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1.1 Programme area

The programme area of the Interreg Next Programme Romania-Ukraine 2021-2027 (Interreg NEXT RO-UA Programme) encompasses a total area of 100,860 km^2, out of which 32,760 km^2 represent the Romanian territory (divided between the 5 counties: Suceava 8,553 km^2, Botoșani 4,986 km^2, Satu-Mare 4,418 km^2, Maramureș 6,304 km^2, Tulcea 8,499 km^2), and 68,100 km^2 represent the Ukrainian territory (divided between the 4 oblasts: Zakarpattia 12800 km2, Ivano-Frankivsk 13,900 km^2, Odesa 33,300 km^2, Chernivtsi 8,100 km^2). In terms of proportionality, the Ukrainian territory is more than double in size compared to the Romanian territory.

The border shared by the two countries represents part of the current border of the European Union, as the Romanian regions of North-West, North-East, and South-East are the outermost border regions of the EU in the region.

The programme area is determined based on NUTS level 3 regions (or equivalent in the partner country) lying directly on the borders:

COUNTRY	ELIGIBLE REGIONS
UKRAINE	Odesa
	Zakarpattia
	Ivano-Frankivsk
	Chernivtsi
ROMANIA	Maramures
	Satu Mare
	Botosani
	Suceava
	Tulcea

1.2. Joint programme strategy:

1.2.1 Summary of main joint challenges

In the framework of the programming process a Territorial Analysis was developed in order to identify the main needs and constraints of the programme area that could be addressed

by a Cross Border Programme. In order to have a good picture of the issues a SWOT analysis was elaborated for each of the policy objectives analysed within the Territorial Analysis. In the next sections a summary of the main findings related to the general characteristics of the area, environmental issues, issues related to education, health, culture, governance and border safety will be presented.

General Characteristics of the Programme Area

Territory & Demography

The Romania-Ukraine Programme area occupies a territory of 100,840 sq. km. and includes a population of 7.9 million people.

The Ukrainean territory is more than double in size than the Romanian territory, proportionate to the population for each country.

The population density in the programme area is of 78 people/ km^2, while the EU average population density is of 109 people/ km^2. The average population density for Ukraine at the level of 2013 was of 75 people/ km^2, after 2015 the data regarding population density in Ukraine is not available. As for the Romanian national population density, the 2020 estimation is of 81 people/ km^2. The population density in the programme area isbelow the national level for Romania/EUand above the average for Ukraine.

Additionally, there are disparities between regions, with Tulcea and Odesa having the lowest population density and Chernivtsi the highest. These density differences can be assigned to multiple factors. The most relevant are the geographic and topological similarities that can inhibit the development of urban and rural localities (Tulcea-Odesa – plains and delta; Zakarpattia-Ivano-Frankivsk-Satu-Mare-Maramureș-Suceava – predominantly mountainous) and the social and cultural similarities of these areas.

The overall growth in the programme area population reveals similar trends for the programme area and national level, with Ukraine having a more accelerated decrease in population, both at regional and national level. Out of the whole programme area, the only region with a positive trend remains Suceava county, both in 2013 and 2019

Urban areas concentrate a large part of the population, especially in the Romanian counties and Odesa Oblast. Comparing the urban-rural composition of the population, the numbers show a slight difference: only 46.15% of the Romanian population is living in urban areas, compared to 52% in Ukraine. Compared to national levels both sub-national territories have smaller urban populations than national level, as 54% of Romania's population lives in urban areas, while in Ukraine the rate is 69%.

Demographic trends within the programme area reveal disparate dynamics regarding population age structure. A slight increase in younger age cluster for Ukrainian oblasts can be seen, following general trends for Ukraine compared to previous period. The demographic trend for Romania is different from Ukraine, with a tendency towards an ageing population, more accentuated than before.

Economy

During last years the programme area enjoyed a sustained growth, with the GDP per capita registering a constant increase over the last decade. However, although the general trend is towards economic growth there is a difference between Romania and Ukraine in terms of GDP per capita, with an average for Romania (12,920) about 3 times higher than in Ukraine (3,662) and a difference of about 3 times between Romania and average EU GDP.

As for the economic structure of the two countries, a larger share of the economy relies on agriculture and services in Ukraine than in Romania, while Romania is leading in the industry segment[1].

As far as the inflation[2] (consumer price index) is concerned, the rates fluctuate significantly for Ukraine during the last years, but although the inflation rate is double digit we can notice a descendant trend for both countries.

The disparities between the countries are relevant and are being widened also by disparities compared to neighbouring regions in terms of transportation and work force, which will be presented in the following sections.

Impact of COVID 19 crisis

Both Romania and Ukraine, faced, during 2020 and 2021, the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, economic slowdown, overburden of the health system and radical shifts in society as a whole.

According to the World Health Organization, by June 2021 there have been more than 180 million COVID cases worldwide and more than 3.9 million deaths. In order to contain the pandemic most governments, including those of Romania and Ukraine, have imposed lockdowns and restrictions on travel, unseen before.

The lockdowns and the need to keep the number of sick people as low as possible have created a strong negative economic impact. Unemployment levels reached worrying figures and governments focused on measures of recovery directed to the most vulnerable. Romanian Government provided a fiscal stimulus of 4.4 percent of GDP in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis: financial help to small companies during the lockdown period, negotiated bank loan installment suspension for the population. Extra payments were made to healthcare system and procurement of equipment was financed for hospitals and for schools as well, as the on-line schooling became the only solution since March 2020 to May 2021 to most categories of students.

Ukraine had more than 2 million confirmed COVID cases and more than 50 000 deaths during the pandemic (data as of mid-2021). “The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 had a drastic impact on the industrial sector of Ukraine. Measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 hit the country’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry reports that approximately 700,000 small businesses in

[1] Source:. For Ukraine the data is available for 2018 on https://www.nordeatrade.com/fi/explore-new-market/ukraine/economical-context

2 Source https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?end=2019&locations=UA-RO&most_recent_year_desc=false&start=2013&view=chart

the service sector closed - leading to the loss of between 3.5 to 4 million jobs. This is a particularly concerning figure given that Ukraine's SME sector includes a high proportion of women-led micro-enterprises and female employees"[3].

In response to the economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic Ukraine together with various international organization have sought to reduce the impact and to find new ways of doing business, such as online platforms for B2B clients, with some success.

In 2019, 45% of working age people enjoyed protection guarantees of their labour rights; the remaining 65%worked unprotected. The latter include the most vulnerable workers of Ukrainian society. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) generate 82 per cent of employment and 20 per cent of GDP; and 80 per cent of all MSMEs consist of self-employed individuals against a background where 75 per cent of women who participate in the labour force are self-employed. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic triggered an unprecedented economic crisis in Ukraine as lockdown measures involved temporary closure of most businesses, particularly in the service sector, almost halting economic activity altogether except for the key sectors such as transport, food production and sale, agriculture, and pharmaceutical production and sale. The devastating disruption of global supply chains resulted in a sharp drop of business sales, household incomes and jobs. In agriculture, the most affected food supply chains are fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy, which experienced problems in transportation and storage, and retail. They also have difficulty in obtaining imported inputs[4].

Projections for Ukrainian GDP growth changed from +3 per cent in January to -6 per cent in July 2020, taking in consideration the temporary closure of domestic sectors, with the manufacturing, retail trade and transportation sectors hit particularly hard, and a strong contraction of domestic demand, exports and remittances.

The Government adopted a supplementary budget and created funds dedicated to offsetting the consequences of the pandemic and managing the health emergency. It also adopted tax measures and, through the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), monetary and macro-financial policies that support maintaining the liquidity of the Ukrainian economy. Liquidity is also supported with a number of large loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which will help the country wade the pandemic and continue its reform process[5].

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Union (EU) has demonstrated its solidarity with partners worldwide. In December 2020, the EU offered €600 million to Ukraine under its COVID-19 macro-financial assistance (MFA) programme.

Ukraine is the seventh country to receive a disbursement from the €3 billion emergency MFA package. The assistance aims to help 10 enlargement and neighbourhood partners to limit the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. This disbursement package for Ukraine will help to ensure the country's macro-financial stability, while allowing it to allocate resources towards mitigating the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

[3] https://www.unido.org/stories/after-covid-19-shock-how-boost-ukraines-economic-recovery
[4] https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UN%20SEIA%20Report%202020%20%281%29.pdf
[5] https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UN%20SEIA%20Report%202020%20%281%29.pdf

Environmental issues

The importance of the environmental issues in the EU context has become even more apparent in recent years, with the EU facing critical challenges in terms of environmental protection and sustainable development. The EU citizens benefit now of one of the best environmental legislations in the area but the achievement of the EU goals in this area widely depends on the engagement of the partner states. Cooperation and environment support are some of the most important dimensions of the relations between the EU and its neighbours.

Water Quality

The programme area has a wide variety of water resources but also issues regarding water quality and pollution, as well as connectivity of inhabitants to safe drinking water. The main sources of drinkable water are surface and groundwater and the main pollutants on the Romanian side are: ammonium, iron, manganese and arsenic[6].

Leakages and losses due to ineffective sewage systems, treatment facilities working below potential capabilities and the lack of general waste management systems – especially in the rural area – all participate to the pollution of the soil and underground water systems.

In 2017, proportion of population served with piped water for Ukraine was 66.1 %, this proportion fell gradually from 76.9 % in 2003 to 66.1 % in 2017. Also, in 2017, the proportion of population served with at least basic water for Ukraine was 93.8 %. A decline in the proportion of population receiving at least basic water also fell between 2003 and 2017 declining at a moderating rate to shrink from 98.2 % in 2003 to 93.6 % in 2017[7]. In Romania the proportion of the population using at least basic water in 2019 is of 100%, constant from 2003[8].

When analysing the data for the **rate of connection of inhabitants to safe drinking water** there isn't a clear growth trend, with many areas having variations year on year. There is a need for increasing the proportion of people using safe drinking water throughout the eligible area, and most visibly in Zakarpattia, Botosani and Suceava. An increasing trend can be noted but still the level of connection to safe drinking water is very low.

Pollution

Pollution, either of the air or water, is an important issue for the programme area. Regarding CO2 emissions, Ukraine has almost double of the CO2 emissions compared to Romania, according to official data received. Both countries have stagnating values over a three-year period. In the programme area of the Romania-Ukraine Programme we have 14 air monitoring systems installed on the Ukrainian side and 15 on the Romanian side. Out of the 9 counties/oblasts included in the programme area, only Ivano-Frankivsk has reported no air monitoring system installed.

