

The 8th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme

The 8th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme was held on 17 December 2020.

The Monitoring Committee meeting was exceptionally held online due to the restrictive conditions imposed by the current epidemiological situation Covid-19.

The overall status of implementation of the Programme, the progress made in meeting the performance targets and the N+3 target at Programme level, as well as the simplification and acceleration measures implemented by the Management Authority to achieve these objectives, were presented.

A detailed analysis of the magnitude of the impact generated by the current crisis was carried out in the context, quantifying the impact on the Programme and the projects funded under it. The potential risks and the actions to prevent or remedy them, decided by the Management Authority, were also presented. Particular attention has been paid to the presentation of simplification measures adopted to help beneficiaries minimize the related negative effects.

The presence of the representative of DG Regio from the European Commission at the event, which wished to welcome the efforts made in recent months by the program structures, is to be specified. Also, the representative of DG Regio emphasized that the European Commission recognized and appreciated the efforts made by the Member States involved in cross-border cooperation to go through such a difficult period.

Under the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme, 109 projects have been contracted so far, with a total value of EUR 232,22 million, representing 92,85% of the Programme budget.

Payments under the program have reached EUR 44.75 million so far, with payments of EUR 16.37 million made during 2020. Prospects are optimistic in terms of avoiding disengagement in this third year of the Programme.

The preparation of the future Programme for 2021-2027 made significant progress during 2020 in the contracting of external expertise and the organization of numerous consultation events with potential applicants. Most importantly, the Territorial Analysis and related documents are completed (up to the consultation stage).

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The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme aims at financing joint Romanian - Hungarian projects, which address needs that lie on both sides of the border, and that require a common approach and innovative solutions, aiming at facilitating the integrated, sustainable development of the eligible area. The Programme comes as a continuation of cross-border cooperation programmes implemented previously in the region and disposes of a total budget of approx. 232 million EUR, out of which 189 million EUR represent non-refundable support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The eligible programme area comprises the counties of Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare and Timiș, on the Romanian side of the border and the counties of Békés, Csongrád-Csanád, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg on the Hungarian side.