

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**“We work for a society that accepts diversity, where people are healthy and support one another. Everyone has equal access to quality health services, according to their needs. ”**

### The values of the organization

- The courage to intervene in crisis situations;
- Responsibility towards beneficiaries, partners and resources;
- Activism and civic action;
- Providing trust to beneficiaries and demonstrating empathy towards their problems;
- Persistence in all actions;
- Professionalism in the activities carried out;
- Respect for collaborators and beneficiaries;
- Integrity and honesty;
- Persuasion and perfectionism;
- Working power and efficiency.

## SHORT DESCRIPTION OF SASTIPEN

SASTIPEN - The Roma Center for Health Policies, established in 2007, is a nongovernmental organization that promotes social dialogue, participation and community involvement in the decision-making structures regarding the public health policies of Roma and non-Roma citizens and whose areas of interest are: analysis and development of health policies; strategies and interventions of public health, especially in communities with Roma, in order to improve the socio-sanitary situation of the members of this minority; community development of disadvantaged groups in Romania.

The staff of the **SASTIPEN** organization is composed of young Roma and non-Roma activists, with extensive experience in developing and implementing projects / programs addressed to Roma communities, in carrying out analyzes / studies / research that reflect the situation of Roma communities, with experience in implementation and implementation of information and awareness campaigns for members of communities with Roma, with experience in delivering training sessions for adults, in implementing advocacy campaigns, etc.

**SASTIPEN** considers that in Romania the Roma population faces an aggressive model of social exclusion. Addressing the issue of Roma, in terms of health, must be understood and worked on the effects (high incidence of tuberculosis in the Roma community, number of HIV / AIDS, child malnutrition, lack of access of Roma population at the health services, etc.)

**SASTIPEN** has as main areas of interest the analysis and development of health policies, as well as strategies and interventions of public health, especially in the communities with Roma, in order to improve the health situation of the members of this minority. At the same time, Sastipen has a special interest in promoting health and changing behaviors, as well as community development of disadvantaged groups in Romania.

**SASTIPEN** promotes social dialogue, participation and community involvement in the process of making public policy decisions by improving communication between the administrative structures of the authorities and communities at local, national and international level, as well as by notifying the competent bodies when those human rights are violated.

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## Foreword



Dear friends,

The year 2022 represented for us, Sastipen team, a year with many achievements and challenges, both professionally and personally. From the point of view of professional achievements, I am sure that we managed to maintain our standard of performance and we continued to implement the activities within our projects with the highest level of professionalism and dedication. Testimony to this statement are the discussions with our partners and collaborators, as well as the messages of appreciation received both in the virtual environment, on the Facebook page of the organization, and in the messages received on the email address of the organization. For me, reading a short message on Facebook or an email from a beneficiary thanking us for the support provided is an enormous joy, but at the same time, a greater responsibility.

I never thought that a simple discussion I had 5 years ago with a student on the topic of vulnerable Roma can determine a research project and a future dissertation thesis and the thesis being appreciated by the teachers of that student and promoted in the academic environment. I say this because in recent years, the topic of Roma in the academic environment has been treated with a lot of superficiality, without specialized literature and without the desire to research the current reality in the Roma communities. I was very happy to receive this "thank you" message and most of all I was glad that the new generation thinks differently and is eager for knowledge before getting involved.

Returning to achievements, one of the biggest achievements of our team in 2022 was the fact that we managed to increase our team and bring together young people eager to learn and develop professionally to continue Sastipen initiatives at community level, interacting permanently with our beneficiaries and being empathetic with their problems. Despite all the restrictions given by the COVID-19 pandemic context or despite all the obstacles given by the lack of sufficient material and financial resources to support the field trips, my colleagues were present in the communities where we assumed to operate and interacted directly with our beneficiaries, a fact appreciated by our beneficiaries and partners at the local level.

Also from the perspective of achievements, I want to mention the fact that in 2022, we have invested in the development of the professional skills of our colleagues and thus our team has developed with 2 ANC accredited trainers and 5 ANC certified competency evaluators who will certainly strengthen the Professional Training Department of Sastipen. The fact that we have in our team young trainers who will continue the tradition of

the organization in delivering training courses in the fields of Health Mediation, communication and leadership, organizational development, public policy and advocacy, is one of the greatest achievements and I have to thank my colleagues for letting themselves get carried away and for understanding that the profession of a trainer is one of the most beautiful jobs that a young person eager for personal and professional development can perform. The year 2022 was also a celebration for Sastipen. We celebrated 15 years of activity and at our meeting, attended by current colleagues, former colleagues, partners and soul friends of the organization, we took stock of our activity. Besides the constructive praise and criticism brought by our partners and friends regarding our projects, I have in mind the number of employees and collaborators of Sastipen, a number counted by the expert in charge of human resources, information that proved to me that we were and continue to be one of the employers who appreciated and correctly valued the activity of the human resource employed in our projects. More than 1100 employees and collaborators of the organization who received a salary from Sastipen, of which 786 people employed with an employment contract in accordance with the legislation in force for a period of more than 24 months. Although then I was amazed by this achievement, now when I write about it I have a great joy in my soul because I am aware that in these 15 wonderful years, Sastipen managed to create a great family made up of soulful people who, through their work, brought a ray of hope among our beneficiaries. I further invite you to discover the activity carried out by Sastipen in 2022 and surely you will discover other notable achievements of our team. In this report you will also find information about the obstacles we have faced or the failures we have recorded. Like any entity working in our field of activity, we also encounter obstacles or even record failures. It is important to recognize this, learn from these situations and share these lessons with our readers.

I conclude by thanking our beneficiaries for their trust, our partners and collaborators for the professionalism with which they approached the collaboration relationship with Sastipen, the representatives of the diplomatic missions in Romania for their interest in the Roma issues and the involvement of Sastipen representatives in the organized work meetings, our partners among the public institutions at national and local level for their support and trust, to the formal and informal Roma leaders at community level for the support offered to my colleagues in the activities carried out and last but not least, I thank my colleagues from Sastipen for the work done both in the process of organizational reform and in the process of implementing the calendar of activities related to 2022.

Dr. Soc. Daniel Rădulescu—President

## Foreword (2)

The year 2022 had a major significance for the Sastipen team in terms of implementing projects and programs. It was the year with the most projects and programs. It was the year with the most projects in implementation after 2016, and with the most challenges, both in implementation and in identifying experts to carry out the proposed activities. The lack of work experience and the large volume of activities were the main reasons for the large flow of staff, so Sastipen had in 2022 five projects in implementation with over 80 employees.

Another challenge was the interaction with 97 local public authorities, most of whom have no experience in implementing projects. But the mayors had a very important role in the partnerships we had, namely the role of facilitating access to the community giving us greater credibility in front of potential beneficiaries.

Also in 2022, Sastipen collaborated with most doctors, over 60 doctors (family doctors and specialists). If the mayors know at least the minimum information regarding the writing and implementation of a project, the doctors see the european projects only from the perspective of medical intervention, which was a training work, continuous counseling in order not to exceed the limits imposed in the financing contracts. Thus, we had to build an efficient and close communication with affiliated/contacted doctors in projects and activities.

In the localities where we had the support of Mayors, com-

munal dispensaries, schools, school inspectorates, county hospitals, County Council, the activities were successfully implemented, which indicates that if the projects, programs, activities would be implemented by a group of experienced experts from several fields to work together at a single table where to discuss intervention strategies focused on specific problems affecting the population, we could speak of a "system" of work.

Mostly, the year 2022 was loaded with everything, it organized us, made us more patient, brought us a lot of experience working with local institutions, but also in working with people, beneficiaries or colleagues, gave us a lesson of "how to behave as partners", without "stealing" the activities of other partners. Although it was a post-pandemic year, with a war on the borders of the country, with a great economic crisis, I believe that we found, as a team, the right solutions to overcome each impasse, and each challenge was an experience from which we had to learn, but where it did not go as we wanted, we can say "this is not how you do it" and move on.



