

## Operational Programme Inclusion and Social Dignity 2021-2027 (POIDS)

### Summary document on the proposals of the

#### POIDS consultation process

(August - October 2021)

#### 1. Consultative meeting with partners in the Advisory Forum, 10 August 2021

##### **ANDPDCA requests/comments**

- Replacing the day-care centres initiative that is to be funded by the PNRR with services that are aimed at preventing the separation of children from their families;
- Replication of measures implemented by the POCU to prevent child separation from family and accompaniment;
- Promote programmes to identify, monitor and accompany children in order to lift children out of poverty;
- Reformulation of the component regarding camp access to cover the recreational and sports component.

MIPE: Comments have been collected under measure 5.5 (priority 5) of POIDS

##### **FONPC requests/observations**

- The prevention part is covered on the rural side of the establishment of SPAS in the 2000 rural localities, which is actually involve identification, monitoring and even a prevention part.
- The draft amendment to Law 272/2004 stipulates that all the older style placement centres will have to be closed by a certain date, to be determined, with one exception being the ones benefiting from a funding contract; those will still exist after the law is in force.
- Of the former 140 old-style placement centres, after the last POEcall, approximately 60 such old institutions still exist, which would include around 1500-2000 children. FONPC's proposal is the allocation of 30-35 million euro, combined FSE with FEDR, to close these last centres, and the measure should be multi-funded, precisely so that the minors in these old-style placement centres are not necessarily transferred to the so-called "family-style small homes", but that there is also sustained work on family reintegration and, and related services, including services to prevent abandonment.
- POIDS is balanced and together with POAD, as well as the food aid part and the measures in POEO, it starts to cover the child guarantee that has been outlined in the last month.
- The EC has massively funded the development of family-style homes. On the other hand, if in the case of adults with disabilities, the problem posed by deinstitutionalisation and the transfer to the community

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can be understood, there are no solutions for children. More than 60% of children in centres are children with disabilities. There is dire need for a more appropriate way of caring for children with disabilities.

➤ POIDS must be seen as integrative. Romania should have had community services since 2011, since the Law 292/2011 on Social Assistance. POIDS 's only role is to ensure we comply with Law 292/2011.

MIPE: Regarding the closure of the placement centres, FONPC's views contradicted those of the ANDPDCA at this stage of the programming, although in an earlier address (July 2020) ANDPDCA requested the support of MIPE for the closure of centres in the period 2021-2027, by current POCU and POR measures being insufficient. MIPE tried to moderate the disagreement, in order to be able to take a funding decision through POIDS , but the solution came from a third party, namely the European Commission, via correspondence dated 27 September 2021 that it does not agree with the process of deinstitutionalization through sheltered housing (neither for 12 persons nor for 6 persons). Consequently, the FONPC proposal has not been taken into account in the revised version of the POIDS .

### **CLR requests/observations**

➤ CLR considers that investments such as family-type homes for children with disabilities and sheltered housing represent a form of segregation and discrimination.

➤ CLR proposes replacing these initiatives with interventions targeting services in the community - not only in county capitals, but also in municipalities - foster parents and incentives for families, the creation of mobile teams to reach rural areas, social housing for institutionalised people with disabilities, appropriate specialist rehabilitation centres in each urban/municipal environment, personal assistants.

➤ CLR does not agree with the remark of the Association Help Autism that people with a mental disability can live in an apartment setting, considering that this would stigmatise and prejudice a large group of people with mental or psycho-social disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

MIPE: Housing solutions for people with disabilities or children in the process of deinstitutionalization in sheltered housing have been selected for funding both following ANDPDCA and civil society requests, but the measure has not been included in the updated version of the POIDS, due to the negative opinion of the European Commission (September 2021).

The mobile teams will serve the entire county, not only the county seats/capitals, as it was the case of DOLJ county, a county that has been taken as a model in the architecture of the mobile team measures in POIDS, as it has successfully implemented a pilot project. Measures to finance rehabilitation centres, day centres, respite centers, etc. will be opened through competitive bidding to any accredited provider of social services, public or private, in rural or urban areas; these options have not been limited.

### **ACoR requests/observations**

➤ Consider financial support for social workers' salaries after the end of the projects, in the case of interventions in the 2000 rural communities (due to low income of rural public authorities).

MIPE: This issue has been considered since the beginning of the programming, given the lessons learned from the POCU, from the period in which there were difficulties in the implementation of the integrated

teams, precisely because the municipalities in rural areas could not afford to provide the social worker's salary after the funding ended, during the sustainability period. To ensure the implementation of the new integrated teams for the period 2021-2027 the solution was found to conclude collaboration contracts with social workers (their liberal profession also allows contracting them, not only employment). In this way, after the end of the project/funding, during the sustainability period the local authorities are no longer obliged to ensure the monthly salary of the assistant, but only to contract him/her for each case. The remuneration for case management for a few families per month for the state of need is reduced and can be covered by the local budgets.

#### **RUHAMA Foundation requests/observations**

- By helping parents, children can stay in their families, to prevent children from being separated from their family.
- Calculating an intervention and impact related standard cost.
- Use of community social service rather than day centres to prevent separation of the child from their family especially in rural areas.
- Inclusion of social economy in Priority 1, DLRC as a form of organisation including services at community level.