6 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346114145_MARAMURES_COUNTY_DRINKING_WATER_QUALITY
7 https://knoema.com/atlas/Ukraine/topics/Water/Water-Supply-Total-Population/Proportion-of-population-served-with-at-least-basic-water
8 https://knoema.com/WBWDI2019Jan/world-development-indicators-wdi?tsId=3210720

Climate change

Climate change is the issue of the 21st century and has an especially important role in establishing the financing priorities of future EU programmes.[9] In terms of energy consumption, the trend is a decreasing one for Ukraine and increasing for Romania for 2016, 2017 data[10]. The share of renewable energy consumption is grossly different between the two countries, with Romania having more than 5 times more renewable energy consumption in 2018 than Ukraine. Additionally, the trend for Ukraine is ascending with a higher percent of renewable energy each year, compared to Romania, which has a decreasing trend. This also correlates with the ascending trend for energy consumption per capita, so it can be assumed that energy consumption is growing but the growth is not relying on renewable resources. The area's economies are still largely reliant on fossil fuels with Romania and Ukraine fitting in this framework. In terms of waste generation, there is an increasing trend in the programme area between 2016 and 2019. There are significant gaps related to energy efficiency and waste management in the programme area that pose threats to climate change and need to be properly addressed also in a cross-border manner. The main challenges for both sides of the border are linked to waste management, including increasing recycling and preventing pollution linked to waste generation.

Environmental risks

Environmental risks are related to negative effects on the quality of the environment, either terrestrial, water ecosystems or air and to effects on the ecological balance. As with all types of risks, environmental risks can be anticipated or can be totally unexpected events, and irrespective of their nature there is a need for proper risk management tools. The risks are mainly related to issues that are addressed in different sections, like floods, fires, draught, man-made or not related to climate change, such as earthquakes.

Biodiversity and resources

The Romania-Ukraine Programme area has a rich network of protected areas and resources. The number of protected areas is very high in Ukraine compared to Romania, but the situation is reversed when it comes to surfaces of these areas.[11] A high discrepancy between number and surface can be noted. For example, Ivano-Frankivsk has the highest number of protected areas (474) but the lowest surface.

[9] EC-EEAS (2020), Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT Strategic Programming 2021-2027

[10] Data available from IEA/EUROSTAT

[11] Source: Data provided by participating countries during the programming period, based on national statistics, at national and regional level. Only regions for which data was available are presented in the graphs

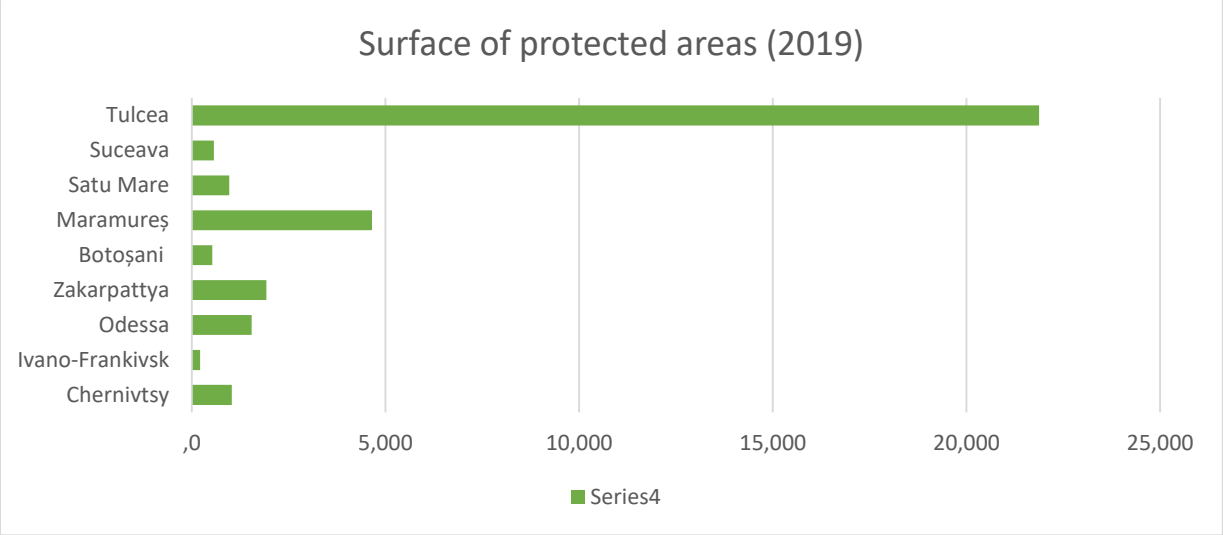


Figure no.3. Number of protected areas, land and aquatic, sq km

Despite the disparities between the number and the surface of the protected areas, there is a significantly higher interest for these areas in the last 20 years. According to the European Environment Agency, between 2000 and 2019 the number of protected areas in Ukraine increased by 75%[12]. Considering the importance of the Danube for the region and the vast area of protected areas, this is one of the most important issues for the programme area.

Functional areas

Between the two countries there is a functional cooperation under the following initiatives:

- Upper Prut Euroregion, consisting of entities from both Romania and Ukraine. In the programme area, Romania is represented by Botoșani and Suceava counties, while Ukraine is represented by two Oblasts: Chernivtsi and Ivano Frankivsk. The green cooperation covers mainly the joint management of the middle part of the Prut river, protection of the air quality and reduction of the waste impact on environment.
- Lower Danube Euroregion, consisting of entities from Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. In the program area, Romania is represented by Tulcea county, while Ukraine is represented by Odesa oblast. The green cooperation was conducted around the pollution sources in the Lower Danube region.
- Euroregion Carpatica includes territories from 5 countries. From Romania the territories included are Maramures, Satu Mare and Botosani, and from Ukraine Chernivtsi, Ivano Frankivsk and Zakarpattia.

Both interactions and dynamics were enhanced during EU funded projects, while the constant rhythm of cooperation between the 2 countries is led by the main public institutions in the environment field.

[12]Source: https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/emerald-network-in-the-eastern

Mobility and connectivity

Transport infrastructure in the programme area includes water, rail, air and road. Navigation is at the moment one of the most feasible transport modes, especially for freight transport; however, it remains at a large scale, both in Romania and Ukraine, under-developed and under-utilized to its full potential.

The programme area is served by eight main international airports: Suceava, Satu-Mare, Baia-Mare, and Tulcea in Romania and Odesa, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Uzhhorod in Ukraine. All of the airports operate passenger flights, except Chernivtsi which is technically closed. The traffic is reduced in the area, although some airports operate also international flights.

The area's connectivity is very limited in terms of air links, making it a difficult to reach destination for both freight and passengers, because of the required interim stops for connecting flights. The two most used airports (Satu-Mare and Odesa) are positioned at the extremities of the core programme area, leaving a large gap of connectivity in between. Tulcea County area suffers from limited connectivity by air, especially considering the important role of the area in the Danube-Black Sea link.

The area benefits of an important network of roads. At global level Romania and Ukraine share the same score in terms of road quality, which is 3 out 7, raking 118 and 119 respectively[13]. The poor road quality is one of the major issues in the two countries, as well as the low number of fast routes and highways, making travelling between regions difficult and time consuming

Rail transport, which represents along with naval transport one of the eco-friendliest and efficient modes of transport is underdeveloped. The old infrastructure drastically limits the movement speeds across the network, and the lack of modernisation projects inhibits the introduction of high-speed trains. In addition, the network is underused, especially in the case of Romania, where at national level the majority of the rail traffic uses less than 50% of the rail network.

A particular technical problem of the Romanian-Ukrainian border region is the gauge difference. The Romanian rail network functions on European standard gauge, while the Ukrainian rail network functions in its majority on large gauge. This technical difference makes the transfer from one type of network to the other a compulsory one; the result being the increase of waiting times at rail border crossing points.14

The programme area holds significant problems in terms of transport infrastructure development and also significant issues in addressing them. Both rail, road, naval and air infrastructure are areas of national importance that are regularly included and addressed through national strategies. One major problem in addressing transport infrastructure issues at regional level stems from the fact that the administrators of above-mentioned infrastructure are at national and not regional level, which make it difficult to finance relevant projects addressing these problems at regional, cross border level. This aspect of dealing with transport infrastructure was seen also in the 2014-2020 programming exercise,

[13] https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/roads_quality/
[14] Romania- Ukraine Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020

when the financing request for this area was significantly lower than for other areas financed by the programme.

The costs associated with these types of investments, as well as difficulties related to the eligibility of potential beneficiaries make the cooperation under PO3 not recommended for the future 2021-2027 Interreg Next Programme.

Social Issues

Education

There are a number of issues related to education that are relevant for the programme area, infrastructure, youth unemployment, vocational education, enrollment and drop out issues. To all of these the Impact of the COVID 19 pandemics adds additional pressure. The percentage of young people that are neither in education, employment or training remains high but the trend is a slightly decreasing one. Additionally, the enrollment in technical and vocational education has a decreasing trend. Alongside data on employment these indicators point towards a need for technical and vocational training and adjusting skills to the needs of the labor market. The area is also facing enrollment and drop out issues as well as endowment of the educational institutions. Infrastructure is also a major concern, especially for primary and secondary education, with schools facing issues regarding the safety of the locations, basic endowment and connectivity to water and waste water systems.

One of the major impacts of the Covid 19 crisis has been on the education system, with major disruptions, closures of school and even training and vocational classes having to be performed online. The most vulnerable of the social groups have been most significantly affected, with school lacking the technical tools to conduct online classes and children not having the necessary equipment for attending them.

The need to mitigate this impact is of outmost importance for the education system in the programme area. There is a need to consider the fact that education is not only a fundamental human right but also an enabling one, granting the possibility to work and live with dignity and not to enter the poverty cycle.

Health

The healthcare sector is facing multiple problems both in Romania and Ukraine. Among the most important issues to mention: the state and endowment of healthcare facilities, number of beds per capita, emigration of doctors and healthcare professionals, a decrease in the number of hospitals (for Ukraine), life expectancy below the EU average. There is also a strong need for prevention and screening programmes.

In the context of the Covid 19 pandemic the importance of a strong health system, capable to deal with emergencies has proven to be important for the population and the economy in general. It has also stressed out the importance of investments in infrastructure and health coverage.

Culture and tourism

Culture and tourism are central to the economy of the programme area and a strong cross border cooperation in this area is essential for the development of the border communities.

The programme area has a significant number of heritage sites (14 500 in total) but only half are open to the public and only very few (20 in Romania while for Ukraine there is no data) are digitalized. Activities aiming to rehabilitate, modernize and promote cultural heritage sites can contribute significantly to the cultural and economic development of the area and to the valorization of the joint traditions and heritage of the area.

The COVID 19 situation has posed significant pressure on the culture and tourism sectors as usual visitations were not possible, nor events during the pandemic and the pressure was significant towards finding new ways of giving people access to cultural sites and events. This has brought into attention the importance of digitalization of the museums, libraries and event halls, which would allow them to navigate the uncertain times of the pandemic but also, on the longer run, to reach more visitors, also across borders.

Employment and social issues

Employment and education are the most relevant aspects related to the economic development of a country. The employment and unemployment rates in the area follow the regional trends for both member state and partner state, remaining at high levels. Ukraine has a much higher unemployment rate (8.2%) than Romania (2.9%) but for both countries, and for the programme area, there was a positive trend between 2016 and 2019. A stringent issue in the area is that of youth unemployment, as the unemployment rate for this segment is quite high in both countries.

