



RINNO - a model for enhancing the benefits of Romania-Bulgaria cross - border region cooperation by using R&D&I

The counties and districts in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area is not among the most developed in the area, not to mention the gaps compared to the EU average and especially to the most developed countries.

Therefore, it is necessary to find means to foster the economic and social development of this area, by using not only the traditional local resources (natural and human capital) but also new, modern approaches. The research, development and innovation have proved their efficiency in the western countries, which are atop the economic development of European Union. From industry to agriculture and services, every field of activity has evolved based on research and innovation.

Universities, research institutes / entities and innovative companies have worked together to improve the products and services while using the resources more efficiently.

Romania and Bulgaria have constantly brought their contribution to research and innovation, but not at scale which would bring a significant contribute to the economic development, Many research results were not transferred into the economy while the number of innovative companies stays at low levels. There is a huge opportunity for the cross-border area to start a long-term cooperation between the two countries, in the benefit of both of them, which could bring them, closer to the European levels of R&D&I faster than separate action would do. Facing similar problems could help the two countries find common solution and the technological transfer will have a larger area to spread.

Moreover, the importance of R&D&I is recognized and emphasized by the "EUROPE 2020" new EU strategy presented by the European Commission in March this year. The priorities of this strategy are:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

At least the first two priorities are focused on R&D&I:

- The first one puts innovation and knowledge at the heart of the future EU economy, thus giving it a strategic importance;



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- The second one refers to efficiency, ecology and competitiveness, which are all best achieved through research and innovation.

Therefore, we can identify the strategic character of this project regarding its geographic and organizational dimensions. The project focus on:

- Developing the necessary institutional framework to support partnership between R&D&I, universities, central and local administration and SMEs in Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area;
- Increase cooperation between R&D&I, universities, central and local administration and SMEs to capitalize the comparative advantages of Romania-Bulgaria area using the strategic planning;
- Supporting sustainable development of the area through specific instruments for effective use of natural and human resources;
- Speed up the economic and social sustainable development of the cross-border area in order to diminish the gaps compared to the more developed regions of the EU.

The strategic focus of the project is also underlined by the aim of gathering together, making available and keeping for the future all the R&D&I results from both countries.

Rinno Council develops strategies, plans and priorities for innovative economic and social development of cross-border region. These documents will be publicly debated. There will be:

- 3 strategies with action plans and priorities
- Caravane in 16 major cities (8 in Romania and 8 in Bulgaria)
- 8 Debates in central market of main town (4 in Romania and 4 in Bulgaria)
- 8 Debates in universities and research institutes (4 in Romania and 4 in Bulgaria)
- 6 + 6 Public debates on strategies (6 in Romania and 6 in Bulgaria)
- 5 Brokerage sessions (3 in Romania and 2 in Bulgaria)

You can find the RINNO caravane at:

Tr Severin	Vidin	Slatina	Alexandria	Dobric	Calarasi	Razgrad	Ruse
22.04 & 3.06	24.04 & 5.06	26.04 & 7.06	28.04 & 9.06	13.05 & 9.07	11.05 & 7.07	9.05 & 5.7	7.05 & 3.7

Craiova	Montana	Vratza	Pleven	Constanta	Silistra	Giurgiu	V. Tarnovo
23.04 & 4.06	25.04 & 6.06	27.04 & 8.06	29.04 & 10.06	12.05 & 8.07	10.05 & 6.07	8.05 & 4.07	6.05 & 2.07

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