

# Newsletter

## April 2023



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## CONTENTS

Page / 2

[Alongside our beneficiaries](#)

Page / 3

[Emergency preparedness - joint training infrastructure](#)

Page / 4

[Interreg NEXT Romania- Ukraine Programme](#)

Page / 7

[Info Day in your region](#)

Page / 8

[European Year of Skills](#)



# ALONGSIDE OUR BENEFICIARIES

## 1. Programme measures to support beneficiaries

As the European Commission modified, at the end of 2022, ENI Implementing Rules governing Romania – Ukraine 2014-2020 programme, the Joint Monitoring Committee supported by the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat took a range of measures to ensure that projects will be completed to the largest extent possible, in line with the grant contracts, the ENI funds are efficiently used, while non-implementation related risks are minimized. The measures are complementary to each other and address beneficiaries that are still undergoing projects' implementation as of January, 01, 2023.

On the one hand, as JMC decided, no co-financing will be requested for the expenditures incurred and paid and included in the annual accounts for the accounting years starting 1 July 2021, without increasing the grant awarded. **42 projects and 128 beneficiaries** from Ukraine and Romania implementing SOFT, HARD and LIP projects will take advantage of the measure and the burden of their co-financing will thus be reduced.

On the other hand, the ENI funds still available at programme level may be granted, as additional financial support to the beneficiaries executing infrastructure components in hard projects, if there are good prospects to their full finalization by the end of 2023, in line with the grant contracts signed. Because of funds limitation, additional ENI financial support per beneficiary cannot exceed 200,000 EUR. The progress will be periodically assessed by the programme to capture improvements and good evolutions, and target this support to well-performing beneficiaries. As such, **8 projects and 11 beneficiaries** are to be supported by the programme by mid-April with approx. 1,077,000 EUR, while **15 more beneficiaries** might benefit of approx. 1,700,000 EUR from programme assistance during 2023, at a later stage.

## 2. Technical meeting in Izmail, Ukraine

Despite the highly challenging context, representatives of the Managing Authority, National Authority of Ukraine, and Joint Technical Secretariat participated in a range of technical meetings and monitoring visits to Clean River, EFIGE, CBC-DEBUS, CB Connect Trans, and CBC-Safety projects being implemented in Izmail, Ukraine. The purpose was to analyze projects' state of play, the difficulties they currently face and which are the most suitable solutions to address them. As always, the Programme stays close to its beneficiaries so as they are progressing steadily ahead, even in harsh circumstances, and the outcomes they have anticipated will be achieved by the end of 2023.



# Emergency preparedness - joint training infrastructure built in the frame of BRIDGE large infrastructure project

On 14 March, 2023, new joint training infrastructure for the rescuers from Romania and Ukraine was inaugurated in Siret, Suceava county.



The project beneficiaries, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (Romania), General Inspectorate of Aviation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Romania, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie, Main Departments of State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts, and "Bucovina" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Suceava county welcomed the guests and demonstrated the quality and capabilities of the new training facility.



The centre ensures the training to the highest standards of personnel who carries out research

and evaluation missions, extinguishing, qualified first aid and extrication, search and rescue from environments hostile to life, as well as to other operational structures, to increase capacity, harmonize teamwork and, at the same time, increase the efficiency of intervention in emergency situations.

The training facility is equipped with machines and equipment, like fire house, fire container, training gallery (labyrinth), layouts: car, cistern, flashover and backdraft, ventilation, fireproof mannequins, extinction binomial polygon.



Also, the polygon includes a gas detector (flue gas analyser) to measure oxygen, carbon monoxide, nitrogen monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or sulphur dioxide.

Moreover, in order to improve the response capacity of SMURD helicopters, a heliport platform with an area of 400 square meters was built, with beaconing systems that allows landing at night, electricity supply and fuel tank.

The investment has a value of 27,191,642.21 lei and was financed by the European Union, through the Joint Operational Program Romania - Ukraine 2014-2020, within the BRIDGE project and represents only part of the planned investment.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/igsu.situatiideurgenta/>

# Interreg NEXT Romania - Ukraine Programme: Funds for the border communities

Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme was officially launched in Bucharest, on February 14, 2023. This event represents an important milestone in the implementation process of the Programme and aimed at informing the stakeholders about the new funds available for the development of the border communities of the two participating countries.

