

Annex 4: Rules and Procedures for Thematic Funds

Annex 4 is an integral part of the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of Romania concerning the implementation of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme. Any amendment to this Annex shall be made in writing with the mutual agreement of the competent authorities mentioned in Article 9 of this Framework Agreement.

Annex 4 defines for Thematic Funds the rules and procedures as well as the responsibilities and tasks of the actors involved.

Annex 1 defines the conceptual framework of the Swiss-Romanian Programme. The rules and procedures are defined: in Annex 2 for the overall Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme; in Annex 3 for Projects; in Annex 5 for the Project Preparation Facility and the Technical Assistance Fund.

A. General Provisions for Thematic Funds

1. Definition and purpose

Thematic Funds target a specific theme or a specific beneficiary group. Thematic Funds are set up to efficiently implement Activities.

An Activity is a specific assistance for, inter alia, projects, scholarships, partnerships and knowledge transfer provided within a Thematic Fund. Financial allocations for an Activity may range from a few thousand Swiss Francs up to allocations foreseen for individual projects.

A Thematic Fund is managed by a Swiss Intermediate Body and an Activity is implemented by an Executing Agency.

2. Selection of the Swiss Intermediate Body

Eligibility as Swiss Intermediate Body. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall be a public or private sector body or a non-governmental organisation. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall have strong ties either to the sector and/or the geographic region in which the Thematic Fund is implemented. Due to the specific requirements in knowledge transfer, the Swiss Intermediate Body needs to be familiar with Swiss know-how and Romanian and Swiss institutions working in the related thematic field.

Call for proposals. To select the Swiss Intermediate Body, SDC shall launch an open or restricted call for fund management proposals. The call shall respect Swiss and international public procurement rules. In exceptional cases, SDC shall nominate the Swiss Intermediate Body directly. The type of the selection depends on the subject matter.

The selection criteria for the Swiss Intermediate Body and the call documentation shall be worked out by SDC and submitted to the NCU for commenting. The final decision on

the selection criteria and on the content of the call documentation shall be taken by SDC, taking into account the comments of the NCU.

Proposal evaluation and decision. The proposal evaluation shall be done by an independent expert mandated by SDC, a member of the NCU and a member of SDC. The evaluation results shall be discussed between SDC, the NCU and – if previously agreed upon – the line ministry in charge of the subject matter. The final decision shall be taken by SDC, taking into account the opinion of the NCU and – if applicable – the line ministry in charge.

Timing. Calls for proposals shall be launched within 6 months after the signing of this Framework Agreement. The final decision on the Swiss Intermediate Body shall be taken not later than 12 months after the signing of this Framework Agreement.

3. Thematic Fund Agreement

Preparation. For each Thematic Fund, the Parties shall conclude a Thematic Fund Agreement.

This agreement shall be prepared by SDC.

Content. The Thematic Fund Agreement shall include inter alia:

- Objectives of the Thematic Fund;
- Organisational structure, responsibilities and tasks;
- Thematic Fund management procedures including procedures for the assessment and selection of Activities;
- Activities already identified for implementation;
- Co-financing rules, co-financing sources and procedures;
- Implementation schedule;
- Budget and financial planning including management costs;
- Disbursement and audit procedures;
- Monitoring and steering procedures including the set-up of a steering and Activity approval committee;
- Reporting;
- Publicity.

Signing. The Thematic Fund Agreement shall be signed by the NCU, the line ministry/institution in charge of the subject matter - if previously agreed upon - and SDC or the Swiss Embassy. The signing of the Thematic Fund Agreement is not a prerequisite for the process of selecting the Swiss Intermediate Body.

4. Mandate Agreement

SDC shall conclude with the Swiss Intermediate Body a Mandate Agreement for the implementation of a Thematic Fund. The Mandate Agreement shall take into account the provisions of the Thematic Fund Agreement and shall spell out, inter alia, procedures on Activity selection, Activity implementation, disbursements, financial audit, monitoring, steering, reporting, review and evaluation.

5. Activity selection and approval

Composition of the Activity portfolio. The Activity portfolio may include: Activities retained in this Framework Agreement; Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party in a later stage; and Activities identified on the basis of a call.

Criteria for Activity selection. Criteria for the selection of Activities shall focus on the needs of Romania and take into account inter alia the possibility to transfer Swiss knowledge and experience, institutional partnerships between Romanian and Swiss actors, potential for networking; innovation and visibility. The financing of equipment and/or infrastructure shall support capacity building and institutional strengthening objectives.

Activity proposals. Activities shall be proposed to the Swiss Intermediate Body. Activities in the form of projects and not financed by a block grant shall be proposed by an Executing Agency by means of a project outline and final project proposal.

Activity approval. Activity proposals – for block grants - shall be:

- assessed by the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- rejected or approved by the Selection Committee.

When appropriate, the Steering Committee can fulfil the role of the Selection Committee.

Activity proposals in the form of outlines for projects not financed by a block grant shall be:

- assessed by the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- proposed by the Steering Committee to SDC for rejection or approval;
- rejected or approved by SDC.

Once the project outline has been approved, the Executing Agency shall submit a final project proposal with detailed and complete project documentation. The assessment and approval of the final project proposal shall follow the same procedure as applied for the project outline.

Upon request of the Executing Agency, a project preparation support may be granted. The request needs to be submitted with the project outline.

SDC will be represented in the Selection committee and will have the right of objection on Activity approval.

Activity agreement. For each Activity, the Swiss Intermediate Body shall establish an activity agreement.

6. Flow of funds, advance payments and audits

Flow of funds. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall open a bank account. All payments of SDC shall be made directly to this bank account. All payments from the Swiss Intermediate Body directly to the Executing Agency shall be made from this bank account.

Advance Payments. SDC shall provide working capital advances to the Swiss Intermediate Body. A prerequisite for payments is the approval by SDC of relevant progress reports.

Based upon request by the Executing Agency, an initial advance payment to the Executing Agency shall be made by the Swiss Intermediate Body. The initial payment shall amount to a maximum of 20% of the total eligible costs and not exceed 50% of the first year's budget.