The trend for the youth unemployment is generally more intense than the general unemployment, i.e. it decreased (or increased) in a higher degree. For Romania, for 2018-2019 the youth unemployment trend follows a different trend than the general population. While the general unemployment rate was slightly decreasing at national level the youth unemployment increased.

The share of youth not in education, employment or training offers an indication on young people most at risk of being marginalized from the labor market. The issues of unemployment and youth unemployment can be addressed through various education measures, such as adjusting the curricula to the skills required by the labor market, professional reconversion, cooperation between education institutions and employers, etc.

Governance & civil society

Governance in a cross-border transnational context stands for a framework that enables diverse public and private stakeholders to cooperate across borders[15].

A better quality governance is important for the development of peripheral regions, to the inclusion of local authorities in the policy making process and better quality policies for the communities. The level of autonomy of local authorities in the programme area is not high, many of the main policy areas being highly centralized. In order to achieve the successful implementation of local initiatives, administration capacity is very important. Digitalization of the public services is another important issue of the area, as the e-government index for both countries is low. Considering the impact of the COVID 19 crisis and the pressure for

[15]Source: http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/resources/topics-of-cooperation/themes/theme/show/cross-border-governance/

digitalization that it has instilled in both public and private sectors it is expected that in the next years the digitalisation to increase considerably and for the governments to provide more services online.

Civil society is the backbone of a mature democracy as it acts like a catalyst for sustainable development and resilience. Together with institutional capacity, support for civil society is of outmost importance for a strong democracy. In young democracies building networks of NGOs can prove to be crucial for development, accessing foreign funding and directing investments where they are needed. Partnerships with public organizations for attracting funds is also common practice and useful in achieving the development of the area. Capacity building for public and private non for profit sectors need to be considered and addressed in the financing strategy horizontally.

Border crossing management and mobility

The total length of the border between Romania and Ukraine is of 649.4 km. The border is varied in terms of type and is formed out of: land – 273.8 km, river – 343.9 km, sea – 31.7 km. Across the border the two countries share road and rail crossing points, part of which are not functional or in upgrading.

The available data for cross border traffic is limited. According to data received from the Romanian Customs Service there is an ascending trend for cross border traffic, especially for people. The values for autos and trucks are oscillating but overall there is an increase in recent years.

Border management at the outermost borders of the EU implies that these borders are efficient, ensuring that migration is legal and that trade is legitimate and also secure, by preventing illegal migration and trade. Although these issues are mainly related to the centralized management of the borders, they can be also addressed, at a smaller scale, by local, cross border initiatives aimed at modernizing existing crossing points in terms of infrastructure or equipment or experience exchange between relevant structures. According to the data received from the relevant institutions in Romania, there are currently 4 crossing points not operational, either for modernization reasons or, in one case, because the crossing point was just recently established. The opening of these crossing points, with modern equipment, could help improve border crossing efficiency. Moreover, supporting functional crossing points in upgrading and modernization processes for both countries, as well as investing in joint procedures and trainings could contribute to the optimization of processes.

1.2.2 Lessons learnt

The cooperation between Romania and Ukraine has a strong tradition. The two countries cooperated under the PHARE/TACIS Programmes and later under the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova and under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020. Both the trilateral and the Ro-Ua programmes offered financing for issues like education, culture, tourism, health, infrastructure, border management and safety.
In the past programming periods the strategies of ENPI Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 (implementation period ended 31 December 2019) and ENI Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 (in implementation) programmes aimed to improve the economic and social development of the area, as well as to enhance the protection of the environment and prevention and management of the emergency situations by joint actions. The needs that generated the programme strategy for the 2014-2020 programme are still present in the programme area, and additional issues arise from the COVID 19 pandemic.

The issues targeted by the Policy Objective 2 were addressed both programmes. The ENPI program dedicated a Priority to development of long-term solutions to the environmental problems faced by the border areas, particularly those associated with water and sewerage management systems, as well as environmental emergencies, where a co-ordinated approach is essential, while the ENI programme only focuses on issues related to prevention and intervention in case of natural and man-made disasters and management of emergency situations. The ENI Romania-Ukraine programme financed two large infrastructure projects addressing the need for enhancing the population safety and security level in the cross-border area by improving the management of the emergency situations, as well as actions with the aim to the ecological preservation of the Danube River basin by exclusion of pollution with effluents. Both projects have a high potential of capitalization in the future programme.

Dealing with the significant common challenges in the field of health, education, culture and sustainable tourism have been part of the strategies of the previous ENPI and ENI programmes covering this area. The interest for these fields in the ENI programme was significant, as the requested amounts in the projects submitted following the calls launched were three time higher than the available allocation. With very small differences in score, 70 projects hard and soft have been selected (contracted and on the reserve list), which demonstrate a good quality of projects submitted. The conclusions drawn following the various levels of consultations of stakeholders held during the programming process, showed that addressing these fields remains of interest for improving the socio-economic environment and the quality of life for communities from the programme area.

The projects involved a wide array of partners like local and regional authorities, vocational, technology and sanitary schools, universities, local, municipal and regional hospitals, and NGOs. The partnerships built to implement these projects proved to be creative, and even innovative for the cross-border area, resourceful and committed.

Although external circumstances like the sanitary reform in Ukraine, the rapid and significant fluctuations of the exchange rate, the increase of cost of materials and equipment, or the restrictions imposed by the pandemic brought additional challenges to the projects and the

program itself, the opportunity given by the EU financing to solve part of the needs existing in the respective fields boosted the beneficiaries to overcome them and achieve the results they committed to at grant contracts' signature.

Border management issues and linked infrastructure were also addressed during the 2014-2020 programming period. The projects contracted during the 2014-2020 financing exercise went beyond the program targets as regards the number of participants involved in joint capacity building activities (exchanges of experience, study visits, trainings etc.), and the facilities of police, border police and custom services from the programme area modernized with program support. The field attracted participation of central, regional and local level law enforcement authorities, in partnership with local administrations in some cases, cooperating to find strategies, plans, instruments and adequate means to prevent and fight against the cross border criminality.

The new Interreg programme may build on the existing knowledge and cooperation experience gained in the previous exercises, and use the positive results of the former projects, in order to generate future developments, as the needs identified by the analysis are still relevant for the area.

In what regards the implementation aspects, the ENI Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 programme provided adequate support to its potential applicants in the project's generation phase, using various channels and tools. Face-to-face information and training events throughout the program area were by far the highly valued. However, since the restrictions have forced the programs to seek for hybrid approaches without diminishing content quality, the online environment is worth being creatively explored. Renewed or upgraded tools and modalities to develop the capacities of potential applicants and further, of program beneficiaries, need to be considered in this changing environment.

Programme terminology, updated in accordance with the new regulations, must be adequately explained in the Guidelines and during the calls for proposals. The new approach to the intervention logic at programme and project level, must be highlighted to ensure that the proposals being received, assessed and selected, are consistent with EU concepts and directions.

Particular attention needs to be paid to applicants intending to execute infrastructure components requiring, technical documentations to prove project maturity and preparedness for implementation. Since significant differences exist, in this respect, between legal provisions in Romania and Ukraine, the Guidelines should, with the support of national actors, make clear the specificities in order to limit the number of clarifications during the assessment process. Similarly, it is important that any national particularity impacting the content of the application package be considered beforehand and made explicit in the Guidelines for applicants.

The application form will follow the template developed by INTERACT, possibly adjusted according to the results of the consultations and the decisions of the Monitoring Committee.

As regards the evaluation, a first step would be to better focus the assessment efforts in the search of projects that have strong cross border character and clear cross-border relevance, and also good operational features supporting smooth implementation in case they are selected.

Balanced distribution of EU funding between the participating countries at the end of 2014-2020 projects' selection has stimulated teamwork, and enhanced further the mutual efforts towards the absorption of EU financing.

Overall, 2014-2020 Romania–Ukraine exceeded the initial expectations as regards the results (to be) achieved on the ground. The programme was attractive for the beneficiaries, while the trust capital in programme structures and EU funding was positive, thus facilitating a smooth and collaborative working environment. Direct cooperation between regional or local stakeholders, and the programme to unblock certain specific implementation bottlenecks and keep projects on the track has proved to be necessary and efficient.

Having in view 2014-2020 experiences and the need for, the programme mission will be to review and adjust its internal monitoring procedures, making the most and the best from the risks assessment approach in respect to management verifications, with a keen eye on the use of resources and programme timeline.

Attention should also be paid to accelerate, through specific mechanisms at programme level, the public spending and payments towards the beneficiaries, while orientation towards timely results at project level must be strong and clear.

Respect of the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination, including for people with a migrant background, will be better emphasized during the implementation of projects, through the implementation procedures.

Paper-free monitoring is a long-pursued goal and the programme's intention is to make extensive use of JEMS to ensure, to the extent possible, a real time monitoring through the facilities provided by the e-system. Access will be open to all the actors from both participating countries while the administrative burden on beneficiaries and programme structures will thus be reduced.

During 2014-2020, the branch offices in Ukraine mainly supported the information and communication activities of the programme, contributed with experts to the evaluation process in the administrative and eligibility verification, supported the activity of the national structures represented in the programme, and participated at the current programming. According to regulations and in line with the aim to extend their responsibilities, some monitoring activities could be carried out by the local offices in Ukraine.

The programme must join other programmes and initiatives, and look up for diversification of tools, means, and modalities to communicate on the results, and also for relevant information reaching the European contributors about the cooperation area and efforts undergoing at the external EU borders.

THE IMPACT OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE MILITARY CONFLICT AND ENERGY CRISIS

In February 2022, Russia has started a military aggression of Ukraine with devastating consequences for Ukraine, causing significant material damages, but the more severe problems are posed by the loss of civilian lives and the fact that the civilian population was put to high risk. Many people (mostly women, children and elderly) were forced to flee the country and find safer places to live. According to UNHCR data, by April 2nd more than 4.1 million people left Ukraine[16], 635 000 crossing the border to Romania. Moreover, in Ukraine are over 7.1 mil IDP (IDP – intern displaced persons) who put pressure on medical services, already overwhelmed by the lack of resources due the war.

Long queues of vehicles and pedestrians formed at the border crossing points, despite the border authorities' efforts to simplify procedures and to reduce waiting time as much as possible. This situation confirmed the importance of a solid cooperation at borders, of having common or similar procedures and high tech equipment to process an increased number of requests in a short time.

The military conflict in Ukraine could result in one of Europe's largest humanitarian crises, with seven million Ukrainian expected to be displaced and 18 million to be affected by the conflict.