Radu Anuti, Programs Director

Anul 2022 a reprezentat pentru noi, toti, colegi din organizatia Sastipen, un an al provocarilor profesionale si institutionale cu care am fost si suntem obisnuiti sa lucram. S-au implinit 15 ani de la infiintarea organizatiei Sastipen si consider ca experienta acumulata in toata aceasta perioada, face ca Sastipen sa fie astazi una dintre cele mai respectate si importante organizatii de romi, din tara, care si-a dedicat foarte mare parte din activitati lucrând in teren cu si pentru comunitatile de romi, dar nu numai, facilitand accesul romilor la serviciile de sanatate, pe de o parte, dar contribuind si la imbunatatirea relatiilor dintre membri comunitatilor locale in general si autoritatile publice pe de alta parte.



Desi un an plin, din toate punctele de vedere profesionale, cred ca toate aceste activitati au reusit sa ne aduca si foarte multe succese si realizari, atat profesionale cat si personale. Faptul ca am reusit sa creem o echipa extraordinara in cadrul organizatiei noastre, personal o consider ca fiind o importanta calitate de management organizational. Din perspectiva rezultatelor atinse in acest an, nu pot sa nu mentionez faptul ca Sastipen a reusit sa implice in procesul de abilitare si rezolvare al problemelor comunitatilor de romi, un numar destul de mare de romi, care au inteles importanta dezvoltarii de parteneriate cu autoritatile locale. Astfel ca in aceasta perioada, Sastipen a implementat a serie de activitati, atat in cadrul unor proiecte care au fost/sunt in derulare in cadrul organizatiei, cat si pentru dezvoltarea unor parteneriate cu diferite institutii publice de la nivel local si organizatii nonguvernamentale. Prin participarea Sastipen la evenimente publice si intalniri internationale, a reusit sa puna pe agenda de discutii problematica comunitatilor de romi si a problemelor cu care acestia se confrunta si implicit incercarea rezolvarii acestor probleme (lipsa accesului la serviciile de sanatate, consilierea in domeniul locuirii, accesul la serviciile educationale si facilitare comunitara, accesul la serviciile de ocupare, etc.). Astfel ca, Sastipen prin experienta acumulata in decursul a celor 15 ani de activitate in domeniul medierii sanitare, a participat la intalnirea internationala organizata la Praga, Republica Ceha, in cadrul Presedintiei rotative a Comisiei Europene, evenimentul anual intitulat Roma Forum. La acest eveniment au participat peste 100 de re-

prezentanti si delegatii guvernamentale ale statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene, cat si organizatii internationale din statele membre.

Mai mult decat atat, am reusit sa organizam un numar de 17 evenimente pe care Sastipen le-a coordonat in localitatile de implementare a proiectelor si la nivelul judetelor Tulcea, Gorj, Constanta si a Municipiului Bucuresti. In ceea ce priveste implicarea Sastipen in promovarea culturii si traditiilor comunitatilor de romi, au fost organizate evenimente multiculturale la care au participat reprezentanti ai autoritatilor publice locale si judetene (Tulcea si Gorj), membrii ai comunitatilor de romi (peste 600 de persoane), membrii ai altor minoritati nationale (Ukraiieneni, Turci, Tatari, Machedoni, Rusi s.a), cu rolul de a constientiza importanta multiculturalitatii. La aceste evenimente au participat reprezentantii ministerelor de resort si reprezentantii principalelor ambasade ale tarilor Membre ale Uniunii Europene, la Bucuresti.

Un alt aspect important este reprezentat de faptul ca Sastipen a continuat imbunatatirea relatiilor de parteneriat cu organizatiile nonguvernamentale ale romilor de la nivel national si international (ERGO – European Roma Grass Roots Organization), prin evenimentele pe care le-a organizat, care au avut diferite teme de discutii si prin care au fost abordate subiecte legate de continuarea procesului de lobby si advocacy atat la nivel international, cat mai ales la nivel national, astfel incat sa putem introduce pe agenda publica nationala si internationala, problemele cu care se confrunta comunitatile de romi din Romania si estul Europei.

Tot in acest an (2022), au fost organizate intalniri cu reprezentantii inspectoratelor scolare de la nivelul judetelor Bacau, Tulcea, Gorj, Prahova in care am abordat importanta implicarii parintilor romi in procesul educational al copiilor si imbunatatirea relatiei scolare dintre parinti si cadrele didactice.

In 2023, ne-am propus sa continuam activitatile pe care le-am derulat anul trecut, astfel incat sa asiguram sustenabilitatea rezultatelor atinse, pe de o parte, cat si continuarea componentei de advocacy in ceea ce inseamna imbunatatirea cadrului legislativ in domeniul sanatatii si al accesului la serviciile de sanatate al comunitatilor de romi.

Danut Dumitru, Advocacy Director

## Activities planned for 2022

Dr. Soc. Daniel Radulescu, presedinte Sastipen

Since the founding and until the present time, the organization has continued its efforts especially to the issue of:

- Increasing the degree of Roma access to public health services, by developing Community Centers for Medico-Social Assistance, located in the community, for disadvantaged people, excluded from the health insurances system, with an emphasis on the mother and child;
- Advocacy at national level on the health national program initiated by Ministry of Health for Roma communities, in order to be adapted to real particular health needs of Roma vulnerable communities;
- Developing public policies on Roma health, as well as developing public health strategies and interventions, especially in Roma communities, with the purpose of improving the socio-health status of Roma;
- Implementing advocacy activities which would contribute to adopting by the governmental and intergovernmental bodies of coherent policies meant to improve the health status of vulnerable groups' members;
- Organizing integrated community centers;
- Organizing courses to support the national health mediation program;
- Organizing training for health professionals in areas (discrimination and human rights, addressing vulnerable groups, Roma history and culture etc;

For 2022, the main action directions of Sastipen were:

1. Providing technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation of the medical-social services offered at the local level for increasing the access of Roma vulnerable population to quality medical-social services that will lead to the improvement of the national legislative framework and the strengthening the relationship community - local authority - medical-social staff by developing networks of specialist in the field.
2. Continuous training of specialists and community health care teams.
3. Conducting studies and research to assess the quality of medical-social services at the local level in order to raise the awareness of the health problems / risk factors with which the members of the vulnerable communities with the Roma face, by organizing Information – Education - Awareness campaigns that reduce the risk of illness and prevent them.
4. Awareness of the local authorities on the benefits of applying the legislation in the medical-social field and concluding partnerships in the view of strengthening the institutional capacity of the local authorities to improve the situation of the Roma.
5. Advocacy for improving the public policies addressed to roma population in Health area.
6. Advocacy for the effective implementation of the COVID 19 vaccination campaign among members of Roma communities.

Starting from these directions of action, the main objectives pursued and the main activities implemented were:

**Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of the Unit for Technical Assistance, Monitoring and Evaluation (UTAME).**

**Objective 2: Developing and implementing an Roma health advocacy campaign in order to improve the Romanian legislative framework on the need for public health programs in Roma communities**

**Objective 3: Developing regional/county/local/community networks composed by experts in medico-social area, who are active in disadvantaged communities, in order to disseminate the lessons learned after the implementation of the medico-social programs, in order to harmonize the policies**

**Objective 4: Developing the competences of the community medical teams in the context of the health reform**

**Objective 5: Realizing researches, studies, surveys in order to improve the quality of primary medical services, emergency services, at pre-hospital, hospital and ambulatory services, as well as evaluating the implementation of national programs for public health.**

**Objective 6: Implementing information, education, awareness campaigns on reproductive health, health risk factors and preventing chronic diseases, awareness campaigns for mothers regarding the health, immunization and understanding the development stages of children, by elaborating a screening program at the level of Roma communities at risk**

**Objective 7: Providing technical assistance to the local NGOs and authorities in order to develop and implement action plans in the benefit of the vulnerable Roma communities.**

**Objective 8: Providing technical assistance in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of the local authorities by integrating the community teams in social services. (Directorate for Public Health, City Hall Councils, Directorate/Department for Social Assistance, Medical dispensaries / family medical cabinets )**

**Objective 9: Implementing an Advocacy Campaign for improving the public policies addressed to roma population in Health area– realizing a public policy recommendation in the field of Roma health.**

**Objective 10: Implementing projects in the benefit of Roma population in the field oh health, community development, empowerment and integrated services.**

**Objective 11: Establishing partnerships with stakeholders and writing financing proposals in accordance with the strategic objectives of the association.**

**Objective 11: Implementation of a health education campaign in order to reduce the risks associated with COVID 19 and advocacy for the effective implementation of the COVID 19 vaccination campaign among members of Roma communities.**

## Activities implemented in 2022

### **Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of the Unit for Technical Assistance, Monitoring and Evaluation (UTAME).**

The main activities implemented by Sastipen in 2022 were to continue to strengthening the capacity of the team of the Unit for Technical Assistance, Monitoring and Evaluation (UTAME) in order to support the health mediators in the process of implementing activities in Roma communities.

