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| **1st Open Call for SOFT projects** |
| **Project code & acronym** | ROHU00026 – MERIT |
| **Project title** | Medical Emergency Response Interregional Simulation Training Programme |
| **Priority** | P2 - Cooperation for a more social and cohesive PA between Romania and Hungary |
| **Specific Objective** | RS04.5 - Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family and community-based care |
| **Implementation period** | 24 months (June 10th 2025 – June 9th 2027) |
| **Objective** | The primary objective of the “Medical Emergency Response Interregional Simulation Training Programme (MERIT)” project is to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure of the Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties by enhancing emergency response through comprehensive training, modern equipment, and fostering effective cross-border collaborations.  |
| **Partnership** | **Lead Partner:** Asociatia Pentru Promovarea Afacerilor in Romania (Romania) |
| **Project Partners:** **PP2 RO**:Universitatea din Oradea (Romania)**PP3 HU**:Debreceni Egyetem (Hungary)**PP4 HU**:Debreceni Egyetem Különleges Orvos és Mentőcsoport Egyesület (Hungary) |
| **Total budget** | EUR 1,141,387.90, out of which ERDF EUR 913,110.30 |
| **Summary** | By project's end, the aspiration is to establish a standard of emergency care that is not only more efficient but also more resilient, through the implementation of the following activities:1. **Creation of the Practical Guides**, for Disaster Medicine Situation Simulation Training and Advanced Life Support Skills in Disaster Medicine, which will serve as the backbone for subsequent interventions aimed at strengthening the emergency medical response in the Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar regions.
2. To ensure the training curriculum on the Practical Guides meets the highest standards, **4 expert-led foundational workshops** will be conducted.
3. **Two specialised training modules** will be rolled out in these fields, drawing on guides’ insights, and will be available to 400 medical students from both the University of Oradea and the University of Debrecen, as well as to 60 practising doctors from both counties.
4. **Two disaster simulation contests** for 40 medical students, to further cement the learnings and encourage a competitive spirit.
5. The project will also **develop a Strategic Action Plan** detailing the roadmap for enhanced emergency response and maintaining a database of trained medical students poised to volunteer in disaster emergencies.
6. Healthcare facilities in both counties – critical care in the county clinical hospital (PP2), Clinical Center (PP3), vehicle converted into a full-fledged ambulance (PP4) - will be **equipped with state-of-the-art emergency response tools**, which will directly impact the quality of care received by numerous patients in Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties.
7. **Informational caravans** will take place in both counties, and a **project website** will be developed, serving as dynamic platforms for building relationships, networking, and sharing project insights. In total, 10 caravans will be conducted in Romania and 10 in Hungary, ensuring broad coverage and accessibility.
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| **Main results** | By project's end, the aspiration is to establish a standard of emergency care that is not only more efficient but also more resilient. By collaborating, the two regions pool together resources, expertise, and experiences, ensuring a well-rounded, holistic response to emergencies. The project aims to achieve several key results:1. **Elevated readiness and capability of 300 future doctors** (medical students from the University of Oradea and the University of Debrecen) in disaster medicine advanced life support practices in pre-hospital settings.
2. **Enhanced proficiency and competence of 100 medical students** from the University of Oradea and the University of Debrecen, as well as **60 practising doctors** in Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties, in advanced life support practices specific to disaster medicine in intensive care/emergency reception units.
3. **Improved quality of care** received by numerous patients in Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties, with modernised vital patient care equipment.
4. **Best practices and innovations in medical emergency response, shared** **and implemented** widely.
5. **Partnership agreement established** to be able to provide a coordinated and timely response during disaster emergencies.
6. **Foster a sense of unity, collaboration, and shared learning among participants, students and practising doctors,** through cross-border activities such as shared workshops, training sessions and contests in the disaster medicine field.
7. **Amplified awareness and understanding of the significance of the role of trained medical students** as an integral part of the emergency response infrastructure in the Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties, fostering trust and collaboration among future healthcare professionals, academic institutions, emergency intervention organisations and the wider community.
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