Further payments shall take into account the requirements of the Executing Agency for working capital. The final payment of approximately 5% of the overall budget shall be made upon approval of the completion report. Any gross interest must be indicated in the account and credited towards the next payment.

Audit. Financial audits shall be carried out by an international audit organisation as specified in the Thematic Fund Agreement. The audit reports shall be transmitted to SDC and forwarded by SDC to the NCU.

Depending on the structure of the Thematic Funds, the Central Harmonisation Unit for Public Internal Audit (CHUPIA) can perform specific audit missions at the request of SDC or the Swiss Intermediate Body, which must nominate the public institutions to be audited and determine the thematic approach and objectives of the missions. Audit missions will be established only after projects have been approved. Moreover, the selection of projects to be audited will be entirely the decision of SDC or the Swiss Intermediate Body and must take into account the availability of CHUPIA resources.

Alleged cases of irregularities shall be investigated by SDC in cooperation with the NCU.

7. Monitoring, Steering and Reporting

Monitoring. Monitoring shall take place at the level of the entire Thematic Fund and at the Activity level. SDC shall ensure monitoring at the level of the entire fund. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall be responsible for monitoring at the level of the Activities.

Steering. A Steering Committee shall be established for each Thematic Fund. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance on strategic matters towards meeting the objectives of the Thematic Fund and towards ethics, compliance with applicable laws and regulatory policies, environmental safety and health policies, financial practices, disclosure and reporting. The Steering Committee is responsible for overseeing management and ensuring systems are in place to manage the risks of the Thematic Fund. It shall recommend Activities for approval by SDC. Selection criteria for Activities shall be specified in the Thematic Fund Agreement. The Steering Committee is primarily accountable to SDC and the NCU. The terms of reference for the Steering Committee will be part of the Thematic Fund Agreement.

Reporting. The reporting shall include the interim reporting as supporting evidence for the payment claims, the annual reporting and the completion reporting. At the level of the entire Thematic Fund, reporting shall be done by the Swiss Intermediate Body and shall be addressed to SDC. At the level of Activities, the Executing Agencies shall be responsible for reporting. Reports shall be addressed to the Swiss Intermediate Body.

Annual reports on Thematic Funds shall include a financial statement on commitments and disbursements. The annual reports including audit reports done during the year shall be provided by SDC to the NCU three months prior to the annual meeting.

8. Eligibility of costs and co-financing

Eligible costs. Eligible costs include:

- Management and administration of the Thematic Fund;
- Contribution to the preparation of Activities by the Executing Agency;
- Activities financed by the fund;
- Financial audit;
- Review and evaluation;
- Seminars and public events e.g.; to launch the call for Activity proposals; to inform on procedures; to assess and inform on progress;
- Publicity.

Co-Financing. The co-financing rates defined in the main part of this Framework Agreement, Article 5.4 shall apply. Co-financing shall be provided as joint financing or as parallel financing.

Support by the Thematic Fund shall not replace subsidised facilities and bank loans.

9. Responsibilities and Tasks

The responsibilities and tasks for Thematic Funds are as follows:

9.1. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SDC has the responsibility for the implementation of the Thematic Funds.

The main tasks of SDC include to:

- Launch a call for proposals for Thematic Fund management by a Swiss Intermediate Body;
- Organise and participate in the evaluation of Thematic Fund management proposals;
- Discuss the evaluation with the NCU and decide on the selection of the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- Decide on the financing of the Thematic Fund;
- Submit the Activity selection criteria proposed in the Project Document of the Thematic Fund to the Monitoring Committee for comment;
- Prepare and conclude the Thematic Fund Agreement;
- Prepare the Mandate Agreement and mandate the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- Supervise the operational monitoring and the financial controlling of the Intermediate Body;
- Ensure the steering of the Thematic Fund;
- Participate in the steering and Activity approval committee;
- Analyse the regular reporting of the Swiss Intermediate Body, discuss the reporting with the NCU and ensure follow-up;
- Request immediate reporting in case of irregularities and ensure follow-up;
- Assess and discuss implementation progress with the NCU based on the annual reporting prepared by the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- Organise reviews and evaluation;
- Publicity in Switzerland.

SDC may delegate a part of these tasks to the Swiss Contribution Office in Bucharest.

9.2 The Swiss Intermediate Body

The Swiss Intermediate Body is responsible for the set-up and management of the Thematic Fund, for the build-up of the Activity portfolio, for the contracting and the supervision of the Executing Agencies, for the controlling of the Activities and for the reporting on the Thematic Fund.

The main tasks of the Swiss Intermediate Body include to:

- Draft the Project Document of the Thematic Fund including criteria for Activity selection;
- Arrange all legal aspects required for the implementation of the Thematic Fund;
- Set-up implementation structures;
- Manage and administrate the Thematic Fund;
- Establish the chair (if decided so by SDC and the NCU) and act as member-secretary of the Steering and Activity approval committee;
- Establish an adequate financial and operational controlling system for Activity implementation;
- Call for and/or collect proposals for Activities, review compliance with the proposal requirements and establish selection recommendations;
- Prepare and conclude contracting arrangements with the Executing Agencies implementing the Activities;
- Apply controlling systems and intervene if required. Inform SDC on irregularities immediately;
- Report to SDC. Reporting includes at least one annual progress report and financial reports;
- Ensure the financial audit of the Thematic Fund, submit audit reports to SDC and ensure the follow-up to audit recommendations;
- Publicity in Switzerland and in Romania.

9.3 The National Coordination Unit

The NCU is responsible for the inclusion of the Thematic Fund in the portfolio of Supporting Measures and – on a general level - for monitoring implementation of the Thematic Fund.

