



2025 April Issue North-West Region

The North-West Regional Development Agency as the Managing Authority for the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme



The 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme



The **2021–2027 North-West Regional Programme** is a European funding instrument aimed at supporting the development of the **North-West Development Region** of Romania, which comprises the counties of Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureş, Satu Mare and Sălaj.

BH BN CJ MM SJ SM

Its main objective is to foster **innovation** and **smart**, **sustainable** economic **growth** by reducing regional disparities and improving the standard of living through the **valorisation** of local **assets** and **diversity**.

€ 1.437.252.471,00

The budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

The 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

Priorities

A competitive region driven by innovation, digitalization, and dynamic businesses



A region with SMART urban and rural communities



P3

P2

A region with environmentally friendly cities and villages

P4 A region with sustainable multimodal urban mobility



An accessible region

P6

25

An educated region

An attractive region

P8 Technical Assistance







STEP

Calls for Projects



€ 1.348.263.746,61

budget of the published project calls



of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

€ 1.343.915.769,44

budget of the launched project calls

Submitted Projects



€ 4.575.018.860,29 Eligible budget of the submitted projects

318,31%

of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

	P5 27	P8 3
P1 1398 P3 127	P4 P67	P7 170

of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme





Evaluation of Projects





Projects in the evaluation procedure for each Priority of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme



Projects in Contestation

306 in total

275 resolved

31 pending contestation

Projects in Contracting Procedure

376 in total



Signed Contracts

268 in total



Payments Made



€220.502.996,23

Total budget of payments made to the beneficiaries



of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme P1: € 13.382.413,41 P3: € 6.678.395,89 P4: € 33.423.119,39 P5: € 113.223.625,61 P6: € 15.278.406,02 P7: € 26.787.525,18 P8: € 11.729.510,73

Payment Requests

made to the European Commission



€114.543.960,23

Total budget of expenditures declared to the EC (PR1, PR2, PR3) 7,96%

of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

P1: € 8.223.651,69, out of which € 5.572.754,28 are ERDF expenditures P3: € 2.752.822,20, out of which € 2.339.898,96 are ERDF expenditures P4: € 7.928.808,04, out of which € 6.739.486,82 are ERDF expenditures P5: € 84.688.665,42, out of which € 69.220.684,77 are ERDF expenditures P6: € 1.070.482,88, out of which € 535.241,44 are ERDF expenditures P7: € 13.132.095,29, out of which € 11.162.280,94 are ERDF expenditures

Payments

made by the European Commission



€95.570.357,11

7,54%

Total budget of payments received of the ERDF allocation under the 2021from the EC (PR1, PR2, PR3) 2027 North-West Regional Programme

P1: € 8.223.651,69, out of which € 5.572.754,28 are ERDF expenditures P3: € 2.752.822,20, out of which € 2.339.898,96 are ERDF expenditures P4: € 7.928.808,04, out of which € 6.739.486,82 are ERDF expenditures P5: € 84.688.665,42, out of which € 69.220.684,77 are ERDF expenditures P6: € 1.070.482,88, out of which € 535.241,44 are ERDF expenditures P7: € 13.132.095,29, out of which € 11.162.280,94 are ERDF expenditures

107

signed

contracts

Priority 1

1398 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € **1.193.702.281,42**

This priority marches for **a more competitive and smarter Europe**. It features Calls for Projects for SMEs, clusters, Smart Specialisation Parks and the private sector, in collaboration with public and academic counterparts.

Out of the **100** contracts secured through this priority, **13** pertain to the **Smart Specialisation Parks**, while the remaining **87** support the **private sector**.

Tender 121 - Digitalization of SMEs in the North-West DevelopmentRegion - saw a high uptake with 477 submissions, highlighting theprogram's private sector appeal.131.D





Maramureş county continues its strategic push for innovation-driven development by adding a new project to its growing portfolio of smart specialisation parks. The latest contract signed under the 2021–2027 North-West Regional Programme supports the creation of a Smart Specialisation Park in the commune of Giuleşti, with a total investment of over €4.5 million.

