

EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee  
established by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

and

The General Directorate for Non-reimbursable Financial Mechanisms and Instruments  
hereinafter referred to as the “National Focal Point”,  
representing the Government of Romania,  
hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary State”

together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

for the financing of the Programme “Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth  
Entrepreneurship”

hereinafter referred to as the “Programme”

## **Chapter 1**

### **Scope, Legal Framework, and Definitions**

#### Article 1.1 Scope

This programme agreement between the Financial Mechanism Committee (hereinafter referred to as the FMC) and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Programme and the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 to the Programme.

#### Article 1.2 Legal Framework

1. This programme agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this programme agreement, constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021:

- (a) Protocol 38c to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021;
- (b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the “Regulation”) issued by the Donor States in accordance with Article 10(5) of Protocol 38c;
- (c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”), entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State; and
- (d) any guidelines adopted by the FMC in accordance with the Regulation.

2. In case of an inconsistency between this programme agreement and the Regulation, the Regulation shall prevail.

3. The legal framework is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this

programme agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this programme agreement by that Party.

#### Article 1.3 Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this programme agreement shall be understood in accordance with the Regulation, in particular Article 1.6 thereof, and the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this programme agreement.

#### Article 1.4 Annexes and hierarchy of documents

1. Annexes attached hereto form an integral part of this programme agreement. Any reference to this programme agreement includes a reference to its annexes unless otherwise stated or clear from the context.

2. The provisions of the annexes shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with this programme agreement. Should the meaning of any provision of the said annexes, so interpreted, remain inconsistent with this programme agreement, the provisions of the annexes shall prevail, provided that these provisions are compatible with the Regulation.

3. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the preparation of the programme are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this programme agreement.

## **Chapter 2**

### **The Programme**

#### Article 2.1 Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this programme agreement.
2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this programme agreement and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in the Regulation.
3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Programme.
4. In executing this programme agreement the Parties declare to counteract corrupt practices. Further, they declare not to accept, either directly or indirectly, any kind of offer, gift, payments or benefits which would or could be construed as illegal or corrupt practice. The Parties shall immediately inform each other of any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to this programme agreement.

#### Article 2.2 Main responsibilities of the Parties

1. The National Focal Point is responsible and accountable for the overall management of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in the Beneficiary State and for the full and correct implementation of this programme agreement. In particular, the National Focal Point undertakes to:
  - (a) comply with its obligations stipulated in the Regulation and this programme agreement;
  - (b) ensure that the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority, the Irregularities Authority

and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation, this programme agreement and the programme implementation agreement;

(c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme;

(d) take the necessary measures to remedy irregularities in the implementation of the Programme and ensure that the Programme Operator takes appropriate measures to remedy irregularities in Projects within the Programme, including measures to recover misspent funds;

(e) make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements in order to strengthen or change the way the Programme is managed.

2. The FMC shall, subject to the rules stipulated in the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this programme agreement, make available to the Beneficiary State a financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as “the programme grant”) to be used exclusively to finance the eligible cost of the Programme.

#### Article 2.3

##### Objective and outcomes of the Programme

1. This programme agreement sets out the objective, outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets for the Programme.
2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator implements and completes the Programme in accordance with the objective, outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets set for the Programme.