

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

of 2020 Annual Implementation Report for Interreg V-A Programme Romania - Bulgaria



2020 represented a major challenge for everyone on many levels and had an impact on the people in the entire globe. In this context, the Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme actively took part in battling the fallout of the COVID 19 pandemic. The managing bodies have taken measures and issued instructions for beneficiaries in order to ensure the continuation of the project implementation and to ease the process itself.

Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme remained close to its beneficiaries by demonstrating flexibility not only in view of adapting the Programme rules to the situation in hand but also by ensuring technical assistance and implementing information and promotion measures using online communication platforms and social media channels.

Projects financed within the Programme have actively participated in fighting the coronavirus as well.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Absorption rate: 37.9%, 81.770.427,2 Euro

Projects in implementation - 63

43 technical assistance meetings with beneficiaries

364 project reports for a total value of 44,91 mil Euro

4 training events for beneficiaries

1 Monitoring Committee meeting

53 MC written procedures and 57 decisions

4 online actions for promoting of the Programme results

ROMANIA - BULGARIA

Interreg

EUROPEAN UNION



Priority axis 1

A well connected region - 21 projects



Priority axis 2

A green region - 70 projects (counting also the terminated project)



Priority axis 3

A safe region - 28 projects



Priority axis 4

A skilled and inclusive region - 34 projects (counting also the two terminated projects)



Priority axis 5

An efficient region - 19 projects

PA 1
114,377,101
euro ERDF

17 projects still in implementation in amount of **101,956,615.32** million euro ERDF

7 projects to be finalized in 2021 in amount of 42,567, 713.21 million euro ERDF

PA 2
52,045,331
euro ERDF

26 projects still in implementation in amount of **31,056,960.96** million euro ERDF

20 projects to be finalized in 2021 in amount of 20,658,828.69 million euro ERDF

PA 3
38,487,894
euro ERDF

16 projects still in implementation in amount of **21,954,983.87** million euro ERDF

10 projects to be finalized in 2021 in amount of 7,007,499.95, million euro ERDF

PA 4
14,337,175
euro ERDF

1 project still in implementation in amount of **508,967.67** euro ERDF

1 project to be finalized in 2021 in amount of 508,967. 67 euro ERDF

PA 5
12,906,524
euro ERDF

4 projects still in implementation in amount of **4,108,380,10** euro ERDF

3 projects to be finalized in 2021 in amount of 3,418, 814,99 euro ERDF

Progress in terms of achievements:



The focus during the year 2020 for Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria was set on results!

The impact of Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme is visible across the eligible area proven by the numerous accomplishments in the following main fields of interest:

1. Tourism:



78 integrated touristic products /services have been created, including identification and promotion of main touristic attraction in the cross border area, organization and promotion of sport events in the cross border area, such as rowing on the Danube, using kayaks, organization of dragon boats competitions on the Danube; promotion of mountain bikes routes; promotion of the fishing tourism in the cross border area (organization of fishing competitions, identification and promoting of fishing main areas, etc.).

2. Culture and Environment:

3 projects were related to the promotion of a green tourism (realization of green touristic products, creation of common innovative touristic products and branding them with a cross border brand - NATBIOT, improving the quality and marketing of services in tourism).

12 projects have created tourisms products related to the common natural, historical and cultural heritage (creation of an network of the local artisans and promotion of their products; promotion of the local legends in the cross border area and developing touristic routes following these legends, creating religious related touristic products, promoting the common major orthodox historical churches in the cross border area; creating festivals promoting common middle age history of the both countries, or other historical common events, such as the liberation wars for Romania and Bulgaria in 1877-1878, promoting the cultural tradition of the Roma minority in the cross border area and developing and organizing art festivals).



3. Risk management:

Setting common management and intervention groups in Mehedinti - Belogradchik area, including setting up a siren alarm system and common exercises for flood and forest fire situations; setting information exchange systems in the area Branistea / Brosteni - Boinitsa, establishment of a Crisis Management and Training Centre in Ovcha Mogila, Bulgaria; developing a guideline for joint cross border



approach for handling emergency situations in the Veliko Turnovo - Teleorman area; developing a young volunteer network in Silistra - Calarasi area (including a web platform for volunteers at <https://www.youngvolunteer.eu/>) and developing an in-depth guide for citizen for disaster preparedness in the area Montana - Motatei. These actions were backed up by procurement of specialized intervention equipment such as: firefighting intervention trucks, tractors, thermal imaging camera, aerial surveillance drone, inflatable tents for hosting population fleeing floods or forest fires, transport vans, motorized wood chainsaws, extendable ladders, first aid kits, gas masks, firefighter's clothing, etc.



