

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

**for the continuation and development of the long-term cross-border partnership between
FREE YOUTH CENTRE Association – Vidin, Bulgaria**

and

VASILIAIDA ASSOCIATION – Craiova, Romania

Craiova, Romania | 12 October 2026

On 12 October 2026, in Craiova, Romania, this Memorandum of Cooperation is concluded between:

FREE YOUTH CENTRE Association, UIC 105016461, with registered office in Vidin 3700, Bulgaria, Hristo Botev residential complex, block 12, entrance 2, apartment 8, represented by Nikolay Tsolov, Chairperson of the Managing Board,

and

VASILIAIDA ASSOCIATION, with registered office at 3A Nicolaescu Ploşor Street, Building C, Craiova, Dolj County, Romania, represented by Pr. Dr. Florin-Sabin Mihail, Executive President, hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”.

I. BACKGROUND OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Article 1.

The Parties have a long-standing cross-border partnership between Bulgaria and Romania, based on mutual trust, shared social objectives and practical exchange of experience in social work, volunteering, work with children and families, education and community development.

Over more than a decade, the two organisations have cooperated through joint cross-border initiatives and professional exchange, building a stable working relationship that goes beyond any single project.

Article 2.

By the date of signing this Memorandum, the Parties have jointly implemented or participated as partners in five cross-border cooperation projects between Bulgaria and Romania:

- Volunteering for Social Cohesion (V4SC) – focused on volunteering in the social field and on joint methodological approaches for recruiting, motivating and involving volunteers;
- Safe Schools Network (SSN) – focused on cross-border cooperation and strengthening the preparedness of school communities for prevention and response to disasters and emergencies;
- Community Opposition of Disastrous Events (CODE) – focused on volunteering and strengthening the capacity of local communities for prevention and response to disasters and emergencies;
- Regional Network for Social Cohesion (RN4SC) – focused on improving social services in the cross-border region through professional exchange, capacity building and cooperation among social service providers;
- Regional Network for Inclusive Education (RN4IE) - focused on professional capacity building and cross-border exchange in the field of inclusive education.

Article 3.

The Parties recognise the experience accumulated through these joint initiatives as a strong basis for continuing their partnership beyond the completion of the RN4IE project.

This Memorandum establishes a framework for the continuation of the long-term bilateral cooperation between the two organisations, developed through a series of joint cross-border initiatives.

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM

Article 4.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to confirm the Parties' shared intention and commitment to continue their cross-border cooperation after the completion of the RN4IE project and to define realistic areas and forms of cooperation.

The cooperation will be developed within the Parties' available organisational, human and financial capacities and will primarily rely on professional exchange, remote methodological support, sharing of information and resources, and mutually beneficial networking.

III. MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

Article 5. Social work with children and families

As organisations with practical experience in providing and developing social services, the Parties will continue to exchange information, methodological materials and professional experience in areas such as:

- support for children and families in vulnerable situations;
- parent support and strengthening of parenting skills;
- support for children with disabilities or special needs and their families;
- early childhood development;
- prevention of social exclusion;
- individualised and integrated support;
- cooperation between social, educational and other relevant services.

Exchange in this area will take place mainly through electronic communication, online meetings, sharing of materials and professional consultations.

Article 6. Inclusive education

The Parties will continue the professional exchange developed within RN4IE, including topics related to work with children with special educational needs, cooperation with parents, and coordination between professionals from the social and educational sectors.

Where one Party has relevant methodological resources, practices or professional experience that may be useful to the other Party, it will, whenever feasible, share them electronically or discuss them through remote professional consultation.

Article 7. Volunteering and civic participation

The Parties will continue to exchange experience and methodological resources related to volunteering, including recruitment and motivation of volunteers, volunteer preparation and support, involvement of volunteers in social and educational activities, work with young volunteers, and the promotion of solidarity and civic engagement.

This area builds on the Parties' earlier joint experience under the Volunteering for Social Cohesion project.

Article 8. Mutual methodological and professional support

When a specific professional need arises, either Party may request the other Party's opinion, information or methodological advice in an area where the partner organisation has relevant practical experience.

Such support may include brief online consultations, exchange of methodologies, forms and practical tools, sharing of examples and good practices, discussion of organisational or professional approaches, and referrals to relevant specialists or organisations.

This support will be provided within the available capacity of the respective organisation and will not create a financial obligation.

