multi criteria analysis***

In order to ensure the consistency of the selected thematic objectives with the realities of the region and with the financial allocation of the programme, a multi-criteria analysis was done. Each thematic objective was scored against 5 criterions by an expert panel. These were:

* Cross border impact
* Capacities for project management
* Relevance for overall financial allocation
* Coherence with strategies and programmes
* Current regional context

As a result of the multi criteria analysis the highest ranking thematic objectives were:

OT 2: Support to education, research, technological development and innovation (Strategic objective: A)

OT 3: Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage (Strategic objective: A)

OT 7: Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems (Strategic objective: C)

OT 8: Common challenges in the field of safety and security (Strategic objective: B)

OT10: Promotion of border management, and border security (Strategic objective: C)

*The results of the selection of thematic objectives were presented to the JPC during the meeting held in Bucharest in October 2014. During the same meeting the JPC approved the list of thematic objectives resulted from the analyses. The approved TOs are:*

OT 2: Support to education, research, technological development and innovation (Strategic objective: A)

OT 3: Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage (Strategic objective: A)

OT 7: Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems (Strategic objective: C)

OT 8: Common challenges in the field of safety and security (Strategic objective: B)

The Joint Programming Committee (JPC) has decided to award large infrastructure projects without a call for proposals (as according to art. 41 of the Commission Implementing Regulation no 897/2014). In this respect, a joint Working Group (WG) was designated with the role was to identify, select and prioritize the list of Large Infrastructure Projects. The joint WG included representatives nominated by the central and regional institutions from the following fields of interest: energy, transport, environment, internal affairs (emergency situations/ border police) and customs. The responsibility of designation the LIP WG members belonged to each participant country.

At national level, a strong and participatory consultation process was carried out with the relevant institutions with a significant role in the previous outlined fields of interests. The consultation objectives were firstly to identify suitable and feasible project ideas at national level and secondly, to obtain the proper input from the relevant stakeholders as regards the national support toward the identified projects.

The project selection itself was based on a working procedure approved by the JPC. More specifically, the stakeholders have submitted project proposals through the use of a template designed to underline the LIP essential criteria and conditions and these were analyzed by the joint Working Group with the support of the Managing Authority.

Projects were discussed and prioritized at the level of the joint Working Group through the means of two meetings (12 May and 18 September 2014).

The Joint Programming Committee approved the list of the Large Infrastructure Projects (including the reserve list) to be selected through the direct award procedure can be consulted in ANNEX I during it xth meeting, on …..2015.

***Public consultations on the first draft JOP (to be filled in after the public consultations)***

# Description of the programme area

# Core regions

The core area of the Romania-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020 was established through the Programming Document 2014-2020 for ENI Cross Border Cooperation and it covers:

**Romania** – 4 counties – Botoșani, Iași, Vaslui and Galați

**Republic of Moldova** – the whole country

The further continuation and development of cross-border cooperation is of utmost importance in the current economic context of the European Union and its neighbors. The territory represents the Romanian-Moldova border region, which in the 2007-2013 period was part of the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova cross-border programme, which has since then been divided into two.

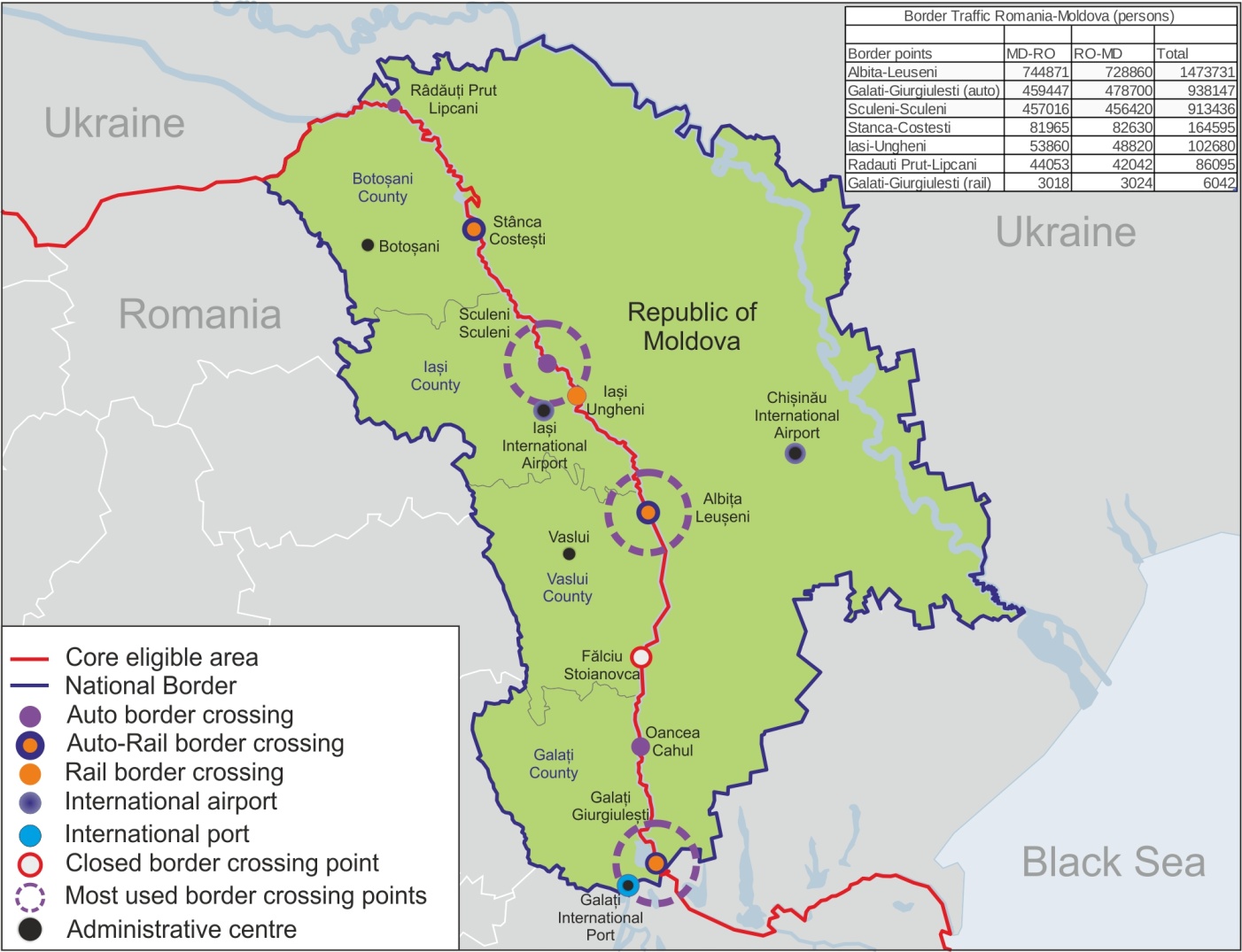
The Programme core eligible area covers a total area of 54092 km2, out of which 20246 km2 represent the Romanian territory (divided between the 4 counties: Botoșani 4986 km2, Iași 5476 km2, Vaslui 5318 km2, Galați 4466 km2), and 33846 km2 represent the Moldovan territory. In the Romania’s case, the four counties from the core eligible area represent 8.5% of the countrie territory. Because of the rural character of the core eligible area, the human settlements network is formed out of a limited number of cities, out of which only five have more than 100000 inhabitants: Iași, Galați, Botoșani, Chișinău, and Bălți municipalities.

The border shared by the two states corresponds with the one of the European Union, as the Romanian North-East and South-East development regions are the outermost Eastern regions of the EU. The current status of this border plays an important role in developing the cross-border infrastructure of the Romanian-Republic of Moldavian frontier, especially considering that this is in its entirety a river border (i.e. Prut River).

**Romania-Republic of Moldova border**

The border total length is of 681.4 km (by Romanian measurements, 684.3 km by Moldovan measurements). The two countries share 8 land border crossing points, accessible by car and train:

* Albița - Leușeni (auto)Galați - Giurgiulești (auto & rail)
* Sculeni - Sculeni (auto)
* Stînca - Costești (auto)
* Iași - Ungheni (rail)
* Rădăuți Prut - Lipcani (auto)
* Oancea - Cahul (auto)
* Fălciu - Stoianovca (rail) (not operational[[1]](#footnote-1))



*Cross border points at Romania-Republic of Moldova frontier*

The core eligible area has a total of 5676181 inhabitants, out of which 37.3% reside on the Romanian side of the border, while 62.7% on the Moldovan. A large part of the population lives in high-density urban centres, as for instance Iași, Galați, and Chișinău municipalities; these urban centers have become gravitational for both population and economic flows. Furthermore, 56.75% of the population in the core eligible area lives in rural areas and 43.25% in urban areas, emphasizing the accentuated rural nature of the core eligible area.

The population in the core eligible area is relatively young, 40.8% of the population being up 30 years of age. Even so, the population is in decline; a drop of the natural increase takes place in the rural areas. Another major problem in the area is the outward migration trend. Even though large urban centres manage to attract a large portion of the internal and external immigration, outward migration is still significant.

The health infrastructure is limited in development especially in the rural areas. At national level the health infrastructure is similar in proportion. Significant differences are visible in the Romanian counties, where Iași County is positioned above the national averages - a position that can be attributed to the important role of Iași Municipality as a regional centre.

The changes in the structure of the population affect the development of the labour market. The active population in the area represents 36% of the total population. Out of the active population 93.89% are in employment and 6.11% are unemployed. There is a constant decrease in unemployment, especially for the Republic of Moldova. In addition, the high unemployment rates in the urban areas, identified in the previous programme are starting to decrease.

The largest employed population in area works in the agricultural sector. This population represents 31.84% of the total employed active population, making it the dominating sector. Territorial differences are significant, as on the Romanian side 39.90% of employment is in this sector while on the Moldovan side only 26.45%. Other significant sectors by number of employed population are: public administration, education, health and social work, constructions and commerce, hotels, restaurants.

The structure of the unemployed population is significantly different from one side of the border to the other. On the Romanian side, 78.34% of the unemployed population has only a primary, secondary or vocational education. In contrast, on the Moldovan side, the largest number of unemployed has a high-school, or post high-school degree. There are significant differences in terms of exigencies and requirements of the labour market, to which the two populations of the area are still unable to properly adapt. In addition, the rate of early school leaving is relatively high in the area, especially in the Republic of Moldova, where in 2012 at the secondary professional and vocational education levels a rate of 24.5% was registered.

The average gross monthly earnings in the area are some of the lowest in both Romania and at EU level. In 2012, the four Romanian counties reached an average of only €383, while Republic of Moldova €218. The agricultural sector is the largest sector in terms of employed population; however, earnings in this sector are some of the lowest, registering values below the averages.

The core eligible area of the programme has one of the lowest development levels in comparison with the other neighboring countries and regions. The low level of competitiveness is a major issue for the core eligible area. The causes are the predominance of agriculture as the main economic activity and the lack of a truly diverse economy, the low level of investments in Research & Development, low accessibility due to the poor quality of the transport infrastructure and the underdeveloped public utilities infrastructure.

The core eligible area is characterized by a constantly deteriorating transport infrastructure and the lack of investments. The area is largely inaccessible by air, only two major international airports functioning. Naval transport is undeveloped, in spite of the large number of rivers and the presence of the Danube River in the South. The road and rail infrastructures are the most problematic and at the same time the most used. The road network is fairly dense; however, its quality varies according to the level of road importance. National and European roads are constantly modernized and serviced, while local roads suffer from lack of investments and the overly bureaucratic process of accessing state funding. The rail network raises a technical issue, as the two countries' rail networks are built using different gauges making the border transfer time consuming and problematic.

The state of the public utilities and services infrastructure serving the urban and rural localities in the area raises a number of problems. There are several localities that are not connected to the drinking water supply, the sewage systems or the gas network. In addition, these infrastructures are old and cannot insure the required quality standards, most of them being developed before 1989. Internet access is a problem in the area, as the North-East region in Romania has one of the lowest numbers of subscribers. The rural localities are poorly connected to the internet infrastructure, making the urban centres the main consumers of internet.

A major problem in the case of the Republic of Moldova, a major issue is the reduced energy independence degree, as the country is in its majority an energy importer. By comparison, Romania has an energy independence degree of 77.7%.

The core eligible area suffers from a number of ecological issues, resulted from the pre-1989 aggressive industrialization process, but on an overall note the area is within international pollution limits. The major problems in the area stem from four main sources. First, industrial emissions and waste resulted from both functioning and closed industrial sites have negative impact on the air, soil and waters. Second, the poor management of waste, especially in rural areas has a direct effect on the environment, as in these areas there is a lack of proper facilities for waste treatment and purging. Third, the use of chemical fertilizers and the inadequate storage of agricultural waste have a direct impact on the soil and underwater quality. Fourth, urban centers have an important impact on the air and environment in general, as these are the major producers of CO2 and greenhouse gases. The core eligible area benefits from over 1300 natural protected areas of national and international importance and numerous historic sites.

# Major social, economic and cultural centers

The joint programming structures decided to include in the programme a list of large infrastructure projects proposed for selection without a call for proposals, whose actions have specific characteristics that require a particular type of body based on its technical competence, high degree of specialization or administrative power, according to the Art. 41of Commission Regulation 897 from 2014.

In this context, the need to include Bucharest city in the programme area as major social, economic and cultural center was identified, as most of the relevant institutions for LIPs are located in the capital. The city of Bucharest may only be involved as major center in the large scale projects.

Moreover, the programming structures decided to include in the programme area, as major social economic and cultural center the cities of Bacău, Suceava and Piatra Neamt, due to their potential contribution to the achievement of the programme objectives, within a limit of 10% of the programme budget, as justified below:

Bacău city would bring a substantial added value for the core eligible area as it is an important university center with relevant results within the field of education and it has been nominated as Urban Development Pole of regional interest. Moreover, its participation within the programme would strongly contribute to the achievement of the CBC impact in the core region, as the municipality can play an important role in the capitalization of investments in the field of education accessibility, to the principles of innovative urban development and therefore its inclusion as major center is essential to achieving the programme’s objective 2 in a sustainable way. Consequently, organizations located in the City of Bacau may participate as partners (not lead partners) in projects implemented under the thematic objective 2 Support to education, research, technological development and innovation of the programme.

Piatra Neamț municipality would have a strong impact upon the core eligible area as it hosts branches of universities from Iași and Bucharest as well as important cultural institutions. Furthermore, its participation within the programme would strongly contribute to the achievement of the CBC impact in the core region, as the institutions located within the municipality have an strong and extended experience of cooperation with central, regional and local entities from Republic of Moldova and therefore Piatra Neamț inclusion as major center is essential to achieving the programme objectives 2 and 3 in a sustainable way.

Consequently, organizations located in the City of Piatra Neamț may participate as partners (not lead partners) in projects implemented under the thematic objectives 2 Support to education, research, technological development and innovation of the programme and 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage.

Suceava municipality would bring a substantial added value for the core eligible area as it hosts an important university center which includes 13 Excellency units in the field of research and development; further, many activities are oriented towards tourism. In this context, the Suceava city participation within the programme would strongly contribute to the achievement of the CBC impact in the core region, as the municipality is a member in cross border cooperation organizations (such as Upper Prut Euro-region) through which relevant common projects were implemented hence the inclusion of Suceava municipality as major center is essential to achieving the programme objectives 2 and 3 in a sustainable way. Consequently, organizations located in the City of Piatra Neamț may participate as partners (not lead partners) in projects implemented under the thematic objectives 2 Support to education, research, technological development and innovation of the programme and 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage.

