

Newsletter Nr. 3 / 2020



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The Managing Authority for Romania-Ukraine Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020
has started the process of preparing
Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme for 2021-2027

In June 2020, the Joint Programming Committee was set up. This is the main body to decide on the programming process and it is formed of representatives of public central and local authorities, as well as other stakeholders from both partner countries. The representativeness of the Joint Programming Committee is available [here](#).

Up to date, there have been taken decisions regarding the working procedure of the Committee, preparation of the documentation for strategic environmental assessment and settling the programming area. The programme area covers 5 counties in Romania, i.e. Satu Mare, Maramureş, Suceava, Botoşani, Tulcea, and Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, and Odessa oblasts in Ukraine.

The Joint Programming Committee approved the methodology of drafting the future programme and it decided to start the territorial analysis stage. The programme drafting methodology is based on the European draft regulations which are under approval, and on TESIM guidelines available for all programmes, which can be found [here](#). During the programming process, local and national stakeholders will be consulted (public local and national authorities, NGOs etc.), both on drafting the territorial analysis, as well as on establishing programme priorities, target groups and potential beneficiaries, and on identifying large infrastructure projects to be implemented in partnership, so as to answer to common needs.

Furthermore, the public will be asked to send proposals on the draft of the programme, which will be published on this page of www.ro-ua.net, as well as on www.mlpda.ro (Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration in Romania) and on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers in Ukraine.



Romania-Ukraine

ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

You are invited to follow this page in order to find out the updated stage of the programming process, and the public consultations which will be launched.

The tangible results of the projects financed by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 are not long in coming, demonstrating the usefulness of the chosen priorities. Joint actions and research studies (including the purchase of related equipment) in the field of environment (challenges related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy and resource efficiency) have reached a common denominator in the project "Promoting dead wood to increase forest resilience in Romania-Ukraine cross-border area" RESFOR, 2SOFT / 1.2 / 13. the project has a duration of 18 months (January 2020 - June 2021). The specific objectives, activities and expected results of the project are related to the target area of the project in Romania (Maramures and Suceava counties) and Ukraine (Ivano Frankivsk and Zakarpattia regions). Dead wood (standing dead trees as well as fallen logs) is a critical component in the structure and functioning of the forest, playing a key role in maintaining its productivity, natural regeneration, biodiversity conservation, increasing resilience to climate change. On the other hand, the presence of dead wood contributes to the provision of valuable ecosystem services to local communities and the general public. In the following, we present you the steps taken so far by the beneficiaries of our programme, towards a successful result.

Dead wood is the richest habitat in a healthy forest



Old tree trunks, trees that are dying or are already dead, tree trunks and fallen branches form one of the richest and, so far, underestimated habitats for biodiversity in Europe. Deadwood plays a key role in maintaining forest productivity, natural regeneration, biodiversity conservation, and increasing resilience against the climate change. However, deadwood management is a relatively new concept in Romania and Ukraine that has only been promoted since the 2000s. Dead or

fallen trees provide the habitat of about 30% of insects living in the forest, they can be home to various species of birds and mammals, they accumulate carbon from the atmosphere through the food chain and their decomposition is a source of increased soil fertility.

As part of the RESFOR project, Ukrainian and Romanian scientists are exploring the benefits of increasing the amount of deadwood in the forest to increase the resilience of forest ecosystems. The partners in the project are environmental organizations WWF-Romania and the Ukrainian NGO "Ecosphera", as well as scientific institutions such as the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry named after P.S. Pasternak - UkrRIMF in Ivano-Frankivsk - Ukraine, and the "Stefan cel Mare University" of Suceava in Romania. To date, UkrRIMF scientists have established 20 circular sample plots with an area of 500 m² each in the forest of the Drestunka Velyka river watershed, which is located in the Krasnytsia forestry unit of the Verkhovynske State Forestry Enterprise in Prykarpattia in managed forests. At the sample plots, a complete description and assessment was performed, the height and diameter of the trunk of each tree were



measured, the cores were drilled, and the amount of deadwood on the transects was determined.



“Biodiversity assessment was performed at 4 1x1 m sampling sites, which are located at a distance of 6.31 m from the sample plot center on 4 cardinal directions (N, E, S, W). Due to the end of the vegetation season, the diversity of herbal layer is low. We found *Galeobdolon luteum*, wood sorrel, lady fern, hedge bedstraw, mosses. After processing the field data, we plan to show the difference in phytodiversity depending on the structure of the stand and fellings that was carried out there,” explains Ivanna Danilova, a junior researcher at UkrRIMF.