Following similar initiatives in **Baia Sprie**, **Şomcuta Mare**, **Fărcaşa**, **Târgu Lăpuş**, and **Seini**, this project strengthens the territorial coverage of innovation infrastructure in the county. Located between Ocna Şugatag and Sighetu Marmației, the **Giulești park** will offer ready-to-use land with access roads, utilities, and **modern infrastructure** to host at least **5 high-value private investments** by 2030.

The site will be managed by **Parcuri Industriale Maramureş** and is expected to facilitate at least four innovation partnerships between businesses and research institutions. With a completion deadline of **December 2027**, the project is designed to **enhance local competitiveness** and support **rural economic transformation** through smart specialisation.



127 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € 449.239.486,34

25 signed contracts

This priority marches for a greener Europe. It involves tenders targeting energy efficiency in housing, public buildings (including heritage sites), and renewable energy in rural areas. It also supports green cities and improved urban green infrastructure.

Out of the **25** signed contracts of this priority, **10** contracts are for **urban infrastructure** and **15** contracts for **energy efficiency in public buildings**.

The most active calls relate to increasing **energy efficiency** in the region as part of **investments in the housing sector** and **supporting energy efficiency in public buildings, including heritage buildings**.





The historical building of the "Mihai Eminescu National College" in Oradea (Bihor county) will undergo extensive renovation to improve energy performance, thanks to a signed contract of over €19.8 million. The project targets one of the city's landmark educational and heritage buildings and aims to reduce energy consumption while improving the comfort and safety of users. The renovation will deliver a 80% reduction in annual primary energy consumption and a 95% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to current levels. The works include thermal insulation, improved heating and ventilation systems, the use of renewable energy sources, and the integration of smart energy management technologies. Over 300,000 kWh/year of energy will be supplied from renewable sources.

Covering a surface of nearly **10,000 square meters**, the building serves students and teaching staff for at least 12 hours a day throughout most of the year. Beyond environmental benefits, the investment enhances air quality, indoor comfort and long-term usability of this cultural heritage site.

Scheduled for completion in **February 2029**, this project is a strong example of how EU cohesion policy supports energy efficiency in public infrastructure while preserving cultural identity in less-developed regions.



88 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € 1.134.529.127,84

35 signed contracts

This priority marches for a greener Europe. It encompasses tenders aimed at promoting the use of public transport and other environmentally friendly urban mobility solutions. Despite having only two active calls, this priority has garnered significant community interest, taking a significant step forward with the signing of **35** crucial contracts. These contracts pave the way for improved urban mobility infrastructure in the benefiting cities.





A new **Park&Ride facility** has been developed next to **Cluj-Napoca International Airport (Cluj County)**, with a total investment of over €18.4 **million**. The project aims to improve urban mobility and reduce traffic pressure by encouraging drivers entering the city from the east to switch to public or active transport.

The site offers **863 parking spaces**, including spots for electric vehicles and people with disabilities, as well as dedicated bus platforms and bikesharing infrastructure. A new high-capacity roundabout and a contact line for trolleybuses is ensuring efficient connections with Cluj-Napoca's public transport network.

By creating smooth transitions between driving, cycling, and public transport, the project contributes to a **19.5% increase** in public transport use, **a 28.5% rise in cycling**, and **a 6.2% cut** in CO2 emissions. More than **14 million public transport users per year** are expected to benefit from this infrastructure, along with residents from the **11 km** corridor linking the airport and the city's main railway station.

Finished in **March** of this year, this investment supports sustainable commuting and smart urban development in Romania's most dynamic metropolitan area.



27 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € 510.966.203,02

13 signed contracts

This priority is targeting **both infrastructure and safety**. **Upgrades to secondary roads**, including key **TEN-T connections**, are a focus. With 4 active tenders, the most significant interest has been seen in Call 522.A - Equipment to Increase Traffic Safety, with 8 projects submitted, followed by Call 521 - Construction / Rehabilitation of Secondary Road Links to the Road Network and TEN-T Nodes, with 6 submitted projects.

