

# Newsletter December 2022



Nr. 3 / December 2022

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**INTERREG SLAM 2022  
WINNER**





# INTERREG NEXT ROMANIA– UKRAINE 2021–2027 HAS BEEN APPROVED

**€54**  
**million**  
**EU funding**  
*for better education,  
health care and climate  
change adaptation.*

Romania – Ukraine Programme will finance cooperation projects and will support stakeholders from both sides of the border.

The new Interreg NEXT Romania - Ukraine Programme has just received a green light from the European Commission. On 30th of November the Commission officially adopted the new cross-border cooperation programme between Romania and Ukraine.

For an amount of €54 million of EU funding in 2021-2027, the newly adopted Programme **aims to foster cross-border cooperation, boost the green transition and support healthcare and education.**

Interreg NEXT Romania – Ukraine Programme is ready and provides tools for the upcoming years. Stakeholders, from both sides of the border, will receive financial support to address joint socio - economic, environmental and border safety challenges.

Interreg NEXT Romania – Ukraine it's a continuation of our almost 20 years of cooperation. The new Programme represents the 4th generation of European financial assistance aimed at integrating Romania's and Ukraine's borderlands economically and socially.

Romania and Ukraine have a long history of cooperation. The two countries cooperated under the PHARE/TACIS Programmes, later under the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 and currently under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 that is still in implementation.

Starting with this new financing period, 2021-2027, **we join the Interreg family and will adopt the Interreg NEXT visual identity.**

Therefore the Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme has a full agenda for the 2021-2027 period:

- rebuild **health** infrastructure
- invest in **education**
- restore **heritage** sites
- prevent **natural disasters**
- protect **environmental biodiversity**
- improve **border management**

The new Romania-Ukraine Programme is an opportunity to gain new experiences, to find new solutions and to provide many benefits for the citizens from both countries.

You can familiarize with the document of the Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme [HERE](#) and follow the ROUA website, where you will find the latest information – [www.ro-ua.net](http://www.ro-ua.net).



Let`s embrace the 2021-2027 Programme, new and old partners together for a new beginning.

## For a stronger, more resilient, and more social region

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The European Union acts for the future of our region and will **#StandwithUkraine**, and so will the community of cross border cooperation.

Together with the other crossborder and transnational Interreg programmes involving Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, the European Union will invest a total of €665 million of EU funding in 2021-2027, in the region.

