Cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană

2026 September 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, Maramureș, Satu Mare and Sălaj.



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

P1 A competitive region driven by innovation, digitalization, and dynamic businesses

P2 A region with SMART urban and rural communities

P3 A region with environmentally friendly cities and villages

P4 A region with sustainable multimodal urban mobility

P5 An accessible region

P6 An educated region

P7 An attractive region

P8 Technical Assistance

P9 A region that supports STEP

P10 A region with affordable and sustainable housing

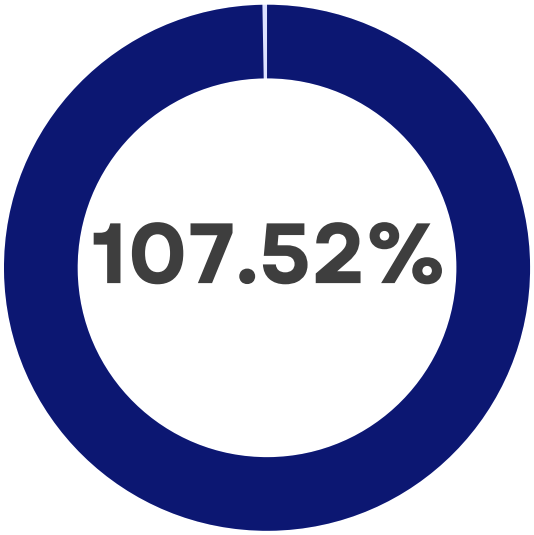
Calls for Projects

81

calls published

€ 1.545.319.336,98

budget of the published project calls



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

€ 1.545.319.336,98

budget of the launched project calls

81

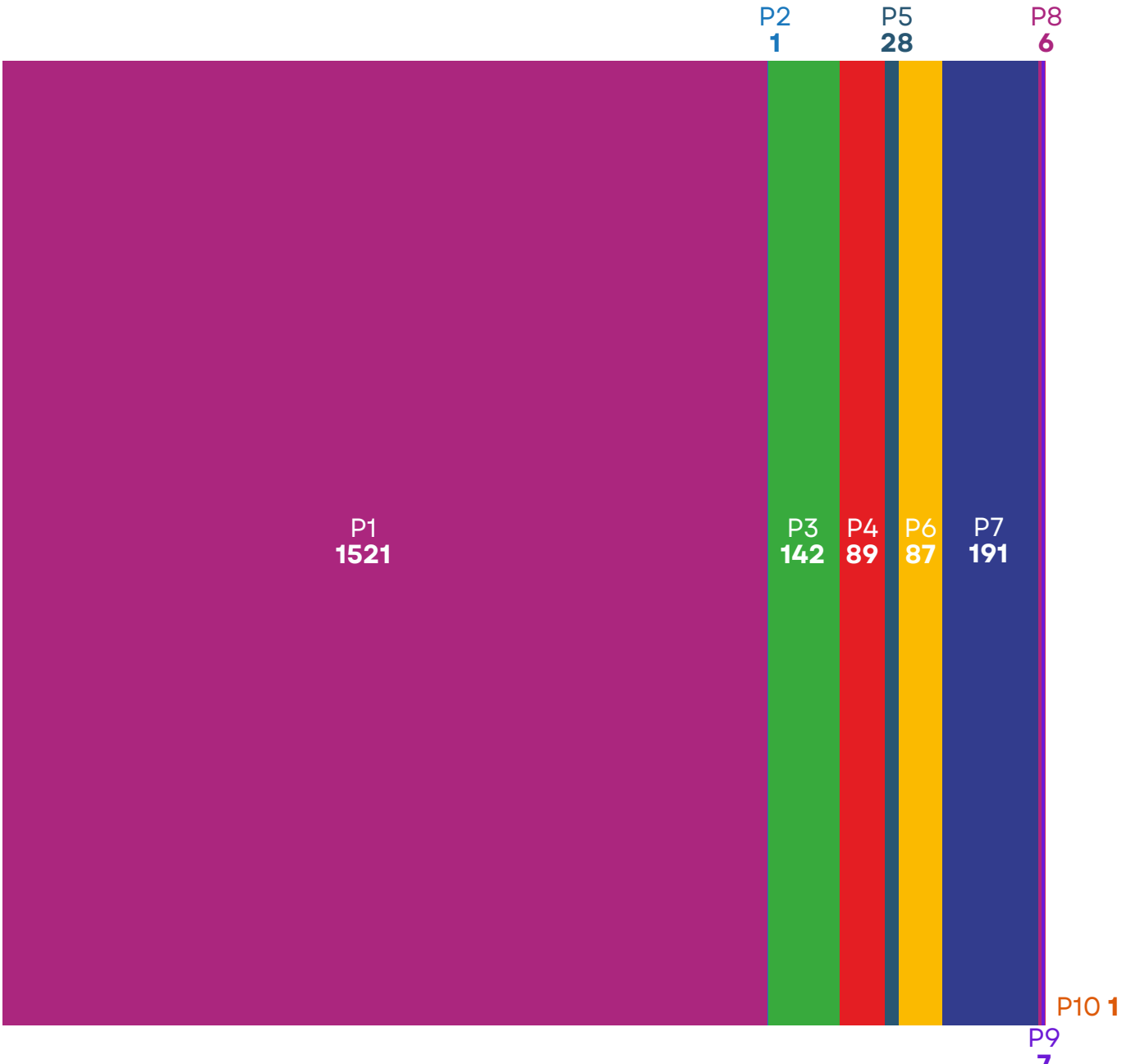
calls launched

Submitted Projects

2073 in total

€ 4.971.577.734,52
Eligible budget of the submitted projects

345,91%
of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme



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

434,21%

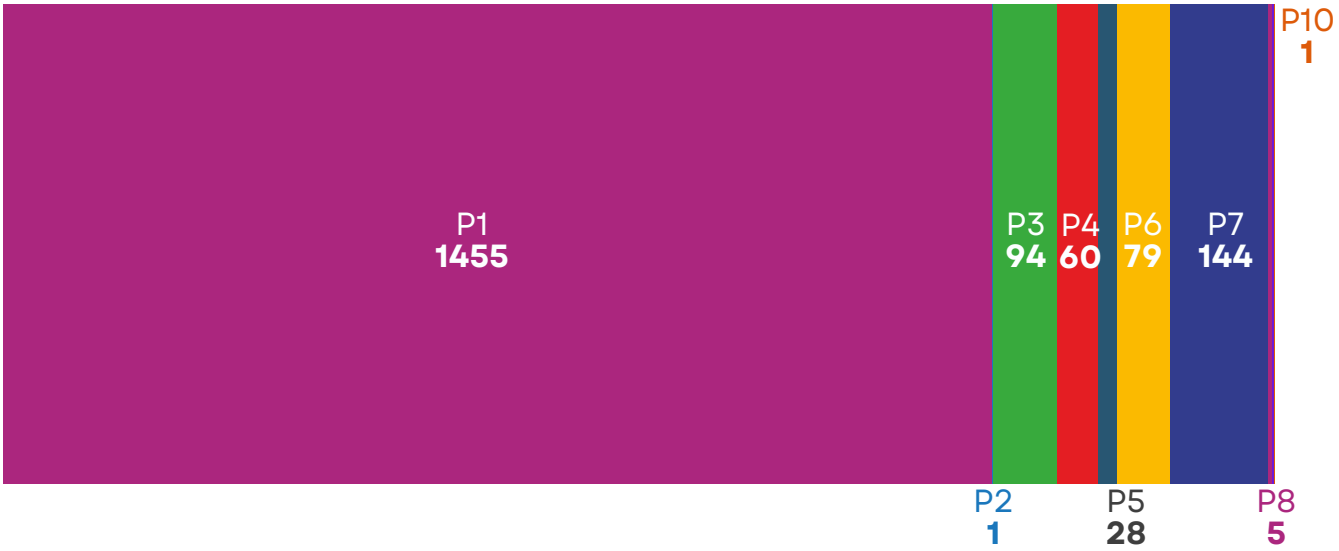
€ 6.240.742.550,69
The total budget of submitted projects

