

**iWATERMAP**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# **iWATERMAP WATER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ROADMAPS**

**Regional Action Plan**

for practical measures, in support of increasing the critical mass of the water innovation ecosystem in the North-East Region of Romania

**RAP monitoring report  
June 2021 - May 2022**

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Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională  
N O R D - E S T

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## Reporting activities from Phase 2

June 2021 – May 2022

### Part I – General Information

<b>Project:</b>	iWATERMAP – Water Technology Innovation Roadmaps
<b>Partner Organisation:</b>	North-East Regional Development Agency (PP5) (North-East RDA)
<b>Country:</b>	Romania
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### Part II – Policy Context

The Action Plan will have an impact on:

- The "Investments for growth and employment" Programme**
- The European Territorial Cooperation Programme
- Another instrument of the regional development policy

**Name of the policy instrument addressed:**

- North-East Romania's Regional Operational Programme 2021-2027, *Priority Axis 1 "Development of research and innovation capacities and adoption of advanced technologies"* (the axis that continues PA1 of the ROP 2014-2020).

**Managing authority:**

- ROP 2021-2027: North-East RDA

According to the new version of the **North-East ROP 2021-2027**, which was sent to the European Commission on **10.12.2021**, the operations dedicated to investments, corresponding to Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region in the period 2021-2027 are:

- Integration of RDI organizations into interregional and international cooperation structures, partnerships and projects, aligned with the RIS3 domains;
- Consolidation of the regional RDI ecosystem;
- Developing the innovation capacity of enterprises;
- Innovative development of clusters;

**The North-East RDA is the initiator of the first Smart Specialization Strategy in Romania - RIS3 North-East (2013)**, and its updating has been done together with regional public and private actors: companies, universities - research and development centres, public administrations and civil society.

**RIS3 North-East 2021-2027** (correlated with National Strategy of Research, Innovation and Smart Specialization) aims to establish the areas in which investments will focus on, as Policy Objective 1 of cohesion policy "A smarter Europe". In order to operationalize the strategy, it is necessary to implement projects (investment, skills development, research-development-



innovation, technology transfer or cooperation / association) whose benefits should be reflected in improving the quality of life in the region's communities.

In this sense, in order to update RIS3 Nord-Est, 12 EDPs (entrepreneurial discovery process) were organized by North-East RDA, during March-July 2020 so as to identify and revalidate potential priority areas and niches of specialization, update the sectoral vision, targets and intervention mechanisms necessary to be implemented in the period 2021-2027 for each area of specialization, update the monitoring and evaluation system based on the analysis of regional innovation potential, the analysis of competitive and comparative advantages and the skills mapping process for sectors with specialization potential.

The new reconfiguration of the **ENVIRONMENTAL priority area**, with *Water - innovative solutions*, *Air - innovative solutions* and *Circular Economy* niches and related sub-niches (*indicative and not limiting description*) resulted from the EDP process, were validated by the quadruple helix representatives, voted in the public debate, and will be the basis for future investment directions.

ENVIRONMENT Sector	
Niche	Sub-niches ( <i>by way of example, not limitation</i> )
<b>Water (Innovative solutions)</b>	Innovative solutions for water efficiency
	Wastewater treatment and treatment technologies
	Technologies for recovery and recirculation / reuse of wastewater
	Advanced water quality monitoring and control systems (incl. Priority and emerging pollutants)
	Sludge treatment and recovery

Unlike the previous period (ROP 2014-2020), depending on the existing financing measures at national level, **ROP 2021-2027 will involve an important component dedicated to the operationalization of the RIS3 Strategy**, as providing technical assistance to project promoters in the RIS3 portfolio, including by resolving requests for information on RIS3, the conditions for accessing funding available through the Axis 1 ROP 2014 - 2020 at the level of the North-East Region and the call for the preparation of infrastructure projects in the field of smart specialization for the North-East Region, etc.

Romania is consistently listed as a modest innovator, with the lowest percentages of technology transfer and marketing innovation and the lowest percentage of companies that have innovated and marketed in the EU. Basically, one of the main problems seems to be the ability to absorb innovation in companies, the main features of the innovation and technology transfer process referring to: reduced cooperation between SMEs and research and development institutions; a small number of innovative SMEs participating in knowledge transfer activities; SMEs are more interested in capacity building than in research and innovation; low technology transfer rate and weak entrepreneurial culture.



## Part III – Actions planned and undertaken in the first year of implementation of the North-East RAP

Increase collaboration between regional stakeholders by initiating and activating Action Groups (AG), and stimulate and support them in order to increase the capacity to innovate and successfully apply for funding under future funding schemes

The action that will be implemented in North-East Romania will have two main sub-actions (phases):

1. Strengthening regional innovation ecosystems;
2. Stimulate and support regional stakeholders to submit project applications.

The planned action, with the main sub-actions, is closely **linked to all 3 roadmaps**, namely **1: Increasing the critical mass of the innovation ecosystem (CM Roadmap)**, **2: Human Resources (HR Roadmap)** and **3: Internationalization (Int. Roadmap)**. The maturation of AGs involves, in addition to developing the critical mass of the innovation ecosystem by improving cross-sectoral collaborations, increasing skills through training in water, raising awareness of the importance of water, and connecting with similar regional / European initiatives; identification of potential projects for implementation in partnership with local, regional, international actors.

- **1. Increasing the critical mass of the innovation ecosystem Roadmap** - The steps to be taken to increase the critical mass of the water innovation ecosystem can be:
  - Establish strong regional action groups, based on quadruple helix actors, to increase trust and collaboration at regional level
  - Identifying and submitting collaborative projects based on regional needs
  - Continuous search for national and international funding synergies for the development of research and innovation capacities and the adoption of advanced technologies
- **2. Human Resources Roadmap** - The steps to be followed in order to increase the human resources capacity are:
  - Raising awareness in primary and secondary schools, by developing educational activities for the early development of talents in the field of water resources management and technologies in the water sector
  - Initiation and development of collaborative training programs within the Regional Action Groups
  - International cooperation for the exchange of experience, training and specialization of human resources in innovative projects specific to the sector.
- **3. Internationalization Roadmap** - The following steps have been proposed to increase the level of Internationalization:
  - Dissemination of information at regional level, on good practices and regional but also national and international on innovative technologies in the water sector, specific management tools, success stories, etc.
  - Consolidation of the critical mass through involvement in clusters, associations, communities at international level
  - Stimulating the participation of regional stakeholders in international project consortia.



## Sub-Action 1: Initiation, activation and maturation of regional action groups and involvement in regional and / or interregional partnerships

### Activities associated with Sub-Action 1, initiated by the North-East RDA before the beginning of Phase 2

• Determining the membership criteria for each Action Group (AG). Selection of regional actors for participation in Action Groups, depending on skills and experience gained.	<b>100%</b>
• Development of the strategy form of each action group. Consultation of actors invited to participate voluntarily.	<b>100%</b>
• Initiation and organization of 3 meetings, one for each AG. Discussion of the topic to be addressed in each AG. Preparation of the minutes of the meetings and information of the participating volunteers from each AG.	<b>100%</b>
• Initiation and organization of the second round of meetings. Developing the vision of each AG, depending on the specific themes and requirements of the market. Preparing the minutes of the meeting and consulting the volunteer participants.	<b>100%</b>

Event name	Date	Location	No. of particip.	Main outcomes
<b>WG Digitalisation online meeting</b> (CM & HR & Int. Roadmaps)	18.01.2021	Virtual - Zoom platform	5	During the interactive discussions, some main ideas emerged, such as the fact that at the moment there is only a minimal collaboration with the (public) water sector in the NE region (between the IT and water sector) and the IT sector cannot be the WG leader. Digitization does not have sufficient knowledge of either the water sector or its needs in order to lead this WG.
<b>Working Group (WG) Green Infrastructure online meeting</b> (CM & HR & Int. Roadmaps)	19.01.2021	Virtual - Zoom platform	9	The discussions referred to the definition of the concept of Green Infrastructure, to legislation that is not (yet) in line with European legislation, to the lack of space to implement green solutions, the lack of technical and economic knowledge needed by local communities.
<b>WG Circular Economy online meeting</b> (CM & HR & Int. Roadmaps)	22.01.2021	Virtual - Zoom platform	6	A first debate was related to the fact that, in general, local (private) actors do not respond or respond in a very small number to the request for collaboration as is the situation for this group despite previous collaborations of the university with private companies (University of Iasi with 2 other water operators).



