MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
"Safer, Inclusive, and Sustainable Schools" Project

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Podu Iloaiei „Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School

Demolition and reconstruction

AUGUST 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABREVIATIONS

ACM	Asbestos Containing Materials
CCEAR	County Center for Educational Assistance and Resources
CSI	County School Inspectorate
E&S	Environmental and Social
EA	Environmental Assessment
EC	European Commission
EGO	Emergency Governmental Ordinance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EP	Environmental Permit
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ESIA	Environmental Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GD	Governmental Decision
GO	Governmental Ordinance
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
LMP	Labor Management Plan
MoE	Ministry of Education
MEWF	Ministry for the Environment, Water and Forests
MoC	Ministry of Culture
OJR	Official Journal of Romania
OP	Operational Policy
SISSP	Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project
PMU	Project Management Unit
PMUMSUN	Project Management Unit for the Modernization of the School and University Network
POM	Project Operation Manual
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
TOR	Terms of reference
WMP	Waste Management Plans
WB	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction. The Secondary School "Al. I. Cuza" Podu Iloaiei has been selected under the „**Safer, Sustainable and Inclusive Schools Project" (SSISP)** and will benefit from investments intended to increase the quality and safety of the educational infrastructure. The Project aims to provide safer and improved learning environments for students and teachers in selected schools, and to increase institutional capacity for investing in sustainable education infrastructure.

The Project has been approved in 2021 and is implemented, over a period of six years, by the Ministry of Education with financial support from the World Bank. It will address challenges related to issues of safety, inclusion and sustainability in the school infrastructure in Romania. The five components under the Project are: i) Demonstrating Integrated Investments in School Infrastructure, ii) Investing in Clever Classrooms; iii) Foundations for Future Investments in Sustainable and Modern Schools Infrastructure; iv) Project Management; and v) Contingent Emergency Response Component. More information about the project can be found at https://umpmrsu.ro/sissp/descriere/.

Podu Iloaiei Subproject description. The building of the Secondary School in Podu Iloaiei dates from 1895 and it's in an advanced state of degradation. The technical survey revealed a SR I Seismic Risk, meaning that there is a major risk of collapse in the event of an earthquake. The building will be demolished together with 3 other annexes and a new school will be erected to host 14 classrooms, laboratories and modern facilities for the students. During construction, pupils will be relocated to a modular school that will be located on the available space in the schoolyard.

The proposed new building will have a built area of 1212,00 sqm and a developed area of 3460,00 sqm and will host 340 children currently enrolled in primary and secondary education. The school will be aligned with the latest seismic standards, near zero energy technology, universal access for all children, adapted bathrooms for the needs of teenage girls, a cafeteria for lunch breaks and school events, among other functions. The investment for the new school, including equipment and furniture, will be covered entirely by Project funding, while some associated investments will be covered by the local authority, such as demolition of the old school and annexes on the area planned for the new construction, playground area, landscaping, public lighting, alleys, utility connections, parking lots. These associated facilities will be performed in parallel with the school construction and will be clearly defined under a Protocol between the Project and Podu Iloaiei local authority.

Environmental and Social Framework. The Project is financed by the World Bank and it is guided by the Environmental and Social Framework, which supports green, resilient and inclusive development by strengthening protections for people and the environment and making important advances in areas such as labor, inclusion and non-discrimination, gender, climate change, biodiversity, community health and safety, and stakeholder engagement. In addition to the design of the new schools which will incorporate these elements, the Project aims at ensuring the protection of the environment and the community during and after the school is being rebuilt. For this purpose, a series of documents, frameworks and plans have been developed at the level of the Project in order to ensure the safety of children, community members, workers, identify and mitigate adverse impacts during works, and engage the local community in the process (Environmental and Social Management Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Plan, etc.). All these documents can be consulted on the Project's website.

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

The ESMP outlines the main environmental and social risks associated with the investment in Podu Iloaiei. The overall findings of the ESMP indicate short-term negative impacts on air, soil, water, and acoustic environment during civil works. The environmental issues likely to be associated with the project activities include: noise generation, impact on soil and on water by the construction run-offs, construction dust and wastes, and workers' safety. However, these adverse impacts will be temporary and site specific and will be mitigated through implementing adequate avoidance and/or mitigation

measures such as appropriate fencing, appropriate management of construction waste, H&S monitoring, development of clear procedures on site, site specific organization of the works.

The project is expected to have a mainly positive social impact at the level of the community by providing a healthy and safe environment for future students and school staff members reducing the risks of collapse and human accidents in case of an earthquake, contributing to the climate change adaptation process, providing gender equity and universal access in the newly built facilities. In relation to potential social risks, the ESMP addresses the children and community health and safety risks, including the risk of accidents, disturbances to the educational activity and for neighboring residents, gender-based violence risks, awareness in relation to disaster risks, exclusion of vulnerable groups from the benefits of the investment, etc.

For this purpose, the ESMP proposes a set of mitigation measures and relies on community outreach and consultations with those directly impacted (school staff, children, parents) and the community at large to manage these risks across the different phases of the Project. A dedicated grievance mechanism will assist the community to reach the Project in relation to any issues observed during Project implementation.

A monitoring plan is attached to the ESMP and this tool will be the basis for constantly checking compliance with the proposed risk mitigation measures.

Institutional Responsibilities

The overall responsibility for implementing the provisions of the current ESMP lies with the PMU dedicated for this project. The Podu Iloaiei local authority will also need to ensure compliance with the provisions of the ESMP in relation to the works carried with local funding. All other actors involved in the process, such as contractors, the Secondary School "Al. I. Cuza" Podu Iloaiei representatives, will be informed about their responsibilities and bidding documents, contracts and protocols will define roles, timelines and actions expected from each stakeholder. The ESMF developed by the Project includes guidelines and instructions for contractors to integrate in their own environmental and social management plans, requested under their contracts.

Consultations and stakeholder engagement. Community and individual consultations began early in the project planning phase, aimed at collecting initial views on the school design and allow for changes as needed. These consultations are guided by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed for the Project, accessible on the Project's website.

With the design contract signed in February 2023, a first round of consultations was held in Podu Iloaiei with representatives of local authorities, schools, teachers and representatives of students and parents, during which general information about the project, the site plan and the proposed design for the new construction in terms of spaces and functions, and the facilities proposed to make the building safer, sustainable and inclusive were presented. Questions and suggestions from the participants were recorded and a new consultation on the final design will be held in August 2023.

In relation to the current ESMP, this document will be disclosed and consulted with the community during July-August 2023. The public consultations, as well as individual consultations where needed, enable stakeholders to provide input that will help the implementation team to anticipate the impacts of the project more accurately and design more appropriate and effective measures to manage the risks generated. The consultation will be announced in advance at the level of the community and the grievance mechanism will ensure communication channels before and after the consultations. A community event disclosing the proposed design, as well as the provisions under the current ESMP will be organized by the school and local authority, with support from the Project during the disclosure of the current ESMP in July 2023.

All Project materials, information and documents can be found at www.umpmrsu.ro.

Grievance Redress Mechanism. The GRM provides the community members and a range of other stakeholders with the possibility to communicate their views, complaints, suggestions in relation to the Project. This will give the possibility to mitigate any adverse environmental and social risks that the project may encounter in its implementation as well as to give the community a permanent communication channel with the Project.

The main four channels for receiving grievances are by website form on www.umpmrsu.ro , phone – (+4) 021 310 22 07, email – petitii@umpmrsu.ro and mail at the level of the PMU, Str. Spiru Haret, nr. 12, Sector 1, Bucureşti. This ensures that the PMU has an immediate control over all project related grievances and can address the raised issues immediately.

The Project developed a Gender-based Violence Action Plan (part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) in order to protect the community and staff from any cases of sexual harassment and exploitation. A separate safe and confidential reporting channel for the incidence of gender-based violence is available by e-mail address at petitii.vbg@umpmrsu.ro , or in person, by contacting the Project and requesting a meeting with the social specialist on the team.

1. GENERAL PROJECT AND ESMP INFORMATION

1.1 Project overview

Context of the Project

The proposed "Romania Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools" Project addresses development challenges related to issues of safety, inclusion and sustainability in the school infrastructure in Romania. The Project has been approved in 2021 and is implemented, over a period of six years, by the Ministry of Education with financial support from the World Bank[1] .

There is an urgent need to invest in quality and safe school infrastructure in Romania, with a high proportion of school buildings failing to meet basic sanitary and safety standards and which pose a substantial risk to lives in a future earthquake, a future pandemic and as the climate warms.

The Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project (SISSP) aims to provide safer and improved learning environments for students and teachers in selected schools, and to increase institutional capacity for investing in sustainable education infrastructure. The investments in the participating schools will serve as a demonstration of the preparation and implementation process of works to modernize and improve school infrastructure. The Project is expected to lay the foundations for future investments through State and European Union (EU) funds in school infrastructure. "Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School in Podu Iloaiei has been selected to be part of the first batch of investments, together with other 21 schools in the country. The technical design phase for "Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School has commenced in February 2023 and the construction works are estimated to begin starting early 2024. The main criteria for school selection were the results of seismic risk assessments, together with school marginality data. A list of all selection criteria and methodology can be found on the Project's website.

Objectives

The SISSP Development Objectives are to improve the resilience, energy efficiency and learning environment of selected Project schools, and to increase institutional capacity for integrated investments in schools in Romania.

Components

The five components under the Project are: i) Demonstrating Integrated Investments in School Infrastructure, ii) Investing in Clever Classrooms; iii) Foundations for Future Investments in Sustainable and Modern Schools Infrastructure; iv) Project Management; and v) Contingent Emergency Response Component.

The project will include:

a) Execution of construction works at selected educational units, in order to create a modern infrastructure, resistant to earthquakes and other natural disasters and to increase operational safety;

b) The endowment with modern and flexible furniture, the endowment with digital equipment of the classrooms in order to improve the quality of the educational process, the endowment with educational materials that will allow the stimulation of the learning capacity;

c) Teacher training to improve digital skills and understanding modern alternative methods that will encourage active student participation, group work / social learning and will be sensitive to students' individual motivations and differences;

1 The Board of the WB approved on 29th of April 2021 a Loan on the amount of 100 million euros (EUR) (equivalent to USD 121,07 million) to Romania for the implementation of the SISS Project. The Loan Agreement Number 9236-RO was signed between the WB and the GoR, represented by MoF, on 6th of May 2021 and it is in the process of ratification. The SISS Project is to be implemented over a period of six years, between 2021 and 2027.

d) Providing institutional support to local authorities for accessing European funds that will be available in the financial year 2021-2027 in order to make investments in modernization of school infrastructure;

e) Training of students, teachers and community awareness by promoting actions that can be taken to build disaster resilience and climate change, disaster preparedness and response, opportunities to increase sustainability (such as zero waste, water harvesting, energy use and conservation, etc.).

1.2 Scope and objectives the ESMP

The Project is supported by the World Bank through an Investment Project Financing Instrument. As a consequence, the Borrower is required to identify and assess the environmental and social risks associated with the Project and to propose an integrated management of these risks throughout the preparation and implementation phases. This process is carried under the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) that enables the WB and Borrowers to better manage environmental and social risks of projects and to improve development outcomes.

The Bank believes that the application of these standards, by focusing on the identification and management of environmental and social risks, will support Borrowers in their goal to reduce poverty and increase prosperity in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the environment and their citizens. The standards will: (a) support Borrowers in achieving good international practice relating to environmental and social sustainability; (b) assist Borrowers in fulfilling their national and international environmental and social obligations; (c) enhance nondiscrimination, transparency, participation, accountability and governance; and (d) enhance the sustainable development outcomes of projects through ongoing stakeholder engagement.

The objective of the current ESMP is to ensure that the social and environmental impacts that may occur in the implementation of the "Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School sub-project activities are adequately addressed through appropriate mitigation measures, integrated in the processes of implementation and operation of the sub-project, in order to ensure the protection of the environment and human health This objective is in line with the Environmental and Social Management Framework, a document that was prepared by the Project in 2020, at project design level, and which incorporates all the requirements that are applicable to the project, as well as main risks and mitigation measures to be implemented across all investments.

