

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

2021 Annual Implementation Report



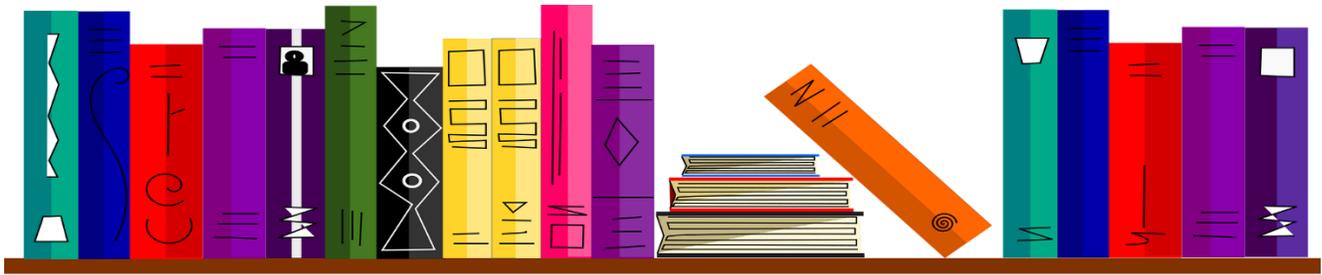
2021 has been another year to remember in many ways. The pandemic has affected our lives and we had to become more flexible and adapt to a “new normal”. It has been a year of big transitions, but it hasn’t changed the way we love the work we do and our commitment to find practical solutions to help our beneficiaries. The pandemic showed that joint action is the key to tackle the joint problems faced and that cross border cooperation is possible despite the difficult situations we found ourselves in.

Being always next to each other, the managing bodies and the beneficiaries, represents the way the Programme reached and surpassed all physical and financial targets set for the annual implementation.

2021 has been a very challenging year for the Programme implementation, the COVID 19 pandemic affected directly everyday life and also the implementation of the projects and Programme. As 2020 had begun with hardly any impact of the COVID 19 on the projects, the year 2021 has started with full restrictions imposed by the authorities in order to limit the spread of COVID 19 and has continued so, with a very short period of relaxation during the summer.

Many of the projects have been directly affected and a high percentage of the projects still running needed an extension of the implementation period. However, even in these conditions, the Programme has progressed and reached the implementation schedule without major deviations. The absorption target for 2021 (ERDF 37,039,749.74 EUR) has been overreached (namely by 50,615,384.88 EUR). The amount of 50,615,384.88 EUR certified above the absorption target of 2021 ensures the absorption target for 2022 as well as 32.93% of the absorption target for 2023 (12,748,540.14 EUR already certified out of 38,710,479.74 EUR).

Despite of the challenges encountered by projects caused by the effects of the pandemic restrictions, the Programme has made important progress in implementation and reached an implementation percentage of 71% (120 finalized projects out of a total of 169 projects) of the total contracted projects being completed and producing results that contributed to the development of the cross-border area. At the end of 2021, 49 projects were still in implementation, with a total budget of 168,134,502.85 Euro.

