

# JOINT COMMITMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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of the Regional Network for Inclusive Education (RN4IE)

## 1. Our shared commitment

We, representatives of organisations, educational institutions, professionals and other stakeholders from Bulgaria and Romania participating in the RN4IE final conference, confirm our intention to continue cooperation, knowledge exchange and the use of the resources and professional contacts developed within the project.

The project has laid the foundations for a cross-border professional community in inclusive education through a needs assessment, training, exchanges of practical experience, shared resources and the establishment of a Virtual Community of Practice.

Through this document, we adopt the following measures to continue and build upon the achievements of the project.

The contributions collected during the final conference workshop “Development and Adoption of the Sustainability Strategy” have been incorporated under the relevant measures. They reflect proposals and directions identified by participants, not confirmed individual commitments, allocations of resources or binding implementation deadlines.

## 2. Sustainability measures

### Measure 1. Maintaining the Virtual Community of Practice - VCoP

The RN4IE online environment will continue to be used as a space for professional exchange among specialists from Bulgaria and Romania.

Through this environment, participants will be able to share:

- methodological materials;
- presentations and training resources;
- practical tools;
- good practices;
- information on initiatives, training opportunities and possibilities for cooperation.

Responsibility: project partners and active members of the network.

Period: after project completion, depending on available technical and organisational capacity.

### Suggestions from the final conference - project resources and VCoP

- Increase the visibility of the inclusiveeducation.net platform through professional networks, methodological meetings and institutional communication channels.
- Encourage professionals from Romania and Bulgaria to engage in the VCoP through consultation and exchange of resources.
- Promote effective use, accessibility and visibility of digital project resources as essential conditions for the sustainability of RN4IE.

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## **Measure 2. Preserving and expanding the cross-border professional network**

The contacts between professionals and organisations established through training sessions and exchange meetings will be maintained and used for subsequent professional cooperation.

Newly interested professionals and organisations from the cross-border region may be encouraged to join the community and make use of its resources.

### **Suggestions from the final conference – Romania-Bulgaria cooperation**

- Maintain contact between participating professionals and institutions through communication and thematic consultations.
- Explore opportunities for joint meetings, including online meetings, and continued exchange of experience.
- Exchange methodological resources, materials and examples of good practice between partners in both countries.

## **Measure 3. Continuing the exchange of practices**

The partners and participating organisations will encourage the organisation of further online or face-to-face meetings to exchange experience on specific topics in inclusive education.

Priority will be given to practical formats, including:

- discussion of real cases;
- demonstrations of methods and tools;
- exchange between different professional groups;
- presentation of new or adapted practices;
- mutual professional consultation.

### **Suggestions from the final conference - experience-exchange workshops**

Building on the six cross-border workshops (three in each country), participants identified the following opportunities for continued mutual learning:

- Propose topics for future workshops, study visits, practical demonstrations and exchanges of experience, including topics not addressed previously.
- Draw on examples involving assistive technologies, inclusive environments in kindergartens and schools, educational and vocational guidance, augmentative communication and innovative methods.
- Document good practices so that they can be adapted to the resources, procedures and needs of beneficiaries in other institutions.
- Continue professional consultations through exchange of materials, case discussions and online meetings where participants are available.

Workshop conclusion: flexible ways of transferring and adapting good practices to everyday work were identified as the main direction for continuity.

## **Measure 4. Using RN4IE knowledge and materials in everyday practice**

Participants in training sessions and exchange meetings will be encouraged to apply appropriate methods, tools and resources from the project in their own professional settings.

Organisations may adapt what they have learned to the needs of children and young people, families, teachers and other professionals with whom they work.

### **Suggestions from the final conference - applying acquired competences**

- Multiply the competences already acquired through methodological meetings, case presentations, exchange of training materials and dissemination among colleagues.
- Apply and pass on knowledge gained in the project to support the continuity of professional learning.
- Adapt examples of inclusive education and innovative practices to concrete educational situations.