„We assessed lying and standing deadwood. The assessment of standing deadwood was carried out within the assessment of the stand on the sample plot. For each tree, the diameter of the trunk at a height of 1.3 m, the stage of decomposition and the corresponding code (according to the agreed methodology) were indicated”, adds the senior researcher of the UkrRIMF, Ph.D. Taras Yunyk. And he continues: “We described also each part of lying deadwood within each sample plot to show it later on a 3D model”.

Transect assessment was performed to calculate the volume of deadwood on each according to the formula of Bohl and Brandi. Within the project, it is planned to establish 20 more sample plots in virgin forests.

The emphasis of research on the deadwood role in the resilience of forest ecosystems against climatic conditions is given to dendrochronology. For this purpose, mostly older trees of typical Carpathian species - spruce, beech, fir - were selected to take wood cores. “We expect to identify cyclical links between annual ring width and meteorological factors - temperature, humidity - over the past 40-60 years, or to identify the impact of stand structure on tree growth during ontogenesis”, explains Ph.D. Taras Parpan, leading researcher at the UkrRIMF.



Similar studies are being conducted by Romanian colleagues at the University of Suceava in the Romanian Carpathians. Last month a research team from the Laboratory of Forest Biometry performed inventory activities in the virgin forest of Strâmbu Băiut in the Maramures County. Field data



collection was done based on the same detailed protocol used by Ukrainian colleagues and elaborated

under the RESFOR transboundary project. The main focus of this research activity has been to understand in detail how virgin forests are structured and organized as well as the quantity of deadwood that characterizes such forests, to assess the decaying level of deadwood as well as specific biodiversity, and to measure disturbances associated with as well as the resilience of natural forests to climate changes. The same inventory activity will be performed in production forests next to Strâmbu Băiut. The first scientific comparative results, between natural and managed forests both in Ukraine and Romania, can be expected in the beginning of 2021 and will be used for the elaboration of best practices for sustainable deadwood management in order to improve production forests resilience to climate changes as well as the benefits they provide to local communities.

The value of the project is 324942,5 euros (1562973,425 lei), of which the European Union contribution is 292448,25 euros (1406676,08 lei). EMS-ENI code: 2soft/1.2/13. For more information: WWF-Romania, Adriana Trocea – Communication Expert, atrocea@wwf.ro, +40 728 278737
Ecosphera, Oksana Stankiewicz-Volosyanchuk - Communication Expert, ostankiewicz@yahoo.de, +38 0675089655.

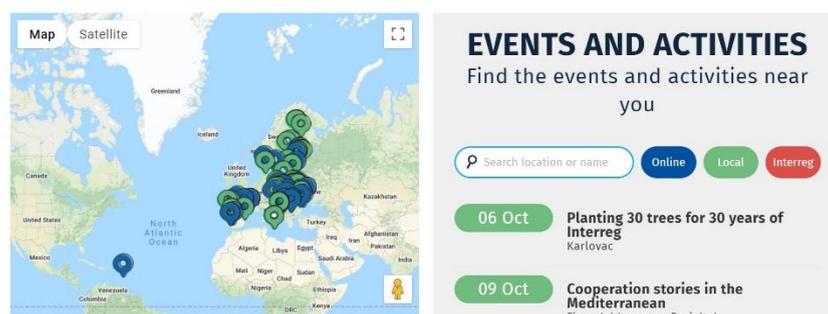
Autumn recap within the Romania - Ukraine Programme 2014-2020

Safe cooperation for a whole month!

The echoes of the cooperation flowed throughout the autumn within the context of the Romania-Ukraine programme 2014-2020, for a whole month, between September 21 and October 20 a.c. The extensive campaign of celebrating European Cooperation Day, took place under the slogan "Safely, together!".

European Cooperation Day is celebrated every year on 21 September. The opportunity of this celebration is given by the mixture of cultures and economies that defines Europe, a diverse community that must understand each other to reach its full potential. The European Union encourages cooperation in various ways. One of them is through cooperation programmes, which allocate more than 10 billion euros for regions to work together on common challenges: climate adaptation, social inclusion, migration and more. How is this done in practice? Through projects involving regions throughout the European Union and neighboring countries. They have contributed to increasing cultural understanding and overcoming economic disparities in all territories. And this is a good reason to celebrate.