**Summary of conditions for eligibility of major, economic and cultural centers**

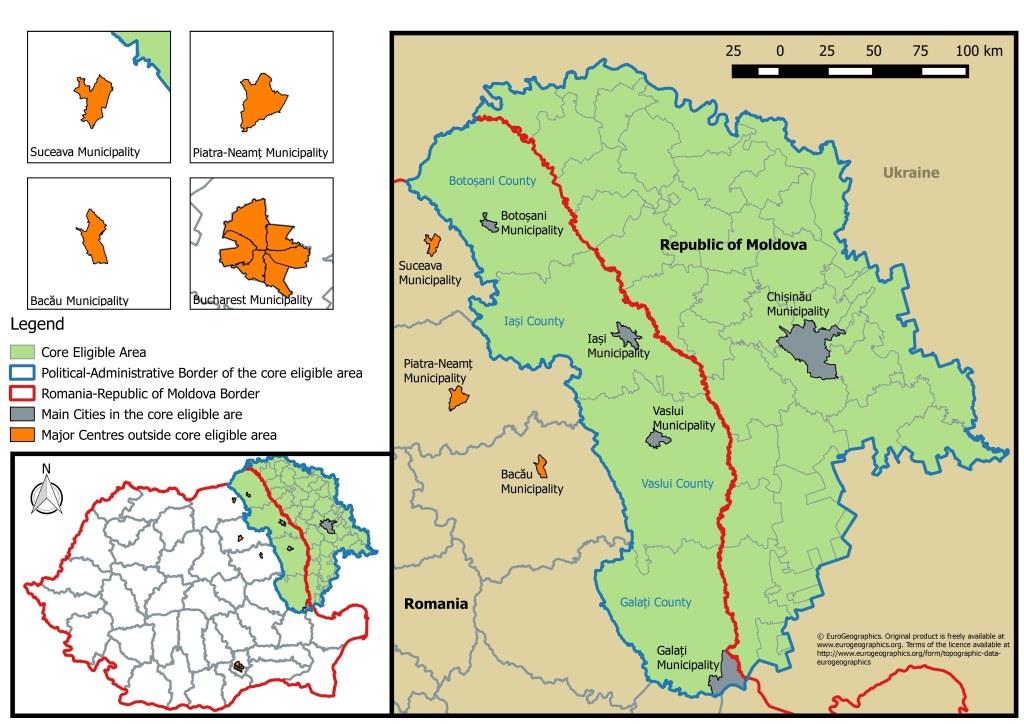
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Major centers** | **Common conditions** | **Specific conditions** |
|
| **Bucharest** | N/A | Limited to organization involved in LIPs Only for those Thematic Objectives in which LIP are financed |
| **Bacău city** | 10% of Programme budget, participation only as partners not as Lead Partners | Limited to projects implemented under Thematic Objective 2 |
| **Piatra Neamț city** | Limited to projects implemented under Thematic Objectives 2 & 3 |
| **Suceava City** | Limited to projects implemented under Thematic Objectives 2 & 3 |

# Flexibility Rule

In accordance with article 39, paragraph 2, letter b and article 45, paragraph 4 of Commission Regulation 897 from 2014, the partner countries have decided to allow a flexibility rule of 10 % of the Programme allocation to be used by beneficiaries located outside the programme area and/or for activities outside de programme area, as follows:

1. Regarding the beneficiaries from outside the programme - the flexibility rule is applied only for the Large Infrastructure Projects beneficiaries (not lead partners) from Romania
2. Regarding the activities to be performed outside the programme area – the flexibility rule is applied 1) for the beneficiaries from the Programme area , 2) the Large infrastructure projects beneficiaries located outside the programme area

# Map of the program area



# Programme’s strategy

# Strategy description

The Romania-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020 contributes to the achievement of the overall ENI objective of *“progress towards an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness between Member states and their neighbors”.*

***The Ro-Md Programme will address all the strategic objectives of the ENI:***

A: promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders;

B: address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security;

C: promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital.

***The general objective of the Romania-Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme is to enhance the economic development and to improve the quality of life of the people in the border area through joint investments in economic development, culture, infrastructure and health.***

**Thematic objectives and priorities**

The process of identifying the specific needs of the border area to be addressed through the Ro-MD Programme was concluded with the selection of 4 specific thematic objectives:

**TO2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation**

**Objective 1:** *Develop competencies and**support research and innovation by facilitating the cooperation at local, regional and central level*

**Priority 1.1 – Institutional cooperation in the educational field for increasing access to education and quality of education**

***Justification for the definition of Priority 1.1:***

* Education sector development is strongly supported by the territorial and the SWOT analyses. Early school leaving is an alarming phenomenon in the eligible area;
* Both the preliminary consultations and the results of the calls analyses show there is a clear interest in educations, projects;
* Three important university centres - Iași, Galați and Chișinău - possesses necessary capacities to tackle the High level ratio of early school leaving;
* Target a large range of local beneficiaries (and central beneficiaries for MD);
* May support many smaller projects ensuring wide access (people to people activities) within the Programme;
* Answers to the urgent needs of poor accessibility to educational infrastructure in rural areas.

***Indicative activities***

* Joint planning and joint development of educational plans, policies and strategies ;
* Exchanges of experience, teacher exchanges, transfer of good practices, development of joint training centers for increasing the effectiveness of education through the diversification of professional training programs for employees in the education system in areas such as:
  + School development, school management, developing the relation between schools and communities;
  + developing and applying innovative educational methods, for increasing teaching skills to facilitate and motivate students to perform;
* Developing joint/ common programs of entrepreneurship education, programs that stimulate creativity, innovation and active citizenship;
* Improving the educational quality and participation through rehabilitation/modernization/ extension/ endowment of infrastructure of the educational infrastructure and equipment procurement;
* Development and implementation of partnerships between educational institutions to:
  + prevent and correct early school leaving phenomenon through integrated programs (including awareness campaigns) for prevention of school dropout, encourage school attendance and reintegration of those who have left school early;
  + developing after school programs and extra-curricular activities;
* Development and implementation of joint actions in support of disadvantaged groups, e.g.:
  + Integrated support actions addressing children and youth with parents living abroad (which may include inter alia guidance, counseling, after school programmes, educational and cultural activities);
  + Support actions meant to facilitate the social and work integration of people (children, youth and adults) with disabilities
* Support for youth (including educational campaigns) for the prevention of drug use, human trafficking, alcohol abuse, etc.
* Development and implementation of cross programmes and actions for enhancing/ improving/ facilitation of job qualifications and competencies[[2]](#footnote-2).

***Indicative Beneficiaries for Priority 1.1***

* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions
* Education institutions;
* NGOs; / professional teachers associations/ other relevant associations
* Health organizations acting to prevent and cope with alcohol and drug abuse[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Priority 1.2 – Promotion and support for research and innovation**

***Justification for the definition of Priority 1.2:***

* Low level of investments in Research & Development and its underuse in industrial and technological activities;
* Low ratio of employed population is hired in high added value activities as R&D, Innovation (0.45%);
* High potential given by Iași and Chișinău as economic and educational hubs;
* Strong support from regional authorities for research and innovation activities, especially regarding technological parks;
* Specific potential in the industrial area of Galați County;
* strong support during consultations received from different stakeholders.

***Indicative activities***

* Development of partnerships/networking between universities, research institutes and other relevant organizations for joint development/improvement/creation/testing of technologies and innovative outcomes;
* Dissemination, cooperation and networking between programmes and organizations /associations from the two states acting in the field of research and innovation.
* Joint research actions and studies including those in the field of environment (climate change challenges, preservation of biodiversity, renewable energy and resource efficiency etc.).
* Promotion and support for research and innovation through rehabilitation/ modernization/extension of the specific infrastructure including the procurement of related equipment.
* Exchange of experience and practices among relevant authorities on cluster development and establishment

***Indicative Beneficiaries for Priority 1.2***

* Universities,
* Research institutes/ organizations
* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions;
* NGOs/ Professional/ entrepreneurial associations

**TO 3. Promotion of the local culture and preservation of historical heritage**

**Objective 2:** *Preservation of the cultural and historical heritage in the eligible area, support the developing of local culture, specific cultural identities and the cultural dialog*

**Priority 2.1 – Preservation and promotion of the cultural and historical heritage**

***Justification for the definition of Priority 2.1:***

* The two sub-national eligible areas share commonalities in terms of cultural heritage due to historic evolution;
* High concentration of natural and historical sites and natural protected areas;
* Low level of investments in touristic and cultural facilities;
* Common language is an important asset for joint cultural events;
* May support many smaller projects ensuring wide access (people to people activities) within the Programme.

***Indicative activities***

* Restoration, conservation, consolidation, protection, security of cultural and historical monuments (including the corresponding access roads), museums, objects and art collections and their promotion based on relevant cross-border strategies/concepts;
* Acquisition of specific equipment necessary for the preservation, security, valorization of cultural and historical monuments and objects;
* Supporting of partnerships between culture institutions for the promotion of the cultural and historical heritage
* Support for specific and traditional craftsman activities, important for preserving local culture and identity.
* Promotion of specific and traditional activities in the eligible area (including cultural events);
* Preserving, promoting and developing the cultural and historical heritage, mainly through cultural events with a cross-border dimension;
* Valorization of the historical and cultural heritage through developing joint promotion strategies, common tourism products and services.

***Indicative Beneficiaries for Priority 2.1***

* Museums, cultural institutions
* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions ;
* NGOs, cultural and tourism associations;
* Local business associations in the domain of traditional and craftsmen activities;

**TO7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and common networks and systems**

**Objective 3:** *Improve public transport services, infrastructure and ITC cooperation and networking*

**Priority 3.1 –Development of cross border transport infrastructure and ICT Infrastructure**

***Justification for the definition of Priority 3.1:***

* Poor quality of road and rail networks and urban-rural linkages in the border area;
* Technical differences in terms of rail transport between the two countries (i.e. use of different rail gauge) ;
* Limited multi-modal transport capabilities in the border area;
* High potential due to the current EU - non-EU border status of the core eligible area;
* Low access levels to broadband internet and communications infrastructure;
* High potential for river transport development.
* Very good potential for cross-border impact;
* Good capacities for project management;
* Better potential for strategic coordination;
* Strong support during consultations.

***Indicative activities***

* Construction, rehabilitation, modernization of cross-border transport infrastructure systems;
* Development of environmentally friendly (carbon-proofed) cross-border transport initiatives and innovative solutions ;
* Improvements of multimode transport (road/ water ) facilities of cross-border interest;
* Construction, rehabilitation, widening of cross-border (segments of) roads connecting settlements alongside the border with main road which leads to the border;
* Improvement/restoration/construction of (segments of) access roads to centers of cross-border interest;
* Elaboration of joint strategies/policies/plans for improving the cross-border transport infrastructure;
* Joint investments in ICT infrastructure with cross-border impact; ( e.g. optic fiber services)
* Development of cross-border connections, information and integrated communications networks and services
* Upgrading existing facilities to enable linkages between communities and public services which promote co-operation on a cross-border and wider international basis.

***Indicative Beneficiaries for Priority 3.1***

* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions;
* State owned companies administrating transport and communication infrastructure

**TO 8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security**

**Objective 4** *Addressing common challenges in cross-border security, access to health, management of natural and antropic risks and emergency situations through joint projects*

***Priority 4.1 - Support to the development of health services and access to health***

***Justification for the definition of Priority 4.1:***

* Low accessibility to health infrastructure in the core eligible area;
* Predominantly old health infrastructure and of poor quality limiting health services;
* Health infrastructure capacity and number of physicians below national averages;
* Life expectancy at birth across the core eligible area is below international averages.

***Indicative activities***

* Joint planning and joint development of plans, policies and strategies for public health and social care
* Joint activities meant to enhance the access to health in the border area by construction / rehabilitation / modernization/ extension/ endowment and equipment of infrastructure of health services (including through the use of renewable energy etc.);
* Labs and mobile labs for screening / clinical monitoring
* Joint training programs and exchange of experience, networking for supporting the functioning of the specific medical services, telemedicine;
* Review of treatment guidelines - exchange of experience, joint activities in order to ensure compatibility of the treatment guidelines;
* Awareness campaigns concerning public education on health, diseases and prevention of epidemics.

***Indicative beneficiaries groups for Priority 4.1***

* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions;
* National/regional/local/ institutions acting in the field of health and social policies;
* NGOs, universities and Research organizations ,;
* Professional medical and patient associations.

***Priority 4.2 – Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations***

***Justification for the definition of Priority 1.2:***

* High risk of pollution through industrial accidents due to industrial activities, especially along Prut River and the Danube area;
* High risk of natural disasters as a result of the topography and the dense hydrographic network (e.g. flooding, landslides);
* High risk for natural disasters due to the proximity of the seismic area of Vrancea in Romania;
* Stakeholders interest for risk-prevention projects.

***Indicative activities***

* Measures for preventing land slide and flooding;
* Joint integrated systems/ structures for efficient monitoring and disaster prevention and for the mitigation of consequences;
* Common strategies and tools for hazard management and risk prevention including joint action plans;
* Elaborating of joint detailed maps and data bases (indicating natural and technological risks, and land use for regional planning authorities, environmental agencies and emergency services )
* Exchanging experience and knowledge, including raising awareness in the field of efficient risk prevention and management in the cross-border area;
* Integrated and common standards for the urban planning and risk management;
* Investments and development of common, integrated, emergency management systems/structures.
* Planning coordinated actions of the authorities in emergency situations caused by natural and man-made disasters.
* Investment in construction, renovation or upgrading of the infrastructure and equipment directly related to the monitoring and intervention in emergency situations.

***Indicative beneficiaries for Priority 4.2***

* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions, including environmental organizations acting in the area of mitigation of disaster risk and effects and emergency situations;
* Research organizations, NGOs

***Priority 4.3Prevention and fight against organized crime and police cooperation***

***Justification for the definition of Priority 1.2:***

* High cross-border criminality;
* High potential and risk due to the EU - non-EU border status of the core eligible area with ramifications for the fight against human and drug trafficking, illegal smuggling of goods;
* Underdeveloped police and border infrastructure;
* Presence of high risk border area – i.e. Danube river and river ports;

***Indicative activities***

* Common actions for increasing mobility and administrative capacity of police units (including border police);
* Creating collaborative work platforms in order to increase the efficiency of police, border police and custom structures in the exchange of data and information;
* Joint training of police, border police and custom personnel, exchange of best practices on specific areas of activity (analysis, criminal investigation, organized crime).
* Investment in construction, renovation or upgrading of police and border crossing infrastructure and related buildings;
* Investments in operating equipment and facilities specific for the activity of police/customs/border police/gendarmerie (e.g. laboratories, equipment, detection tools, hardware and software, means of transport);
* Developing common policies and strategies including awareness campaigns, experience exchange for fighting organized crime.

***Indicative beneficiaries for Priority 4.3***

* Custom services, border police, police, other national/regional/local public institutions acting in the area of crime prevention and police, professional associations
* National/ regional/ local public administration and other public institutions

# Justification for the chosen strategy

The strategy of the programme was derived from a number of analyses and consultations and reflects the needs of the border area between Romania and Republic of Moldova that can be addressed by the ENI cross border cooperation programme. The main elements of the strategy justification can be found below.

# 3.2.1 Socio economic analysis and SWOT

This section summarizes the main findings of the territorial analysis *including* the statistical data and conclusions from the document analysis, under the general framework of a SWOT analysis.

In the specific case of the current analysis, the “objective” to achieve is represented by the strategic objectives of the CBC Programming Documents:

1. *Promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders;*
2. *Address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security;*
3. *Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital*.

Starting from these objectives, the SWOT analysis is organize along the main lines of the territorial analysis: a) Geography and Human Settlements; b) Demography; c) Economy and Labor Market; d) Transport and Infrastructure (including public utilities and ICT); e) Environment and Energy; f) Health, Social, Safety and Security; g) Education, Culture, Society; h) Public Administration and Governance. In this context the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are relevant for structuring and implementing this programme are summarized in the tables below:

**A. Geography & Human Settlements**

The core eligible area is characterized **by two main geographical and topological characteristics**: a generally flat relief and a complex hydrographic network, especially on the Moldovan side. The relief and rivers emphasize the potential high risk of natural disasters (flooding, soil erosion and landslides) if no risk management systems are put in place.

The overall **level of urbanization** in the core eligible area is below 50%. The number of urban centers is limited and unevenly distributed. Significant development gaps between these centers are visible, especially in predominantly rural areas. The most important cities of Iași, Galați and Chișinău concentrate the major economic activities and the largest part of the population, making the over-polarization effect extremely visible, and reducing the number of available opportunities in smaller urban centers and rural settlements. Over 56% of the population lives in rural areas, where the access to public utilities and amenities is reduced due to the poor development of the technical infrastructure. This has a direct negative effect on the quality of life and opportunities, and increases deprivation

 Figure 1: Main cities in the core eligible area by size of population

In the core eligible area the housing stock is formed out of a total of 31304754 m2 of living area in the Romanian counties, and 55373200 m2, in the Republic of Moldova, summing up a total living area of 86677954 m2. The Moldovan stock of housing represents 63.88% of the total stock in the area. On average, in the four counties there are 14.87 m2 of living area per inhabitant. The lowest rate of living area per inhabitant is in Iași County, averaging with 13.8 m2, while the highest rate is in Galați County with 16.18m2. At national level the Republic of Moldova has a rate of 15.55 m2 per inhabitant. These rates are significantly lower than in the EU member states, where these reach over 20 m2 per inhabitant.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **A. Geography & Human Settlements** | | | | | | | |
| S11 | Complex hydrographic network: many lakes, important rivers and Danube | W11 | Small waterways areas, not appropriate for long distance naval navigation | O11 | The proximity of Black Sea represents a strong potential opportunity for the entire eligible area | T11 | High risk from natural disasters (landslides, floods) |
| S12 | Flat relief – suitable for agricultural investment and development | W12 | Uneven distribution of large urban settlements favoring the polarization processes | O12 | Development of the technical infrastructure reduces the polarization effects of established urban centers | T12 | Massive migration from rural to urban settlements due to lack of opportunities, services, and other amenities |
| S13 | Developed urban settlements with more than 100.000 inhabitants (i.e. Botoșani, Iași, Galați, Chișinău, Bălți) | W13 | Large difference between the number of urban and rural settlements, in favor of the rural ones. | O13 | Development of transport infrastructure facilitated by the flat relief will increase the rural accessibility | T13 | Uncontrolled sprawl of the existing urban areas towards neighbouring rural areas without considering technical requirements |

**Conclusion:** The proximity of the Black sea for some of its nearest cities (such as Galați in Romania or Giurgiulești in Republic of Moldova) enhances the opportunity for increased economic exchanges. This impacts the economy of the cities in question, as well as, in broader sense, the entire economic flows in the country. It is worth mentioning that, in the same time, the existence of a complex hydrographic network allows for the easier development of additional public utilities services as well as agricultural investments or energy production facilities.