Evaluation of Projects

1870 in total



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



Projects in Contestation

553 total projects that have been contested



551 resolved contestations

pending contestations **2**

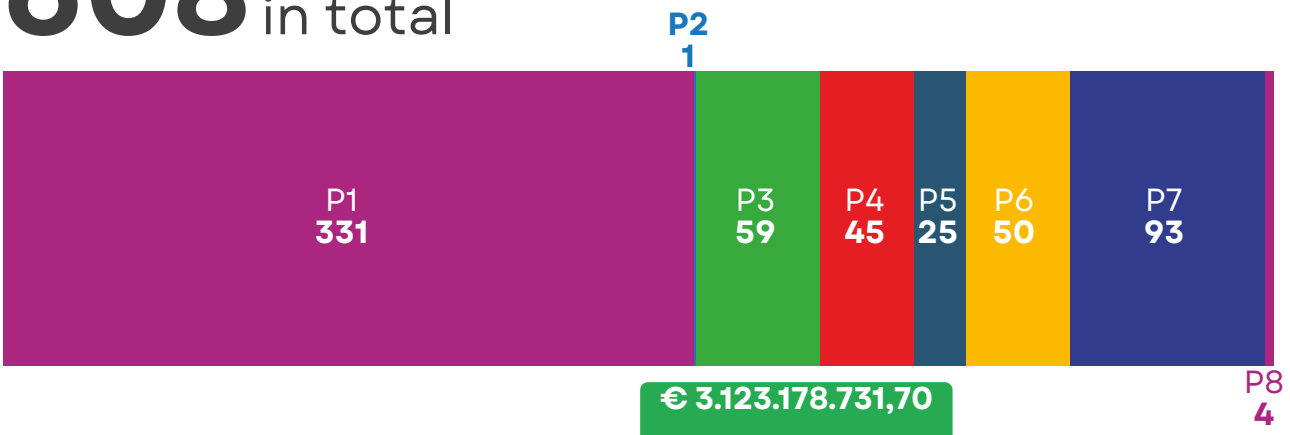
Projects in Contracting Procedure

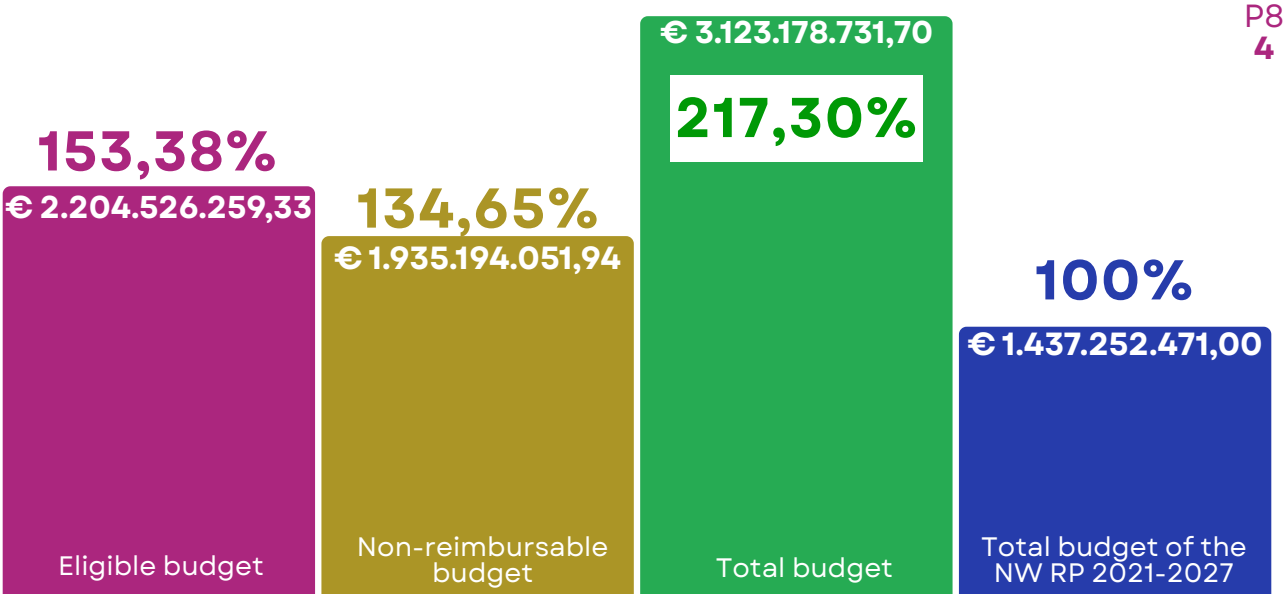
761 total projects that have entered the contracting phase



