

## Press release

26 March 2025

### ***Start-up Conference for “STREAM 2” Project - Streamlining cross-border cooperation: Joint approach in disaster resilience - ROBG00005***

Today, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, the ***Start-up Conference*** of the Strategic Project STREAM2 - Streamlining cross-border cooperation: Joint approach in disaster resilience, code ROBG00005, financed under the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Program, took place, a project in which the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations holds the status of Lead Partner.

The event took place in the Municipality of Constanta and was hosted by “Dobrogea” Constanta County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, as partner of the project.

This activity was attended by Mr. Paul Zai, counselor of the Minister of Internal Affairs, the deputy general inspector of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations from Romania, General Lieutenant Benone-Gabriel Duduc, the Deputy Director of the Directorate General Fire Safety and Civil Protection from Republic of Bulgaria, Chief Commissioner Lyubomir Barov, Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives, the Managing Authority (Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration), the Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Călărași for the Romania-Bulgaria Border, local authorities, as well as representatives of the Romanian and Bulgarian partners.

The activity aimed to present the project objectives, activities, allocated budget, as well as all other future benefits, oriented towards community safety.

The total value of the project is 24,330,679.26 Euro, out of which 19,464,543.40 Euro are financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and 4,866,135.86 Euro represent national public contribution.

The project implementation period is 48 months, from 05.12.2024 to 04.12.2028.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the safety and protection of the population in the eligible area by improving and enhancing climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention resilience through the establishment of cross-border disaster response and situational operations centers, capacity building, and joint interventions of the institutions with responsibilities in the field of emergency situations.

The specific objectives of the project aims to increase the safety and protection of the population in the eligible area by improving the intervention capacity of the public authorities with responsibilities in the field of emergency situations and the enhancing the intervention in emergency situations of the public authorities through joint trainings and common cooperation framework.

The expected results are:

- ✓ Construction of the “Cross-border Disaster Response Center” in Constanta County;
- ✓ Construction of the “Zonal Vessel Base for intervention on the Danube River” in Giurgiu County;
- ✓ Construction of the “Cross-border Situational-operations Center” in Veliko Tarnovo district;
- ✓ Purchase of intervention vehicles and equipment by Bulgarian partners;
- ✓ Purchase of a mobile pontoon by the Lead Partner;
- ✓ Purchase of a respiratory charging station for the training of firefighting students from the Republic of Bulgaria.

The project is implemented at the level of the six partners, namely General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations from Romania, which is also the Lead Partner, Directorate General Fire Safety and Civil Protection from Republic of Bulgaria, “Dobrogea” Constanta County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Territorial Inspectorate of Border Police of Giurgiu County, Academy of the Ministry of Interior from Republic of Bulgaria and National Association of Volunteers in the Republic of Bulgaria.

*“Another important objective of the collaboration with the project partners is to provide a prompt and efficient response in the event of incidents on the Danube with cross-border implications. By improving cross-border cooperation, joint training and building well-equipped disaster response centers, we anticipate a substantial improvement, efficiency and effectiveness of emergency interventions, with a significant reduction in the loss of human life, property damage and environmental impact during disasters. In conclusion, I would like to thank all those involved in this project, as well as my colleagues from IGSU, who through their continuous and sustained effort, made possible to access these funds, despite the challenges encountered. I remain convinced that together we will succeed in achieving the proposed objectives, oriented towards saving lives and protecting community assets”,* said at the opening of this event General Lieutenant Benone-Gabriel Duduc, the deputy general inspector of IGSU.

Also, during the event, the representative of the Bulgarian partners, Chief Commissioner Lyubomir Barov, Deputy Director of the Directorate General Fire Safety and Civil Protection from Republic of Bulgaria stated the following: *„With the implementation of this project, we continue our beneficial cooperation that began in 2010, a period in which several projects with different investments were carried out, but guided by the same common goal of adaptation and early response to protect the population and eliminate the effects of various natural disasters. I remain convinced that our good collaboration will contribute to the completion and implementation of this project and to the achievement of all the proposed objectives and results. Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to work together and I wish you all success!”*

Also, Mr. Paul Zai, counselor of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, wanted to mention some relevant aspects, namely: *“The field of non-reimbursable external funds is one of particular importance in the institutional development concept of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, representing an opportunity for the creation and modernization of existing infrastructure, simplification and development of human resources. The Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria program plays an essential role in the development of border regions, having a significant impact both nationally and regionally. This program facilitates close collaboration between Romania and Bulgaria, in order to effectively respond to common challenges and*

*improve the living conditions of citizens in border areas. The structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have demonstrated a strong commitment to this program, submitting 11 applications, with a total value of 25.2 million Euro. These achievements represent a sustained effort of a dedicated team, made up of professionals who understand the importance of collaboration and initiative. They demonstrate that the Ministry of Internal Affairs not only responds to challenges, but also anticipates and manages them with responsibility, efficiency and long-term vision.”*

The previous project "STREAM" represented a real success in training Romanian and Bulgarian firefighters in the field of emergency situations, in which the steps were continued to support the performance of missions in the cross-border area.

We thank all the participants at this event, who made the start of the "STREAM 2" project possible, and we assure all the cross border citizens of our full involvement and dedication in the future missions and actions, for the good and safety of the community!

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