During the reporting period we have implemented the following activities:

#### **Act.1 - Offering support of UTAME experts, in order to ensure a permanent collection of information on the functioning of community medical assistance program, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and data collection on the dynamics of the main public health indicators.**

Description: The Unit for Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Evaluation is functional since June 2014 in partnership with National Institute of Public Health. The main objectives of UATME is to ensure a permanent collection of information on the functioning of community medical assistance program, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and data collection on the dynamics of the main public health indicators.

To ensure a permanent collection of information on the functioning of community medical assistance program, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and data collection on the dynamics of the main public health indicators, during 2022 Sastipen team has improved the manual for UTAME experts in order to support their activities. All the materials were developed based on the DECISION no. 324 of May 23, 2019 adopted by the Romanian Government and the legislation in the field of health developed by MoH.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- A UATME manual developed by Sastipen based on the DECISION no. 324 of May 23, 2019 adopted by the Romanian Government .

#### **Act. 2 - Implementing the system for collecting data on the obstacles encountered in the functioning of the community medical assistance program, in order to identify the deficiencies of the program and to collect the public health indicators.**

Description:

Taking into consideration the fact that the MoH has organized an working group for developing the operational procedures for implementing the community medical assistance program without the participation of Sastipen and other important stakeholders within civil society, in 2022 Sastipen team has continued to be part of an working group responsible for realizing the proposals for the implementation of the methodological norms for the implementation of the community assistance program with the focus on health mediators activities and community centers.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- A recommendation developed by Sastipen expert in the field of health mediators activities addressed to the MOH experts

responsible for developing the operational procedures for implementing the community medical assistance program.

#### **Act. 3 - Identifying approaches, methods, and solutions for the identified problems**

Description: The UATME experts has continued the work in the field of offering the technical assistance to the health mediators for identifying the obstacles encountered in the functioning of the community medical assistance program. The information provided by the UATME experts was considered an important value in the process of realizing the recommendations for MoH related with the methodological norms for the implementation of the community assistance program with the focus on health mediator's activities

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- 4 quarterly reports prepared by UATME experts related with the obstacles encountered in the functioning of the community medical assistance program

#### **Act. 4 - Mediating the relation within the community – local authorities – medico-social personnel teams at local level and Realizing quarter reports for the community medical assistance program.**

Description: The UATME experts have implemented specific activities in the field of offering technical assistance to the health mediators in the relation with the local authorities and different stakeholders with the main objective to ensure the sustainability of health mediators activities in the benefit of Roma communities. the specific activities have consisted in assistance to the local authorities related with the payment of the salary of health mediators in accord with the new legislation in the field of employment, technical assistance to the health mediators in the partnership relation with the medical staff from local level, empowering health mediators al the local level by organizing local meetings with the participation of the local and county stakeholders.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

-306 health mediators have received technical support in order to ensure the sustainability of their work

-306 individual records made by the UATME experts

-4 quarter reports for the community medical assistance program realized by UATME experts.



## Activities implemented in 2022 (2)

### **Objective 2: Developing and implementing an Roma health advocacy campaign in order to improve the Romanian legislative framework on the need for public health programs in Roma communities**

In order to implement this objective, during the reporting period we have implemented the following activities:

#### **Act. 5 - Realizing monitoring reports (shadow reports) on how to implement the national health programs.**

Description: In the period of January-March 2022, Sastipen has continued to conduct a monitoring report on Roma women's access to health and maternity services in the context of the COVID 19. The report was presented during an online meeting organized in March 22 with the participation of key decision-makers from the Ministry of Health, the National Agency for Roma, the NGO sector and other stakeholders.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- monitoring report on Roma women's access to health and maternity services in the context of the COVID 19.

#### **Act. 6- Organizing debates/public hearing in order to promote non-discrimination in access to health services.**

In the context of adopting the new strategic vision for Roma inclusion 2022-2027, in Mai 18, Sastipen managed to organize an on line meeting with the participation of Sastipen Network and NAR experts with the aim to analyze the measures in the field of Health adopted the Romanian Government within the new strategy in the field of Roma social inclusion for 2022-2027.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- an on line meeting with the participation of Sastipen Network and NAR experts organized with the aim to analyze the measures in the field of Health adopted the Romanian Government within the new strategy in the field of Roma social inclusion for 2022-2027.

#### **Act. 7 - Creating a platform for debate and civic consulting for developing public policies in health.**

Description: Since March 2022 Sastipen has become a member of the Roma Platform, an informal group of civil society organizations with specific expertise in the field of social and economic inclusion of Roma from Romania. The main role of the Platform is to identify areas for increased Roma policy attention, to provide Roma perspectives and to propose potential solutions to improve development outcomes and strengthen Roma social inclusion. The Roma Platform informs and provides advice on the specific challenges of Roma development for the NAR and other public institu-

tion with the activity in the field of Roma social inclusion.

As a member of the Roma Platform, Sastipen participated in the consultation process with various decision makers invited by the NAR and MOH to the consultation process with civil society. The representatives of the NAR welcomed this initiative and promised to add this topic to the agenda of discussions with the Ministry of European Funds and other stakeholders. Roma Platform is a very efficient discussion platform where Sastipen has the opportunity to present its proposals.

#### **Act. 8 - Participation in the meetings of the Working Group of the Ministry of Health, responsible for the implementation of methodological norms for the development of community centers of integrated services.**

Description. Starting from March 2022, Sastipen is a member of the Technical Working Group on the development of community medical assistance and integrated community centers, working group established by Order no. 824/2022 issued by the Minister of Health. Considering Sastipen's expertise in the development of good practice manuals in the field of integrated services at the community level, during 2022, our experts supported the working group in order to create the manual for the community centers of the Ministry of Health, they made a proposal for the establishment of the Commission Ministerial for Roma within the Ministry of Health, responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the measures found in the new strategy for the inclusion of Roma, participated in the thematic meetings of the group and contributed to the establishment of the bibliography for the exam to fill the vacant positions of health mediators and presented the quarterly reports of monitoring carried out by UATME experts.

#### **Concrete outcomes:**

- A notable result of the activity of the Sastipen experts in this working group was the fact that the proposal to establish the Ministerial Commission for Roma within the Ministry of Health was approved by the Minister of Health, Sastipen thus offering the chance to other NGOs to participate in the meetings work of the Ministry of Health in the field of Roma inclusion.



## Activities implemented in 2022 (3)

**Act. 9 - Strengthening the cooperation and partnerships between the interested social actors in the process of improving the health status of vulnerable population.**

Description: Sastipen continued the work in order to strengthening the cooperation and partnerships between the interested social actors in the process of improving the health status of vulnerable population. Considering the organization's advocacy experience, in 2022, Sastipen changed its approach and focused more on the implementation of awareness campaigns and the involvement of local authorities in the process of improving the health situation of members of Roma communities. A series of working meetings were organized with the representatives of the County Councils of Constanta, Tulcea and Calarasi, meetings were organized and partnerships were signed with over 54 local authorities from the South Muntenia Region and a series of meetings were organized with the representatives of the Directorates of County Public Health with the aim of developing a consortium of interested factors to apply to the operational programs financed from non-refundable European funds.