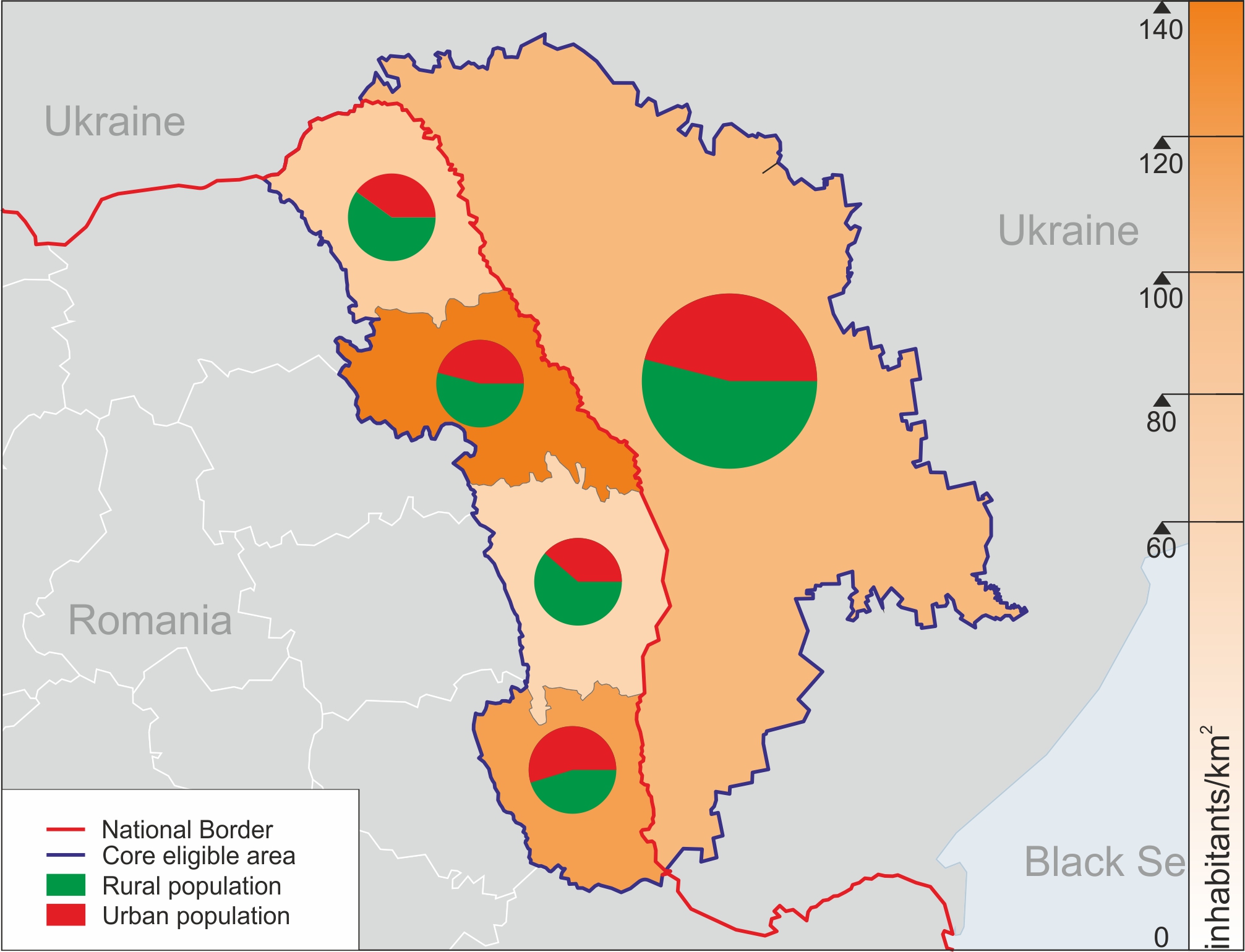
**B. Demography**

The core eligible area of the programme sums up a total of approximately 5676181 inhabitants. Of the total population, 37.3% resides on the Romanian side of the border, while 62.7% on the Moldovan side.

Migration and ageing are two of the most significant demographic trends visible in the core eligible area, with an accentuated character in rural areas. The young active population migrates abroad for work or study leaving behind a large dependent population. The core eligible area is characterized by a negative natural increase and a low life expectancy at birth compared to the EU average. Combined with the outward migration of the active population these trends create serious imbalances between the production and consumption of goods, leading to additional long-term impacts on the social assistance and pension system.

A large part of the population concentrates in high-density urban centers. However, the general area is to a large degree rural in nature. The previous programme noted a serious unbalance in the urban-rural living environments comparison. At that moment over 55% of the population was living in rural areas. The situation is still the same at the moment, as 56.75% of the population of the core area is still living in rural area, and only 43.25% in urban areas.

At national level, in Romania these percentages show an inverse situation. At this level the comparison shows that 54% of the population lives in urban areas, while 46% in rural ones. The decrease of the analysis scale shows that the core eligible area percentages can easily be applied to county levels. The only notable difference is that of Galați County where 55% of the population lives in urban areas, which is much closer to the Romanian national situation.



*Figure 1: Population density & distribution by living environment*

The population is almost equally distributed between the two genders, with a slightly larger female population. The male population represents 48.60% of the total population, while the female population 51.40%.. The total eligible area of Romania has a crude birth rate of 9.49‰ (births/1000 inhabitants), while the Republic of Moldova has one of 11‰. In contrast with the fertility rate, the crude death rate is slightly larger. The weighted average for the core area is of 11.62‰ (deaths/1000 inhabitants).

The distribution of the population by age groups is normal in statistical terms at core area level. Out of the total 5-year age groups, the highest number of population is attributed to the 20-24 age group, representing 8.60% of the total population and the 25-29 age group representing 8.20%.

In an overall look, the 20-59 population represents 58.67% of the total population, the 60-64 5.25%, while 12.08% of the population is over 64, and 24% under 20.

A general look on the demographics of the core eligible area shows a population with a relatively large number of young adults, but unevenly distributed, and a negative natural increase rate. This leaves the present population exposed to an ageing process that will develop at a higher rate than the rejuvenation process. This can create difficulties in managing the social security systems and affects the competitiveness of the local labour force.

Outward migration is a significant problem for the programme’s eligible area. The migration balance of the area is of negative value: -824 persons. There are significant differences in terms of migration between the two participant territories. For the Republic of Moldova the migration balance is slightly positive – 31 persons – while for the Romanian counties the difference between in and out migration flows, puts the total migration balance at -855 persons. At county level in Romania differences are also visible. Iași County is the only county registering a positive migration balance of 1762 persons, the remaining three counties ranging from -551 to -1046.

The two educational systems in the core eligible area have registered improvements since the start of the last programme. However, the significance of these improvements is still limited. The current situation is also affected by the global economic crisis, which created major unbalances in the labor market.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **B. Demography** | | | | | | | |
| S21 | High density of population | W21 | Urban population ratio under the national average in Romanian side.  Low ratio of urbanization in Republic of Moldova |  |  | T21 | The Romanian counties are confronted with a negative natural increase ratio of the population |
| S22 | Important part of the urban population resides in urban poles of both sides of the border: Iasi, Galati, Chisinau | W22 | Republic of Moldova’s small population (3.5 million) represents a small market for major foreign investors. |  |  | T22 | Strong migrant flows externally oriented: to EU countries for Romanian side and to EU countries and Russia for Moldovan side |
| S23 | High number of adults aged between 20 and 64 years in Republic of Moldova | W23 | Uneven distribution of the young adult population between the Romanian and Moldovan territories |  |  | T23 | Ageing process of population on Romanian side |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | T24 | Over-polarization of internal and external in-migration flows in already established urban centres (i.e. Iași, Galați and Chișinău) |

**Conclusion:** the fact that the urban population of the Programme area is below the national average on the Romanian side impacts on the potential economic development of the area. It is widely accepted that the urban areas concentrate more diversified economic activities, with high added value and increased productivity. The economic activities specific to rural areas are generally agricultural in nature, with limited economical added value and highly sensitive to the natural hazards. The strong migrant flows externally oriented could have a negative impact on the labour market - as the most specialized and dynamic individuals are leaving the country, with the non-active, socially assisted population remaining. On the longer run, this trend combined with the ageing population on the Romanian side, would also impact the sustainability of the national pension system.

**C. Economy and Labor Market**

The demographic trends are directly connected to the **main economic sectors and local labour market**. The lack of varied economic opportunities and the predominant rural character indirectly make the agricultural sector the main employment sector in the core eligible area. However, this is also the sector in which earnings are some of the lowest in the area. The main reason behind this is the fragmentation of the agricultural land into small individual farms, practicing **subsistence agriculture** with low added value. This is reflected in the GDP levels of the area, which are some of the lowest in Romania and European Union. In addition, without proper investment, agricultural production is highly dependent on the meteorological conditions and natural hazards. Given the employment share of this sector, the area becomes economically very vulnerable to variations in agricultural production (affecting exports and imports of agricultural products and overall local economic development).

Looking at the level of the fixed capital assets per economic activities shows that the local economy is slowly moving from an economy concentrated around industrial and construction activities towards a **service based economy**, which in general requires a highly educated labour market. However, at the level of the core eligible area only a small proportion of the active population is employed in these types of economic activities. The **level of education** of the unemployed population shows that there are limited opportunities for those with primary or vocational education in Romania, and for those with high school education in Republic of Moldova. Combined with the significant early school leaving rates in the area and the low levels of investments in education it is clear that the unemployed population is unable to respond to the requirements of the local labour market, and signals a need for a certain level of requalification.

In addition to the **lack of opportunities** for the active unemployed population with lower levels of education, the move towards a service based economy shows a number of issues in the area. First, **R&D and innovation is limited** to the three main urban centres of Iași, Galați and Chișinău. In turn, this reduces the impact and added value that R&D and innovation can have on the main economic sector of agriculture, and other sectors like the manufacturing and extraction industry, and construction. Second, the core eligible area has one of **the lowest rates of FDI attraction** compared to other regions in Romania. Moreover, the services economic activities in the area receive only a small proportion of the total FDI in the area. This can be assigned to the **low competitiveness** level of the area making it unattractive to investors. This is mainly caused by the lack or poor development of the basic requirements of service based activities like easy access, mobility, and public utilities infrastructure.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **C. Economy and Labor Market** | | | | | | | |
| S31 | Well diversified agricultural activities | W31 | Big and increasing disparities in GDP per capita between Romanian side and Moldavian side | O31 | Opportunities related to the EU member-state status of Romania (attractiveness for foreign investments) and to the signing of the Association Agreement between Moldova and EU | T31 | Political instability of the north-west part of Black Sea region (including the situation in Transnistria) can jeopardize economic development, especially the Foreign Direct Investments – FDIs |
| S32 | Since the programming period 2007-2013, GDP per capita increased 2.3 time on the Romanian side and over 3 times on the Moldavian side | W32 | High level of labor forces employed in the budgetary sector in Republic of Moldova with direct negative impact on ratio of public spending in GDP. | O32 | EU financing programmes on Romanian side | T32 | The eligible area of the CBC OP is outside the specific economic development axe in Romania (West-North-West to South-East) |
| S33 | Decreasing trend in unemployment, especially in Republic of Moldova but as well as in the eligible area from Romania | W33 | The main economic activities have low value added (agriculture, fishing, trade and tourism related services) | O33 | Other donors increasing their financial assistance programs in Moldova | T32 | Big regional disparities in Republic of Moldova , mono-centric development model |
| S34 | Important number of SMEs diversified SMEs mainly concentrated in industry, construction, holds sale and auto repair. | W34 | The agriculture production is concentrated in subsistence farms and is strongly dependent on weather conditions and exposed to natural risks. |  |  |  |  |
| S35 | Competitive labour costs | W35 | Very low ratio of employed population is hired in high added value activities as R&D, Innovation (0.18%) |  |  |  |  |
| S36 | Good economic potential for the three main urban poles: Iasi, Galati, Chisinau | W36 | Very low employment rate, negatively affecting the potential of labor market. |  |  |  |  |
| S37 | Developing wine industry within the entire eligible area | W37 | Relatively high gap in personal revenues on both sides of the border together with low earnings levels |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | W38 | Limited Foreign Direct Investment in the eligible area of CBC Programme |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | W39 | Low competitiveness of the core eligible area of CBC Programme |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion:** With respect to the dominant type of economic activities in the eligible area, the key aspects to be noted are i) the low earnings in the case of economic activities not requiring high levels of education, and ii) the move towards a service based labor market. A major consideration is the small proportion of the labor market occupied by the Information and Communications activities and Financial Activities in contrast with the high earning levels in these sectors. In comparison, the economic activities that hold a larger share of the employed population like Agriculture, Industry and Construction, are not able to capitalize on the size of their markets, and earnings are kept at lower levels. A very low ratio (0.18%) of employed population is hired in high added value activities as R&D, Innovation, thus this specific sector has a low capacity of production and exports. In addition, the earning levels shows an over-specialization of the labor market and putting at risk the local economy in case of destabilizing socio-economic events.

A correlation of GDP level with the type of population in relation to the urban-rural living environments shows that along with attracting a large part of the population, Iași, Galați counties and the adjoining region of Chișinău Municipality remain the major economic centres. In addition, the widening of the GDP gap shows an involution in terms of reducing regional disparities, and over polarization of economic activity instead of a balanced and polycentric distribution.

As the investments are concerned, it should be noted that the limited numbers of sectors with significant levels of investments and the uneven distribution of these signals the over-specialization and concentration of the labour market. This makes adjacent economic activities suffer, as in a long-term perspective of these become underdeveloped. The significant focus of the investments in the Construction, Real Estate and Financial Services indicates an increase in the level of trust in the real estate market after the economic crisis. Also, significant investments in Transport infrastructure signal a coordinated effort to respond to the current traffic issues and to bring the existent traffic infrastructure to international standards. However, the low levels of investment in Health and Education, as well as the limited interest for Hotel and Restaurant activities (despite of the touristic potential of the area) should also be noted.

Moreover, due to the fact that the area of the Programme is outside of the economic development axe in Romania, there is a risk that investors would simply prefer other location with already established business infrastructure.

**D. Transport and Infrastructure (including public utilities and ICT)**

**Accessibility** is an important issue in the core eligible area. Air connectivity is limited to two main international airports (i.e. Iași and Chișinău) with an even more limited list of destinations, making international access depend on road and rail transfers. International naval access is also limited, with Galați and Giurgiulești being the most important ports, but with **limited inter-modal capabilities**. In spite of the complex hydrographic network of the core eligible area and the potential given by the Prut River as the border between Romania and Republic of Moldova and a direct link to the Danube and Black Sea, development of naval transport is extremely limited.

Transport in the core eligible area is dominated by **road and rail**. However, regardless of the high density of road and rail networks, their viability is reduced by the poor quality and maintenance of these networks, the lack of modernization projects and resources. This increases travel times significantly and increases transport costs.

A direct effect of the quality of the road and rail networks is the reduced access in some of the most remote rural areas, limiting both labor market opportunities and investments. In addition, these areas also suffer from a reduced penetration of the **technical infrastructures** required for public utilities, i.e. drinking water, sewage, gas supply, thermal energy, internet access, and public transport.

There are significant differences in the area in terms of access to public utilities, especially when comparing rural and urban areas. Access to sewage systems and gas supply are the most problematic issues in the rural areas of the programme. This has two major effects. First, it directly affects the quality of life. Second, the lack of sewage systems and waste management systems creates an environmental issue as used waters and waste are discarded directly into the environment, with no prior treatment, increasing soil and water pollution. At the same time, the reduced access to gas networks in the Romanian counties, has the potential to increase the rates of deforestation, as wood is the most accessible fuel for energy production.

Internet access and public transport infrastructures are well developed in the area; however these are mainly concentrated in and around urban centres. Internet access in the Romanian counties has the lowest penetration rate in the country. Except major urban centres like Iași, Galați and Chișinău which concentrate the largest number of broadband subscribers, the rest of the territory suffers from low connectivity making it unattractive to services and industries developed around information and communications. In a similar fashion, public transport is concentrated in the major urban centres and radiates around these, although peri-urban transport is much more limited and coverage is limited by the state and quality of the existing transport infrastructure.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **D. Transport and Infrastructure (including public utilities and ICT)** | | | | | | | | |
| S41 | Developed transport network for buses and minibuses | | W41 | Under-developed air, naval and rail transport | O41 | The eligible area is crossed by TEN-T and TRACECA networks | T41 | Political instability and international conflicts or tensions can directly threat the level of investments in infrastructure development |
| S42 | The core eligible area is crossed by important EU network roads | | W42 | Old rail infrastructure and using different gauges | O42 | 2014-2020 EU programs to support developing of infrastructure (ROP, BIOP, NRDP) |  |  |
| S43 | Good drinking water and sewage networks in the urban areas | | W43 | Poor road infrastructure on Moldovan side | O43 | Other international donor programmes (in Moldova) to develop public utility infrastructure(GIZ, BERD) |  |  |
| S44 | Good Internet access (using broadband technologies), in urban area | | W45 | Underdeveloped water and sewage networks in rural area |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion:** The most important strong points are represented by the developed car transport, the good Internet infrastructure while on the Weakness side is important to mention the under-development of other transport forms (naval, rail, air), and poor water, sewage and gas (only in Romania) networks in rural area. It’s very important to mention the main opportunity of the sector: the eligible area of the CBC Programme is crossed by the future TEN-T and TRACECA transport networks and in this context the CBC Programme can be designed as a complementary one to the future financing programmes to develop the above-mentioned transport networks.