<p><b>Working Group (WG) Green Infrastructure online meeting</b>                  (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>17.02.2021</p>	<p>Virtual - Zoom platform</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>The interactive discussions touched on several topics of creating the WG vision in regional and national interest, the importance of raising public awareness about rainwater collection and reuse in their own households and about the fact that the power of example, of demonstration projects is very important.</p>
<p><b>WG Digitalisation online meeting</b>                  (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>18.02.2021</p>	<p>Virtual - Zoom platform</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>The interactive discussions aimed at evaluating the current state of ITC systems in the 6 regional water companies and evaluating the services they offer to citizens, services that could be a starting point for WG activities. Digitization especially since this field - digitization - is considered a priority area for Europe and will benefit from important European funds.</p>
<p><b>WG Circular Economy online meeting</b>                  (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>19.02.2021</p>	<p>Virtual - Zoom platform</p>	<p>10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the meeting, the AquaSPICE project (<a href="http://www.aquaspice.eu">www.aquaspice.eu</a>) was presented, which has a case study at Agricola Bacău company. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the conservation of raw water resources and to promote the reuse of properly treated wastewater for other purposes determined by the local market.</li> <li>• Agricola Bacău is the only industrial company in the region that aims to become "the first Romanian company in the industrial sector with sustainable water consumption" but it is desirable that in the future other industries in the region follow the example of Agricola SA for its activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Stakeholder meeting</b>                  (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>11.03.2021</p>	<p>Virtual - Zoom platform</p>	<p>26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefly revision of the project activities and planning the future ones, the importance of WST S3 Platform and how important the working groups are, as well as the the possible financing lines (known at the moment) for innovative technologies in the water sector on the directions of interest specified in the Regional Action Plan - increasing the critical mass of the innovation ecosystem, human resources and internationalization.</li> <li>• Presentation on the current state of the Regional Action Plan development, the main challenges resulting from previous meetings of the iWATERMAP project and the proposals of the working consortium within the RAP: for the 3 topics it was proposed the initiation and establishment of regional Action Groups (GAs) - public debate.</li> <li>• Presentation in more detail of the proposed Roadmaps (Critical Mass Development, Human Resources and Internationalisation) with related activities identified and proposed - public debate.</li> </ul>



## Activities associated with Sub-Action 1, carried out by the North-East RDA in the first year of implementation of the North-East RAP (June 2021 - May 2022)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing the organization of meetings or inviting stakeholders to participate at different related events, conferences, searching and sending related financial opportunities, promoting best practices, etc. (e.g. <i>North-East Climate Awareness Day, 05.11.2021 - representatives from academia and business were invited to present implemented projects and innovative technologies in the field of water</i>);</li> <li>• Meetings of regional action groups discussing: regional needs and challenges, funding opportunities, project ideas, creating consortia, best practices, training needs, projects, matchmaking meetings, planning and organizing awareness and responsibility events in the field of water etc. (e.g. <i>the regional meeting of the regional action groups, 26.11.2021 - the challenges, the needs of the regional action groups were discussed and it was proposed to create a Cluster in the field of Environment</i>)</li> <li>• Launching a campaign to promote success stories in the North-East Region in the areas of smart specialization (e.g. <i>Newsletter # 2 - promotion of the project aimed at the circular economy in the field of water</i>) – share on North-East RDA website and Facebook Connect Nord-Est (projects implemented or in progress)</li> </ul>	<b>100%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing events to meet the regional needs and challenges discussed in previous meetings of the action groups (inviting regional / national / international actors to share best practices, experts to share perspectives, etc.)</li> <li>• Frequent regional action group meetings to discuss: funding opportunities, project ideas, consortium creation, best practices, training needs, projects, matchmaking meetings, planning and organizing water awareness and responsibility events, etc.</li> <li>• Maturation of regional AGs through involvement in interregional partnerships, international networks, project proposals in partnership, training of specialists, etc.</li> </ul>	<b>50%</b>

In order to **develop and increase the critical mass of the innovation ecosystem in the water sector**, we've carried out activities for the relevant smart domains of the RIS3 North-East Strategy (**incl. Environment - "Water" Niche**):

Name of meeting	Date	Location	No. of particip.	Main outcomes
<b>Meeting of the Advisory Group on the Circular Economy in the</b>	03.08.2021	Online - Zoom platform	25	On August 3, 2021, the first meeting of the North-East Regional Advisory Group on the Circular Economy took place, organized in the context of the <b>REPLACE interregional cooperation project</b> . The main topics addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploiting the opportunity to connect to interregional circular value chains;</li> <li>• Benchmarking analysis on the degree of circularity in the region;</li> </ul>

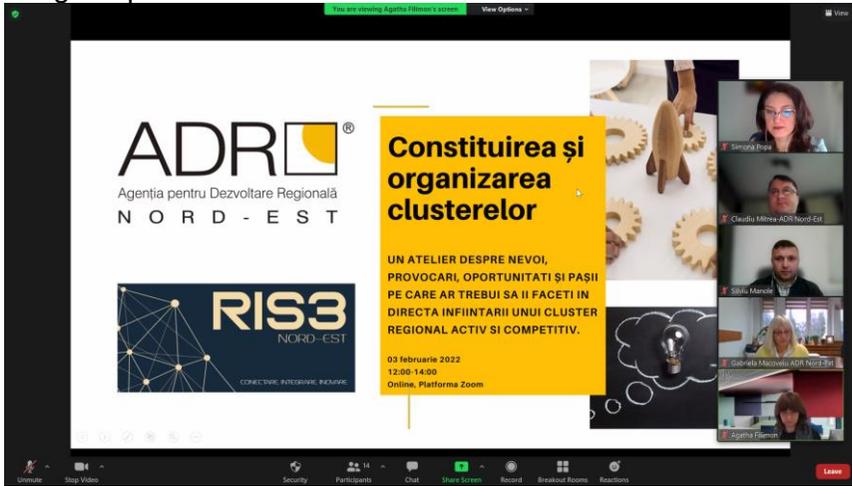


<p><b>North-East Region</b> (CM Roadmap)</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of proposals for outlining a call for projects in the field of circular economy.  <a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/event/intalnirea-grupului-consultativ-pentru-economie-circulara-din-regiunea-nord-est/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/event/intalnirea-grupului-consultativ-pentru-economie-circulara-din-regiunea-nord-est/</a></li> <li>• <b>Complementarity with the iWATERMAP project</b> - in this event also participated the stakeholders in the field of water, AG "Circular Economy".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organised „North-East Climate Awareness Day” event</b> (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>05.11.2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>50</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North-East Regional Development Agency (North-East RDA) is member of the EIT Climate-KIC since 2020, through which it will be directly involved in increasing the understanding and awareness of environmental issues and climate change by organizing events and by promoting good practices in the field of sustainability and climate change, promoting funding and cooperation opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Representatives from local authorities, academia and business were invited to present implemented projects and innovative technologies in the field of water</b>, and not only.</li> <li>• Link to event/registration page:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/385221866423649/?ref=newsfeed">https://www.facebook.com/events/385221866423649/?ref=newsfeed</a>  <a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/event/north-east-climate-awareness-day/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/event/north-east-climate-awareness-day/</a></li> <li>• Link to video from event:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wBBfNX0dVQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wBBfNX0dVQ</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Organised Regional Stakeholder meeting</b> (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>26.11.2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of iWATERMAP project results - Phase 1 completion; Presentation of Roadmaps; Presentation of actions within Regional Action Plan</li> <li>• Regional action groups: Propose themes for collaboration in projects</li> <li>-Open discussion</li> <li>•.Presentation of financing opportunities for the water sector and North-East RDA support for Internationalization</li> <li>• Conclusions and establishment of the next steps necessary for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Innovation in the Water Sector and Related Roadmaps.</li> <li>• The needs of the regional action groups were discussed and it was proposed to create a Cluster in the field of Environment</li> </ul>

