

NEWSLETTER

INTERREG IPA ROMANIA–SERBIA PROGRAMME



Photo taken at the Launch conference organized in Timisoara on the 17th of April 2024 for project SAFE – A Safer Climate in the Romanian-Serbian Border Area.

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Project **“SAFE”**, A Safer Climate in the Romanian-Serbian Border Area, funded through the Interreg IPA Romania – Serbia 2021-2027 Programme organised a launch conference on the 17th of April 2024, to present its objectives.

Project **“RORS-ONCO-TEAM”**, Together we can beat cancer, funded through the Interreg IPA Romania – Serbia 2021-2027 Programme organised a launch conference on the 18th of April 2024, to present its objectives.



Photo of the Launch Conference organized on the 18th of April 2024 for project Together we can beat cancer



Decorative photo:
a laptop keyboard with a
procurement key

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SAFE

A Safer Climate in the Romanian-Serbian Border Area



Project **"SAFE"** – A Safer Climate in the Romanian-Serbian Border Area, funded through the Interreg IPA Romania – Serbia 2021-2027 Programme organised a launch conference on the 17th of April 2024, to present its objectives.

The project, worth 13.8 million euros, will enhance the institutional capacity of the authorities involved in border management and improve safety and security in the border area.

The project partners are the Territorial Inspectorate for Border Police Timisoara, the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia, the School for Improvement of Training of Romanian Border Police Personnel Drobeta-Turnu Severin, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, and the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie.



Photo from the Launch Conference for project SAFE.

<https://romania-serbia.net/projects/>

RORS-ONCO-TEAM

Together we can beat cancer

The project mission is clear: to combat breast and other types of cancer by investing €5 million in state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilitating joint workshops for Romanian and Serbian medical staff.

The project ensures the improvement of healthcare services for early diagnosis of cancer and innovative treatment in four hospitals in Timisoara, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Kladovo and Veliko Gradiste for the benefit of the population in the Timis - Mehedinti - Bor - Branicevski - South Banat area, in an integrated and inclusive approach.

Together, the partners will embrace innovative procedures and techniques to enhance cancer treatment outcomes.



The **Launch Conference** was held in Timișoara, on the 18th of April 2024, in the company of all project partners, Programme authorities, government representatives, stakeholders, and the media.

Promoting Social Inclusion Through Responsible Public Procurement

How can socially responsible public procurements contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights – Building a Fairer and More Inclusive European Union

Dear Readers,

The **European Pillar of Social Rights** is not just a collection of 20 guiding principles for member states in reconsidering social policies; it's also a strategic reference point for funded projects and cohesion policy instruments.

We all aspire for implemented projects to have a **significantly positive social impact** and to contribute to increased social inclusion for various vulnerable groups. However, each project carries its own social particularities, which are reflected in their **impact on relevant territories**.



Photo of post-its with the words: inclusion, diversity and equality.

Although principles and action plans provide frameworks for developing and implementing projects aimed at increasing social responsibility and better reflecting the diversity of social groups in EU-funded projects, they don't always capture all facets of social challenges or generate significant trends in labour markets, education, access to services, or public participation for all vulnerable groups.

A concrete mechanism that can address aspects of inclusion, social responsibility, and employment is public procurement. **Public authorities and beneficiaries of EU-funded projects can decisively contribute to increasing social inclusion by procuring goods and services from social entities that employ individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and vulnerable groups.** This mechanism of creating decent jobs for vulnerable individuals can significantly contribute to an inclusive labour market and improve the quality of life for these individuals.

In the realm of public procurement, **a paradigm shift is needed** – a shift that emphasizes not just the traditional metrics of cost and efficiency but also the broader social impact of procurement contracts on communities.

This new approach is known as **Socially Responsible Public Procurement (SRPP)**, and it represents a significant departure from conventional practices.

So what exactly does SRPP entail?

Socially Responsible Public Procurement

At its core, SRPP is about leveraging the purchasing power of governments, civil society, organizations and other entities to drive positive social change. It recognizes that procurement decisions have far-reaching consequences beyond simply acquiring goods and services – they shape communities, impact livelihoods and influence environmental sustainability.

So what exactly does SRPP entail? First and foremost, SRPP involves a reevaluation of procurement criteria. While cost and quality remain important considerations, SRPP places an equal emphasis on factors such as social inclusion, social equity and ethical sourcing.

For instance, rather than simply opting for the lowest bidder, SRPP encourages procurers to prioritize suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to social inclusion, socially responsible values and community engagement.