One of the biggest problems of the area is the underdevelopment of the existent navigation routes. In the same time, the area's connectivity is very limited in terms of air links, making it a difficult to reach destination for both freight and passengers, because of the required interim stops for connecting flights. The development of several other routes and the increased connectivity of the airports should be a priority, as well as the development of options for the now inaccessible via air region of Galați-Tulcea regions, especially considering their port roles at international level.

A major consideration in the Romania-Republic of Moldova core eligible area of the Programme is the low level of urbanization and the associated downfalls. An important competitive territorial disadvantage in this respect is the low level of infrastructure penetration required for delivering basic public utilities and services. There is a need for the development of sewage systems in rural areas of the Romanian eligible area and drinking water and sewage systems in the Moldovan rural areas, as well as for the development of the gas supply network in the rural areas of the Romanian counties in the Programme. In addition, the limited variety of the means of public transport, especially in rural area where connectivity is problematic, raises issues with respect to access to services and quality of transport infrastructure. The above-mentioned aspects are basic requirements in order to increase the level of urbanization and further develop the size of the housing stock in the core eligible area.

**E. Energy and environment**

The development of the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline is an important step forward towards new energy alternatives in the area, especially for Republic of Moldova. Success is however conditioned on the further development of the distribution network on the Moldovan side in order to connect the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline to consumers. Pollution sources in the area are very diverse, however, in an overall perspective the levels of pollution are within international standards.

The energy consumption and production in the core eligible area is limited by a major conditionality, made evident in the Human settlements network chapter above, namely the length and capacity of the energy networks. In addition, the poor efficiency of the energy infrastructure has to be considered. This is mainly a result of long-term use and lack of investments, especially in the case of the infrastructure used by the general population.

In terms of import-export of energy, the core eligible area of the programme imports a large part of its required energy. In 2012, at national level in Romania, there was a total primary energy production of 27112 thousand tons of oil equivalent, which ensured an energy independence degree of 77.7%. The total final energy consumption for Romania was in 2012 22766 thousand tons of oil equivalent. Out of this, over 35% represents the populations' use.

In the Republic of Moldova the total primary energy production was in 2011 of 116 thousand tons of oil equivalent, while the final energy consumption for the same year reached 2237 thousand tons of oil equivalent. The significant difference emphasizes that the Republic of Moldova is in its majority an importer of energy, with a reduced energy independence degree.

The development of the energy infrastructure network in order to ensure a level of energy independence is a major priority, and measures in this direction are considered consistently. The most important recent development in the area is the construction of the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline. This is a major common project between Romania and Republic of Moldova, financed through the cross-border cooperation programme: Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013.

It is important to note that further development of the pipeline and its corresponding distribution network is necessary in order to connect the Ungheni endpoint in Republic of Moldova with the main city consumers – the most important one being Chișinău Municipality.

The core eligible area benefits from a rich and varied natural environment, which raises its overall competitive potential. This is why the protection of this environment is of special interest. From an ecological perspective, the area is within international limits regarding pollution. Even so, special situations arise, in which greater care has to be attributed to environmental protection.

The environmental issues in the area are in their majority the results of the process of forced urbanization as a result and because of the pre-1989 industrialization process, a period in which the environment was not prioritized accordingly. Moreover, the lack of investments in technical infrastructure and the recovery of former industrial sites post-1989 also aggravated some of the issues. The partial exception to this issues category are the problems resulted from natural phenomena, due to climate change.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **E. Environment and Energy** | | | | | | | |
| S51 | The gas pipeline project Iasi – Ungheni will be functional starting with 2015. | W51 | Absence, for the time being, of a viable alternative for gas supply,. 95 % of Moldova’s energy consumption is covered by imports from an unique source | O51 | Good perspective for construction of a new gas pipeline Ungheni- Chișinău with BERD/MD financing | T51 | Political instability and international conflicts or tensions can directly threat the gas supply, the significant investments in green energy production and infrastructure |
| S52 | Low level of air-pollution | W52 | Underdeveloped gas supply networks in the eligible area on Romanian side affecting households and industry consumers | O52 | The EU programmes aiming at financing environmental protection, development of public utility infrastructure, enhancing energy efficiency and green energy production (BIOP, ROP, NRDP) | T52 | Development of new source of fossil energy (gas and oil in Black Sea, shale gas) can jeopardize new investments in green energy |
| S53 | Strong potential for green and renewable energy: hydro, solar and wind power | W53 | Lack of developed solid waste management systems, especially in the rural areas. | O53 | Foreign Direct Investments in green energy (especially solar and wind power) | T53 | Instable legal framework regarding the subsidies for green energy production |
|  |  | W54 | High level of soil erosion | O54 | Good potential for biomass and bio-fuels production | T54 | Deforestation (especially illegal deforestation) as well as the effects created due to global climate change: landslides and desertification |
|  |  | W55 | Lack of modern and integrated emergency system in case of natural disasters |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | W56 | High levels of water pollution from wastewater and industrial pollution – lack of waste water treatment systems |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | W57 | Area of green spaces in urban centers below EU standards. |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion:** There is a significant potential in the area for the use of solar and wind power harvesting technologies, especially in the flat parts of the core eligible area. The development of the hydroelectric plants is also opportunistic as the area has several large rivers from which it can benefit from, especially along the national border defined by Prut River, where there is an increased potential for cross-border cooperation. In addition, the rural and agricultural character of the area brings forth the possibility of using zoo-technical waste for creating biomass and bio-fuels, especially considering the present difficulties in managing this type of waste in the rural areas.

The main weaknesses are the high level of pollution together with the high energy dependency of Moldova. In this sector the opportunities and threats are equal distributed as importance: on one side is a high interest of international investors in renewable energy; on the other side new technologies developed in the field of fossil energy resources together with the instable legal framework in the domain could jeopardize the development of green energy.

**F. Health, Social, Safety and Security**

Drinking water supply and the sewage system are the most developed technical infrastructures in the core eligible area. All of the Romanian in the core eligible area are equipped with drinking water and sewage pipelines. Similarly, on the Moldovan side all urban settlements are equipped with drinking water and sewage pipelines, however referenced to the Moldovan total urban dwelling area, only 84.40% is equipped with these systems.

The rural areas show a different statistic. Only 66.34% of the Romanian rural localities are technically equipped for the supply of drinking water, while only 17.65% have sewage systems. The county with the best equipped rural localities is Galați County, having an 82%, respectively 31.15% penetration rate for drinking water supply and sewage systems. The Moldovan rural localities have significantly lower penetration rates, as only 22% of the total rural dwelling area is equipped with this type of infrastructure.

The health services in the area serve a large number of the population. In total, in the Romanian counties there are 48 hospitals, and in the Republic of Moldova 85. Botoșani and Vaslui Counties have only 4 hospitals each; in comparison with Iași that has 30 and Galați 10. The hospitals offer a total of 14502 hospital beds in Romania, and 22162 in Moldova. Referencing the number of hospital beds to the number of inhabitants shows that the two averages are similar, the Republic of Moldova having a total of 62.3 hospital beds/10000 inhabitants, and Romania 63.8. In the case of Romania, the image is slightly different at territorial level. In Botoșani, Vaslui and Galați counties the hospital infrastructure has from 53 to 55 hospital beds/10000 inhabitants. This number is significantly lower than the national figure of 64.42 beds/10000 inhabitants. At the opposite pole in Iași County the 30 hospitals manage to offer 93.8 beds/10000 inhabitants, surpassing the national figure.

The major differences in terms of health services offer, especially when comparing urban and rural areas, combined with increases in poverty due to unemployment rates rising as a result of the economic crisis, have a great impact on life expectancy at birth. In the European Union in 2012, life expectancy for males was estimated at 77.5 years and for females at 83.1 years. By comparison Romania and the Republic of Moldova have some of the lowest life expectancies in Europe.

In Romania, male life expectancy is 71 years and female life expectancy is 78.1 years, while in the Republic of Moldova the life expectancy for males is of 67.24 years and 74.99 years for females. Even though the numbers situate Romania and Republic of Moldova at the bottom of the life expectancy hierarchy in Europe, it is important to note that these numbers are actually on an upward trend, life expectancy being on the rise for the two countries if compared to the period before the previous programming period.

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| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **F. Health, Social, Safety and Security** | | | | | | | |
| S61 | Health services in the area are fairly well distributed | W61 | Significant cross-border criminality, especially contraband and border fraud (alcohol and tobacco) | O61 | Stronger recent anticorruption policies implemented and supported by Romanian and Moldovan authorities | T61 | Recent conflicts from the Black Sea NW area |
| S62 | Good density of border crossing points and relative uniform distributed border traffic | W62 | Cross border points need further investments | O62 | EU programs financing health and Social Programs (ROP for RO)  (EU Delegation managed – for MD) | T62 | Frozen conflicts in the region |
| S63 | The NGO sector in both countries, although at different levels, has developed experience in the social services area | W63 | High level of poverty in the eligible area of CBC Programme | O63 | Phase one of SMURD project implemented |  |  |
| S64 | Good police cooperation at the central level | W54 | Low rate of life expectancy at birth | O64 | DCFTA imposes fito-sanitary standards on products |  |  |
|  |  | W55 | Low rate of investments in health infrastructure |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion**: The low rate of investments in health infrastructure impacts directly on the issues of accessibility to health services and equal opportunity, especially in rural areas. The recent reforms and current trend for decentralization in health and social protection should be carried out with consideration given to ensuring proper accessibility of the services. In the same time, the safety and security should be enhanced by reducing the cross-border criminality and through the modernization of the cross border points. The social inclusion and poverty alleviation initiatives benefit of significant support from other programmes (EU or other international donor programs).

**G. Education, Culture and Society**

Culture and tourism are considered two main assets of the area with high economic potential. The core eligible area benefits from a common cultural background, which can connect the resident population. At the same time it benefits from several important natural protected areas and historical sites. The potential is in this case limited by the low level of the investments in the area, in spite of the increasing number of tourists and the accessibility issues described above, which make touristic attractions difficult to reach, especially in remote rural areas.

The cultural infrastructure in the area is for most part similar in density and distribution across the whole core eligible area. There are a total number of 1404 cultural institutions in the four Romanian counties, and 2974 cultural institutions in Moldova. These include museums, libraries, cinemas theatres and other cultural institutions.

Vaslui and Iași counties are the poorest counties in terms of cultural institutions. While libraries and museums are the most accessible at territorial level, theatres, philharmonics and cinemas are the least accessible, the latter being actually the rarest. This can be attributed to several factors including: the large investment level required and the unattractive location combined with the relatively small customer base. In the four Romanian counties, there are 6 cinemas in total, out these 3 are located in Iași County, each of the other counties having only one. In comparison, in the Republic of Moldova in 2012 there were a number of 18 cinemas at national level. In comparison, the number of theatres is double in the Romanian counties; however, Vaslui has only one theatre.

In the four Romanian Counties there are a number of 171 hotels or similar establishments, and 257 in the Republic of Moldova. In total these have an accommodation capacity of 34816 places – 6878 in Romania, 27938 in Republic of Moldova – and in 2012 these registered a number of 607834 overnight stays in Romania and 1462423 in Moldova. It is important to note that both Republic of Moldova and Romania are on an ascending trend. In the Republic of Moldova the number of overnight stays per year increased from 1400063 in 2009 to 1462423 in 2012. Meanwhile, on the Romanian side of the core eligible area, the 2010-2012 period registered a significant increase in the number of overnight stays, especially in Botoșani (from 49436 to 61623), Galați (from 75001 to 108122) and Vaslui (from 48803 to 72353).

As emphasized by all local strategies, tourism is one of the most important potential competitive advantages for the core eligible area. The varied relief, the geographical positioning, the varied flora and fauna, and the cultural heritage of the area are key components that can form the base for developing the tourism infrastructure and services. The area benefits from over 1300 natural protected areas of national and international importance and numerous historic sites. These are important points of attraction for national and international tourists, as proven by positive trend presented above

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **G. Education, Culture and Society** | | | | | | | |
| S71 | Three important university centres: Iasi, Galați and Chișinău | W71 | High level ratio of early school leaving, especially on secondary education | O71 | Other international donors actively supporting this area (Horizon 2020, ROP, HCOP, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, Youth in Action) | T71 | Changing legal framework in the education area affecting the predictability of the overall education policy |
| S72 | Strong and diverse cultural heritage and long and positive tradition of multi-ethnic cohabitation | W72 | Poor accessibility to educational infrastructure in rural areas | O72 | Special scholarship Programme promoted by Romanian government | T72 | Underdeveloped/  biased media environment |
| S73 | Generally, good culture infrastructure: museums, cinemas, libraries, other institutions | W73 | Low level of investments in education infrastructure | O73 | Common cultural and linguistic background to support exchange experiences and joint initiatives. |  |  |
| S74 | High ratio of education spending in GDP in Republic of Moldova | W74 | Low effectiveness of education spending in Republic of Moldova | O74 | Well established cross border contacts and communication (administrative, business, NGO) |  |  |
| S75 | Developed NGO sector in Chisinau, Iași and Galați | W74 | Low administrative and co-financing capacities for the NGO sector in Republic of Moldova , with the exception of the capital - Chișinău |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion:** The eligible area contains three important university centres, strong culture heritage and a long positive tradition of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural cohabitation. The main weaknesses are the high ratio of early school leaving, especially on secondary education, the low level of investments in education infrastructure and generally the lack of education spending effectiveness.

Cooperation projects aimed at developing cross-border educational programmes have to be carried out in order to increase the attractively of the area from an educational perspective. In addition, projects and investments should focus on reducing the early school leaving rates, especially in the rural areas, and to further develop the tertiary educational system.

The NGO sector in both countries, although at different levels, has developed experience in the social services area. During 2007-2013 the civil society organizations and other public stakeholders have developed various types of social services and have designed associated implementation mechanisms in the area. Most of these have already been tested and successfully provided to important groups of beneficiaries. Such services, which may constitute the “best practice” models, could and should be replicated in CBC projects – mostly to transfer to Republic of Moldova some of the good practices already implemented in Romania.

**H. Public Administration and Governance**

Romania and the Republic of Moldova register a certain level of similarity regarding the designs of the administrative-territorial systems, however several differences do exist.

The national territory of Romania is divided in 4 macro-regions corresponding to the NUTS level I and 8 development regions corresponding to the NUTS level II. The Romanian administrative-territorial system is structured on several levels. From top to bottom, Romania is divided in 41 counties and Bucharest Municipality; 320 towns and municipalities, 2861 communes (including one or several villages) and 12.957 villages. The commune is the basic administrative-territorial unit

The Romanian eligible area part of the programme is formed out of 4 counties, Botoșani, Iași, Vaslui and Galați; the counties encompass 12 towns, 9 municipalities, and 306 communes which sum together 1.380 villages.

The Moldovan territory is structured in 37 main administrative units: 3 municipalities, 32 counties (rayons), the territorial autonomous unit Găgăuzia and the administrative-territorial unit from the left side of the River Nistru. These units are furthermore divided in: 5 municipalities, 60 cities, 40 localities in the frame of cities (municipalities), 917 villages-residences, and 659 localities in the frame of communes, totaling 1.681 localities.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strengths | | Weaknesses | | Opportunities | | Threats | |
| **H. Public Administration and Governance** | | | | | | | |
| S81 | Good experience in working with EU programs, especially with the previous CBC OP, at both tiers of public administration, central and local | W81 | For all LGs (but for different reasons in Romania and Moldova) un-flexible budgetary framework, which limits investment capabilities | O81 | EU structural programmes on Romanian side | T81 | A delay in implementing the new intergovernmental fiscal system |
| S82 | Improved capacity of public administration (both central and local) in project management | W82 | LGs dependent of central finances | O82 | New association agreement between EU and Moldova which encourages the implementation of reforms | T82 | Political instability and international conflicts or tensions can divert the focus from implementing the CBC Programme |
| S83 | Similar administrative structure (same number of administrative layers) in both countries |  |  | O83 | Other international donors programs in Moldova  (such as the EU, USAID, UNDP) | T83 | Differences in legal framework between the two countries |
| S84 | High potential for fiscal autonomy improvement at the level of LGs in Republic of Moldova, starting with the implementation of the new intergovernmental fiscal system at 1st January 2015 |  |  | O84 | High focus of international community to support Republic of Moldova in political stability and economic development | T84 | Potential lack of interest of the Romanian LG units for the new CBC OP, due to the existence of other important EU and national investment programmes with possible similar eligible policy areas (i.e. transport infrastructure). |

**Conclusion:** The final success of CBC Programme is largely dependent on the administrative capacity and the quality of public governance in both countries. There are some strong points: improved administrative capacity based on experience in implementing international funded programs; a much larger fiscal autonomy will be offered to the Moldavian LGs starting with 1st January 2015 and similar administrative structures. There are also some problems in this sector (potential lack of interest of LGs, from the Romanian side together with an un-flexible budgetary framework). In the same time, there are a lot of opportunities especially related to high interest of the international community to support the governance reforms in Moldova. A potential threat can be the delay in implementing the new intergovernmental fiscal system in Moldova – postponing the implementation of this system would continue the current dependence of the local authorities from their relation with the central government, affecting predictability and efficiency of public spending. The differences in the legal framework between the Romanian and Moldovan side of the Programme, are relevant as there is a different degree of financial (and overall decision-making) autonomy for promoting common investment (e.g., while on the Romanian side of the Programme the decision could be taken at the level of the County Council, in Republic of Moldova it might require endorsement and approval from the central level, hence affecting the capacity and ability of the raions to fully engage in joint operations).