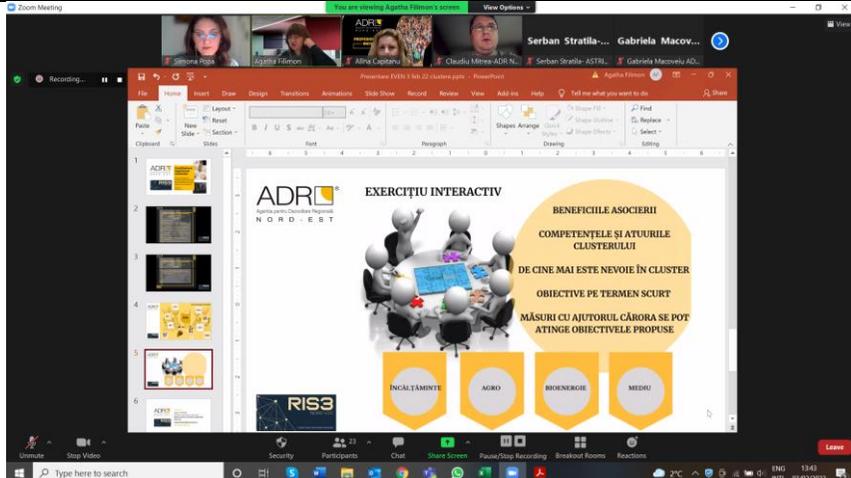


				
<p><b>Launching a campaign to promote success stories in the North-East Region in the areas of smart specialization (CM Roadmap)</b></p>	<p>12.01.2022</p>	<p>Facebook Connect Nord-Est</p>	<p>65 impact - person 13 interactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newsletter #2 - promotion of the project aimed at the circular economy in the field of water</b> – shared on North-East RDA website and Facebook Connect Nord-Est (projects implemented or in progress)</li> <li>• Facebook Connect Nord-Est launch: <a href="https://fb.watch/dLTkyQOZt/">https://fb.watch/dLTkyQOZt/</a></li> <li>• Website link: <a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/ce-oferim/specializare-inteligenta/sustenvpro/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/ce-oferim/specializare-inteligenta/sustenvpro/</a></li> <li>• Project summary: <a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/05/Card-online_2_SUSTENVPRO.pdf">https://www.adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/05/Card-online_2_SUSTENVPRO.pdf</a></li> <li>• Project newsletter: <a href="https://adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/01/Newsletter%20SUSTENVPRO_13.01.pdf">https://adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/01/Newsletter%20SUSTENVPRO_13.01.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Project application in consortium (Romanian Climate Society) (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>12.01.2022</p>	<p>EUKI program</p>	<p>Project application</p>	<p>Project application (Romanian Climate Society) in consortium (RDA North-East, ImpactHub, AHK Romania, Klimaschutz-Unternehmen e. V. Germany) within the EUKI program (European Climate Initiative, a funding instrument managed by the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany) - Development of an online platform dedicated to informing and educating the business environment in the field of environment and climate change, networking activities, workshops to increase administrative capacity to develop green businesses and awareness campaigns for companies - submitted at 12.01.2022</p>



<p><b>Organised          "Establishment          and Operation          of Clusters"          event          (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int.          Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>03.02.2022</p>	<p>Online -          Zoom          platform</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>In order to meet the regional needs regarding the association, establishment and operation of a cluster-type entity in RIS3 specialization areas, North-East RDA organized an online workshop dedicated to the establishment and operation of clusters.</p> <p><a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/ce-oferim/specializare-inteligenta/initiativa-connect-nord-est/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/ce-oferim/specializare-inteligenta/initiativa-connect-nord-est/</a></p> <p>Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a cluster and what is their role?</li> <li>• Support provided to clusters by North-East RDA</li> <li>• National and international opportunities for clusters</li> <li>• Models of good practice</li> </ul>  <p>The participants had the opportunity to present their strengths, the reasons behind the association in a cluster and the challenges encountered, as well as to find out what are the steps to follow to have an active and competitive cluster.</p>
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<p><b>Meeting of the Advisory Group on the Circular Economy in the North-East Region (CM Roadmap)</b></p>	08.02.2022	Online - Zoom platform	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following were discussed: The role of the circular economy in improving the quality of life in Romania; Functionalities of the National Platform for Circular Economy - ROCESP; Sustainability tool for enterprises Interpretation of the results of the Retrace Context questionnaire: The Circular Economy Advisory Group in the North-East Region was set up following an open call for expressions of interest for the accession of stakeholders, held in May 2021.</li> <li>• The members of the group are actors interested in the circular economy in academia and research, entrepreneurs, consulting firms, but also administrative-territorial units.</li> <li>• <b>Complementarity with the iWATERMAP project</b> - in this event also participated the stakeholders in the field of water, AG "Circular Economy".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Matchmaking (CM Roadmap)</b></p>	08.02.2022	Phone	1 to 1 meeting	<p>Matchmaking ApaVital &amp; ProCosmpost - intalnire in vederea unei colaborari vootpare cu privire la realizarea unei statii de compost namol (parteneriat / proiect nou) (08.02)</p>

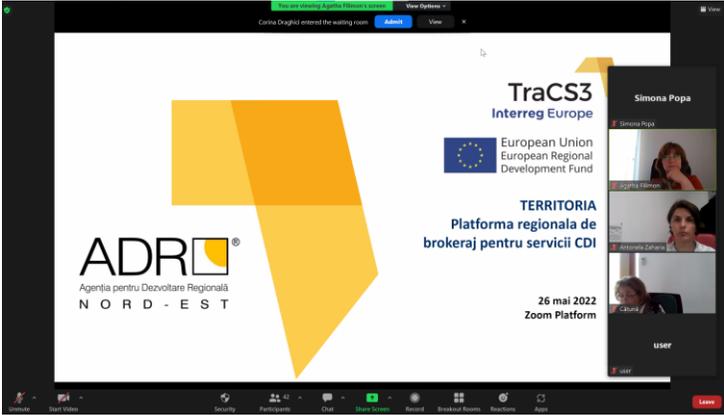


<p><b>Involvement of regional stakeholders in international consortia (CM &amp; Int. Roadmap)</b></p>	<p>16.02.2022</p>	<p>HORIZON call</p>	<p>Project application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identify the consortium and offer support throughout the process until the actual application</b> - Involvement of APAVITAL in the international consortium: "RAINWATER" project proposal with ID 101082152, which was submitted in an open call (<i>HORIZON-CL6-2022-ZEROPOLLUTION - Clean environment and zero pollution</i>) in the EU funding program HORIZON, <i>HORIZON-CL6-2022-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-04 Securing drinking water quality by protecting water sources against pollution, providing innovative monitoring and treatment solutions and ensuring safe distribution</i> (HORIZON-RIA) (submitted on 16.02.22)</li> <li>• APAVITAL budget - EUR 225,000</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project application in consortium (DiGIn4Tex) (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>15.03.2022</p>	<p>HORIZON call</p>	<p>Project application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North-East RDA is a partner in a consortia of 15 entities all across Europe (<i>4 entities are involved from the North-East Region of Romania</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Cross-sectoral project application: textiles and environment (water)</b></li> <li>• DiGIn4Tex (Digitalization, knowledge and green innovation exchange in textile, clothing, leather and footwear sectors) Project will focus on R&amp;I around digitalization, smart and green solutions in Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear sectors, converging European and regional context.</li> <li>• In one of the Work Packages, <b>tailored trainings modules</b> will be organized according to identified real and emerging needs of researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals. <b>Trainings</b> will comprise <b>modules</b> on sustainable materials and production processes, understanding <b>circular economy, water and wastewater management</b>, recycling technologies, digital innovations in the design of textile products incl. virtual sampling in 3D CAD clothing systems and for the purposes of waste management and examples of good practices as well as on IPR issues, opportunities created by EU programmes.</li> <li>• <b>Task: Plan of infrastructure revitalization</b>- A comprehensive <b>analysis of the textile wastewater management in the involved regions</b> will be carried out. The analysis, based on surveys and direct interviews with companies dealing with the chemical treatment, <b>will cover the issues of applied wastewater treatment technologies and legislative solutions</b> derived from previous tasks. The analysis will also <b>include WWTPs - direct recipients of wastewater from textile plants</b>. The <b>possibility of revitalization of the wastewater treatment infrastructure in companies</b> located on the premises of privatized state-owned companies will be analysed and if applicable, plan of infrastructure revitalization will be prepared. It is planned to include municipalities as stakeholders potentially interested in using the revitalized infrastructure for the treatment of municipal wastewater from the industrialized areas. Technical solutions to reduce</li> </ul>

