**The Applicant’s Guide was approved at the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027**

Today, 19th of September 2022, the Applicant’s Guide was approved, in order to launch the First Call for project proposals for the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027. Potential beneficiaries will exclusively use the JEMS electronic system for the transmission of documents and will benefit from simplified cost options for the reimbursement of expenses, respectively, a simplification of the project implementation system.

Moreover, at the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee, held today in Veliko Gradiste (Serbia), all the necessary documents for launching the First Call for project proposals, with a value of about 26 million euros (IPA funds), were discussed and approved.

In the 2021-2027 programming period, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration is acting as Managing Authority for the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme, which will have a total budget of 87.725.681 EUR and will finance projects on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, healthcare and education, tourism and culture and border management.

The funding for these priorities will be 85% from the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III), 13% Romanian state budget co-financing and 2% as own contribution of the Romanian beneficiaries. Serbian beneficiaries will provide 15% co-financing as their own contribution.

The Programme area includes three counties in Romania (Timiș, Caraș-Severin and Mehedinţi), as well as six districts in Serbia (Severno Banatski, Srednje Banatski, Južno Banatski, Braničevski, Borski și Podunavski).

In order to ensure a transparent framework for institutional collaboration, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration (MDPWA) organized consultations with key actors in the Programme area and posted on the Programme website, [www.romania-serbia.net](http://www.romania-serbia.net) all documents related to the programming process.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Programme Managing Authority within the MDLPA, as well as representatives of the National Authority of Serbia, the European Commission and the institutions represented in this body.