The main tasks of the NCU include to:

- Participate in the evaluation of proposals for the Thematic Fund management;

- Discuss the results of the proposal evaluation with SDC;
- Conclude the Thematic Fund Agreement;
- Participate in the steering and Activity approval committee;
- Monitor the Thematic Fund implementation on a general level and provide feedback to SDC on observations;
- Comment on the Thematic fund reporting prepared by the Swiss Intermediate Body;
- Comment the audit reports;
- Acknowledge the payments made by SDC on the basis of financial statements submitted by SDC;
- If irregularities take place, participate in the assessment of causes and solutions;
- Include main elements of the Thematic Fund reporting in an overall annual report on the Swiss Contribution;
- Discuss implementation progress with SDC in the annual meeting;
- Ensure inclusion of the Thematic Fund in the publicity on the Contribution.

Responsibilities and tasks shall periodically be reviewed and amended, if needed. A first review shall take place during the first annual meeting of the Parties.

B. Specific Provisions for Thematic Funds

B.1 Security Fund

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.1

1. Definition and purpose

A Security Fund shall be established. The fund shall address Schengen related issues and contribute to enhancing socially related security as well as to fighting against corruption and organised crime.

In well-justified cases, the Parties may agree to include Activities that are not included in the above-mentioned topics.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body

SDC shall issue a restricted call for fund management proposals. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall have: the knowledge and experience in the field of security issues and the capacity to manage funds in trust. Due to the specific requirements in knowledge transfer, the Swiss Intermediate Body needs to be familiar with the Romanian and Swiss institutions working in the thematic field of security.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|--|--|
| Activities retained in this Framework Agreement | 10,341,000 |
| Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party in a later stage | 4,959,000 |
| Thematic Fund management, funding of project preparation and reserve | 2,700,000 |
| Total | 18,000,000 |

Activities retained in this Framework Agreement:

The information on project content, project partners and beneficiaries, duration and financing required is indicative. Detailed project planning may lead to adaptations of project features or may result in cancellation of entire projects.

a. Schengen and Prüm related Issues

Asylum matters. The project shall contribute to capacity building in the Romanian Immigration Office (RIO). Project activities shall include inter alia: Training of specialists; development of management instruments, standards and procedures for asylum centres. **Project partners:** RIO on the Romanian side; Subject matter specialists, possibly competent federal and cantonal authorities on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries:** RIO and civil society. **Duration:** 2 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 250,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI): **15%** .

Operational capacity building and training programmes for Romanian Immigration Office staff. The project aims to provide training for RIO staff in addressing issues concerning irregular migration. Project activities include training courses in Bucharest and exchange of knowledge and experience with Swiss authorities. **Project partners:** RIO on the Romanian side; Subject matter specialists, possibly competent federal and cantonal authorities on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries:** RIO. **Duration:** 1 year. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 150,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI): **15%**.

Development of capacities in Schengen topics. The project aims to develop personnel capacities concerning the Schengen topics (SIS and SIRENE implementation). Project activities shall include inter alia: Providing training sessions, study visits, Schengen preevaluation, flyer (if needed), transliteration list for operational purposes (correct entering of names into the SIS). **Project partners:** MAI on the Romanian side; Federal Police (FEDPOL) on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries:** Police and civil society. **Duration:** 1 year. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 51,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MAI: 15%.

Complying with EU standards in implementing the Prüm instruments. The project aims to develop forensic institute capacities concerning the implementation of the Prüm instruments (DNA, fingerprints). Project activities shall include training programmes, exchanges of experiences and best practices, workshops and seminars, logistical support. **Project partners:** MAI on the Romanian side; Subject matter specialists on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries:** Police and citizens. **Duration:** 2 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 1,275,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MAI: 15%.

b. Enhance socially related security

Prevention against human trafficking. The project aims to improve the fight against human trafficking. Prevention, reintegration and repatriation shall be strengthened. Experiences gained in the pilot project with the Federal Office of Migration shall be used. Project activities shall include awareness-raising campaigns in Romania and Switzerland, the installation of a helpline, capacity building for victim protection and financing of rehabilitation structures. **Project partners:** MAI on the Romanian side; competent federal authorities and/or NGOs on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries** shall be Romanian police forces and the victims of trafficking. **Duration:** 2 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 600,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MAI: 15%.

Community policing concept within rural areas. The project aims to increase the security in rural areas in a sustainable manner. For this purpose community policing, particularly preventive police work, anti-trafficking and child-protection measures shall be strengthened. Project activities shall include training courses for community policing instructors, management courses, transactional analysis courses, security marketing training courses and organisational measures and the provision of equipment. Police forces of holiday resorts may be included in training events. **Project partners:** MAI and IGPR on the Romanian side; Subject matter specialists, possibly Cantonal police on the Swiss side. **Beneficiaries:** Rural population. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 1,970,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MAI: 15%.

Management of public safety measures in mountain areas. The project aims to increase the public safety and protect the environment in mountain areas and in the surroundings. The project shall make good use of Swiss knowledge and experience with safety issues in tourist areas and in remote sites. Project activities include training programmes, workshops, study tours, elaboration of flyers. **Project partners:** on the Romanian side the gendarmerie, police units, local authorities, mountain rescue association (SALVAMONT), environmental guards, national forest administration; on the Swiss side e.g. competent Cantonal and local authorities, Swiss Air-Rescue Foundation (REGA), subject matter specialists. **Beneficiaries:** Communities living in mountain areas, Romanian and foreign tourists in mountain areas. **Duration:** 2 years.

Financing: Swiss Contribution **CHF 2,000,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MAI: 15%.

Community service workshops (probation). Community service is an important means to execute short-term penalties. Community service helps society and minimises the social and other costs of executing penalties. The project is based on a pilot project currently under implementation. It shall provide a roll-out of the probation concept and establish a whole network of community service workshops in close cooperation with Romanian authorities and organisations. **Project partners:** on the Romanian side MoJ, local authorities and organisations; on the Swiss side, FPSC/VEBO "Verein zur Entwicklung der Bewährungshilfe in Osteuropa" (already involved in the pilot project). **Beneficiaries:** Civil society, penitentiaries. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 1,100,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by MoJ:15%.

