

# Synergies and coordination initiatives and experiences

## *Value added of creating synergies*



**Sarajevo**

**25 September 2024**



Framework that enables programmes and projects to:

- work together **effectively**
- enhance their **impact**
- contribute to the EU's strategic **goals**



- Tackle joint challenges that do not stop at borders: e.g climate change, digitalisation, illegal migration.
- EU level impact and results cannot be achieved without cross-border cooperation.
- Up-scale the results (value for money).



## Strategic Alignment

Objectives in our Programmes are aligned with EU goals and contribute to broader EU policies and strategies.

## Coordination and Cooperation

Several networks and layers of coordination are already established.

Despite single programmes' efforts, more impact can only be created by pulling together the resources (EU, national, other donors).

## Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building



### Efficient Resource Use

Leveraging funding from multiple sources/ programmes leads to greater impact on the ground.

### Simplification & Harmonization

Reducing any barriers to make it easier for programmes and projects to work together

### Capitalization

Replicate the results and/ or build further on the already achieved results (intra- and inter- programmes)



**EU goals  
Macro-regional  
strategies**

**Programme level  
synergies**

**Project level  
synergies and  
complementarity  
of funds**

# Programme level ambitions

- *The EU financing under the Programme will be complemented by reflows stemming from the programmes and funds prior to 2021 and by the amounts allocated through the MFF, Recovery and Resilience Facility and Economic and Investment Plan in the Western Balkans*
- *(...) whilst building on synergies and complementarity with other forms of support, including potential contribution to reaching the objectives of the EUSDR and EUSAIR.*
- *The Programme shall seek to create synergies and complementarities with EUSAIR and to contribute directly to the implementation of the Macro-Regional Strategy for Danube Region.*

# Programme level ambitions

- *It shall seek to promote complementarities with other projects implemented within the EUSDR and EUSAIR framework and may also contribute to facilitate the exchange of experience and the transfer of expertise between relevant EUSDR and EUSAIR stakeholders.*
- *Opportunities to generate stronger strategic synergies between EUSAIR and national-level EU-programming, regional or sector initiatives include the integration of EUSAIR priorities in the framework of large impact projects with multiplier effects and/ or coordinated projects.*
- *Several programmes can contribute to the funding of these coordinated projects and thus the effects will be multiplied and the impact of the EU funding on the ground will be more visible.*



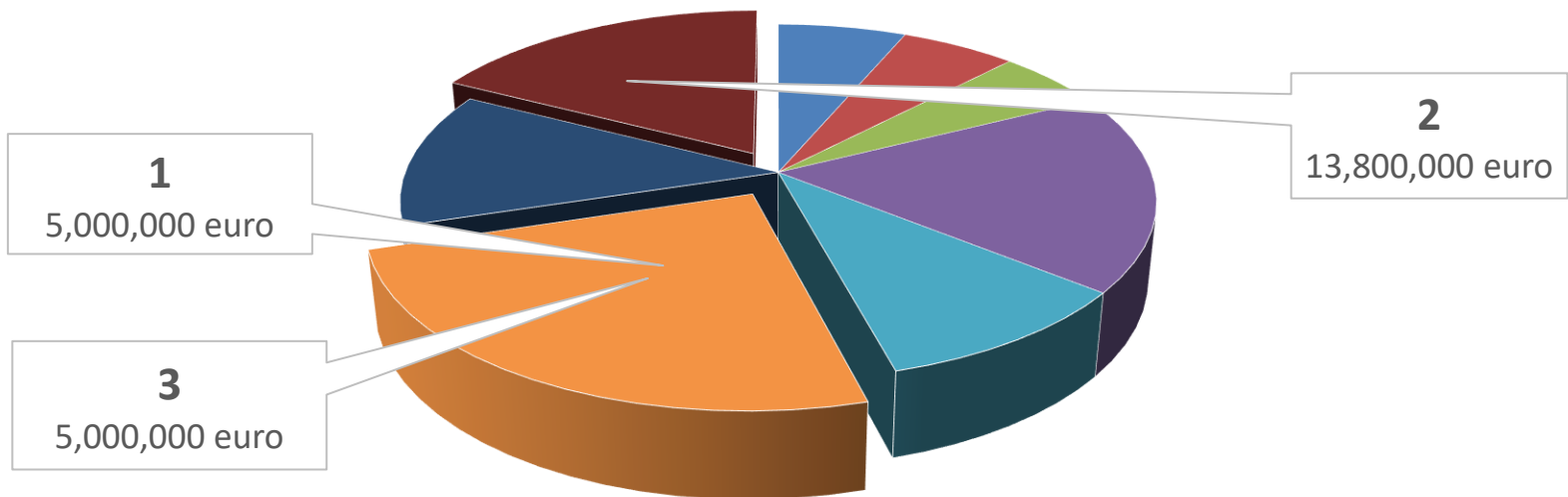
# Programme level ambitions translate at projects' level

- *Regular projects could be complemented by operations of strategic importance and/ or large infrastructure projects, which by involving more relevant stakeholders and covering a bigger region, will have a bigger impact.*
- **Quality assessment criteria for OSIs:**
  - *The project clearly contributes to a wider initiative/ strategy on one or more policy levels (EU/ national/ regional) and presents synergies with the relevant national/ regional and EU Macro-Regional Strategies (e.g EUSDR).*
  - *The project makes use of available knowledge and builds on existing results and practices (capitalization).*

# Operations of Strategic Importance

1. Together we can beat cancer
2. Safer climate within the Romanian-Serbian border area
3. Harmonization of cardiovascular diseases management from prevention to heart transplantation in the cross border area

