**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Improving the medical infrastructure for the care of the elderly, in the attention of the authorities in the Romanian-Serbian border region**

Adrian-Ioan Veștea, the Minister of Development, Public Works and Administration signed today the financing contract for the Large Infrastructure Project aimed at improving the medical infrastructure for elderly people affected by mental illnesses in the Romanian-Serbian border region, financed through the Interreg IPA Romania - Serbia Programme 2021-2027.

The project, with a value of 4.5 million euro, is implemented in partnership by the Psychiatric Hospital "Dr. Slavoljub Bakalović" from Vršac, Serbia and the County Emergency Hospital Reșița, Romania and aims to renovate the medical facilities intended for elderly people affected by age-specific mental illnesses and endow the hospitals with modern equipment for the early detection of these conditions.

Additionally, an awareness and information campaign will be carried out in the field of prevention of these conditions among elderly people in isolated areas, by making and broadcasting at regional level a documentary film and performing visits by medical teams to these areas, as well as setting up training programmes and exchange of best practices for staff specialized in the field.

Thus, the project will ensure the necessary investments to offer equal access to health care for vulnerable elderly people and support the resilience of health systems, including primary care, and to promote the transition from institutional to family and community-based care in the Romanian - Serbian border region.

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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.