Assistance for strengthening the training capacities for judges and prosecutors in the application of new laws. New laws such as the Penal Code will affect the activity of the Romanian judges and prosecutors in the upcoming years and will therefore require further training for Romanian judges and prosecutors. The National Institute of Magistracy is the most important institution capable of offering the necessary training courses for all judges and prosecutors. The project will improve the capacities of judges and prosecutors to apply the new laws. The project activities may include for example: development of training concepts, introducing the new methods for training, developing e-learning modules, organizing training seminars with the involvement of NIM' trainers, organisation of workshops and conferences. **Project partners:** on the Romanian side the Superior Council of Magistracy, the National Institute of Magistracy, the Public Ministry; on the Swiss side subject matter specialists, possibly competent authorities. **Beneficiaries:** the Romanian judiciary system, citizens, investors. **Duration:** 2 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 1,800,000**; Romanian co-financing to be provided by SCM and the Public Ministry: 15%.

c. Fight against corruption and organised crime

Enhancing the efficiency of operational capabilities to efficiently counter systemic corruption. Strengthening the operational capacity of the Anticorruption General Directorate (AGD) of the MAI in preventing and countering complex cases of corruption through the procurement of specialized equipment needed mainly for conducting operational investigations (IT and software). Improving the activities of gathering evidence as well as enhancing the coordination capacity among AGD officers to carry out tracing and controls. **Project partners:** AGD/MAI on the Romanian side; Subject matter specialists on the Swiss side. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 275,000**; Romanian co-financing by MAI: 15%.

Raising awareness of the dangers presented by corruption. The project aims to increase citizens' involvement in the fight against corruption and improve public perception of the level of integrity within the MAI. The project addresses the specific anti-corruption requirements in the field of justice and home affairs related to the administrative capacity building for preventing corruption, promoting integrity and raising awareness of corruption, as provided in the "National Anti-Corruption Strategy on vulnerable sectors and local public administration for the 2008-2010 period", its related Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the MAI strategy against organised crime. It also

aims to complement the achievements of previous anti-corruption projects. This project provides supports for activities which are geared to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies within the Romanian MAI, given that corruption undermines the rule of law and compromises the fight against organised crime. Project activities include anti-corruption related video spots, stickers, flyers, messages in newspapers. **Project partner:** on the Romanian side MAI/AGD; on the Swiss side subject matter specialists. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 170,000**; Romanian co-financing by MAI: 15%.

Improving the capacity of the Romanian judiciary in the fight against corruption and economic and financial crime. The project aims to contribute to developing the abilities and new capacities for Romanian judges and prosecutors in the area of fighting corruption and economic and financial crime. The project activities may include for example developing training concepts, introducing the new training methods, developing the e-learning modules, organizing training seminars and workshops as well as other activities related to anti-corruption issues, such as elaborating studies relevant in this field, exchange of experiences and best practices. **Project partners:** on the Romanian side the National Institute of Magistracy, the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Public Ministry the National Anticorruption Directorate and the Ministry of Justice; on the Swiss side subject matter specialists, possibly competent authorities. **Beneficiaries:** the Romanian judiciary system, citizens, investors. **Duration:** 2 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 700,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Public Ministry, the National Anticorruption Directorate, the Ministry of Justice: 15%.

Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party in a later stage:

A conceptual frame for project identification and selection shall be proposed by the Swiss Intermediate Body. Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party shall be within this conceptual frame.

4. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee shall be established. The Steering Committee shall include representatives of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court of Magistrates, the Public Ministry, the National Anticorruption Directorate, the civil society, NCU and SDC. It shall meet at least 2 times per year.

The lead of the Steering Committee shall be assured by the Swiss Intermediate Body, which shall also act as member secretary of the Steering Committee.

B.2 Reform Fund linked to Health Issues

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.2.

1. Definition and purpose

A Reform Fund shall be established. The fund shall pursue the objectives of widening the access to health and social services as well as to improving the quality of health services. Priority shall be given to Activities in primary health care, in emergency medicine and in perinatology.

In well-justified cases, the Parties may agree to include Activities that are not included in the Priority mentioned above.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body

SDC shall issue a call for fund management proposals. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall have: the knowledge and experience in the field of health and the capacity to manage funds in trust. Due to the specific requirements in knowledge transfer, the Swiss Intermediate Body needs to be familiar with the Romanian and Swiss institutions working in the thematic field of health.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|--|--|
| Activities retained in this Framework Agreement | 8'500'000 |
| Thematic Fund management, funding of project preparation and reserve | 1'500'000 |
| Total | 10,000,000 |

Activities shall make good use of knowledge and experience gained during the long-lasting cooperation of Romania and Switzerland in the period of 1992 to 2008.

Activities retained in this Framework Agreement:

The information on project content, project partners and beneficiaries, duration and financing required is indicative. Detailed project planning may lead to adaptations of project features or may result in cancellation of entire projects.

a. Widening the access to health and social services

Community integrated health and social services. The project aims to develop a functional model of integrated and locally managed health and social services in one or two rural districts (one city and several villages per district) with low development indicators. Capacities shall be strengthened with local authorities and service providers. Specific attention shall be given to equal access for the entire community and the cost-effectiveness of service provision. Home-care services shall be promoted and medico-social community centres may be set-up. The project may include: know-how transfer at systems level; training courses for family doctors, community nurses, Roma mediators, social workers, home care providers, local authorities; awareness-raising campaigns; and study tours to Switzerland. **Project organisation:** Based on a call, the project shall be implemented by a consortium of Romanian NGOs led by a Swiss Executing Agency that will engage in knowledge transfer, have the necessary experience from the legal point of view as well as from that of the service providers fields (primary care, community nurses, Roma mediators, home care providers, social services providers, psychologists etc). **Project partners:** Ministry of Health, eventually others. **Beneficiaries:** Population of rural communities and small towns with low development indicators, vulnerable groups, people living below the poverty threshold. **Phasing:** The project shall be implemented in phases: a project concept shall first be developed followed by a pilot phase. Based on results, scaling-up may be decided or, alternatively, remaining funds may be reallocated to improving the quality of health services. **Duration:** 5 years, if fully implemented. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 5,000,000**; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Health: 15%.

b. Improving the quality of health services

Improving paediatric intensive care units: The project builds on the previous Romanian-Swiss cooperation in emergency care and neonatology. It will focus on training physicians and nurses in regional hospitals. Special emphasis may be given to training programmes in toxicology, trauma and oxygen therapy. **Project partners:** On the Romanian side the Ministry of Health; on the Swiss side hospitals and specialist health professionals. **Beneficiaries:** Children up to the age of fifteen years (often children from marginalised families who are victims of domestic accidents). **Duration:** 2 to 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 500,000 to CHF 1,000,000** ; Romanian co-financing by the Ministry of Health: 15%.