The launching was organized in an interactive format, with an open discussion panel moderated by the Managing Authority to highlight the

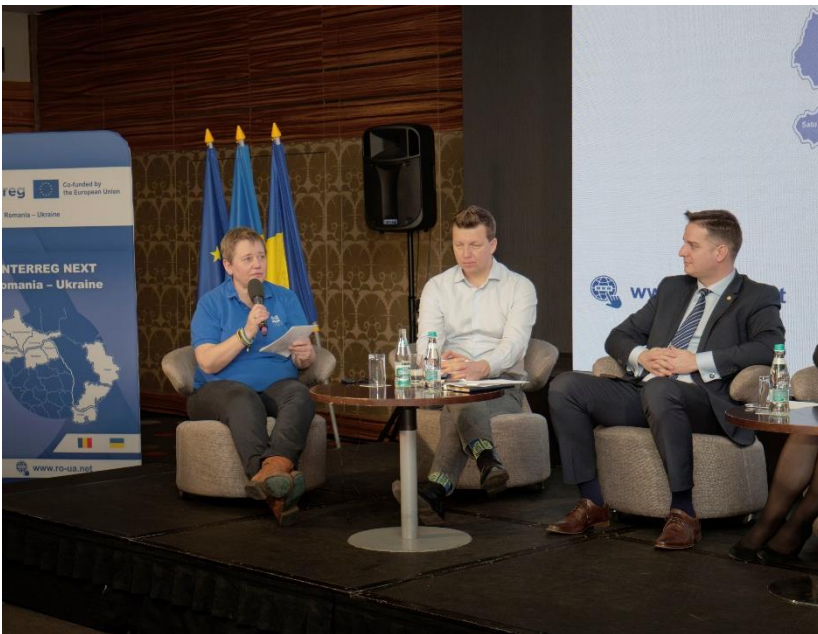
importance of cross-border cooperation from an international, national as well as local perspective.

The discussions included the highlights of the current ENI CBC 2014-2020 Programme, as well as the most important aspects of the new Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme (specific objectives, budgetary allocation, examples of indicative actions) and a Q&A sessions for the journalists present at the event.



Mr. Dragoş DRĂGHESCU, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration opened the session with a greeting speech and shared the panel with the European Commission Representative – Unit Deputy DG REGIO – Ms. Nathalie VERSHELDE, together with representatives from National Authority of Ukraine - The Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers in

Ukraine, National Authority of Romania - Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, Managing Authority - Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration and 2014-2020 Joint Technical Secretariat - Regional Office for Cross-border Cooperation Suceava.



*“Fresh funding comes to the local communities, but the added value is how we use it, the cross border cooperation it’s about building long term relations to address common challenges, to exploit common opportunities for a better future to the young people. (...) I encourage beneficiaries to firstly think about the challenges they face as neighbors, what is it that they should be doing together, as neighbors, and then start thinking of developing the project, the application and drawing the funding. The objective of working together has to be at the root of all partnerships.*

*This Programme is also as an opportunity for our Ukrainian colleagues to be closer to the EU, not only for the regional and local authorities, but also, NGO’s and citizens, to understand what it means to be part of EU.”*

*Ms. Nathalie VERSCHELDE, European Commission*

Aside from the physical attendees in the conference hall, the event could be followed in real time on-line, being streamed live on the Facebook page of Program.

The [live video](#) benefited from a large audience,

with an afterword reaching a total of 4.800 of ThruPlay views via the Meta platform.

The event benefited of Ukrainian interpretation, including the live broadcast, being accessible for all interested parties that could not attend in person, both from Romania and from Ukraine.

## **First meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine**

On the same date as the official launching, the first reunion of the Monitoring Committee of Interreg NEXT Programme was held in hybrid format. The MC is the decision-making of the Programme, chaired by the Managing Authority, and is composed by members from the two countries participating in the Programme, as well as the European Commission.

Delegations of both countries decided on the cooperation mechanisms of the committee, the decision-making process during the whole implementation period, until 2029.



The Managing Authority introduced to the representatives of the two countries proposals on the main features of the call for proposals to be launched, the evaluation of applications received, for an efficient implementation of the programme. Considering the constraints of the European regulations applicable to the cooperation programmes during 2021-2027, the authorities managing the programme will make all efforts to reduce projects evaluation and contracting period, simplify requests for beneficiaries, so that the European funds can be spent efficiently and in a proper time framework, to the benefit of the local communities.