Adoption of the Temporary Protection Directive mechanism, which grants immediate and temporary protection to displaced people from non-EU countries who have been forced to leave their homes due to an armed conflict, endemic violence or systematic violations of their human rights would help alleviate the situation for people trying to find a safe place to live. At the same time, the pressure on the border management structures is high and developing projects for a better preparedness of local authorities on both sides of the border may significantly contribute to the resilience of the local communities dealing with the flow of refugees.
The destructions caused by the war, together with the economic disruptions, impossibility of carrying out normal activities in Ukraine, as well as the economic sanctions imposed by the European Union to Russia will show their impact. Additionally, the energy crisis is posing pressure on the two partner countries and the corresponding economies. The estimates regarding economic growth and inflation made in the previous year are no longer relevant due to the current situation, and the area is expected to face challenges also in terms of economic growth. In the current context, the two countries should work together to address the issues at hand. The year 2021 came with new challenges in the energy field that have been sharpened by the military crisis in Ukraine. At the end of 2021, energy prices in Europe continued to rise, while the energy crisis began to affect indicators of economic growth. As a response to the new challenges, and at the request of Ukraine, the process for synchronization of the Continental European Power System with the power systems of Ukraine was accelerated. This process of synchronization has been ongoing since 2017 and was possible thanks to the previous studies carried out within a large scale project under the Programme ENPI Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova. Currently, the stability of the Ukrainian system is ensured by Continental Europe TSOs.

[16] https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine

1.2.3 Complementarities and synergies with other forms of support

Both Romania and Ukraine will benefit from financing from other sources during the reference period. Complementarities are very important and will ensure the efficient use of the programme budget. The coherence of the programme strategy with other forms of financing was addressed during the consultation process but also through discussions between the two countries.

Complementarities and Synergies PO2

For Romania the main synergies and complementarities are with the National Programme for Sustainable Development and the Regional Operational Programmes. Additionally, while the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience is a temporary recovery instrument, closely linked to the priorities aimed at long-term sustainable and inclusive recovery that promotes the green and digital transitions, the Interreg NEXT Programme fosters long lasting partnerships tackling well-defined objectives and addressing challenges with a cross-border dimension.

The Programme will create complementarities also with other CBC programmes such as Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Interreg Next, Romania-Republic of Moldova or Black Sea Basin, Interreg Danube.

The Ro-Ua Programme and NPSD overlap in the three areas financed by the programme in the environmental area:

iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

v) Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

While NPSD aims to address these issues at national level or at NUTS 2 level, the Romania-Ukraine Programme is addressing common issues between the two countries, covering border areas and joint strategies and solutions. As the problems related to biodiversity cover large areas and tackling them in one country is not enough, actions financed in common between the two partner countries will provide an integrated approach. In the risk prevention area, the programme is aiming at addressing risk situations jointly between the two countries, complementing the national programmes by addressing issues such as fires, floods, and man-made disasters. The Regional Operational Programmes (ROP) tackle issues related to biodiversity, but mostly in the area of green and blue infrastructure, the Romania-Ukraine Programme ensure therefore a complementarity in this area.

Complementarities and Synergies PO4

Investments under PO4 will concentrate on:

(ii) Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

(v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

(vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

In Romania the Programme will ensure complementarities with the National Health programme and the National Education Programme, as well as the National Plan for Reconstruction and Resilience (NPRR).

In the area of **education,** the National Education Programme tackles education and occupation problems. Main issues addressed refer to decrease in school dropout rates, early childcare, improvement in the quality of the education process and supporting new and innovative teaching methods. On the Romanian side the specific objective relating to education is also addressed by the ROP. The Programme will complement the activities financed at a National and Regional level by tackling education issues from a cross border perspective, helping communities from both sides of the border to cooperate in addressing problems in this field.

On the Ukrainian side, the Programme will ensure complementarities and synergies with the State Strategy of Regional Development for 2021-2027 as well as with the regional strategies. At national level the strategy is aiming at:

-providing the education access for people with special educational needs, namely the development of an inclusive and safe educational environment, universal design and smart placements in educational institutions;

- education development in rural areas, namely the computerisation of schools and digital literacy training for teachers.

The Regional Strategies are addressing different issues such as ensuring equal access to quality pre-school and secondary education and competitiveness of vocational education, development of conditions for the integration of the Ukrainian university system into the European educational space, support for international exchanges of students, postgraduates, academics, provision of equal access to quality education for people with special educational needs, creation of an inclusive educational environment. The Programme directly creates synergies with some of these objectives, such as the integration of the Ukrainian university system into the European educational space and complementarities by addressing specific issues.

Regarding health issues, the Programme ensures complementarities both with Romanian and Ukrainian strategies and Programmes. Both countries are planning to address healthcare problems in the next decade, with the pandemic making more obvious the areas where there is a need for improvement. While Romania is receiving significant funding in this area the cross-

border character of the Programme creates an added value, targeting the most remote of the communities.

Tourism and culture are financed through Regional and National Programmes in the 2021-2027 programming period, in both countries. The added value of the actions financed by the Romania-Ukraine Programme resides in its potential to develop the local cultural and touristic potential of the area and to address also issues like digitalization of the cultural heritage.

Complementarities and Synergies ISO 2

Investments under ISO 2 will concentrate on investments related to border management, respectively endowments, rehabilitation and upgrading of infrastructure, joint trainings and plan and procedures. The Programme creates complementarities with the Instrument for Border Management and Visas from Romania and with the State Strategy of Regional Development for 2021-2027 from Ukraine, as well as regional strategies in Ukraine. National programmes aim at financing infrastructure related projects while the Ro-Ua Programme can create complementarities through joint design and implementation of projects meant to bring together the actions financed by the two states separately.

Horizontal Principles

The objectives of the programme take into account the DNSH (Do No Significant Harm) principle. The types of actions included in the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

Furthermore, the specific objectives set by the programme shall also be pursued in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development, taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the "do no significant harm" principle. Thus, at least 30% of the projects' financial allocation of the future programme is intended for achieving the climate objectives, as set out in article 6 CPR, Annex I CPR, recital 5 Interreg.

The New European Bauhaus initiative will guide the implementation of actions, as an element of context, providing opportunities for projects to contribute, by embedding elements such as: *reconnecting with nature*, *regaining a sense of belonging*, *prioritising the places and people that need it most and fostering long term*, *life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem*.

Projects implemented under the programme can contribute with a wide range of solutions, from educational and cultural activities, which play a key role in the shift of paradigm towards new behaviour and values, to implementation of nature-based solutions which address floods, for example, while making the built environment more attractive.

Creating strong connections with nature, embracing sustainability and inclusion while tackling unsustainable use of resources and waste are all attainable goals within the Programme`s financing priorities.

Also, integrating 5R measures, implementing solutions for making cities greener and using sustainably sourced nature-based materials and a zero pollution ambition model, throughout the programme, from environmental actions to tourism, are horizontal objectives which can contribute to the New European Bauhaus initiative implementation.

Fostering healthy, sustainable living by improving/ rehabilitating the common spaces to be used by the local community and making use of the cultural assets (heritage, arts, local craft etc.) and natural assets (landscapes, natural resources etc.) projects can offer opportunities for connection and social interaction, including for people at risk of exclusion or poverty, the binding element that creates a sense of belonging.

Also, improving equal access to inclusive and quality services for people in small villages, rural and remote areas, is a horizontal aspect already considered within the programme interventions in 2014-2020 and will be continued within the Programme in order to contribute to the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Safeguarding the protection of the fundamental rights is both a precondition for obtaining financing and a priority during projects implementation, which will be required to comply with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Ensuring access and opportunities for all, removing barriers to healthcare, education and culture, ensuring availability of timely and quality public services are objectives enshrined in the design of the Programme with sustainability at the core of the Programme interventions.

1.2.4 Synergies with macro-regional strategies

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) provides an integrated framework for strengthening cooperation between nations of 14 countries including Romania, as a member state, and Ukraine as a non-EU country. It represents a priority of the EU and is very important for cooperation between countries, both EU Member States and Partner countries. The Danube Region Strategy addresses a wide range of issues, divided among **4 pillars** and **12 priority areas**. The synergy analysis with the Romania-Ukraine Interreg Next Programme overview is listed in the table below.

Strong synergies can be noted between the specific objectives selected for Policy Objective 2 and Priority Areas 4, 5 and 6 with a big overlap of actions between the two. With reference to water issues addressed under Priority Area 4 by EUSDR, the Programme aims to ensure financing to water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction) measures in the Danube area, ranging from infrastructure projects to awareness campaigns.

Under Priority Area 5, “environmental risks”, the programme contributes to the Danube Strategy by addressing issues related to (not exhaustive list):

- the development and execution of risk management plans for different hazards,
- developing rapid response procedures,
- enhancing the capacities trough endowments and training programmes,

- strengthening disaster prevention and preparedness through investments in infrastructure, endowment and institutional capacity building.

There is also a strong synergy between PA11 and ISO2, both addressing security issues. The programme aims to contribute to the promotion of strategic long-term cooperation between law enforcement actors and to contribute to the improvement of the systems of border control and border management in general.

Additionally, for PO4, specific objectives addressing culture and education have a connection with certain actions from PA 3 and PA 9. The programme aims at supporting cultural heritage in the Danube Region by financing activities related to the promotion of culture and sustainable tourism, promoting and encouraging the development of the cultural activities and creative sectors, joint valorization of cultural and historical monuments and objects, support for specific and traditional craftsman activities, important for preserving local culture and identity.

Regarding issues covered by PA 10 there is a cross connection with ISO 1, which the programme is not aiming at addressing through a dedicated Priority but to integrate horizontally within other specific objectives

The Programme also creates synergies with the Black Sea Synergy and the Common Maritime Agenda.

Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA) is a relatively new initiative aims at strengthening regional cooperation between the Black Sea Basin countries to support the development of the Blue Economy. Romania and Ukraine are Member States of the CMA and both take an active part in the CMA implementation. CMA is supported by its scientific pillar – Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA) and generally consists of three key goals, in particular i) healthy marine ecosystems, ii) innovative Blue Economy and iii) investment.

The synergies between CMA and RO-UA Programme are identified between Policy Objective 2 of the programme and Priority areas 1-5 of the Goal I: Healthy marine and coastal ecosystemsi.

In particular, RO-UA Programme may support such priority areas of CMA and SRIA (not exhaustive list):

- protection and sustainability of the marine ecosystem;
- addressing marine pollution and plastic litter;
- support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture n the Black Sea;
- innovative marine research infrastructures in the Black Sea;
- encourage the production, management and sharing of marine and coastal environmental knowledge for effective environmental monitoring and observation.»

“Black Sea Synergy is intended as a flexible framework to ensure greater coherence and policy guidance. In assessing the usefulness of Community support for particular initiatives, the active involvement of the countries and regional bodies directly concerned, including through

financing, should serve as a key criterion"[17] The main areas of cooperation of the Black Sea Synergy were the programme can contribute are: managing movement and improving security, fighting climate change, education and employment and social affairs.

