**PRESS RELEASE**

17 December 2024

**Launch of the Second Call for Project Proposals**

During the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme, held online on December 17, 2024, the documents for the launch of the second call for project proposals were approved.

The second call for project proposals, with a total budget of €10.3 million, out of which €8.8 million (IPA funds), is open exclusively for ***Priority 1 - Environmental Protection and Risk Management, Specific Objective 1.2 - Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein***, and ***Specific Objective 1.3 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing green-house gas emissions***.

Additionally, during the meeting, the results of the broad consultation process conducted by the Programme bodies were presented. This process involved stakeholders and citizens from the Programme area and took place between February and October 2024. This initiative aligns with the European Commission's efforts to enhance the involvement of all interested parties in shaping post-2027 policies. The consultation, held under the slogan *“Interreg LISTENS, Communities THRIVE!”*, provided a platform for participants to express their ideas and contribute to setting future programme priorities.

For more details, interested parties can access the link: <https://romania-serbia.net/shape-the-future-interreg-post-2027>, including access to the consultation report.

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During the 2021-2027 programming period, the Ministry of Development, Public Works, and Administration serves as the Managing Authority for the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme 2021-2027, which has a total budget of €87,725,681. The programme is financing projects related to environmental protection and climate change adaptation, health and education, tourism and culture, as well as border management.

The funding for these priorities consists of 85% from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), 13% national co-financing provided by the Romanian state, and a 2% own contribution for Romanian beneficiaries. Serbian beneficiaries ensure 15% co-financing entirely from their own contribution.

The Programme area includes three counties in Romania (Timiș, Caraș-Severin, and Mehedinți) and six districts in Serbia (Severnobanatski, Srednjebanatski, Južnobanatski, Braničevski, Borski, and Podunavski).