Pre-hospital and hospital emergency service. The project builds on the previous Romanian-Swiss cooperation in emergency care and aims to improve the quality of pre-hospital and hospital emergency care. The project shall improve training materials and the equipment of the training centres and may allow for the establishment of new centres. Main contents may be: management of emergency departments; neo-natal life support courses; emergency care for nurses. **Project partners:** On the Romanian side the Ministry of Health; on the Swiss side specialised health professionals. **Beneficiaries:** Paediatricians, neonatology specialists, emergency physicians, nurses. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution **CHF 1,500,000** ; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Health 15%.

Emergency medical services and air rescue. The project aims to transfer Swiss knowledge and experience in emergency medical services and rescue operations. It shall include training for pilots, medical rescue teams and technical personnel. Procedures, rules and guidelines shall be improved. Long-term cooperation is envisaged in the form of a twinning programme. **Project partners:** The main partners are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior/General Inspectorate of Aviation and the Swiss Air-Rescue Foundation (REGA). **Beneficiaries:** Crews of rescue operations and patients. **Duration:** 3 to 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution CHF 1,000,000 to 1,500,000; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Health: 15%. The Romanian side will cover all costs for using helicopters.

4. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee shall be established. The Steering Committee shall include representatives of the Ministry of Health, regional and/or district health representatives, NCU and SDC. It shall meet at least 2 times per year. The lead shall be assured by the Swiss Intermediate Body/Executing Agency which may act as member secretary of the Steering Committee.

B.3 Reform Fund linked to Civil Society Participation

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.3.

1. Definition and purpose

A Reform Fund shall be established with the objective of promoting the contribution of civil society organisations as important actors in development and participation. Priority shall be given to the Activities of the civil society organisations/NGOs primarily tackling environmental issues, contributing to the provision of social services, as well as allowing for strengthening organisational capacities.

In well-justified cases, the Parties may agree to include Activities that are not included in the Priority mentioned above.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body

SDC shall issue a call for fund management proposals. The Intermediate Body shall have: the knowledge and experience required in the field of environment and social services; competencies to support NGOs in their development; and the capacity to managed funds in trust. Due to the specific requirements in knowledge transfer, the Swiss Intermediate Body needs to be familiar with the Swiss know-how and Swiss civil society organisations.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|--|--|
| Activities retained in this Framework Agreement | 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 |
| Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party in a later stage | 800,000 to 2,800,000 |
| Activities identified on the basis of a call procedures (block grant) | 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 |
| Thematic Fund management, funding of project preparation and reserve | 2,000,000 |
| Total | 13,800,000 |

Activities retained in this Framework Agreement:

Activities have been retained in this Framework Agreement that contribute to enhancing the **sustainable development** of areas with high ecological value, that benefit from the strong **commitment of Swiss environmental NGOs** in knowledge transfer and strengthening Romanian partners in the field of integrated management of natural resources, and which can both mobilise **substantial co-financing** and correspond to Romanian and Swiss priorities.

The information on project content, project partners and beneficiaries, duration and financing required is indicative. Detailed project planning may lead to adaptations of project features or may result in cancellation of entire projects.

Project briefs below indicate an overbooking of the available Swiss financing. The project selection procedure will identify the projects that shall be implemented.

Integrated and sustainable development of forests: The project aims to develop an integrated approach which follows the concept of value-added chains for wood by: 1) strengthening the value-added chain of market-oriented product; 2) enhancing the role of mountain forests in conserving the natural values and providing protection against natural hazards; 3) analysing "ecosystem services" for reducing CO₂. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side CEFIDEC – Training and Innovation Centre for the development of the Carpathians, Romontana-National association for rural development in mountain regions, Farmers Federation of the Mounte Vatra Dornei, AJDMM – Mountain Association of the region of Mures, Asociatia AGROMRO – Centre de Formation en Agriculture, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme; on the Swiss side: Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), Agridea (Agricultural extension service), Pro Natura, WWF, Birdlife. **Beneficiaries:** communities living in forestry areas, environmental NGOs. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: approx. CHF 1.5 million.; co-financing amounting to min. 10% provided by the partners.

Sustainable agriculture in mountain regions: The project aims to support integrated rural development in mountain areas applying the concept of value chains to develop activities focused on the market such as production systems, markets and sales, organisational strengthening. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side : CEFIDEC – Training and Innovation Centre for the development of the Carpathians, Romontana – National association for rural development in mountain regions, Farmers Federation of the Mounte Vatra Dornei, AJDMM - Mountain Association of the region of Mures, Asociatia AGROMRO – Centre de Formation en Agriculture, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme; on the Swiss side: Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), Agridea (Agricultural extension service), Pro Natura, WWF, Birdlife. **Beneficiaries:** communities living in mountainous areas, environmental NGOs. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: approx. CHF 1.5 million.; co-financing amounting to min. 10% provided by the partners.

Natura 2000 and rural development: The project aims to promote the long-term protection and sustainable use of Romania's natural capital through effective implementation of the EU Natura 2000 network and national protected area systems with the involvement and support of local stakeholders. It: 1) supports stakeholder involvement in Natura 2000/Protected Area planning and management; 2) addresses conflicts between Natura 2000/protected areas and infrastructure projects; and 3) develops and promotes positive examples for nature conservation and rural development. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side : WWF-DCP/Romania, Pro Park Foundation, Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Ecotur Sibiu, Centru pentru Resurse Juridice (Center for Legal Resources), Stefan cel Mare University Suceava, BirdLife Romania, Milvus, possibly others. On the Swiss side: Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), possibly others. **Beneficiaries:** communities living in rural areas, environmental NGOs. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: approx CHF 1 million; co-financing amounting to min. 10% provided by the partners.