**Objective 3: Developing the competences of the community medical teams in the context of the health reform**

**Act. 10– Developing the Center for Training and Certifying of the Community Medical Nurse by reformulating the Center for Training and Certifying of Health Mediators.**

Description: In March 2020, Sastipen has developed an on line Center for Training and Certifying of Health Mediators. Taking into consideration the expertise of Sastipen in the field of health mediators training, Sastipen has continued in 2022 to develop the Center for Training and Certifying of Health Mediators by . by hiring new trainers to ensure the training sessions and to start the procedures for the accreditation of the organization as a competence evaluation center in the field of health mediation. In order to achieve this goal, between July and December 2022, 5 members of the organization attended the professional training course for competency evaluators and obtained this qualification.

**Concrete outcomes:** 2 young trainers was hired by Sastipen and 5 members of the organization attended the professional training course for competency evaluators and obtained this qualification.

**Act. 11 - Organizing continuous professional training courses.**

Description: In 2022 Sastipen has continued to organise qualification courses in the profession of health mediator, organized in online format. Between April—August and 2022, Sastipen managed to train and qualify a number of 167 new health mediators to work in Roma communities.

**Objective 4: Providing technical assistance to the local NGOs and authorities in order to develop and implement the county action plans in the benefit of the vulnerable Roma communities.**

**Act. 12 - Providing technical assistance for organizing work groups responsible with implementing the county action plans in the benefit of vulnerable Roma communities**

Description: Based on the previous experience in the field of developing county public policies recommendation in the field of social inclusion, in 2022 , Sastipen has continued the advocacy process stated in Tulcea County and Constanta County and has initiated the communication with the experts from Calarasi County.

Concrete outcomes:

- A county public policy recommendation in the field of Roma inclusion adopted in April 2022 by the Constanta County Council
- A county public policy recommendation in the field of Roma inclusion adopted in September 2022 by the Tulcea County Council.
- A county public policy recommendation in the field of Roma inclusion submitted for analysis in November 2022 to the Calarasi County Council.

**Act. 13 - Implementing a training program for the members of work groups regarding the intervention of integrated actions in order to fulfill the measures foreseen in the county action plans in the benefit of vulnerable Roma communities**

Description: Given the need to train members of civil society in Constanta and Tulcea to become reliable partners of county authorities in the process of implementing county action plans, in 2022 Sastipen has continued to implement the training module for members of local NGOs , respectively:

- July 21-25, 2022 - Module - Writing and managing projects with non-reimbursable financing, 16 participants, APRPE Constanta Headquarters.
- September 19-23, 2022 - Module -Writing and managing projects with non-reimbursable financing, 21 participants, APRPE Tulcea Headquarters.

Concrete outcomes: 37 people from among the community workers, active at the level, were trained in the field of writing and managing projects with European funding.



## Activities implemented in 2022 (4)

### **Objective 5: Realizing researches, studies, surveys in order to improve the quality of primary medical services, emergency services, at pre-hospital, hospital and ambulatory services.**

In order to implement this objective, during the reporting period we have implemented the following activities:

#### **Act. 14- Conducting surveys in order to prepare the public policies recommendations in the field of Roma inclusion at the local and county level.**

Description: One of the main components in the process of making local and county public policy recommendations is represented by studies and research that present the real situation faced by the members of local communities and offer the possibility of making proposals adapted to the real needs of the community. Therefore, in 2022, Sastipen carried out two types of research programs, namely: 1) research program at local level, comprehensive analysis focused on the needs of local communities and 2) research program at county level, research based on the questioning of representatives of the authorities local authorities and the application of a structured questionnaire at the level of the local authority to highlight the needs of the authorities in terms of social inclusion of the population. Our team of researchers has extensive experience in the process of developing and applying research methodologies adapted to the local context in which the research process takes place. In addition, in 2022, Sastipen also focused on research that highlights the perception of the majority population regarding the needs faced by members of Roma communities. This type of research is a new approach for Sastipen and has highlighted the fact that many times the majority population, neighbors of Roma communities, are much more aware of Roma problems than the representatives of local authorities.

**Concrete outcomes:** 5 research reports were made at the local/community level, which supported the substantiation process of some funding requests made by Sastipen's local partners and 3 county reports which supported the substantiation process of the county public policy recommendations in the field of social inclusion .

### **Objective 6: Sharing the Sastipen experience at the local level in the field of community centers developed in the benefit of vulnerable population.**

#### **Act. 15- Developing community centers developed in the benefit of vulnerable population from Gorj County and Tulcea County.**

Description: During 2010-2020, Sastipen has developed 42 community centers with the focus of providing medical services to the vulnerable population. Base on this experience, in 2018 Sastipen has become a partner of Ministry of Labor and Social Justice in the process of developing the concept of community center for vulnerable population which will be developed in 139 local communities with the support of Ministry of European Funds. During the period of February—June 2021 Sastipen implemented the methodology for evaluating the medico-social programs and the lesson learned were discussed with the representative of Ministry of Labor and Social Justice. In 2022, Sastipen has succeeded to develop another 3

community centers with Norway Funds in Polovragi (Gorj County), Hamcearca and Ciucurova (Tulcea County). Moreover, in November 2022, Sastipen has succeeded to offer technical assistance to the mayor from Ion Corvin locality from Constanta County to prepare and to apply a project to develop a community center in the benefit of vulnerable population.

### **Objective 7: Implementing information, education, awareness campaigns on reproductive health, health risk factors and preventing chronic diseases, awareness campaigns for mothers regarding the health, immunization and understanding the development stages of children, by elaborating a screening program at the level of Roma communities at risk.**

#### **Act. 16- Implementing projects in partnership with Mother and Child Protection Institute and Fundeni Hospital**

Description: Since November 2020, Sastipen has become the partner of Mother and Child Protection Institute and Fundeni Hospital in a multiannual project with the aim to implement two important health campaigns in the field of uterine cervical cancer and colorectal cancer. The project was approved by the donor (European Structural Funds and its started the implementation in December 2020. During 2022, Sastipen has continued to implement a series of information and mobilization activities for beneficiaries of project activities focusing on vulnerable communities in rural areas.

#### **Act. 17- Implementation of information activities for community members on the national COVID 19' immunization campaign.**

Description: Given the high rate of COVID 19 infection among members of Roma communities, between January- march 2022 Sastipen has continued to support the initiative of the Ministry of Health to inform community members about the COVID 19 vaccination campaign and took steps to support the community to benefit from national vaccination program. Thus, in the localities where Sastipen works, through the community workers, information was distributed to the community members regarding the vaccination campaign. In addition, based on collaboration protocols, Sastipen supported local authorities in setting up temporary COVID 19 vaccination points. At Sastipen's integrated community service centers, the teams briefed community members and facilitated dialogue between community members and the medical staff responsible for implementing the vaccination campaign.



## Other important results achieved in 2022

As a result of the implementation of strategic vision, Sastipen has managed in 2022 to keep its "watch-dog" capacity on the implementation of public policies for the Roma in the health field. Having in mind the objectives proposed in our strategic vision for 2022, Sastipen has succeeded to achieve very good results such as:

- Sastipen has succeeded to ensure a permanent collection of information on the functioning of community medical assistance program, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and data collection on the dynamics of the main public health indicators.
- Sastipen has succeeded to continue the work implemented by the working group managed by MoH responsible for developing the operational procedures for implementing the community medical assistance program and for developing the system for collecting data provided by community medical assistance program.
- Sastipen has continued to provide technical support to the health mediators and in the same time to advocate for sustainability of this activity in the benefit of Roma communities.
- Sastipen has continued to be a key player at the national level responsible for developing public recommendation in health in the benefit of Roma population.
- Sastipen has continued to be a key partner at the local level responsible for developing public recommendations addressed to the County Councils about the necessity to include health as a priority in the county/local action plans addressed to the Roma social inclusion
- Sastipen succeeded to continue the training process for health mediators using an on line platform for training.
- Sastipen has succeeded to continue the technical assistance work for local NGO's to become a real partner for local authorities in the process of implementing initiatives in the benefit of Roma communities, especially in the health area.
- Sastipen has succeeded to continue the process of developing the research area in the field of Roma Health by developing tools for collecting data on the health status and satisfaction level of the community members regarding the implementation of the national programs for public health.
- Sastipen has succeeded to write new financing proposals based on the mission of the organization.
- Sastipen has participated to different working meetings, conferences and seminars for the exchange of experience with other institutions and organizations working in the field of Roma inclusion.
- Sastipen has succeeded to maintain and to develop new Community Centers for Medico-Social Assistance, located in the community, for disadvantaged people, excluded from the health insurances system.
- Sastipen has succeeded to advocate at national level on the health national program initiated by Ministry of Health for Roma communities, in order to be adapted to real particular health needs of Roma vulnerable communities;
- Another success of Sastipen during the implementation out activities is the fact that the team has strengthened, reanalyzed its strategic vision and adapted it to new health challenges, attracted financial resources from European grants became increasingly visible in public space and strengthened its partnerships at local and national level.
- Sastipen has succeeded to strengthen the relationship with other stakeholders ( ERGO Network and Nevo Parudimos, ACEDO, CADO, etc. ) in order to advocate for Roma rights in health area and to improve de access of roma population to the health services in the pandemic situation.
- Being aware about the necessity to share our experiences with diferent stakeholders form EU Llevel, in July 2022, Sastipen has submitted an application form to the European Commission to become part of consultation group the Roma and pro-Roma civil society organisations (CSOs). In November 2022, Sastipen has received the positive answer and has participated as a CSOs member to the first consultative meeting organised in December 5 and moderated by Non-discrimination and Roma coordination unit, DG JUST, European Commission.
- Another important result obtained by Sastipen in 2022 is the fact that, after an absence of more than 6 years, Sastipen was invited to participate again in the consultation meetings organized in the context of the European Roma Platform - the 15th edition a, meeting organized by DJ Justice - European Commission, in Prague, Czech Republic.

For the next period, Sastipen will continue to follow the strategy and to implement activities, trying to become more active in the advocacy process for changing the mentality of the decision makers relates with the necessity of improving the Roma population health status.



**PROGRAMUL OPERATIONAL CAPITAL UMAN**

Axa prioritara 4: Incluziunea sociala si combaterea saraciei

Obiectivul tematic 9: Promovarea incluziunii sociale, combaterea saraciei si a oricarei forme de discriminare

Prioritatea de investitii 9.iv: Cresterea accesului la servicii accesibile, durabile si de inalta calitate, inclusiv asistenta medicala si servicii sociale de interes general

Obiectiv specific 4.9.: Cresterea numarului de persoane care beneficiaza de programe de sanatate si de servicii orientate catre preventie, depistare precoce (screening), diagnostic si tratament precoce pentru principalele patologii

Titlul proiectului: „Screening pentru Cancerul de Col Uterin si tratament precoce - SCCUT” Contract nr. POCU/759/4/9/136812

**Project title: Screening for Cervical Cancer and Early Treatment - SCCUT - ID 136812**

Project implementation region: South Muntenia Region, Arges, Prahova, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Calarasi and Teleorman counties.

Implementation period: 36 months, starting with August 2020.

Partnership leader: "ALESSANDRESCU-RUSESCU" NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH BUCHAREST

Partner 1 - ASSOCIATION "CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER STUDIES CENTER: BRANCH"

Partner 2 - "RENAISSANCE FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CULTURE" FOUNDATION

Partner 3 - ROMA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICIES - SASTIPEN

The general aim / objective of the project: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any form of discrimination, by increasing access to accessible, sustainable and high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest, by organizing health programs and services aimed at prevention, early detection (screening) diagnosis and early treatment of cervical cancer for 170,001 women in the South-Muntenia region, of which at least 50% belong to vulnerable groups.

**Specific objectives of the project**

OS.1. Improving the health of the population by carrying out a complex program of prevention, early detection (screening), diagnosis and early treatment of cervical cancer for 170,001 people in the South-Muntenia region, located in all 7 counties, identified in the project, coming mainly from vulnerable groups, sending 3600 people to the specialist, as well as providing support services for 3000 people diagnosed in the screening process.

2. OS.2. Awareness and promotion of the need to carry out the complex program of prevention, early detection (screening), diagnosis and early treatment of cervical cancer for 170,001 people in the South-Muntenia region, located in all 7 counties, by carrying out information, education and specific awareness.

3. OS.3. Creating a concrete system for ensuring the protection of personal data in accordance with the legal provisions in force and taking all necessary measures for their processing in optimal security conditions, during the project.

4. OS.4. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any form of discrimination, with the priority of increasing access to sustainable and high quality services, through the use of methods and tools of social innovation, as well as through the implementation of a cervical cancer screening program, at regional level, non-discriminatory and adapted to the target group for 170,001 people.

Target group: 170,001 women between the ages of 24 and 64, including people from vulnerable groups who will benefit from the services provided by regional programs for the prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of precancerous lesions of the cervix.

**Activities P3 - SASTIPEN**

A1.2 Activities for identifying the target group and providing support for 170,001 people from the 7 counties of the South-Muntenia region (Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova, Teleorman)

Sub-activity A1.2 Activities for identifying the target group and providing support for 170,001 people from the 7 counties of the South Muntenia region (Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova, Teleorman).

Sub-activity A1.7 Support 3,000 people in the target group of the project, especially those diagnosed in the screening program in order to determine the effectiveness of the measures taken and adjust them as needed.

Sub-activity A2.1 Information, education, awareness activities of a minimum number of 170,001 persons representing the target group of cervical cancer screening services in the South-Muntenia region (Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Ialomita, Giurgiu, Prahova, Teleorman) .

Indicator and results obtained in 2022	Value
Number of information and mobilization campaigns implemented	233 local campaigns
Number of people informed	45557 pers
Number of people mobilized during screening campaigns	9664 pers
Number of protocols signed with authorities	97 protocols
Involvement of health mediators in information and mobilization campaigns	28 RHM
Number of community teams involved in community level activities.	94 teams
Number of local NGOs involved in community outreach and advocacy activities	8 NGO's





**PROGRAMUL OPERAȚIONAL CAPITAL UMAN**

**Axa prioritară 4: Incluziunea socială și combaterea sărăciei,**

Obiectivul tematic 9: Promovarea incluziunii sociale, combaterea sărăciei și a oricărei forme de discriminare"

Prioritatea de investiții 9.iv: Creșterea accesului la servicii accesibile, durabile și de înaltă calitate, inclusiv asistența medicală și servicii sociale de interes general;

Obiectiv specific 4.9: Creșterea numărului de persoane care beneficiază de programe de sănătate și de servicii orientate către prevenție, depistare precoce (screening), diagnostic și tratament precoce pentru principalele patologii

Titlul proiectului: „Furnizarea serviciilor de sănătate din programele de prevenție, depistare precoce, diagnostic și tratament precoce al leziunilor precanceroase colorectale - ROCCAS II-Sud-Muntenia”

Contract de finanțare nr. POCU/756/4/9/136828/05.11.2020

Investim în dezvoltare durabilă!

**Project „Provision of health services from the programs of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and early treatment of precancerous colorectal lesions - ROCCAS II South-Muntenia” - ID136828**

**Project implementation region: South Muntenia Region, Arges, Prahova, Dambovită, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Calarasi and Teleorman counties.**

**Implementation period: 36 months, starting with November 2020.**

**Applicant: Fundeni Clinical Institute**

**Partner 1: "Renaissance for Education, Health and Culture" Foundation**

**Partner 2: Roma Center for Health Policies SASTIPEN**

The general objective of the project is to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any form of discrimination, by increasing access to sustainable and high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest, by organizing health programs and services aimed at prevention, early detection (screening), diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer for 50,001 people in the South-Muntenia region, of which at least 59% belong to vulnerable groups.

This will be achieved through the main activities of the project, namely:

- Activities of identification, information, mobilization and support through local awareness campaigns and events organized with family doctors, local authorities in the field, representatives of civil society and the population of the target group, namely 50,001 people from the South-Muntenia region, counties Dambovită, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Ialomița, Prahova and Arges;

Conducting screening to identify people at standard colorectal cancer risk;

- Performing lower digestive endoscopy (colonoscopy) control in patients tested positive for occult hemorrhage or for those identified as having an increased risk of colorectal cancer due to history;

- Support for the establishment and operation of the center for the prevention and early detection, diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer in the same region, mentioned above.