The development of the current ESMP is based on the provisions of World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) that requires Borrowers to assess and manage environmental and social risks of projects supported by the WB. The ESF is built upon the 10 WB's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), out which, the following six apply to the SISSP and establish the standards that the Borrower and the project will meet through the project life cycle, as follows:

ESS1: Assessment and Management of ESS Risks and Impacts;
ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions;
ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention;
ESS4: Community Health and Safety;
ESS8: Cultural Heritage;
ESS10: Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement.

The ESSs that apply to the project have been analyzed and adapted to the context in Romania and a series of tools and documents have been elaborated in the Project Preparation phase in 2020. These instruments include the Environmental and Social Management Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Plan, Grievance Redress Procedure, Gender Based Violence Action Plan, etc. In addition, two studies carried by the World Bank in the context of the Project, assessing the specific needs

and concerns of different vulnerable categories that might be impacted by the investments in schools, have informed the Project design. All these documents can be consulted on the Project's website.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework also contains a review of applicable Romanian legislation, in addition to an in-depth presentation of the World Bank's standards.

2. DESCRIPTION OF Podu Iloaiei „Al. I. Cuza" SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPROJECT

2.1 Description of area and community affected by the investment

Podu Iloaiei is a small urban administrative territorial unit located in Iasi County. The administrative unit consists of Podu Iloaiei and Budăi, regarded as urban settlements, and the villages of Cosițeni, Holm and Scobâlțeni.

According to the census conducted in 2011, the number of citizens at the level of the Podu Iloaiei administrative unit (including all villages) was 9573 persons. More recent data based on residency, provided by the local authorities indicate that at the end of 2021, the number of residents in the administrative unit was 11490. The difference can be explained by large parts of the population that still have IDs with their address in the settlement, but have temporary or permanently migrated to other regions or countries. The most recent census, from 2021, reveals a decrease from the previously censused population to 8992 residents[2]. The great majority of the population lives in the town.

The number of children with school age has been constant in the past decade, and there is no sign of decreasing school populations[3]. However, the current overcrowding situation suggests that the educational capacity is not sufficient to serve the needs of the community.

The settlement has a large Roma community, officially 21% according to the official census and estimated at around 3000 persons by the Roma representatives in the town. Site visits and consultations revealed that there are no cases of ethnic segregation and Roma children study in classes together with their non-Roma colleagues.

The urban infrastructure in Podu Iloaiei includes a socio-medical center, a highschool, social and medical centers.

2.2 Podu Iloaiei „Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School

Podu Iloaiei "Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School was selected in the first batch of 22 schools that will be the object of investments within the project. The school was considered eligible because it is located in an area with seismic risk, it has a high risk of collapse in case of earthquake (according to the technical expertise, the building falls into the category of seismic risk class I), it is in an advanced state of degradation, is located on the public domain and has not undergone recent complete renovation/ consolidation works. The building is 128 years old.

The legal entity "Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School has in its composition, in addition to the unit subject to investment, another secondary school, 4 primary schools and a kindergarten. The building included in the project is one of the buildings used by the central secondary school. The school population of the entire legal entity for the year 2022-2023 is 753 students out of which 366 in the primary classes and 387 in the secondary ones.

The building selected for the investment is the secondary body of the central school, which was built in 1895 and was included in the project following consultations with the local and school administration, due to its advanced state of degradation and the seismic risk it presents.

The current building includes 5 classrooms, a teacher's space and a room where an office has been set up. In this building there is also a local library to which both children who learn in school and other people in the community have access. The five classrooms are used by about 240 students organized into 7 primary classes and 3 secondary classes who learn in two shifts: 5 primary classes in the morning, respectively 2 primary classes and 3 secondary classes in the afternoon.

2 https://www.recensamantromania.ro/rezultate-rpl-2021/rezultate-provizorii/
3 http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table accessed on 10 april 2023

In addition, after the completion of the two teaching exchanges, educational activities are carried out in this building within two programs:

1. ROMANI – in which Roma children go through an extracurricular curriculum consisting of three subjects – the Romani language, the history and traditions of the Roma and an optional subject matter. 115 children participate in this program.
2. The program "Connected to education - an integrated approach for children whose parents are working abroad", supported by a foundation (REF – Roma Education Fund). In the school year 2022-2023, 20 children are enrolled; half of the children enrolled are of Roma ethnicity.

Description of the current school building proposed for demolition and reconstruction:

Year of Construction	It was built in 1895 with the destination of school;
Area and functions	The building has an area of 547 sqm, 5 classrooms, and houses the teaching activity for 10 classes in two shifts and two educational programs after the standard classes;
Seismic risk category	The technical expertise indicated the highest seismic risk, class I;
Current access to utilities:	The building does not have toilets, children are forced to walk about 100 meters to the main body of the school or to the gym across the street to have access to toilets; The building is connected to the electrical and gas networks; The heating is provided by two gas-fired heating plants; given the state of the building, the two heating stations cannot ensure an adequate temperature in the classrooms and the gas consumption is very high. This reason, correlated with the lack of toilets, determined the school management to make the decision that during the winter the students should be relocated to the main building, where the educational activity was carried out in three shifts;
Current universal access situation	Currently the building does not provide facilities for universal access;
Conclusion of the technical expertise	The conclusion of the technical expertise indicates the partial or total risk of collapse in case of an earthquake and argues the financial efforts to consolidate the existing building are not justified, with the proposal to demolish and reconstruct a new building.

2.3. Location and characteristics of the site for investment

The results of the technical documentation revealed the need to demolish the existing building and construct the new one on the same site where it currently functions. In addition, 3 annexes located in the area where the new building will be placed will be demolished.

The site of the investment consists of a land plot of 6872 sqm that is registered as a public land of the local authority, located on the National Road no. 112. The description below details some of the main characteristics of the proposed site for construction:

The proposed land hosts the headquarters of the Secondary School "Al. I. Cuza" Podu Iloaiei, with the two bodies in which educational activities are currently carried out and 5 annexes – a deposit of coal, two buildings that house the thermal power plants, a warehouse for teaching materials and the school archive.

Vicinities: the land is bordered by European Road E 583, Traian Street, the church of the Orthodox Parish "St. Neculai" and a private property. The area is mainly residential and near the site there is also the City Hall, a gym and another building from the structure of the school.

The access to the school is made from Traian Street.

Fig. 1 Satellite view of the Secondary School

The land does not include historical buildings but is located in the protection area of the historical monument "St. Nicolae Church", included in the List of historical monuments under the number IS-II-m-B-04221.

In order to make way for the new construction, both the B building of the school and other 3 annexes located on the site will be demolished, according to the sketch below.

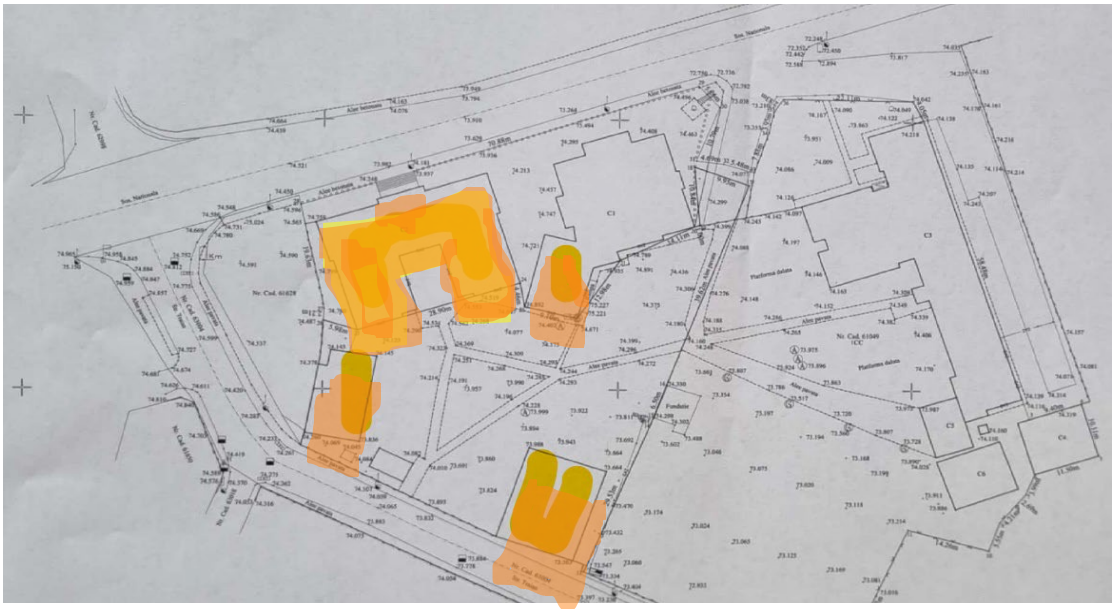


Fig. 2. The buildings proposed for demolition

The figure above indicates the constructions on site, with C2, the building subject to the investment, as well as three annexes proposed for demolition to make way for the new construction.

2.4 Proposed design for new school building

Key features of design as provided by the architect team

The new school project aims to integrate and bring to life the latest best practice in contemporary school design:

- Integration of technology
- Safety and security
- Transparency
- Multi-purpose space
- Outdoor learning

The basic principle of the project is the safe and efficient operation of the spaces, based on sustainability principles. The designed systems aim at producing energy from renewable sources, limiting consumption, environmental control and ease of maintenance, reducing operating and maintenance costs, protecting the environment and increasing operational safety, with the main objective of implementing the NZEB concept as efficiently as possible.

Fig. 3 Designer renderings of the interior of the new building

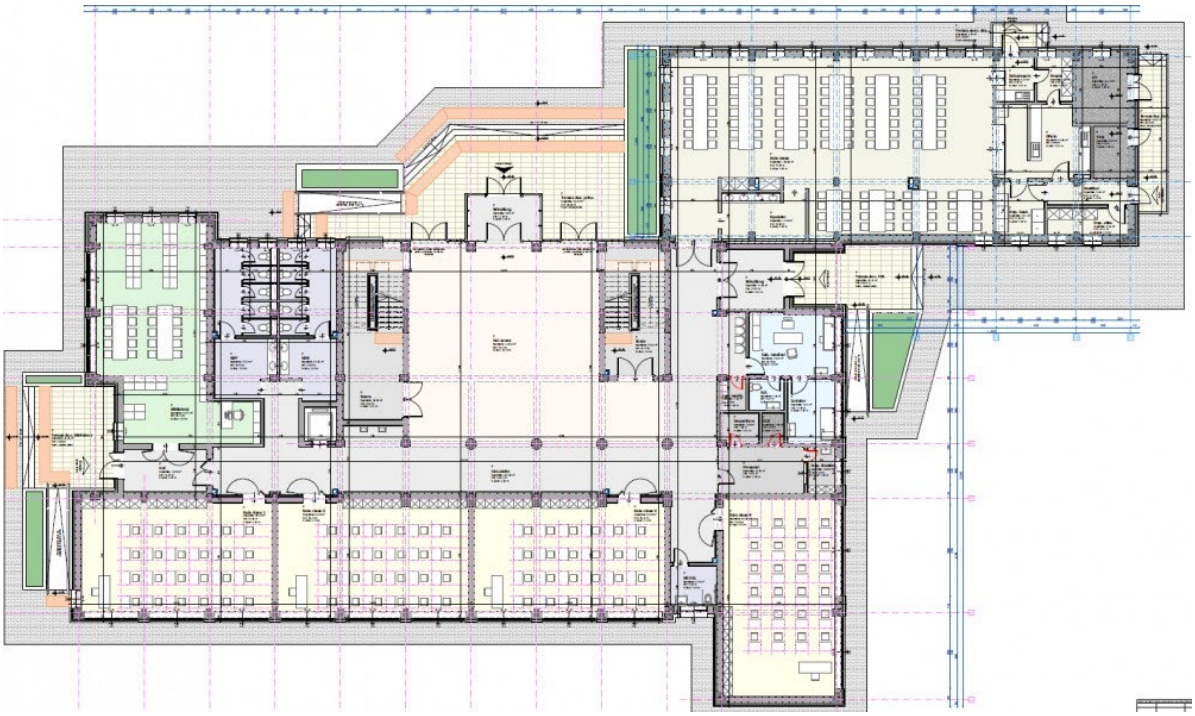
The proposed new building will have a built area of 1212,00 sqm and a developed area of 3460,00 sqm. The new school will be able to host the 340 children currently enrolled in primary and secondary education and will have a maximum capacity of 364 students. The school will be aligned with the latest seismic standards, near zero energy building technology, universal access for all children, adapted bathrooms for the needs of teenage girls, a cafeteria for lunch breaks and school events.