- Nature protection and biodiversity
- Energy efficiency
- Education and training infrastructure
- Culture and sustainable tourism
- Renewable energy
- Climate change adaptation
- Access to health care
- Institutional capacity of public authorities

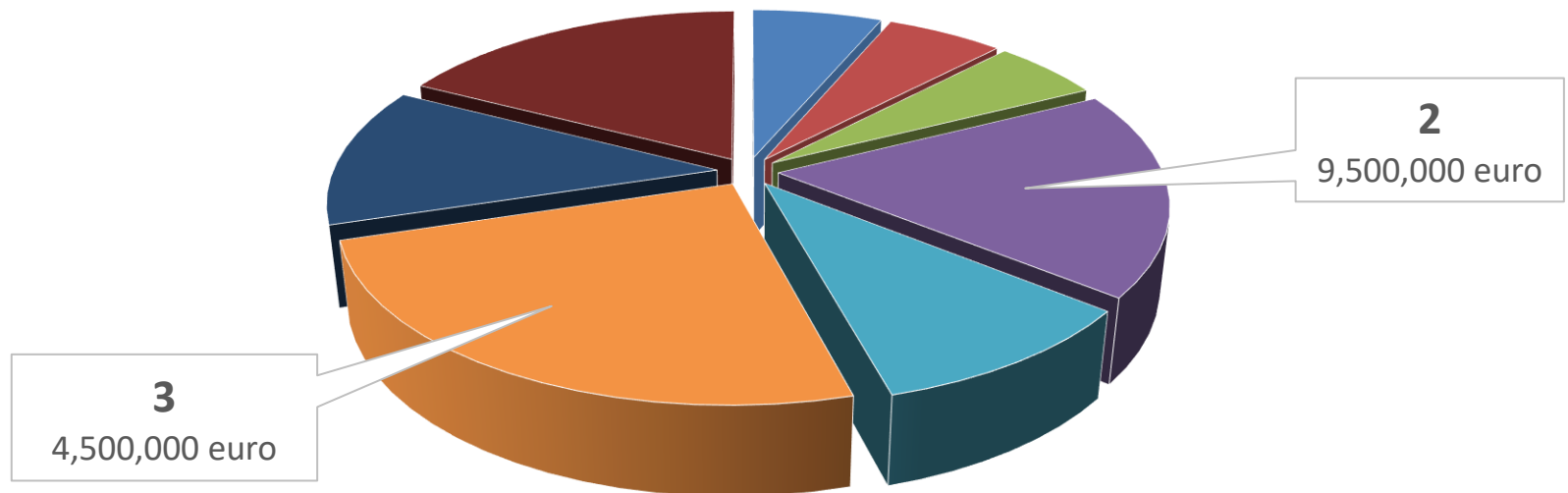


# Large Infrastructure Projects

1. A more secure cross-border area by enhancing the emergency response capability

2. Early diagnosis – living well with Dementia

- Nature protection and biodiversity
- Energy efficiency
- Education and training infrastructure
- Culture and sustainable tourism
- Renewable energy
- Climate change adaptation
- Access to health care
- Institutional capacity of public authorities





# Safer climate within the Romanian-Serbian border area

## Which synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

- *Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe*
- *Regional Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Cross-Border Crime Romania-Moldova - THOR, submitted and approved for finance through the Interreg ENI Romania - Moldova Programme 2014 - 2020.*
- *Regional Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Cross-Border Crime Romania-Ukraine - SAGA, submitted and approved for finance through the Interreg ENI Romania - Ukraine Programme 2014 - 2020.*



## Safer climate within the Romanian-Serbian border area

- *Moreover, synergy is sought with the actions supported by the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) aimed at facilitating and ensuring uniformity between border and customs control to make external border stronger. Also, for actions related to migration countering increased cooperation between the participating countries in the programme and complementarity with the interventions financed through Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) is needed.*
- *Special Measure on Migration Management, IPA Multi-beneficiary programmes, EU Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, EU Civil Protection Mechanism are just a few instruments to be taken into account for building synergies at the level of the proposed actions and increase the on-the-ground cooperation between partner institutions from the two countries.*

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**IPA** Romania - Serbia

# A look into the future



**Focus on performance**

**Value for money**

**Sound  
financial  
management**

**Economy, Efficiency,  
Effectiveness**

**Added value**





## **Lessons Learnt**

### **Experience**

### **Foresight**

Lack of coordination and consistency between programmes, strategies and activities financed can undermine the effectiveness and credibility of EU financing.

- A stronger integrated and coordinated approach at European, national and regional levels is needed.
- A stronger coordination mechanism should be built in order to enhance the integrated use of all relevant funds and more synergies between programmes could be pursued.





## Macro-regional strategies

- The entire embedding process is meant to generate complementarities and identify possibilities of cooperation in terms of coordinated projects and/ or joint macro-regional actions, creating a cumulative effect.
- Coordinated actions between programmes in a specific region can lead to the exploitation of all opportunities for pooling resources needed to address common challenges.



# INTER CONNECT



# INTER CONNECT

# Digital Tools

**INDEX:** if used by all programmes (per region)

- synergies, capitalization, verification of double funding

**JEMS:**

- simplification and harmonization, interface with SFC & ARACHNE (which will be mandatory in post-2027)

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**IPA** Romania – Serbia

# THANK YOU!

**Oana Cristea**, Head of Unit  
Romania – Serbia Interreg IPA Programme  
Ministry of Development, Public Works and  
Administration, ROMANIA  
[oana.cristea@mdlpa.gov.ro](mailto:oana.cristea@mdlpa.gov.ro)