- Collection and processing of data obtained from screening by specific statistical methods.

**Specific objectives:**

The first specific objective is the awareness and promotion of the need to carry out the complex program of prevention, early detection (screening), diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer for 50,001 people in the South-Muntenia region, by carrying out specific information, education and awareness activities. intended for target groups and the general public, at individual, group and community level, given that access to services depends on the addressability of the population and the degree of awareness of their own health needs and rights to health services.

Another specific objective of the project is to improve the health of the population by carrying out a complex program of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer for 50,001 people in the South-Muntenia region, identified in the project, especially from vulnerable groups, sending 2104 people to the specialist, by providing services and means of support to increase access to medical services and treatment, by periodically re-evaluating patients and preparing reports, studies and public policy proposals based on data obtained in following the screening.

The third specific object of the project is to ensure the functionality of a center for prevention, early detection, diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer within the Fundeni Clinical Institute in order to constantly detect colorectal precancerous lesions, including after the intervention.

The final specific objective is to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any form of discrimination, with the priority of increasing access to sustainable and high quality services, through the use of social innovation methods and tools, as well as through a screening program. colorectal cancer, at regional level, non-discriminatory and adapted to the target group for 50,001 people, respectively facilitating access to specialized services and treatment for 2104 people, in which methods and tools of social innovation will be used and the principles of non-discrimination and equality will be promoted. chances and sustainable development in carrying out the interventions.

The expected results are the realization of information campaigns, education, awareness of the target group; a number of 50,001 people, representing the target group, identified and mobilized for screening; 2104 people from the target group with reference to the specialist, with as many endoscopes performed; Establishment of a center for prevention, early detection, diagnosis and early treatment of colorectal cancer established and operated within the Fundeni Institute, a report of support measures for conducting screening programs at the regional level to detect precancerous colorectal lesions.

Indicator	Value
Number of information and mobilization campaigns implemented	290 campaigns
Number of people informed	10781 pers
Number of people mobilized during screening campaigns	7046 pers
Number of protocols signed with authorities	6 protocols
Involvement of health mediators in information and mobilization campaigns	8 RHM
Number of community teams involved in community level activities.	12 teams
Number of local NGOs involved in community outreach and advocacy activities	8 NGO's



**Project: “CCSI - Model of intervention in the process of Roma inclusion and empowerment”, project code PN1008**

Program funded by the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021 “INCREASING ROMA INCLUSION AND ENABILITY” Thematic Allocation A - Service Delivery Projects

Project promoter: Sastipen-Roma Center for Health Policies

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The CCSI project - Model of intervention in the process of Roma inclusion and empowerment aims to increase the inclusion and empowerment of the Roma population in three localities: Polovragi (Gorj County), Ciucurova (Tulcea County) and Hamcearca (Tulcea County).

The objectives of the project are: providing integrated services to a minimum of 900 beneficiaries, through 3 community integrated service centers; implementation of a local Roma empowerment program for a minimum number of 450 people; and the implementation of a program to combat discrimination and promote intercultural dialogue, addressed to a minimum number of 900 people. Through its long-term activities, the program will significantly contribute to reducing economic and social disparities among the local population as well as empowering Roma to participate actively in the decision-making process.

Through the services provided within the community resource centers and through the activities of Roma empowerment and the implementation of activities in the field of combating discrimination and promoting intercultural dialogue, the project proposal respects and recognizes the core values of the EU and is an integral part of general policies. especially in the fields of education, health, employment, social affairs, anti-discrimination housing and anti-gypsyism.

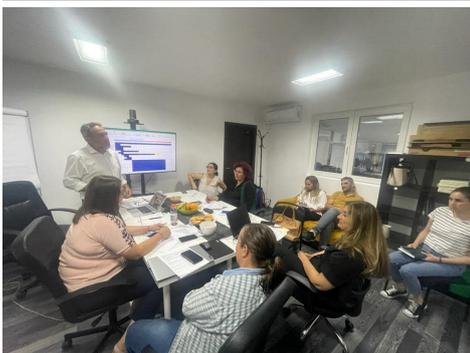
The activities of the project target especially the Roma as a target group but do not exclude other people living in similar economic conditions, considered vulnerable people. The intercultural approach is a key element in the implementation of the project considering the existing intercultural environment at the level of the communities selected in the project so that the promotion of mutual understanding will contribute to combating prejudices on both sides.

Through the proposed intervention model, the project will generate a positive long-term change, thus contributing to the promotion of social inclusion, combating poverty and any form of discrimination as well as increasing Roma access to quality integrated services and increasing the quality of these services.

At the same time, the project activities aim at the mainstreaming approach, respectively the integration of the Roma in the society's activities and the avoidance of measures that risk deepening segregation or creating new forms of segregation and will actively support desegregation measures.

The project is funded by the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021 “INCREASING ROMA INCLUSION AND ENABILITY” - Thematic allocation A - Service delivery projects, managed by the Romanian Social Development Fund and implemented by a consortium of Sastipen-Roma Roma Center Health (PP), Institute for Public Policies (P1), Polovragi Commune City Hall (P2), Hamcearca Commune City Hall (P3) and Ciucurova Commune City Hall (P4).

RESULTS OBTAINED BY CCSI TEAMS in 2022	CIUCUROVA	HAMCEARCA	POLOVRAGI
Number of people informed about CCSI services	530 pers	468 pers	832 pers
Number of people registered — identification of medical and social problems	322 pers	376 pers	521 pers
Number of people registered in GT — CCSI integrated services	182 pers	132 pers	322 pers
Number of children at risk of dropping out of school identified	62 childrens	58 childrens	54 childrens
Number of beneficiaries who received primary health care within CCSI	82 pers	65 pers	75 pers
Number of beneficiaries assisted in the process of obtaining identity documents	28 pers	23 pers	18 pers
Number of people who received legal assistance to clarify the housing situation	12 pers	19 pers	32 pers
Number of unemployed people identified — planning an intervention / assistance plan	62 pers	54 pers	112 pers
Number of people participating in IEC campaigns implemented by the AMC team	321 pers	287 pers	402 pers
Number of young Roma identified to participate in the complex training program	20 pers	20 pers	20 pers
Number of Roma identified and involved in the formation of the Local Initiative Group	25 pers	18 pers	23 pers
Number of Roma women identified and involved in the activities of the Roma Mothers and Young Women Club	57 pers	43 pers	52 pers
Number of completed questionnaires — final project — level of Roma acceptance	147	89	171
Number of people who benefited from integrated services	162 pers	156 pers	165 pers



## Roma Empowerment and Empowerment through Lobby and Acton

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The “Roma Empowerment through Lobby and Action” project, funded with the financial support of Active Citizens Fund Romania, aims to increase the capacity of vulnerable groups in 12 interethnic rural communities in the counties of Călărași, Brăila and Constanța. The project is carried out by the Community Development Agency Foundation Together in partnership with the Roma Center for Health Policies - SASTIPEN and the Association Center for Education and Human Rights - ACEDO. The project benefits from a funding amounting to 223,964 euros, through the Active Citizens Fund Romania program, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

The main issue addressed is the low involvement of citizens in the life of the communities they belong to and in decision-making. The project has a bottom-up approach that emphasizes the use of existing resources at the local level and the formation of active voices at the community level able to put the needs of disadvantaged groups on the agenda of local authorities. Thus, community facilitation activities will be carried out in 12 rural interethnic communities materialized in 12 local representation groups formed and mobilized, and subse-

quently formalized in NGOs; 120 members of vulnerable groups will have increased skills to respond to the challenges of human rights issues, self-esteem, relations with local authorities; 24 Roma experts and leaders participate in a comprehensive training program for Roma leaders to help them become agents of change at the local and regional levels, 12 advocacy campaigns will be conducted, and 660 people will be mobilized to get involved in community life.