Fig. 4 Proposed emplacement of the new school

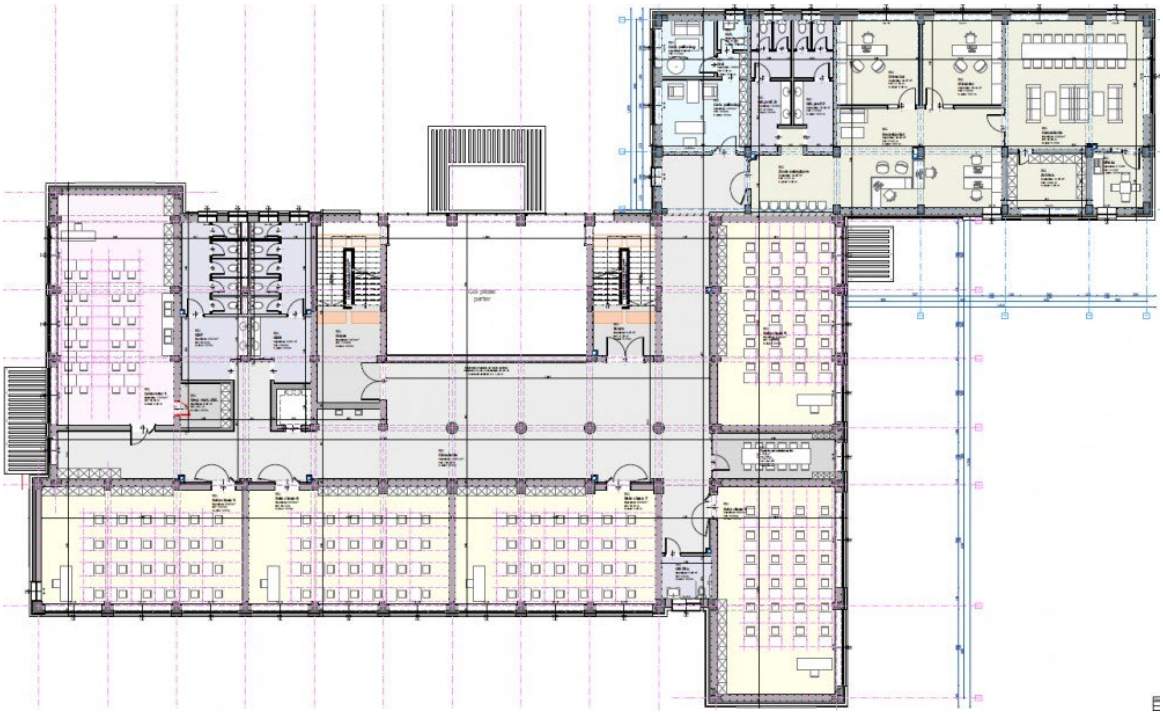
The spatial-functional organization of the proposed building includes the following spaces:

- 14 classrooms;
- 3 laboratories (one for computer science and one for chemistry, both equipped with storage space);
- dedicated area for documentation, research, and information activities;
- library;
- cafeteria designed to simultaneously serve meals in three shifts, equipped with a handwashing/disinfection area, a counter area for serving meals, a storage area and an office space;
- administrative area for teachers, consisting of a school office, a secretary's office, a principal's office, and a staff room;
- medical office for consultations and treatments, including an isolation room;
- psychological counseling office with a special room for calming children who may be experiencing emotional distress, designed to help students manage their emotions, reduce stress, and regain self-control;
- dedicated spaces for teachers and auxiliary staff;
- storage spaces for cleaning materials and technical areas dedicated to equipment ensuring the lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation of the building, as well as those with fire protection purposes.

Ground floor



First floor



Second Floor

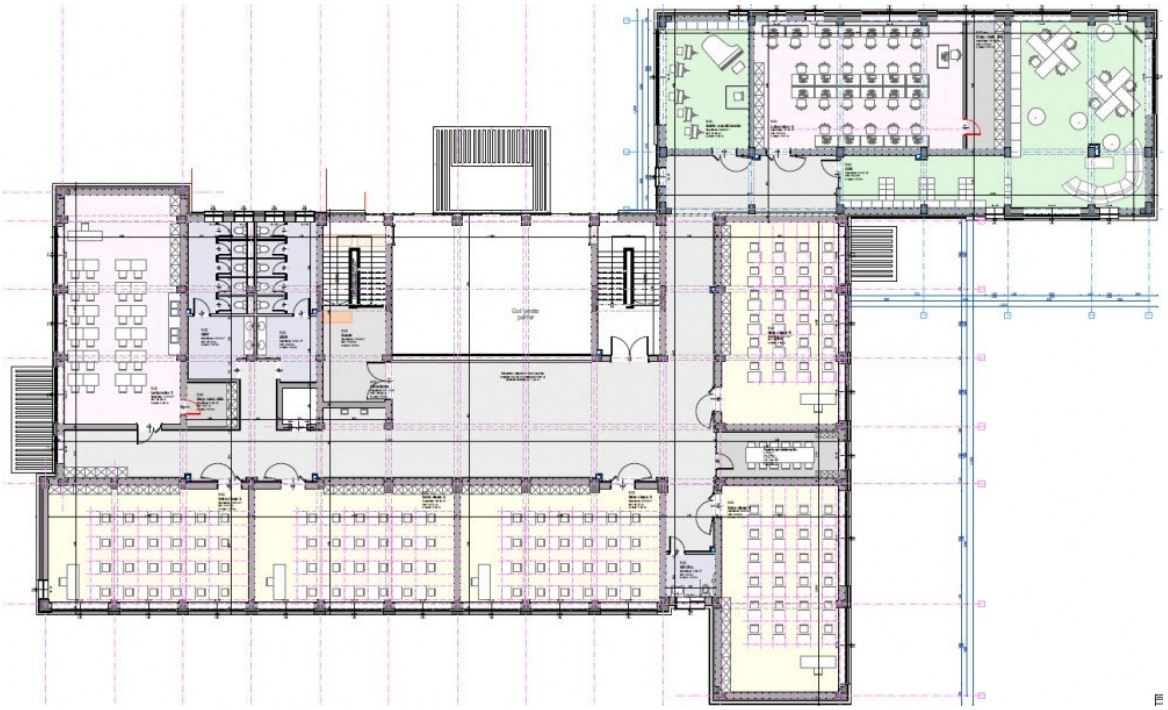


Fig. 5 Proposed plans for the new construction

The building will provide sanitary facilities (sinks, upward jet faucets, and toilets) for students and teachers in accordance with the current legislation, as well as storage spaces for cleaning materials. The proposed building is designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, with access points, horizontal and vertical connections, space dimensions and furniture designed in accordance with the provisions of applicable regulations. All level differences, ramps, and stairs are properly marked, and vertical accessibility for individuals with mobility impairments is ensured through the use of an elevator. All three levels of the building are equipped with specially sized and equipped restroom facilities to meet the needs of these individuals.

2.5 Associated Facilities

Given the limited resources at the level of the Project and the priority to increase the seismic safety of children in schools at risk across the country, some of the associated elements of the investments will be funded and implemented by local authorities, considering budgetary availability at local level. From an environmental and social perspective, these associated investments will be approached as Associated Facilities of the Investment.

Associated Facilities means facilities or activities that are not funded as part of the Project and, in the judgment of the World Bank, are: (a) directly and significantly related to the project; and (b) carried out, or planned to be carried out, contemporaneously with the project; and (c) necessary for the project to be viable and would not have been constructed, expanded or conducted if the project did not exist.

The E&S standards of the Project, defined under the current ESMP, will apply to these Associated Facilities. In practice, the requirements under the current ESMP will apply to all Contractors, irrespective of the contracted works (demolitions, constructions, landscaping, etc.). The PMU will assist the local authority in implementing and monitoring the measures set out in the current ESMP for the associated facilities.

Description of interventions expected to be carried by the local authorities:

- Demolition of the old school building and the three annexes currently standing on the land on which the new building will be erected;
- Preparation of mobile classroom site and utility connections;
- Building of a new fence to enclose the area of the demolished buildings;
- Playground area next to the school;
- Alleys, public lighting and benches, and landscaping;
- Parking lots;
- Utility connections for the proposed new building.

2.6 Temporary School Relocation Solution

The subproject will need a mobile classroom solution to accommodate the educational and extracurricular activities during the demolition and construction works. The 10 primary and secondary classes are already learning in two shifts and there was a recent temporary relocation of children in this building during the winter months. However, the relocation to another building on site meant that children had to learn in three shifts, a situation that was faced with opposition from parents, concerned with children's safety and health in such an arrangement.

The mobile classroom will comprise of several containers arranged in a fluid manner to accommodate the functions of the educational activities. It will provide similar functions as a standard building, with separate toilets for girls and boys, classrooms, heating units, lighting, standard furniture. The site will need to be prepared in advance by the local authority and will include the connection to electricity, water and wastewater. Heating will be ensured by electrical heaters.

The solution will be consulted with the school representatives, municipality and school community (parents, teachers, children). The costs associated with the mobile classrooms will be under the responsibility of the Project, while the preparation of the site and utility connection will fall under the responsibility of the local authority in Podu Iloaiei.

Fig. 6 Examples of modular classrooms in Bucharest and Constanța

2.7 Description of demolition and construction works expected

The demolition will be contracted by the local authority. The works are expected to take two months and will be carried under strict guidance outlined in the technical design documentation associated with the

demolition process, prepared under the responsibility of the local authority in Podu Iloaiei. The process will involve the disconnection of the current buildings from utilities, the set-up of the construction site within the premises (offices, toilets, changing rooms for staff) and temporary connection to utilities, the fencing and restrictions of accessing the site, equipping the site with health and safety equipment, providing training to workers on site, set-up of environmental protection measures (vehicles washing, transport of debris, protection of green spaces on the construction site).

The technological process of demolition will involve the use of vehicles and machinery specific to construction works such as bulldozers, excavators, jackhammers and dump trucks. The trucks that will go in and out of the site will undergo a wheel washing process and will be covered to avoid the overspill of debris on public roads. A project information board and a grievance system board and letter box will assure that both community members and site workers will be able to communicate any grievances and suggestions to the project team, in relation to the demolition process.

The construction of the new building will most probably last between 12 and 18 months. The first period will be allocated to the to the site preparation for the construction of the new building and the installation of the necessary equipment for the construction works (site organisation).

The new building will have a built area of 1212,00 sqm and a developed area of 3460,00 sqm. The infrastructure of the building is made of insulated foundations under the superstructure columns and reinforced concrete beams. A general excavation will be carried out on the whole surface of the building for the foundations. A layer of sand and gravel is placed under the slab above ground level to break the capillarity. Thermal insulation of the above ground slab will be made with 20 cm thick extruded polystyrene. Horizontal waterproofing will be provided under the ground floor walls to prevent damp.

The superstructure of the building consists of reinforced concrete frames composed of columns, beams and reinforced concrete slabs. Access to the first floor will be via two reinforced concrete staircases.

The roof will be of non-circulating terrace type, with heat-sealing membrane. On the main access area, an awning will be built by removing the cantilever slab over the floor, with reinforced concrete structure, continuing the non-circulating terrace roofing.