The "European Cooperation Day" campaigns aim to bring to the attention of citizens the fact that many good things happen when we join our forces. In the past editions, people have donated blood, ridden bicycles, sung together, eaten together and generally had great fun in each other's company, in hundreds of events organized by EU cooperation programmes in over 30 of countries. In September and October 2020, numerous events were organized in different regions of Europe to mark the benefits of cooperation: film festivals, conferences, competitions and many other actions, mainly online, adapted to the current health crisis. A summary of these activities from all over the continent, as well as the map of events is available on the dedicated website, www.ecday.eu.



The image shows a screenshot of the website www.ecday.eu. On the left, there is a map of Europe with several green and blue circular markers indicating event locations. On the right, there is a section titled "EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES" with the subtitle "Find the events and activities near you". Below this, there is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search location or name" and three buttons labeled "Online", "Local", and "Interreg". Two event cards are visible: one for "06 Oct Planting 30 trees for 30 years of Interreg Karlovac" and another for "09 Oct Cooperation stories in the Mediterranean Fiera del Levante - Bari, Italy".

In Romania and Ukraine, the Joint Operational Program Romania - Ukraine 2014-2020 carried out the European Cooperation Day on three levels: cooperation, digitization and security. Between September 21 and October 20, 2020, residents of counties on the border with Ukraine were invited on a safe



journey "Safely, together!" through Tulcea, Botoșani, Suceava, Baia Mare or Satu Mare, with public transport that popularized the message of the Romania - Ukraine Programme for European Cooperation Day. The European Cooperation Day was present in Ukraine online, through a campaign to promote cross-border cooperation and partnerships that generate results and solutions to common problems of both countries. Last but not least, campaigns for the distribution of protective masks were further conducted in each of the 5 Romanian cities in the Program area. In order to ensure a safe journey in the campaign buses, information packages containing disposable protective masks were distributed in the bus stops on the routes on which the personalized means of transport circulated.

The beneficiaries of the Romania-Ukraine Programme also marked the Cooperation Day - "Safely, together!" through various events and activities carried out both in Romania and in Ukraine.

These include numerous international webinars, creating a network of RO-UA beneficiaries involved in education projects, outdoor actions on prevention led by law enforcement involved in the program, exhibitions of painting, photographic art and drawing and, of course, the events of the Ukrainian partners, such as the "European Book Month", the exhibition "Europe seen through the eyes of Ukrainian artists", flashmobs or cycling competition.



The list of events and the details regarding the actions carried out by the Romania - Ukraine Programme 2014-2020 in the month of European cooperation are available on the website www.ro-

ua.net, but also on the facebook page of the programme <https://www.facebook.com/ENI-CBC-Romania-Ukraine-2014-2020>.

Celebrating together – Cooperation Stories

The European Cooperation Day 2020 focused on increasing the visibility of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 among the general public in the two partner countries. Along with the celebration of this day, we managed to increase the visibility of EU funding instruments available at the Romania-Ukraine border by organizing actions dedicated to the general public, but also to the beneficiaries of the programme. Many of the beneficiaries and project partners enthusiastically responded to the invitation sent by the Joint Technical Secretary to launch local actions to promote the programme and celebrate European Cooperation Day. They carried out various interesting online actions, but also on-site events, both in Romania and in Ukraine.

Promotional materials with the visibility elements of the programme and also ECDay 2020 (150 packages) were sent to the beneficiaries from Romania and Ukraine who carried out local actions to celebrate ECDay.

Below are some of the testimonies of the cooperation and photos that highlight the fact that the projects successfully continue during the pandemic.



Crasna Vișeului, a village with a majority population of Ukrainian ethnicity, hosted the European Cooperation Day on September 21, 2020. Aiming to form new development opportunities in the multi-



ethnic community along the Romanian-Ukrainian border, the Technological High School from Repedea together with the Crasna Vișeului Secondary School (Bistra commune) and the School no. 1 from Solotvino (Slatina) - Ukraine runs the project "Innovative design of education - the foundation for community development" 2SOFT / 1.1 / 165. Being a time of celebration, the participants in the event highlighted

the importance of cooperation for the future, education being the basic element in the healthy development of children. The following spoke: Lolita Javtushenko Rusnak, Director of the Solotvino School (UA), Viorica Petrovai, Director of the Petrova Secondary School (RO), and the project coordinator, Ms Monica Dinu and all speakers highlighted the European Union's Neighborhood Instrument, whose financial support made possible this cross-border project.