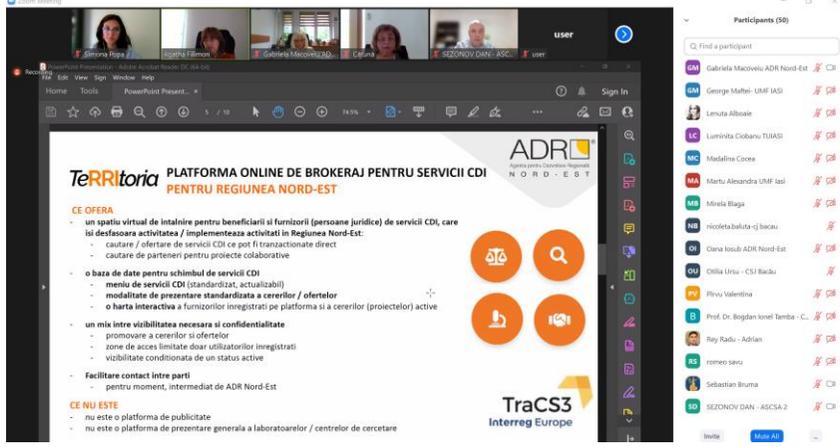


				<p>wastewater contaminations (colour, salinity), their possible application in the industry (dyehouses) will be evaluated.                  Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04 (Excellence Hubs)                  Topic: HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01                  Type of Action: HORIZON-CSA                  Proposal number: 101087226</p>
<p><b>Eastern Romanian Business Support Network Project ERBSN 2022-2025</b></p> <p><b>EEN Network Member (CM &amp; Int. Roadmap)</b></p>	<p>13.04.2022</p>	<p>Online</p>	<p>Signed contract</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North-East Regional Development Agency has signed the financing contract for the project Eastern Romanian Business Support Network - ERBSN 2022-2025, which is to be implemented in the period 2022-2025.</li> <li>• This project recognizes the quality of ERBSN partners as members of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The aim of the project is to help strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs, to provide support to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the single market and global markets, to grow and innovate, to recover from the pandemic crisis.</li> <li>• All services are free and can take the form of personalized services, which meet the specific needs of each company that requires:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internationalization</li> <li>2. Support in the Single Market</li> <li>3. Innovation and Technology Transfer</li> <li>4. Access to finance</li> <li>5. Digitization</li> <li>6. Sustainability and resilience</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Participated at the Kick-Off Meeting of the <b>Sustainability Thematic Group</b> (28.04.2022)</li> <li>• Part of the Sustainability Team of EASME, sub-group “<i>Sustainable Green Innovation</i>” where the topics of “<i>Waste</i>” and “<i>Water</i>” are <b>horizontal topics</b>. All challenges that the “<b>Water</b>” <b>sector</b> address (sub-topics: <b>Water Technology</b> for <i>Water &amp; wastewater treatment, Water &amp; wastewater Recycling &amp; re-use, Fresh Water Quality, Drinking water, Recovery of resources from water, Detection, Sensors &amp; Monitoring, Desalination, and Water Management &amp; Climate adaptation</i> for <i>Fresh Water Management, Flood Risk Management, Droughts, Rain water, Nature based solutions, Water Scarcity &amp; availability, Detection, Sensors &amp; Monitoring</i>), play a large part in providing technologies and solutions and supporting SMEs, with all EEN services.</li> </ul>



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to <b>EEN SGE Water Catalogue</b> (in collaboration with NCP CaRE with an overview of water related Calls in H2020), Green Deal calls, Water Cluster (examples), etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Launch of the TERRITORIA online platform for the brokerage of research, development and innovation services (RDI) (CM &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>26.05.2022</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>50</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>online platform TERRITORIA</b> (<a href="https://territoria.adrnordest.ro/">https://territoria.adrnordest.ro/</a>) was launched, and is intended for the <b>brokerage of research, development and innovation services (RDI)</b> in the fields of smart specialization within the region <b>(including the water sector)</b>.</li> <li>• Carried out by North-East RDA within the <i>H2020 project TERRITORY - Responsible research and innovation at territorial level by involving local actors in Research &amp; Innovation</i>, the platform offers a virtual meeting space between those looking for innovative solutions and those who can come to meet this need.</li> <li>• The collaborations are based exclusively on the exchanges and transactions of RDI services between legal entities, made on the basis of concrete requests and offers and assumed by users.</li> </ul> 



				 <p><a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/lansare-platforma-online-terriToria-destinata-brokerajului-de-servicii-de-cercetare-dezvoltare-si-inovare-cdi/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/lansare-platforma-online-terriToria-destinata-brokerajului-de-servicii-de-cercetare-dezvoltare-si-inovare-cdi/</a></p>
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**\*CM Roadmap – Increasing the Critical Mass of the innovation ecosystem Roadmap**

**HR Roadmap – Increasing the Human Resources capacity Roadmap**

**Int. Roadmap - Increasing the level of Internationalization Roadmap**



## Sub-Action 2: Stimulating and supporting the participation of the regional stakeholders in order to apply for funding under future funding schemes

### Activities associated with Sub-Action 2, initiated by the North-East RDA before the beginning of Phase 2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of open call for the establishment of the project portfolio related to RIS3 North-East;</li> <li>• Invitation sent to regional stakeholders in order to participate to the informative and further clarification session on the call for the establishment of the portfolio of innovative projects in the fields of smart specialization RIS3 North-East;</li> <li>• One-to-one information or clarifications (telephone or email) regarding the successful completion of the project file. Support in creating regional partnerships (online discussions and meetings);</li> <li>• The call ended with 118 proposals received on time, were analysed and evaluated by experts from the North-East RDA - <b>2 project proposals target Water niche (innovative solutions);</b></li> <li>• Publication of the results: <b>85 project proposals accepted and selected in the RIS 3 North-East project portfolio.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>100%</b></p>
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North-East RDA has launched **an open call for the RIS3 North-East project portfolio** (4 September - 14 December 2020). The purpose of this call was to establish a portfolio of priority project proposals in the fields of smart specialization of the North-East Region and to support them to be successfully implemented in the programming period 2021-2027, through the North-East ROP 2021-2027, other operational programs and public funds available at national level or funds managed directly by the European Commission, which support innovative development.

The call ended with **118 proposals received on time** (budget of 980.68 million euros), proving the interest and confidence of regional actors in the transparent and professional mechanism proposed by North-East RDA. The project proposals were analysed and evaluated by experts from North-East RDA, resulting in a number of **85 proposals accepted** and selected in the project portfolio of RIS3 North-East. The promoters of the project sheets will **receive the support of North-East RDA** in order to develop the project ideas and will be invited to participate in Project Development Lab Workshops (PDL) in which appropriate sources of funding for their projects will be identified and feedback on how they can improve their ideas will be offered, etc.

Two of the submitted project proposals concern the niche "**Water (innovative solutions)**" (**area of specialization: Environment**) and the niche "Energy efficiency" (area of specialization Energy), and refers to **reducing the environmental impact by implementing innovative solutions in the field of water** within two private companies in the region, in collaboration with academia and research.