The external enclosures will be made of 30 cm thick BCA masonry, thermally insulated with a ventilated facade system with a 15 cm thick basalt plaster thermos-system. The interior partitions will be made of 30 cm thick BCA masonry for the teaching areas and 15 cm thick for the other areas. The exterior joinery will be aluminum, glazed, low-e, 4s, with a minimum corrected resistance of 0.83 m2K/W and the curtain wall in the main entrance area will be double-glazed, low-e, 4s, with a minimum corrected resistance of 0.77 m2K/W. The interior joinery will be aluminum, with full panel and glass panel. The interior floors will be made with PVC carpet. In wet areas (sanitary), non-slip ceramic tiles will be used. Walls and ceilings will be plastered, sanded and painted with super washable paint. The ceilings will be made of plasterboard with 60x120 cm sound-absorbing panels.

2.8 Temporary facilities required during the demolition and construction phase

Demolition and construction activities will require temporary installations on site. The installation of these facilities will allow the performance of various functions of the site, including the storage of building materials, waste management, the arrangement of offices, dedicated spaces for workers and the provision of health and safety on the site.

All the temporary facilities will be installed inside the two sites subject to works (demolition of the former building, demolition and construction works associated with the new investment). The construction site will be installed on the ground and will include the placement of modular containers to serve as offices,

changing rooms for site workers and as a warehouse for equipment. Ecological toilets will be installed on the site, and their contents will be constantly emptied by the supplier. Separated toilets for women will be installed, if necessary. A truck washing platform will be provided to clean the wheels of trucks leaving the site during demolition and construction work.

At the entrance to the site, a panel dedicated to the mechanism for receiving petitions/complaints with a related mailbox will be installed. Construction workers will be informed about the possibility of contacting the implementation unit or of submitting an anonymous complaint about the working conditions and the health and safety provisions on the spot, in addition to the grievance mechanism that is expected to function at the level of the Contractors.

The temporary facilities required during the construction works will take into account the designation of spaces for the storage of materials, washing and decontamination facilities for vehicles, contamination control points, ecological toilets, wastewater treatment services, offices and night lighting. Special attention will be given to the security of the site. Appropriate fencing and controlled access to the site will be ensured and the works related traffic will be organized in a manner that will not put at risk the activities and persons in the vicinity (educational activities, children playing in the school playground, neighbors, passers-by) The noise and dust levels will be constantly monitored and appropriate measures will be taken to keep them under the legally admitted maximum, as indicated in the sections below. All these measures will be captured in the Project detailed design documentation, the bidding documents and the contracts signed with designated construction companies.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 Key social risks and impacts

The project is expected to have a considerable positive impact at the level of the Podu Iloaiei community, children and teachers. This project aims that teachers and students have access to schools that are safe from earthquake, fire and other disaster and climate risks, meet minimum standards for sanitation, heating, ventilation, are energy efficient, can safely resume during health pandemics, such as Covid-19, and provide universal access to students with disabilities.

By providing a comprehensive solution, through a single investment, Romania can reduce dropout or early school leaving, increase educational outcomes and provide safe learning environments. Strengthening disaster resilience and emergency infrastructure in severely damaged buildings at the level of selected units across Romania, will increase the chances of communities to be safely assisted in the event of disasters and will also provide improved and standardized working conditions for the employees working in these facilities.

In relation to the WB's ESF, the social development and inclusion under the Project aims at empowering all people to participate in, and benefit from, the development process. Inclusion encompasses policies to promote equality and nondiscrimination by improving the access of all people, including the poor and disadvantaged, to the educational services that will result from the investment. It also embraces action to remove barriers against those who are often excluded from the development process, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, youth and minorities, and to ensure that the voice of all can be heard.

3.2 Social Impact Screening Process

An environmental and social checklist, developed at project design stage, and including elements related to the social and environmental context of the investments, revealed the following:

- No land acquisition is involved in the process, as all work will be carried on the same public land that hosts the present building and that is in the property of the local authority in Podu Iloaiei.
- The land plot that hosts the current building serves other buildings and functions, such as other school buildings, the local children center, the town's library, and annexes that served other purposes in the past (e.g., the coal deposit, the old heating unit, the mechanical workshop, etc.).
- The site is bordered by a national and a local road, a church and a residential unit. However, none of these are considered sensitive in relation to the demolition and reconstruction process.
- The current building is located in a historically protected area due to the proximity to the church, which is a historical monument. The church is located at about 120 m from the existing building and the future reconstruction site.
- During the demolition and construction activities the students will be relocated in a modular school, provided by the Project, that will be emplaced in the schoolyard.
- There is a large Roma minority in the town that is well integrated in the non-Roma community;
- The most sensitive neighboring building is the children center (palace), which is adjoined by one of the annexes that is subject to demolitions (in order to create room for the future construction). Although at a reasonable distance, the area includes private houses and blocks of flats for residential use and the historical building of a church, as described above.

Regarding the vulnerable categories that might be impacted by the Project, two research studies carried by the World Bank in 2020 in the context of the Project preparation, namely, a Community Vulnerability Assessment and a Roma Children Learning Experiences Assessment revealed several aspects that contribute to the objectives of the planned investments. The two studies carried interviews with children and parents coming from vulnerable and marginalized communities, and concluded several interventions that can be addressed by the project in order to improve the experience of vulnerable children in the

newly built schools (e.g., adding cafeterias for hot meal programs, adapting to the needs of children with disabilities, addressing the lack of access to modern technologies for children from poor environments, etc.).

Several site visits and consultations with relevant stakeholders have also informed the social risk assessment related to the Podu Iloaiei sub-project. Some of the specific aspects that informed the risk analysis are:

- The crowded land plot that will need to accommodate approximately six hundred children, a demolition and construction site and a mobile classroom solution, increasing health and safety risks for children and staff;
- The location of the site in a protected area and in the immediate vicinity to the historical church;
- The health and safety risks posed by children that are learning in precarious conditions in other buildings that are under the legal entity of the school undergoing investment (e.g. children in Bulai or Henci areas);
- The school has a large number of children with special educational needs.

Social risks identified under Project Activities:

The social risks identified at this stage are based on data collected at the level of Podu Iloaiei, through checklists, observational site visits, consultations, and similar civil works projects.

Some of the risks of exclusion that were identified in Project preparation, back in 2020, were already addressed in specific design requirements, such as the inclusion of cafeteria in all schools under the project, dedicated facilities for menstrual hygiene, dedicated facilities and equipment for all children, irrespective of the health status.

The categorization of the social risk listed below addresses the demolition and reconstruction works that will be involved in the project, organized under three stages (1) pre-construction, (2) demolition and construction works, (3) post-construction.

Project preparation

- **Reduced access of vulnerable categories** in consultations and project information related to the Podu Iloaiei investment. By vulnerable groups, the Project understands: children and families living in poverty, elderly, children and persons with disabilities, women, Roma children and adults, children with special educational needs. The project not only aims at avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts on these categories, that could potentially be more impacted by the Project, but seeks to create development opportunities for the marginalized. In the case of Podu Iloaiei, the large number of children with special educational needs and the large Roma community, children learning in other unsafe children within the school unit, increase the potential for exclusion.
- **Lack of specific measures to accommodate the needs of students/teachers with disabilities and children with special educational needs** in the sub-project design. The inclusion component of the Project enhances universal access design so that people with health conditions or impairments can enjoy all the benefits provided by the new school, including adapted furniture, dedicated spaces for counseling and inclusive technology solutions. The proposals that came from the community during the first round of consultations will be expected to be included in the design specifications.
- **Reduced access to education** for relocated children, in case the mobile classrooms are non-compliant with health and safety requirements and the functional needs of the educational process (e.g., fire safety, sanitation, lack of heating, lack of sound proofing, lack of light, etc.). Any

faults that are not taken into account during design and construction risk to reduce children's access to education.

Construction of the new school

- **General discomfort generated by dust and noise pollution**, relocated children and the students in the neighboring building, learning and playing in the near-by school buildings and school yard next to the site, teachers, near-by residents, the church, discomfort generated by noise, and dust pollution;
- **Community health and safety risks** generated by the construction site, especially in relation to children learning and playing next to the site, by the lack of appropriate fencing and security measures to restrict access on the construction site, risk of road accidents for pedestrians in general, and for children, generated by temporary heavy transport during the construction process. In relation to the mobile classroom solution, the design and installation of the solution will need to ensure safety of children and staff (e.g. fire safety, emergency evacuation, appropriate heating, etc.) and access for vulnerable children and staff (e.g. children with disabilities).
- **Disruptions in utility services** due to accidents or planned interventions (water, sewerage, electricity, gas);
- **Occupational accidents on the construction site,** especially in relation to migrant workers, if the case; the construction sector in Romania continues to be the sector with the highest rates of work-related accidents and fatalities, due to the lack of compliance with health and safety rules on site. In relation to the increased number of foreign workers, these persons are likely to be more exposed to occupational accidents due to language barriers.
- **Social tensions, increased risks of sexual harassment, abuse and violence, misconduct** during works, potentially perpetuated by construction workers. This impact will likely be greater in the event of installing temporary accommodation for construction staff, given the proximity of the site to current educational activities; the risk is related to a gender-based violence risks. The screening process that concluded the need to protect the local community, especially children and women, from such situations that might be generated by the presence of contracted workers in Podu Iloaiei.

Post-construction phase

- **Lack of opportunities for vulnerable groups** to benefit from the investment, such as Roma, in particular Roma children, children currently learning in buildings at risk, community at large. The risk considers the current segregation practices that are affecting Roma minorities across the country. The school will also have the potential to become a community asset that can be used by various groups outside of the educational activities, irrespective of their status within the community. Other risks related to vulnerable categories are the lack of specific equipment to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities and special educational needs, or the misuse of the menstrual hygiene units for teenage girls.
- **Reduced disaster awareness** in relation to the role the newly/rehabilitated school can play in the event of a natural disaster, as well as the process of protecting the life of children and other community members in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster. Beyond the infrastructural component, the project aims at addressing the lack of disaster preventive actions at the level of the school and the community at large.
- **Limited availability of the new building and related facilities due to lack of local funds** to cover associated facilities that do not fall under the investment as well as day to day operational

and maintenance expenses of the newly/rehabilitated school; the proposed designs are aiming to create energy efficient buildings that are likely to reduce the current operational expenses of local budgets. Associated investments that will be carried by the local authority (fencing, alleys, public lighting, landscaping, playgrounds) will be captured in the proposed design and will be planned in advance so that the new school building is ready to use at the end of Project investments.

Social risks identified under Associated Facilities:

Given the focus of the project on enhancing the safety of children learning in schools with considerable seismic risk, some of the associated investments, such as demolition of current buildings (including the old school and clearing the current site from the three annexes), and fencing, alleys, parking lots, public lighting, playground area, landscaping at the site of the new school, will be carried technically and financially by the local authorities.

The risks that pertain from this activity are similar in nature as those described above, under the new construction works, and will be addressed by local authorities:

- **Community health and safety risks** for the all children and staff on the site that hosts the three buildings to be demolished, as well as neighbors and passers by. Given the close location of one of the annexes to the Children's Palace building there is a risk of collapse of the walls during the demolition, specific measures will be consulted with the Palace's representatives and other relevant parties. Securing the perimeter of the building and managing the heavy traffic are also considered essential in keeping the safety of children and adults intact during the process. This will also be applicable to the small interventions carried by the local authority in the new school's yard.
- **Occupational health and safety**. As mentioned above, occupational accidents in the construction sector continue to be an area of high risk for human health, as enforcement of national legislation tends to be low, especially in works located in rural parts of the country.
- **General discomfort generated by dust and noise pollution**, for relocated children and students learning and playing in the near-by school buildings and school yard next to the site, teachers, near-by residents, the church, (discomfort generated by noise, and dust pollution);
- **Risk of road accidents** for pedestrians in general, and for children in particular, generated by temporary heavy transport during the construction process;
- **Disruptions in utility services** due to accidents or planned interventions (water, sewerage, electricity).

3.2 Key environmental risks and impacts

Screening and permitting processes

An initial screening was performed by the City Hall and afterwards was revised by Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists of the PMU. Site visits and consultations with the school and local authorities representatives further supported the data collection process.