At the end of the event, Crasna Vișeului Secondary School



presented a beautiful artistic program, carried out in the language of the partners.

The whole event was filmed and broadcast in the local press, the videos being available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-KXSblde54&feature=emb_logo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlbgDncZRdw&feature=emb_logo

The cooperation was celebrated online also in Tulcea county through the JERAD project (JOINT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACROSS DANUBE) 2SOFT4.2 / 70. They held a dedicated webinar on September 30th. The project teams of the two partners participated along with the monitoring and implementation officer within BRCT Suceava and the legal representatives of the two partner structures. The guests mentioned in their interventions the



importance of cross-border cooperation and the benefits that European-funded projects bring to our communities. It was also emphasized that this project is the beginning of a long-term cooperation between the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations Delta of Tulcea County and the State Department for Emergency Situations of Odessa Region in order to increase resilience and protection of communities in the two regions against natural disasters as well as for the development of the intervention capacity of the professional structures



European Cooperation Day was marked in Satu Mare by organizing, on October 12, a joint event of member institutions in the County Commission for Monitoring Preventive Activities, an event coordinated by the Satu Mare County Police Inspectorate, beneficiary of the LIP 4.3 project Regional Cooperation for Prevention and Fighting of Cross-border Crime between Romania-Ukraine - SAGA. Carried out in the Negrești Oaş Village Museum - OȘANUL, in open air, hosted by the students of the Negrești Oaş Theoretical High School, coordinated by the principal, the school

psychologist and the teachers, the representatives of the Satu Mare County Police Inspectorate, the Satu Mare Drug use Prevention, the Satu Mare County Gendarme Inspectorate, the Satu Mare Border Police Territorial Service and the National Agency Against Human Trafficking, Oradea Regional Center -all organized an informative activity focused on the field of prevention of victimization of minors, in the context of European Cooperation Day.

The presentation made by the police officers from the Satu Mare County Police Inspectorate aiming at European cooperation, the film of the "Be free" campaign of the Satu Mare Anti-Drug Center, but



also the online interventions of Oradea speakers caught the attention of young high school students, preventive messages regarding student safety in school, in the circle of friends, in the community, but also abroad, being shared using applied examples. The exhibition with the works of the students of



the Art High School "Aurel Popp" Satu Mare containing painting, photographic art and drawing on various topics delighted the participants, facilitating communication with representatives of institutions present, having the opportunity to answer questions from young people about the topics presented through thematic presentations and films.

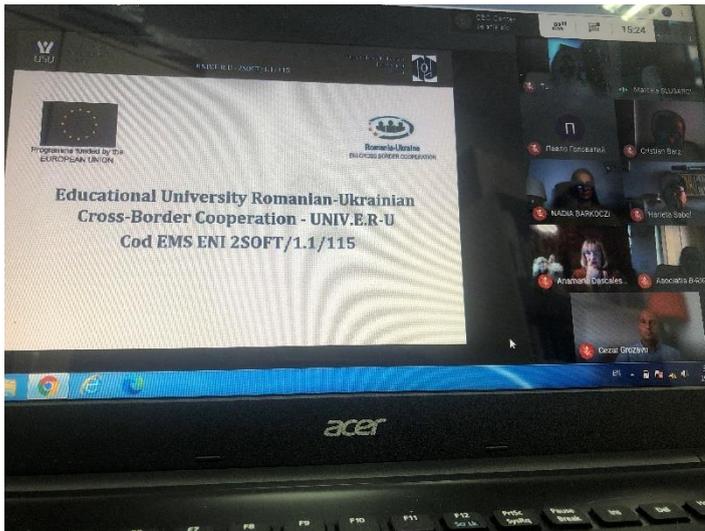
Masks were also distributed to the participants, the activity being carried out in compliance with the prevention measures to stop the spread of COVID.

The presence of so many institutions at the event is a clear proof of the existing cooperation

in Satu Mare County in the field of prevention, youth safety, prevention of youth victimization being a constant concern, assumed responsibly by each participating institution. The event was covered in the local press.