Within this project, Sastipen is responsible for the development and implementation of activities in 4 rural localities in Constanta County, respectively Valu lui Traian, Galita village (Ostrov), Mircea Voda and Cuza Voda.

### The expected results of the project include:

- Empowerment of 12 Roma communities from 3 counties (Brăila, Călărași and Constanța) through community facilitation and development;
- Training of 24 Roma experts and leaders at the national level to increase their involvement in decision-making targeting Roma communities and beyond;
- Teacher training activities in Roma history.

RESULTS OBTAINED IN THE PROJECT IN 2022	Valu lui Traian	Galita ( Ostrov)	Mircea Voda	Cuza Voda
Roma Communities involved in the project	1	1	1	1
Roma people involved in the local initiative group	18	14	21	22
Number of questionnaires applied locally to identify community needs	21	23	24	26
Number of meetings organized by the community facilitator with the participation of GIL members	5	6	6	6
Number of meetings organized with the participation of local authorities	4	4	4	4
Number of participants in training sessions ( informal leaders)	23	24	25	24



## DajPhen. Solidarity networks for Roma women - RO 2020 / ACF\_A7\_MM\_21

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

DajPhen is a project implemented by the E-Romnja Association in partnership with Sastipen that addresses in an integrated way the motherhood of Roma women as a process, from the decision to have a pregnancy to support services both in the health system and in the community. In Romania, discussions about motherhood are defined from the perspective of white, educated, middle-class women, and this creates a type of representation that defines the idea of being a mother. Roma women as well as poor women, women from rural areas or women from other minority groups are often marginalized because the "constructed portrait" does not overlap with their existence based on daily survival.

Our project starts from these aspects and addresses the birth as a process starting with the decision to become a mother, support networks for Roma girls / women during pregnancy, access to health services, treatment and ultrasounds during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding, treatment in hospital during pregnancy as well as postpartum support. The main beneficiaries of this project will be Roma girls / women, considering that in Romania the problems they face are related both to the patriarchal system in the community and

to the access to reproductive health services. So the project as it is built wants to start from the bottom up, involving both teenagers, parents and community members as well as local, county, national, social media, service providers and the general public to change the perspective on at birth. Starting from the community means that have the capacity of Roma women to create their own narrative and up to access to public services, the added value of the project consists in the partnership created with Sastipen which ensures dialogue with public institutions and advocacy actions to improve policies in health sector.

The aim of the project is to increase the capacity and empowerment of vulnerable groups (Roma women, Roma adolescents / adolescents) who face multiple discriminations (ethnic, gender, economic, age and sexual orientation) in the Roma communities of Valea Seaca, Mizil and Giurgiu to access reproductive health and maternity services to increase social inclusion.

An expected result of the project is the need to change the mentality of socio-medical workers regarding the need for Roma women to access services based on the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

### The main results obtained in 2022

- Within the A4.1 activity, were held 3 round tables, with the aim of finding solutions to increase the access of Roma women to maternity services. Representatives of local public authorities, representatives of medical service providers, AMCMSR teams and representatives of civil society participated in these round tables, with a total number of participants of 71 people. Also within this activity, the experts from Sastipen had a number of 14 visits to the targeted communities, to talk with representatives of local public authorities, representatives of medical service providers, but also for meetings with people from the communities targeted.

- As part of activity A4.2, a workshop was organized in which medical service providers, Roma and non-Roma medical personnel, AMCMSR teams and civil society representatives participated, in which a total of 41 people participated, the workshop goal being to increase the involvement of medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of people of Roma ethnicity, but also to increase their level of awareness in the intersectional approach of people who come from these Roma communities.

- As part of activity A4.3, a research was carried out regarding the access of Roma women to public health services. From this research it emerged that women's access to such services is limited, and in some situations even non-existent. Women face closed doors and refusals from doctors, forcing them to turn to private sector medical services. Most of them come from disadvantaged backgrounds, with limited financial resources, and their access to private sector medical services is not possible.

- As part of activity A4.4, 5 round tables were organized, attended by representatives of local authorities, medical service providers, medical staff, AMCMSR teams and representatives of civil society, totaling 91 people, to discuss the national programs on maternal and child health and how these programs can become more known and accessible to people from Roma communities, but not only to them.

- Within the A7.2 activity, 3 workshops were organized on the topic of education for health and reproduction, with a total number of 86 male participants from the localities of Mizil, Giurgiu and Valea Seacă. The workshops aimed at increasing the level of involvement of men in the process of motherhood and in the process of raising children, as well as developing their knowledge in the mentioned fields.



## "Bottom up funding for Roma" - Intervention models in the process of inclusion and empowerment of Roma November 24-26, 2022, Ramada Parc Hotel, Bucharest

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Starting from the organization's mission to promote public dialogue, Sastipen - the Roma Center for Health Policies, organized this event with the aim of raising the awareness of different stakeholders regarding the importance of developing sustainable partnerships with Roma and pro-Roma NGOs in order to achieve of programmatic documents in the field of Roma inclusion and implementation in public-private partnership of programs in the field of Roma inclusion based on the real needs of local communities and on compliance with the 10 common basic principles regarding Roma inclusion.

Through the proposed agenda and through the discussions initiated within the conference, the event also contributed to the process of strengthening the role of civil society in the process of making the policy implementation process more efficient in the field of Roma inclusion. The involvement of civil society must take place both at national and European level, through

specialized contributions from Roma experts, as well as through consultations with a large number of Roma stakeholders involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of policy initiatives. It is very important that inclusion policies are based on openness and transparency and address the problems of communities in an appropriate and effective manner.

The event was attended by representatives of the central public institutions (Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, National Agency for Roma, Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations, National Center for Roma Culture - RK, Parliament of Romania), representatives of county and local institutions from the county of Tulcea, Gorj, Arges, Ilfov, Bucharest, Calarasi, Constanta, Braila, Caras-Severin, Cluj, Dambovita, Prahova, Ialomita, representatives of Roma and pro-Roma civil society, representatives of diplomatic missions, representatives you have mass media, as well as community workers active in Roma communities.

### The main conclusion of the meeting

- A total of 103 people participated in the event, representatives of central institutions, representatives of the Romanian Parliament, representatives of diplomatic missions, representatives of Roma and pro-Roma civil society, community workers, experts from the County Offices for Roma, representatives of the authorities local public, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, representatives of European Roma networks, project team members, mass media representatives, representatives of local action groups as well as independent experts involved in the process of monitoring the measures implemented by the Romanian Government in the field of Roma inclusion.
- The conference managed to bring again on the public agenda the need to promote public-private partnerships that lead to the development of initiatives in the field of empowerment of local communities and the development of initiatives in the field of social inclusion of the Roma. In addition, this action managed to bring back into discussion the need to train Roma NGOs in order to become much more efficient in the process of attracting funds for the implementation of actions for the benefit of vulnerable Roma communities.
- Through the interventions and taking the floor, the members of the Sastipen team managed, on the one hand, to present the participants with the lessons learned within the project and, on the other hand, to lay the foundations for an advocacy campaign in order to multiply the experience financed by FRDS and in other localities with a significant proportion of Roma. At the end of the event, some of the participants in the event requested additional information from the Sastipen team regarding the methodology used and the form of organization of the community centers of integrated services.
- Even if there was no particular discussion about the support provided by FRDS in the project implementation process, both the project team and the participants welcomed the involvement of FRDS experts in the project monitoring process and, based on the work model promoted by FRDS, brought into discussion the need for financiers to be more flexible in their relationship with the beneficiaries and to offer more assistance to the beneficiaries in the process of managing the contracted grants.
- Representatives of local and central authorities participating in the event welcomed the Sastipen initiative and mentioned the need to multiply this experience in other localities with a significant proportion of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity. In addition, based on this experience, the representatives of local authorities mentioned the importance of developing sustainable partnerships with civil society, aware of the limits and institutional constraints in attracting non-refundable funds and implementing projects.
- Civil society representatives welcomed Sastipen's initiative to bring to the conference representatives from different areas of interest and appreciated the fact that this event provided the necessary dialogue framework to bring back to the discussion agenda the importance and role of NGOs in the development of vulnerable Roma communities based on compliance with the 10 common principles of the EU in terms of public policies in the field of Roma inclusion.



