



Ministry of Development,
Public Works and Administration

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS



DECISION no 7
23rd of February 2021

approving the selection of the policy objectives 2 and 4 that will be financed under the future Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Having regard the provisions of articles 3 and 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Working Group for Strategic Planning and Programming for Romania-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation programme 2021-2027,

The Joint Group for Strategic Planning and Programming for Romania-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation programme 2021-2027 has adopted this:

DECISION

Article 1 - In addition to *Decision no 4 of the Joint Group for Strategic Planning and Programming of Romania-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation programme 2021-2027 for approving the selection of the policy objectives that will be financed under the future Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme*, the present document approves the selection of the Policy Objectives 2 and 4 and the related specific objectives to be financed under the future Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme, as presented in Annex 1.

Article 2 - The Programme structures are mandated to update the definitions of the Policy Objectives and the specific objectives according to the approved regulations, if the case. The Joint Group for Strategic Planning and Programming shall be duly informed.

Article 3 - Annex 1 is enclosed to this document and is part of this decision.

Chair

Iulia Hertzog

Head of Managing Authority

**Ministry of Development, Public Works
and Administration, Romania**

Vice-Chair

Denitsa NIKOLOVA

Deputy Minister

**Ministry of Regional Development
and Public Works, Bulgaria**

Selection of the Policy Objectives 4 and 2 and the related specific objectives to be financed under the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

The Joint Group for Strategic Planning and Programming for Romania-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation programme 2021-2027 has selected for financing the following policy objectives (according to Decision no 4 *approving the selection of the policy objectives that will be financed under the future Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme*):

PO 3 - A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity ('PO 3'), with the specific objective:

iii. Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

PO 5 - A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives ('PO 5'), with the specific objective:

ii. fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development

According to the provisions of article 15 of the new Interreg Regulation (for which political agreement has currently been reached, thus no changes are envisaged), *Interreg A programmes along internal land borders shall allocate at least 60% of the allocated ERDF on policy objectives 2 and 4 and a maximum of two other policy objectives set out in Article [4(1)] of Regulation (EU) [new CPR]*. Thus, the financing of PO 2 and PO 4 is mandatory for Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria:

- **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 and risk prevention and management ('PO 2'),
- **A more social and inclusive Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights ('PO 4').

Consequently, based on:

- the findings of the Territorial Analysis for the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-border Region
- the provisions of article 15 of new Interreg Regulation related to the thematic concentration

and considering the main challenges of the border area:

- the population declined and the labour resources decreased.
- labour market needs a stable flow of well-trained people in order to maintain and increase their competitiveness on the local, national and European market,

- a sound educational system that is responsive to the labour market requests is essential for both the livelihoods (revenue, career, social valorisation, etc.) of local citizens and for the economic development of companies in a region,
- illiteracy rate is worrying and the risk of social exclusion and of the lack of alternatives that affect many people, as illiteracy is an epiphenomenon for a wider lack of access to education and the social values attached to it,
- the quality of environmental factors is worsening,
- climate change will have serious effects both on urbanized areas and on the cross-border protected areas network,
- Romania-Bulgaria cross-border region continues to have low rates of waste recycling, in some cases equal to 0, and high quantities of generated waste,
- air quality is worsening, especially in the urban areas where high levels of PM10 and PM2.5 remain a concern,
- the natural risks and the effects of the climate change due to the specificities of the territory encompassing the banks of the Danube and the Black Sea Coast add more pressure on the communities and the local authorities,

the additional following objectives are selected for financing under Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme:

1. **PO 2 A greener low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe**, with the following specific objectives:

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

The types of actions related to disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches shall be implemented through strategic projects.

vii. enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in the urban area, and reducing all forms of pollution.

The managing bodies propose a focus on green infrastructure and reduction of all forms of pollution which will be elaborated in details at the next stage of programming.

2. **PO 4 A more social and inclusive Europe** with the following specific objective (set by ESF+ Regulation), implemented by joint actions:

v. promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The managing bodies will propose SPF as an instrument for implementation of PO4 justified by an analysis on the efficiency of using SPF, the conditions in the region, the potentials and positive aspects for the Programme.