The European Day of Cooperation was also celebrated in Maramureş, in Sighetu Marmatiei, in a large event organized by the Municipal Hospital, which is currently implementing 4 cross-border projects with partners in Ukraine, including one with the local council Solotvyno, which aims to rehabilitate three buildings and the purchase of medical equipment for services at the highest level. At the same time, seminars will be organized so that hospital staff can enhance cooperation and improve its skills. The celebration was attended by the project team, local council specialists and representatives of institutions implementing cross-border projects.





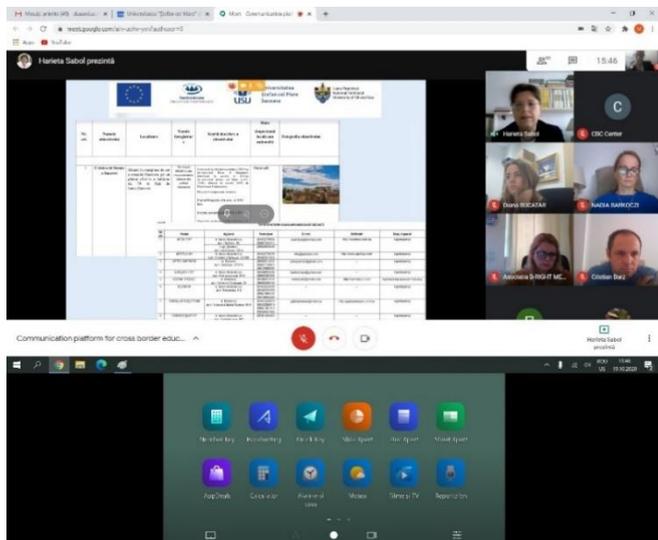
In Suceava, during the EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2020, the “Stefan cel Mare” University (USV) in partnership with the Odessa National Polytechnic University (ONPU) and the Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas (IFNTUOG) organized not one, but 3 events (online). Starting from the idea that in an atypical context, generated by the pandemic, we must keep close the relations we have with our neighbors and develop the opportunities created by these border regions close to us, the UNIV.E.R-U team considered that a good step in this direction could be a webinar.

Entitled #CROSSBORDERCOOPERATION, the webinar was moderated by Marcela Şlusarciuc, coordinator of the UNIV.E.R-U Project, Lecturer PhD within USV, in the presence of Professor PhD Ştefan Purici, Vice-Rector of USV and project manager within UNIV.E.R-U Project and Mykhailo Lebid and Nataliia Lebid, representatives of ONPU. The guest speaker of the webinar that attracted over 60

participants, was Cezar Grozavu, Executive Director at Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Suceava. He addressed to students from USV and ONPU that attended the event via Google Meet, and told about cross-border cooperation and its importance in developing partnerships and projects that improve life in the area. The event also benefited of a Q&A section where students both from Suceava and from Odessa express their ideas or concerns regarding the outputs of CBC projects conducted by their universities in the context of the pandemic. The second event, Beyond the borders: words from



images (stories competition starting from images) – October 16th, 2020 showed that stories are meaningful to all of us. Using a set of representative images for the areas targeted by the cross-border projects, 6 teams of students from three universities partners in CBC projects, were challenged, during the event, to compose an essay or a story. The random choice of images allowed the more than 30 participating students to extend the limits of their creativity, encouraging originality, and arousing



curiosity in knowing the "cross-border territories". The presentation of the creative products connected the teams (*Carpathian Adventures, Dream Team, ONPU The Best Team, Travelers Team, Omni Travelers and Borderlinks*) with the other participants and with the audience. The event was facilitated by Marcela Şlusarciuc, coordinator of the UNIV.E.R-U Project, and the jury was formed from representatives of two CBC projects, *Development of cross-border cooperation in promoting objects of historical and cultural heritage in the cross-border territory of Romania and Ukraine – HE-CROSS* and *Educational University Romanian-Ukrainian*

Cross-Border Cooperation – UNIV.E.R-U, respectively Prof. Ludmila Archipova („Ivano-Frankivsk” National Technical University of Oil and Gas), Prof. Harieta Sabol („Stefan cel Mare” University Suceava) and Prof. Nataliia Lebid (Odessa National Polytechnic University).

European Cooperation Day was the crucible that led to the creation of a Communication Platform for cross-border educational projects, opened during the third event held on 19 October. Representatives of cross border educational projects financed by Joint Operational Programme Romania–Ukraine 2014-2020 from Suceava, Baia Mare, Botoşani, and Chernivtsy met online and presented the projects they conduct, in the presence of Cezar Grozavu, Executive Director at Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Suceava. Goals, expected results or examples of activities, were presented during the meeting and the participants used this opportunity to connect and to find the potential for new cross border educational projects, as first step for capitalization. Topics such as common challenges or unknown aspects of the legislation of the two countries were debated and representatives of several CBC projects present at the meeting concluded that the creation of a formal or informal network is welcome and most needed in the future. The event was moderated by Marcela Şlusarciuc, Project coordinator.