# 3.2.2 Coherence analysis with other programmes and existing strategies

According to programming regulations for 2014-2020 period , the ENI programmes must deliver real cross-border added value and not cover elements which are already funded or could more suitably be funded from other ENI or EU programmes. Further, coherence and complementarity between the ENI CBC programmes and the national ENP Action Plans, ENI multi-country strategies and Single Support Frameworks (and relevant EU-Russia agreements) and other relevant EU instruments are to be ensured through the programming process.

The EU and its Member States should improve the coherence, effectiveness and complementarity of their respective policies on cooperation with neighbouring countries. Proper cooperation and coordination with other non-Union donors should also be ensured.

Based on ENI 2014-2020 Programming Document, the present coherence analysis is rating three types of criteria:

* Convergence with European, National and Regional Strategies;
* Potential financing overlaps (in order to be avoided);
* Effectiveness & Complementarity (of the thematic objective with the programme).

The team of experts undertaking this task analyzed all the relevant programmatic documents (strategies, action plans, agreements, programmes documents, etc.) and conducted interviews with representatives of the most relevant institutions in Romania and Republic of Moldova, including:

Management Authorities for most of the Operational Programs in Romania

* Human Capital Operational Programme (MEF),
* Major Infrastructure Operational Programme (MEF),
* Regional Operational Programme (MRDPA),
* Competitiveness Operational Programme (MEF),
* Administrative Capacity Operational Programme (MRDPA) ,
* The National Programme for Rural Development (MARD)

Major donor agencies engaged in support Republic of Moldova:

* European Delegation in Republic of Moldova
* USAID
* United Nations Development Programme
* German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ - Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
* Romanian Official Development Assistance (ODA), coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / International Development Cooperation Policy

**3.2.2.1 Coherence with national strategies and EU strategies**

Seven national strategic documents with potential impact on the eligible area were analysed -four for Romania and three for Republic of Moldova.

**Romania**

**The Partnership Agreement of Romania**

The Partnership Agreement (PA) of Romania-EU (June 2014) provides the strategic focus for the necessary reforms and investment to be carried out in the 2014-2020 period. The PA is the main strategic document, covering needs and investments totalizing approximately 40 billion Euros.

It provides the required alignment with the EU strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The indicative allocation of funds is pursuant to the treaty-based objectives, including economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The PA objectives are totally coherent and convergent with ENI CBC Thematic Objectives due to the fact that booth documents are converging in EU 2020 strategy.

**National Reform Program for Romania (NRP)**

This strategic document is setting the framework for the main priorities and reforms to be applied on short and medium term for Romania to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The NRP includes particular measures in various policy areas targeted to sustain growth and create jobs, and meet the objectives of Europe 2020. Focused on the Romania’s most urgent measures, the National Reform Program (NRP) is paying special attention to governance issues and macroeconomic stability. It is aiming to boost competitiveness, productivity and growth, social cohesion, territorial and economic convergence for reducing disparities in terms of economic development to other member states of the European Union.

Conclusion: Generally, ENI CBC Thematic Objectives are converging with NPR measures, with the exception of two of them, *TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritag*e and *TO10 Promotion of border management and border security*, that are not essential to the NRP.

**North-East Regional Development Plan 2014-2020**

The strategy identified four key strategic priorities for the NE Region: (1) Improving human capital, (2) Development of modern infrastructure, (3) Sustaining competitive economy and local development and (4) Optimizing the use and protection of natural resources.

Most of the specific objectives of this strategy are convergent with ENI CBC Thematic Objectives and their respective priorities, as reflected in the below table.

**South-East Regional Development Plan 2014-2020**

The strategic document (currently in consultation process) identified ten development priorities for the SE Region as follow: (1) Integrated sustainable urban development, (2) Development of regional transport infrastructure, (3) Improving the competitiveness of the regional economy, in the context of promoting smart specialization, (4) Improving the quality of tourism at regional level, (5) Conservation and protection of environment, (6) Improving energy efficiency and using renewable resources, (7) Improving quality in education, health and social inclusion, (8) Recovery superior resources in rural areas and upgrading of the rural economy; (9) Improving human resources at the regional level in the context of smart regional specialization, (10) Promoting cross-border and interregional cooperation.

Even if these development priorities are formulated differently than the objectives of the CBC programmes, the measures included in the SE Regional Development Plan are strongly convergent with ENI CBC Thematic Objectives.

**Republic of Moldova**

**Moldova 2020 Strategy**

Moldova 2020 is the main strategic document of Republic of Moldova. It contains seven key development priorities: (1) Aligning the education system to labour market needs in order to enhance labour productivity and increase employment in the economy; (2) Increasing public investment in the national and local road infrastructure; (3) Reducing financing costs by increasing competition in the financial sector and developing risk management tools; (4) Improving the business climate, promoting competition policies, streamlining the regulatory framework and applying information technologies in public services for businesses and citizens; (5) Reducing energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources; (6) Ensuring financial sustainability of the pension system; (7) Increasing the quality and efficiency of justice and fighting corruption.

The priorities of the strategy are partially converging with the TOs of the ENI CBC. As outlined in the table below, given the focus of the strategy and the priority setting mechanism put in place for this document, the main policy areas that are directly impacting the ENI CBC objective framework include economic development, education, governance and energy.

**Republic of Moldova Strategy for Regional Development**

The National Regional Development Strategy sets out the ways to achieve the overall strategic objective of a balanced and sustainable development in all developing regions of Moldova by focusing on the following specific objectives: (1) improving the legal and regulatory framework on regional development; (2) Supporting the sustainable development of regions and ensuring a polycentric urban system; (3) Strengthening the capacities of regional development institutions in the regions of the country; (4) Decreasing local disparities, inter - and intra – regional; (5) Establishing territorial cohesion and prevent marginalization of disadvantaged areas; (6) Developing and promoting integrated and participatory planning in the process of regional development.

Conclusion: The main areas of intervention defined by the strategy are mostly aligned with the ENI CBC objectives, especially as regards the water/sewerage, solid waste management, and energy efficiency, roads, supporting entrepreneurship, tourism and rural development.

**Coherence with EU policies**

**Europe 2020**

Europe 2020 is the EU’s ten-year growth and jobs strategy launched in 2010. It aims to create within the EU the conditions for economic growth:

* Smart, through more effective investments in education, research and innovation;
* [Sustainable](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/priorities/sustainable-growth/index_en.htm), thanks to a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy;
* [Inclusive](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/priorities/inclusive-growth/index_en.htm), with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction.

The EU 2020 targets are focused on (1) Employment, (2) Research and Development, (3) Climate change and energy sustainability, (4) Education and (5) Fighting poverty and social exclusion.

**Danube Strategy**

A macro-regional strategy to boost the development of the Danube Region was proposed by the European Commission in 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in the following year. The Strategy seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region, including 14 countries among which Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine are from the Black Sea Basin. The Danube Region Strategy addresses a wide range of issues, divided in 17 priority areas as follows: (1) Connecting the Danube Region, (2) improvement of mobility and multimodality (3); Inland Waterways; (4) Road, rail and air links; (5) Encouraging more sustainable energy; (6) To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts; (7) Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region; (8) To restore and maintain the quality of waters; (9) To manage environmental risks; (10) To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils; (11) Building Prosperity in the Danube Region; (12) To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies; (13) To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development; (14) To invest in people and skills; (15) Strengthening the Danube Region; (16) To step up institutional capacity and cooperation (17) To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime.

Conclusion: Most of the TOs of the ENI CBC - except for the social inclusion and local governance - are also well represented in this strategy. Given the cross-countries and regional dimension of the Danube Strategy, a more integrated approach (of the CBC Programme with this strategy) to common support of complementary measures is recommended.

**Eastern Partnership**

Representing the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, this initiative was launched at the Prague summit in 2009 and was reaffirmed in 2011 and subsequently in 2013. It aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The EaP is focused on several Flagship Initiatives as follows: (1) Integrated Border Management Programme; (2) Small and Medium-size Enterprise (SME); (3) Regional energy markets and energy efficiency; (4) Diversification of energy supply; (5) Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters; (6) Good environmental governance.

The table below is presenting the coherence and convergence of the ENI Thematic Objectives with the most important National, Regional and European strategy document.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Legend | Criteria | Rate |
|  | Mostly convergent priorities | 2 |
|  | Partially convergent priorities | 1 |
|  | Not convergent priorities | 0 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Romania | | | | Republic of Moldova | | European Union | | | T  O  T  A  L |
| Thematic objective/ Strategic document | N-E Regional Developt. Plan 14-20 | S-E  Regional Developt.  Plan 14-20 | Partnership Agreement RO 14-20 | National Reform Program 2014 | Moldova 2020 | MD Strategy for Reg. Developt. | EU 2020 | Danube Strategy | EaP |
| TO 1. Business and SME development | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| TO 2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 13 |
| TO 3. Promotion of local culture/  preservation of historical heritage | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| TO 4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| TO 5. Support to local & regional good governance | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| TO 6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| TO 7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, develop. of transport and comm. networks and systems | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| TO 8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| TO 9. Promotion of energy cooperation | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| TO 10. Promotion of border management and border security | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 |

Overall conclusion: Cross-border cooperation policy aims to be coherent with the objectives of existing and future macro-regional strategies. According to analysis summarized in the table above, taking into account the alignment of TOs with national, regional and EU level strategic documents, the Romania-Republic of Moldova CBC Programme for 2014-2020 could focus on the following TOs:

* TO1. Business and SME development
* TO2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation
* TO6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation
* TO7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems
* TO8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security
* TO9. Promotion of energy cooperation

**3.2.2.2 Alignment with EU financial instruments and other international donors**

**Coherence with EU Operational Programmes in Romania**

As identified in the Partnership Agreement, in order to reach the global objective of reducing the economic and social development disparities between Romania and other EU Member States, the funding priorities for the use of European Structural and Investment Funds in the 2014-2020 period will be focused on tackling the following five development challenges:

* The competitiveness and local development challenge
* The people and society challenge
* The infrastructure challenge
* The resources challenge
* The administration and government challenge

The structural and cohesion funds for the 2014-2020 programming period will be managed through nine operational programmes, including Territorial Cooperation: Human Capital Operational Programme, Major Infrastructure Operational Programme, Regional Operational Programme, Competitiveness Operational Programme, Administrative Capacity Operational Programme, Technical Assistance Operational Programme and the National Programme for Rural Development, Fishery Operational Programme[[4]](#footnote-4).

**Human Capital Operational Programme (HCOP) – total budget 4,42 billion EUR**

The HC OP strategy aims to integrate human resources development needs in all programs and policies across Romania. It underlines, first and foremost, valuing human capital as a critical resource for sustainable development in the future.

The OP Human Capital focuses on employment, social inclusion and education, and it will function as a means of stimulating economic growth and cohesion, whilst supporting the objectives set out in relation to other challenges in development - competitiveness, infrastructure, management and governance. It is therefore expected for the programme to provide an important contribution to the objectives assumed by Romania in the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

OP Human Capital will support inclusive growth by investing in:

* Encouraging employment and labour mobility, especially among young people and people outside the labour market;
* Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
* Supporting education, skills development and encouraging lifelong learning

**Operational Programme Administrative Capacity (OPAC) - total budget 0, 55 billion EUR**

The Operational Programme Administrative Capacity 2014 - 2020 aims to strengthen the administrative capacity of public institutions and authorities to support a modern and competitive economy, by addressing two of the above mentioned challenges in the Partnership Agreement- "administration and governance" and "People and Society".

The objective of OP Administrative Capacity is to help create a modern public administration, able to facilitate socio-economic development of the country through public services, investments and quality regulations, thus contributing to achieving the Europe 2020 goals. To fulfil this role, the public administration needs skilled and well managed human resources, as well as an efficient and transparent management of public expenditure, an adequate administrative institutional structure, as well as clear, simple and predictable operating procedures. OP Administrative Capacity will focus investments in:

* Development of strategic planning, Programme-based budgets and coordination/ cooperation/ consultation practices in central public administration; the development and implementation of modern policies and human resource management tools, as well as the effectiveness of the judicial system;
* High-quality public services for citizens and the business environment at the local level; increased transparency, integrity and accountability of public authorities and institutions, and improving access and quality of services provided by the judiciary, including by ensuring greater transparency and integrity.

**Operational Programme Large Infrastructure (OPLI) ­ total budget 9, 41 billion EUR**

The funding priorities established by OP Large Infrastructure contribute to the overall objective of the Partnership Agreement to reduce economic and social disparities between Romania and the EU Member States by addressing two of the five challenges identified in national development: infrastructure and resources. Thus, the global objective of the Programme is the development of environment, energy and transport infrastructure, as well as risk prevention, at European standards, in order to create conditions for a sustainable economic growth whilst protecting and efficiently using natural resources. The Programme is focused on addressing the development needs in four sectors (Transport infrastructure, Environment protection and adaptation to climate change, Infrastructure in Bucuresti-Ilfov region, clean energy and energy efficiency) and it will fund four of the 11 thematic objectives set by EU Regulation. 1303/2013:

* Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in major networks’ infrastructure;
* Protecting and preserving the environment and promoting efficient use of resources;
* Promoting adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and management;
* Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

**Regional Operational Programme (ROP) - ­ total budget 6.7 billion EUR**

The Regional Operational Programme’s overall objective for 2014-2020 is enhancing economic competitiveness and improving living conditions of local and regional communities by supporting business development and infrastructural conditions and services to ensure sustainable development of the regions, which will be thus able to manage resources efficiently, as well as to exploit their potential for innovation and assimilation of technological progress.

To achieve the overall objective of ROP 2014-2020, the financial allocation will be based on the level of development of the regions and it will be focused on the following thematic priorities:

* Connected infrastructure
* Human capital
* Innovation, Research & Development
* Agglomeration processes / agglomeration economies, taking into account environmental issues

**Operational Programme Competitiveness (OPC) - ­ total budget 1.33 billion EUR**

OP Competitiveness is primarily responsible for the development challenge of Competitiveness and Local development, as described in the Partnership Agreement. Complementary, it contributes to achieving objectives in terms of three other development challenges, including: People and society, Infrastructure and Administration and Governance, positioning itself as a factor to allow horizontal interventions in the economy and society.

Through its interventions, the Programme aims to support smart economic growth and a knowledge and innovation-based economy, by investing in:

* Improving access, quality and use of information and communication technologies
* Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.

The total budget of the OPC is **1.33 billion Euros.**

**The National Programme for Rural Development (NPRD) - ­ total budget 9.36 billion EUR**

The National Programme for Rural Development responds to three of the development challenges identified in the Partnership Agreement: Competitiveness and local development, People and society, Resources. It supports the strategic development of rural areas through:

* Restructuring and increasing farm viability
* Sustainable management of natural resources and combating climate change
* Diversification of economic activities, creating jobs, improving infrastructure and services to improve the quality of life in rural areas

**International donors in Republic of Moldova**

**European Union**

EU remains the most important development partner of the Republic of Moldova. As the eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Eastern Partnership is the main policy framework for EU – Moldova relation, with the stated objective of bringing the country closer to the European Union. The support for the next four years, in accordance with the recently approved[[5]](#footnote-5) *Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to the Republic of Moldova in 2014-2017* is focused on helping public institutions, citizens and the business community to seize the benefits and opportunities of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU (AA/DCFTA).

The new programming document will shape EU cooperation with the Republic of Moldova during the period 2014-2017 in three priority sectors: i) public administration reform, ii) agriculture and rural development and iii) police reform and border management. Assistance will be also provided to support the implementation of new agreements between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova. Support to civil society will continue.

For 2014, the Annual Action Program for the Republic of Moldova is designed to support the modernization of key public institutions implementing the AA/DCFTA, improvement of public finance policy and management, competitiveness of rural business and trade opportunities with the EU and protection of minorities and vulnerable groups. The programme will contribute to further political association and economic integration with the EU under the Eastern Partnership initiative. It is a first package of bilateral assistance granted to the Republic of Moldova under the Single Support Framework.

The 2014 EU annual support package includes:

* Support to Public Finance Policy Reforms in Moldova (€37 million): to assist the Ministry of Finance, the Parliament and the Supreme Audit Institution of Moldova in the process of enhancing good governance, effective fiscal policy, transparent and accountable public finance policy and strengthened public financial management systems.
* European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) Moldova – Support to Agriculture and Rural Development (€64 million): to enhance rural development through improved policy dialogue, governance and service delivery meeting the needs of private farmers while increasing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector. Part of the second action will be dedicated to further intensify the dialogue between central and regional authorities.