But what are the main aspects to consider for procurers? When initiating the introduction of social aspects into the procurement cycle, it's essential to understand the social risks and opportunities you want to mitigate or maximize through your initiative. Questions such as which categories of disadvantaged people you want to support through your initiative or what social risks you want to reduce by accessing services or goods from a certain segment of the market are legitimate starting points for your action. Furthermore, **market consultation** is another important tool for understanding the profiles of employers and businesses. It's important for every market segment to have access to public procurement, especially since numerous social entities are competitively disadvantaged compared to major product or service providers.



Decorative photo: Post-it with procurement plans.

In conclusion, **SRPP offers a compelling vision for the future of public procurement** – one where **economic efficiency is balanced with social responsibility** and where the power of procurement is harnessed to build stronger, more resilient communities. As we continue to navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world, let us seize the opportunity to embrace SRPP and create a future where procurement serves not just the bottom line, but **the common good**.

Stay tuned for more updates on the Interreg IPA Romania–Serbia Programme and interesting news on the European Union!

The Oldest Sanctuary in Banat is open to visitors

Enhancing tourism in Banat cross-border area by capitalizing of the potential of Parta and Majdan archaeological sites (PAMA-ROSE)

TOURISM



We are thrilled to share with you the exciting developments in the realm of tourism in the Banat cross-border area. Through meticulous efforts and collaboration, the project partners have embarked on a journey to enhance tourism by unlocking the potential of the Parta and Majdan archaeological sites.

The mission was twofold: to prepare these archaeological sites for visitors and to build the capacity necessary to cater to their needs. Both locations are open and available to the public.

The Visitor Experience: Embark on a journey through time as you explore the captivating narratives woven into the fabric of Parta and Majdan.

From the ancient ruins to the meticulously curated exhibits, every corner holds a story waiting to be discovered.

In unveiling the treasures of Parta and Majdan, we have not only enriched the tourism landscape but also empowered local communities to embrace their heritage with pride. As we look to the future, let us continue to cherish and preserve the cultural tapestry of Banat for generations to come.



Decorative design: Photos with visitors to Parta Museum (inside and outside).

Photos from Parta and Majdan, ready to receive tourists.



DISCOVERY

Plan Your Visit:

We invite you to immerse yourself in the allure of Banat region by embarking on a journey to Parta and Majdan. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply seeking new adventures, our archaeological sites promise an unforgettable experience. Find out more about the project and the two locations here: <https://www.pamarose.ro/>

Projects in focus



Project RORS-22 **InclusiveArt – Access to Culture for Disadvantaged Children and Youth**

1. The ultimate status **envisioned by the EU**, as reflected in this project, is a society where cultural and creative expressions are leveraged not only for their intrinsic value but also as a means for social inclusion, economic innovation, and sustainable development.
2. **Social inclusion** - this value speaks to the heart of the European ideal of unity in diversity, showcasing efforts to ensure that everyone has a voice and the opportunity to thrive. **Cultural innovation and entrepreneurship** - nurturing a dynamic cultural ecosystem where artists and cultural practitioners are equipped with the skills and knowledge to innovate and succeed.
3. The benefits of this priority for the lead target group are profound, extending beyond immediate economic and educational outcomes to encompass long-term social, cultural, and personal development. These benefits collectively contribute to a more inclusive, vibrant, and resilient community, aligned with broader societal and EU objectives: **enhanced social cohesion and inclusion; economic opportunities and skill development; strengthened community bonds; broadened cultural horizon.**

4. The EU's investment in cultural and social inclusion projects benefits each European by fostering a more cohesive, innovative, and inclusive society. These investments contribute to the economic vitality of the continent, enhance the quality of life for its citizens, and ensure the long-term resilience and sustainability of European communities.

Photo from a community sculpture workshop in Kikinda, Terra Studio.

HERE ARE THE ANSWERED QUESTIONS:

1. EU Vision – what will be the desired ultimate status? At local/national/European level.

2. What is the value of this priority to be communicated in our messages?

3. What is the benefit of this priority in the lead target group?

4. Why is the EU investing in this area/how will each European benefit?



Photo of a student drawing a leaf.

