

Press release regarding the signing of the financing contract for the project „VERA - Positive change through integrated action in turbulent times!”, financed by „Justice” Programme - Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

The Romanian Ministry of Justice concluded the financing contract for the project " VERA - Positive change through integrated action in turbulent times!" with the National Agency for Men and Women Equality (ANES), on July 15th, 2022.

The project is funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, within the "Justice" Programme, managed by Romanian Ministry of Justice as a Program Operator.

The project budget is 823.529 EUR, of which 85% is Norwegian grant, and 15% is national co-financing, and has a 22 months duration.

The project will be implemented by ANES, as Project Promoter, in partnership with Romanian non-governmental organisations (Center for Training and Evaluation in Social Work, Sensiblu Foundation, "Necuvinte" Association, Center for Community Safety and Mediation Center, Association for Socio-Economic Development and Promotion - CATALACTICA).

The project objective is to improve and adapt the public response capacity of central and local authorities in order to provide better and adequate support for victims of domestic and gender-based violence in the present challenging times, due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, by also including specific interventions for vulnerable groups exposed to double discrimination. The activities that will be carried out in the project aim at:

- improving the response capacity to emergency intervention in cases of domestic violence, at the communities' level, of the mobile teams set up based on inter-agency collaboration;
- enhancing the institutional capacity of the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection by training specialists from Domestic Violence Departments on access to justice for victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- developing a monitoring tool (barometer) in the field of domestic and gender - based violence, at county and national level, that will observe the implementation of the national policies in the field, the prevalent forms of domestic and gender-based violence and trends during COVID - 19 pandemic as well as challenges and specific needs of the victims, in order to develop or adapt the policies and programmes in the field.

Background information:

As Programme Operator for the "Justice" program financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014- 2021, the Ministry of Justice manages 10 predefined projects having a financial



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allocation of 57,294,118 euro, out of which 85% represents the Norwegian grant, and 15% national co-financing to be provided from the Ministry's budget.

The intervention areas financed under the "Justice" program concern: the correctional services - the penitentiary and probation system (4 predefined projects with a total allocation of 40,394,118 euros); the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system, the consolidation of the rule of law and good governance (4 predefined projects with a total allocation of 10,845,000 euros); and domestic violence and gender-based violence (2 predefined projects with a total allocation of 3.323.529 euros).