**PRESS RELEASE**

1 February 2024

**The Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Program launches the citizen and potential beneficiaries' consultation process in the Program area for the**

**post-2027 period.**

In accordance with the European Commission's request, the Managing Authority within the Ministry of Development, Public Works, and Administration (MDPWA) initiates an extensive consultation process of potential beneficiaries and citizens in the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Program area, to prepare the future cross-border cooperation initiatives between Romania and Serbia (post-2027).

This approach represents a significant opportunity to actively support and promote the involvement of local communities and interested stakeholders in the Programme area, in shaping a sustainable, prosperous, and safe future.

In this regard, from **February 1 to September 30, 2024**, on the official website of the Program (www.romania-serbia.net), citizens and potential beneficiaries of the future Romania-Serbia cross-border cooperation Programme will be able to contribute with their input in defining strategic priorities for the post-2027 period.

Through a new section on the Programme's website, **Interreg LISTENS, Communities THRIVE!**, the interested public is invited to share their own experience with the Interreg Programme and express their vision for the post-2027 period, through dedicated surveys.

The results obtained through the consultation process will guide both the European Commission, in shaping the future Cohesion Policy and Interreg Programmes, and the authorities of the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme, in defining the priorities and objectives that may receive funding beyond the current programming period (2021-2027).

Throughout this process, the Managing Authority within MDPWA will maintaining an active collaboration with all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accessibility, including through social-media channels and throughout the events to be organized during 2024.