**Webinar - The health mediator in the context of Integrated Service Centers**

The meeting organized by Sastipen on July 25, 2022 aimed to celebrate the day of the health mediator and to discuss the challenges of the community medical assistance program in the context where the health mediator is part of this community team. The online meeting was attended by health mediators, representatives of the Ministry of Health and the County DSP, trainers of the health mediator and supporters from NGOs active at the local level.



**The role of national minorities in the development and promotion of the Romanian cultural heritage**

The event was organized on August 12, 2022 in Tulcea and we aimed to promote role of national minorities in the development and promotion of the Romanian cultural heritage. The event was organized in partnership with The Tulcea County School Inspectorate, the Tulcea County Council, the Association Roma Party Tulcea Branch and brought together the representatives of the national minorities in Tulcea as well as important personalities from among the minorities who contributed to the development of the Romanian cultural heritage.



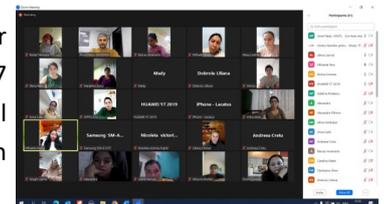
**Campaign - We live in the same community. Let's get to know each other!!!**

The campaign was implemented at the level of the implementation localities of the "CCSI - Integrated Services" project and included a series of activities addressed to both the majority population and the ethnic Roma population. The main goal of the campaign was to contribute to the improvement of coexistence relations at the local level between the majority population and the Roma population and to promote knowledge of citizenship rights and obligations. As part of the campaign, cultural events were organized at the local level, attended by over 1,600 people.



**Qualification course for health mediators**

Between April and August 2022, Sastipen organized the second qualification course for health mediators in online format. The course was conducted with the participation of 167 Roma women and enjoyed the support of local NGOs in the process of carrying out practical activities. At the end of the training sessions, all the participants obtained the qualification diploma in the profession of health mediator according to the legal norms in force.



**Training courses for officials from local authorities in the field of non-discrimination**

In September 2022, as part of the CCSI - Integrated Services project, Sastipen organized a training course for officials from the local authorities in the three localities implementing the project with the theme of non-discrimination and equal access to services. A number of 57 people participated in the course and at the end of the training sessions, each participant went home with an operational procedure in the field of non-discrimination that can be applied at the institutional level. It should be mentioned that in this course, in addition to the participants delegated by the local authorities, representatives from the county level (Tulcea county council) and representatives from the Romanian Parliament also participated.





*Most of the activities within the projects dedicated to vulnerable communities take place at the local level, in their implementation, in addition to meeting the needs identified at the project level, you realize that there are others, and you know them, you identify with them, because at some point in your life you were there. As young people, it is our duty to be factors of change for those who follow us.*

*ROMA T.E.A.M was born from this idea, a program developed by young people from the Sastipen organization for children from communities with a high rate of vulnerability.*

*The ROMA T.E.A.M program was initially launched as an informal platform aimed at supporting the educational process of children and young people from vulnerable communities with the aim of becoming an important and active resource in the development process of Romanian society.*

*The initiators of ROMA T.E.A.M believe that this intervention in the development process of children and young people who belong to vulnerable communities is a factor of change at the level of society, an intervention that we as young people could not benefit from and that we needed.*

*After the developed program, we decided to continue this type of actions, which is why we decided to establish the ROMA T.E.A.M Association, an association that will support disadvantaged communities through actions dedicated to their children and young people.*

*Mihai Oancea, Roma TEAM Coordinator*

Aware of the need to support young Roma to motivate them to continue their studies and choose a career in the medical field, in 2022, Sastipen started a program called Roma T.E.A.M (Young, Energetic, Ambitious and Motivated).

**Roma T.E.A.M** is an informal platform that aims to bring the new generation of Roma children and young people face to face with a generation of Roma activists beneficiaries of affirmative measures, who have fulfilled themselves professionally and personally in Romanian society and managed to become agents of change in the stereotypical attitudes of the majority population towards the members of the Roma communities.

**Roma T.E.A.M** has as its main objective the healthy and harmonious development of children and young people from vulnerable communities in order to become an important and active resource in the development process of Romanian society based on the principle of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and cultural diversity.

**Roma T.E.A.M** is the place where children and young people from vulnerable communities have the opportunity to benefit from a series of activities in the field of educational counseling, life advice, motivational support, personal development courses offered by experienced adults who have gone through similar situations in the process of personal development and a series of educational opportunities that can contribute to the personal development of individuals.

**Roma T.E.A.M** is a voluntary action undertaken by a group of Roma activists, former beneficiaries of affirmative measures in the field of education, who set out to share with children and young people from vulnerable communities the trust with which they were invested by their mentors and which contributed to their development as adults.

**Roma T.E.A.M**, through mentors who have already assumed this role, has the capacity and expertise to support children and young people from vulnerable communities in order to develop behavioral models and reduce the risk of social exclusion to which they, involuntarily, have been submissive.

**Roma T.E.A.M** considers that investment in the personal development process of children and young people belonging to vulnerable communities is a necessity for Romanian society, a society with a high degree of aging and with many needs in the field of human resources capable of ensuring the economic sustainability of the country.

**Roma T.E.A.M** is an initiative developed by the founding members of the association Sastipen - Roma Center for Health Policies, an association that campaigns for the social inclusion of children and young people from vulnerable communities and that believes that the new generation of Roma children and young people need support in the process of personal development and guidance in the process of establishing a professional career.

The link where you can find the group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/343304224441486>



## The main directions of action of Sastipen in the period 2020-2024

Taking into consideration the previous experience of Sastipen and the new challenges at national level given by the new strategy for Roma inclusion developed by the Romanian Government for the period 2022-2027, in the next period our organization will focus on the following directions action:

- Strengthening the network of health mediators and improving the legal framework regulating the rules for the operation of the community health mediation program, funded by the Ministry of Health and administered through local government.
- Developing local health care services delivered to vulnerable community members based on the principle of integrated approach and focused on the needs of the individual ( community medical and social assistance centers).
- Preventing and combating discrimination cases and promoting the principles of non-discrimination in health among staff of health facilities and among vulnerable Roma communities' members - including monitoring the process of implementation of anti-discrimination measures in the field of health ordered by national legislation.
- Conducting researches, studies, surveys to identify the problems faced by vulnerable populations in the process of accessing the health services provided by the state, including health indicators, Covid 19 and the access of Roma population to national preventive and curative health services and programs.
- Developing and implementing advocacy campaigns at local and national level, to contribute to the development of public policies for the benefit of vulnerable communities, with a focus on improving the health of vulnerable population Roma
- Training for medical practitioners and other human resources active in the benefit of Roma communities (health mediators, medical community nurses, NGO workers, facilitators and community workers) in the field of advocacy and non-discrimination.

- Development and implementation of health education campaigns in Roma communities, with a focus on the prevention of communicable diseases, including COVID 19.

- Advocacy for developing the infrastructure at the local level and the programs addressed to the Roma communities according with the measures disposed by the romanian authorities in the context of Covid 19.

- Providing technical assistance to the local NGOs (Sastipen network) in order to become a real partner for local authorities in the context of new strategy for Roma inclusion 2022-2027.

- Developing a monitoring system to monitor the satisfaction of the beneficiaries regarding the services received and to lead to the improvement of the quality standards offered by the health service providers at community level.

- The development of new initiatives to contribute to the social inclusion of the vulnerable population in Roma communities.

- Encouraging young Roma to participate in personal development programs to create the new generation of health professionals.

Maintains daily communication with stakeholders on communication and social media channels (e-groups, Facekook, Intagram, Youtube, etc.).

Produces press releases and distributes media and other communication channels.

Participates in national / regional / local radio and TV shows and promotes Sastipen activity.

Moreover, in order to advocate for equitable health service provision and to strengthening the watchdog capacity, Sastipen will develop partnership relations with different stakeholders (NGO's, networks, academics, inter-govermanental bodies, etc) both form national and international level.



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