

PRESS RELEASE

The Policy Objectives of the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary have been selected

On Monday, June 14, 2021 the Programming Committee (PC) of the Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary, for the period 2021-2027 approved the selection of the Policy Objectives (PO) and relevant Interreg Specific Objective (ISO) to be financed in the next programming period.

The decision has been taken based on the scenarios proposed by the programming experts. The *Programme strategy and intervention logics* and the *Interreg Programme* related sections were built upon the main conclusions resulting from the approved Territorial Analysis, enriched with the valuable qualitative inputs of the relevant stakeholders, following the Territorial Impact Analysis workshops in April, and revised after the PC preparatory meeting on June 8th.

Following fruitful and constructive discussions at the meeting, the PC members **decided** to finance:

PO 2 – A greener cross-border area, through the following specific objectives:

- *Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience (RSO 2.4);*
- *Promoting renewable energy (RSO 2.2);*
- *Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution (RSO 2.7).*

PO 4 – A more social cross-border area, through the following specific objectives:

- *Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care (RSO 4.4);*
- *Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation (RSO 4.5).*

ISO 1 – A better cooperation governance, through the following specific objectives:

- *Enhancing efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society*

actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions (ii);

- *Enhancing the Institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders (i);*
- *Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions (iii).*

The decision to approve the *Programme strategy and intervention logics* has been taken by consensus. The *Interreg Programme document* - sections 1.1 – *Programme area*, 1.2 – *Joint Programme Strategy* and 1.3 – *Justification for selection of POs* (including the related specific objectives) - has been also approved.

As next steps, for the further development of the Programme, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure will be launched, a survey among potential beneficiaries will be conducted to develop the Programme performance framework and other programming related documents will be elaborated/finalized.

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 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, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg on the Hungarian side.