More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.adrnordest.ro/rezultatele-apelului-de-constituire-a-portofoliului-de-proiecte-afereant-ris3-nord-est/>



## Activities associated with Sub-Action 2, carried out by the North-East RDA in the first year of implementation of the North-East RAP (June 2021 - May 2022)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the support strategy from North-East in order to mature the project ideas included in the RIS3 portfolio;</li> <li>• Information session on North-East RDA in order to mature the project ideas included in the RIS3 portfolio and frequent meetings with the initiators of the project files;</li> <li>• Support given for maturing project proposals (eg. <i>Launch of the second call of the Research Results Development Program (RVP 2.0) - 13 applications submitted, 10 selected - 1 application in the field of <b>Environment, Water niche (innovative solutions)</b> - online workshops designed to improve the commercial nature of projects proposed. The personalized coaching program started in October, which last approximately 3 months and will end in February 2022 with a DemoDay (event in which the teams that have successfully completed the coaching program will present their project ideas in the face of investors).</i></li> </ul>	<b>100%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information session / Project development labs (PDL) in order to mature the project ideas;</li> <li>• Consultation meetings on improving the application documentation (specific guide, administrative compliance and eligibility verification grid, technical-economic evaluation grid, etc.) under the ROP 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region, and making proposals, if necessary;</li> <li>• Preparation of a proposal to the Management Authority of the North-East ROP 2021-2027, in order to improve the Technical-Financial Evaluation Grid on future calls for projects under Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region, by awarding additional points in the technical-economic evaluation grid for the project proposals included in the RIS3 North-East portfolio;</li> <li>• Support offered by North East RDA in order to realize applications that will be submitted for financing in the ROP 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region, and not only.</li> </ul>	<b>20%</b>

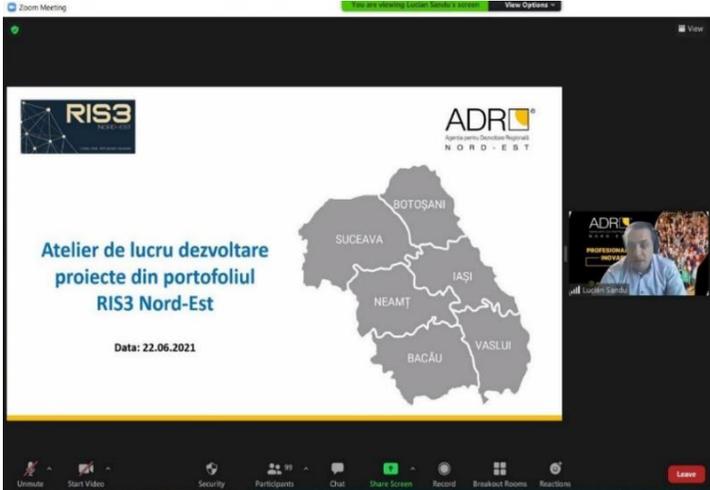
In order to meet regional needs, in addition to developing the support strategy to mature the project ideas included in the RIS3 portfolio and organizing various information sessions, the North-East Regional Development Agency launched in 2021, the second call of the **Research Valorisation Program (RVP 2.0)** to identify research projects with high commercial potential in the North-East Region and to support related project teams to strengthen knowledge and skills to advance their own project to a higher level of technological training (TRL). RVP 2.0 is an English-language program run by North-East RDA to facilitate the transition of research results to the market, through a personalized journey designed to cover all the specific needs of research teams. This support is provided in the form of business development workshops, personalized coaching sessions and market launch assistance. In order to carry out this program, North-East RDA received technical assistance from the World Bank under the Administrative Agreement (EC 2018.CE.16.BAT.059) between the European Commission and the World Bank signed in 2018.



Within this call, experts from the World Bank and the North-East RDA selected **10 projects** from the North-East region to provide assistance and guidance to strengthen capacity and facilitate interaction with industry, such as marketing strategies, intellectual property rights, marketing strategies and so on. One of the selected applications covered the **Environment (Water – innovative solutions)** area of smart specialization, entitled: „*Innovative and sustainable solutions for the elimination of priority and emerging pollutants for advanced wastewater treatment processes (PureGeo)*” applied by „Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi.

Research teams from the regional Universities received support from North-East RDA and Senior Innovation Consultants from World Bank Group for needs-based coaching and mentoring for capacity-building and facilitation of interaction with the industry, such as (but not limited to) marketing strategy, intellectual property rights, commercialization strategy etc. and provided international advisory focused on entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, innovation strategy, accelerator programs, research commercialization and spin-outs, innovation district planning, and economic development strategy.

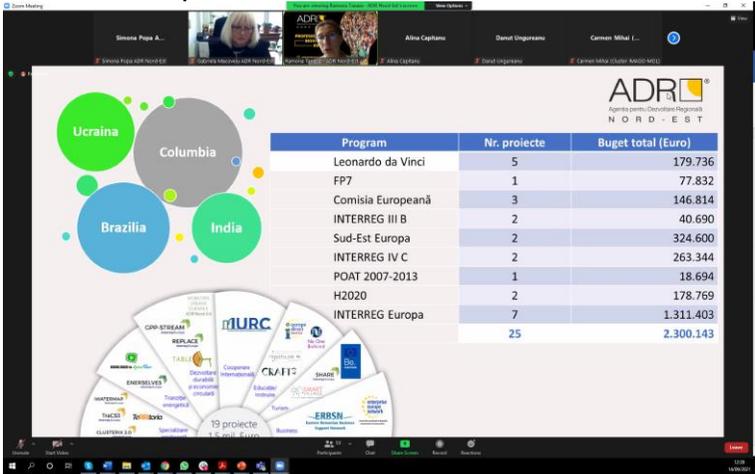
In order to **Stimulate and support regional stakeholders to submit project applications**, we’ve carried out activities for the relevant smart domains of the RIS3 North-East Strategy (**incl. Environment - "Water" Niche**):

Event name	Date	Location	No. of particip.	Main outcomes
<p><b>Online event "Project development Lab for the projects in the RIS3 North-East portfolio" (CM &amp; HR Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>22.06.2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>105</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On June 22, 2021, North-East RDA organized a Workshop for the development of projects in the RIS3 North-East portfolio, in order to present the support activities for the promoters of the projects in the portfolio, issues regarding the RIS3 North-East Portfolio 2021-2027 and to inform the participants about the stage of elaboration of the ROP 2021-2027.</li> </ul>  <p>The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main slide features the RIS3 logo on the left and the ADR logo on the right. In the center, there is a map of the North-East region of Romania, divided into counties: SUCEAVA, BOTOȘANI, IAȘI, NEAMȚ, BACĂU, and VASLUJ. Below the map, the text reads 'Atelier de lucru dezvoltare proiecte din portofoliul RIS3 Nord-Est' and 'Data: 22.06.2021'. A small video thumbnail of a participant is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide area.</p>



<p><b>Online meetings with promoters who submitted project proposals but were not selected in the RIS3 project portfolio (CM &amp; HR Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>May – July 2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform  On-site</p>	<p>1 to 1 meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between May and July 2021, online meetings were organized with the promoters who submitted project proposals but were not selected in the Call for the projects for the RIS3 North-East project portfolio. There were 22 meetings for 25 rejected projects. The purpose of these meetings was to provide feedback and to discuss in a timely manner the main elements for improvement in the project proposal, in order to obtain the minimum required score (for future calls for RIS3 North-East project portfolio), or to identify an appropriate source of funding to support the implementation of that project idea.</li> <li>• Meeting with representatives from <b>Innovatio Technologies SRL</b> company - <b>project in the field of water, testing &amp; metering &amp; digitization</b> (27.07.2021 - meeting at North-East RDA headquarters)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Info. session "Registration of an intellectual property right at European level" (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>31.08.2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>74</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North-East RDA in collaboration with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), organized an information session on the rights associated with trademarks, designs and models registered and valid throughout the European Union.</li> <li>• The session featured an expert from the EUIPO team who presented valuable information on:</li> <li>• The application process for the brand, design or industrial model</li> <li>• Granting of intellectual property vouchers worth up to 1500 Euros for SMEs</li> <li>• The invitation was also addressed to water-related stakeholders</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1088 906 1962 1399" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p><b>RIS3</b>  <b>EVENTIMENT</b>          31 August 2021, ORA 11:00</p> <p>Atelier de lucru <i>online</i> cu privire la Proprietatea Intelectuală:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Informații privind procesul de aplicare pentru marcă, desen sau model industrial</li> <li>▪ Vouchere de proprietate intelectuală în valoare de până la 1500 Euro pentru IMM-uri</li> </ul> <p>Organizatori: Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Nord-Est          Oficiul Uniunii Europene pentru Proprietate Intelectuală</p> <p><b>ADR</b><sup>®</sup> Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională N O R D - E S T</p> <p><b>EUIPO</b> EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE</p> <p>Lector          Francesca Dragostin          Expert EUIPO</p> </div>