Further environmental impacts will be highlighted in the permitting process the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure which will be conducted by the County Environmental Protection Agency based on the documents provided by Technical Design Consultant and results will be incorporated into the current Environmental and Social Management Plan, if necessary.

Environmental Screening results:

- Podu Iloaiei is located in Moldavian Plane, in Jijia River basin. School location is inside a 6872 sqm plot, being the Public ownership of Locality;
- The land plot allocated for the investment is located outside the area with 0,1% flooding probability of Bahlui river. (Fig. 7) 4 . No landslide associated probability was identified;
- Extensive land clearing will be performed during demolition works;
- Hazards to public traffic and pedestrian by transportation vehicles during construction activities, being on an important national road. Entrance and exit of transportation vehicles to working site should be managed;
- Across the School is the Central Park. In vicinity of the School is Saint Nicolas Church from 1832 IS-II-m-B-04221, a historical monument that extends its protection area over the land plot that hosts the school under the Project.

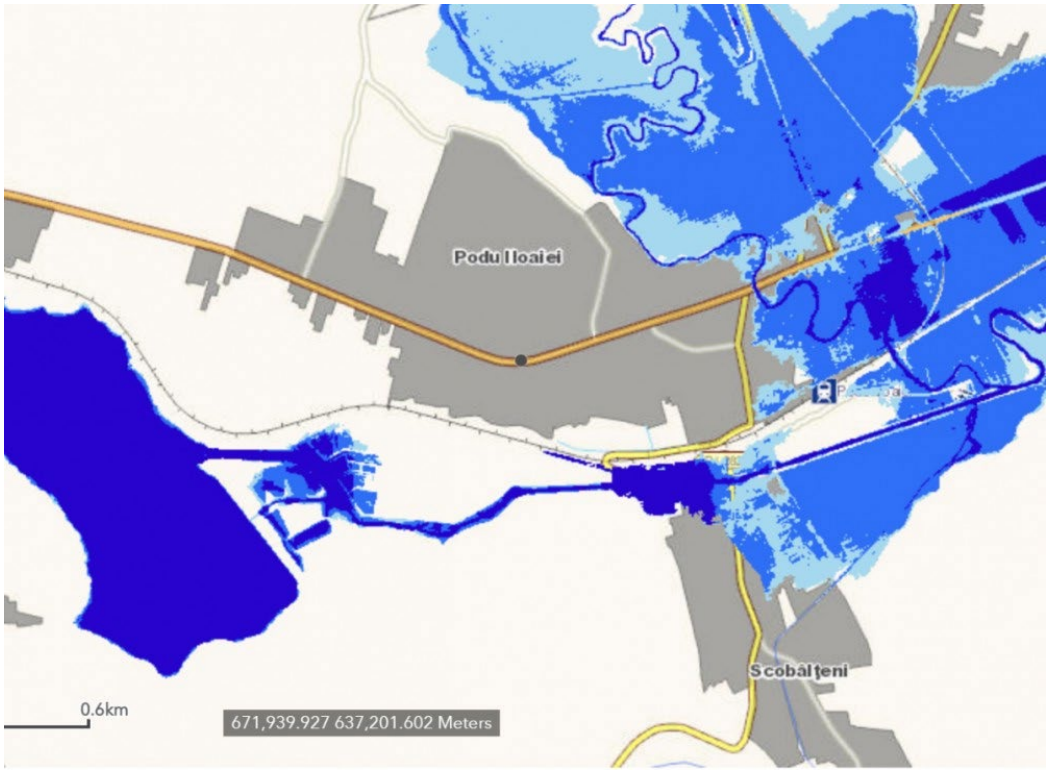


Fig 7. Flooding hazard map

Environmental risks identified under Project Activities

Demolition and construction work:

- Pollution with dust, noise and noxious emissions;
- Transportation and construction vehicles impact on pedestrian and general traffic;
- Improper management of waste resulted from demolition/construction works;
- Asbestos impact during demolition of building (low probability);
- Improper management of Sewage waters from working site and Leakages from equipment used on working site;

4 https://rowater.ro/despre-noi/descrierea-activitatii/managementul-situatiilor-de-urgenta/directiva-inundatii-2007-60-ce/harti-de-hazard-si-risc-la-inundatii/, accessed July 2023

- Not following the indicated procedure in case of discovering a physical cultural, historical or archaeological resource during excavation or demolition.

Operation of the new school:

- Improper waste management by not allocating enough recipients for selective collection and storage of waste (household, plastic, glass, metal, paper, electric and electronic waste) - low probability;
- Unsafe practices during operation of the building by improper connections to the sewage network - low probability.

The mitigation measures proposed by the Project with the aim of avoiding or reducing as much as possible the impacts and risks listed above are included in the management plan below, that defines impact areas, mitigation measures and institutional responsibilities associated with the proposed measures.

Environmental Guidance

Energy Efficiency, Insulation and Ventilation

Insulation should be tailored to the seasonal impacts of climate, internal thermal load, and characteristics of exposure. Vapor barriers should prevent moisture intrusion in the roof insulation and outer wall cavities and using damp course.

Window location should be determined on view, ventilation, light, thermal gain, privacy control and interior space functions.

High-efficiency systems for heating domestic water (including solar systems) and for interior space heating should be selected with maintenance and long-term running costs in mind.

Plumbing should be coordinated to minimize plumbing and also water service to toilets and utility rooms. Water-saving faucets, ring mains and other devices also require consideration. Construction materials will conform to national regulations and internationally accepted standards of safety and environmental impacts.

Electrical Systems

Incoming cables should be located underground. Main entrance feed and panel located away from places of work and waiting is prudent in avoidance of electromagnetic fields. Ground faulty wiring near any plumbing fixture is a precaution. Selecting the most energy efficient light fixtures, lamps, appliances and equipment will reduce energy demand but can introduce undesirable electromagnetic fields. Be aware that close proximity to table, floor and desk halogen, fluorescent and other high-efficiency fixtures and lamps can cause an exposure to harmful electromagnetic fields.

Selection of Construction Materials and Construction Methods

Environmentally sound goods and services should be selected. Priority should be given to products meeting standards for recognized international or national symbols. Traditionally well-tried materials and methods should be chosen before new and unknown techniques. Construction sites should be fenced off in order to prevent entry of public, and general safety measures would be imposed. Temporary inconveniences due to construction works should be minimized through planning and coordination with contractors, neighbors and authorities. In densely populated areas, noisy or vibration generating activities should be strictly confined to the daytime.

Handling of Waste

The handling of construction debris will be according to local and national regulations, and as specified in the ESMP, and described above under site considerations. These regulations are developed and enforceable in Romania. Monitoring will be the responsibility of site supervisors working for the MoE. For asbestos and asbestos-containing materials please see Annex 1. In all the specific cases for which contractors should demolish or remove asbestos-containing materials, these categories of works should be done only with qualified personnel and fully in line with the specific legislation related to this specific field.

Occupational Health and Safety at Work

The contractor has the obligation to ensure all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and materials, and the workers have the obligation to use all such protective equipment - helmets, gloves, goggles where appropriate and work uniforms. All these minimum protection rules, doubled by avoiding over-exhaustion of workers, prevent ergonomic injuries and other work-related accidents resulting from repetitive, excessive and manual handling of building materials.

Recommendations for their prevention and control include knowledge of the most common causes of wounds in construction and decommissioning by:

- Training of workers in the lifting and handling of materials, techniques in construction and decommissioning projects, including placement of weight limits over which mechanical assistance is required;
- Workplace site planning to minimize the need for manual heavy load transfer;
- Selecting tools and designing workstations that reduce the need for strength;
- Implement administrative controls in work processes, such as job rotation and rest breaks.

Contractor H&SP and ERP

Contractor will be required to produce a Health and Safety Plan (H&SP) and an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to protect his employees during the works he shall undertake. This Plan will be reviewed at the level of the PMU both on Environmental and Social aspects and at the level of the Bank. The Contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) shall be considered when preparing contractor's H&SP and ERP. Environmental controls and exposure levels associated with worker protection shall be included in the C-ESMP. Work practices required by the ESMP are not intended to compromise health and safety in any way. Each H&SP and ERP will be approved by the Supervising Engineer prior to the contractor commencing works to ensure adequate health and safety controls and procedures have been developed, that are appropriate to the works to be undertaken.

3.4 Environmental and Social Management Plan

The mitigation measures proposed by the Project with the aim of avoiding or reducing as much as possible the impacts and risks listed above are included in the management plan below, that defines impact areas, mitigation measures and institutional responsibilities associated with the proposed measures. The plan will be subject to consultations with stakeholders and to updates during implementation, whenever necessary.

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
Pre-construction phase		
General E&S Management **Risks**: unsafe and unsustainable practices during demolition and construction works; **Affected persons**: school children and staff, community members, workers;	▪ The Contractor shall develop a Contractors ESMP in accordance with the requirements stipulated throughout the ESMP. C-ESMP will include Labor Management Plan, Occupational Health and Safety Plan, Solid Waste Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan; ▪ Contractor to provide reports and access to E&S information related to the implementation of this ESMP;	All Contractors
Project Design **Risks:** exclusion of community from project design, risks of accidents for children, community and workers, non-compliant plans at the level of site organization; **Affected persons:** vulnerable categories, school children and staff, community members, workers;	▪ Ensure all elements derived from consultations are integrated into the final design, especially universal access features; ▪ Provide clear elements for community safety in Site Organization Plan (fencing, restricted access, site surveillance/security system);	PMU E&S specialists Design Consultant
Safe Relocation of Children **Risks**: unsafe conditions for relocated children and staff, exclusion of vulnerable categories from educational activities; **Affected persons:** relocated children and staff, vulnerable categories, such as disabled children/staff;	▪ Ensure health and safety conditions in relocated space are compliant with minimum norms; ▪ Apply health and safety checklist and propose remediation actions in the event of non-compliance; ▪ Install Grievance Box at the relocated school;	PMU (applying checklist and managing grievances) Local authority (for remediating actions and installing grievance box)
Construction and Demolition Phase		

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
Community Health and Safety **Risks:** lack of safety and protective elements resulting in accidents, access of children in restricted areas; **Affected persons:** children, school staff, community living next to construction sites;	▪ Community Safety Elements in place prior to commencement of works and maintained throughout work schedule (fencing, designation of areas with restricted access, separate access routes with ID check-up, clear and visible signaling panels, surveillance/security system); ▪ Waste Management Plan, Traffic Management Plan, Worker Management Plan, OHS Plan, Emergency Response Plan approved by the PMU; ▪ Record and communicate any accidents involving community members to the PMU; ▪ Installation of GRM Board and Box next to Construction site; ▪ Information Notes submitted to all neighbors in relation to work schedules and grievance mechanism; ▪ Children Safety Awareness Actions developed at the level of the school with support from PMU.	Contractor PMU Community Engagement Specialist School and local authority
Occupational Health and Safety **Risk:** occupational accidents, lack of protective equipment on site, lack of contracts and illegal work, lack of appropriate trainings **Affected persons:** workers across all planned demolition and construction works;	▪ OHS Plan and Emergency Response Plan approved by site manager and all safety elements in place in accordance with national legislation and site management plan; ▪ Provide translation of OHS requirements on site for Contractors employing foreign workers; ▪ OHS Training plan included in Labor Management Plan; ▪ Internal Code of conduct and Grievance Mechanism for Workers disclosed to workers; ▪ Ensure workers are using Personal Protection Equipment and World Bank Health and Safety guidelines are followed; ▪ Inform the PMU of any accidents occurring on site or non-compliance signaled by the control of designated authorities; ▪ Appropriate signaling and information boards on H&S installed at the sites; ▪ Perform ad-hoc site visits to check compliance with national H&S requirements;	All Contractors PMU's E&S Specialists and PMU's technical area coordinator
Pollution with dust, noise and noxious emissions **Risks**: unsafe conditions for educational activities, non-compliant work	▪ Consult and agree with school and church representatives on avoiding, as much as possible, noise pollution during educational/religious services; ▪ GRM Board and box installed at site; ▪ Vehicles and machines will be properly maintained and will have up-to-date technical revisions;	All Contractors