Rural development and High Nature Value Farmland: The project aims to promote protection and local livelihoods in High Nature Value Farmlands. It: 1) helps Romanian policy to support protection and maintenance of High Nature Value Farming, 2) promotes High Nature Value Farming and products, and 3) establishes mechanisms for advocating/supporting High Nature Value Farming. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side : WWF-DCP/Romania, Pro Park Foundation, Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Ecotur Sibiu, Adept Foundation, Slow Food Movement Romania, BirdLife Romania, Milvus, possibly others; on the Swiss side: Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), possibly others e.g. Groupement suisse pour les régions de montagne, Agridea (Service de vulgarisation agricole), Pro Natura, Birdlife. **Beneficiaries:** communities living in rural areas, environmental NGOs. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: approx. CHF 1 million; co-financing amounting to min. 10% provided by the partners

Southern Carpathians (Romania) – Wild landscape at the heart of Europe: The project aims to promote sustainable resource use and tourism in the Southern Carpathians by establishing and promoting Europe's largest conservation landscape. It 1) supports management planning and coordination for protected areas; 2) promotes stakeholder involvement and support; and 3) promotes and develops tourism. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side : WWF-DCP/Romania, Altitudini Association, Renaturopa Association, Ecotur Sibiu, Pro Park Foundation, protected area authorities

(e.g. Retezat and Domogled National Parks), local and county councils, regional development and tourism agencies; on the Swiss side: Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), possibly others. **Beneficiaries:** communities living in rural areas, environmental NGOs. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: approx. CHF 1 million; co-financing amounting to min. 10% provided by the partners.

Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party at a later stage:

A conceptual frame shall be proposed by the Swiss Intermediate Body. Activities proposed by the Romanian or by the Swiss Party shall be within this conceptual frame. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution for these Activities: CHF 1.8 million; Romanian co-financing provided according to co-financing rules.

Activities identified on the basis of a call procedures:

Block Grant for the financing of small Activities by the civil society/NGOs: Priority shall be given to Activities in the field of environment protection and social issues (e.g. child care, elderly, and people with addiction problems). Activities will be favoured that have the potential to strengthen Romanian NGOs and to enable their active participation in policy processes both as the voice of civil society and as a service provider. The Activities shall be selected after calls for project proposal. The costs of the Activities shall amount to CHF 10,000 to 250,000. Block Grant implementation may geographically be focused. A Selection Committee shall be established with representatives of the civil society, the NCU, and SDC. **Project partners on the Romanian side:** Non-profit organisations with a legal status in Romania, which are independent of government and other public authorities as well as of political parties or commercial organisations; and independent organisations with specific legal status (National Red Cross Societies, etc.). **Project partners on the Swiss side:** NGOs that cooperate with their Romanian partners. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: CHF 4 million Romanian co-financing provided by the NGOs: 10%.

4. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee shall be established. The Steering Committee shall be composed of representatives of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Civil society representatives, NCU, SDC. It shall meet at least 2 times per year. The lead of the Steering Committee shall be assured by the Swiss Intermediate Body that shall also act as member secretary.

B.4 Reform Fund linked to the Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.4.

1. Definition and purpose

A Fund shall be established with the objective to promote social inclusion of the Roma and other vulnerable groups.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body

The Thematic Fund shall be implemented by a Romanian Programme Management Unit (PMU). The PMU is a separate unit of staff recruited with the involvement of SDC and including SDC staff. It will guide the Support Measures of the Thematic Fund including the proposal of geographical focussing, the formulation of call for project proposals, the award of mandates to the Project Partnerships and the monitoring of the programme activities.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|--|--|
| Line 1 "living conditions" (possible 25% for pilot phase and 75% for scaling-up phase) | 11,000,000 |
| Line 2 "empowerment and awareness" | 1,000,000 |
| Programme Management Unit and backstopping, funding of project preparation and reserve | 2,000,000 |
| Total | 14,000,000 |

Activities retained in this Framework Agreement:

With the objective to promote the social inclusion and participation in socio-economic life of Roma and other vulnerable groups, two strategic lines shall be pursued:

Line 1 - Improvement of living conditions. Geographically, priority shall be given to regions with: high Roma population; high school drop-out rates; high unemployment; precarious housing situations and precarious access to services.

Thematically, priority shall be given to education for children as well as to health for children and women. Educational activities shall include pre-schooling, basic and out-of-class education. Health activities shall include awareness building, hygiene education, prevention and access to medical services in communities. In a later stage,

job and income generating activities as well as housing (under specifically high co-financing requirements) may be included.

Emphasis shall be given to activities with a direct impact on the individual and household level.

Activities shall be implemented in a coherent manner, applying an integrative approach. Activities shall be implemented in the same territory and managed by a multidisciplinary team.

Activities shall be bundled in two to three projects. These projects shall be selected based on a call for proposals. Project proposals have to be submitted by a Romanian-Swiss consortium. A large range of local partners may be included in the implementation of project activities, e.g.: municipalities, health mediators, general practitioners, medical centres, schools, kindergartens, school mediators, teachers for Roma children, community facilitators and NGOs. Services shall be provided in a non-segregated manner pursuing an integrated policy.

The project proposals shall identify the members of the consortium and the local partners that cooperate with the consortium. Project selection criteria shall include: socio-economic indicators of the target area, quality and relevance of the project proposal, capacity of the implementing consortium, coherence of the partnerships with the local partners, capacities in the consortium and in the partnerships as well as possibilities to provide contributions in cash and in kind.

Beneficiaries: Roma, other minorities, vulnerable groups of non-minorities. Roma children and women shall particularly benefit.

Phasing: The projects may start with a pilot phase followed by a scaling-up phase. Duration: Pilot phase 2 years; scaling-up 3-5 years.

Financing: Swiss Contribution CHF 11 million. Co-financing provided by the consortium and the local partners: minimum of 10% to 15% according to the co-financing rules.