<p><b>Info session          “International          Cooperation for          Innovation          within RIS3          North-East”          (CM &amp; Int.          Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>14.09.2021</p>	<p>Online -          Zoom          platform</p>	<p>62</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North-East RDA organized an online information session dedicated mainly to regional promoters who want to attract external resources for the development of innovative projects in areas related to the North-East Regional Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization.</li> <li>• The profile European networks with which North-East RDA collaborates (e.g. S3 platforms, EIT KICs Knowledge and Innovation Communities, Vanguard Initiative, ERRIN Network, I3 Interregional Investment Tool) and how stakeholders can benefit from these resources were presented.</li> </ul>  <p>The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a presentation slide from ADR Nord-Est. On the left, there is a bubble chart with bubbles for 'Ucraina', 'Columbia', 'Brazilia', and 'India'. On the right, there is a table with the following data:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Nr. proiecte</th> <th>Buget total (Euro)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Leonardo da Vinci</td> <td>5</td> <td>179.736</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FP7</td> <td>1</td> <td>77.832</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comisia Europeană</td> <td>3</td> <td>146.814</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INTERREG III B</td> <td>2</td> <td>40.690</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sud-Est Europa</td> <td>2</td> <td>324.600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INTERREG IV C</td> <td>2</td> <td>263.344</td> </tr> <tr> <td>POAT 2007-2013</td> <td>1</td> <td>18.694</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H2020</td> <td>2</td> <td>178.769</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INTERREG Europa</td> <td>7</td> <td>1.311.403</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>25</td> <td>2.300.143</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Program	Nr. proiecte	Buget total (Euro)	Leonardo da Vinci	5	179.736	FP7	1	77.832	Comisia Europeană	3	146.814	INTERREG III B	2	40.690	Sud-Est Europa	2	324.600	INTERREG IV C	2	263.344	POAT 2007-2013	1	18.694	H2020	2	178.769	INTERREG Europa	7	1.311.403		25	2.300.143
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<p><b>Online          workshop          designed to          improve the          commercial          character of the          projects          proposed in          RVP2          (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int.          Roadmaps)</b></p>	<p>20-          24.09.2021</p>	<p>Online -          Zoom          platform</p>	<p>8 research          teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the team preparation, an online workshop was organized on 20-24 September 2021, with the help of the World Bank's team of experts, to improve the commercial character of the projects proposed under the second call of the Research Results (RVP 2.0).</li> <li>• Research teams had the opportunity to explore elements of strategic management, marketing and intellectual property, working with tools such as Lean Canvas, to refine their business model.</li> <li>• For the 8 teams that participated in this introductory workshop, in October, the personalized coaching program begun, which lasted approximately 3 months and will end with a DemoDay (event in which the teams that successfully completed the coaching program will present their project ideas to some investors).</li> <li>• <b>Promoter: "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University - Project: "Innovative and sustainable solutions for the elimination of priority and emerging pollutants for advanced wastewater treatment processes (PureGeo)"</b></li> </ul>																																	



<p><b>Info session</b>  <b>"Registration of industrial property rights at national level"</b>          (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>25.11.2021</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>112</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North-East RDA in collaboration with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), organized an information session that brought together 3 lecturers from OSIM who presented valuable information on the application process for obtaining the rights of nationally owned industrial property for: trademarks and geographical indications patents designs</li> <li>• Owning industrial property rights is an important business asset for innovative entities and can increase employee revenue and the chances of increasing the entity's competitiveness.</li> <li>• The invitation was also addressed to water-related stakeholders</li> </ul>  <p>www.info regio.ro   facebook.com/info regio.ro   www.info regionordest.ro</p>
<p><b>Event</b>  <b>RVP 2.0 DemoDay</b>          (CM &amp; HR &amp; Int. Roadmaps)</p>	<p>12.04.2022</p>	<p>Online - Zoom platform</p>	<p>86</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In RVP 2.0, the selected teams worked for 7 months with experts from the North-East RDA and the World Bank through business development workshops and individual coaching sessions to receive launch assistance (<a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/rvp2_0/">https://www.adrnordest.ro/rvp2_0/</a>)</li> <li>• At the end of this program, North-East RDA organized on April 12, 2022 the online event RVP 2.0 DemoDay in which the 7 participating teams, who successfully completed all stages of this program, had the opportunity to present their innovative research projects to the public consisting of both public institutions and private companies interested in the innovative solutions presented, as well as receiving questions and feedback from specialists in the field of innovation, business development and private investment.</li> <li>• In the field of <b>Environment</b>, <b>PureGeo recommends innovative and sustainable solutions for the elimination of priority and emerging pollutants for advanced wastewater treatment processes</b></li> </ul>



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVP 2.0 DemoDay was recorded and streamed live on Facebook. Information about the live event reached 939 people and 57 reactions, comments and distributions were recorded. Also, 412 people watched the live at different times.</li> <li>• Full project presentations and team composition can be found on the dedicated RVP 2.0 sites:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.adrnordest.ro/rvp2_0/">www.adrnordest.ro/rvp2_0/</a> (Romanian)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.adrnordest.ro/en/rvp2_0_en/">www.adrnordest.ro/en/rvp2_0_en/</a> (English)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">The full recording</a> of the RVP 2.0 DemoDay event can be viewed on <a href="#">Facebook a ADR NE</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Analysis and approval of the North-East Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 on the European Commission agenda (CM &amp; HR Roadmaps)</b></p>	31.05.2022	Online	North-East ROP submitted to EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North-East RDA officially submitted, on May 30, 2022, the North-East Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 to the European Commission through the Information System for Fund Management at the level of the European Union. The approach was preceded by the approval of the Program by a Memorandum during the Government meeting, also on May 30, 2022.</li> <li>• It is the first formal version of the Program submitted as the Managing Authority at the level of the North-East region and the one that will be the basis for negotiations with the specialized services within the European Commission.</li> <li>• Among the target groups targeted by the North-East ROP 2021-2027 are enterprises, universities, clusters, incubators, accelerators, research and development organizations, local, central public institutions, administrative-territorial units (ATUs), etc.</li> <li>• The North-East Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 is structured on 8 priorities, with dedicated financial allocations, as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>North-East – a more competitive, more innovative region</b> – 420,07 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – a more digitalized region</b> – 101,11 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – a sustainable and more environmentally friendly region</b> – 341,98 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – a region with more sustainable urban mobility</b> – 277,31 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – a more accessible region</b> – 182,16 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – an educated region</b> – 192,10 mil euro</li> <li><b>North-East – a more attractive region</b> – 120,41 mil euro</li> <li><b>Technical assistance</b> – 74,23 mil euro</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/05/sfc2021-PRG-2021RO16RFPR002-1.0.pdf">https://www.adrnordest.ro/storage/2022/05/sfc2021-PRG-2021RO16RFPR002-1.0.pdf</a></p>

The results of call for project portfolio RIS3 and RVP 2.0 showed us that project ideas in the water and innovative technologies domain exist and we will try to support the beneficiaries with project maturation and finance in the next programming period 2021-2027.



## Involved stakeholders

A lot of activities has been done for the implementation of all three roadmaps, most of them being **focused on increasing the critical mass, human resources awareness and capacity building and internationalization**, and **some examples of regional actors involvement in the water-related activities can be seen in the following table:**