Signed Contracts

608 in total



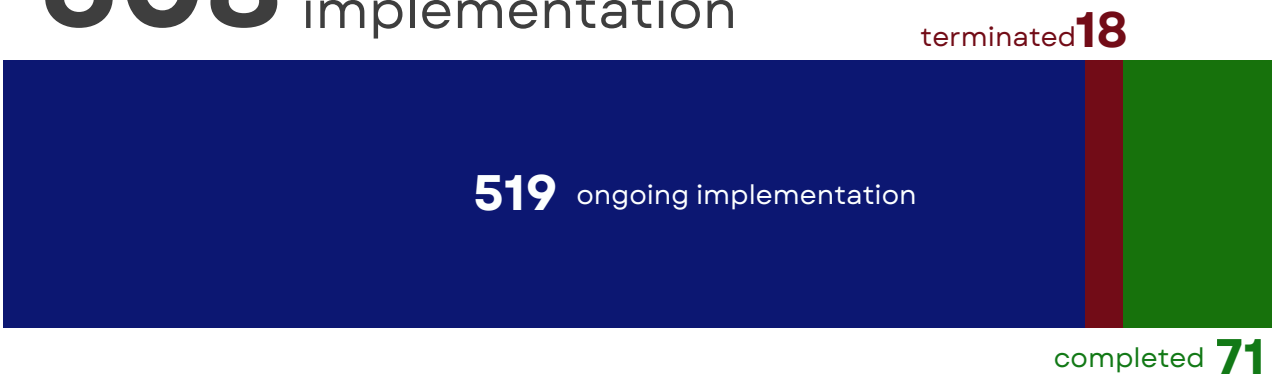


Monitoring of Projects

893 monitoring visits in total

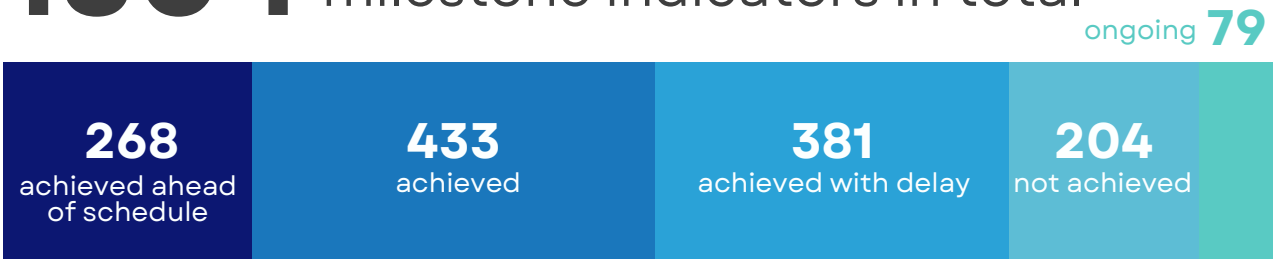


608 projects in implementation



Milestone indicator reports

1304 milestone indicators in total



Payments Made

2288 payments

€ 567.722.922,93
Total budget of payments made to the beneficiaries

39,50%
of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

P1: **€ 81.020.649,74**
P3: **€ 47.947.061,42**
P4: **€ 126.566.036,82**
P5: **€ 169.001.908,78**
P6: **€ 45.463.443,51**
P7: **€ 71.338.200,48**
P8: **€ 26.385.622,19**

Payment Requests
made to the European Commission

11 payments

€ 467.501.408,35
Total budget of expenditures declared to the EC (PR1, PR2, PR3, PR4, PR5, PR6, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR10, PR11)

32,53%
of the budget of the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

P1: **€ 81.020.649,74**, out of which **€ 68.895.135,09** are **ERDF expenditures**
P3: **€ 47.947.061,42**, out of which **€ 42.456.213,76** are **ERDF expenditures**
P4: **€ 126.566.036,82**, out of which **€ 107.691.654,29** are **ERDF expenditures**
P5:**€ 169.001.908,78**, out of which **€ 149.259.087,99** are **ERDF expenditures**
P6: **€ 45.463.443,51**, out of which **€ 23.494.740,12** are **ERDF expenditures**
P7: **€ 71.338.200,48**, out of which **€ 64.000.541,24** are **ERDF expenditures**

Payments
made by the European Commission

11 payments

€ 399.689.500,67
Total budget of payments received from the EC (PR1, PR2, PR3, PR4, PR5, PR6, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR10, PR11)

31,57%
of the ERDF allocation under the 2021-2027 North-West Regional Programme

P1: **€ 81.020.649,74**, out of which **€ 68.895.135,09** are **ERDF expenditures**
P3: **€ 47.947.061,42**, out of which **€ 42.456.213,76** are **ERDF expenditures**
P4: **€ 126.566.036,82**, out of which **€ 107.691.654,29** are **ERDF expenditures**
P5:**€ 169.001.908,78**, out of which **€ 149.259.087,99** are **ERDF expenditures**
P6: **€ 45.463.443,51**, out of which **€ 23.494.740,12** are **ERDF expenditures**
P7: **€ 71.338.200,48**, out of which **€ 64.000.541,24** are **ERDF expenditures**

Priority 1

Overview

1521
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 1.347.985.979,72

331
signed
contracts

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.

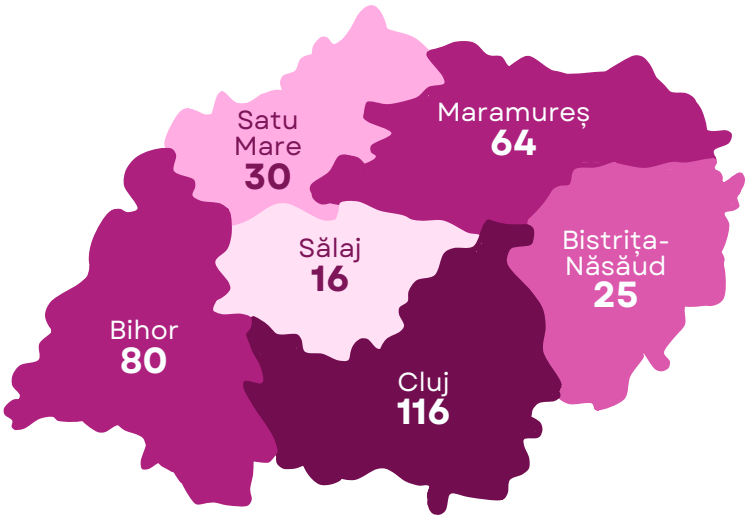
Out of the **277** contracts secured through this priority, **17** pertain to the **Smart Specialisation Parks**, while the remaining **260** support the **private sector**.

Tender 121 - Digitalization of SMEs in the North-West Development Region - saw a high uptake with **477 submissions**, highlighting the program's private sector appeal.



Priority 1

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 357.148.254,60

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 439.628.863,40

The **University of Oradea (Bihor County)**, together with **10 partner SMEs**, is developing an advanced research infrastructure for AI-assisted dental treatment through the **THERA-DENT AI project**, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total investment of approximately **€3.57 million**, the project will establish **two specialised laboratories combining artificial intelligence, digital dentistry and biomechanical simulation** to support more precise and personalised treatments, particularly for **patients with diabetes, cardiovascular conditions and other systemic diseases**. A central innovation is the development of a **4D digital twin of the patient**, integrating 3D imaging, intraoral scans and jaw movement data to simulate dental anatomy and function over time. The infrastructure will include **AI computing systems, 2D and 3D imaging equipment, intraoral scanners, 3D printing and computer-aided milling technologies**, alongside an experimental haptic articulator designed to reproduce jaw movements and validate prosthetic solutions. Through **federated learning**, partner clinics will contribute to **AI model development while keeping sensitive** patient data within their own systems. The **10 participating SMEs**, primarily dental clinics and laboratories, will support **real-world testing and clinical validation**, helping translate research results into practical applications. Implemented over **48 months**, the project targets at least **four patent applications and 13 scientific publications**, while strengthening research capacity and specialist training. Scheduled for completion in **December 2029, THERA-DENT AI advances** the North-West region's capacity to **develop AI-driven medical technologies**, connecting academic research with clinical practice and supporting more informed, personalised dental care.



Priority 2

Overview

1
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 56.050.951,77

1
signed
contracts

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.

