**Press release**

**Romanian-Serbian Cross-Border Cooperation Project Awarded by the European Commission, celebrated in Timișoara**

Today, authorities and beneficiaries of the Interreg-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme gathered in Timișoara to celebrate the launch of the **RegioStars local communication campaign**. With the non-reimbursable financial support of the European Union, the West University of Timișoara, the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy from Bor (Republic of Serbia), together with the Ecological Collaboration Group Nera Caraș-Severin, have utilized their expertise in research and education to provide a solution for the rehabilitation and protection of the environment in the Romanian-Serbian cross-border area.

The event marked the beginning of communication activities supported by the European Union for the RORS-337 project: "ROmania Serbia NETwork for assessing and disseminating the impact of copper mining activities on water quality in the cross-border area," co-funded by the European Union under the **Interreg-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme**.

The project participated in the RegioStars competition under the name **"From Mine to River. The Water Guardians!"** and won the RegioStars 2023 Award in the category "A Green Europe." 228 projects co-funded by the European Union took part in the competition.

The event was attended by Monika Hencsey, Director for Communication (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission), H.E. Silvia Davidoiu, the Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Enache Cosmin, Vice-Rector of the West University of Timișoara, Sanda Šimic, Deputy Minister (Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia), Oana Cristea, Head of the Managing Authority for the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme, and Anca Lolescu, Executive Director (Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Timișoara).

RegioStars is a competition dedicated to the best projects funded by the European Union that demonstrate the impact and inclusion of regional development, confirming the positive actions taken by project teams to bring valuable changes within the local communities they represent, as well as to inspire other projects across Europe.

Additional information regarding cross-border cooperation between Romania and Serbia can be found by accessing the website [www.romania-serbia.net](http://www.romania-serbia.net)