Additional to these €101 million in bilateral assistance through European Neighbourhood instrument, there are already €30 million allocated to target competitiveness of small business, development of national legislation in line with EU quality standards and promotion of export and investment opportunities, communication and information campaigns on the DCFTA trade agreement with the EU[[6]](#footnote-6).

**Unite Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UNDP supports Moldova in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the fulfilment of the European integration agenda. The key focus areas of UNDP are: Inclusive Development, Democratic Governance and Environment and Energy. UNDP helps Moldova attract and use aid effectively.

The work of UNDP and the broader UN family aligns with the new national development vision, Moldova 2020, and sector strategies. UNDP Moldova’s country Programme for 2013–2017 has three major focus areas:

* Inclusive development
* Democratic governance
* Environment and energy

**Swedish International Development Assistance (SIDA)**

The Swedish Government has recently decided to continue its commitment for support to Eastern Partnership countries through “Results Strategy for Reform Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey 2014-2020”. The main aim for the strategy is to assist these countries forge closer links with the EU. The strategy is not based on sectors but rather it outlines a set of results of reforms, which are crucial for long-term EU-integration that Sweden would like to contribute to.

The strategy includes three main results areas for cooperation with Moldova:

* Enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy
* Strengthened democracy, greater respect for human rights and a more fully developed state under the rule of law
* A better environment reduced climate change and enhanced resilience to environmental impact and climate change a set of expected results within all results areas.

Moldova is a priority country for Sweden, and the Swedish support will amount to **14 million Euros annually**.

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

The United States is assisting Republic of Moldova to consolidate democratic institutions, rebuild a struggling economy, improve the business environment, strengthen the rule of law, and address the frozen conflict in Transnistria. USAID partners with Republic of Moldova to improve government effectiveness and accountability, promote decentralization of the government and strengthen linkages between local governments and citizens. USAID is also helping Moldova address regulatory and policy-level challenges to sustain and accelerate economic growth. To increase Moldova’s ability to compete regionally, USAID targets assistance at the country’s most promising economic sectors. **German Society for International Cooperation**

**Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - (GIZ)**

GIZ projects are generally financed through supra-regional funds managed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, by other federal ministries or international organisations. German international cooperation with Moldova focuses on promoting modernisation in the agricultural sector and the food processing industries, as well as improving vocational training and municipal services. GIZ also supports selected municipalities and districts with participatory budgeting, public tendering and project management with a view to integrated regional development. A further priority area is the promotion of German-Moldovan business relations by means of training for Moldovan managers to help generate business contacts.

In 2014 GIZ organised trainings of local authorities in order to develop projects in the following areas:

* Modernization of public services
* Water supply and sewerage / sanitation
* Waste management
* The energy efficiency of public buildings
* Private sector

Ready to go project concepts were produced, suitable to be financed by other donors, including the EU. Project ideas developed are totaling approximately 200 million.

Also, GIZ fulfills the function of Management Authority for the JOP MD-UA 2014-2020 under Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme.

**Romanian Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

Romanian policy of international development cooperation subscribes to the objectives, values ​​and principles of the European Consensus for Development. Its main objective is to support efforts to reduce poverty in recipient states, in the wider context of contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. According to the National Strategy for International Development Cooperation Policy, Romania supports developing countries in the geographic areas identified as priorities in the foreign relations of the Romanian government, including the states of Eastern Europe. The Republic of Moldova is the main beneficiary of Romanian ODA policy.

The general priority areas for the Romanian ODA as identified in the strategy are:

* Good governance
* Strengthening democracy and the rule of law
* Economic development
* Education and training / employment
* Health
* Infrastructure development and environmental protection

The beneficiary countries, the specific priority areas and the funds allocated for this purpose are established within multi-annual plans by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and approved through a Memorandum by the Romanian Government, in accordance with Romania’s international commitments. In 2012 the Republic of Moldova, as the main beneficiary of Romanian ODA, received EUR 13.74 million.

In 2010 an "Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Romanian Government regarding the implementation of technical and financial assistance under a financial assistance grant worth 100 million granted by Romania to the Republic of Moldova" was signed between the governments of the two countries. The financial assistance grant is reported as ODA but is managed by the Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development. The areas of cooperation under the agreement are support for infrastructure and education. Subsequent to this agreement two additional protocols have been added allowing providing financing for projects related to energy interconnection and humanitarian assistance in case of emergencies as well as environment.

**3.2.2.3 Other relevant EU policies and programmes**

**ENI CBC Black Sea Basin programme 2014-2020**

The wider Black Sea Basin ENI CBC programme will contribute to the improvement of the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection. More specifically, the programme will contribute to two of ENI CBC overarching strategic objectives:

* Promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders
* Address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security

The strategy of the Black Sea Basin ENI CBC programme is focused on the following objectives and priorities:

* Objective1. Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin
  + Priority 1.1 – Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors
  + Priority 1.2 – Strengthen cross-border trade opportunities and modernisation of the agricultural and connected sectors
* Objective2. Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin
  + Priority 2.1 – Improve joint environmental monitoring
  + Priority 2.2 - Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions against river and marine litter

**Joint Operational Programme Moldova – Ukraine** (Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme)

The Programme will be implemented through three operational objectives:

* Objective1.Improving living conditions of local communities in border regions through projects supporting economic and social development, by supporting activities within two priorities:
  + Promoting closer cross-border business links;
  + Diversifying sources of income in rural areas and the development of alternative employment opportunities in rural areas.
* Objective2. Addressing common challenges in environment, employment, public health, and any other matter of mutual interest which has a cross-border component, focusing on the following priority:
  + Solving cross-border environmental issues.
* Objective3. Culture, education and sport. Under this objective, the two priorities are:
  + Promoting multi-cultural diversity and cross-border social integration of ethnic minorities;
  + Facilitating people-to-people contacts between youth organizations in social, cultural, educational and sport-related matters.

**Horizon 2020**

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness and is the biggest EU Research and Innovation Programme ever with approximately [€](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E2%82%AC)80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 focused on excellent science, industrial leadership and societal challenges.

The goal is to ensure that Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation (taking great ideas from **lab to market)**.

Horizon 2020 Programme sections are presented below:

* Excellent science;
* Industrial Leadership ;
* Societal Challenges ;
* Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation ;
* Science with and for Society ;
* European Institute of Innovation and Technology ;
* Euratom.

Starting with July 2014, Moldova secured full access to the European Union's new seven year research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. Being an associated country, legal entities from Moldova can participate under the same conditions as legal entities from the Member States.

The active financial programmes for the eligible area are different in approach, objectives and magnitude, reflecting *i*) development needs, *ii*) governments’ own priorities as well as *iii*) donors’ vision and interest. The procedures and institutional frameworks for programme management are also differently organized: some donors prefer to develop their own procedures and grant management capabilities, other to disburse their funds through multilateral channels. Most of the CBC thematic objectives are targeted by analysed programmes to various extent; an overview on the alignment of the internationally financed programs available for the eligible area with the CBC TOs can be found in the tables below.

The coherence analysis with respect to the alignment of TOs with other existing funding opportunities for the eligible area focused on two criteria; (1) potential *overlaps* (to be avoided) and (2) *effectiveness* & *complementarity* between the ENI CBC TOs and other relevant sources of funding on medium term.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Scale | Rate |
| Overlapping | Significant overlapping | (- 2) |
|  | Partial overlapping | (-1) |
|  | Not overlapping | (0) |
| Effectiveness & Complementarity (*of the thematic objective with the programme*) | Significant effective and complementary | (+ 2) |
|  | Partial effective and complementary | (+ 1) |
|  | Not effective and complementary (0) | (0) |

Coherence table for Romania financing Programmes (below)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Thematic objective/ Programme** | OPLI | | ROP | | HCOP | | OPAC | | OPC | | NPRD | | CBC BS | | T |
|  | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E |  |
| TO 1. Business and SME development | 0 | 0 | -2 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2 | 1 | -2 | 0 | -2 | 1 | -7 |
| TO 2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | -2 | 1 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| TO 3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TO 4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | -2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -3 |
| TO 5. Support to local & regional good governance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO 6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation | -2 | 1 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -2 | 1 | -4 |
| TO 7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, develop. of transport and comm. networks and systems | -2 | 2 | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO 8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TO 9. Promotion of energy cooperation | -2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| TO 10. Promotion of border management and border security | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Coherence table for Republic of Moldova (below)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thematic objective/ Programme | EU | | USAID | | UNDP | | SIDA | | Rom  ODA | | GIZ | | CBC BS | | MD-UA | | T |
|  | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E | O | E |  |
| TO 1. Business and SME  development | -1 | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -2 | 1 | -2 | 1 | -8 |
| TO 2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | 2 |
| TO 3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | 1 |
| TO 4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -3 |
| TO 5. Support to local & regional good governance | -1 | 1 | -2 | 1 | -2 | 0 | -2 | 0 | -2 | 1 | -2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -6 |
| TO 6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -2 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 | 2 | -2 | 1 | -1 | 1 | -3 |
| TO 7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, develop. of transport and comm. networks and systems | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO 8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | -2 | 1 | -1 | +2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO 9. Promotion of energy cooperation | -1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 | 1 | -2 | 2 | -1 | +2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TO 10. Promotion of border management and border security | -2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | -1 |

The overall results generated by the analysis of coherence with national strategies and EU strategies as well as the alignment with EU financial instruments and other international donors are presented below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thematic objective/ Programme | Financing programmes | | Strategies | Total |
|  | RO | MD |  |  |
| TO 1. Business and SME development | -7 | -8 | 18 | 3 |
| TO 2. Support to education, research, technological development & innovation | -1 | 2 | 13 | 14 |
| TO 3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| TO 4. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty | -3 | -3 | 10 | 6 |
| TO 5. Support to local & regional good governance | 0 | -6 | 9 | 3 |
| TO 6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation | -4 | -3 | 14 | 7 |
| TO 7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, develop. of transport and comm. networks and systems | 0 | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| TO 8. Common challenges in the field of safety and security | 1 | 0 | 15 | 16 |
| TO 9. Promotion of energy cooperation | -1 | 1 | 14 | 14 |
| TO 10. Promotion of border management and border security | 1 | -1 | 7 | 8 |

In conclusion, the objectives that best satisfy the defined coherence criteria are **TO2, TO3, TO7, TO8** and **TO9.**

# 3.2.3 Multi-criteria analysis

Each thematic objective was scored against all criteria and the overall score was calculated based on the weight each criterion was given. The overall results illustrate the hierarchy and priority level of the 10 objectives.

The main steps followed for Multi-criteria analysis of the thematic objectives are briefly presented below:

1. Setting the five criteria used in analysis and agreeing on their relative weight- our analyses concentrated on the previous analyses and consultations in order to use trusted and documented information available.
2. Definitions of the designated criteria:
   1. **C1** *- Cross-border impact* refers to the impact of the potential initiatives to be promoted under the respective CBC Thematic Objective on both sides of the border. Given the specificity of ENI CBC interventions, the weighting of this criterion is set at 30%.
   2. **C2** - *Capacities for project management* denotes the capabilities of potential beneficiaries active in different thematic areas to manage, co-finance and apply programme procedures (based on the legislation of the country in which the project is implemented and track record of the respective organizations in the eligible area). This criterion is allocated a 20% weight.
   3. **C3** – *Relevance for overall financial allocation of the Programme* - Limitations of the financial allocation represent the capability of the financial allocation of the program to support costly/large scale interventions. (Even if such large interventions could be needed across the eligible area the limited budgetary allocation cannot support these under the CBC programme). The weight is set at 20%.
   4. **C4** *- Coherence with strategies & programmes* represents the correspondence of the TOs with the relevant policy documents and other financing instruments available for the eligible area in the 2014-2020 programming period in order to identify those thematic objectives that can be best addressed through the Ro-Ua Programme. The weighting is, as in previous 2 criteria, is set at 20%.
   5. **C5** – *Current regional context* - This criterion take into account the recent developments in the region that were not envisaged at the moment of preparation of the programming documents and intends to provide a priority for the TO that are of most urgency. Weighting is at 10%.
3. Setting the hierarchy of the objectives – Overall calculation of scores and generating the Priority Objective List. Each criteria was scored on a scale from 1 (lowest score) to 5 (highest score) and weighted as explained above.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TO** | **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Rate** |
|  | Cross-border impact | **0,3** | Capacities for project management | **0,2** | Relevance for overall financial allocation of the Programme | **0,2** | Coherence with strategies & programmes | **0,2** | Current Regional context | **0,1** |  |
| TO1 | 3 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 3 |
| TO2 | 5 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 4,5 |
| TO3 | 4 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 3 |  | 2 |  | 3,8 |
| TO4 | 3 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 3,4 |
| TO5 | 3 |  | 5 |  | 5 |  | 1 |  | 4 |  | 3,5 |
| TO6 | 4 |  | 5 |  | 3 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 3,5 |
| TO7 | 5 |  | 5 |  | 3 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 4,5 |
| TO8 | 5 |  | 5 |  | 3 |  | 5 |  | 5 |  | 4,6 |
| TO9 | 5 |  | 3 |  | 1 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 3,6 |
| TO10 | 5 |  | 5 |  | 3 |  | 3 |  | 5 |  | 4,2 |

The Thematic Objectives with best rates (TO2, TO3, TO7, TO8, TO10) have the potential to ensure a *stronger cross-border impact* due to the fact that the projects and activities that could be financed under these TOs require better coordinated actions, joined planning of public administration beneficiaries from both countries, hence taking full advantage of the particularities and communalities of the regions on both sides of the border. These five thematic objectives (together with TO 4, 5 and 6) benefit also from *better project management capacities* developed in the EU Programming period 2007-2013 (for Romania) and during the Europeanization process of Republic of Moldova after 2009.

Also, the same TOs score higher rates at *coherence with strategies & programmes* criterion, being well-correlated with relevant policy documents in the core eligible area and better anchored in the *regional context*, therefore better suited to answer to the identified development needs. In the same time they score medium rates at the *relevance for overall financial allocation of the Programme* criterion since the Programme allocation is not substantial enough to cover numerous projects, in order to answer to all the development needs the region reveal. These TOs top-rank on the final criterion, *Current Regional Context,* proving suitability to the actual conditions and developments in the region.

Lower rated Thematic Objectives (TO1, TO4, TO5, TO6, TO9) scored average at the *cross-border impact* criterion as the types of interventions that could be supported are not necessarily guided by the top strategic priorities, hence not generating strategic-level impact. However, there are significant *project management capacities* of organisations active in these thematic areas (some of them developed in the previous CBC Programme). These objectives ranked higher at the *relevance for overall financial allocation of the Programme* criterion, because they can support more small scale projects to be initiated by more diverse types of beneficiaries. Also, they score fewer points at the *coherence with strategies & programmes* and *current regional context* criteria due to the fact that they are not top priorities in the relevant policy documents across the eligible area.

In conclusion, the objectives that best satisfy the defined criteria are **TO2, TO3, TO7, TO8** and **TO10.**

# 3.2.4 Lessons learnt from previous experiences in cross-border programmes

Following the analysis of the Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 implementation reports, findings, conclusions and recommendations stemming from the mid-term review on the ENPI programmes which was delivered to the European Commission in 2012, conclusions of audit/ verification missions undertaken and last, but not least, on the opinions expressed by various stakeholders during the consultation phase, a range of lessons learnt from 2007-2013 programming period must be taken into account.

In what concerns projects’ generation, it must be acknowledged that proper consideration should be given to support building up and/or development of effective cross border partnerships since these are the cornerstone on which genuine and successful projects are based on. This is where the programme may call on various modalities aimed to facilitate and better connect partners from across the borders and which proved to be efficient in the past or may be now substantially improved/ diversified. Going further, the programme must look after and request an effective involvement of partners residing on both sides of the border during the entire projects’ lifespan, whether by awarding incentives during evaluation stage to those which adequately respond to it, or by setting mandatory requirements in the Guidelines for applicants.

On the other hand, as the previous 2007-2013 monitoring experience shows, large partnerships proved to be hardly manageable since cross border projects require close cooperation, attentive coordination and joint efforts towards the common targets. It is for the programme to decide on the maximum number of partners which may effectively act together to implement these projects.

Taking into account cross border specificities, it is a fact that good quality applications cannot be prepared from scratch only during the call for proposals period, but they need to be thoroughly designed quite some time before the actual start date of the call. Having this in mind, it is important for the programme to specifically address the capacity building component even in between of the call for proposals by means of structured thematic trainings covering as much as possible the programme eligible area, and with a special focus in the partner country. This is a point where adequate coordination across different projects and/or programmes financed by the European Union might be a solution since cooperation may bring added-value and streamline the programme’s efforts in this respect.

It is worth pointing that high call has been noticed, not only from the programme stakeholders’ side as this is also strongly required by the related EU regulations, for simplification, accuracy and transparency in what concerns the programme actions. One of the starting points to address these requirements is to upgrade and improve the application template(s). On one hand, such template(s) should be able to integrate and meaningfully substantiate whatever project idea, facilitate and focus evaluation and further, support implementation and monitoring, on the other hand. Number and type of documents to be annexed to the application form should also be limited to what is necessary and relevant for e.g. assessing the project eligibility and, in any case, should not be an additional burden to its promoters.