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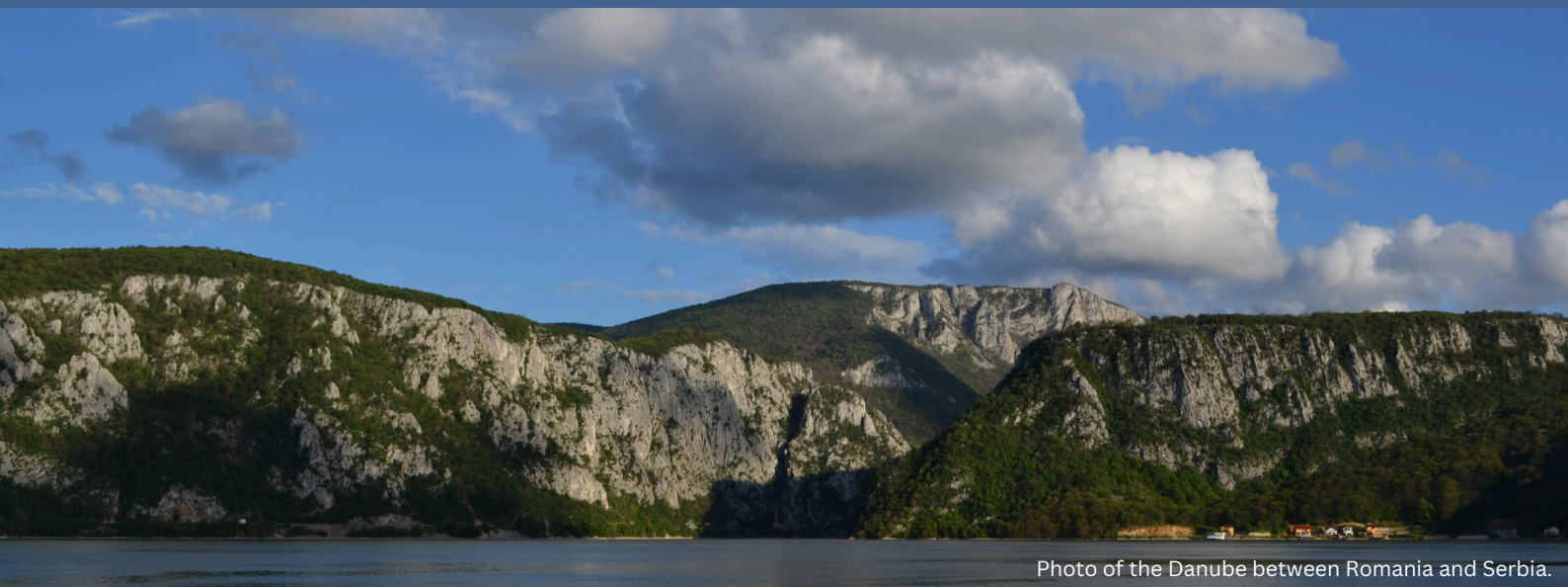


Photo of the Danube between Romania and Serbia.

Managing Authority: Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
No. 16 Libertății Boulevard, North Side, Sector 5, Bucharest, Postal Code 050706, ROMANIA
Tel.: +40.372.111.309; Fax: +40.372.111.456
E-mail: romania-serbia@mdlpa.gov.ro
www.mdlpa.ro

National Authority: Ministry of European Integration
Nemanjina 34, 11000 Belgrade, SERBIA
Tel./ Fax: +381(11)3061-100/+381 (11) 3061-110
E-mail: office@mei.gov.rs
www.mei.gov.rs

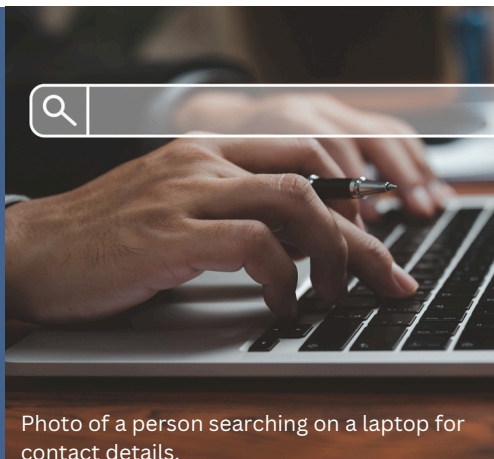


Photo of a person searching on a laptop for contact details.

Joint Secretariat: within the Regional Office for Cross-border Cooperation Timisoara
Proclamatia de la Timisoara Street, no 5, 1st floor, 300054, Timisoara, ROMANIA
Tel.: +40.356.426.360; Fax: +40.356.426.361
Helpdesk service for the public: ipacbc@brct-timisoara.ro

JS Antenna:
Makedonska 11 street, 23000 Zrenjanin, SERBIA
Tel: +381(0)23515965, +381 60 315 99 00, +381656693770
E-mail: stana.babic@mei.gov.rs, biljana.guzina@mei.gov.rs