

Annex:

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

of the Annual Implementation Report for 2020 regarding the

Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

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 Bihor, Satu Mare, Arad and Timiș, on the Romanian side of the border and the counties of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar, Békés and Csongrád-Csanád on the Hungarian side.

Approved by the European Commission on December 9, 2015 the Programme supports activities within the following 6 thematic priority axes (PAs):

- PA 1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)
- PA 2: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)
- PA 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)
- PA 4: Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)
- PA 5: Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)
- PA 6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)

In general, beneficiaries of the projects funded by the Programme can be public organisations (national, regional or local authorities), organisations that fall under the public law, non-profit organisations (e.g. associations), European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) and others.

Funding was offered in the framework of Open and Restricted Calls for proposals. The minimum requirement for a project partnership was the participation of 2 financing partners, one from Romania and one from Hungary. All the other eligibility criteria were detailed in the Guide for Applicants, specific for each Call.

The Programme is managed and supported by a series of different bodies, responsible to ensure that funds are spent in the best possible way. The main responsibility for Programme implementation belongs to the Managing Authority (Ministry of Development, Public Works and

Administration in Romania), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acting as National Authority from Hungary and the Monitoring Committee, a joint body consisting of local and central stakeholders, as well as representatives of civil society from both Member States.

For more information about the Programme, please consult its official [website](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#).

AIR 2020 | CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme was prepared according to Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) and was submitted to the European Commission for approval in May 2021. The current document provides a brief summary of the activities that were undertaken in relation to the Programme implementation in the previous year, 2020.

The AIR contains information on the following main topics: the implementation of the Programme with the most important highlight of the year, information and communication measures undertaken, as well as the progress made in shaping the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary.

If the previous years were about building the procedural framework, launching the financial allocation, assessment, selection and contracting, 2020 was mainly about Programme and project implementation. Despite of a difficult year, as a result of preventive or remedial measures taken, the decommitment target of the Programme for 2020 has been successfully achieved.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2020

- ✓ **Altogether, 23 payment applications for reimbursement** submitted to the European Commission, **worth more than 47.77 million EUR FEDR;**
- ✓ **9 requests for payment submitted** to the European Commission **in 2020, worth 29.86 million EUR, ERDF;**
- ✓ **An absorption rate of 25.26%** of the **ERDF allocation of the Programme achieved** by the end of 2020;
- ✓ **100 projects selected** for financing within Priority Axes 1-6, worth more than **184.92 million EUR, ERDF**, out of which **90 normal projects** and **10 strategic projects;**
- ✓ **60 projects** in the **implementation** stage, **35 projects ended** and **5 projects** are **under contracting;**
- ✓ In total, **294 project partners** cooperating, **168 partners from Romania** and **126 from Hungary;**
- ✓ The **Annual event** took the form of **a virtual journey (video spot)**, using eco-friendly means of transportation (bicycle, electric buses or on foot) to visit iconic locations of the Programme area and sites of investments, **broadcasted on TV** on December 2020;
- ✓ 18 training events (seminars for beneficiaries, eMS trainings and webinars) organized for the beneficiaries, gathering 420 participants;
- ✓ **2 onsite events**, organized in January to support **project partners**, followed by **46 webinars**, on improving the quality of progress and final reports, on State Aid etc.;
- ✓ **9 Newsflash editions** sent to the mailing list (933 contacts) and **4 Press releases**, prepared and published on the Programme website;

- ✓ **1 prize-winning interactive artwork contest on Facebook**, to celebrate European Cooperation Day and mark 30 years of Interreg, gathering **35 creative works from 20 project partners**;
- ✓ **The website (www.interreg-rohu.eu)** registered **365,278 visitors accessed it, with 2,270,893 hits**;
- ✓ **3 issues of ROHU Magazine** (paper based and electronic publication) published, inviting the readers to discover the achievements of Romanian-Hungarian cooperation;
- ✓ **40 technical meetings held**, most of them online, (meetings on the topic of monitoring and reaching decommitment, measures in the pandemic context, programming 2020+, IP coordination meetings and technical preparatory meetings with different programme bodies, on various subjects and documents under preparation);
- ✓ **1 Monitoring Committee Meeting held online**, on the 17th of December 2020;
- ✓ **37 Monitoring Committee Written procedures** launched and **41 Decisions** issued.

2020 – PROGRAMMING PROCESS FOR THE 2021-2027 PERIOD

During the 2021-2027 programming period, the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary will continue to support cross border cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, Romania and Hungary.

To steer the overall process, make formal decisions on the content and select the Policy Objectives of the future Programme, a Programming Committee was set up in 2019. The Committee comprises of delegates from the two Partner States – on behalf of local, regional and central levels – i.e., the representatives of the Romanian and Hungarian ministries, the eight County Councils within the Programme area, NGOs, representatives of academic environment, etc. The Programming Committee is also supported by the expertise and presence of the European Commission.

2020 brought about significant progress, the new Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary being planned to be submitted to the European Commission for approval in 2021.