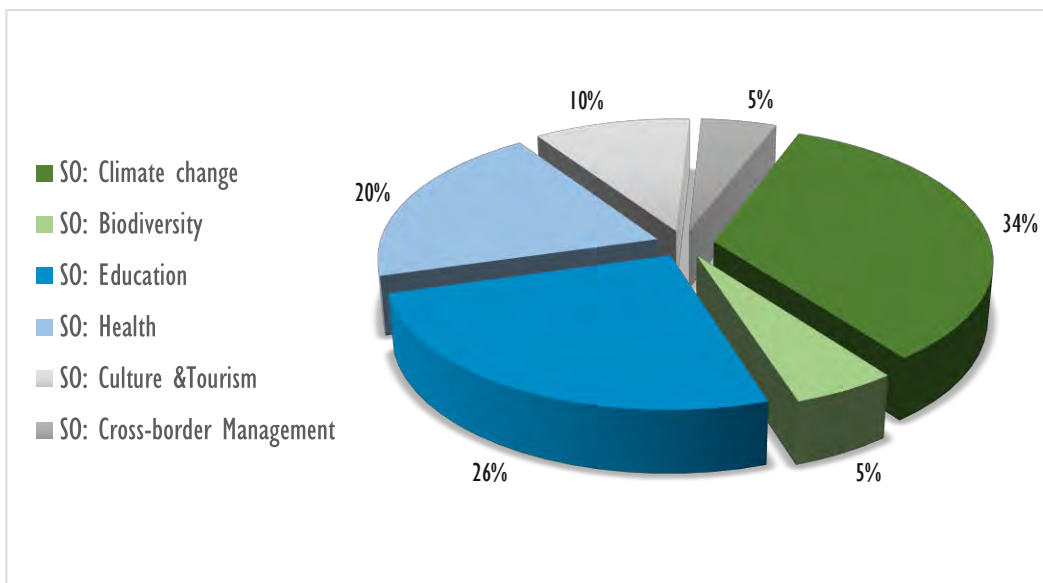
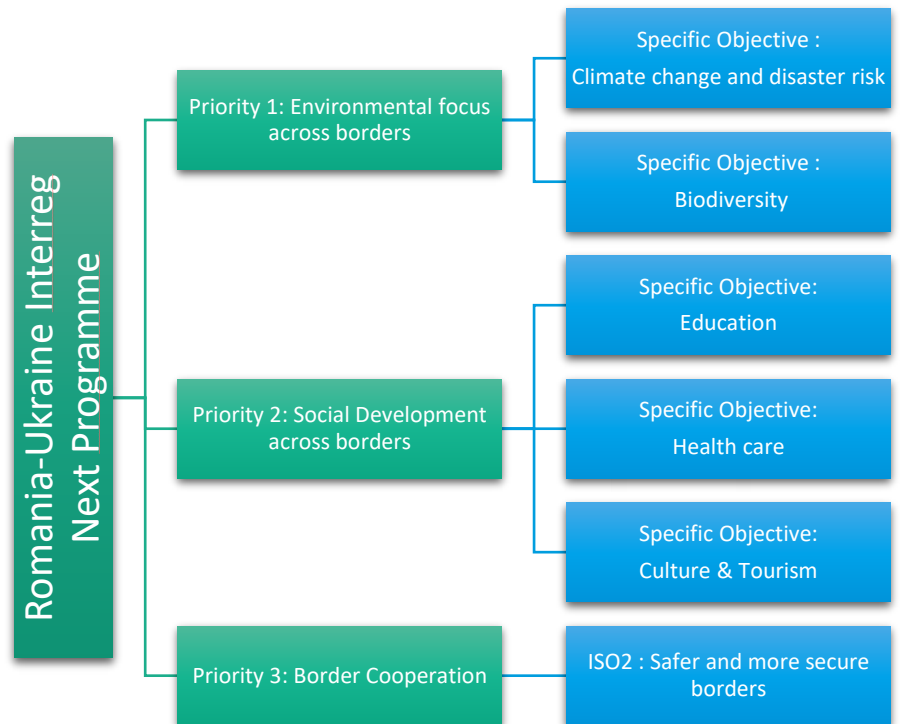
Our Programme will also contribute to the main challenge we are facing, which is to **rebuild Ukraine** and **restore cross-border cooperation** after the war, but also, at the same time, to **invest in Romania's border regions in order to reduce the gaps** across Europe in the long run.

# Joint priorities to address shared challenges

Interreg NEXT thematic strategy for 2021-2027 is structured around 2 policy objectives, 1 Interreg specific objective and 3 priorities declined into 6 specific objectives.

**The Interreg NEXT Programme's mission is to finance cooperation partnerships between Romanian and Ukrainian stakeholders.**

Projects may involve a wide array of partners like local and regional authorities, schools (vocational, technology, sanitary etc.), and universities, local, municipal and regional hospitals, NGOs and any other relevant associations or organizations for each specific objective.



*The financial allocation is related to each specific objective.*

The following are some **samples of indicative actions** for each specific objective, while the extended version can be found in the Programme document:



### **Improving inclusive EDUCATION**

- ✓ Educational infrastructure (rehabilitation, modernization, expansion, etc.);
- ✓ Digitization and equipment;
- ✓ Joint educational plans and strategies, training and mentoring programs;
- ✓ Partnerships, experience exchange, and best practices;
- ✓ Joint initiatives for adult education and training, including mobility programs;



### **Ensuring quality HEALTH CARE**

- ✓ Health infrastructure (construction/rehabilitation/modernization);
- ✓ Screening/monitoring/prevention facilities/mobile labs;
- ✓ Digitization and equipment, including for emergency services;
- ✓ Training and exchange of experience, telemedicine, and joint programs;
- ✓ Awareness campaigns;



### **CULTURE and sustainable TOURISM**

- ✓ Infrastructure of historical and cultural monuments (restoration, conservation, consolidation, protection, etc.);
- ✓ Support and promotion for specific and traditional craft activities;
- ✓ Digitization, digital tourism platforms, cross-border tourism networks;
- ✓ Campaigns, publications, studies, strategies;