4. Employment / Labour Market:



market artisan products and services.

2 projects were finalized in 2020. One increases the employment opportunities and the mobility of the labour force through development of special competences and skills in the field of innovative ecotourism, organic agriculture and food production in the selected cross-border area Vidin Lyaskovets (training courses, language courses). The second one developed a FairDeal e-commerce platform, conceived as a cyber-mediary application which provides virtual storefronts, where interested SMEs, tradespersons and craftspeople of the CB area that can host a

5. Public administration and cooperation capacity:



ROBG 165

One framework agreement was signed on the inspections performed under the river supervision regime and setting specific rules for navigation in the common Bulgarian - Romanian stretch of the Danube River.



Partnerships for developing the capacity of schools in the region Calarasi - Silistra for a more efficient educational system were developed, involving the educational programs speciality developed within the project.



6. Transport and connectivity:



49.63 km and more than 131,687 people are being served by the modernized infrastructure.

The main project's outputs are available at <https://interregrobg.eu/en/projects/outputs.html>.

Implementation and impact evaluation of Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme



The evaluation performed at Programme level in 2020, concluded that Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria has proved to be a mature programme, contributing to the development of the transport infrastructure in the region and to the development of joint solutions for risk management, tourism development and improving the collaboration between institutions, thus generating positive effects in terms of labour mobility and contributing to the creation of synergies among key actors from both sides of the border.

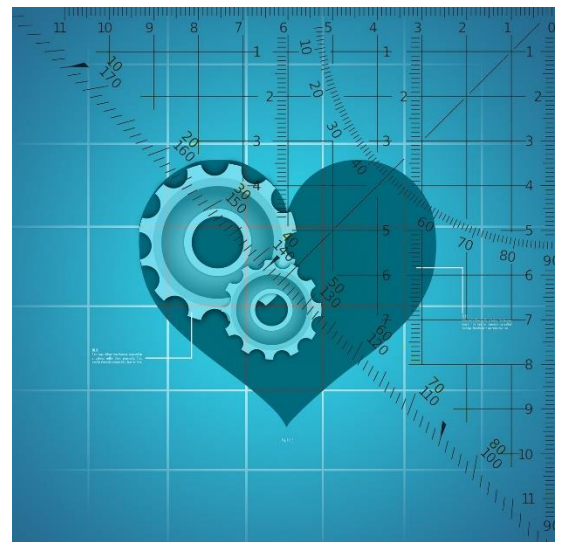
You may access the document [here](#).

Measures taken

Electronically signed documents

Instruction 12/13.04.2020 for suspension of projects due to COVID 19

Instruction 13/23.04.2020 to fight the current crisis caused by the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The projects under implementation, selected under Priority Axis 3 and 5, dealing with risks or health related issues, may request the modification of the Application Form, in order to use their potential economies for making acquisitions related to the fight against COVID-19.



Communication



Determined to ensure the continuation of the implementation process and to reach its entire target group, the Programme put in action online communication and promotion measures.

2020 put to the test the usual methods of communication and in the same time intensified the need of being able to communicate. Thanks to the modern day technologies and means of communication, the everyday Programme's life managed to adapt itself to the new situation.



Communication performance key figures

EC Day - Culinary Challenge

217.2 average daily page views

Video clip dedicated to 9th of
May - Europe's Day

On site visit for promotion the
project ROBG-408

Annual Conference of the
Interreg V-A Romania -
Bulgaria Programme

4 Thematic meetings for
beneficiaries

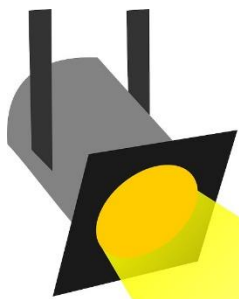
2 e-Newsletters

59 published journalistic
materials

1 Meeting of the Monitoring
Commillee

749 press articles directly referring to
projects financed under the Romania -
Bulgaria cross border cooperation
programmes

In the spotlight



Real life changing experience inspired
and supported by
Interreg V-A
Romania – Bulgaria Programme



The inspiring achievements of Costinel MUGEA,, a very ambitious and determined young man from Stefan Voda Commune, Calarasi County, who despite having both of his legs amputated, through participating in the actions implemented within the project RoBg 272, discovered his passion for rowing and cycling and became a performance rowing athlete, winning the gold medal at the National Ergometer Rowing Championship in February 2020.

Now, he is preparing intensively to qualify for the team that will participate in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

From all our hearts, we wish him success!

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

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

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