

Nr. 11.313/18.06.2021

Programme	Romania-Serbia Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme
Priority axes:	Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth
Objective	Objective 1.2 Health and social infrastructure
Project number	RORS 11

1. No. of the report regarding sustainability	2
2. Reference period	04.05.2020 - 03.05.2021
3. Information about lead beneficiary	
Name of the lead beneficiary organisation	"Victor Babes" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara
Address	2 A Eftimie Murgu Square, postal code 300041, Timisoara, Timis County, Romania
Legal representative/ contact person	Prof. Univ. Dr. Octavian-Marius Crețu/ Prof. Univ. Dr. Munteanu Mihnea
Fiscal Code	4269215
4. Details about the project	
EMS number	RORS 11
Project title	Regional Centre for Advanced Laser Therapies in Ophthalmology
Date of commencement	04.05.2017
Date of completion	03.05.2019
Partners	Municipality of Nova Crnja
Location of the project	Romania, Timiș County, Timișoara/ No. 2A Eftimie Murgu Square

(region, county, locality/ address where the project is implemented)	110 JNA Street , Postal code 23218, Nova Crnja, Central Banat District, Republic of Serbia
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<p>The mentioned project was affected/unaffected , according under the conditions of article 71 from Regulation 1303/2013 - Durability of operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A cessation or relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area; (b) A change in ownership of an item of infrastructure which gives to a firm or a public body an undue advantage; (c) A substantial change affecting its nature, objectives or implementation conditions which would result in undermining its original objectives <p>Not applicable/ Not the case.</p> <p><i>Details about modification (if the case)</i></p> <p>Buildings rehabilitated / equipment / goods purchased under the project were / are the subject of a mortgage bank?*</p> <p>If the answer is YES, please indicate no contract, validity, contract, etc.</p> <p>Not applicable/ Not the case.</p>
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I. STATUS OF THE PROJECT AFTER IMPELEMENTATION

I.1. Evaluation of the project indicators and their sustainability

INDICATORS	Realized at the end of the project	Realized of the date of the report submission	Comments
Output indicators			
O.T1.1-Medical tests for diabetes	10.749	-	N/A.
T1.2.1 -Free ophthalmological investigations	6.506	545 +422=967	LP/PP
T1.3.1-Free medical investigations for disadvantaged persons	4.048	490+202=692	LP/PP

T1.4.1-Free eye surgery services	560	31 +127 =158	LP
T1.5.1-Free eye surgery services for disadvantaged persons	416	22 + 68 =90	LP
T1.6 - Training courses for ophthalmologists	50	-	
T1.7.1-Training for medical students	200	33	LP
T1.8.1-Memberships to the network of specialists	306	30	LP
T1.9.1- Guides for best practices in the field of eye diseases diagnose and treatment	200	-	
T1.10.1-Reports for patients, students and family doctors concerning the costs and benefits of eye surgery	400	-	
T1.11.1-Reports for hospitals, oftalmologists and cost benefit analysis experts concerning the costs and benefits of eye surgery	220	-	
T1.12.1-Conferences for raising awareness for the roma population	60	-	
T1.13.1-Training conferences for family doctors	61	-	
T1.14.1-Improved health services	17.815	1125	
T1.15.1-Citizens involved in the activities of the project	19.508	1188	
I1.1.1-Rehabilitation of the building destined to host the Regional Ophthalmological Laser Centre	1	-	N/A.

I.3 STATUS OF THE WARRANTY PERIOD OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE/EQUIPMENTS

No.	Project (shall specify the type, number and the contract)	Number of guarantee, Issue Date, the Issuer, Value	Performance guarantee (expiration date)	Observations (Changes value, validity of guarantees, their execution, etc.)	Notification to the contractor for defects removal
1	RORS 11-Supply contract for european union external actions- Medical equipments- Lot_02 - Micropulse laser; Ctr.no:4521/03.11.2017	60/07.12.2017 SPECTRA VISION SRL;60.000 EUR	07.12.2019	N/A	N/A
2	RORS 11-Supply contract for european union external actions- Medical equipments- Lot_01 - Refractive surgery platform; Ctr.no:4544/06.11.2017	VD 404/29.11.2017; SC ROMGER GENERAL TRADE@CONSULTING SRL;957.950 EUR	29.11.2019	N/A	N/A

II. ASSESSMENT IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Please describe who has benefited from your project results (target group & other stakeholders) for each work package

The second year of the sustainability period for the RECALT project started in May 2020. The Regional Center for Advanced Laser Therapies in Ophthalmology remained until now the only ophthalmological civil center in Romania where refractive laser surgeries are performed with no additional costs for the patients. For the Serbian community, the medical unit equipped within the RECALT project is the only laser treatment option in the area.