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
schedules, disturbances at the level of neighboring activities; **Affected persons:** school children and staff, neighbors;	▪ Fencing with acoustic barriers in the school direction; ▪ Covering the transportation vehicles for demolition or excavation materials; ▪ Cleaning wheels of vehicles at the exit from working site; ▪ Inform community/neighboring properties on any planned or accidental interruptions in utility services; ▪ Information Notes submitted to all neighbors in relation to work schedules and grievance mechanism;	PMU's Community Engagement Specialist and Area coordinators
Traffic Management **Risks**: road accidents and restricted access for emergency services; **Affected persons**: children, elderly, community members, neighbors;	▪ Traffic Management Plan elaborated under the C-ESMP; ▪ Organize the transport related to the construction works as to avoid the hours with high pedestrian traffic next to school (early morning/afternoon); ▪ Separate pedestrian access to the school from construction vehicles accessing the site; ▪ Install signaling of routes, restricted access and speed limits on site; ▪ Request support from Local Police to assist with children safety during intense transport schedule, if necessary; ▪ Children Safety Awareness Actions developed at the level of the school with support from PMU.	All Contractors School and local authority
Influx of Labor **Risks:** sexual harassment and abuse of school children and other community members, especially girls and women, and female workforce, social tensions in the community, illegal work practices; **Affected persons:** school children, girls and women in the community and working on site, workers, especially migrant workers;	▪ Contractor will comply with PMU's Labor Management Plan, attached to the bidding documents; ▪ Trainings regarding SEA/SH will be provided to all Project workers, based on contractor's Code of Conduct, signed by all workers; ▪ Inform PMU on intention to temporary house workers on site and present accommodation plans and features. ▪ Provide separate facilities for women, if there is female participation in works on site; ▪ Ensure that all site workers have legal contracting forms, are over 18, have valid working visa for foreign workers; ▪ Provide internal grievance mechanism for workers and inform about Project's GRM; ▪ Inform PMU on non-compliances recorded by auditing labor authorities; ▪ The Gender Based Violence Action Plan, including service provider mapping, updated as necessary in the Project's SEP;	All Contractors PMU's Social and Community Engagement Specialists

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
	▪ Awareness actions on GBV Plan to be carried at the level of the school/community, with the support of PMU; ▪ Dedicated grievance channel to capture SEA/SH related complaints in place;	
Waste Management **Risks:** pollution; **Affected parts:** air and soil	▪ Management of waste from demolition/construction in order to be reutilized, recycled and other, for minimum 70% of generated waste; ▪ Separated collection of domestic waste in designated areas on working site; ▪ Contracting authorized companies for waste transport and management;	All contractors
Sewage waters from working site **Leakages from equipment used on working site** **Risks:** pollution; **Affected parts:** soil and underground waters;	▪ Supply of working site with mobile toilets for workers and company personnel; ▪ Using equipment in good conditions to avoid Leakages; ▪ Removing contaminated soil, treating and final deposing;	All contractors
Clearing the site and removal of planted vegetation **Impact on trees vegetation or hedgerows** **Risks:** damages; **Affected parts:** vegetation;	▪ Any removal of existing trees will be replanted in a suitable area; ▪ Restoration of vegetation to the initial state, wherever applicable;	All contractors
Discovering a physical cultural, historical or archaeological resource during excavation or demolition **Risks:** damages; **Affected parts:** cultural heritage;	Stop the construction activities in the area of the chance find; Delineate the discovered site or area and secure the site; Notify the Supervising Engineer who in turn will notify the responsible authorities immediately (within 24 hours or less); Construction works could resume only after permission is granted from the responsible local authorities concerning safeguard of the physical cultural resource;	All contractors

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
Asbestos impact during demolition of building **Risks:** pollution; **Affected persons:** workers;	In case of finding asbestos and asbestos-containing materials during demolition - contract with authorized companies for handling, collection, transportation and disposal;	Contracted companies for demolition works
Post Construction Phase		
Lack of opportunities for vulnerable groups **Risks:** lack of adapting the equipment to the needs of vulnerable children, especially children with disabilities and special educational needs, vulnerable girls; **Affected persons:** children with disabilities and special educational needs, girls coming from poor families;	▪ Consult school and parents on inclusive school furniture during acquisition phase; ▪ Consult girls on menstrual hygiene practices and provisions in the dedicated spaces in the new buildings; ▪ Consult with vulnerable groups if there are instances of exclusion or discrimination in relation to accessing the new school; ▪ Ensure acquisition documents reflect community perspectives derived from all consultations;	PMU's Community Engagement Specialist
Limited functionality of the new building or delays due to lack of local funds for associated facilities assumed under the PMU-Local Authority Protocol **Risks:** lack of universal accessibility to the new building, lack of safety for children (especially girls) next to the school area, lack of connection to basic utilities; **Affected persons**: school children and staff, girls, children with disabilities;	▪ Detailed design and associated costs will be consulted with the Local authority and financing options will be identified in the Protocol signed between the parties; ▪ Protocol will clearly state the timelines related to the associated facilities related to the functionality, accessibility and safety of the new building and its surroundings;	PMU Management

E&S Impact Area and Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Institutional responsibility for mitigation
Waste resulted from school activities **Risks:** pollution **Affected parts:** air and soil	▪ Improper waste management due to insufficient allocation of recipients for selective collection and storage of waste (household, plastic, glass, metal, paper, electric and electronic waste);	School maintenance staff
Leakages of sewage waters **Risks:** pollution; **Affected parts:** soil and underground waters;	▪ Maintenance in good condition of sewage network;	School maintenance staff

4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The overall responsibility for implementing the provisions of the current ESMP lies with the PMU dedicated for this project. All other actors involved in the process, such as contractors, the Podu Iloaiei School representatives, local authority, will be informed about their responsibilities and bidding documents, contracts and protocols will define roles, timelines and actions expected from each stakeholder.

Definition of roles and responsibilities (PIU/local authorities/Contractors/)

PMU roles and responsibilities in relation with ESMP

The Project Management Unit for the Modernization of the School and University Network (PMUMSUN) within the Ministry of Education acts as the Project Implementing Agency. The PMU is responsible for all Project implementation activities. PMU will be assisted in the process by a TD & TA Consultant, Contractors for Construction Works, specialized technical verifiers (including environmental verifiers), site managers, contract managers, who will be contracted in different phases of the Project.

Role of the Technical Design & Technical Assistance Consultant

At the time of writing this report, PMUMSUN have procured the services of a Consultant who would provide the Technical Design documentation for the demolition and construction works and Technical Assistance during works execution. In more detail, the Consultant will be responsible with the development of the Inception Report, with the delivery of the Documentation for obtaining the Demolition Permit for the existing construction, with the Documentation for obtaining the Building Permit, with the development of the Technical Design and of the Execution Detail Design for the proposed construction, and with providing the Technical Assistance Services for the works execution, as well as preparing the necessary documentations for obtaining the operational permits, and other necessary services in order to achieve the investment objective of the Podu Iloaiei School. In relation to the ESMP, the Consultant will be responsible of l:

- Supervision of the quality of the works, including compliance with Law No. 10/1995 - in terms of following requirements:
    - A- Mechanical strength and stability
    - B - Fire safety
    - C - Hygiene, health and environment
    - D - Safety and accessibility in operation
    - E - Noise protection
    - F - Energy saving and thermal insulation
- The worksite organization (including details on waste management, sewerage during works, separate toilets, dining and resting spaces, health and safety signage, grievance board, project information board, fencing, restricted access);
- Provide the specifications for the works, where ESMP provisions should be included.

The PMU E&S experts will be involved in regular meetings with the Consultant, and will participate in site visits together, review the monthly reports submitted by the Consultant in relation to ESMP provisions, and update the ESMP based on details and specifications that will have surfaced during the technical design phase. An initial public consultation took place in March 2023 and a second

consultation is planned while disclosing this document, presenting the proposed final design of the new school, allowing the participation of the public in the design and planning process.

Role of the Environmental, Social and Community Engagement Specialists

Environmental, Social and Community Engagement Specialists within PMUMSUN will be responsible for disclosure, consultation, coordination and supervision of the ESMP and risk mitigation measures undertaken within the project. The Specialists will work in close coordination with supervision project coordination staff and technical staff in courts and will:

- disseminate existing environmental and social management guidelines and develop guidelines in relation to issues not covered by the existing regulations, in line with the Bank and EU standards for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of mitigation measures;
- ensure that procurement processes for construction works and supply of equipment include reference to appropriate guidelines and standards;
- conduct periodic site visits to inspect and approve plans and monitor compliance;
- ensure the uniformity in all activities related to the preparation and implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans;
- keep permanent contact with Environmental and Social safeguards specialists of the World Bank and ask for advice on any problem that requires guidance regarding the activity in the field.

In particular the Environmental Specialist will:

- perform activities related to compliance of environmental activities;
- prepare activity plans for Environmental impact mitigation of the construction activity outcomes and the Environmental monitoring plan;
- ensure that the systematic supervision in relation with qualitative and quantitative indicators and perform analysis for underlining the achievements and the evolution of the implementation process is done by Contractors according to the monitoring plan;
- prepare periodical reports for the World Bank and Government Agencies;
- coordinate environmental training for staff, designers and local contractors, related to responsibilities on environmental protection.

In particular the Social Specialist will:

- ensure that the terms of reference for any design consultancy services incorporate the World Bank safeguards and corporate requirements including public disclosure and public consultation on the results of environmental and social impact assessments, citizen engagement and gender aspects;
- be responsible for carrying out activities related to social safeguards within the framework of component 1 of the project in accordance with the provisions of the loan agreement;
- manage the GRM, and ensures that each complaint is handled in accordance with the procedure; reviews the complaints received and recommends appropriate measures to deal with the issues raised, as appropriate;
  monitor the social impact of the Project and propose measures to properly manage the risks generated by the implementation activities.

In particular the Community Engagement Specialist will:

- identify the stakeholders and organize stakeholder engagement activities that will be targeted at project affected persons as well as at other interested parties;

- be responsible of the communications, consultations and engagement with direct beneficiaries and the wider public;
- ensure outreach to and engagement of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- establish and manage public meetings, trainings and workshops, media and social media communication, disclosure of written materials, as well as a survey among affected persons to gauge satisfaction with the quality of citizen engagement and share additional concerns.

Role of the Contractors

The contractor shall be responsible for implementing the provisions under the ESMP. The final version of the ESMP, with updated actions based on the technical design and specifications provided by the TD&TA Consultant, will be approved after the contribution of the public, collected during public disclosure and consultations and organized during the technical design phase. Once the contract is signed, with the ESMP acting as an annex, the Contractor can bring contributions to the plan, following negotiations with the E&S experts within the PMU and the TD&TA Consultant.

Contractor ESMP (C-ESMP)

The demolition and construction contractors will prepare their own ESMP based on the framework of the approved site-specific ESMP. The C-ESMP will be reviewed and approved by the Supervising Engineer and will form part of the contractual obligations. The C-ESMP will be specific to the contracted services but will consider the impact of these services at the level of the construction sites.

Worksite organization

Constructor will implement all the aspects from the works project design including details on waste management, sewerage during works, separate toilets, dining and resting spaces, health and safety signage, grievance board, project information board, fencing, restricted access.

Occupational Health and Safety at Work

The contractor has the obligation to ensure all necessary protective equipment and materials, and the workers have the obligation to use all such protective equipment - helmets, gloves, goggles where appropriate and work uniforms. All these minimum protection rules, doubled by avoiding over-exhaustion of workers, prevent ergonomic injuries and other work-related accidents resulting from repetitive, excessive and manual handling of building materials.

Recommendations for their prevention and control include knowledge of the most common causes of wounds in construction and decommissioning by:

- Training of workers in the lifting and handling of materials, techniques in construction and decommissioning projects, including placement of weight limits over which mechanical assistance is required;
- Workplace site planning to minimize the need for manual heavy load transfer;
- Selecting tools and designing workstations that reduce the need for strength;
- Implement administrative controls in work processes, such as job rotation and rest breaks.