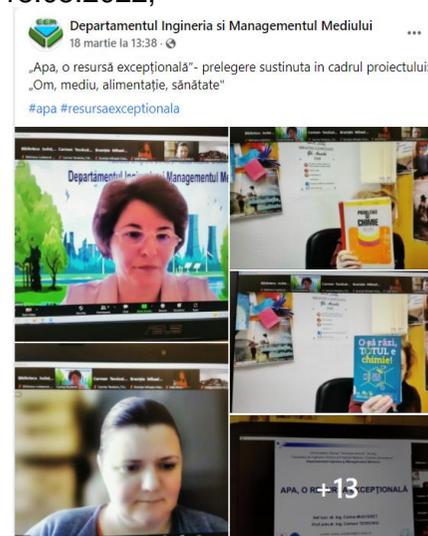
Entity	Role	Activities
<p><b>North-East RDA</b></p>	<p>Coordination and overall implementation of regional action plan activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitating contacts in order to create regional / international project consortia and offer support in order to increase the capacity of a project application;</li> <li>• initiation and mediation of preliminary and advanced discussions;</li> <li>• organizing or participating in events of interest and inviting regional actors to share good practices;</li> <li>• encourage stakeholders to join project consortia, apply to different project calls, participate at thematic webinars, conferences and courses for capacity building;</li> <li>• inviting regional actors to consult on improving the implementation documentation under the ROP 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region;</li> </ul>	<p>According to <b>Part III – Planned Actions Section:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities initiated by the North-East RDA before Phase 2 related to Sub-Action 1</li> <li>• Activities associated with Sub-Action 1, carried out by the North-East RDA in the first year of implementation of the North-East RAP (June 2021 - May 2022)</li> <li>• Activities initiated by the North-East RDA before Phase 2 related to Sub-Action 2</li> <li>• Activities associated with Sub-Action 2, carried out by the North-East RDA in the first year of implementation of the North-East RAP (June 2021 - May 2022)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparing a proposal to the Managing Authority of the North-East ROP 2021-2027, in order to improve the Technical-Financial Evaluation Grid on future calls for projects under Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region, by awarding additional points for the project proposals included in the RIS3 North-East portfolio.</li> </ul>	
<b>The academic and research-development-innovation</b>		
<p><b>The academic and research-development-innovation</b> environment in the field of water and the fields related to AGs within: “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi and/or “Al. I. Cuza” University from Iasi and/or „Vasile Alecsandri” University from Bacau and/or „Stefan cel Mare” University from Suceava</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• active participation within meetings / round tables / trainings;</li> <li>• get involved in regional / international project consortia;</li> <li>• share success stories – to be promoted on different media’s or be presented in different events;</li> <li>• offer trainings and technical support if needed;</li> <li>• get involved and give feedback in the consultations on improving the implementation documentation within the ROP 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region;</li> <li>• preparation of project applications in partnership.</li> </ul>	<p><b>“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, „Cristofor Simionescu” Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection, <a href="#">Environmental Engineering and Management Department</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in events organized by RDA North-East: regional stakeholders meeting of iWATERMAP; promoting research and development initiatives and projects and climate innovation solutions implemented at local level - SUSTENVPRO and Lacmed (presentation given by Prof. Teodosiu) during the North-East Climate Awareness Day event (05.10.2021); participation with collaborative initiatives and to set up a cluster in the field of Environment – Water; participated at the "Establishment and Functioning of Clusters" event, etc.;</li> <li>• Participation in the Campaign to promote successful social media projects (Facebook Connect Nord-Est and ADR Nord-Est website) - SUSTENVPRO project (Water and the circular economy);</li> <li>• Project “Innovative and sustainable solutions for priority and emerging pollutants removal through advanced wastewater treatment processes” (<a href="#">SUSTINWATER</a>), Contract no. PCE 56/2021, UEFISCDI Code: PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-1199;</li> <li>• Project “Integrated and sustainable processes of environmental depollution, wastewater reuse and waste recovery” (acronym <a href="#">SUSTENVPRO</a>), Complex project carried out in RDI consortia: PN-III-P1-1.2-PCCDI-2017-0245; Contract 26PCCDI / 2018;</li> </ul>



- Organizing events to raise awareness in primary and secondary schools, by developing educational activities for the early development of talents in the field of water resources management and technologies in the water sector: e.g. participation with presentation at events organized within the project "Man, environment, food, health" - "Water an exceptional resource" (organizing events in collaboration 4Hx: university, high school, county library, companies, environmental protection agency, association): 18.03 and 18.05.2022;



- Organizing events to raise awareness and increase critical mass, exchange experience, training and specialization of human resources in the field of environment (water & waste): e.g. "Sustainable practices in environmental and waste management, in rural communities" - multiplication event organized on May 27, 2022, <http://www.international.tuiasi.ro/.../comunicat-de-presa...> - This event was attended by citizens of rural communities, representatives of local public authorities, environmental protection agencies, water and sanitation operators, non-governmental organizations, representatives of the educational and research environment;





- Organizing events to raise awareness of educational activities among students in regional high schools: visits to the department's laboratories;
- Organizing study visits with students at regional water and wastewater treatment plants, water-related companies, etc. for the early development of talents in the field of water resources management;
- Making videos to promote undergraduate studies within the department - <https://fb.watch/dOQAoEfssy/>, <https://fb.watch/dOQQ3snzix/> <https://fb.watch/dOQRokLAPq/>

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- Implements the **SusTrEE** project, supported by a grant from the Romanian Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS / CCCDI - UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-2430, contract no. 439 PED / 2020, within PNCDI III;
- **„Evaluation of sustainability of eco-friendly processes used in wastewater treatment based on an integrated environmental and economic assessment approach”** ([SusTrEE](#)) project aims at providing the optimal solution(s) in terms of non-conventional and eco-friendly wastewater treatment processes sustainability by aligning environmental, human health, economic and social interests based on the development of an experimental demonstration model which works as a validated system;



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination, participation at national and international scientific events, organising water-related thematic workshops;</li> <li>• The SusTrEE project won the gold medal at the 25th edition of the International Invention Exhibition (INVENTICA 2021).</li> </ul> 
<b>Local authorities and NGOs</b>		
<p>The Prut –Bârlad and Siret water basin administrations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in meetings / round tables / trainings;</li> <li>• involvement and feedback in the consultations on improving the implementation documentation within the Regional Operational Program 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in events organized by North-East RDA</li> <li>• <b>Prut-Bârlad and Siret Water Basin Administrations</b>, partners in the SIPOCA 588 Project, project name: "Improving the capacity of the central public authority in the field of water management in terms of planning, implementation and reporting of European water requirements", Project Code SIPOCA / MySmis: 588/126656 (<a href="http://prut-barlad.rowater.ro/despre-noi/dezvoltare-si-investitii-achizitii/proiecte-implementate-in-curs-de-implementare/proiecte-in-curs-de-implementare/proiectul-sipoca/">http://prut-barlad.rowater.ro/despre-noi/dezvoltare-si-investitii-achizitii/proiecte-implementate-in-curs-de-implementare/proiecte-in-curs-de-implementare/proiectul-sipoca/</a>) - Between April and May 2021 there were 4 theoretical trainings, each of which involved 100 people from the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, the National Administration "Romanian Waters", Basin Administrations Water and Water Management Systems, to establish theoretical knowledge for the use of the new electronic system for collecting, validating and reporting data and information in the field of collection and urban wastewater treatment.</li> <li>• Organizing awareness events with students:</li> </ul>





- World Water Day, celebrated by SGA Suceava - discuss with students about important water and the distribution of information materials  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqXtp3-NR5w>



- “Roman Waters” National Administration - Press release for awareness on the importance of groundwater, on World Water Day (22.03.2022): <https://bit.ly/3wpgdpt>
- “Apele Romane” National Administration through ROFLOODS project launched [www.inundatii.ro](http://www.inundatii.ro) on World Water Day - the first site in Romania dedicated exclusively to floods and flood risk management: <http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/comunicat-de-presa-rofloods-de-zia-mondiala-a-apei-se-lanseaza-www-inundatii-ro-primul-site->