Regarding the assessment of applications great need has been expressed to accelerate the process, so that projects remain relevant and to keep the initial design in terms of accuracy, reality and feasibility. The two stages evaluation (Concept Note and, if pre-selected, Full Application) has been proved as beneficial as shortened significantly the evaluation duration while was less burdensome and costly, both for the programme structures and for the applicants (especially for those rejected at the end of the 1st stage). In order to accelerate the evaluation process, the Programme will involve a consistent number of independent evaluators, contracted by MA, with experience in EU-funded projects evaluation and expertise in the thematic areas covered by the Programme.

It also became evidence that large selection committees are not-functional since is extremely difficult to convene them and find a timeline which is suitable for everyone. This approach was also abandoned, and consequently the programme took the decision to set smaller and more flexible selection committees (one committee per priority, one evaluator per country per committee). Finding the right balance between the need of representation at country level, and the urge to have evaluators above any doubts and/or conflict of interest, adequately qualified in the respective fields of interest, committed to comply with the evaluation schedule and delivering good quality assessments, are requirements which must be attentively addressed by the programme.

High number of complaints following evaluation was another sensitive issue during the previous programming period. Grounds lie, mainly, within the huge amount of proposals received requiring much more funds than the ones available for the call on one hand, and on insufficient information provided to the applicants as regards the reasons for rejection or the score awarded. The programme should consider to limit the number of applications which may be submitted by the same applicant within a priority and to improve the communication with the applicants during the evaluation process.

It is recommendable programme to continue with the formal programme approach of setting a complaints procedure within the Guidelines for grant and by indicating clear reasons for rejecting a proposal. Moreover, an Assessment Manual published on the programme website may allow anyone interested to go into details with the way scores are awarded for the given evaluation criteria. Selected applicants should always be aware about how contracting is to be conducted by the programme bodies. Preparing and making available the Guidelines for the selected applicants prior to the start of this stage has clarified the process and cut off potential complaints related to timing, type of documents, and roles that each body has to play.

Nevertheless, the stage proved to be time-consuming due to the large number of documents required by the programme, unavailability and/or non-compliance of the documents submitted, while poor coordination between project partners during the process led to recurrent postponements and delays. “White spots” in what concerns specific provisions of the national legislation impacted directly on the ability of organizations to meet the deadlines and programme’s requests. Each issue can be solved or improved if is addressed in a practical way and is accompanied by a stronger commitment of the selected applicants (support of the National Authorities may prove beneficial in this respect), as well as prior knowledge of the related legal aspects.

In the new RO-MD CBC Programme, the Guidelines for Grant Applicants will provide extensive information regarding the contracting phases and the deadlines for submitting the documents (especially complex ones) will be set through a careful assessment by the JTS/ MA as regards the beneficiaries needs.

The communication plan will include more activities related to project results’ dissemination: publications, events, dedicated section on Programme website so that to allow the access of potential beneficiaries to models of good practices.

# 3.2.5 Summary of the strategy identification

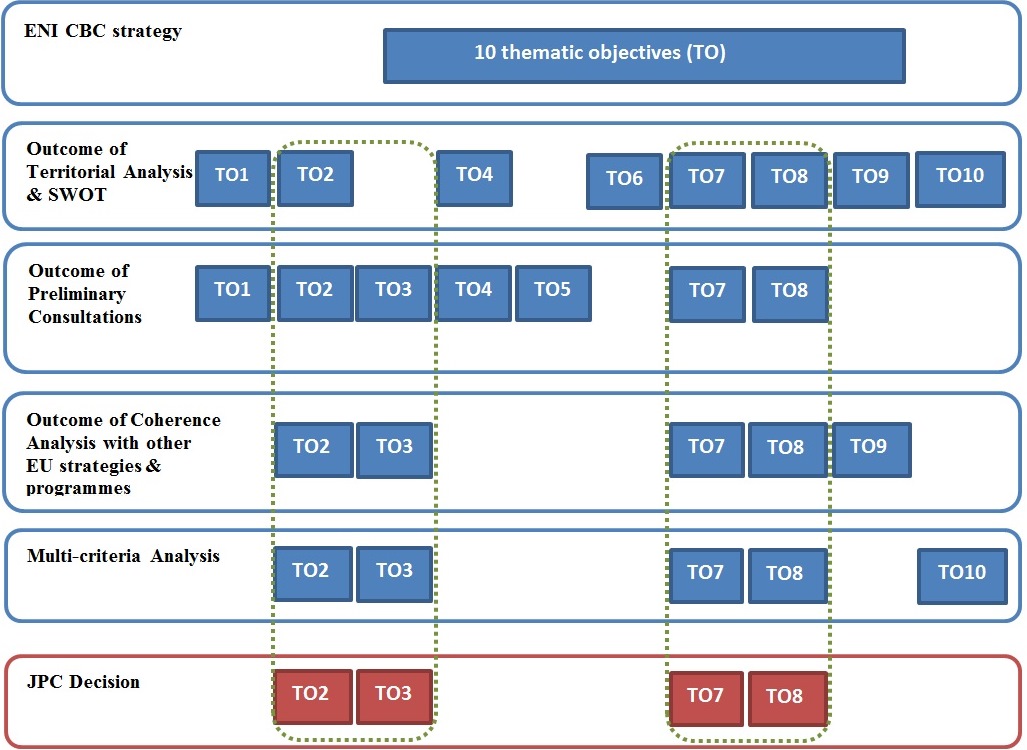
Four TOs resulted from the strategy analyses (territorial, SWOT, coherence and multi-criteria) and from preliminary consultations:

TO2 - Support to education, research, technological development & innovation;

TO3 - Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

TO7 - Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems;

TO8 - Common challenges in the field of safety and security;



According to the programming regulations, a *maximum number of four TOs* are allowed to be financed under the ENI Programmes.

# Risk analysis and mitigations measures

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Identified risk** | **Probability** | **Impact** | **Mitigation** | **Responsible body** |
| 1. | Delays in the process of projects’ evaluation and selection | Medium | High | Development of an efficient and transparent evaluation and selection methodology  Selection of external independent evaluators with relevant experience and expertise | JMC, MA |
| 2. | Delays in the process of verification of progress reports and requests for payment | Low | Medium | Allocation of sufficient personnel for checking the documentation | MA, JTS, first level controllers |
| 3. | Delays in setting up the JTS branch office(s) | Low | Medium | Simplified and accelerated procedure for contracting/ nominating the JTS branch office(s) | MA, JTS |
| 4. | Difficulties in communication with project beneficiaries | Low | Medium | Establishment of coherent communication and working procedures, with specific division of tasks between MA-JTS and JTS-BOJTS as regards projects beneficiaries, with the aim to develop a *partnership approach* between Programme management structures and beneficiaries | MA, JTS, JTSBO |
| 5. | Low visibility of the Programme and projects | Medium | Low | Adaptation of the Programme communication strategy/ plan according to the needs  Elaboration and implementation of annual communication plans  Specific provision within the grant contract as regards the obligation of the beneficiaries to have a communication strategy/ plan | MA, JTS |
| 6. | Poor quality of audit reports provided by independent auditors | Medium | Medium | Training delivery to the auditors | MA, JTS |
| 7. | Instable internal and external political context and/ or regional conflicts | High | Medium | *Independent from Programme management structures’ capacity for action* |  |
| 8. | Legislative differences between the participating countries or between EU legislation and the national legislation of the partner country, leading to misinterpretations and confusions among project beneficiaries | Medium | Medium | Development of coherent and exhaustive implementing procedures for projects, especially in what regards financial and secondary procurement rules  Permanent communication between MA and NA  Targeted training to projects’ beneficiaries on Programme’s implementing rules  External consultancy | MA, NA |
| 9. | Overlaps with other financing programmes | Low | Low | Selection of projects that are fully relevant to the Programme’s priorities and objectives, with a focus on cross-border impact | JMC, MA, project evaluators |
| 10. | Difficulties encountered by potential applicants in finding reliable cross-border partners | Low | Low | Development of support instruments for the potential applicants to help them identify cross-border partners: partnership events, online partner-finding tools etc. | MA, JTS |
| 11. | Difficulties for projects beneficiaries to ensure co-financing or to finance ineligible costs related to their projects | Medium | Medium | Setting up eligibility rules related to financial capacity in the Guidelines for grant applicants and proper evaluation of the partnership’s financial capacity | JMC, MA, JTS, project evaluators |
| 12. | Non-efficient use of EU public funds: irregularities, including frauds and corruption acts | Medium | High | Development an effective audit and control system and provide specific training to specialists involved in audit and control activities/ missions  Development of risk analyses and monitoring of projects’ progress accordingly  Financial corrections to projects that do not comply to the rules | MA, JTS, AA, NA, FLC/ auditors |
| 13. | Non-sustainability of projects funded under the Programme | Medium | Medium | Establishment of clear - cut criteria for the evaluation of projects’ sustainability  Perform ex-post evaluations  Application of financial corrections in order to recover the funds allocated to projects that do not respect the sustainability | JMC, MA, JTS, project evaluators |

# Programme indicators

The below table is describing the expected results for each priority, and the corresponding result indicators, with a baseline value and a target value and the output indicators for each priority, including the quantified target value, which are expected to contribute to the results;

The report on the proposed indicators is in the ANNEX II of the Programme. The report includes the methodology followed for the selection of the indicators, definitions of indicators, source for the data collection and indications on measurements and substantiation for setting the proposed targets.

Indicator coding system: e.g. C OI XXX, OI XXX, RI XXX

C OI – Common Output Indicator

OI – Output Indicator

RI – Result Indicator

XX – Priority Number (First two digits)

X – Indicator Number (Last digit)

*NA – Not Applicable*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | ID | Indicator Name | Measuring Unit | Baseline Year | Baseline | Indicator | Sources | Frequency of measuring |
| **Objective 1** | **Priority 1.1** | COI 111 | Number of public/ private entities using programme support for cooperation in education, R&D and innovation | Private/ public entities | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 112 | Number of pupils/ students participating within the CBC programme | Pupils/ Students | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 113 | Number of educational institutions rehabilitated | Educational Institutions | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 114 | Number of jointly implemented educational programs | Educational programmes | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 111 | Number of cross-border partnerships supporting access to education and quality of education | CBC partnerships | 2015 |  | TBD | Ex-post Programme evaluation report(s) | 2023 |
| **Priority 1.2** | COI 121 | Number of private/ public entities involved in CBC partnerships/networking in the field of research and innovation | Private/ public entities | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 122 | Number of specialists/ researchers participating in the Programme | Researchers/ specialists | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 123 | Number of jointly research actions/ studies produced | Research actions/ studies | NA | NA | TBD |  |  |
| RI 121 | Number of organizations benefiting from support services and infrastructure generated under this priority | Organisations | 2015 | 0 | TBD | Ex-post Programme evaluation report(s) | 2023 |
| **Objective 2** | **Priority 2.1** | COI 211 | Number of organizations using programme support for promoting local culture and preserving historical heritage | Organisations | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 212 | Structures/ initiatives supported in the field of tourism | Structures/ initiatives | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 213 | Number of cultural events organized (e.g. conferences promoting cultural identity and historical heritage, festivals, awareness campaigns etc) | Events | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 121 | Number of overnight stays in the eligible area | Overnight stays | 2012 | 2070257 | TBD | National Institute of Statistics in Romania. National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. | 2023 |
| **Objective 3** | **Priority 3.1** | COI 311 | Total length of reconstructed or upgraded transport infrastructure (roads, rail etc) in km | KM | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 312 | Number of joint initiatives for improving ICT infrastructure | Households/ public entities | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 311 | Increase in cross border traffic volume (by rail, road, water) | % increase border crossings | 2015 | 0 | TBD | Romanian Border Police. Border Police of Republic of Moldova | 2023 |
| RI 312 | Households/ public entities with access to broadband internet connectivity out of total households/ public entities in the eligible area | Households (percentage) | 2012 | 42% | TBD | National Institute of Statistics in Romania. National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. | 2023 |
| **Objective 4** | **Priority 4.1** | COI 411 | Population with improved access to health services or medical information | Inhabitants | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 412 | Number of joint initiatives meant to enhance the access to health in the border area | Joint initiatives | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 413 | Number of professionals involved in initiatives in the field of health services | Professionals | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 411 | Number of new cases of illness | Cases of illness (thousands) | 2013 | 2780 | TBD | National Institute of Statistics in Romania. National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. | 2023 |
| **Priority 4.2** | C0I 421 | Population benefiting from flood protection measures | Persons | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 422 | Number of strategies and hazard management tools developed | Documents (e.g. Strategies, Plans) | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 423 | Number of participants involved in joint capacity building activities (exchanges of experience, study visits, trainings etc) | Persons | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 421 | Increase in share of eligible area covered by integrated systems for emergency situations | Increased in Area covered (percentage) | NA | 0 | TBD | General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania. Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service in Republic of Moldova | 2023 |
| RI 422 | Decrease in number of victims caused by emergency situations affecting the eligible area | Decrease in victims number (Percentage) | 2015 | 0 | TBD | General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania. Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service in Republic of Moldova | 2023 |
| **Priority 4.3** | COI 431 | Number of border crossing points with increased intervention capacity | Border crossing points | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| OI 432 | Number of modernized facilities of police border and custom services | Facilities | NA | NA | TBD | Database of projects/ Projects’ reports | 2018, 2021, 2023 |
| RI 431 | Decrease of the ratio of annual number of persons crossing the border to the number of customs personnel directly employed at the border crossing points | Decrease of ratio (percentage) | 2015 | 0 | TBD | Romanian Border Police. Border Police of Republic of Moldova | 2023 |

# Cross-cutting issues

A number of important elements for successful, sustained and inclusive cross-border cooperation will be ensured as horizontal modalities to be deployed across any of the Programme priorities, rather than as separate thematic priorities. These cross – cutting issues are additional to the Programme priorities and objectives being significant to any project activity. Project applicants are to be expected to consider these cross-cutting themes when developing their projects.

ENI CBC regulations[[7]](#footnote-7) require a description of the ways the following cross-cutting issues will be mainstreamed during programme implementation, where relevant: democracy and human rights, environmental sustainability, gender equality and HIV/AIDS. Integration at project level of the relevant cross-cutting issues described below will be:

* Assessed during the selection process and included into the criteria for project evaluation;
* Checked in project reports and during project monitoring visits.

Further guidance on requirements for project selection and reporting will be provided in the programme’s Guidelines for Applicants, Implementation Manual or similar documents issued at programme level.

The cross – cutting themes include:

* Democracy, participation and human rights;
* Equal opportunities (promotion of gender equality and opportunities for youth);
* Environment protection.

**Democracy, participation and human rights**

In regard to democracy and human rights, several aspects are embedded in the Programme strategy as horizontal issues or modalities to be deployed in projects across any of the selected priorities, in particular:

* ‘People-to-people’ actions, including enhanced cooperation among NGOs and other civil society groups
* Capacity-building components for NGOs that will enhance the role of non-state actors and build their capabilities as partners in the public policy process making;
* Enhanced cooperation among local and regional authorities, promotion of local and regional good governance and capacity-building components for local/regional authorities and agencies that will support public administration reform and decentralization and local government;

The projects shall seek to integrate considerations related to democracy, good governance, participation and human rights. This may also include exchange of good practices, as well as regular and transparent project financial reporting, widely circulated and understandable project results ensuring there is no discrimination against particular target groups whether the project helps to ensure respect for any relevant human rights.

**Equal opportunities (promotion of gender equality, and opportunities for youth & elders);**

Promotion of gender equality, and equal opportunities for youngsters and elders, is important within the Programme design as a horizontal issue to be deployed in projects across any of the priorities selected. Both men and women shall have equal access to the opportunities and benefits of the programme.

All projects will have to adequately consider gender related issues – such as equality of opportunity, rights, distribution of benefits, responsibilities for men and women. This may include the integration of a gender perspective when planning activities, considering the likeliness of increased gender equality beyond the project ends.

The programme strives for promoting equal opportunities and preventing any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during its life cycle and in particular in relation to access to funding. It will take into account the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disability.

Also, the projects should address specific needs of young people and ensure participation regardless the age of the target groups. Additionally, all operations funded by the programme shall ensure that the activities implemented are in line with the principle of equality between men and women and do not generate discrimination of any kind.

**Environment protection**

Environment is crucial for projects under the most of the Thematic Objectives selected, mainly for projects supporting infrastructure construction / rehabilitation / modernization etc.

All projects funded in the frame of the Programme will have to integrate environmental considerations. This notably includes following good environmental practices during implementation, in particular in relation to energy efficiency as well as in relation to the use of water and the production of waste, etc. Projects with a direct negative impact on the environment will not be selected for financing.

Besides the verification of the respect of in-force rules and regulations on the environment and sustainable development, the programme seeks to avoid or reduce environmentally harmful effects of interventions and to deliver results in terms of social, environmental and climate benefits.

