



## **Resistance, Recovery and Resilience between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania**

Resistance, Recovery and Resilience between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania panel aim is to provide in the frame of European Week of Regions and Cities 2024 a fresh insight from two different borders of Romania with two new EU accession states: Ukraine and Moldova. In order to achieve this aim, the panel is focusing on three different topics relevant at local and regional level but also at EU level: resistance, recovery and resilience.

The first topic is related to Ukrainian and Moldovan societies' resistance in front of Russian aggression for more than two years. For that, Ivano Frankivsk Agency for Regional Development, Ukraine and Regional Development Agency Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, will disseminate information regarding how the public and private sector, together with civil society from both countries adapted in such difficult conditions.

The second topic is related to the recovery of the border areas between Romania, Ukraine and Moldova. In order to achieve that, the participants will share their present day situations. A specific focus will be to one county council from Romania, Botoşani County Council. The county is located in the north east of Romania and have a unique situation, with common border with Ukraine and also Moldova. The county is remotely located from major growth poles of Romania and its capital and were directly impacted by refugees of Ukraine.

The third topic is related to the resilience of these three societies in front of different challenges for border regions affected by military aggressions, migrants, lack of investments, poor infrastructure and new EU regulations for Ukraine and Moldova from the accession perspective. The discussion will involve North West Regional Development Agency, Romania, Ivano Frankivsk Agency for Regional Development, Ukraine and Regional Development Agency Chisinau, Moldova Republic, to provide a broader picture of EU funds role in their regions. North West Regional Development Agency will share the gained expertise acting previously as an intermediate body and now as a managing authority of ERDF funds for North West Region. Ivano Frankivsk Agency for Regional Development will share the gained expertise acting as a regional branch for Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine 2014 – 2020. Regional Development Agency Chişinău will share the gained expertise in implementing development programmes. All three regional development agencies will discuss not only about to withstand and cope with new challenges but also to undergo transitions, in a sustainable, fair, and democratic manner.



Final insights will be related to the EU assistance to Ukraine and Moldova from a local and a regional perspective. Since the start of Russia's war of aggression, the EU and its Member States have mobilized technical and financial support to Ukraine and Moldova. Also, both countries has been tackling unprecedented challenges, including large numbers of refugees, inflation, threats to its energy supplies, violations of its airspace, and many hybrid actions. In conclusion, the panel will addressing border areas challenges between Romania, Ukraine and Moldova and will show regions resilience and commitments to progress on EU agenda while taking measures to mitigate the impact of Russia's war of aggression.

**Proposed panelists:**

- Ms. Csilla Hegedüs, Interim Director General, [North West Regional Development Agency](#), Romania;
- Ms. Tetyana Zbyrak, Director, [Ivano Frankivsk Agency for Regional Development](#), Ukraine;
- Ms. Otilia Moruzi, General Director, [Botoşani County Council](#), Romania;
- Mr. Gheorghe Hajder, Director, [Regional Development Agency Chişinău](#), Republic of Moldova.

**Moderators:**

- Ms. Anca Gutt, Information Expert, [Romania – Ukraine Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation](#), Romania;
- Mr. Cezar Grozavu, Executive Director, [Romania – Ukraine Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation](#), Romania.