

Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary Programme

SUMMARY

The **Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary Programme (ROHU Programme)** is a territorial cooperation programme between two member states, Romania and Hungary, funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with a **total allocation** of 175,940,025.00 EUR (out of which 80% ERDF, in amount of 140,752,020.00 EUR).

The **Programme area (PA)** is composed of 4 counties on the Romanian side and 4 counties on the Hungarian side (NUTS 3 political and administrative units), as follows: Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad, Timiș in Romania and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar, Békés, Csongrád-Csanád in Hungary. These cover NUTS 2 development regions North-West and West from Romania, as well as Northern Great Plain and Southern Great Plain from Hungary. The programme area has almost 4 million people (3,846,734 inhabitants), out of which around 52.5% on the Romanian side and 47.5% on the Hungarian side of the border.

The vision for the ROHU Programme is: **a greener, resilient and more cohesive cross-border region between Romania and Hungary, with enhanced understanding of cooperation opportunities, increased trust and reduced barriers to cooperation, towards Agenda 2030 common targets with a more sustainable cooperation framework.**

The main guiding principles leading to the proposed strategy can be defined as follows:

- maximizing the concentration of resources on interventions where cross-border cooperation brings added value, and the Interreg Programme represents the main option for funding.
- promoting the higher possible cross-border impact on territorial disparities and communities, focusing on policy objectives with the possible higher and more direct impacts on the population well-being, safety, and equal opportunities.
- bridging territories and communities based on common territorial and intangible assets, which may create common socio-economic opportunities for economic recovery.
- promoting people-to-people interventions as foundation for more structured cooperation.

The ROHU Programme strategy is articulated in a general objective and three specific objectives corresponding to the two selected POs and ISO underlying specific investment priorities, defined as follows:

- Priority 1. Cooperation for a green and more resilient cross-border area between Romania and Hungary (with an allocation of 58,060,209.00 EUR, out of which 46,448,167.00 EUR ERDF);
- Priority 2. Cooperation for a more social and cohesive PA between Romania and Hungary (with an allocation of 98,526,414.00 EUR, out of which 78,821,131.00 EUR ERDF);
- Priority 3. A more sustainable, community-based and effective cross-border cooperation (with an allocation of 19,353,402.00 EUR, out of which 15,482,722.00 EUR ERDF).

The ROHU Programme will support cross-border joint initiatives (exchange of experience, joint strategies / action plans, joint actions) contributing to obtaining the following expected results:

- Increased cooperation in the field of renewable energies, contributing to build green and renewable energy communities in the programme area, including by promoting joint solutions to upscale and further promote Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the programme area (generating of RES projects);
- Increased capacity and efficiency of the emergency services and risk prevention (both climate and non-climate related) through cooperation.
- Improved coordination and protection of the natural heritage across the border.
- Increased resilience, personalization, and quality of the health care sector through cooperation.
- Development of a common vision for the joint promotion of common cultural and natural heritage, including cultural initiatives and the development of tourism sites and tourism niches.
- Increased understanding of cross-border exchanges and increased capacity to plan effective common actions leading to an increased number and quality of joint strategies.
- Increased understanding of barriers to cooperation and definition of possible solutions with the involvement of the adequate governance level.
- Increased people-to-people actions and cross-border cooperation through joint initiatives.

All additional requested information (specific objectives and budget for each objective) can be found in the programme and in the performance framework.