The Timisoara Emergency Municipal Hospital according to the signed protocol with the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara ensured the space, maintenance of the laser refractive platform and medical devices mandatory for the laser surgeries, the access to utilities and auxiliary personnel. The main purpose of the RECALT project was to increase the life quality of the patients by offering free high standard ophthalmological examinations and laser procedures. Due to the RECALT project, the patients from the cross border area no longer have to travel to larger cities in order to benefit from complete ophthalmological examinations and laser procedures.

During the second year of the sustainability period, the medical activity has been reduced due to the state of alert imposed by the government. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the aim for the second year of sustainability was to perform free ophthalmological investigations to 1000 persons from the cross border area and 100 free laser procedures.

In Romania, during May 2020 May 2021, a number of 545 persons benefited from free ophthalmological investigations. From the 545 patients, 32 were from remote areas, one patient from the Roma population, 174 were females and 490 with low incomes.

From the 545 patients that benefited from free ophthalmological investigations, 31 underwent free laser procedures.

In Serbia, a number of 422 patients benefited from free ophthalmological examination. From the 422 patients that underwent free ophthalmological investigations, 127 benefited from free laser procedures.

All of the ophthalmological investigations and surgery procedures were performed using the medical equipments purchased within the project.

Another aim of the RECALT project was to increase the medical knowledge of the medical team. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, all of the ophthalmological courses and congress were organized online with no possibility of „hands on” training.

The project medical team continued the medical training by virtual courses and conferences. Valeria Mocanu, medical expert in the RECALT project, participated to the Cornea and Corneal Refractive Surgery e-Module from 5 to 9 of October 2020. The online training was organized by the European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology and has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) for 10 European CME credits. During the online training, important medical information concerning femtolasers procedure were exposed by the best medical experts in the laser refractive surgery.

Horia Tudor Stanca and Valeria Mocanu participated to different virtual webinars. In the webinar entitled „Surgical challenges during pandemic” Horia Tudor Stanca was invited to present the most interesting surgical cases from the pandemic. In February 2021, Horia Tudor Stanca and Valeria Mocanu participated to the virtual

meeting „Nightmares in ophthalmology” organized by the Romanian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. The project manager, Horia Tudor Stanca, was actively involved in the meeting.

The project manager, Horia Tudor Stanca, participated to 13 virtual webinars with project-related topics. In two of the 13 webinars, the project manager was invited as speaker. The medical expert Valeria Mocanu participated to four virtual webinars which focused on corneal and retinal pathology.

For the educational aim of the RECALT project, a training for the medical students was organized online, via Zoom platform, in March 22, 2021. 33 students from the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara participated to the online course. Different presentations were included: from general information concerning the RECALT project to medical debates. The main themes were keratoconus, refractive errors, the pre-operative measurements and the laser procedures. They were invited to register on the project portal in order to benefit from the newest details concerning the project and laser refractive theme.

On the RECALT portal, photos from the surgery sessions were uploaded, but also medical articles. The project team published a scientific article concerning the laser refractive surgery. The scientific article entitled „ Intraoperative flap-related complications in FemtoLASIK surgeries performed with Visumax® femtosecond laser: A ten-year Romanian experience” was published in 2020 in the well known medical journal-Experimental and Therapeutic Medicine.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings and confereces were prohibited. The project team discussed the responsibilities and the results of the second year of sustainability by phone, email and Zoom platform.

Please describe how the project activities impacted in the cross- border area/ target groups/other stakeholders

RECALT project had an important impact not only in increasing the life quality of the patients from the cross border area, but also in the professional development of the medical doctors (ophthalmologists, family doctors, medical students).