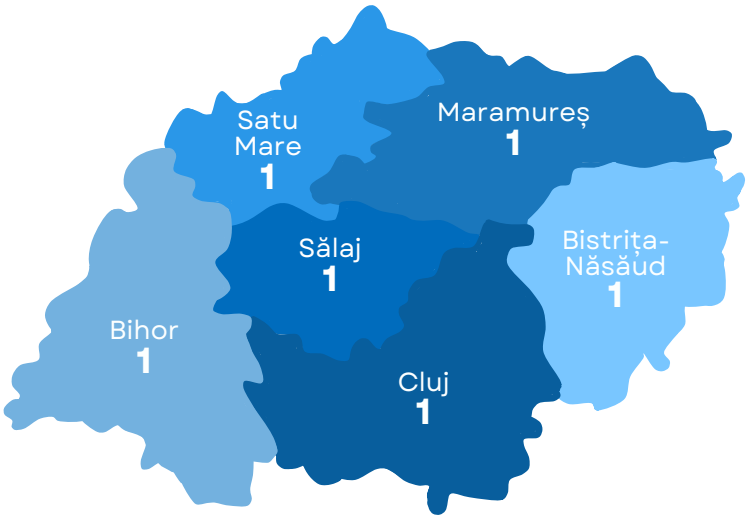
Out of the **277** contracts secured through this priority, **17** pertain to the **Smart Specialisation Parks**, while the remaining **260** support the **private sector**.

Tender 121 - Digitalization of SMEs in the North-West Development Region - saw a high uptake with **477 submissions**, highlighting the program's private sector appeal.



Priority 2

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 56.050.951,77

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 56.050.951,77

The **Special Telecommunications Service (STS)**, in partnership with the **Bistrița-Năsăud County Council**, is investing in regional digital infrastructure through the establishment of the **North-West Regional Data Centre**, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total budget of approximately **€56 million**, the project creates the **shared digital infrastructure** that will support the **development of secure, interoperable and citizen-oriented public services** across the North-West Region. The investment includes the **construction and operationalisation** of a regional data centre designed to provide **high-performance computing, secure data storage, connectivity and cloud infrastructure** for public authorities. Acting as a **common digital platform**, the facility will enable **county councils, municipalities, towns and communes** to **develop and operate digital public services** using a resilient and scalable technological environment while maintaining their own administrative systems and service portfolios. By providing a **shared infrastructure for data management and digital services**, the project will improve **interoperability** between public institutions, **strengthen cybersecurity** and increase the **efficiency of public administration**. The investment is expected to reduce administrative complexity, **facilitate the delivery of digital services for citizens** and businesses, and support the long-term digital transformation of local and regional government throughout the North-West Region. Scheduled for completion within **42 months**, the project represents one of the **largest strategic digital infrastructure investments** financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**, reflecting a long-term commitment to **smart governance, secure public services and a more connected regional administration**.



Priority 3

Overview

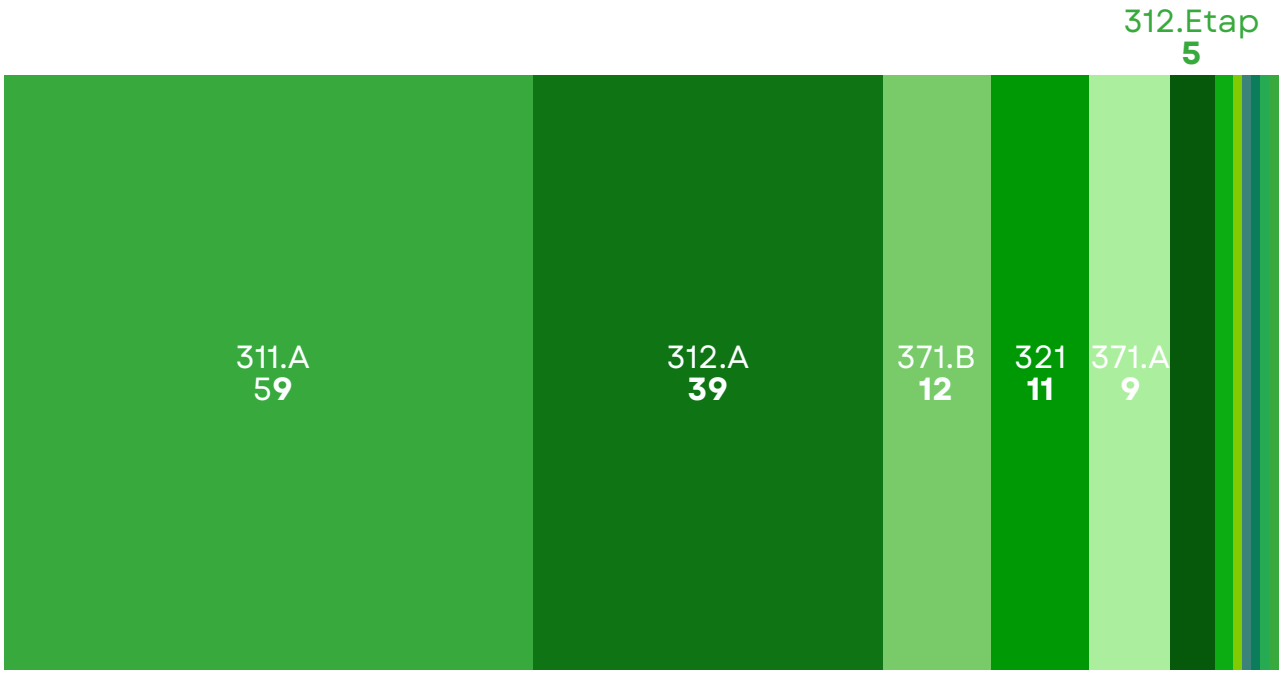
142
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 539.379.556,05

59
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**.

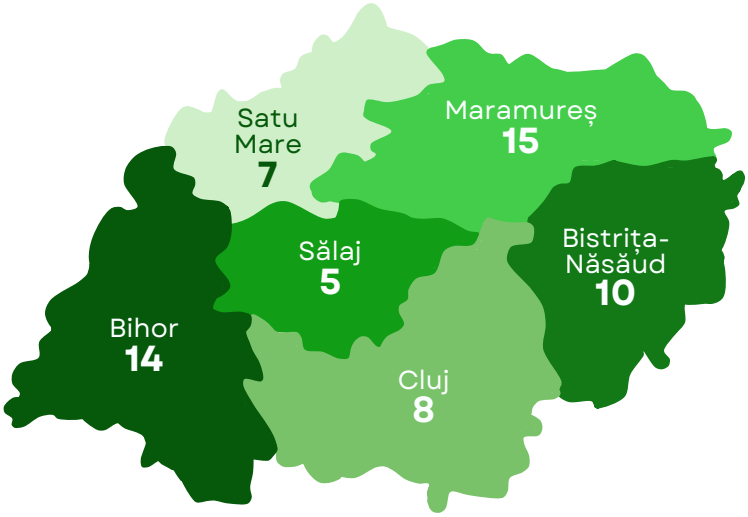
Out of the **48** signed contracts of this priority, **22** contracts are for **urban infrastructure** and **26** contracts for **energy efficiency in public buildings**.

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**.



