

## Summary of the first Monitoring Committee

On the 19th of July 2022, the European Commission approved the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme (2021-2027). The programme area includes 3 counties in Romania and 6 districts in the Republic of Serbia, having a total budget of 87.725.681 EUR that will finance projects on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, healthcare and education, tourism and culture and border management.

The Monitoring Committee (MC) ensures the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Programme, has specific tasks related to the monitoring of the Programme and consists of representatives from the two participating countries in the Programme, Romania and Serbia.

The first Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme was organized in Veliko Gradište, Serbia, on the 19th of September, 2022. The Monitoring Committee approved a series of documents relevant to the Programme's implementation: the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee, the Technical Assistance Strategy, the Communication Strategy and the Annual Communication Plan for 2022.

During the meeting, the MC's members also approved the Applicant's Guide of the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme and all the necessary documents for launching the first call for proposals, including here the procedures for projects' Evaluation, Selection and Contracting, the public procurement procedure for the Serbian beneficiaries, the methodologies for lump sums (project preparation & project closure). In addition, the Monitoring Committee adopted the decision to approve over-contracting of the Interreg IPA funds.

The first call for proposals will have a value of approximately 26 million Euro (IPA funds) and will be open from October 2022 till February 2023. Potential beneficiaries will exclusively use the Joint Electronic Monitoring System (JEMS) to transmit documents. They will benefit from simplified cost options for reimbursing expenses, and from a simplified project implementation system.

To find out more, access [www.romania-serbia.net](http://www.romania-serbia.net), the primary source of information related to the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme and its calls for proposals.