[17] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52007DC0160&from=EN

1.3 Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

Table 1

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
A greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.	Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approach.	Environmental focus across borders	The programme area is exposed to significant climate change related issues, to a higher degree than our regions of the EU. Both Romania and Ukraine have high CO2 emissions and are energy intensive economies. Recent climate changes triggered by the pollution and global warming are posing new issues and threats: vegetation fires, floods, extreme temperatures need adequate measures, and integrated efforts from both sides of the border. Prevention and mitigation of natural and manmade disasters is an area of continuous challenges and changes. The main needs of the programme area identified are: protection of small rivers, cooperation on risk prevention (joint efforts for better reaction and early recovery), the prevention of forest fires, droughts, and floods and better response to the emergency situations arising from natural and man-made disasters as well as raising awareness among the people regarding the long term impact

			of destructive actions against the environment and on the eco-system as a whole. This specific objective was selected in order to minimize the risk affecting the area, and to promote climate change adaptation in order to minimize the impact of climate change on the economy, environment and overall society. The overall objective is to increase the intervention capacity in case of fires, floods and other natural and man-made disasters, in order to increase the resilience of the region. Together with the information gathered from statistical data, which indicated strong needs for financing in this area, both the preliminary consultations and the lessons learnt show a strong interest of the potential applicants towards implementing projects as well as strong capabilities in drafting quality applications. The activities under this specific objective are expected to contribute to the improvement of the monitoring, warning and response systems, to the elaboration of measures and strategies that would help prevent and protect against wildfires and other climate change related disasters, as well as not climate. The future interventions are also expected to raise awareness on the climate change consequences.

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
A greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.	Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	Environmental focus across borders	The programme area has a rich network of protected areas and resources and over the last decade the interest for these areas has significantly increased in both countries. The most significant protected area is that of the Danube Delta, one of the most important at national and also EU level and the largest remaining natural wetland in Europe with its 6000 km2. The area is also facing multiple threats generated by human intervention. Intensive land use, mass tourism, pollution, industrial activity, climate change have a negative impact on the environment and on the biodiversity in the border area creating undesirable changes in the eco systems. Building on the large surface of the protected areas and on their huge potential the programme can alleviate the problems that these areas are facing, related to wildlife protection, pollution and mitigation of climate change. This specific objective was selected due to the large number of protected areas in the programme area and on their large surface and due to the multiple challenges they are facing, as listed above, that can be better addressed in a joint manner.

			The programme is expected to bring positive results related to preservation and restoration of protected areas, reducing and monitoring of pollution sources, support for the sustainable use of resources, enhancing a sustainable economic development of the area.
Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	**Selected specific objective**	**Priority**	**Justification for selection**
A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (PO 4)	Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	Social development across borders	Education is of cornerstone importance to any society as it generates the workforce that keeps the economy thriving and the support services so necessary for a robust society. Both countries face challenges in terms of education system. Ukraine allocates a very high percentage of GDP to education, but the spending is concentrated in keeping small, distanced classes and schools and is not efficient in providing students with desirable skills for the job market. Romania on the other hand has a lower allocation on education, keeps bigger classes and different curricula but is also inefficient and seems to fail in providing young people with the necessary skills to integrate in the job market, generating high youth unemployment. Some of the main issues highlighted by the territorial analysis are related to the quality of infrastructure in schools, high percentage of youth neither in employment, education or training, decreasing trend of enrollment in technological or vocational education. Additionally, one of the major impacts of the Covid 19 crisis has been on the education system,

			with major disruptions, closures of school and even training and vocational classes having to be performed online. The need to perform classes online has brought digitalization in the forefront as financing priority. This specific objective was selected due to its importance for the long term development of the programme area and its strategic role in addressing key issues like poverty, employment, social integration. The programme is expected to generate positive results related to infrastructure for primary, secondary and vocational education, support for the development of digital skills, support for developing joint strategies for education and training.

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	**Selected specific objective**	**Priority**	**Justification for selection**
A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (PO 4)	Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community- based care	Social development across borders	Health services and infrastructure are very important for the society as a whole. The level of spending on healthcare goods and services as a percentage of GDP is much lower in Romania and Ukraine than the EU average, estimated at 9.9% of GDP in 2017[18]. The spending on health as a % of GDP in on average of 3.6% in Ukraine over 2016-2018 and of 4.13 for Romania. This puts the two states below 50% spending as compared to the average EU, generating multiple health related issues and explaining the impact of the pandemics on the two health systems.

[18] Source: Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4187653/10321591/Healthcare_expenditure_2017-02_2.jpg/832870fe-8345-3de6-01e8-be2807c52076?t=1585550206734

			The main problems identified by the Territorial Analysis in relation to health are: lower life expectancy than the EU average, high infant mortality rate, high adolescent fertility rate, universal health coverage below the EU average, low number of prevention programmes, decreasing number of beds and hospitals in Ukraine, emigration of healthcare professionals, endowment, high energy consumption. Considering the importance of healthcare for the balanced development of the community, financing of healthcare related activities has resulted as key for the programme area, both from data analysis and preliminary consultations. This specific objective was selected in order to improve the cross-border cooperation in the healthcare area, by creating opportunities for joint strategies and mobility actions, as well as infrastructure investments aimed at generating positive impact for the local communities. Some of the main areas where the programme can generate positive results are: infrastructure related investments, endowments, digitalization of hospitals and healthcare facilities, critical equipment and supplies for emergency situations, joint strategies for tackling health emergencies, transfer of knowledge and capacity building.

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	**Selected specific objective**	**Priority**	**Justification for selection**

A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (PO 4)	Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	Social development across borders	The programme area benefits from a strong network of heritage sites as well as nature and protected areas that play an important role in the economic and cultural life of the area. Additionally, the area has an excellent geographical position for tourism and the way of life in the rural areas has potential for attracting tourists in seek of eco-tourism, agro-tourism and traditional experiences. The key being the preservation of the traditions and the traditional way of life of the local communities. The potential for cultural and touristic development is very high and can benefit from a cross border approach. Despite the large number of sites with touristic potential, the territorial analysis found that only few of them are open to the public and even fewer are digitalized. The development of the area from a cultural and touristic point of few has to take into consideration sustainability issues, reduction of pollution and conservation of biodiversity as well as securing the economic security of the community. Considering the importance of these aspects for the programme area, financing of activities related to culture and tourism has been a priority in all the programmes involving the two states. The economic development of the area is very much related to touristic and cultural activities and has suffered a very significant impact during the COVID 19 crisis, also due to the lack of digitalization and endowments that could have alleviated the consequences of the revenue loss generated by the lockdowns. Both the statistical data analysis and the preliminary consultations indicated this sector as being of key

			importance for the resilience and economic wellbeing of the local communities while stressing also the importance of developing sustainable activities and reducing the impact of tourism on the environment, especially in the case of the protected areas. Some of the main areas where the programme can generate positive results are: investments in the rehabilitation/upgrading/modernization/endowment of cultural sites, encouraging sustainable tourism, promotion of cultural and natural sites, promotion of local traditions and crafts.

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg-specific objective	**Selected specific objective**	**Priority**	**Justification for selection**
A safer and more secure Europe and its neighborhood	Border crossing management Other actions for a safer and more secure Europe	Border cooperation	Border management is of key importance for the proper implementation and development of all the issues related to cross border programmes. Border management in this context relates to the efficiency of the borders in ensuring legal transit of people and goods in a timely and efficient manner. Although most border related problems are treated at central level, the joint, cross border approach has proved very useful during the previous programming periods and accounted for valuable projects with a significant positive impact for the border communities. The territorial analysis highlighted various aspects linked to border management such as: the need to improve border clearance efficiency, to

			address new challenges in fighting smuggling across borders, helping tourism by ensuring better border clearance. Some of the main areas where the programme can generate positive results are: small infrastructure investments aimed at improving the efficiency, endowments of the border crossing points, endowments of the training centers of the customs, police and gendarmerie, addressing common challenges through joint actions and developing strategies, etc.

Chapter 2. Priorities

2.1. Title of the priority: Environmental focus across borders

2.1.1 Specific objective

2.1.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

As proven in recent years, climate change poses great challenges and threats to most of the relevant areas of everyday life as well as to important economic sectors.

The programme area, as well as the territory of Romania and Ukraine, is facing important issues linked to the climate change and environmental risks. Despite the decreasing trend in CO2 emissions, especially for Ukraine, they remain at rather high levels and climate change is showing impact through variations in temperatures and precipitations, leading to flood or draught, as well as heat waves and risks of forest fires.

Environmental risks are related to negative effects on the quality of the environment, either terrestrial, water ecosystems or air and to effects on the ecological balance. The specific objective related to climate change and risk management is very important for the programme area, as it aims to address jointly issues that are creating significant problems on both sides of the border, like floods, forest fires, earthquakes but also man-made disasters. Soil erosions, landslides, drought in the summer and floods in the spring have major impacts in the area, especially on agricultural lands. Along with climatic changes, deforestation is a major contributor to these phenomena, as soil becomes destabilized, especially in areas with mountainous and hilly terrain, like the Northern region of the core programme area, or the South where floods can have major impacts on the network of human settlements[19]. Regarding the forest fires, the latest European Commission report highlights Romania as having the largest Natura 2000 surface affected by forest fires, mostly in the Danube Delta area "As in 2019, unfortunately, Romania accounted again for almost half of the burnt area in Natura 2000 sites, mostly in the Delta Danube Nature Reserve "[20].

These specific issues that the programme area is facing generated the need for investments targeted to address jointly climate change problems linked to floods, fires and man-made disasters, as well as water management issues.

All the objectives of the programme take into account the DNSH principle The types of actions have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle since they are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- **Infrastructure (including green and blue infrastructure):** Construction / rehabilitation / modernization of infrastructure related to systems/structures dealing with fires, floods, strengthening the banks of rivers, canals, the condition of dams, afforestation of river banks,

[19] Romania-Ukraine Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020

[20] Commission report on forest fires: climate change is more noticeable every year, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5627?fbclid=IwAR28HpLeoTUGXu25xO1PKGABA2N-_7716s3Pa-7kLTVD7Gi4ZNIw_k4dKFQ

preservation, revitalization and re-naturalization of water bodies and ecosystems, preservation and restoration of small rivers

- **Equipment:** endowment with necessary equipment to address emergency situations (firefighting equipment, floods, etc), hardware, software, vehicles, etc.

- **Common strategies and tools** for hazard management and risk prevention including joint action plans, technical and operational measures meant to ensure real-time coordinated actions, risk plans, intervention procedures, exercises, public awareness campaigns, elaborating of updated joint operational plans and procedural framework for efficient management and deployment of joint interventions, hydrological monitoring of rivers, water temperature, precipitation measurements, ice regime
- **Trainings:** joint training programmes, networking, exchanging experience and knowledge, including raising awareness in the field of efficient risk prevention and management in the cross-border area;

Due to the importance of these intervention fields the programme area could also benefit from Large Infrastructure Projects in these areas, as Large Infrastructure Projects have a more notable impact on the local communities and are more likely to create tangible and timely results.

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Environmental focus across borders	(iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	RCO 87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organisations	0	57
		RCO 83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/ action plan	0	14
		RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	0	910

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
Environmental focus across borders	(iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	29	Projects/ programme monitoring system	
		RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	140	Projects/ programme monitoring system	
		RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy /action plan	0	2022	7	Projects/ programme monitoring system	

2.1.1.3. Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches are:

- Population living in the eligible area and local communities;
- Local/ regional public authorities, public institutions and NGOs dealing with climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience;
- Scientists & researchers;

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.1.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	058 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches);	7,388,639.00
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	059 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil	7,388,639.00

			protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches);	
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	061 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (for example earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (for example technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches.	527,759.00
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	064 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	1,055,520.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	01 Grant	16,360,557.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	33 No territorial targeting	16,360,557.00

2.1.2 Specific objective

Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

The eligible area benefits from a large network of natural parks and reservations, very important both from environmental and touristic point of view. In enhancing this potential special attention should be paid to the preservation of natural areas as well as to the preservation of biodiversity.