Priority 3

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 234.308.574,51

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 310.172.228,63

The **Commune of Botiza (Maramureș County)** is investing in **a centralised renewable heating system** based on locally and regionally sourced biomass, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total budget of approximately **€9.71 million**, the project will replace part of the community's individual wood-based heating with a shared, high-efficiency system producing both heat and electricity. The investment includes **a high-efficiency cogeneration plant**, additional biomass boilers, fuel storage facilities and approximately **4.4 kilometres of district heating network**, connecting **107 households, a residential building with nine apartments and nine public institutions, including schools, local administration buildings, healthcare and community facilities**. The system will directly serve approximately **954 residents**, representing over **40% of the local population**. Particular attention is given to **50 vulnerable households**, for which the project also covers the necessary internal connections to ensure effective access to heating services. The infrastructure will provide **1.394 MW** of additional renewable energy capacity, with an estimated annual production of **4,098 MWh** of renewable energy. Through **high-efficiency cogeneration, locally available biomass** will be **used more efficiently**, reducing reliance on individual heating installations while supporting **lower emissions and improved energy management**. The new infrastructure will also enable **more predictable heating services for households and public institutions**, strengthening local energy resilience and reducing the financial burden associated with winter heating. Scheduled for completion in **December 2029**, the project combines **renewable energy, social inclusion and resource efficiency** through the development of a shared public heating infrastructure serving the Botiza community.





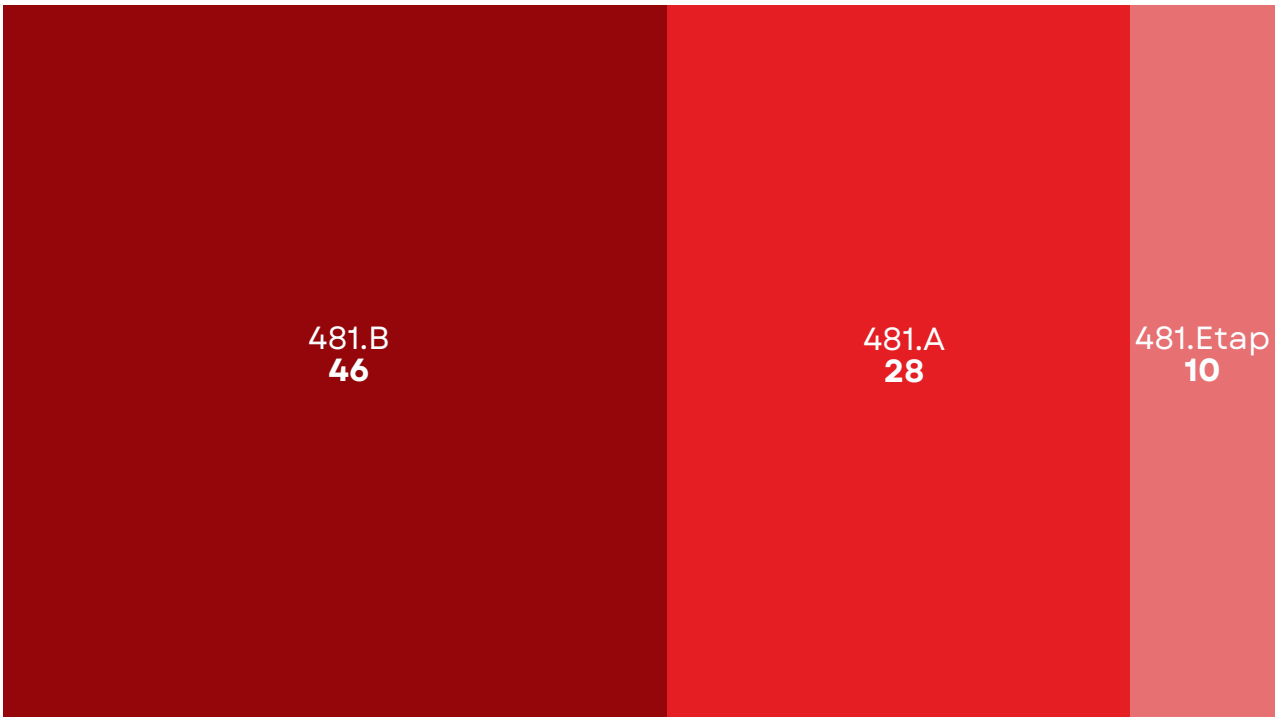
Priority 4

Overview

89
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 1.368.098.982,69

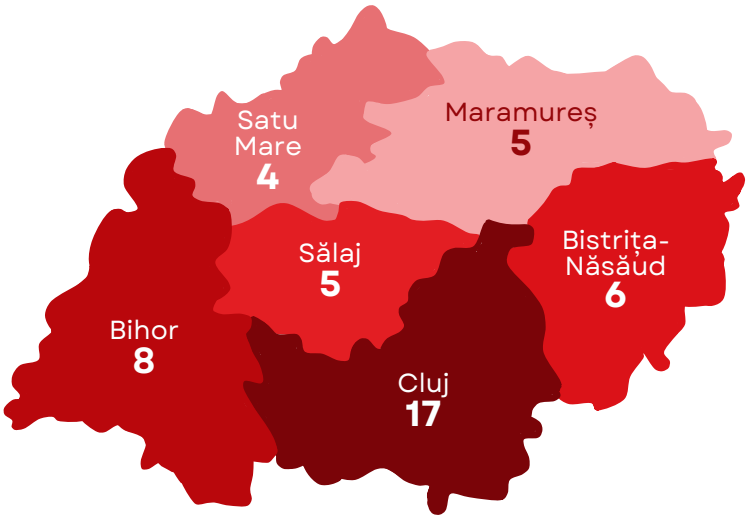
45
signed
contracts

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 three active calls, this priority has garnered significant community interest, taking a significant step forward with the signing of **44** crucial contracts. These contracts pave the way for improved urban mobility infrastructure in the benefiting cities.



Priority 4

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 395.575.530,28

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 603.250.341,67

The **Municipality of Zalău (Sălaj County)** is implementing a sustainable urban mobility investment under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**, aimed at **modernising public transport infrastructure and reducing emissions** across the city. With a total budget of over **€5.4 million**, the project supports the transition toward **cleaner, more efficient and accessible urban mobility**. The intervention includes the construction of a secondary bus depot, designed to support the operation of electric public transport. The facility will include **a dispatch building, parking and service areas**, and a covered structure for up to **40 electric buses**, alongside **four fast-charging stations equipped** with pantograph systems. Complementary works cover utilities, **access roads, green spaces and technical installations necessary** for full operation. In parallel, the project provides the acquisition of **five electric minibuses (6–8 metres)**, fully equipped with **intelligent transport systems**, including onboard computers, **e-ticketing validators, passenger information systems and video monitoring**. The fleet will be supported by **five slow-charging stations**, ensuring efficient daily operation. The investment targets the entire population of Zalău, approximately **52,000 residents**, and is expected to serve over **1.45 million public transport users annually**. By **improving service quality and reducing reliance** on conventional vehicles, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by over **2,000 tonnes of CO_2** equivalent per year. Scheduled for completion in **June 2028**, the project represents a key step toward **a modern, low-emission public transport system**, improving urban mobility and quality of life in Zalău.