Contractor H&SP and ERP

Contractor will be required to produce a Health and Safety Plan (H&SP) and an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to protect his employees during the works he shall undertake. The C-ESMP shall be considered when preparing contractor's H&SP and ERP. Environmental controls and exposure levels associated with worker protection shall be included in the contractor's ESMP. Work practices required by the ESMP are not intended to compromise health and safety in any way. Each H&SP and ERP will be approved by the Supervising Engineer prior to the contractor commencing works to ensure adequate

health and safety controls and procedures have been developed, that are appropriate to the works to be undertaken.

The bidding documents will include requirements related to all plans, strategies and resources allocated for the current ESMP compliance. The ESMF that informs the current ESMP contains detailed information about legal obligations, World Bank requirements and specific guidelines for Contractors to develop all necessary documents.

Role of the Site Manager

The site manager will facilitate the monitoring visits and will need to be organized in accordance with the ESMP provisions. The bidding documents for the procurement of the site managers will include revisions from the E&S experts within the PMU.

Role of the Local Authority

The local authority in Podu Iloaiei will be responsible with contracting and monitoring the E&S performance of demolition and construction works carried for the Associated Facilities. This responsibility will be subject to the Protocol signed between the PMU and the local authority. Trainings will be provided to ensure that compliance of this ESMP are reflected in bidding documents. Monitoring of E&S aspects will be carried by the local authority, with support and supervision from the PMU.

Role of the Podu Iloaiei School

The Podu Iloaiei School will assist the PMU with the implementation of awareness campaigns aimed at preparing children and staff in relation to safety next to the construction site, disaster risk campaigns, gender based violence risks and the grievance mechanism at the level of the Project.

5. THE PLAN FOR MONITORING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

Monitoring plan for risks/mitigation measures

The mitigation measures proposed under the social and environmental management plan (ESMP) will be monitored by the responsible entities during the implementation of the sub-project, as described in the Monitoring Plan below.

Monitoring activities aim at:

- monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and responsibilities identified and achieved;
- informing about the need to extend, intensify or adjust mitigation measures;
- identifying any new areas potentially exposed to the environmental and social impact that have not been taken into account in the ESMP.

Monitoring will begin with the construction work and will be implemented at all stages of the project. A presentation of the social and environmental monitoring plan is presented below.

The monitoring plan will be updated, if needed, once all permitting is obtained or during implementation, if unexpected impacts generate new mitigation measures in the management plan.

Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan

E&S Measures/ Parameters	Monitoring Actions	Monitoring Frequency	Institutional responsibility for monitoring
Pre-Construction			
General E&S Management	C-ESMP has been developed and Approved;	Once (prior to construction works)	PMU's E&S Specialists
Project Design	Detailed design incorporates community perspectives from consultations and specific safety features for community safety;	Once (finalization of detailed design)	PMU's E&S Specialists
Relocated School's Safety	Health and safety Checklist completed and remediation actions (if necessary) implemented; GRM Box installed at relocated school;	Once (as soon as practical)	Local authority with technical support from PMU
Construction/Demolition Works			
Community Health and Safety	Community Safety Elements in place at construction/demolition sites;	Once (prior to commencement of works) and during site visits	PMU's E&S Specialists
	Recorded Grievances on site/other channels and recorded accidents and their resolution;	Weekly	PMU
	Report on community health and safety;	Monthly	Contractors
	Children Safety Awareness Actions implemented;	Once (prior to construction works) and according to agreed plans	PMU Community Engagement Specialist
	Information Notes on Work Schedule distributed to affected stakeholders;	Once (prior to construction works)	PMU Community engagement Specialist

E&S Measures/ Parameters	Monitoring Actions	Monitoring Frequency	Institutional responsibility for monitoring
Occupational Health and Safety	Occupational H&S elements in place (PPE, first aid, training list, H&S responsible, signaling, code of conduct, etc.) assessed during site visits;	Once (prior to works commencement) and during site visits Daily	PMU E&S Specialists and Area Coordinator Contractors' H&S expert
	Reports on occupational health and safety;	Monthly	Contractors' H&S expert
General discomfort generated by dust and noise pollution at the level of school/neighboring area	Construction and demolition works carried in accordance within agreed timelines and hours;	Daily	Contractors
	Recorded Grievances on site/other channels and recorded accidents and their resolution;	During Site Visits and when grievances are recorded	PMU's Social and Community Engagement Specialist
	Compliance with noise and dust mitigations measures;	Daily During site visits	Contractor PMU's Environmental Specialist
Traffic Management	Separated access, signaling and driver's safety training in place; Compliance of traffic measures;	Once (prior to construction works) During site visits	Contractor PMU
Influx of Labor	Trainings on Code of Conduct (including GBV) and Contractor's Grievance Mechanism for Workers performed for all workers on site;	Once (prior to construction works)	Contractor
	Resolution of grievances related to conduct of workers (including GBV) in the school area/community;	Whenever grievances are recorded	PMU's Social and Community engagement specialists

E&S Measures/ Parameters	Monitoring Actions	Monitoring Frequency	Institutional responsibility for monitoring
	Compliance with Labor Management Plan attached to contract;	During site visits	PMU's Social Specialist
Collection and transport of demolition or hazardous waste (including asbestos)	Review the transportation list and conditions at the storage facility;	Before the transportation of the hazardous waste	Environmental Specialist of Contracted company for demolition and construction works Environmental Safeguards Specialist of PMU
Dust, noise and noxious emission	Visual checks and according with the procedure for demolition;	During the demolition phase and clean-up activities	Environmental Specialist of Contracted company for demolition works / Constructor Area coordinator of the PMU Environmental Safeguards Specialist of PMU
Good functioning of construction machinery	Visual checks and according with the procedure for demolition;	During the demolition phase and clean-up activities	Environmental Specialist of Contracted company for demolition works / Constructor Area coordinator of the PMU Environmental Safeguards Specialist of PMU
The safety protection measures applied for the workers	Visual checks;	At the beginning of each working day during the project activities During site visits	Contractors' H&S expert Area coordinator of the PMU
Discovering a physical cultural resource, such as (but not limited to) archeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, or a cemetery and/or	Reported discoveries during demolition/excavation;	During demolition and excavations	Contractor Environmental Safeguards Specialist of PMU

E&S Measures/ Parameters	Monitoring Actions	Monitoring Frequency	Institutional responsibility for monitoring
individual graves during excavation or construction			
Asbestos impact during demolition of building	Records of quantity of asbestos materials discovered;	Whenever such discoveries are made	Contractor Environmental Safeguards Specialist of PMU
Post-Construction			
Lack of opportunities for vulnerable groups	Consultations with vulnerable groups implemented;	Once (prior to acquisition of equipment)	PMU's Community Engagement Expert
Reduced awareness in relation to the role that the newly/rehabilitated school can play in the event of a natural disaster	Completed trainings at the level of the school;	Once (at the roll-out of the trainings)	PMU
	Report on community event and actions carried at the opening of the school;	Once	PMU
Waste resulted from school activities	Verification of Separated collection of waste and e-waste in designated area;	Monthly	School administrative staff
Leakage of Sewage waters	Checking the sewage collection systems;	Monthly	School administrative staff

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

The project is expected to have a minimal negative impact on neighboring properties. However, the noise and dust from the construction, the process of relocation of students and other inconveniences that can be experienced by the local community in Podu Iloaiei as a result of demolition and construction work are elements that show that the project affects the lives of others and all necessary measures must be taken to keep in touch with those affected, to understand their fears, discomfort and to consider their suggestions in order to mitigate as much as possible the adverse impact on them.

In earlier stages of the project, consultations were held with representatives of local authorities, schools, teachers and representatives of students and parents, during which general information about the project, the site plan and the proposed construction in terms of spaces and functions, and the facilities proposed to make the building safer, sustainable and inclusive were presented.

The parties interested or affected by the works to be carried out under the Podu Iloaiei sub-project identified at this stage are listed below.

- Representatives of the Secondary School;
- Student`s and parent`s representatives: The students' council from the Podu Iloaiei secondary school, the parents' committee representative;
- The representatives of the Parrish that administers the cultural heritage building in the vicinity;
- Administrator of the City Hall building nearby;
- Representatives of Sports Hall Across the Traian street;
- People living in the vicinity of the site;
- Citizens potentially affected by utility shortages during works.

Other Interested Parties:

- The population of Podu Iloaiei;
- Employees of the technical design consultants that will be carrying tasks on site;
- Local NGOs on social development (representing persons with disabilities, elderly, Roma inclusion, poverty relief, etc.) and environment protection;
- Local authorities in Podu Iloaiei: the city mayor, social assistance department, Local police;
- Media outlets in Podu Iloaiei;
- Environmental Agency, Environmental Guard;
- Iaşi County School Inspectorate;
- Iaşi County Center for Educational Assistance and Resources.

Vulnerable groups

The Community Vulnerability Assessment carried during Project preparation revealed that disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals and groups relevant to the project fall into two broad categories: on one hand, there are vulnerable subgroups among the selected schools' students; on the other, there are vulnerable subgroups within the local communities.

Within the school communities, it appears that the following groups would be particularly vulnerable: children from poor rural areas, children from Roma groups, children from other ethnicities, pregnant girls and young mothers, school dropouts, children with special educational needs, children with physical disabilities, distressed children, bullied kids.

At the level of the community, persons or groups that would be particularly vulnerable include people with visual or hearing impairments, Illiterate community members or members with low education levels, working parents of schoolchildren, etc.

Regarding the Podul Iloaiei sub-project, the involvement of interested parties and the dissemination of information will be adapted to the specific needs of the Roma community in the nearby settlement, children with disabilities and special educational needs and their parents, parents who have difficulties accessing written information, people elderly people who live in the vicinity of demolition and construction sites.

Stakeholder engagement activities include establishment and management of a project-wide grievance redress mechanism, public consultations, community events to disclose information and consult wider audiences, trainings and workshops, media and social media communication, disclosure of written materials in the city, individual discussions and focus groups with specific groups, as well as the application of surveys among affected persons to gauge satisfaction with the quality of citizen engagement and to provide the possibility of different groups to share additional concerns.

Engagement and communication activities

The communication and engagement activities include information disclosure, public consultations, media communication and direct interactions with stakeholders as follows:

- Updated information on www.umpmrsu.ro about the project implementation, ESMP disclosure, timing of consultations, grievance mechanism, relocation of students, etc.;
- Social media posts and engagement on the Project's dedicated Facebook page;
- Public consultations with relevant stakeholders and affected parties related to the design of the new school, ESMP, relocation, equipping the school, and whenever necessary;
- Information disclosure at the level of the community through posters, announcements on the local authority and school webpages and social media accounts, information leaflets made available at school level, use of existing channels for parents and teachers (such as WhatsApp groups or Facebook groups);
- Press releases related to the important stages of the project, including the requirements of the ESMP and the results of the monitoring efforts related to the compliance with the environmental and social requirements (for example, public consultations), as necessary;
- Email updates sent to stakeholders on stages of the Project, invitations to public consultations, results of monitoring activities;
- Face to face meetings, especially with categories that are under-represented or vulnerable in relation to the Project (e.g. Roma community members and representatives, elderly persons affected by the Project, persons having difficulties in accessing written materials or information made available online).

Consultations carried by the Project

During the project identification and preparation stage in 2020, several consultations took place at the national level involving with the Council of Students, County School Inspectorates, National Federation of Parents' Associations, schools, local councils, other agencies and key stakeholders. In addition, an online survey completed by 480 persons informed the Project about perception of the state of their school building, the availability of modern teaching resources of the school, the existence of a school emergency plan, building safety, accessibility and quality, possible challenges linked to the building's demolition/reconstruction, preferred channels for information and feedback provision, etc.

Regarding the Podu Iloaiei sub-project, in 2021 consultations were held with school representatives and the local authority to identify the needs of the local educational infrastructure at risk.