The programme aims to contribute to the development of the area by financing projects meant to help the natural reserves in a cross-border manner also by endowments with specific equipment and through joint studies and strategies.

Considering the high level of pollution in the area and the carbon footprint, the non-sustainable heating systems and the low efficiency of the buildings, as well as issues associated with waste, the programme

is proposing investments in green infrastructure meant to alleviate some of these issues. The concept of green infrastructure is rather new and it can be defined as "a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation. This network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces can improve environmental conditions and therefore citizens' health and quality of life. It also supports a green economy, creates job opportunities and enhances biodiversity."[21] In terms of the programme, the most likely structures to be targeted by these types of investments are parks, open spaces, playing fields, protective actions of ecosystems, etc.

2.1.2.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- Joint projects for the creation/extension of natural reserves in a transboundary context;
- Endowment: improving human and technical capacity and modernizing monitoring equipment of protected areas;
- Development of studies, research, common protocols for coordinated implementation on European conventions, joint strategies and plans, trainings and awareness campaigns;
- Assessment, protection and improvement of existing ecosystems (research activities, inventory of resources, protection of endangered species, eradication of invasive species, afforestation etc.);
- Urban green infrastructure.

2.1.2.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Environmental focus across borders	(vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/ action plan	0	4
		RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action	0	4

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments

[21] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

Environmental focus across borders	(vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy /action plan	0	2022	4	Projects/ programme monitoring system	

2.1.2.3 Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Enhancing protection and preservation of nature biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution are:

- Population living in the programme area and local communities.
- Public sector institutions and local authorities, NGOs etc.
- Administrations and managements of nature protection areas, such as national parks, nature parks, landscape parks, biosphere reserves, etc.,
- Universities and research institutions in the relevant sectors;

2.1.2.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.1.2.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.1.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1		1.2	079 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure	2 538 789.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.2	01 Grant	2 538 789.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.2	33 No territorial targeting	2 538 789.00

2.2. Title of the priority: Social Development Across Borders

2.2.1 Specific objective

Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

Education remains an area of cornerstone importance for any society, but even more so for border communities, often confronted with issues such as high unemployment, lower GDP per capita and high school dropout rates. There are also significant problems related to school endowment, availability of teachers, accessibility.

Infrastructure, vocational training, enrolment are key issues faced by the two partner countries, as well as education oriented towards skill development. Both countries face problems regarding

Youth neither in education, employment or training, and there is a strong need for correlating curricula with the labour market.

The pandemics has induced additional pressure on this sector, widening the gap between urban and rural communities and social classes, and making it more difficult for the people facing poverty issues to provide the facilities needed for their children to attend online classes. The issues created by the pandemics might generate, if not properly addressed, additional causes of concern, especially for the vulnerable population, which, with disruption in education might face new problems in gaining skills for integrating in labour market, thus, maintaining a poverty cycle.

The programme aims to address some of the critical issues of the area, issues that can be tackled jointly by communities on both sides of the border. The proposed activities and corresponding intervention fields are linked to the development of primary and secondary education, both through hard investments and soft ones directed towards endowment, strategies, educational plans, partnerships between institutions. Hard investments are foreseen also for vocational training and adult learning, with the purpose of addressing the issue of the high number of young people that are not in employment, training or education and also of the people that are in need of vocational conversion. The investments in infrastructure are supported also by investments in soft activities aiming to provide support for education at all levels and to address the issue of digitalization and development of digital skills, which have become very relevant in the context of the pandemics.

2.2.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- Investments in rehabilitation/modernization/ extension/ equipment procurement for the educational infrastructure to provide the necessary material preconditions of a quality educational process and increase the participation in the educational processes, with a strong focus on accessibility for disabled people;
- Investments in hardware and software necessary for the development of digital skills;
- Development of joint educational and learning plans and strategies, training and mentorship programmes;
- Development of partnerships between training and education institutions in order to support joint learning and good practice exchange between teachers'/education professionals from both side of the border;
- Development of joint initiatives that support adult education and training, including mobility programs;

2.2.1.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Social Development Across Borders	Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	RCO87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	0	46
		RCO67	Classroom capacity of new or modernised education facilities	persons	0	6096

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
Social Development Across Borders	Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	RCR 84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	23	Projects/ programme monitoring system	
		RCR 71	Annual users of new or modernised education facilities	Users/year	0	2022	6096	Projects/ programme monitoring system	

2.2.1.3. Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training are:

- Population living in the programme area and local communities, benefiting from improved education facilities.
- Public sector institutions and local authorities - policy makers and planners, including local authorities, NGOs (including NGO s working with young people), schools and other educational facilities, universities, etc.
- Pupils, students in primary, secondary and tertiary education;
- Teachers, trainers, managers and auxiliary staff of education and training institutions

2.2.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.2.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.2.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI-CBC	2.1	122 Infrastructure for primary and secondary education	3 799 871.00

			124 Infrastructure for vocational education and training and adult learning	3 799 871.00
			145 Support for the development of digital skills	949 968.00
			149 Support for primary to secondary education (excluding infrastructure)	1 266 624.00
			150 Support for tertiary education (excluding infrastructure)	1 266 624.00
			151 Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure)	1 266 624.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.2	01 Grant	12 349 582.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	33 No territorial targeting	12 349 582.00

2.2.2 Specific objective

Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community- based care

Healthcare remains an important sector for both countries also during the 2021-2027 programming period. Life expectancy in the two countries continues to be lower than the EU average, mortality rates, infant mortality rate keep high levels. Prevention programs are still not widely used which accounts for deaths caused by otherwise preventable disease. The main challenges are given by the infrastructure, with constant or decreasing number of medical units and beds, poor endowment and emigration of healthcare personnel, both doctors and support staff.

Both countries spend less than the EU average on healthcare and face issues related to access to healthcare, infrastructure and endowment. Besides the problems already existent in this area,

the COVID 19 pandemic has put even more pressure on the system, the need for investments and upgrading of the infrastructure is more stringent than ever. Also due to the current health crisis more sources of funding, both internal and external, may become available. For the next period Romania will receive substantial funding through various national programmes, as is , at a lesser level, Ukraine. Nonetheless, considering the specific problems of the border area, the strong cooperation background between the two countries in this area but also the vulnerabilities shown by the pandemics, the area of healthcare remains relevant in a cross border context.

The programme will address some of these issues by financing investments in infrastructure for healthcare, such as construction, rehabilitation, modernization and also investments in emergency services and mobile screening caravans. A very important component of the activities to be financed is that of the soft investments, targeted towards trainings, exchange of experience, awareness campaigns. All the activities that are going to be developed jointly are likely to have a significant impact for the communities and to bring added value also through the capitalization of the results obtained during the 2014-2020 programming period.

2.2.2.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- Joint activities meant to enhance the access to health in the border area through construction / rehabilitation / modernization of infrastructure of public health services;
- Developing labs and mobile labs for screening / clinical monitoring of diseases and prevention of cross border epidemics;
- Equipping specific public medical service infrastructure (outpatient, emergency room facilities, medical centres, integrated social intervention, etc.);
- Mobile health status screening caravans for monitoring health status (blood, diabetes, health investigations, etc) as well as dental care assistance providing to population in rural areas;
- Equipping specific public medical emergency service infrastructure;
- Joint training programs and exchange of experience, networking for supporting the functioning of the specific public medical services, telemedicine;
- Exchange of experience, joint activities in order to ensure compatibility of the treatment guidelines, joint diagnosis programmes;
- Awareness campaigns concerning public education on health, diseases and prevention of epidemics;
- Specific equipment for digitalization in healthcare.

2.2.2.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Social Development Across Borders	(v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community- based care	RCO87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	0	40

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
Social Development Across Borders	(v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community- based care	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	20	Projects/ programme monitoring system	

2.2.2.3 Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care are:

- Population living in the programme area and local communities, benefiting from improved healthcare facilities;
- Public authorities and private entities dealing with healthcare services;
- Regional/local/ institutions acting in the field of health and social policies
- Hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities;
- NGOs, universities and research institutes, etc.

2.2.2.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.2.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.2.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI	2.2	128 Health infrastructure	5 066 495.00
			129 Health equipment	4 538 735.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI-CBC	2.2	01 Grant	9 605 230.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	NDCI-CBC	1.1	33 No territorial targeting	9 605 230.00

2.2.3 Specific objective

Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The programme area benefits from a large cultural and touristic potential given both by the large number of heritage sites and by the natural potential. The two sub-national programme areas share commonalities in terms of cultural heritage due to the historic evolution and have a long-standing tradition in multi-ethnic cohabitation and multiculturalism. Despite the fact that there is a high concentration of natural and historical sites and natural protected areas, the programme area could benefit of more investments in cultural facilities, as this heritage may be valorised so that to contribute to the development of the tourism in both countries.

Currently the programme area has cultural poles, meaning there are certain places that have a high touristic potential, mainly around the big cities. Investments in more sites, as well as the development and promotion of digital platforms for tourism are likely to contribute to the extension of the current touristic routes with a positive impact both economically for the local communities and from an ecological point of view. Additionally, a very important aspect of cultural and touristic potential of the area, respectively traditional activities and craftsman activities is to be addressed by the programme in a joint, cross border manner. This area of cooperation between the two countries has a long tradition, and the new programme could also capitalize on the results of the previous projects. The creation of networks in the field of culture and tourism is likely to create added value for both sides of the border, contributing to the above mentioned extension of the touristic lines.

2.2.3.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- Restoration, conservation, consolidation, protection, security of cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites (including the corresponding access roads), museums, objects and art collections and their joint promotion based on relevant cross-border strategies/concepts;
- Preservation, security, and joint valorization of cultural and historical monuments and objects;
- Support for specific and traditional craftsman activities, important for preserving local culture and identity.
- Promotion of specific and traditional activities in the programme area (including cross border cultural events);
- Construction, modernization of visiting centers of protected natural areas; development of eco-friendly tourist routes

- Investments in hardware and software necessary for digitalization of cultural sites and events.
- Rehabilitation/modernisation and endowment of cultural heritage;
- Promoting digital platforms for tourism;
- Promoting cultural heritage sites and including them in cross border tourism networks and chains;
- Joint campaigns, publications, studies, strategies to improve cross border tourism potential;
- Establishment of common networks in the field of tourism and culture.

