**PRESS RELEASE**

28 November 2023

**Improving the infrastructure and emergency response capacity is a focus for authorities in the Romanian-Serbian border region**

Adrian-Ioan Veștea, the Minister of Development, Public Works, and Administration, signed today the financing contract for a Large Infrastructure Project aimed at improving the infrastructure and emergency response capacity in the Romanian-Serbian border region, financed through the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027.

The project, with a value of 9.5 million euro, is implemented in partnership by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania, the Ministry of Interior of Serbia, and the Territorial Inspectorate for Emergency Situations Timiș and it aims to improve civil protection systems and infrastructure and to ensure the endowment of the structures involved in risk and disaster management.

Additionally, awareness and information campaigns in the field of environment and emergency preparedness will be conducted, including for children and youth, as well as training programs for specialized personnel in the field.

Thus, through the project, the necessary investments will be ensured to promote adaptation to climate change and disaster prevention, as well as to improve the resilience of the Romanian-Serbian border region to these risks.

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The Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027 has a budget of 74.5 million euro and funds three types of projects: strategic importance projects, large infrastructure projects, and projects selected in competitive calls regarding environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, health and education, tourism and culture, border management, to be implemented in the programme area (Timiș, Caraș - Severin, and Mehedinți from Romania and 6 districts from the Republic of Serbia: Severnobanatski, Srednjobanatski, Južnobanatski, Braničevski, Borski, Podunavski), and in the upcoming period the contracting process of the selected projects will continue.