The RECALT project has four important aims:

1. Infrastructure

An ophthalmological unit was organised in the Srpska Crnja Medical Center (Serbia) with medical equipment for the diagnose and treatment of diabetic retinopathy. The patients from the cross border area used to travel long distance to larger cities for detailed ophthalmological investigations, benefit now from free diagnose and treatment.

The Ophthalmology Clinic from Timisoara Emergency Municipal Hospital is until now the only civil public hospital equipped with medical platform for the diagnose and treatment of refractive errors and keratoconus. A micropulse laser is also available for the latest treatment of the age related macular degeneration.

2. Medical

During the five years of sustainability, the project team aims to offer free ophthalmological investigations to 1000 patients/year and free laser procedures to 100 patients/year.

For the second year of sustainability, a total number of 967 patients benefited from free ophthalmological investigations and 158 of free laser procedures. The COVID-19 pandemic had an important impact on the medical activity because of the general restrictions.

3. Educational

The educational purpose targeted different categories: from disadvantaged population to medical staff. Conferences for family doctors, general and roma population were planned. For the second year of sustainability, organizing meeting and conferences was not an option due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

A virtual course was organized for the students of the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara. During the virtual course, the medical students received information concerning the RECALT project. Different presentations were performed on medical themes such as: refractive errors, keratoconus, laser procedures.

The project team published a scientific article in the well known medical journal-Experimental and Therapeutic Medicine. The article was an analysis of refractive laser surgery complications in 10 years experience. The medical team also participated to virtual courses and conferences in order to increase the knowledge in the laser field. The project manager, Horia Tudor Stanca, was invited as speaker to 2 virtual conferences and participated in 13 medical courses concerning refractive surgery and retinal pathology. The medical expert, Valeria Mocanu, participated to an international laser refractive course and 4 virtual conferences with themes such as refractive surgery and retinal diseases.

4. Socio-economic analysis

In order to promote the laser procedures in other hospitals, cost-benefit guides including an analysis of the 5 years sustainability will be offered to ophthalmologists and hospitals.

Measures regarding equal opportunities and non-discrimination :

An important aim of the RECALT project is to offer free ophthalmological investigations and free laser procedures to the population from the cross border area. First of all, the population from the cross border area have now the opportunity to benefit from free ophthalmological examination and laser procedures without the need to travel to larger cities. The Ophthalmology Clinic of the Municipal Emergency Hospital remained the only civil hospital equipped with refractive laser platform and retinal micropulse laser. In the Serbian area, an ophthalmologist offers free ophthalmological investigations and laser procedures, four times per month.

The RECALT project targeted the disadvantaged population such as females, low income persons, patients from remote area and roma population. For the second year of sustainability more than 50% of the patients belonged to the vulnerable categories. The project members respected the equal opportunities and non-discrimination criteria.

From the 967 patients that benefit from free ophthalmological investigations, 446 were females, 692 with low incomes, 200 from remote areas and 42 from the roma population.

Among the 158 patients that benefit from free ophthalmological laser procedures, 97 were females, 90 with low incomes, 60 from remote areas and 11 from the roma population.

Measures regarding the environment protection:

The equipment purchased within the RECALT project has a high standard quality allowing to perform safer laser procedures with reduce water and energy use.

The energy use was an important criteria when selecting the best medical equipment (low energy consumption; low power mode; green performance; longevity etc.).

The RECALT project has also a positive effect on the GHG emissions reduction. One of the web portal aims was to offer the possibility of virtual medical training with no need to travel. By eliminating the physical distance it contributed to reducing the emissions of pollutants as a result of road transport.

The emissions of pollutants were also reduced by offering free high standard ophthalmological examination and laser procedures with no need to travel long distance to larger cities.

The waste materials from the medical activities are selected and grouped into different recyclable categories. The Romanian and Serbian partners have contracts with environmental waste neutralization companies and waste incineration providers that offer off-site waste treatment in a decentralized facility in order to avoid infectious diseases.

Measures regarding project publicity

The medical director, Mihnea Munteanu, and medical expert, Valeria Mocanu, with the support of Timisoara Regional Office for Cross-border Cooperation filmed in September 2020 a video with details concerning the RECALT project. The video was distributed over the internet.