“It was really amazing to have these 3 types of cooperation exercises: to have a typical discussion, to connect two projects teams in a cooperative competition, and to bring more projects on a joint platform, as a first step on the capitalization path. We are confident that the follow ups will bring added value to cross-border cooperation along the Romanian-Ukrainian border.” (UNIV.E.R-U team)

The events in Ukraine corroborated beautiful topics, adaptation to the needs of the region, but also to the restrictions generated by the context of the Covid pandemic. The Association Center for Sustainable Development and Environmental Studies of the Danube Region initiated the contest



"European Cooperation through the eyes of children" on the occasion of European Cooperation Day. The partners of the event were the Local Association of Ukrainian Regions "EU Strategy for the Danube Region" and the Lower Danube Euroregion Agency for Cross-Border Cooperation. A fruit tree was planted in the park of the Odessa Regional Council as a symbol of fruitful cooperation with high performance indicators. During the event, the state of affairs regarding the joint operational program Romania Ukraine and the opportunities for the Ukrainian beneficiaries were discussed. Liliانا Ivanova, director of the Local Association of Ukrainian Regions "EU Strategy for the Danube Region", presented the popular science literature useful in different languages as part of the "Eco friendly book swap" campaign".

The event ended with a creative drawing competition on the theme "We are Europeans!"

On 28 September, the Lower Danube Euroregion Cross-Border Cooperation Agency organized a "round table" on "European Union and Ukraine" dedicated to European Cooperation Day 2020.

The event was attended by representatives of the Association of Ukrainian Regions "EU Strategy for the Danube Region" which acted as a branch office of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Operational Program "Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020" and the Network of NGOs in the Black Sea and educational

institutions.

The participants discussed about cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union, the priorities and expected results of the Joint Operational Programme "Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020". During the meeting, the experience in implementing EU-funded projects in the Odessa region was also discussed.





As online presence has become the key term of 2020, our beneficiaries in Ukraine, Mamaliga, celebrated volunteering as part of European Cooperation Day. The online event "Volunteering in emergency situations, from small to large" took place in October through the Mamaliga Local Council, as a beneficiary of the cross-border projects 2SOFT / 4.2 / 160 and

2SOFT / 4.2 / 179, together with partners from Romania - Inspectorate for Emergency Situations "NICOLAE IORGA" Botosani. On the Ukrainian side were present pupils from Mamaliga Secondary School, the school principal and deputy director for educational and methodical work and representatives of the United Territorial Community of Mamaliga. The main purpose of this event was to pass on best practices of emergency volunteering in Romania to children from Ukraine.



The Ivano-Frankivsk Department of Emergency Situations has made a video dedicated to the European Cooperation Day which is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG7uonDjL2U&ab_channel=%D0%A3%D0%94%D0%A1%D0%9D%D0%A1%D0%B2%D0%86%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE-%D0%A4%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BA%D1%96%D0%B2%D1%81%D1%8C%D0%BA%D1%96%D0%B9%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%81%D1%82%D1%96

European Cooperation Day, as our major event of 2020, proved to be a success, an impact campaign that brought a high degree of visibility to the programme, both by the diversity of means of exposure (live among the general public and online), but also through the extended duration of the effective development of the promotion actions.

In addition, the success of the event was increased by the large number of local actions carried out by the beneficiaries of the Program (25 local actions), but also by the numerous publications in the press. The evolution of the campaign was documented through regular posts on social networks, on the pages of the Program and BRCT, during the evolution of the actions carried out on the occasion of the European Cooperation Day. In conclusion, we invite you to watch a dynamic post-event video that will surely brighten your day: ECDAY clip link

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3247491748712935&id=894715383990595

European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and co-financed by the participating countries in the Programme. The Programme is dedicated to the border areas between Romania and Ukraine and will contribute to the overall objective of the European Neighbourhood Instrument: progress towards an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness for the benefit of Member States and non-EU members through cross-border cooperation actions.

www.ro-ua.net/en/



This Programme is funded by the European Union



Romania-Ukraine
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.