On 08.03.2023, the initial consultation took place within the SSIS-Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project held at the Podu Iloaiei School, Iași county. The meeting was attended by the PMU team made up of 6 members (consultants, designers, PMU coordinator) and the representatives of interested

parties from the community in the number of 20 people: the mayor of the town, the school director, representatives of parents, students, teachers, counselors, educators, social workers, general secretary of the city hall, local counselor, cultural center administrator and sports base administrator.

Fig.9 Photo from the initial public consultation held on March 8, 2023 in Podu Iloaiei

Discussions were held based on the presentation of the project and the sketches/model made for the future school. The participants asked various questions on issues related to access/egress routes, issues related to the digitization of the school, fire prevention and firefighting points, obtaining permits, medical and psychological cabinets, how children will be protected upstairs. All questions were answered on the spot or recorded as future project changes. The mayor of the locality proposed the positioning of the library on the ground floor in order to ensure access from outside the school, and of the teachers's room upstairs. Clarification was requested on the access of students with SEN to the floor of the building, there were questions on what the mobile platform is, the psychological counsellor proposed the integration of a therapy and educational intervention room in the designed psychological cabinet, the school director mentioned that if the school has a dining room with meals provided and multifunctional rooms (where they can organize various educational activities-music, art and craft) this will be a sure way of attracting Roma students to the school or avoiding early school leaving; an amphitheater in the school yard for organizing various events was also proposed during consultations, however, the PMU explained that this would be outside the reach of the Project. It was noted that it will be necessary to relocate the pupils during the works to modular spaces; in this respect the local councilor indicated a proposal to include tree curtains that could be installed to mitigate noise.

"Al. I. Cuza" Secondary School, Podu Iloaiei, Iaşi county

Recommendations that can easily be implemented at school level without additional funding	Recommendations for interventions that can be addressed at project level.	Recommendations for interventions beyond the scope of the project that can be submitted to the MoE for consideration
No	Including the dining room	Gym
	Positioning the library at the ground floor and with separate access so it could be accessible for the other people in the	

	community.	
	Including a calming room in the psychological counselling office.	
	Raised handrail in the hallway.	

The final conclusion was very positive about the school's appearance, the interior details, the "open school" concept, the future facilities for laboratories, exhibition areas and multi-purpose rooms/areas, the library on the ground floor with access for outsiders, the upstairs chancellery, the dining hall.

7. INVOLVEMENT OF INTERESTED PARTIES

The current ESMP is subject to a consultation process. The document is disclosed on the Project's website starting July 2023, for a duration of 10 days. During this period, any interested stakeholders can provide feedback to the document, identified risks and proposed mitigation and monitoring actions, through the various channels provided by the Project.

The document, once published on the website, will be disseminated locally by the school and local authority, especially to teachers and parents of children who will be affected by the investment. Also, an informative poster will promote the public consultation, being displayed both at the Town Hall, at the school, at the House of Culture of the commune.

The public consultation will take place at the Secondary School of Podu Iloaiei and is open to all interested parties.

This section will be supplemented with information resulting from the consultation and information period, and the ESMP will be updated to reflect the views and perspectives of stakeholders involved in the process.

8. GRIEVANCES MECHANISM

Within the project, a notification management and resolution system was developed, with the aim of allowing the implementation team to receive information from the people affected by the project and to be able to respond to their requests, thus managing, in an efficient way, the impact the project during its implementation. On the project's website, there is a procedure on the complaint resolution mechanism, which details the process at the PMU level.

Grievances related to the project can be submitted via several channels, as follows:

PMU level: The main four channels for receiving grievances are by website form, phone, e-mail and mail at the level of the PMU. This ensures that the PMU has an immediate control over all project related grievances and can address the raised issues immediately. The phone number of the secretariat will be available on working hours.

- Website form: www.umpmrsu.ro
- Email: petitii@umpmrsu.ro
- GBV Email*: petitii.vbg@umpmrsu.ro
- Phone Number: +(4)(021) 310 22 07
- Address: UMPMRSU, Spiru Haret, nr. 12, Sector 1, București

*In the case of complaints related to gender-based violence, additional attention will be paid to the confidentiality and sensitivity of this type of petition. In order to ensure a fair and objective resolution of the issues complained of by the complainant, the Project has established the use of a dedicated email address, as well as a clear procedure for referring victims to specialized services provided by public and private entities.

School Level: Stakeholders, affected persons, including students or parents, can submit their grievances/suggestions at the school level through the grievance box that will be made available on both the location of the construction site and the relocation site. These grievance boxes will be installed at the time of relocation and beginning of works, and will be accompanied by a board describing the Project and the current GRM and presenting all the channels that are available for the public to submit their grievances.

In person: To ensure that the GRM is accessible to persons, that have no digital equipment or that have low literacy levels, the Project provides the option to report complaint/feedback to the regional coordinator or the PMU's social specialist based on special dedicated feedback/grievance sessions organized at local level. This option will be explored during public consultations and will be enacted only when the scale of the impacts and the socio-economic conditions require for such an approach. Such sessions will be announced in a timely manner and will be organized in an accessible location for the affected persons.

The citizens will also have the option to address directly to PMUMSUN headquarters by planning a visit with the social specialist or project manager in person.

Grievance mailboxes will be installed next to the school investment board before the commencement of works at the level of each school site. The mailbox will be verified weekly by the area coordinator and any grievances submitted by this channel will be sent immediately to the PMUMSUN by internal post.

World Bank GRS

The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. The project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of

WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond.

For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit http://www.worldbank.org/GRS.

For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org.

ANNEX 1 - REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES WHEN HANDLING ASBESTOS

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring fibrous silicate minerals. It was once used widely in the production of many industrial and household products because of its useful properties, including fire retardation, electrical and thermal insulation, chemical and thermal stability, and high tensile strength.

Today, however, asbestos is recognized as a cause of various diseases and cancers and is considered a health hazard if inhaled. Because the health risks associated with exposure to asbestos area now widely recognized, global health and worker organizations, research institutes, and some governments have enacted bans on the commercial use of asbestos.

In the European Union the use of asbestos is banned since January 1, 2005, and in Romania through a Governmental Decision no. 734/2006 this was banned only for new materials. Products containing asbestos and which have been installed or were in operation before the date 1 January 2005 can be used until the end of their lifecycle.

Good practice is to minimize the health risks associated with ACM by avoiding their use in new construction and renovation, and, if installed asbestos-containing materials are encountered, by using internationally recognized standards and best practices to mitigate their impact. In all cases, the World Bank expects borrowers and other clients to use alternative materials wherever feasible. ACM must be avoided in new construction.

In reconstruction, demolition, and removal of damaged infrastructure, asbestos hazards must be identified and a risk management plan adopted that includes disposal techniques and end-of-life sites. Asbestos-containing (AC) products include flat panels, corrugated panels used for roofing, water storage tanks, water, and sewer pipes etc. Thermal insulation containing asbestos and sprayed asbestos for insulation and acoustic damping were widely used through the 1970s and should be looked for in any project involving boilers and insulated pipes.

As asbestos is often used in construction (mainly for roofing) in many countries including Romania, it can present a risk for the health of workers and population, who live near buildings that need capital repair with replacement of roofing or demolition.

PMU specialists must inform beneficiaries on potential risk for their health and instruct not using asbestos as construction material during construction/rehabilitation works.

Any asbestos product or material that is ready for disposal is defined as asbestos waste. Asbestos waste also includes contaminated building materials, tools that cannot be decontaminated, personal protective equipment and damp rags used for cleaning. Always this type of waste must be treated as 'Hazardous Waste'.

In this regards, ACM and asbestos waste must be properly removed, stored in a separate closed area and disposed (with the consent of local administration and environmental inspectors) on a landfill on the special area for disposal of that type of waste.

PMU must require the contractors that the removal, repair, and disposal of ACM shall be carried out in a way that minimizes worker and community asbestos exposure. During reconstruction works, workers must avoid destroying asbestos sheets and properly dispose them at construction sites until final disposal happens. Workers must wear protective over garment, gloves and respirators during work with asbestos sheets. Proper disposal of ACM is important not only to protect the community and environment but also to prevent scavenging and reuse of removed material. ACM must be transported in leak tight containers to a secure landfill operated in a manner that precludes air and water contamination that could result from ruptured containers. The removal and disposal of ACM and asbestos waste as well as all other ESMP measures have to be included in both the technical specifications and bill of quantities (BoQs). Contractor shall develop site-specific ESMP where requirements to ACM and asbestos waste will be contained.

ANNEX 2 - PROCEDURE FOR MANAGEMENT OF PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES – PROTECTION AND CHANCE FIND PROCEDURES

Project construction activities have the potential to result in negative impacts on both tangible and nontangible cultural heritage, which can be held as highly valuable within local communities and often also at a regional level. Some cultural heritage sites may also be tourist attractions that help support local economies. The Project and ESMF seeks to proactively manage, avoid or limit any negative impacts on cultural heritage and to this effect has included specific obligations regarding cultural heritage in the tender documents issued to potential Contractors.

Activities, such as trenching that may result in psychical impacts on culturally significant structures or artifacts, including currently unknown artifacts, or construction could cause disruption to cultural practices due to obstruction of access to cultural sites.

If any person discovers a physical cultural resource, such as (but not limited to) archeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, or a cemetery and/or individual graves during excavation or construction, the Contractor shall:

1. Stop the construction activities in the area of the chance find;

2. Delineate the discovered site or area;

3. Secure the site to prevent any damage or loss of removable objects. In cases of removable antiquities or sensitive remains, a night guard shall be arranged until the responsible authorities take over;

4. Notify the Supervising Engineer who in turn will notify the responsible authorities immediately (within 24 hours or less);

5. Responsible authorities are in charge of protecting and preserving the site before deciding on subsequent appropriate procedures. This would require a preliminary evaluation of the findings to be performed by archeologists. The significance and importance of the findings should be assessed according to the various criteria relevant to cultural heritage; those include the aesthetic, historic, scientific or research, social and economic values;

6. Decisions on how to handle the finding shall be taken by the responsible authorities. This could include changes in the layout (such as when finding an irremovable remain of cultural or archeological importance) conservation, preservation, restoration and salvage;

7. Implementation for the authority decision concerning the management of the finding shall be communicated in writing by relevant local authorities; and

8. Construction works could resume only after permission is granted from the responsible local authorities concerning safeguard of the physical cultural resource.

The provisions presented above should always be included in ESMPs as a precautionary measure regardless of a site having known or unknown cultural heritage or physical cultural resource

ANNEX 3 - FORM FOR SUBMITTING SUGGESTIONS / COMMENTS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
Project Management Unit for the Modernization of the School and University Network
„Safer, Inclusive and Sustainable Schools Project"
Bucharest, Sector 1, 12 Spiru Haret Street, 2nd floor
Feedback / petition* Form

School _____ *Locality*_____

* The completion of personal data is only necessary if you want this information to be treated as a Petition and to receive a response, according to the regulations in force. In this case, it is necessary to submit your request, complaint, referral or proposal through one of the following channels: - In writing to the Project Management Unit (U.M.P.M.R.S.U.) of the Ministry of Education, str. Spiru Haret nr. 12, Sector 1 Bucharest - By the contact form on the U.M.P.M.R.S.U. website, - umpmrsu.ro - by email at petitii@umpmrsu.ro The information provided anonymously through this form will be taken into account and will be verified and used for the purpose of improving the Project implementation activities and improving its impact.	
Name and Surname (Name of the entity)	
Home (Headquarters)	County_____ Locality_____ Street _____ No. _____ Bl. _____ Ap._____
Contact information: (Please tick the ways in which you would like to be contacted)	□ **By mail:** (indicate your mailing address only if it is different from your home address) County_____ Locality_____ Str. _____ No. _____ Bl. _____ Ap._____ □ **Phone** _____ □ **Email** _____ □ **Other** (indicate) _____
Brief content of the petition/information: (Please provide as full a description as possible of the issues you wish to raise, what happened, when, who was involved, context, etc.)	

Date: Signature:

_____ _____

ANNEX 4 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND FINALISATION OF THE PLAN