Priority 5

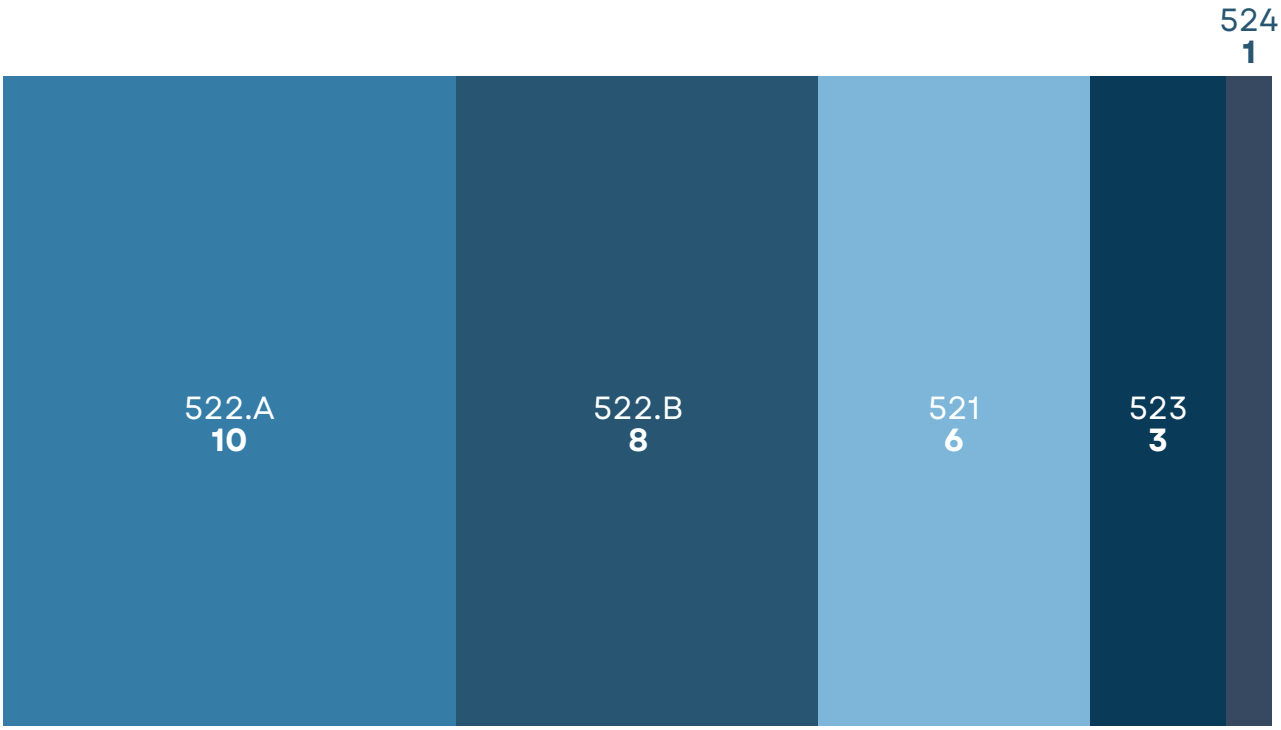
Overview

28
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 504.396.071,83

25
signed
contracts

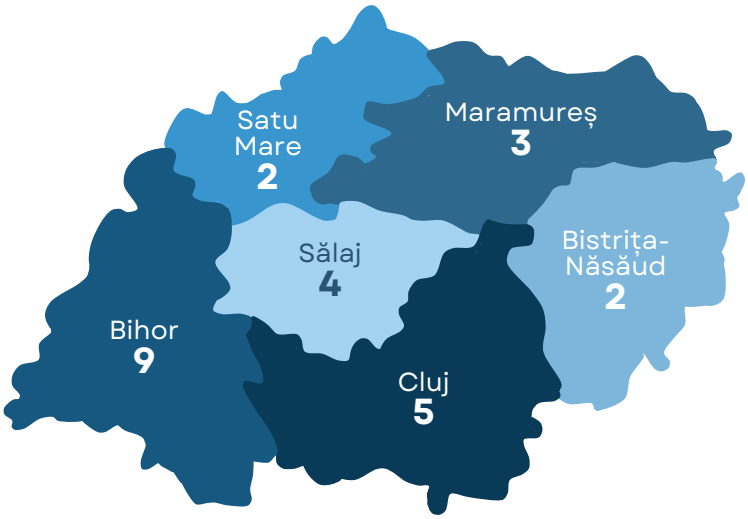
This priority is targeting **both infrastructure and safety**. **Upgrades to secondary roads**, including key **TEN-T connections**, are a focus. With 4 active tenders, the most significant interest has been seen in Call 522.A - Equipment to Increase Traffic Safety, with 8 projects submitted, followed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

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



Priority 5

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 453.916.082,38

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 731.198.226,25

Bihor County is investing in **road safety and maintenance equipment** to improve traffic conditions across 11 county roads, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total budget of approximately **€4.67 million**, the project will strengthen the county's capacity to maintain road infrastructure, **improve visibility and ensure safer travel conditions** throughout the year, particularly during winter. The investment includes the acquisition of **nine specialised vehicles and machines**: five multifunctional maintenance vehicles, including two equipped with snow blowers, two wheeled excavators, a **road-marking machine and a 9,000-litre vacuum tanker**. The multifunctional vehicles will support **snow removal, road gritting, surface cleaning and roadside vegetation management, improving visibility around intersections, road signs and curves**. The road-marking machine will enable the renewal of **lane markings and traffic guidance**, while excavators and cleaning equipment will support road maintenance, drainage operations and roadside interventions. Designed for **year-round operation**, the equipment will allow the county administration to **respond more efficiently to changing road and weather conditions**, while the use of biofuels will contribute to **reducing dependence on fossil fuels**. The investment addresses recommendations from road safety inspections conducted across the **11 targeted roads**. Direct beneficiaries include residents of **Oradea, Biharia, Paleu, Tileagd, Săcuieni, Suplacu de Barcău and Popești**, alongside commuters, transport operators and visitors travelling through these areas. By improving preventive maintenance, **winter accessibility and traffic visibility**, the project will reduce road hazards and support more reliable connections between urban and rural communities. Scheduled for completion in **April 2029**, the investment strengthens **regional mobility and road safety** through more effective and responsive management of county road infrastructure.



