

Sixth Strategy Board meeting of the Territorial Strategy under Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria - Serbia Programme 2021 -2027 held on February 25th, 2025

1. Description: The Strategy Board meeting under Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria – Serbia Programme 2021-2027, was held on February 25th, 2025 **Online via Webex**, with the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Preparing for the next open call: Conceptual framework for services of general interest:
 - Representatives of Managing and National Authorities
4. Expected outcome: SB members to propose and reach an agreement on the key content and eligibility criteria for the upcoming call for proposals
5. AOB and closing the meeting

The following decisions were taken by the Strategy Board:

2. Decisions: **Decision 1:**

The Strategy Board reached the following decisions regarding the key content and eligibility criteria for the upcoming call for the provision of services of general interest:

- The call will not be restricted in scope, allowing opportunities for both the development and piloting of cross-border services.
- A sector-wide approach will be maintained, with no predefined sectoral limitations, except for the exclusion of tourism-related and fire-related activities to prevent double funding and ensure clear demarcation.
- The infrastructure component of project proposals will remain optional. Consequently, no budget cap will be imposed on investments, ensuring a balanced approach between infrastructure and soft measures.

- Both technological solutions and infrastructure will be equally supported, with neither being prioritized over the other.
- Proposals should focus on developing new services of general interest alongside improvements to existing cross-border services.
- Each project may involve up to four partners—one lead partner and three project partners. Additionally, each institution may participate in only one project proposal to ensure broader institutional involvement.
- Supporting fewer but larger projects.
- Projects exceeding €500,000 must include more than one pilot action and solution, while those below this threshold should have at least one.

3. Attachments:

1. Minutes of the Sixth Strategic Board meeting.

Signatures:

for BULGARIA:

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Mr. TIHOMIR ANTONOV

*Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Montana
and Co-chair of the Strategy Board*

for SERBIA:

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Ms. TATJANA PANIC - ZIVKOVIC

*Regional Development Agency “South”
and Co-Chair of the Strategy Board*