Controlling: The programme will operationally be monitored by the Programme Management Unit and will be supported by regular backstopping and assessment activities carried out by SDC.

Line 2 - Empowerment and awareness building. Line 2 shall be anchored on national level. It shall be implemented by the Programme Management Unit.

Priority shall be given to strengthening Roma and other minorities' cultural identity and integration, improving acceptance and enhancing their participation in decision making.

These activities may include the promotion of Roma leadership and role models, mutual understanding social inclusion and participation. Media campaigns may be included.

Activities shall be bundled into projects. These projects shall preferably be implemented by Romanian-Swiss partnerships.

Financing: Swiss Contribution CHF 1 million; co-financing provided by the partnership: 10% to 15% according to co-financing rules.

4. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee shall be established. The Steering Committee may include representatives of the Ministry of Family and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Interethnic Relations, the National Agency for Roma, civil society representatives, the NCU and SDC. It shall meet at least 2 times per year. The lead of the Steering Committee shall be assured by SDC which may delegate this function to a Swiss Intermediate Body. The Swiss Intermediate Body may act as member secretary.

B.5 Scholarship Fund

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.5.

1. Definition and purpose

A Scholarship Fund shall be established that enables Romanian students and researchers from higher education and research institutions to join the Scientific Exchange Programme between Switzerland and the New Member States of the European Union.

The Scientific Exchange Programme (Sciex-NMS^{ch}) aims to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union through fostering the scientific capacities of researchers in the new EU member states and promoting sustainable research partnerships between the new EU member states and Switzerland.

The main goal of the programme is to establish scientific partnerships which: i) develop individual researchers' capacities (human capital), ii) foster scientific progress and innovation (scientific prospects); and iii) establish or enhance networks between researchers (networking) through the provision of research scholarships and short term research visits.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body and Coordination Body for the Scholarship Fund

On the Swiss side, the mandate awarded by SDC to the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) as the Swiss Intermediate Body for the management of the Scholarship Fund with eight new EU member states shall be extended to the Fund with Romania.

On the Romanian side, coordination activities within the Scholarship Fund shall be supported by the National Council for Research (CNCSIS) as Coordination Body which shall be mandated by the NCU. Coordination activities shall be financed by Romania. The financing shall be provided by the Ministry of Education as parallel financing and shall be considered as co-financing.

The financing provided by the Swiss Contribution shall be transferred directly to the beneficiaries via CRUS and the Swiss host institutions.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|---|--|
| Activities retained in this Framework Agreement | 7,384,000 |
| Thematic Fund management | 616,000 |
| Total | 8,000,000 |

4. Scholarship Fund Agreement

The Scholarship Fund Agreement shall be prepared by SDC. It shall be signed by the NCU on the Romanian side and by SDC on the Swiss side.

A separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be concluded between the Romanian Coordination Body and CRUS. The MoU details the coordination arrangements, scoring mechanism and assessment criteria, planning of calls and timing, reporting and monitoring arrangements as well as information and communication arrangements.

5. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the SciexNMS^{ch} Programme is responsible for the general operational decisions of the programme. It also discusses and approves proposed scholarships.

The Steering Committee is composed of the Swiss research stakeholders, i.e. delegated representatives of the following organisations: CRUS (1 delegate as President of the Steering Committee); State Secretariat for Education and Research (1 delegate ESKAS); the Swiss National Science Foundation (1 delegate career development, 1 delegate international cooperation); Swiss cantonal universities and Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (1 delegate elected by CRUS); Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (1 delegate elected by KFH); ETH-Domain (1 delegate elected by ETH-Rat); Bridge to the Research Institutions outside the university sector (1 delegate elected by SER) as well as SDC (1 delegate). Romania may delegate an observer to the Steering Committee.

B.6 Research Fund and Project in Education

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.6.

B.6.A Research Fund

1. Definition and purpose of the Research Fund

A Research Fund shall be established with the objective of promoting joint Romanian-Swiss research. Priority shall be given to joint research projects.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body and Coordination Body for the Research Fund

SDC shall directly appoint [the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Romanian National Centre for Programme Management of the Ministry of Education and Research] as Swiss Intermediate Body. The Swiss Intermediate Body: shall have the competencies and experience in promoting research; the knowledge about the Swiss research institutions and the capacity to manage funds in trust.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation in the Research Fund

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|--|--|
| Joint research projects | 8,300,000 |
| Thematic Fund management, funding of project preparation and reserve | 1,450,000 |
| Total | 9,750,000 |

Joint Research Projects (JRP). Joint Research Projects (JRP) shall be realised by Romanian and Swiss researchers. JRP shall enable Romanian and Swiss scientists to engage in joint research activities. As priority options shall be considered: Civilisatory diseases, environment, food security and agriculture, renewable energy; nuclear physics; nano-materials and complex synthesis; nanotechnologies and materials science; other areas as mutually agreed at a later stage. Research projects with a budget up to CHF 500,000 shall be identified on the basis of an open call for proposals. **Beneficiaries:** Public research and academic institutions in Romania and in Switzerland. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 8.3 million**; Romanian co-financing provided by the Ministry of Education Research, Youth and Sports for participating public research and academic institutions.:15%.

4. Selection Committee

A joint project Selection Committee shall be established. The Selection Committee shall be co-chaired by a representative of the Romanian and the Swiss side. The Swiss Intermediate Body may act as member secretary of the Selection Committee.

B.6.B Project in Education

1. Swiss Intermediate Body for the Project in Education

SDC shall directly appoint the Zürich University of Teacher Education, Institute International Projects in Education (IPE) as Swiss Intermediate Body.

2. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|-------------------------|--|
| Joint research projects | 2,000,000 |
| Total | 2,000,000 |

Job Orientation-training in Businesses and Schools. The project is a joint initiative of Swiss and Romanian educational institutes. Students shall be prepared for their occupational careers through combining labour market and schooling requirements. The project addresses students in their last year(s) of compulsory education (VIII, IX or X grades) for the upcoming choice for a profession or for their university focus (the last year of gymnasium and the lower cycle of high-school education). It supports them in their career development by using appropriate teaching and learning methods. Students seek direct contact to chosen enterprises. Teachers receive in-service training in order to implement the programme in their classes. Enterprises receive guidance and materials on how to accompany students. Eventually selected teachers will receive extra training to become future trainers.