### **Measure 5. Sharing and disseminating the developed resources**

The public resources and results of the project will continue to be promoted among:

- kindergartens and schools;
- support centres and services;
- non-governmental organisations;
- inclusive education specialists;
- local and regional institutions;
- professional and academic communities.

The aim is for RN4IE results to reach professionals who did not participate directly in the project activities.

### **Suggestions from the final conference – resources and dissemination**

- Use the study on inclusive education needs as a reference for identifying professional priorities and informing subsequent initiatives.
- Disseminate training materials and educational resources to interested professionals and institutions.
- Promote methodologies, tools and examples of good practices, adapting them to specific educational situations.

### **Measure 6. Encouraging bilateral partnerships between organisations**

Participating institutions and organisations will be encouraged to maintain direct contacts with their counterparts across the border and develop joint initiatives where there is a shared professional interest.

These may include:

- expert exchanges;
- joint online meetings;
- thematic working groups;
- training activities;
- development and testing of new practices;
- participation in future cross-border and European initiatives.

### **Suggestions from the final conference - institutional cooperation**

- Explore institutional cooperation and new joint initiatives or projects, subject to the opportunities available.
- Consider identifying contact persons, responsibilities, indicative timelines, resources and methods for checking progress, subject to explicit confirmation by the institutions concerned.

Workshop conclusion: a framework for cross-border cooperation can continue through feasible actions accepted voluntarily by the organisations involved.

### **Measure 7. Continuing professional capacity development**

Based on the needs identified within the project, partners and network members will seek opportunities for further training and professional development on topics related to inclusive education.

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Particular attention will be paid to practical skills and subjects identified by professionals themselves as necessary for their daily work.

### **Suggestions from the final conference - professional competences**

Drawing on the eight joint training seminars (four in Romania and four in Bulgaria), participants proposed the following:

- Identify topics for future courses and seminars, including new competences and more in-depth approaches to supporting children with special educational needs (SEN).
- Prioritise practically relevant training proposals for teachers, psychologists, speech and language therapists, school counsellors and support staff.
- Multiply existing knowledge through methodological meetings, case presentations, sharing course materials and peer dissemination.
- Maintain the professional dialogue between Romanian and Bulgarian specialists to identify future training and cooperation opportunities.

Workshop conclusion: continued professional development should be supported through the application and transfer of knowledge acquired within the project.

### **Measure 8. Monitoring the development of the network**

The RN4IE partners will maintain communication regarding the development of the professional community created and opportunities for continuing joint activities.

Where an appropriate opportunity exists, a short follow-up online meeting may be organised to exchange information about:

- the use of project resources;
- new joint initiatives;
- practices applied after project completion;
- opportunities for future funding and partnerships.

### **Suggestions from the final conference - practical follow-up**

- Consider contact points, responsibilities, timescales, resources and methods of verification for individual proposed actions, provided that the relevant institutions explicitly confirm them.
- Use information on resource use, professional consultation and new cooperation opportunities to inform future voluntary actions.

The workshop results do not in themselves establish agreed monitoring deadlines or institutional obligations.

## **3. Principles of future cooperation**

Continued cooperation within RN4IE will be based on:

- practical applicability - sharing solutions that can be used in real professional work;
- reciprocity - exchange of knowledge and experience between Bulgarian and Romanian professionals;
- openness - the opportunity for new specialists and organisations to participate;
- accessibility of knowledge - making maximum use of and disseminating the resources developed;
- professional learning - encouraging continued development of competences;
- cross-border cooperation - preserving ties between professional communities on both sides of the border.

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#### **4. Concluding declaration**

By adopting this Joint Commitment and Sustainability Plan, participants confirm their common intention that the results of RN4IE should continue to be used after the formal completion of the project.

Our aim is for RN4IE to remain not merely a completed project, but an active professional community for exchange, learning and cooperation in support of higher-quality inclusive education in the Bulgaria - Romania cross-border region.

Adopted at the RN4IE Final Conference

Date: 13.10.2026

Place: Craiova, Romania