13 contracts, **three** for **road safety infrastructure**, **four** for **road safety equipment** and **six** for **road infrastructure** have been secured under this priority.





The **Municipality of Cluj-Napoca (Cluj County)** is making a decisive investment in sustainable urban mobility and traffic safety through the construction of a state-of-the-art road underpass. With a total budget of €26 million, this project is a key component of the city's broader strategy to foster a more efficient, resilient, and accessible transport network.

This strategic investment will deliver **275 meters** of underpass infrastructure, alongside the modernization of **444 meters** of tram tracks to enhance multimodal transport options. The project also prioritizes pedestrian and cyclist safety, incorporating **4,300 square meters** of upgraded sidewalks, **30 newly** planted trees, and **342 square** meters of dedicated public transport waiting areas.

To further **optimize mobility** and **ensure seamless** traffic flow, the initiative includes the deployment of an **intelligent traffic management** system, integrating real-time monitoring, advanced traffic signalization, and smart public transport stations equipped with passenger information panels. Additionally, a **high-efficiency LED** street lighting network will be implemented to improve visibility and contribute to energy efficiency. Beyond its immediate impact on congestion mitigation, this project is expected to **significantly enhance road safety**, reduce accident risks, and improve travel times, reinforcing Cluj-Napoca's commitment to sustainable urban development.



67 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € 227.856.918,39

24 signed contracts

This priority marches for a more social and inclusive Europe. It involves tenders aimed at enhancing educational infrastructure across various levels, from early childhood to university education, and at modernizing school facilities.

The academic community's interest in advancing their infrastructure for future development is well seen, as the most active project calls target developments in terms of educational infrastructure.



Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 81.237.357,96

The total budget of the signed contracts € 124.442.135,53



Rodna (Bistriţa-Năsăud County) is taking a strategic step toward inclusive and future-oriented education through a €1.95 million investment, co-financed by the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme. The project supports the extension, modernisation, and equipment of the Florian Porcius Vocational School.

The investment will result in the construction of two new school buildings, including six classrooms and four technical workshops, fullv equipped to deliver practical, labour market-relevant training for students in the professional and technical education stream. The new facilities will accommodate up to 190 students, while introducing dual-education structures tailored to evolving sectoral needs.

Designed with **accessibility**, **energy efficiency**, **and digital readiness** in mind, the new infrastructure will provide **safe**, **inclusive**, **and high-quality** learning environments. The project will help reduce school dropout rates, support transitions to higher education levels, and increase community trust in local public services.

Set for completion in **March of 2028**, this initiative reinforces Rodna's commitment to preparing young people for the **jobs of tomorrow**, while offering a **scalable model for vocational education** in rural and underserved areas across the region.

170 submitted projects with a total eligible budget of € 975.950.323,32

61 signed contracts

This priority marches for a Europe that is close to its citizens. It involves tenders promoting integrated and inclusive development across social, economic, and environmental domains, as well as culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in non-urban areas.

The call for projects **714.B** - Urban regeneration and the security of public spaces has **14** signed contracts, showcasing the increased interest of the public sector beautify the cities to match the beauty of the community that inhabits each place.



712 6



A modern thermal aquapark will be built in the commune of **Odoreu (Satu Mare county)**, through an investment of over €27 million, co-financed by the 2021-2027 North-West **Regional Programme**. Designed as a regional leisure and wellness destination, the project aims to enhance the attractiveness of the area for both locals and international tourists.

The new facility will serve a potential user base of over **120,000 people**, and is expected to attract at least **134,000 visitors annually**. Located just a few kilometres from **Satu Mare** and near the **borders with Hungary and Ukraine**, the site has strategic potential to **draw cross-border tourism** and stimulate local development.

The investment supports **sustainable tourism** and contributes to regional development by generating **jobs**, improving **infrastructure**, and creating **opportunities** for local businesses. As part of the project, **one cultural and tourism site** will be revitalised, aligned with integrated territorial development strategies and funding priorities.

With completion planned for **April 2028**, the aquapark will significantly boost the touristic offer of the region, while promoting health, recreation, and economic diversification.







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