The Project encompasses two phases:

- Phase 1 implementation in a pilot region (Swiss financing: **CHF 425,000**; Romanian financing provided by the Ministry of Education: 15%);
- Phase 2 replication in additional regions (Swiss financing: **CHF 1,575,000**; Romanian financing provided by the Ministry of Education: 15%);

Project partners: on the Romanian side : the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour, the National Centre for Vocational Education and Training, sectoral committees, the University of Bucharest. On the Swiss side: Zurich University of Teacher Education, Institute International Projects in Education (IPE) as Swiss Intermediate Body. **Duration:** approx. 5 years.

B.7 Partnership and Expert Fund

The general conditions of chapter A of this Annex shall apply unless otherwise stipulated in B.7.

1. Definition and purpose

A Partnership and Expert Fund shall be established with two objectives:

- To promote and/or enhance institutional partnerships between Romanian and Swiss partners in order to: contribute to the solution of specific development challenges; strengthen the capacities and structures of the Romanian institutional partners; benefit from Swiss added value; contribute to the strengthening of the partnerships;
- To mobilise Swiss expertise.

Institutional partnerships. Priority shall be given to institutional partnerships between Romanian and Swiss non-profit organisations, governmental and other public organisations, territorial entities and social partners that tackle development challenges.

Mobilisation of expertise. Expertise shall primarily be mobilised through short-term inputs by Swiss experts. These inputs shall be provided to non-profit institutions, governmental and other public organisations.

2. Swiss Intermediate Body

SDC shall issue an open call for fund management proposals. The Swiss Intermediate Body shall have the competencies to support the development of Romanian-Swiss partnerships, the know-how to mobilise short-term expert inputs from Switzerland and the capacity to manage funds in trust.

3. Composition of the Activity Portfolio and Indicative Financial Allocation

| Portfolio Item | Indicative Swiss Financial Allocation in CHF |
|---|--|
| Activities retained in this Framework Agreement | 800,000 |
| Activities identified on the basis of a call procedures (block grant) | 5,000,000 |
| Short term expert inputs | 1,000,000 |
| Thematic Fund management, funding of project preparation and reserve | 1,200,000 |
| Total | 8,000,000 |

Activities retained in this Framework Agreement:

The information on project content, project partners and beneficiaries, duration and financing required is indicative. Detailed project planning may lead to adaptations of project features or may result in cancellation of entire projects.

Protection of Geographical Indications: The objective of the institutional partnership is to enhance knowledge on official systems assessing the quality of agricultural and food products, raising consumer awareness of the quality of products and understanding the modalities of organising producer groups. **Institutional partners include:** on the Romanian side: the National Office for Romanian Traditional and Organic Products, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, Fundatia ADEPT, others; on the Swiss side: AGRIDEA, others. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 200,000** for the partnership; co-financing provided by the Romanian Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development : 15%.

Promotion of decent working conditions for employees: The institutional partnership aims to improve the mechanisms of social dialogue in the field of health and safety protection as well as the working conditions of the Romanian and immigrant workers in Romania. The project shall support structured dialogue between trade unions, employers' organisations, Labor Inspection and other public institutions in the field: exchanges of experiences between Romanian and Swiss trade unions and employers' organisations; and promote the bipartite structures and paritarian funds. **Project partners include:** on the Romanian side: the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection, Labor Inspection, National Research Institute for Labour Protection, Regional and National Unions; Employers organisation; etc.; on the Swiss side: Swiss Labour Assistance (SLA); other. **Duration:** 3 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: **CHF 600,000**; co-financing of 10% to 15% provided according to co-financing rules.

Activities identified on the basis of a call procedure:

Block Grant for the financing of joint Activities of institutional partnerships. The Block Grant shall promote and/or enhance institutional partnerships between Swiss and Romanian partners. The Block Grant shall have two brackets:

- For a total budget of CHF 2 million: Smaller Activities ranging from CHF 10,000 to CHF 100,000, and
- For a total budget of CHF 3 million: Larger Activities ranging from CHF 100,000 to CHF 250,000.

Activities shall be identified on the basis of a rolling call for proposals. A Selection Committee shall be established including representatives of associations of Romanian municipalities, civil society, the NCU, and SDC. **Partners on the Romanian side:** non-profit organisations with a legal status in Romania such as non-governmental organisations, networks, associations, federations, think tanks, educational institutions, cultural institutions; governmental and other public organisations; territorial entities such as regions, cities and municipalities; social partners i.e. nationally recognised and representative trade unions and employers' organisations. **Partners on the Swiss**

side: Institutional partner that cooperate with their Romanian partners. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: CHF 5 million; co-financing provided by the institutional partners: 10 to 15% taking into account co-financing rules.

Block Grant for the financing of short term inputs of Swiss experts. The Block Grant is intended to allow Romanian partners benefit from highly-qualified Swiss expertise. Requests for financing of experts can be submitted any time during a given time period (rolling call). Activity costs shall range from a few thousand Swiss Francs up to CHF 35,000. In well-justified cases, the upper limit may slightly be increased. The NCU and SDC shall jointly endorse approvals made by the Swiss Intermediate Body.

Eligible applicants for expert support may include governmental organisations and non-profit organisations with a legal status in Romania. **Duration:** 4 years. **Financing:** Swiss Contribution: CHF 1.0 million; Romanian co-financing (e.g. local transportation of expert, interpretation) provided by the beneficiary of the expert input.

4. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee shall be established. The Steering Committee shall be composed of representatives of Romanian municipalities' associations, civil society representatives, the NCU and SDC. It shall meet at least 2 times per year. The lead of the steering shall be assured by the Swiss Intermediate Body which shall also act as member secretary of the Steering Committee.