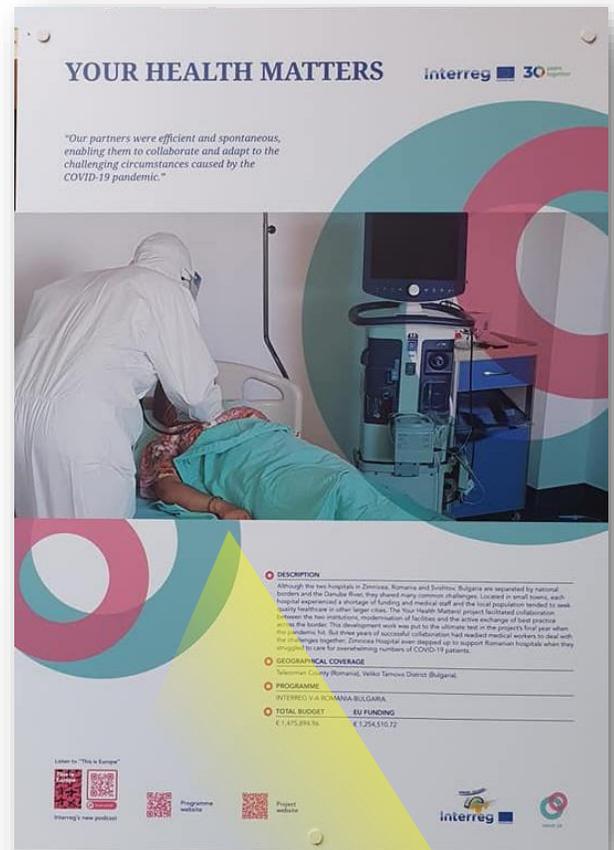


During the 2021, the efforts were focused on results and on promoting them. Thus, the good news about the Programme` achievements were highlighted, bringing them closer to the target groups.

You may explore here https://www.interregrobg.eu/images/fisiere/Outputs/Inventory-of-project-output_01.02.2022.xlsx, the output library and get to know an ever-growing collection of project`s achievements!

Project in the spotlight

Our project RoBg 174 Your Health Matters!, implemented by Territorial Administrative Unit Zimnicea City as Lead Beneficiary and Svishtov Municipality as Beneficiary 2, was presented during the Interreg 30 years exhibition, together with others healthcare projects from all Europe. The exhibition was organised in the context of the Interreg Annual Event, which took place in Brussels during 7-8 October. The story of how our project responded to Covid 19, helped the medical staff and saved many lives was presented in a set of posters during the exhibition.



PRIORITY AXIS 1 - A well connected region

114,377,101 euro ERDF contracted value - Out of 21 contracted projects, 5 projects were finalized and 16 projects are still in implementation

- 76.91 km (51.27% out of the total 150 km target) reconstructed or upgraded roads, serving 267,701 people

PRIORITY AXIS 2 - A green region

50,925,470 euro ERDF contracted value. Out of 70 contracted projects, 52 projects were finalized, 17 projects are still in implementation and 1 project was terminated

- 98 products/services were created (representing 98% of the set target of 100 products/service)
- 55 common strategies, policies or management plans for valorizing the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic use were created (representing 73.33% of the set target of 75 common strategies, policies or management plans)
- 110,972 visits, overreaching the target of 100,000 visits set at the Programme level
- 27,058.50 ha habitats benefited of support to attain a better conservation (overreaching the set target of 27,000 ha)
- 15 NATURA 2000 sites in the cross border area benefited of coordinated management tools developed by the financed projects (overreaching the set target of 12 sites)

PRIORITY AXIS 3 - A safe region

38,487,894 euro ERDF contracted value. Out of 28 contracted projects, 17 projects were finalized and 11 projects are still in implementation

- 3,238,355 people are benefiting from the results of the risk management actions, representing 77.10% of the set target of 4.2 mil
- 31 partnerships out of the total target of 50 joint partnerships in the field of joint early warning and emergency response were created within the finalized projects

PRIORIT AXIS 4 - A skilled and inclusive region

13,836,280 euro ERDF contracted value. Out of 34 contracted projects 31 projects were finalized, 1 project is still in implementation and 2 projects are terminated

- 899,462 people have access to the joint employment initiatives developed by the financed projects

PRIORIT AXIS 5 - An efficient region

12,906,524 euro ERDF contracted value. Out of 19 contracted projects 15 projects were finalized and 4 projects are still in implementation

- 96 cross border mechanisms were developed by the finalized projects and the organizations across the border have continued to work together after the project end.

Stay tuned for more news and information about upcoming events: www.interregrobg.eu

Follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaBulgariaCbcProgramme?ref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/ROBGProgramme>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtgRgCcdOK5D2ZsBJrMPXew/videos>