### **Climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention**

- ✓ Fire and flood infrastructure (construction, rehabilitation, modernization, etc.);
- ✓ Equipment for emergency situations and monitoring systems;
- ✓ Common strategies and tools, action plans, and common procedures for hazard management and risk prevention;
- ✓ Awareness, trainings and exchange of best practices;



### **Protection and preservation of biodiversity**

- ✓ Facilities for improving human/technical capacity, and monitoring protected areas;
- ✓ Studies, research, common protocols, strategies, action plans, trainings, and awareness campaigns;
- ✓ Assessment, protection, and improvement of existing ecosystems;
- ✓ Urban green infrastructure;



### **Border crossing management**

- ✓ Infrastructure (modernization/rehabilitation) and equipment for the gendarmerie, border police, customs service;
- ✓ Common intervention strategies and plans;
- ✓ Joint trainings, exchange of best practices, awareness campaigns;



*The 7th meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020, took place, online, on November 3, 2022.*

## ROMANIA-UKRAINE ENI CBC STATUS:

### COOPERATION PROJECTS WORTH € 65.9 MILLION

A review of the current implementation stage of the Programme was conducted at the 7th Joint Monitoring Committee meeting, together with an **evaluation of the necessary actions to accelerate the project activities, considering that the projects must be concluded by December 2023.**

Currently, **66 cooperation projects** are funded through the Romania-Ukraine Programme – amounting **€65.9 million**, out of which €51.8 million are European funds.

Both participating countries are benefiting from infrastructure investments, equipment endowments, experience exchanges and joint training of partners, through EU funding.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Management Authority (MDPWA), of the National Authorities from Ukraine and Romania, of the European Commission, alongside with the representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat (Suceava CBC Office) and local authorities from the counties and oblasts in the Programme.

The tangible results of the projects financed by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020, are already beginning to emerge, demonstrating the usefulness of the priorities that have been selected.

By the date of this review, €38 million have been transferred to the beneficiaries (institutions implementing projects), either as pre-financing or final payments, for projects that have finished their activities.

## New European Regulation for cooperation programmes

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During the 7th Joint Monitoring Committee meeting the European Commission representative, **Mrs. Tanya DIMITROVA - Programme Manager of the ENI CBC Romania-Ukraine Programme**, presented the highlights of the new European Regulation.

This new European legislative act has been approved to help all cooperation programmes in the context of the conflict in Ukraine and the suspension of cooperation with Russia and Belarus.

As part of the document, measures are proposed in an attempt to provide more flexibility during the implementation of projects and to simplify the Programme management procedures.

[Here](#) you can read the regulation.



*Regulation (EU) 2022/2192 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 November 2022 laying down specific provisions for the 2014-2020 cooperation programmes supported by the European Neighbourhood Instrument and under the European territorial cooperation goal, following programme implementation disruption.*

The grand finale of the European cooperation project competition - Interreg SLAM, 2022 edition, took place in Brussels, on October 27, 2022.

The gala was organized by Interact within the annual European Commission event of the Interreg programmes.

## ROMANIA-UKRAINE COOPERATION PROJECT

## THE BIG WINNER of the INTERREG PROJECT SLAM 2022

Romania-Ukraine Joint Operational Programme 2014 - 2020 won the first prize of the SLAM competition with the project "Virtual Reality unites Carpathians: interactive school laboratories".

The competition was dedicated to projects involving young people from the cooperation community.

In the final of the competition, **6 cooperation projects** with beneficiaries from **12 European countries participated**, each of them offering a live presentation on the stage of the event:

"POCTEP", Interreg Spain-Portugal project; "LEGAL PROFESSION, Interreg Slovenia-Hungary project; "VIRTUAL REALITY UNITES CARPATHIANS", project of the ENI CBC Romania-Ukraine program; "CODE/2CODE CORONA" project of the IPA CBC program Croatia-Bosnia and Montenegro; "TRAILS+" Interreg Project Poland-Germany and "HANDCRAFT" project of the IPA Hungary-Serbia program.

Almost **1000 participants** around Europe joined in the live online voting, selecting "Virtual Reality Unites Carpathians" the absolute winner of the 2022 edition.