# INFO DAY in your region!

During April 27 - May 12, 2023, the Programme will organize information sessions in the eligible area. Nine events will take place physically in all the regions from Romania and Ukraine. The exact locations of each event will be updated gradually. Follow the official website [www.ro-ua.net](http://www.ro-ua.net) and join the info day in your region:

<b>Tulcea, Romania</b>	<b>27.04.2023</b>
<b>Ismail, Ukraine</b>	<b>28.04.2023</b>
<b>Baia Mare, Romania</b>	<b>03.05.2023</b>
<b>Satu Mare, Romania</b>	<b>04.05.2023</b>
<b>Botosani, Romania</b>	<b>10.05.2023</b>
<b>Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine</b>	<b>10.05.2023</b>
<b>Chernivtsi, Ukraine</b>	<b>11.05.2023</b>
<b>Ujhorod, Ukraine</b>	<b>12.05.2023</b>
<b>Suceava, Romania</b>	<b>12.05.2023</b>

**Interreg**  Co-funded by  
the European Union  
**NEXT** Romania – Ukraine



 [www.ro-ua.net](http://www.ro-ua.net)

The upcoming events will be organized by the Joint Secretariat hosted by Regional Office for Cross – Border Cooperation Suceava and the Managing Authority within the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration to present the new Programme and its key features in local language, where possible. The sessions will be opened to all interested parties (institutions, NGOs, stakeholders, mass media) in anticipation of the future launch of call for proposals.

Interreg NEXT Programme has a budget of 54 million Euro, plus the national co-financing. Projects in the field of health, education, tourism and culture, adaptation to climate change and border management will be financed. Medical and education units will be modernized and endowed with equipment, touristic sites will be restored and border management will be improved. Furthermore, the staff in these fields can benefit of joint training and exchange of experience. Information and awareness campaigns can be organised for the population in the area, for prevention and reaction in case of disaster.

# European Year of Skills 2023



In the context of COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the whole of Europe felt that there are labour mismatches between the workforce and the skills needed to cope with these challenges.

The green and digital transitions are changing the skills needed for the European economy to grow in a sustainable and competitive manner.

That's why in her State of the European Union Address on 14 September 2022, President von der Leyen identified a "workforce with the right skills" as a crucial factor underpinning the current and future competitiveness of our social market economy. Skills mean more and better jobs because skilled workforce is a key driver of growth, enhancing the innovation power and competitiveness of all European companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Equipping the EU workforce with the skills needed also ensures that the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just. It empowers individuals to successfully navigate labour market changes and to fully engage in society and democracy.

The general objective of the European Year of Skills 2023 shall be to further promote a mindset of reskilling and upskilling, ensuring that nobody is left behind in the twin transitions and notably addressing labour shortages for a better skilled workforce in the EU that is able to seize the opportunities of this process, thus boosting the competitiveness of European companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, realising the full potential of the digital and green transitions in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner.

The European Year of Skills 2023 shall follow four specific objectives:

1. Promoting increased, more effective and inclusive investment into training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European current and future workforce and to support people in managing job-to-job transitions, active ageing, and benefiting from the new opportunities brought by the ongoing economic transformation.
2. Strengthening skills relevance by closely cooperating with social partners, public and private employment services, companies, education and training providers and developing joined-up approaches with all branches of governments.
3. Matching people's aspirations and skills-set with labour market opportunities especially those offered by the green and digital transitions and the core sectors in need of recovery from the pandemic. A special focus will be given to activate more people for the labour market, in particular women and young people especially those not in education, employment or training (NEETs).
4. Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the Union, including by strengthening learning opportunities and mobility, and by facilitating the recognition of qualifications.

Having in mind its importance, the European Year of Skills will be launched on May 9, 2023, when Europe Day is celebrated.

The Skills Year will run until May 2024, with many actions and initiatives to be launched and promoted.

One of this initiative is the European Vocational Skills Week 2023, between 23 and 27 October, when various stakeholders are expected to organise initiatives and events.

Sources:

1. [https://year-of-skills.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://year-of-skills.europa.eu/index_en)
2. [https://vocational-skills.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://vocational-skills.ec.europa.eu/index_en)



European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and co-financed by the participating countries in the Programme. The Programme is dedicated to the border areas between Romania and Ukraine and will contribute to the overall objective of the European Neighbourhood Instrument: progress towards an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness for the benefit of Member States and non-EU members through cross-border cooperation actions.

[www.ro-ua.net/en/](http://www.ro-ua.net/en/)



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**Romania-Ukraine**  
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.