**VERA - Positive change through integrated actions in difficult times**

**The project is a new strategic action aimed at improving and adapting the central and local public authorities’ response capacity so as to provide better proper support to victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.** The project is funded through the “Justice” Programme of the 2014-2021 Norwegian Financial Mechanism reserve for completion of projects and managed by the Romanian Ministry of Justice as Programme Operator.

The specific activities of the project focus on strengthening the local interinstitutional mechanisms for preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence. This will lead to improved intervention capacity and support provided to the victims, with a view to improving the services provided to victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence.

The project aims at improving and adapting the central and local public authorities’ response capacity so as to provide better proper support to victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Specific objectives**

**SO1:** Improving the response capacity of the interinstitutional mechanisms for emergency intervention in cases of domestic violence, at community (mobile teams) level - training mobile team coordinators - 3,228 persons;

**SO2:** Improving the institutional capacity of the general directorates for social assistance and child protection, social care services by training their experts in the domestic violence departments and providing legal counselling to the victims of domestic and gender‑based violence (training the experts in the domestic violence departments of the general directorates for social assistance and child protection, social care services, facilitating access to justice and to legal information, such as on the issuing of the protection order, divorce requests, custody, legal assistance, etc.);

**SO3:** Domestic violence and gender-based violence barometer with a focus on the evolution of the phenomenon, practices and trends, per county, especially in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.