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## INTERREG Annual Event shed light on ENI CBC Romania-Ukraine achievements

After months of preparation, our finalists were ready to present their cooperation story on stage during Interreg project SLAM 2022 Grand Finale.

The live performance showed the public how Virtual Reality (VR) transformed an ordinary classroom into a place for excitement, fun and interesting learning experiences for the students.

**Watch the live stage performance [HERE](#).**

Virtual Reality (VR) was used for the first time in the educational process on a permanent basis in the Romanian-Ukrainian border schools, through this European funding pilot project.

The total budget of the project "Virtual Reality unites Carpathians: interactive school laboratories" was approximately €300.000, and the activities took place during 2020-2021.

In addition to Virtual and Augmented Reality labs, the partners created two robotics laboratories and training programs for teachers and students. Overall, it impacted **200 teachers and 3.000 students**.

The **4 schools** involved in the project benefited also from **new modern equipment** (computers, interactive whiteboards, projectors, multifunctional devices etc.), and **infrastructure works** by rehabilitating school laboratories.

A partnership team of **5 partners**, from **Zakarpattia region (Ukraine)** and **SatuMare County (Romania)**, implemented this project: "ARR" Transcarpathia Agency (Lead Partner), Mircea Eliade" Secondary School of Satu Mare, Department of Education, Health, Culture and Sports of Tyachiv, Technical School "ANGHEL SALIGNY" of Trut and Department of Education, Youth and Sports of Solotvyno.



*"This prize for me, as a teacher, means a dream come true, it means responsibility and new opportunities for our students, it means a reality in the virtual world.*

*As a chemistry teacher, I had a hard time talking to my students about the microscopic particles, atoms, and molecules, nothing visible or tangible. Now with virtual reality at hand, it is very easy to explain and understand.*

*What can be more beautiful for a teacher than to see his students happy, eager to learn, to discover new things!" - **Mariana Salagean, Project Manager, Satu Mare.***

Mrs. Salagean led also the on-site participating team in Brussels, together with Anna Tsymbolynets from Zakarpattia - the presenter of the Virtual Lab project performance, and the representatives of the Joint Technical Secretariat of ENI CBC Romania – Ukraine 2014-2020.

*The annual event was opened by the European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, who emphasized the importance of European cooperation at the external borders of the European Union.*

More than **350 participants were physically present at the competition gala**, including representatives of the European Commission, but also representatives of all cooperation programmes at the internal and external borders of the European Union. The gala could also be watched online, live.

# HIGHEST PUBLICITY REACH AWARD: Mural Art Painting by Romania-Ukraine Programme, with 4.4 million people reach



BEST LOCAL INITIATIVES 2022  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY  
STAY TUNED!

We are pleased to announce that **our major Programme event, "Message for Ukraine", has been awarded among all Interreg community.**

INTERACT decided to recognize and award the best local initiatives of 2022, in order to acknowledge the great work the programmes are doing to celebrate the European Cooperation Day.

**Romania-Ukraine mural art painting** was awarded for the **highest publicity reach event dedicated to European Cooperation Day in 2022.** CONGRATULATIONS!

The event had a massive impact on social media generating over **4.4 million posts reach**, around **40,000 post engagement** from users, from both Romania and Ukraine, and **1,000 extra followers** on the Programme's Facebook page [ENI CBC Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020](#).

A large-scale mural painting on a 3-floored wall in Suceava, Romania was created following an on-line **#StandwithUkraine** artwork competition.

**Time to enjoy and look back to all those extraordinary moments.** Watch the full aftermovie of the event [HERE](#) and share our journey!

Scan the QR code to watch the video!



Programme funded by  
European Union



Romania-Ukraine  
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

[www.ro-ua.net](http://www.ro-ua.net)



# Managing Authority holiday message



European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) and co-financed by the participating countries in the Programme. The Programme is dedicated to the border areas between Romania and Ukraine and will contribute to the overall objective of the European Neighborhood Instrument: progress towards an area of prosperity and good neighborliness for the benefit of Member States and non-EU members through cross-border cooperation actions.

[www.ro-ua.net/en/](http://www.ro-ua.net/en/)



This Programme is funded by the European Union



Romania-Ukraine  
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.