**PRESS RELEASE**

25 June 2024

**Improvement of healthcare infrastructure, a priority for authorities in the Romanian-Serbian border region, supported with financing from the European Union**

Today, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, together with Prof. Dr. Luca Constantin Tudor, Manager of the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Timișoara, the financing contract was signed for the strategic importance project "Harmonization of cardiovascular diseases management from prevention to heart transplantation in the cross-border area," financed through the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027.

The financing of this project, of 5 million Euro, will contribute to improving the access of the population in the Romanian-Serbian border region to quality medical services for the diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, and it will support the modernization of medical infrastructure by acquiring state-of-the-art equipment.

Within the project, a collaboration protocol will be established, allowing partners to continue cooperation to find solutions to common challenges in the healthcare sector in the border area and facilitating the acquisition of new knowledge and skills by the medical staff working in partner institutions for diagnosis and treatment.

”*33.5% of the European Union population lives in border areas. This is why the European Commission welcomes every wise and well-thought-out cooperation investment in the health sector. This project has not only a local, but also a European dimension. It addresses challenges such as an ageing population and the need for the digitalisation of health services, which are faced by the Romanian-Serbian border region and by Europe as a whole*,” said Mr Sławomir Tokarski, Director for Interreg Programmes at European Commission.

The project is co-financed with 85% from the budget of the European Union and aims to ensure equal access to medical care for patients with cardiovascular diseases in the Romanian-Serbian border area, strengthen the resilience of health systems, and equip them with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

\* \* \*

The European Union Cohesion Policy Programme Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027 has a budget of 74.5 million euro and is financing three types of projects: projects of strategic importance, large infrastructure projects, as well as projects selected through competitive calls related to environmental protection and climate change adaptation, health and education, tourism and culture, and border management, which are to be implemented in the programme area (Timiș, Caraș-Severin, and Mehedinți in Romania and six districts in the Republic of Serbia: Severnobanatski, Srednjobanatski, Južnobanatski, Braničevski, Borski, Podunavski).