MIPE: Under measure 5.5 (Priority 5), FEDR funding is precisely for the type of emergency "hard" aid, granted to parents with very low incomes (e.g. emergency roof repairs, provision of furniture/desks, chairs to facilitate the education process of the child who is in school).

Measure 4.2, setting up 2,000 integrated teams in 2,000 rural UATs will fulfill this process of preventing the separation of the child from the family. Measure 5.5 will also support this effort, at national level, not only in rural areas.

Regarding the social economy, the DLRC principle states that only communities within the GALs have the liberty to choose the areas of intervention, the necessary measures and the implementation modes within the Local Development Strategies, therefore, there is no particular measure that can be imposed by the funding authority.

#### **Save the Children Organization requests/observations**

- The introduction of emotional and psychological support measures is very important for children at risk of separation because their parents are working abroad

MEIP: The comment has been taken into account, at this moment there is no dedicated measure for these children under priority 2.

#### **FNGAL requests/observations**

- Dedicated allocation for local development strategies to complement hard infrastructure to be delivered through resources coming from the forthcoming national strategic plan, which will replace the national rural development programme.

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- Allocation of a dedicated amount to address child poverty and those resources will be used specifically with appropriate indicators for the type of intervention.
- GALs to be direct service providers and local public authorities, local NGOs to constitute an ecosystem.

MIPE: Consultations with the FNGAL were extended over the next two months and two measures were integrated into the programme (priority 2) to be implemented by the rural Gals, respectively the implementation of the rural component of the children's camps and a new measure through which to support children at risk of social exclusion and/or poverty in rural areas, through an integrated approach (educational, personal, psychological support). The measure addresses children left at home after at least one of their parents has gone to work abroad, but it does not exclusively refer to these children.

#### **Federation of Urban GALs requests/observations**

- There is a need for Multi-fund Priority 1 interventions targeting urban GALs.
- Simplification of project approval procedures is requested.

MIPE: Priority 1 will be multi-fund financed. In the context of POIDS programming, the programming team will include simplified costs, proposed implementation timetable and any other measures that may support easier implementation, both for the AM and the beneficiaries for the next programming period.

#### **Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee requests/observations**

- The need to fund social inclusion measures through sport, especially in rural areas.

MIPE: The request has been received; under Priority 5 a measure will be financed for social inclusion of disadvantaged children through sport or culture programmes, with a budget of 17,5 mil FSE+ and 44,35 mil FEDR, the beneficiaries being sports associations and federations, associations implementing cultural programmes

#### **NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY OF ROMANIA requests/observations**

- Proposal to integrate funding for natural disaster situations into the programme .

MIPE: The measure existed in the first version of the programme, by providing funding for purchasing containers prepared for the accommodation of victims of natural disasters, but the measure was transferred to the future Podd programme, in consideration of the fact that in the programme there were other measures for emergencies (beneficiary IGSU).

#### **FONSS requests/observations**

- For FONSS, these are effective housing solutions, thus equivalent to the concept of social housing, plus support services, which can be: personal assistant, support services in the household, administrative and legal assistance services, etc.

These sheltered housing units, according to discussions with the ANDPDCA, are designed as housing solutions chosen by the person with a disability, they can choose to live alone or with a friend/girlfriend or with a small group of colleagues from the former institution etc.

MIPE: Housing solutions for people with disabilities in sheltered housing have been chosen to be funded following both ANDPDCA and civil society requests such as FONSS, but the measure has recently been withdrawn following the negative opinion of the European Commission (September 2021)

### **ASSOC requests/observations**

➤ Proposed solutions for the situation of Romanians in the Diaspora.

MIPE: In the framework of POIDS programming, the main vulnerable groups in Romania, as identified in the National Strategies and Country Report, drawing most of the allocation of funds (rural, elderly, children and people with disabilities) to avoid dissipating funding to too many areas, as this could result in a lack of relevant impact.

### **2. September - October 2021 Further consultations with partners**

➤ Consultations with representatives of MIPE and Federation of Urban GALs

MIPE: Comments from Urban LAGs (Priority 1) have been incorporated, according to the 2021 Common Provisions Regulation, the financing of LAGs for which Local Development Strategies are eligible for funding and the necessary expenditure for inter-LG cooperation.

➤ Consultations with representatives of MIPE, FNGAL, ANDPDCA and Ministry of Agriculture

MIPE: Consultations were conducted on the areas of funding under the DLRC system of rural GAL interventions. The right solution for the needs of rural children was chosen, measures of accompaniment, counselling, provision of educational and psychological support completing the measures aimed at helping children at risk of social exclusion and/or poverty, within the framework of the priority 5.

➤ Consultations with MIPE, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Romanian Olympic Committee

MIPE : Proposals have been integrated through the new measure dedicated to social inclusion through sport or culture of disadvantaged children under Priority 5.

➤ MIPE & European Commission consultations on deinstitutionalisation and Leadfund issues in CLLDs

MIPE : On 27 September 2021 the COM sent a message to MIPE stating unequivocally the following, "the Commission does not support the development of sheltered housing solutions in the form of small houses for children or people with disabilities". In consequence funding for sheltered housing for people with disabilities has been withdrawn from the programme (those for children were already transferred to funding from the PNRR).