Priority 6

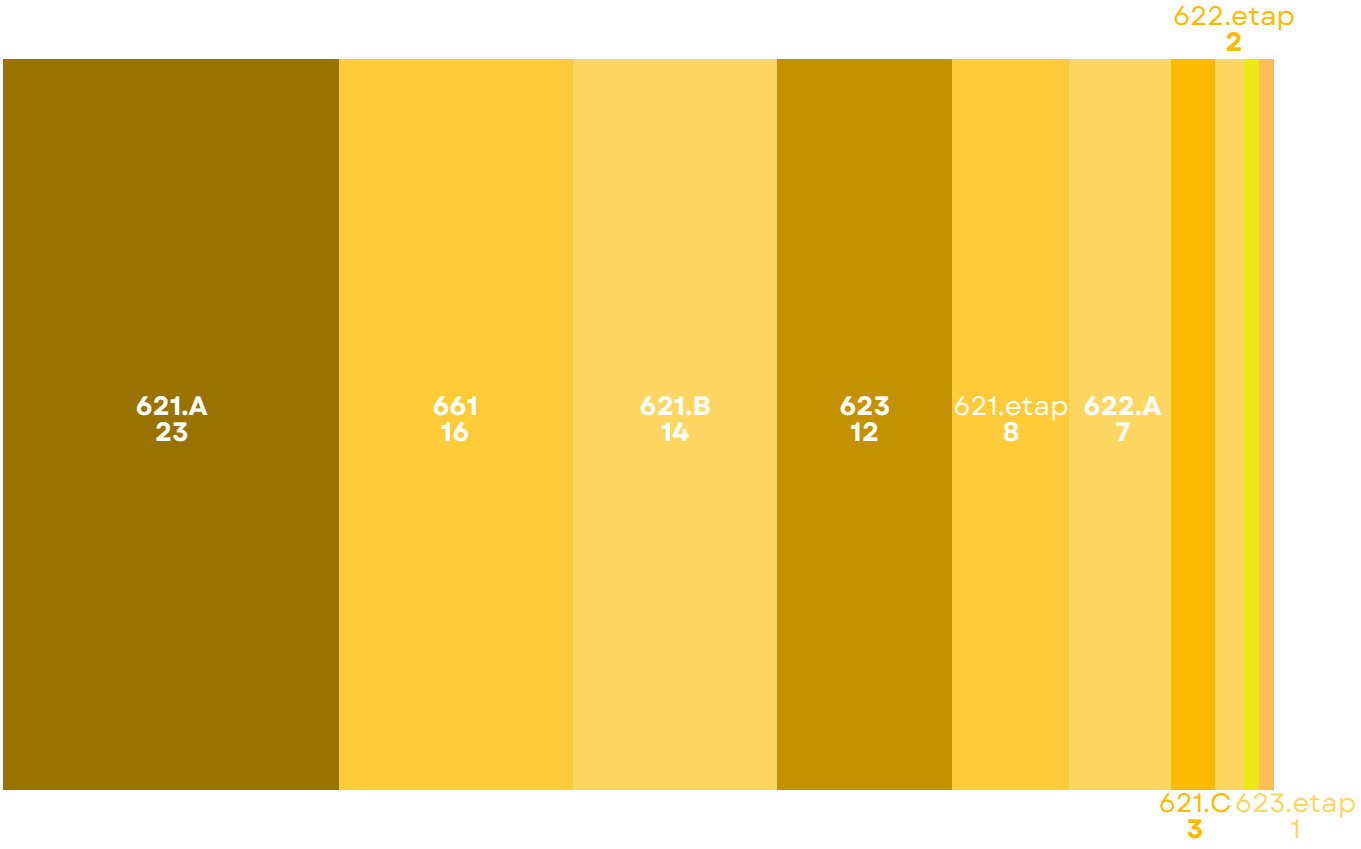
Overview

87
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 250.808.428,18

50
signed
contracts

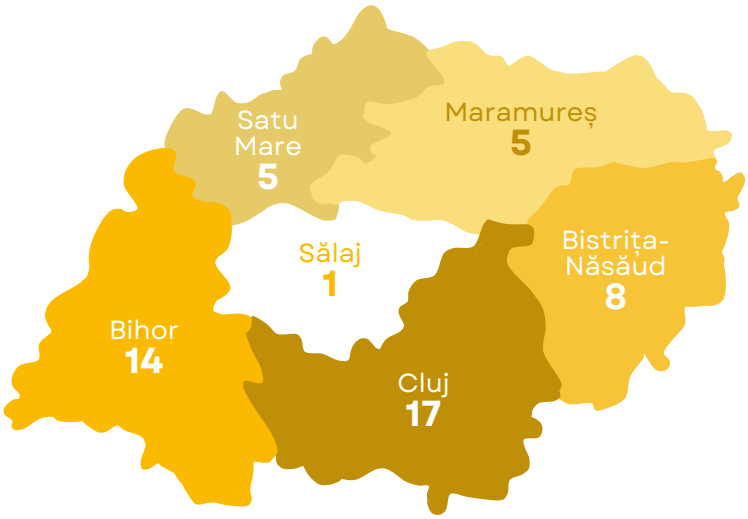
This priority marches for **a more social and inclusive Europe**. It involves tenders aimed at **enhancing educational infrastructure** across various levels, **from early childhood to university education**, and at **modernizing school facilities**.

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.



Priority 6

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 132.204.439,75

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 229.133.568,30

The **Sălaj County Council** is investing in educational infrastructure through the development of **a new school and career guidance centre in Zalău**, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total budget of approximately **€2.25 million**, the project will create a dedicated facility where pupils can better understand their **skills, interests and educational options** before making important decisions about their future studies. The investment includes the rehabilitation, modernisation and equipment of an existing building on Gheorghe Doja Street, which will accommodate **testing rooms, counselling areas, spaces for information activities and dedicated facilities for specialists**. Two rooms will be equipped for **motor skills assessment**, while the centre will also **receive specialised career-guidance software**, laptops, projection equipment and other digital resources. Accessibility will be improved through **a new ramp and lift**, enabling pupils with disabilities to use the facility. Testing and counselling will be provided by **teachers, school counsellors, psychologists and other specialists**, with the centre subsequently operated by the Sălaj County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance. The facility is designed to serve up to **1,600 seventh-grade pupils annually** from both urban and rural communities across Sălaj County. At least **14% of beneficiaries** will come from **vulnerable or marginalised groups**, including **pupils from low-income families, isolated rural communities and other disadvantaged backgrounds**. Scheduled for completion in **December 2029**, the investment **combines modern educational infrastructure**, **career guidance and social inclusion**, helping **young people make better-informed choices** about their next stage of education.