2.2.3.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Social Development Across Borders	Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	RCO87	Organizations cooperating across borders	organizations	0	34
		RCO 77	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	cultural and tourism sites	0	10

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
Social Development Across Borders	Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0	2022	17	Projects/ programme monitoring system	
		RCR 77	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	visitors/year	0	2022	10 000	Projects/ programme monitoring system	

2.2.3.3. Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation are:

- People visiting the Programme area, population living in the programme area and local communities benefiting from upgraded cultural sites;
- Public and private authorities involved in the protection of cultural and natural heritage, museums, cultural/religious/higher education institutions, and other public institutions;
- NGOs, cultural and tourism associations;
- Local business associations in the domain of traditional and craftsmen activities;

2.2.3.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.2.3.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.2.3.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI	2.3	166 Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services	3 166 560.00
			167 Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites	1 825 267.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI	2.3	01 Grant	4 991 827.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	NDCI	2.3	33 No territorial targeting	4 991 827.00

2.3. Title of the priority: Border Cooperation

Interreg Specific Objective 2 - A safer and more secure Europe

2.3.1 Specific objective: Border crossing management

Cross border cooperation between Ukraine and Romania in the fields of safety and security has a strong tradition and many projects that can be used for capitalization. The needs related to this area of cooperation arise from the length of the border and from the increasing trend of the cross-border traffic in recent years. The total length of the border is of 649.4 km. The border is varied in terms of type and is formed out of: land – 273.8 km, river – 343.9 km, sea – 31.7 km. Furthermore, the Southern part of the Romanian-Ukrainian border divides the shared biosphere of the Danube Delta. The main needs identified at this border of the EU are related to ensuring an efficient border crossing process for people and merchandise, in terms of clearance efficiency and legality of cross border traffic.

Moreover, considering the international context in the middle east and at the eastern border of the EU, it is expected that in the future period migration to pose more problems than in the previous periods, and additional resources might be needed to tackle it. The problems are similar on both sides of the border and require joint actions for achieving sustainable results. The cooperation between stakeholders in this area has a strong tradition and had good results over the previous programming periods.

Although migration issues are difficult to tackle with the resources available for the programme, special attention should be given to the quality of the infrastructure, especially in terms of technology and IT systems in order to promote and/or improve interoperability and efficiency of border crossing activities.

The use of modern solutions and equipment will reduce the vulnerability of the external borders, guarantee safe, secure and well-functioning EU borders and effective border control and migration management.

2.3.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

- **Investments in endowment with specific equipment** for the activity of the police/customs/border police/gendarmerie (transport vehicles for the K9 units, video recording equipment, drones, search equipment, hardware and software, training equipment, equipment for forensic and explosives experts, etc.)
- **Joint trainings** of police, customs, border police, gendarmerie, other structures involved in border management, exchange of best practices on specific areas of activity (analysis, criminal investigation, organized crime, etc.)

- **Investments in modernization, rehabilitation, renovation, upgrading** of police and border crossing infrastructure and related buildings
- **Investments in common policies, strategies, common intervention plans and strategies,** awareness campaigns related to human trafficking and other issues related to border management and border crossing, etc.

2.3.1.2 Indicators

Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final Target (2029)
Border Cooperation	Border crossing management and mobility	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	Participations	0	520
		RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategy/ action plan	0	6

Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
Border Cooperation	Border crossing management and mobility	RCR 85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participations	0	2022	60	Programme monitoring system	
		RCR 79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy/ action plan	0	2022	3	Programme monitoring system	

2.3.1.3. Main target groups

The target groups of the Programme are individuals/organisations that live and/ or work in the programme area. As the Programme plans interventions at multiple levels, there is more than one target group.

The direct target group includes individuals/organisations targeted in an unmediated way with the project activities, and among whom the proposed effect will be achieved.

The indirect target group includes individuals in the general environment of the direct target group. They contribute to the project's success within the direct target group as they play an important intermediary role.

The main target groups for the specific objective Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders are:

- People visiting or travelling through the Programme area, population living in the programme area and local communities benefiting from improved security;
- Custom services, border police, police, other national/regional/local public institutions acting in the area of crime prevention and police, professional associations, NGOs etc.

2.3.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Not applicable

2.3.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Not applicable

2.3.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	NDCI-CBC	3.1	174 Interreg: border crossing management and mobility and migration management	2 412 947.00

Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	NDCI-CBC	3.1	01 Grant	2 412 947.00

Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	NDCI-CBC	3.1	33 No territorial targeting	2 412 947.00

Chapter 3 Financing Plan

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Fund	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
NDICI-CBC[1]	0	11 355 827	8 984 420	9 129 413	9 277 095	7 462 410	7 840 839	54 050 004

Table 7

3.2. Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Table 8

Policy objective No	Priority	Fund (as applicable)	Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution)	EU contribution (a)=(a1)+(a2)	Indicative breakdown of the EU contribution		National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	Contributions from the third countries (for information)
					without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1)	for TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a2)		National public (c)	National private (d)			
PO2	Priority 1: Environmental focus across borders	NDICI- CBC (5)	Total	21 167 268	18 899 346	2 267 922	2 351 919	2 206 571	145 348	23 519 187	90%	
PO4	Priority 2: Social Development Across Borders	NDICI- CBC (5)	Total	30 180 236	26 946 639	3 233 597	3 353 359	3 146 123	207 236	33 533 595	90%	
ISO 2	Priority 3: Border Cooperation	NDICI- CBC (5)	Total	2 702 500	2 412 947	289 553	300 278	281 721	18 557	3 002 778	90%	
	Total	NDICI- CBC (5)	Total	54 050 004	48 258 932	5 791 072	6 005 556	5 634 415	371 141	60 055 560	90%	

Chapter 4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

The programming process for Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine started by constituting the Joint Programming Committee and approving the methodology for preparation of the programme in September 2020. The members of the committee were appointed based on the representativeness of the Joint Monitoring Committee for 2014-2020 programme and a balanced distribution between national and regional/local authorities was taken into consideration.

During the process of elaborating the programme, the Managing Authority involved relevant stakeholders, from regional and national level, at all stages, starting from data collection to consultations on programme drafts. The documents elaborated after every stage of consultation (i.e., Territorial Analysis, Programme Draft) were uploaded on the programme website, www.ro-ua.net, for public consultation and largely distributed by means of Social Media and e-newsletters.

For the elaboration of the programme, the Managing Authority started with the territorial analysis, the analysis of the programme area needs based on the information obtained from rendering the statistical data provided by international, national and local sources, further complemented by the study of different documents relevant for the policy objectives. The reference period for the data collection covered the years of 2016-2019, and even more recent periods where information was available for both states.

The first round of consultations took the form of interviews and focus groups held online during April and May 2021, so as to identify the financing needs of the programme area and to prioritize the policy objectives included in Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT Strategic Programming. The consultations involved national, regional, local, public authorities, economic and social partners, relevant bodies representing civil society, including umbrella organizations, research institutions and universities. In order to ensure a transparent and balanced representation of the civil society in the focus groups, the Managing Authority carried out a selection process of the NGOs invited to take part, based on the organisations' previous experience and relevance to the field of activity as related to the policy objectives addressed. The interest to participate in the process was high with more than 30 organisations from both countries expressing interest.

The interview stage consisted of an in depth quality research with 12 relevant stakeholders. The next step, that of the focus group had a dynamic approach bringing together people based on areas of interest and expertise determined by the Policy Objectives and Interreg Specific Objectives included in the analysis. Five focus groups were organized: one for ISO 2, one for environmental issues covered by PO2, one for the social issues covered by PO4, one for transport issues covered by PO3 and one to address the topics covered by PO1. The focus group brought together more than 65 stakeholders from both sides of the border who shared opinions and relevant inputs regarding the financing needs of the area and the ability of the programme to address them.

Apart from exploring the actual needs of the area and partners' orientations regarding the cross-border financing across the Policy Objectives or Interreg Specific Objectives, the events also aimed at collecting inputs for concentration and convergence, by reducing overlaps in the area and reducing the number of Policy Objectives to be financed. The consultation process led to a more focused approach of the needs and the selection of the Policy Objectives and Interreg Specific Objectives to be financed under the current programme took into account all the above and was submitted for the approval of the Joint Programming Committee in July 2021.

The consultation process continued in September and October 2021, by organising online thematic working groups with experts from both countries, at national and local level, in order to prioritize de intervention fields to be tackled in the current programme and to list the indicative activities corresponding to each Specific Objective. Simultaneously, the participants in the working groups were encouraged to indicate potential large infrastructure project ideas in their proposals, in order to have a clear image of the need of this type of financing in the area and, furthermore, to correctly dimension the programme allocation corresponding to the intervention fields and specific objectives. 5 working groups were organized in Romania and 5 in Ukraine, via online tools. The working groups were separate in order to avoid language barriers and to allow for an easier way of exchanging ideas.

The second tool used by the Managing Authority to prioritize the intervention fields and identify the list of indicative activities was an online survey. In the period of September- October 2021, the Managing Authority published the survey on www.ro-ua.net aiming at identifying the preference of the stakeholders/public on the intervention fields and to collect proposals of activities to be financed under the preferred intervention fields. The consultation process was supported also by the Ukrainian National Authority, who disseminated the same survey, which led to more than 120 responses combined. The whole process was useful in establishing relevant Intervention Fields and activities that are most likely to create added value for the local communities.

The third meeting of the Joint Programming Committee was held in November 2021, when the first draft of Interreg NEXT Programme was approved, together with the initiation of the strategic environmental assessment for the programme. After the approval of the Committee, the draft of the Programme was also published for consultations on www.ro-md.net, and all comments received were analysed and included in the 2nd programme draft, according to the case.

After the approval of Interreg NEXT Programme, the Joint Monitoring Committee will be set up in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct regarding partnership and with article 29 of Interreg Regulation. The Programme will seek to ensure continuity between the two programming periods regarding the composition of the JMC in order to build on the experience gained by the members in previous programming periods. In order to ensure impartiality and to avoid conflict of interest the Managing Authority will dedicate a special section in the MC Rules of Procedures to this issue. Also, as in previous periods, the MC will be actively involved in programme monitoring and evaluation. The programme will continue to promote transparency through the publication of all relevant documents for public consultation on the programme website.

Chapter 5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

Communication and visibility measures will address all and be customized to each stage of the programme lifecycle, and aim at achieving the following main objectives:

1) To ensure an efficient and transparent communication about the programme developments and results and increase public awareness on the benefits of EU financial assistance;
2) To inform about the financing opportunities and support project generation under all priorities of the programme;
3) To enhance capacities of the applicants and beneficiaries in successful project preparation and implementation by providing tools, assistance and clear guidance.

The main groups of target audience include: potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries, programme staff and structures, national/regional/local stakeholders, media, EU institutions, general public from the programme area and the EU.

According to the research carried out by the Managing Authority in 2014-2020, regarding the efficiency of the Programme communication activities and the preference of the target groups towards certain communication channels, both potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries indicated media and face-to-face communication (training sessions, workshops) as being most preferred, followed by the online tools (programme website, Social Media). Therefore, a mix of communication tools will be used, while adding new tools that may be developed along the implementation period.