		<p><a href="#">din-romania-dedicat-exclusiv-inundatiilor-si-managementului-riscului-la-inundatii/5043</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the activities carried out by the Prut-Bârlad and Siret Water Basin Administrations, are based on information, awareness, containment, collaboration with other entities, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intercommunity Development Associations (ADIs) in the water sector</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in events organized by North-East RDA</li> </ul>
<p><b>County Environmental Protection Agencies</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in events organized by North-East RDA</li> <li>• <b>Iasi Environmental Protection Agency:</b> Participation in thematic events, invitation to collective action for sustainable management of wetlands and the development of local communities, organizing the Open Days with students from regional high schools, raising awareness to the importance of water in various schools, high-schools, universities, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Bacau Environmental Protection Agency:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 01.02.2022 - World Wetlands Day information campaign (dissemination of informative materials in electronic format) in schools in Bacău county - organization of 10 online seminars at educational institutions in Bacău county.</li> <li>* 02.02.2022 - Participation in the debate dedicated to Wetlands Day organized online by the Mihai Eminescu Bacău College. The theme for 2022 was "Managing Wetlands for People and Nature", with the slogan "Cherish - Manage - Restore - Love"</li> <li>* 21.03-30.03.2022 - Organization of the World Water Day information campaign (dissemination of informative materials in electronic format) in schools in Bacău county (15 online seminars). The 2022 edition took place under the slogan "Underground water - Making the invisible visible".</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Public Administrations</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in events organized by North-East RDA</li> </ul>
<p><b>NGO &amp; Associations</b></p>		<p><b>ACVO Association</b> (ApaVITAL Iasi) <a href="https://www.acvo.ro/">https://www.acvo.ro/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organizing awareness events with students from schools and high schools in the region, in order to sound the alarm about the constant degradation of the environment and to form responsible behaviors towards nature among children, e.g. World Water Day, celebrated by the ACVO Association among children in order to form positive attitudes and behaviors towards the environment (March 23, 2022)</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive video prepared to mark <a href="#">World Water Day</a></li> <li>• Organization of thematic contests "Planet today and tomorrow", attended by students from towns and villages in the region</li> </ul> 
<b>Companies</b>		
<p><b>Regional water infrastructure operators</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in meetings / round tables / trainings;</li> <li>• involvement and feedback in the consultations on improving the implementation documentation within the Regional Operational Program 2021-2027, Priority 1. North-East - A more competitive, more innovative region.</li> <li>• share success stories – to be promoted on different media's or be presented in different events.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Apavital SA Iasi</b> (regional water infrastructure operators) <a href="https://www.apavital.ro/">https://www.apavital.ro/</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External social responsibility activities (ecological education activities, water competitions);</li> <li>• World Water Day - activities with the Iași County Library - Man, environment, food, health, activities with the Euroed School and Kindergarten, organizing the contest "What does water mean to you" in collaboration with the Iași County Library;</li> <li>• World Environment Day - posting information about the event on the company's Facebook page;</li> <li>• Researchers' Night - Participation in the event as a partner. Videos about ApaVital's activity were posted on the official page of the event;</li> <li>• World Water Quality Monitoring Day - post information about the event on the company's Facebook page;</li> <li>• Internal social responsibility activities (e.g. Water Cross);</li> <li>• Marketing campaigns (e.g. Water campaign in villages - posting on Facebook; Investing in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure - posts on the Facebook page and on the ApaVital website);</li> <li>• Investments made from external non-reimbursable sources, mainly within the Regional Project for the development of water and wastewater infrastructure in Iași</li> </ul>



	<p>County, financed under <b>Large Infrastructure Operational Program</b> (POIM), worth over <b>500 million euros</b>, a project that includes major investments in Iași County , aiming at the development of the infrastructure served at the level of 41 administrative-territorial units (adductions, treatment plants, sludge drying and recovery plant) from 29 urban agglomerations that have 113 localities (<a href="https://www.apavital.ro/investitii-externe">https://www.apavital.ro/investitii-externe</a>);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement in an international consortium (HORIZON) with the “Rainwater” project application submitted in Feb. 2022 - facilitated by ADR Nord-Est;</li> <li>• ApaVital celebrated World Water Day (March 22, 2022) through a series of social responsibility activities carried out over several days, with hundreds of students and teachers involved in activities organized in partnership with other institutions: visits to treatment plants or to points of contact, water capture, drawing and collage contests, water information campaigns, etc. (<a href="https://www.apavital.ro/comunitate/apavital-sarbatoreste-pe-22-martie-ziua-mondiala-a-apei">https://www.apavital.ro/comunitate/apavital-sarbatoreste-pe-22-martie-ziua-mondiala-a-apei</a>);</li> <li>• In partnership with ApaVital, the “Gheorghe Asachi” County Library in Iași organized the drawing and collage contest “Groundwater - Make the invisible visible” <a href="http://iasifun.ziaruldeiasi.ro/concurs-de-desene-colaje-dedicat-zilei-mondiale-a-apei/190942/">http://iasifun.ziaruldeiasi.ro/concurs-de-desene-colaje-dedicat-zilei-mondiale-a-apei/190942/</a>;</li> <li>• The Iași Children's Palace developed the inter-county project “Gifts of the earth - water and forest”, now in its ninth edition, in which ApaVital is a partner. On March 22, children from Țibănești carried out a street information campaign, on the topic of water, in order to make the public aware of its importance in the community. Also, a group of 40 children involved in this project paid a visit to the Chirița water treatment plant;</li> <li>• The Pașcani Independent Hydrotechnical System, in collaboration with the “Mihail Sadoveanu” National College Pașcani and ApaVital organized a visit to the water catchment point in Răchiteni where students from regional high schools participated <a href="https://newspascani.com/ziua-mondiala-a-apei-marcata-de-colegiul-mihail-sadoveanu/">https://newspascani.com/ziua-mondiala-a-apei-marcata-de-colegiul-mihail-sadoveanu/</a>;</li> <li>• Together with the “Ion Creangă” Secondary School from Iași, ApaVital carried out an awareness campaign by distributing flyers with informative-educational content on the topic of groundwater. The children also watched a video on water and learned important information.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar activities were carried out at Euro-Ed Kindergarten, where 40 children from large groups participated in a presentation of useful information about water, in which they learned about responsible behaviours and were explained the need to save drinking water.</li> </ul>
<p>Private companies, water technology providers, including those in the IT&amp;C sector</p>		<p><b>The Climate Vertical</b> (Spin-off) offered mentoring, consultancy on access to finance and markets, product/service marketing, legal advice, internationalisation and matchmaking services to the following <b>start-up in the field of “Water”</b>: <b>Aquaponic Greenhouse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a new project planning to produce lettuce and grow fish under a <b>recirculating water system</b>, where the only input is fish food.</li> <li>• They are planning to sell lettuce, fish, and the technology itself. The production and technology is intended for rural and suburban areas, with the main purpose of saving water and support people in poor developed areas.</li> <li>• Video: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C7JVQVrmp3NsCWxxoLkTBld-akN4ZvbK/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C7JVQVrmp3NsCWxxoLkTBld-akN4ZvbK/view?usp=sharing</a></li> </ul>
<p>Private and public companies, water consumers (food industry, textile, etc.)</p>		<p><b>Agricola International SA Bacau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricola International SA Bacau and Business Development Group SRL are partners from Romania, in the international consortium that develops the project with the acronym <b>AquaSPICE</b> (original title: "Advancing technologies in process industries through digital and circular water use innovations"). The project will run from 2020 to 2024 and is funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program. Details about the project can be found at: <a href="http://www.aquaspice.eu">www.aquaspice.eu</a>.        ICCS project ID: 63115500        Topic: CE-SPIRE-07-2020        Type of action: IA        Call identifier: H2020-LOW-CARBON-CIRCULAR-INDU</li> <li>• The AquaSPICE project aims to <b>identify and apply the best available technologies for wastewater treatment in different industries</b> (chemical, oil, food) and <b>alternative solutions for reusing treated wastewater and for optimizing water consumption</b>, using digital technologies and artificial intelligence.</li> <li>• The case study of Agricola Bacau, it <b>aims to identify the best technology available for wastewater treatment resulting from the activity of the poultry processing slaughterhouse so that it can be reused in certain operations</b>. The food industry uses, in accordance with the legislation in force, only drinking water or free of microorganisms. The implementation of this project at Agricola Bacau aims to reuse treated wastewater on production segments where there is no direct contact</li> </ul>



water / final product (meat) but also for other secondary purposes such as washing storage spaces, alleys, irrigation of green spaces, etc.

- This goal proposed by Agricola is **the first of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, in the food industry.**
- Over 2021, The Technical University of Crete, together with the AquaSpice case study leaders organized two rounds of case study workshops to identify the scope of the optimization services for water efficiency.



- On April 28, 2022, AquaSPICE held the 1<sup>st</sup> Community of Practice meeting in Bacau, North-East region of Romania, where stakeholders joined together to discuss circular economy and sustainable development on a local level.



In the next period, it will be considered to increase the number of actors involved by promoting the activities and good practices carried out in the water sector in the North-East Region.

Created by,





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**// FUNDING PROGRAM: INTERREG EUROPE, CALL 3**

**// SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE - 1.2 IMPROVING INNOVATION POLICIES**

**// DURATION: 36 MONTHS (PHASE 1) + 24 MONTHS (PHASE 2)**

**// PROJECT LEADER: WETSUS, EUROPEAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WATER SECTOR, THE NETHERLANDS.**

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