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| **1st Open Call for HARD projects** | |
| **Project code & acronym** | ROHU00493 – GreenLink |
| **Project title** | Building cross-border capacities and empowering communities for a clean energy shift |
| **Priority** | P1 - Cooperation for a green and more resilient cross-border area between Romania and Hungary |
| **Specific Objective** | RS02.2 - Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein |
| **Implementation period** | 30 months (22 April 2025 – 21 October 2027) |
| **Objective** | The main objective of GreenLink is improving key conditions for a clean & fair energy transition in the cross-border area by increasing (1) the participation level of stakeholders in urban planning; and (2) the capacities of thematic experts, public officials, & citizens, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| **Partnership** | **Lead Partner:** Nyírbátor Város Önkormányzata (Hungary) |
| **Project Partner:**  **PP2 RO**:Unitatea Administrativ-Teritoriala Municipiul Carei (Romania) |
| **Total budget** | EUR 1,814,505.84, out of which  ERDF EUR 1,451,604.66 |
| **Summary** | GreenLink – a partnership of Nyírbátor & Carei – addresses common challenges, and its objectives will be reached by implementing the following activities:   1. Mapping the current state of affairs by **elaborating a joint analysis** covering Satu Mare & Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, but with a narrowed focus on the two municipalities. 2. Facilitating a **participative action planning process** and **developing a Joint action plan** by using co-design methods to handle the most pressing barriers of cleaner energy use in the cross-border area: kick-off workshop, 2 co-creation workshops, 2 open workshops, joint workshop, questionnaire. 3. **CLIMATHON events two** consecutive times (in 2025 & 2026) – 12-hour hackathon-like events in which participants collaborate in groups to tackle a local climate challenge, developing a “prototype” solution 4. Identifying the main actors in the energy sector & connecting them through **networking/learning seminars** to foster cross-border collaboration. 5. Creating a **Guidebook with relevant good practices** that cover the available state-of-the-art technologies, innovative ways of policy-making, funding, etc., in the field of green energy transition. 6. **Designing training materials** aimed at public officials (decision-makers & employees) for a deeper understanding of the issue and the necessary technical & governance details, followed by a **joint online training**. 7. Organizing & implementing a **communication campaign** on both sides of the border to promote energy transition & energy efficiency/savings by informing the citizens about these issues and offering practical advice tailored to specific groups (e.g., low-income families). 8. Holding **informative classes in schools** to educate students about energy efficiency and clean & fair energy transition. 9. **Procuring energy-recovery equipment** for PP2: energy recovery tiles & stationary bicycles which harness & convert kinetic energy generated by walking or biking into electrical energy (**innovative tools of awareness-raising**). 10. **Renovating a cultural building in both Nyírbátor & Carei**, and making them more energy efficient by utilising RES (mainly photovoltaic modules and heat pumps). |
| **Main results** | The main objective of GreenLink is improving key conditions for a clean & fair energy transition in the cross-border area – a goal that can only be effectively evaluated in the long term.  The project aims to achieve several key results:   1. Provides the two municipalities with an **opportunity to expand their cooperation** into the field of energy transition and clean energy. 2. **Increasing the participation level of stakeholders** in urban planning for a clean & fair energy transition through co-creation. 3. **Increasing the capacities of thematic experts, public officials, and citizens** for a clean & fair energy transition. 4. Creation of a **roadmap** (as an annex of the Joint action plan), outlining the steps the partners need to take after the project ends to realise the suggested activities. 5. **Scaling up the activities** of the GreenLink project (e.g., organising a “cross-border” Climathon every year). 6. **New initiatives and/or developments generated** by (or have a connection to) the project activities, assessed through an evaluation/follow-up survey sent out to the project’s participants. 7. **Project transferability:** The GreenLink project is based on the idea that the outputs/deliverables should be tailored to suit the requirements of the cross-border region, while their fundamental nature and the principles guiding their development should guarantee a broad applicability. |