Within www.ro-ua.net website developed under 2014-2020 period, a new section was created for 2021-2027, and all programming documents were published under this section. So as to capitalise on the acquired awareness on the website, and to keep users on the already familiar page, the sections dedicated to Interreg NEXT Programme will be further developed, optimised and redesigned in a user-friendly approach and information regarding the launching of calls for proposals, list of operations and any other useful information will be published.

Social Media are a very popular tool to communicate with the public, to share project results which directly impact citizens and raise awareness on the EU financial contribution, hence covering a large share of mobile devices users. The Facebook (*Meta*) page dedicated to 2014-2020 ENI Programme will be renamed and all followers will be engaged in the promotion of Interreg NEXT Programme. Information posted on the Programme website will be *translated* to more informal language and made attractive to categories of public aged 16+ and shared on the Facebook page. ENI Programme library will be used to capitalise on the outcomes of the projects implemented, hence supporting generation of new projects. New visual materials will be produced to promote the programme: short videos, testimonials, professional photos of projects, infographics etc., to be also posted on the Social Media accounts.

Considering the fast evolution of Social Media, the Managing Authority will analyze the opportunity of developing accounts on other platforms that may prove of interest to the target audience (Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn etc.).

Programme events will be organized for a wider audience, to raise awareness on the programme imprint in the area covered, and enhance the support to our cooperation community. The annual major event will be adapted to the European Cooperation Day (Interreg Day) topic and will follow the lines of the Interreg visuals and messages.

The programme approach will aim at engaging multiple audience groups across various media (offline and online), and reinforce the relation with local/regional/national media representatives.

Programme campaigns will address the general public and will be mainly tailored for the use of online communication tools in order to promote, inform and gather public support for the programme achievements and the use of EU funding in the programme area.

Approaches towards less printed publications will be encouraged as electronic publications will be distributed to the target groups. Management structures and beneficiaries will shift towards eco-friendly promotional materials bearing EU visual identity.

Considering the efficiency of capacity building sessions, the management structures will continue to provide them to the interested audience, in line with the programme lifecycle.

The MA will appoint a communication officer for the programme, who will draft the annual communication plan, including JS contribution, and will coordinate all communication activities developed by programme structures.

Communication and visibility measures will be evaluated by taking into consideration the indicators:

Indicator	M.U.	Baseline	Final Target	Source
Website	Number of visitors	27,231	45,000	Google Analytics
	Page views	308,986	500,000	Google Analytics
Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter)	Followers	1,832	3,500	Insights
	Reach	950	1,200	Insights
Events	Number of events	0	30	Internal Monitoring

The estimated budget for communication and visibility activities is 5% of the funds dedicated to the Technical Assistance, as per the following indicative split:

Activity	Budget share
Events	50%
Online (website, Social Media)	30%
Promotional materials	10%
Others (publications, outdoor, media ads etc.)	10%

6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

In the context of the Programme, projects of limited financial volume, between 250.000 and 400.000 Euro (EU funds) may be financed under all Priorities. The purpose and the target groups for the limited financial projects shall therefore correspond to the indicators and to the target groups identified for each specific objective.

7. Implementing provisions

7.1. Programme authorities

Table 9

Programme authorities

Programme authorities	Name of the institution	Contact name	E-mail
Managing authority	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration		
National authority (for programmes with participating third countries, if appropriate)			
Audit authority	Romanian Audit Authority within the Court of Accounts		
Group of auditors representatives			
Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration		

7.2. Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Based on the experience acquired during 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods, ensuring the continuity of the management structures functioning will significantly contribute to a smooth start of Interreg NEXT Programme implementation and would capitalise on the expertise of the staff.

The Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Suceava for the Romania-Ukraine border is a legal entity established under the Romanian regional development law since 2004, with the purpose of supporting regional development and cooperation between Romania and Ukraine.

The Joint Technical Secretariat settled within Suceava Regional Cross-border Cooperation Office has developed a functional management structure, with trained and experienced staff, being able to deal with all aspects of project management.

The financial capacity of the legal entity of Suceava Regional Cross-border Cooperation Office will ensure the sustainability of the organisation to fulfill the delegated functions and provide the necessary financial flow so as to deal with the new programme's technical assistance requirements.

The Programme bodies decided to maintain the existing territorial structure of the JS, which was supported during previous programming periods by two antennae, located in Odesa and Chernivtsi. The functioning of the two offices will be supported financially through the budget of the Joint Secretariat, as it has been also during previous programming periods.

The Managing Authority will constantly provide support and evaluate Joint Secretariat staff performance and working procedures in order to ensure an efficient programme implementation. Should the need may arise, besides the already existing human resource, new staff recruitment will be performed, through a public and transparent procedure, ensuring equal opportunities for experts from any state from the European Union or outside it.

7.3. Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third or partner countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

7.3.1. Rules on apportionment of liabilities

Each Member State/Partner Country is responsible for preventing, detecting and correcting irregularities.

Without prejudice to the Member State's/Partner country's responsibility as per Article 52 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity - or when the Managing Authority is entitled to withdraw from the Subsidy Contract and to demand the repayment of the EU contribution in full or in part – is recovered from the lead partner. Partners shall repay to the lead partner any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment from other partners or where the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead partner, the Member State/Partner country on whose territory the partner concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to that partner.

Should the Managing Authority bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings even if the proceedings are unsuccessful it will be reimbursed by the Member State/Partner country hosting the lead partner responsible for the said procedure.

The Managing Authority is responsible for reimbursing the amounts recovered to the general budget of the Union in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities between the Member States and the Partner Country.

The Managing Authority will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the lead partner/partner/Member State/Partner Country.

In accordance with Article 52 (4) of Regulation (EU) 1059/2021, once the Member State/Partner Country has reimbursed the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to a partner, it may continue or start a recovery procedure against that partner under its national law. The Member State/Partner Country shall not have any reporting obligation towards the Programme authorities, the Monitoring Committee or the European Commission with regard to such national recoveries.

In case a Member State/Partner Country has not reimbursed the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to a partner, those amounts shall be subject to a recovery order issued by the Commission which shall be executed, where possible, by offsetting to the respective Member State/Partner Country in the Programme. Such recovery shall not constitute a financial correction and shall not reduce the support from the ERDF or any external financing instrument of the Union to the Programme. The amount recovered shall constitute assigned revenue in accordance with Article [21(3)] of the Financial Regulation.

With regard to amounts not reimbursed to the Managing Authority by a Member State/Partner Country, the offsetting shall concern subsequent payments to the same Interreg programme. The Managing Authority shall then offset with regard to that Member State/Partner Country in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States/Partner Countries set out in the Interreg programme in the event of financial corrections imposed by the Managing Authority or the Commission. With regard to amounts not reimbursed to the managing authority by the partner country the offsetting shall concern subsequent payments to programmes under the respective external financing instruments of the Union.

Member States and Partner Country agree that neither the lead partner nor the programme's Managing Authority will be obliged to recover an amount unduly paid that does not exceed EUR 250, not including interest, in contribution from union funds to an operation cumulatively in an accounting year.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

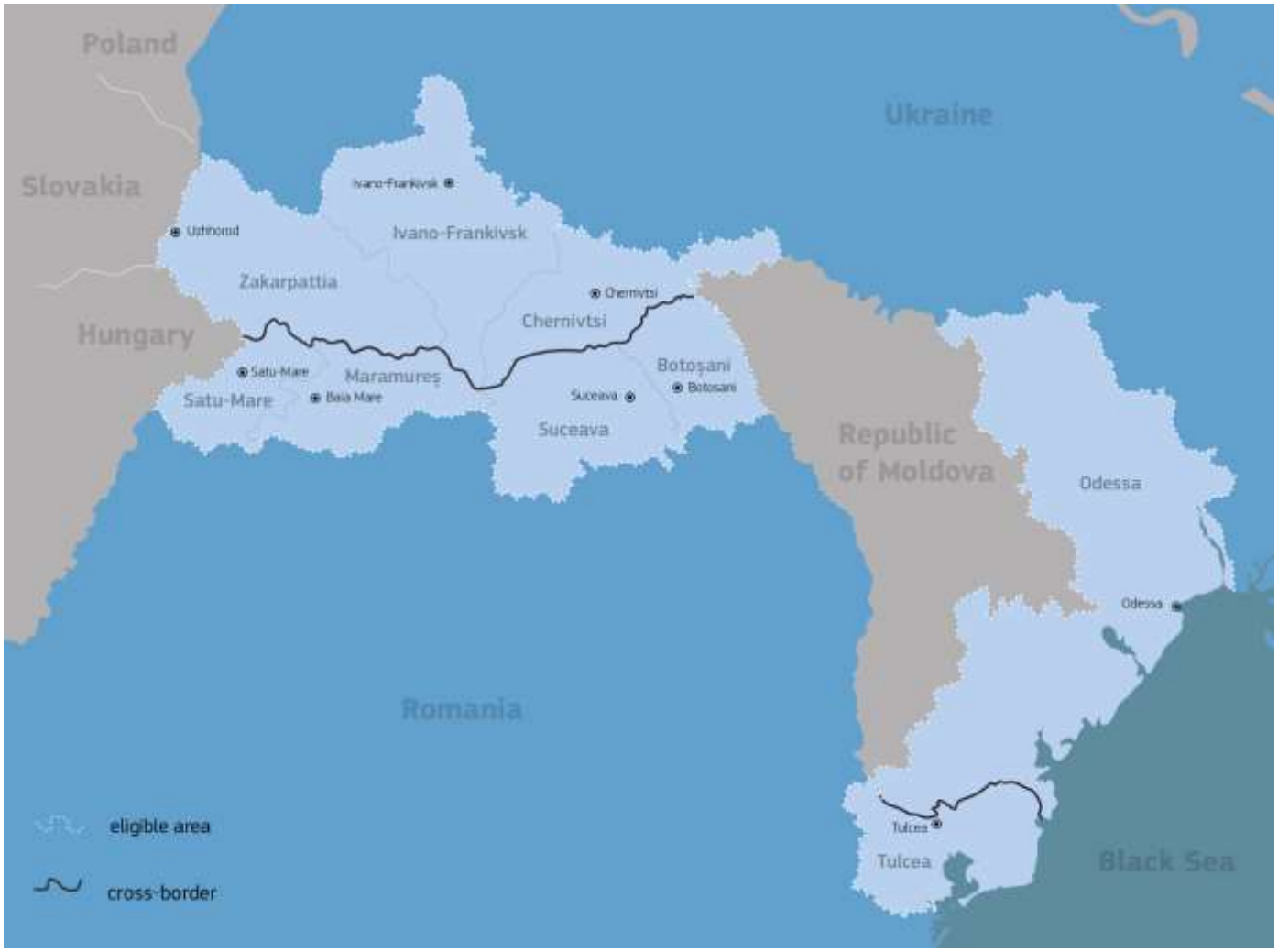
Table 10

Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95	YES	NO
From the adoption the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1)		X
From the adoption the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2)		X

Map

Map of the programme area



Appendix 3

List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 17(3)

	Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Indicative project theme	Indicative start of implementation
1	1 Environmental focus across borders	Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	Improving the response of cross-border emergency services in case of disasters and establishing a disaster prevention and management system	Q4 2023