

PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREAS THROUGH REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

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Inițiativă locală. Dezvoltare regională.

REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ROP)

- One of the operational programmes supporting the Romania's development strategy co-financed from European structural and investments funds;
- 2 generations of programmes developed: for the programming period 2007-2013, as well as 2014-2020;
- ROP strategic objective consists in supporting the economic, social, territorially balanced and sustainable development of the Romanian regions - ROP addresses investments in all 8 development regions;
- ROP recognizes the role of urban areas in promoting development in regions by concentrating resources in specific urban areas;

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REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2007 - 2013

- 7 growth poles were designated through Government Decision (Iasi, Constanța, Ploiești, Craiova, Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca and Brașov) in the lagging development regions of Romania: one growth pole per region in order to encourage balanced long-term development;
- Funding has been dedicated to these cities only if they formed metropolitan areas and prepared integrated development plans at the level of functional urban areas (cities and surrounding municipalities);
- Metropolitan areas: voluntary association and agreement of territorial administrative-units;
- Types of financing: urban infrastructure and improvement of urban services, including urban transport, business environment, social infrastructure and social services.

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REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2014 – 2020

- Designated 39 municipalities county capitals in Romania's less developed regions;
- For the 7 growth poles funding is available only if forming metropolitan areas and preparing integrated development plans at the level of functional urban areas (cities and surrounding municipalities);
- Optional: all other eligible municipalities could prepare integrated development plans at the level of functional urban areas (cities and surrounding municipalities);
- Metropolitan areas: voluntary association and agreement of territorial administrative units, also taking into account World Bank study for identifying functional urban areas (based on OECD methodology);
- Types of financing: mobility and public transport infrastructure, creation of green spaces, physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities, education and training infrastructure.

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KEY FINDINGS

- Ensure better policy correlations and encouraging elaboration and financing of comprehensive integrated development strategies, financed from different resources at the level of functional urban areas;
- Promoting a functional urban approach by conditioning the financing of investments it is an option, but not the best way to promote the cooperation of territorial administrative units at local level;
- Identifying the real needs for cooperation and promoting the collaboration between localities regardless the existence of European funds dedicated for investments;
- Optimizing the governance structure of functional urban areas: being a voluntary agreement of localities, many Associations for Intercommunity Development do not include all the territorial administrative units within functional urban areas;
- Strong administrative structures: a mixt experience working with the Association for Intercommunity Development (administrative capacity, number of staff, etc.);
- There is a real need for an adequate legal basis for forming and functioning of the Association for Intercommunity Development.

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Thank you !

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