Article 9. Mutual exchange visits

The Parties consider mutual study and exchange visits to each other's organisations a valuable form of practical cooperation and will seek opportunities to organise such visits when organisational and financial conditions allow.

Such visits may focus on social work and services for children and families, inclusive education, volunteering, community-based work or other themes of shared professional interest.

The timing, participants and scope of any visit will be agreed separately according to the current needs and available resources of the Parties.

IV. INTERNATIONAL AND NETWORK COOPERATION

Article 10. Exchange of information on opportunities

The Parties will inform each other, where relevant, about suitable opportunities for international and cross-border projects, training and conferences, professional initiatives, thematic networks, and partnerships with other organisations and institutions.

This exchange of information will be carried out primarily through electronic communication.

Article 11. Possible involvement in project initiatives

When one Party is developing an international or cross-border initiative that is relevant to the profile, experience and interests of the other organisation, it will consider inviting the other Party as a partner or participant.

This provision represents a commitment to mutual information and good-faith consideration of cooperation opportunities; it does not create an obligation to participate in every future project.

Any specific project partnership will be subject to a separate decision and agreement between the Parties.

Article 12. Connections with professional and international networks

Where appropriate, each Party may inform the other about networks, initiatives and partnerships in which it participates; recommend the partner organisation to other organisations; facilitate professional contacts; extend invitations to open events and initiatives; and support the partner's participation in broader international consortia.

These actions will be undertaken without financial obligation and in accordance with the rules of the respective network or initiative.

V. COMMUNICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Article 13.

The Parties will maintain direct communication between their management and professional teams. The main forms of cooperation will include electronic correspondence and other online communication tools, online working discussions when needed, exchange of documents and useful professional resources, mutual invitations to relevant events and initiatives, exchange visits where feasible, and other forms agreed according to a specific need.

Article 14.

The Parties do not establish a mandatory schedule or fixed frequency of meetings and activities under this Memorandum.

Cooperation will be activated according to practical needs and opportunities, with the aim of keeping the partnership active and useful without creating commitments that cannot reasonably be implemented without additional funding.

VI. COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Article 15.

By signing this Memorandum, FREE YOUTH CENTRE Association – Vidin, Bulgaria and VASILIA DA ASSOCIATION – Craiova, Romania formally confirm and agree to continue their cross-border cooperation after the completion of the project “Regional Network for Inclusive Education – RN4IE”, ROBG00225.

This cooperation is a continuation of the long-standing partnership between the two organisations and is not limited to the thematic scope or activities of RN4IE.

Article 16.

The Parties will continue to provide mutual professional and methodological support, exchange information and resources, and identify suitable opportunities for joint work in areas of mutual interest.

Concrete activities will be undertaken within available capacities. Any activity requiring substantial financial resources will be implemented only where suitable funding or another adequate resource is available.

VII. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Article 17.

This Memorandum does not create financial obligations between the Parties.

Each organisation will cover its own ordinary costs related to communication and methodological support. Activities requiring additional financial resources, including international travel, larger events, training activities or joint projects, will be implemented only where appropriate resources are available and following a separate agreement between the Parties.

VIII. DURATION

Article 18.

This Memorandum is signed on 12 October 2026 in Craiova, Romania.

The Parties expressly confirm that the cooperation agreed herein will continue after the completion of the RN4IE project on 20 October 2026.

Article 19.

This Memorandum is concluded for a period of five years from the date of signature. The Parties may extend their cooperation beyond this period by mutual agreement.

IX. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 20.

This Memorandum expresses the Parties' shared intention and mutual commitment to maintain and further develop the partnership built over the years through practical and realistic forms of cross-border cooperation.

Article 21.

This Memorandum is not a service contract and does not create an obligation for either Party to incur expenditure.

Specific future projects or activities involving financial, contractual or other specific commitments will be regulated separately.

Article 22.

This Memorandum may be prepared in Bulgarian, Romanian and English language versions with equivalent content. It is signed in two original counterparts, one for each Party.

For FREE YOUTH CENTRE Association
Vidin, Bulgaria

Nikolay Tsolov
Chairperson of the Managing Board

Signature: _____



For VASILIADA ASSOCIATION
Craiova, Romania

Pr. Dr. Florin-Sabin Mihail
Executive President

Signature: _____



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