The following general principles will be adopted in the selection of applications and the monitoring of operations:

– To direct investments towards the most resource-efficient and sustainable options

– To avoid investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact and to support actions to mitigate any remaining negative effects

– To take a long-term perspective when ‘life-cycle’ costs of alternative options for investment are compared

– To encourage the use of green public procurement

*(to be completed with recommendations/suggestions from SEA as relevant).*

# Structures and appointment of the competent authorities and management bodies

***Joint structures***

*Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC):* follow the programme implementation and progress towards its priorities; examine all issues affecting the programme performance;

*Managing Authority (MA):* responsible for managing the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and for ensuring that decisions of Joint Monitoring Committee comply with the applicable law and provisions;

*Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS):* the joint operational body, assisting the Managing Authority, the Joint Monitoring Committee and Audit Authority, in carrying out their respective duties;

*Audit Authority (AA): ensure that the audits are carried out on the management and control systems, on an appropriate sample of projects and on the annual accounts of the programme.*

***Structures at the national level***

*National Authorities (NAs):* appointed by each participating country in order to support the Managing Authority in the management of the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management

# Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)

4.1.1 Composition of Joint Monitoring Committee

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) shall include as **voting members** representatives from county level, regional level and central level (out of which at least one member per country will represent each National Authority and one member per country will be designated by each of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs).

The indicative composition of the JMC consist of:

On the Romanian side:

-representatives of the counties included in core region of the programme;

-representatives of RDAs covering core region of the programme;

-representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

-representative of Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration;

On the Moldovan side:

-……

-representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

-representative of State Chancellery of Republic of Moldova

Changes within the composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee do not constitute an adjustment of the programme and may be made at the initiatives of the participating countries. However, in order to maintain the functionality of this joint structure, a maximum number of 8 voting members per country will be allowed.

**Each participating country has equal voting rights regardless of the number of representatives it has appointed.**

Other entities may be invited by the Joint Monitoring Committee to designate observers to the JMC meetings, on a permanent basis or whenever needed in order to ensure the transparency of the programme implementation and/or to avoid the duplication of financing.

The European Commission shall be involved in the work of the Joint Monitoring Committee as an observer. It shall be invited to each meeting of the JMC at the same time as the representatives of the participating countries. The Commission may decide whether it will participate or not in all or part of each JMC meeting.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall be chaired by a representative of MA. The Joint Monitoring Committee may be co-chaired by a representative of the participant country where the respective meeting takes place.

4.1.2 Functioning of the Joint Monitoring Committee

The JMC shall draw up and adopt its rules of procedure by unanimity. The rules of procedure shall set in detail the working procedures of JMC, including the voting procedure, rules for written procedure, administrative issues (e.g. number of meetings, costs covered by the programme TA for organizing the meetings, rules for ensuring the co-chairmanship, etc.).

4.1.3 Tasks of the Joint Monitoring Committee

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall follow the programme implementation and progress towards its priorities using the objectively verifiable indicators and related target values defined at Chapter…..

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall examine all issues affecting the programme performance.

The Joint Monitoring Committee may issue recommendations to the Managing Authority regarding the programme implementation and evaluation. It shall monitor actions undertaken as a result of its recommendations.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall in particular:

* approve the work programme of Managing Authority and its financial plan, including planned use of technical assistance;
* monitor the implementation by Managing Authority of the work programme and financial plan;
* approve for the criteria for selecting projects to be financed by the programme approve any proposal to revise the Programme;
* be responsible for evaluation and selection procedure applicable to projects to be financed by the programme;
* examine all reports submitted by the MA and, if necessary, take appropriate measures;
* examine any contentious cases of recovery brought to its attention by the MA;
* examine and approve of the annual reports to be submitted to the EC;
* examine and approve the annual monitoring and evaluation plan to be submitted to the EC
* examine and approve the annual information and communication plan to be submitted to the EC;

# Managing Authority (MA)

Participating countries have selected the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (RO) as Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for managing the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and for ensuring that decisions of the Joint Programming Committee comply with the applicable law and provisions.

**4.2.1. Designation process**

Following the adoption of the programme by the European Commission, the Romanian Government will proceed with the designation of the Managing Authority in accordance with article 25 of the Commission Implementing Regulations no 897/2014.

The designation body will be the Ministry of European Funds (RO) and the decision will be taken based on the report and opinion of the Audit Authority.

In this respect, the Audit Authority should take the following steps, in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards:

* analysis of the management and control system description
* gathering other relevant documents and their examination
* performance of audit work required, including, where appropriate, interviews with staff
* Preparation of the report and opinion and a contradictory procedure, including validation of findings and conclusions.

Adequate time should be allocated as to allow the authorities assessed to respond to observations and provide additional information.

The legal form of the decision will be ministerial order/ government decision.

**4.2.2 Functions of the Managing Authority**

The management functions will be fulfilled mainly by the Directorate for Managing Authorities for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, the Monitoring Directorate, the Directorate for Programme Authorization and the Directorate for Payments and Accounting, assisted by support departments within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration.

*Regarding the programme management, the Managing Authority:*

* Supports the work of the Joint Monitoring Committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the programme in achieving its expected results and targets;
* Draws up and, after approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee, submit the annual report and the final report to the Commission;
* Shares information with, the Joint Technical Secretariat, the Audit Authority and beneficiaries that is relevant to the execution of their tasks or project implementation;
* Establishes and maintains a computerized system to record and store data on each project necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, control and audit, including data on individual participants in projects, where applicable. In particular, it shall record and store technical and financial reports for each project. The system shall provide all data required for drawing up payment requests and annual accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts reduced following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for a project or programme;
* Carries out where relevant environmental impact assessment studies at programme level;
* Implements the information and communication plans in accordance with Article 79 of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;
* Implements the monitoring and evaluation plans in accordance with Article 78 of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;
* Put in place coordination mechanisms to foster complementarities and synergies with other programmes or financial instruments in the programme area.

*Regarding the selection and management of projects, the Managing Authority:*

* Draws up and launch the selection procedures;
* Manages the project selection procedures and ensures transparency of selection process;
* Provides the lead beneficiary with a document setting out the conditions for support for each project including the financing plan and execution deadlines;
* Signs contracts with beneficiaries;
* Manage projects.

*Regarding the technical assistance, the Managing Authority:*

* Manages the contract award procedures;
* Signs contracts with contractors;
* Manages contracts.

*Regarding the financial management and control of the programme, the Managing Authority:*

* Verifies that services, supplies or works have been performed, delivered and/or installed and whether expenditure declared by the beneficiaries has been paid by them and that this complies with applicable law, programme rules and conditions for support of the projects; In this respect shall perform:
  + Administrative verifications for each payment request by beneficiaries;
    - Where the institution hosting the MA is also a beneficiary under the programme, arrangements for the verifications shall ensure suitable segregation of functions.
  + on the spot project verifications.
    - The frequency and coverage of the on the spot verification shall be proportionate to the amount of the grant to a project and the level of risk identified by these verifications and audits by the Audit Authority for the management and control systems as a whole.
* Ensures that beneficiaries involved in project implementation maintain either a separate accounting system or a suitable accounting code for all transactions relating to a project;
* Puts in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified; (d) set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure a suitable audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 30 of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;
* Draws up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in Article 68 of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;
* Draws up and submit payment requests to the Commission in accordance with Article 60 of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;
* Draws up the annual accounts;
* Takes account of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the Audit Authority when drawing up and submitting payment requests;
* Maintains computerized accounting records for expenditure declared to the Commission and for payments made to beneficiaries;
* Keeps an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts reduced following cancellation of all or part of the grant.

# National authorities of Romania and Republic of Moldova

Each participating country appointed a National Authority to support the Managing Authority in the management of the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

Each National Authorities are inter alia:

* Responsible for the set up and effective functioning of management and control systems at national level;
* Ensuring the overall coordination of the institutions involved at national level in the programme implementation, including, inter alia, the institutions acting as control contact points and as member of the group of auditors;
* Representing its country in the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Moreover, the National Authority from Republic of Moldova is the ultimate responsible body for implementing the provisions set out in the Financing Agreement signed with the European Commission and MA according to Articles 8 and 9 of the of Commission Implementing Regulation no. 897/2014;.

In its function of support for AM to manage the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, the National Authorities may:

* provide information concerning the implementation of the programme on their territory, needed for preparation of the annual report;
* provide information support the MA for preparing the in the preparation of the annual monitoring and evaluation of the programme plans;
* support the MA/JTS in relation to the elaboration of the application pack and relevant templates and ensuring its compliance with the national legislation specificities;
* support the MA/JTS in the preparation of grant contract template and annexes;
* support in disseminating information about the call for proposals on their territory;
* propose members evaluators in the Selection Committee and check that the proposed members evaluators are not subject to a conflict of interest;
* support the MA/JTS in carrying out the administrative check and ensure the eligibility check for the entities on their territory;
* support the MA/JTS in the contracting phase, including the prevention of the duplication of activities among projects funded by EU;
* support the MA/JTS in conducting project monitoring and follow-up on their territory;
* support the MA/JTS for on the spot visits and requests related to the results-oriented monitoring, on their territory;
* provide information to MA/JTS/beneficiaries located on their territory on national procedures/requirements (e.g. labor law provisions, VAT exemption, eligibility issues, procurement);
* contribute to capitalization of results at national level;
* ensure dissemination of results and good practice;
* inform the MA about the detection or suspecting of operational and management problems that were/may be encountered by any project implemented on their territory as soon as such information becomes available;
* notify irregularities to the MA without delay;
* support in identifying risks on their territory;
* Define together with the MA effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures to be put in place on their territory.

In Romania the designated National Authority is Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration based on Romanian Government’s decision no. 1183/2014.

In Republic of Moldova the designated National Authority for management is …………

# Joint Technical Secretariat, and branch offices and tasks

The Joint Programming Committee of the programme decided during its first meeting to appoint the Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Suceava as Joint Technical Secretariat of the programme. The specific tasks of the JTS will be decided by the JPC in accordance with the requirements of the EC regulations.

The JTS may be supported by branch offices located in the programme area. A decision on the number and of the locations of the Branch Offices will be taken by the JPC.

# Audit Authority

According to the Article 20 of the Implementing Regulations, the participating countries shall appoint a national, regional or local public authority or body, functionally independent from the Managing Authority, as the single Audit Authority.

The Audit Authority of the programme ensures that audits are carried out on the management and control systems, on an appropriate sample of projects and on the annual accounts of the programme.

The Audit Authority shall be assisted by a group of auditors comprising a representative of each participating country in the programme.

The Audit Authority will ensure that the audit work complies with internationally accepted auditing standards.

Within 9 months of the signature of the first financing agreement the Audit Authority will submit an audit strategy for performance of audits to the Commission.

The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology on the annual accounts and on projects, the sampling method for audits on projects and the planning of audits for the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2017 until end 2024. The updated audit strategy shall be submitted to the Commission together with the programme annual report.

The Audit Authority shall draw up in conformity with Article 68 of the Implementing Regulations:

* an audit opinion on the annual accounts for the preceding accounting year;
* an annual audit report.

As mentioned in Article 28 of Implementing Regulation, the MA is subject to an annual external ex-post audit of the revenue and expenditure presented by the MA in its annual financial report, carried out by an organisation entirely independent from the MA.

The external audit shall cover the direct expenditure of MA on technical assistance and project management.

The external audit report shall certify the statement of the revenue and expenditure presented by MA in the annual financial report, and shall certify that stated expenditure has actually incurred and is accurate and eligible.

Taking into account the existing practices and structures, and in agreement with all participating countries, the Audit Authority within the Court of Accounts of Romania will perform the annual ex-post financial audit on the accounts of the MA.

The Audit Authority will provide MA with the ex-post external audit report, which will be sent as an annex of the MA annual report to the EC and JMC.

Provided that there is a lack of sufficient internal capacity or technical expertise, the MA can commission the annual ex-post external audits to another approved auditor who is a member of an internationally recognised supervisory body for statutory auditing.

# Control contact point

The control contact point in Romania is the Directorate of First Level Control, within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration.

The control contact point in Republic of Moldova is ….

# Programme implementation

# Management and control system

# Time frame for programme implementation[[8]](#footnote-8)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme activities  / year | 15 | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
| *Semester* | II | I | II | I | II | I | II | I | II | I | II | I | II | I | II |
| JMC Meetings |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Launching of the calls for  proposals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluation, selection and contracting of projects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Operational and financial  monitoring of projects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Programme interim and ex-post evaluation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Project selection procedures

As a general rule, the projects will be selected through call of proposals. For each call for proposals the Managing Authority shall provide applicants with the guidelines setting the conditions for the participation in the call, selection and implementation of the project. The guidelines shall also include the specific requirements concerning the deliverables under the project, the financial plan and the time-limit for execution.

The projects may be awarded without a call for proposals only in the following cases, but not limited to:

* The body to which a project is awarded enjoys a de jure or de facto monopoly;
* The projects relates to actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body based on its technical competence, high degree of specialization or administrative power;
* A budget share of at least EUR 2.5 million is allocated to acquisition of infrastructure
* The project has a clear cross-border impact.

The programme decided to allocate to large infrastructure projects 30 % of the JOP financial allocation.

# Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance will be used to cover the preparation, management, implementation, monitoring audit and control of the Programme as well as studies, seminars, translation, information dissemination, evaluation and publicity measures. Collectively, the funds allocated to support activities under Technical Assistance, are limited to a maximum of 10% of the global EU’s contribution to the Programme.

The aim of Technical Assistance is to achieve effective and efficient implementation of the Programme by enhanced preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical support, and by ensuring the widest participation possible amongst the public.

The technical assistance will consist of two main components:

1. Programme management and implementation

2. Transparency, publicity and information

**Programme management and implementation**

**------------------------------------------------------------**

**Transparency, publicity and information**

This component of Technical Assistance will support activities that promote and publicise the Programme together with the results and achievements accomplished. It will also organise activities that seek to increase the awareness of, and information amongst, potential project partners and beneficiaries in order to ensure the widest participation possible from the public and private sector. To this end, an information and publicity plan will also be included in the Programme setting out the aims and target groups and the strategy of the actions.

Conferences, road shows workshops, training for beneficiaries, networking, awareness-raising and co-operation exchange of experience are also necessary activities.

# Communication Strategy

The communication strategy is ANNEX …of the Programme.

# SEA

Information on fulfillment of regulatory requirements laid down in Directive 2001/42/EC

# Indicative Financial Plan

**Financial table describing the yearly provisional financial appropriations for commitments and payments envisaged for the support from the Union for each thematic objective and technical assistance**

**Provisional amounts of the financial appropriations of the support from the Union and co-financing for the whole programming period for each thematic objective and technical assistance**

# Rules of Eligibility

**Eligibility of applicants**

The list of eligible applicants shall be established in the Guidelines for Applicants of the call for proposals, according to the circumstances (objective of the call for proposals, local administrative structure, etc).

It should generally include: national, regional, local public authorities, regional and local public organisations, chambers of commerce, regional associations, non-governmental organisations, , etc.

Eligible types of applicants are indicated at the section 3.2 of the Programme.

**Eligibility of expenditures**

# Apportionment of Liabilities

………………………………………………………………………………………..

# Rules of Transfer, Use and Monitoring

**National control system**

**Control carried out by audit companies**

**Main steps of the payment of ENI funds are the following:**

**Co-financing rules**

Co-financing shall amount to at least 10% of the Union contribution.

# It Systems for Reporting

**…………………………………………………………………………………………**

# Language of The Programme

In order to facilitate management and to shorten the completion periods, according to Article 7 of the Commission Regulation 897/2014, the official language used in the Programme is English.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project title (RO) | Filed of Interest | Thematic Objective | Budget (grant) | Buget (total) |
| Fibra Optica | Transport | OT 7 | 7,020,000.00 | 7,800,000.00 |
| Cooperare Regională pentru Prevenirea şi Combaterea Criminalităţii Transfrontaliere România-Moldova | Afaceri interne | OT 8 | 9,000,000.00 | 10,000,000.00 |
| Zona de cooperare transfrontalieră România-Republica Moldova o zona mai sigură prin îmbunătăţirea infrastructurii de operare a Serviciului Mobil de Urgenţă, Reanimare şi Descarcerare (SMURD), nivelului de pregătire profesională şi menţinerea capacităţii de intervenţie a personalului în situații de urgență | Situații de urgență | OT 8 | 9,000,000.00 | 10,000,000.00 |
| Punerea în siguranţă şi reabilitarea amenajărilor de la nodul hidrotehnic Stânca Costeşti – etapa I | Situații de urgență | OT 8 | 9,000,000.00 | 10,000,000.00 |
| Reabilitarea și modernizarea birourilor vamale de frontieră de pe granița România - Moldova, respectiv birourile vamale Albiţa - Leușeni, Sculeni - Sculeni și Giurgiulești - Giurgiulești | Vamă | OT 8 | 9,000,000.00 | 10,000,000.00 |

*Annex 1 – List of Large Infrastructure Projects*

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *These activities should be carried out in the framework of educational campaigns and in cooperation with education institutions in order to be eligible.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *These beneficiaries are eligible in the context in which they work in association with Education Institutions.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Given their particularities of the programmes, the current analysis does not include Technical Assistance Operational Programme and Fishery Operational Programme. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Approved on June 11th, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This additional support has been granted through the „More for More” mechanism of the new INI [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Art. 4.3 Regulations (EU) N° 897/2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *The table is solely indicative. Any modification of the above schedule during the implementation will not be subject to a modification of the Programme* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)