



Romania

ESF project "Implementation of a system for public policy development in the area of social inclusion"

Key facts

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

'The development and use of common systems and standards in public administration which optimise decision-making processes oriented towards citizens and the business sector, in accordance with Public Administration Development Strategy 2014-2020.'

TARGET GROUPS



Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, 3,182 administrative-territorial units in all 41 counties and in the city of Bucharest

BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

PROJECT DURATION

30/03/2016 – 29/03/2018

COORDINATOR

Florin Dragomir, Expert, Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice



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PARTNERS

The Romanian Academy's National Institute of Economic Research 'Costin C. Kirişescu'

BUDGET

EUR 2,586,027.31

ESF contribution

EUR 490,828.98

National budget



PROJECT/ORGANISATION WEBSITE



[https://portalgis.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/arcgis/home/
www.muncii.gov.ro](https://portalgis.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/arcgis/home/www.muncii.gov.ro)



<https://www.facebook.com/Ministerul.Muncii.Romania/>

Activities implemented

PROJECT IN NUMBERS



**Civil servants
trained**



**Project
participants
trained**



**Items of
promotional
material
generated**



**Administrative-
territorial units
covered**

MAIN PROJECT TASKS



Developing methodologies to map Romania's existing social services and infrastructure, the social services and infrastructure required, and the extent of poverty and in-work poverty across Romania.



Collecting data on social services and poverty in all 41 counties of the country, as well as the city of Bucharest and in 3,182 administrative-territorial units and develop a national database containing the data.



Creating a geographical information system and four interactive online maps depicting existing social services and infrastructure, the social services and infrastructure required, as well as poverty and in-work poverty, at national, county and local levels.



Training civil servants and dignitaries in the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and in local administrations on the development of citizen-oriented and evidence-based policy, as well as on using the project's methodologies, data and mappings.

Project journey: from conception to delivery

INITIAL STAGE

CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

In 2015, the Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (MLSJ) developed the **National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015-2020**. The key target of this strategy was a **reduction of 580,000 in the number of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion** by 2020, compared to the level in 2008. One of the mechanisms intended to achieve this target was to improve the data available on social services and poverty across the country.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The project sought to create innovative methodologies, to gather accurate and up-to-date data, and to generate accessible and interactive maps to capture existing social services and infrastructure throughout Romania, as well as the social services and infrastructure required, and to document relative poverty, including in-work poverty, across the country. By creating and promoting these tools, the project team aimed to improve **citizen-oriented and evidence-based policy making**, both within the MLSJ and in local public administrations.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED, AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The project team, led by Florin Dragomir (the project manager at the MLSJ) and Elena Dobre (Director of the Social Service Policies Unit within the MLSJ), included social scientists and researchers at the Romanian Academy's National Institute of Economic Research 'Costin C. Kirişescu'. The data collection process was hampered by occasional delays, which the project team managed to overcome by holding **regular meetings** to address issues and **improve communication with local actors**.

PROJECT PHASE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The project team met regularly with the social scientists and policy officers at the MLSJ to discuss the methodologies used to create the four mappings. An important role in the development of the maps was played by the team's international exchanges with four different countries. The team used these opportunities to discuss methodologies, collect examples of good practices and build relationships. They then developed the mappings and moved on to build capacity, provide training and promote the project's outputs.

KEY RESULTS AND SUCCESS FACTORS

The key results of the project include **four methodologies** for the assessment and mapping of existing social services and infrastructure, the social services and infrastructure required, as well as relative poverty and in-work poverty. The team built **four maps depicting social services and poverty in all 41 counties and in the city of Bucharest and in 3182 administrative-territorial units across Romania**. Effective teamwork and project management contributed to the project's success. The use of local field operators facilitated data collection and resulted in a sense of local ownership.

RESULTS, IMPACTS

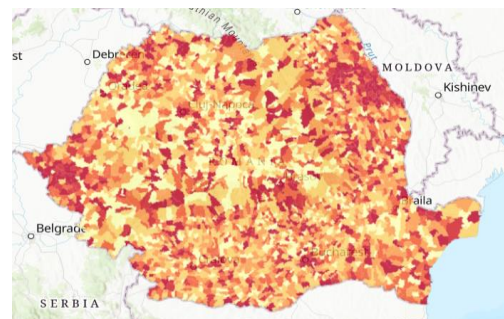
(EXPECTED) IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

The project has built capacity in the use of the mappings, both within the MLSJ and locally. The maps are interactive, accessible, easy to use and visually attractive. The team also **promoted the project among key policy makers**, and it is expected that policy makers will integrate the tools into the working processes of their administrations.

LESSONS LEARNT: THE ROLE OF ESF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ESF support made it possible for the idea behind the project to become a reality. The team in the MLSJ had previously considered implementing such a project, but had been prevented from doing so by a lack of resources. The project team learned that **bridging the gap between central and local authorities** was essential to creating a sense of local ownership. **Working with locals** facilitated data collection and improved the use of the results. Planning extra time to allow for possible delays in data collection was also an important element in keeping implementation on track.

This ESF-funded project has laid the foundation for the development of social services across Romania that are better informed by accurate and comprehensive evidence, and which are accessible and of good quality, reflecting the needs of beneficiaries who can choose the type of service they need.



Snapshot of the national mapping 'required social services'.
Source: Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

REFLECTIONS

Personal experiences



'For me, this project was both a real adventure and a scientific challenge. It came out of a strong desire to address real needs that were very important for the development of social services in Romania.'

Luminița Chivu, Director General of the, Romanian Academy's National Institute of Economic Research 'Costin C. Kirişescu'

'The scale of the project, which was in effect a census rather than a survey, involved collecting data across the country to build a tool that is useful to anyone. That is what made this project unique and worth undertaking, thanks to support from the ESF.'

Elena Dobre, Director, Social Service Policies Unit, Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

The study "Progress Assessment of the ESF Support to Public Administration" (PAPA) aims to present specific cases of ESF-funded public administration reform and capacity building initiatives. The contractor prepared 30 case studies and factsheets on ESF supported projects funded in 17 beneficiary countries of Thematic Objective 11 during the programming period 2014-2020.

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PPMi

Find out more about the project by following the <http://bit.ly/PAPA-PPMI> or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera.

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