

FACTSHEET #11

Cross Border Cooperation at the external borders of the European Union (EU)

Joint Operational Programme Romania – Republic of Moldova 2014 – 2020

1 Policy context

Cross border cooperation at the external borders of the European Union (EU) continues to represent a priority for the European Union during the 2014-2020 programming period. In this framework, the cross-border cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Moldova will strengthen and enhance the development potential of the two states especially by applying the instruments and principles of the new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The Joint Operational Programme Romania – Republic of Moldova 2014-2020 will contribute to all ENI strategic objectives, focusing its strategic intervention on four thematic objectives:

1. Support to education, research, technological development and innovation (Strategic objective: A);
2. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage (Strategic objective: A);
3. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems (Strategic objective: C);
4. Common challenges in the field of safety and security (Strategic objective: B).

2 The policy measures

2.1 Overview – the policy in numbers

Table 1: Overview - policy in numbers

Area: Botosani, Iași, Vaslui, Galati counties and the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova						
Thematic Objective/ Priority	Type of project	No. of submitted projects	Amount requested (€)	No. of rejected projects	No. of contracts	ENI+ national contribution (€)
TO3/2.1	Hard	27	38 728 204.59	NA	NA	NA
TO7/3.1	Hard	19	33 038 784.49	NA	NA	NA
TO8/4.1	Hard	33	37 219 332.78	NA	NA	NA
TO2/1.1	Soft	71	22 586 718.06	32	13	4,835,327.90
TO2/1.2	Soft	25	4 544 405.74	6	10	2,056,554.41
TO3/2.1	Soft	26	2 264 336.56	12	14	1,491,436.5
TO7/3.1	Soft	3	265 422	-	3	310,304
TO8/4.1	Soft	10	1 882 303.87	4	6	1,308,463.05
TO8/4.2	Soft	17	4 621 001.6	5	9	2,853,838.26
TO8/4.3	Soft	10	2 844 394.34	-	8	2,522,534.90

Source: The Regional Bureau for Territorial Cooperation (BRCT) Iași

Programme area

The core area of the Romania - Republic of Moldova Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020 was established through the programming document and it covers:

- Romania – 4 counties – Botoşani, Iaşi, Vaslui and Galaţi;
- The Republic of Moldova – the whole country
- The cities of Bucharest, Bacău, Piatra Neamţ and Suceava were included in the programme area as major social, economic, and cultural centres.

Programme budget

The total budget is € 89.8 M, out of which the contribution of the European Union is € 81 M, while the participant countries must ensure a co-financing of at least € 8.1 M.

A total of 10% of the EU contribution to the programme may be used for activities outside the programme area and/or by beneficiaries located outside the programme area.

The intervention strategy is based on a joint view regarding the development of the programme area and on a common development vision for the following years in the priority sectors supported by the programme. The proposed strategic approach focuses on those specific aspects of common policies relevant to cross border cooperation.

According to the programming document for EU support to ENI Cross-Border Cooperation (2014-2020), the programme has to address at least one of the three pre-defined **strategic objectives** and to concentrate interventions on no more than **four thematic objectives**. The following strategic objectives were defined:

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 process of identifying the specific needs of the border area to be addressed through the Romania –Republic of Moldova Programme was concluded with the selection of 4 specific thematic objectives, as follows:

- **Thematic objective 2:** Support to education, research, technological development and innovation (ENI Strategic objective: A);
- **Thematic objective 3:** Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage (ENI Strategic objective: A);
- **Thematic objective 7:** Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems (ENI Strategic objective: C);
- **Thematic objective 8:** Common challenges in the field of safety and security (ENI Strategic objective: B).

The funding mechanism

Two types of projects are planned to be financed: hard projects (projects including an infrastructure component of at least € 1 M) applied for the TO3, TO7 and TO 8 and soft projects which do not propose an infrastructure component or this is amounted less than € 1 M, applied for the TO2, TO3, TO7 and TO8.

Objectives / Priorities

TO2: Support to education, research, technological development & innovation

Objective: Develop education and support research and innovation at the level of programme area 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

Priority 1.2 – Promotion and support for research and innovation

TO6: Promotion of the local culture and preservation of historical heritage

Objective: 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

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

Objective: Improve public transport services, infrastructure and ICT cooperation and networking

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

TO8: Common challenges in the field of safety and security

Objective: Addressing common challenges concerning the access to health, management of natural and anthropic risks and emergency situations, cross-border security through joint projects

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

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

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

Indicators

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 111 Number of institutions using programme support for cooperation in education, R&D and innovation	NA	20
OI 112 Number of people benefitting from all types of activities that received funding within the CBC programme	NA	5,000
OI 113 Number of rehabilitated / modernized educational institutions	NA	5
RI 111 Per cent of tertiary education students from eligible area from total no. of students	18%	21%
RI 112 Employment rate in the eligible area	42.45%	45%

Priority 1.2 – Promotion and support for research and innovation

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 121 Number of institutions using programme support for cooperation in R&D and support of innovation	NA	5
RI 121 Number of filed patents applications in the eligible area	422	443

Priority 2.1 Preservation and promotion of the cultural and historical heritage

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 211 Number of institutions using programme support for promoting local culture and preserving historical heritage	NA	10
COI 212 Number of improved cultural and historical sites	NA	5
RI 211 Number of overnights stays in the eligible area	2,070,257	2,173,500

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 311 Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	NA	12
OI 312 Number of joint mechanisms to support improvement of cross-border infrastructure (joint planning documents including: strategies, plans, action plans; as well as multimodal facilitation mechanisms) developed	NA	5
OI 313 Number of additional ICT based tools developed supporting cross-border cooperation	NA	5
OI 314 Number of environmentally friendly (carbon-proofed) cross-border transport initiatives developed	NA	4
RI 311 Cross border traffic volume (by rail, road)	3,684,726	3,868,962
RI 312 Connectivity rate in the eligible area	42%	60%

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 411 Population covered by improved health services as a direct consequence of programme support	NA	200,000
OI 412 Number of medical service infrastructure units improved	NA	3
RI 412 Number of newly registered cases of illness	2,780	2,502

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target
COI 421 Population benefitting from flood protection measures	NA	10,000
OI 422 Number of joint actions, including soft operations, as well as joint infrastructure investments in the field of emergency situations and the prevention of manmade disasters	NA	20
RI 421 Average response time for emergency situations in the eligible area	15'06" in 2014	14'03" in 2023

Priority 4.3 Prevention and fight against organized crime and police cooperation

Indicator	Baseline	Target
OI 431 Number of participants involved in joint capacity building activities (exchanges of experience, study visits, trainings, etc.)	NA	300
OI 432 Number of modernized facilities of police, border police and custom services from the eligible area	NA	10
RI 431 Increase of the ratio of annual number of persons crossing the border to the number of customs personnel directly employed at the border crossing points	6,639	7,635
RI 432 Level of trust and confidence of citizens in the police	Romania 47.1% Republic of Moldova 29 %	5% increase in 2023

Results

The ENI CBC is expected to create an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness between EU Member States and their neighbours. To this purpose, the ENI has three 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;**
- **Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital.**

The programme is looking to select projects which envisage clear cross border impact and which contribute both to the programme expected result specific for the priority chosen and to the corresponding programme result indicator.

Programme implementation is still in the incipient phases, and there are no substantial data available at this stage for assessing the achievements of the programme.