Priority 7

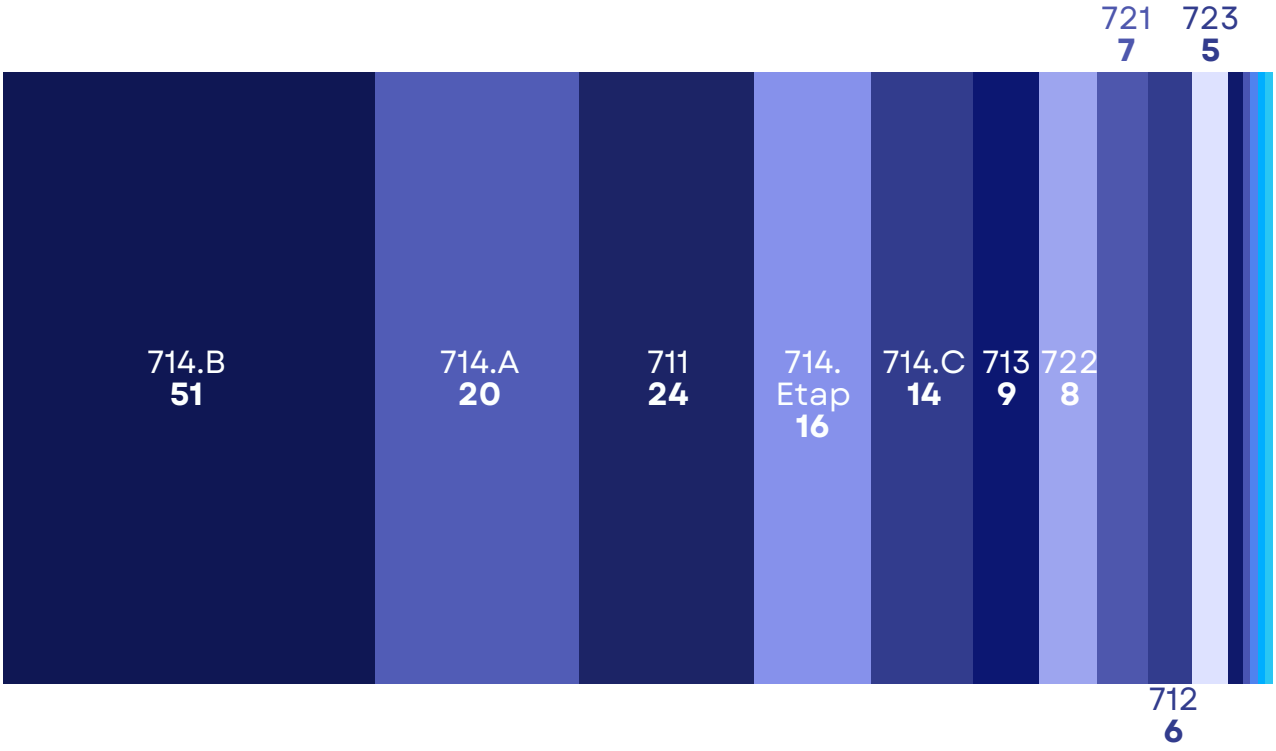
Overview

191
submitted projects
with a total eligible budget of
€ 995.668.571,95

93
signed
contracts

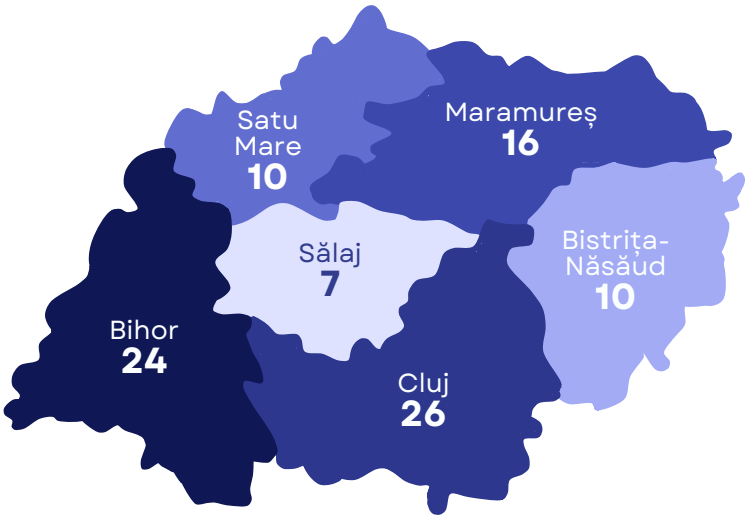
This priority marches for **a Europe that is close to its citizens**. It involves tenders promoting **integrated and inclusive development across social, economic, and environmental domains, as well as culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in non-urban areas**.

The call for projects **714.B** - Urban regeneration and the security of public spaces has **16** signed contracts, showcasing the increased interest of the public sector beautify the cities to match the beauty of the community that inhabits each place.



Priority 7

Signed Contracts



The total eligible budget of the signed contracts

€ 488.841.525,11

The total budget of the signed contracts

€ 667.253.273,45

The **Commune of Florești (Cluj County)** is investing in **cultural and community infrastructure** through the development of a new multifunctional cultural centre, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**. With a total budget of approximately **€5.71 million**, the project will transform an unused **8,919-square-metre site** into a **modern public venue** supporting **cultural activities, education and community engagement** in one of the fastest-growing communities in the Cluj metropolitan area. The investment includes **a new four-level building**, with a partial basement, featuring a performance hall with more than **540 seats**, distributed between the main floor and balcony, and a **166-square-metre stage**. The centre will accommodate **theatre performances, concerts, film screenings, conferences, exhibitions, book launches and school events**, supported by dedicated technical facilities and multifunctional spaces. Outdoor improvements will include **pedestrian pathways, landscaped public areas, urban furniture and parking facilities**, connecting the centre with nearby parks and recreational spaces. The project will encourage collaboration between **schools, local artists, NGOs, public institutions and businesses**, creating **opportunities for educational workshops, community initiatives and activities involving vulnerable groups**. Located on Tăuțului Street, the centre will provide **17,647 residents** living within a two-kilometre radius with **direct access to modern cultural infrastructure**, while also serving neighbouring communities, including Luna de Sus and Tăuți. Scheduled for completion in **August 2029**, the investment reflects an **integrated approach to urban regeneration**, cultural accessibility and community development, strengthening local cultural life and creating a shared public space for residents of all generations.



Completed projects

A success story.

A **production modernisation project** has been completed by **FLEXIBIL SRL (Maramureș County)** through the project **“Increasing the Competitiveness of FLEXIBIL SRL through Investments in Production Equipment - cod SMIS 308206”**, financed under the **North-West Regional Programme 2021–2027**, Priority 1 – A competitive region through innovation, digitalisation and dynamic enterprises. With a total investment of approximately **€2.8 million**, the project has strengthened the company's manufacturing capacity for **rubber-metal vibration damping and suspension systems** used in the automotive industry.

The investment includes the acquisition of **22 new production machines** and equipment, integrating **robotic manufacturing cells, automated machining technologies, vertical turning and milling centres, robotic welding systems, vulcanisation presses and surface treatment equipment**. These technologies modernise key stages of the manufacturing process, **increasing production capacity, precision and operational efficiency** while **reducing manufacturing costs and material waste**. The upgraded facilities enable the company to **expand its product range**, **improve manufacturing quality and respond more effectively** to demand from domestic and international markets.

The investment also incorporates a **photovoltaic power system**, supporting the use of renewable energy and **reducing the environmental impact of industrial operations**. Alongside technological modernisation, the project has supported the **creation of five new jobs**, including at least **one position for a person from a disadvantaged group**, while preserving existing employment. Accessibility measures and adapted equipment further support the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. Completed in **December 2025**, the project **strengthens FLEXIBIL SRL's long-term competitiveness** by combining industrial automation, **increased productivity and energy-efficient manufacturing**. The investment demonstrates how **targeted support for advanced production technologies can help regional SMEs expand** their manufacturing capabilities, improve resource efficiency and strengthen their position in the European automotive supply chain.





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