Link: [Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in ophthalmology \(EC Day 2020\) \(facebook.com\)](#)

Horia Tudor Stanca, Mihnea Munteanu and Valeria Mocanu published a scientific article on the refractive laser surgery theme in order to increase the visibility of their medical activity.

Link: [Intraoperative flap-related complications in FemtoLASIK surgeries performed with Visumax® femtosecond laser: A ten-year Romanian experience \(spandidos-publications.com\)](#)

The team members continued the trainings for the medical students. They were invited to register on the portal in order to be informed about the project and future ophthalmological events.

III. DURABILITY OF PROJECT OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

III.1 Measures taken*

Please describe concrete measures taken during after project implementation to the present report, explain who is responsible and who is the owner of results and outputs

* According with the point C.2.3 - *Application form* -

How will the work package main output/s be further used once the project has been ended?

Please describe concrete measures (including eg insitutional structures, financial resources, etc.) taken during and after project implementation to ensure the durability of the project main output/s.

The RECALT project after the implementation period, will be followed by five years of sustainability. During the sustainability period, the medical activity will be performed by the medical experts of the project team.

The financial support will be assigned, for the Romanian part, to the Timisoara Emergency Municipal Hospital consisting in the annual laser maintenance or service if required and medical supplies for laser procedures (eg. suction cup, surgery instruments). According to the signed protocol, the Timisoara Emergency Municipal Hospital, will ensure the space, access to utilities, auxiliary personnel and all that represents infrastructure.

The Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara will provide financial support to the medical team for publishing scientific articles with impact factor, medical guide and participation of the team members to international meetings in the field of laser procedures.

For the Serbian part, the municipality of Nova Crnja and the Health Center in Nova Crnja will provide the financial support for the annual laser maintenance and service if required, medical supplies for laser procedures. According to the signed protocol, the two entities (the municipality of Nova Crnja and the Health Center in Nova Crnja) will ensure the space, access to utilities, auxiliary personnel and all that represents infrastructure.

During the five years of sustainability, the aims for the RECALT team are:

1. 1000 patients/year will benefit from free ophthalmological investigations. At least 100 patients/year will benefit from free laser procedures. The equal-opportunities and non-discrimination criteria will be respected
2. Organizing conferences for roma population and family doctors
3. Organizing medical trainings for medical students, residents, young specialists with no charge.
4. Publishing scientific articles in medical journals with impact factor using the experience obtained within the project.
5. Posting medical information on the RECALT portal. All of the scientific articles published by the medical team will be uploaded on the web portal. The main purpose of the RECALT web portal is to offer the newest information concerning the project, medical information and details about meetings related to the theme. The RECALT web portal will remain an active community for the ophthalmologists and medical students.
6. The medical experts will participate to different international meetings in the field in order to increase their experience.
7. Medical exchanges between the Romanian and Serbian part will continue.

In the second year of sustainability, from May 2020 till May 2021, a number of 967 patients benefit from free ophthalmological investigations and a number of 158 of free laser procedures.

The RECALT team represented by Horia Tudor Stanca and Valeria Mocanu participated to virtual medical webinars and conferences regarding the corneal and retinal pathology.

A virtual medical course for the students of the Victor Babes Univeristy of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara was organized by the medical expert, Valeria Mocanu. The medical team represented by Horia Tudor Stanca, Valeria Mocanu and Mihnea Munteanu published a scientific article in a well known medical journal concerning the experience acquired with Visumax laser platform. The scientific article, different medical information and photos from the refractive laser sessions were posted on the RECALT web portal.

The conferences for family doctors and roma population were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

III.2 Problems which have affected the project sustainability

Because of te COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the conference for the rroma population and family doctors were postponed. The period of restrictions made impossible the organization of „hands-on” training for young ophthalmologists and the participation of the RECALT medical team to wet-lab meeting.

Date:	Lead beneficiary: “Victor Babes” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara
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Approved
Signature and seal
Name : Prof.Dr.Crețu Octavian-Marius
Title: Rector



Drafted: Signature
Name:
Dr.Stanca Tudor Horia
Title: Project Manager

