Hajdú-Bihar County Government

Environmental Policy in Practice

Hajdú-Bihar County Government and its International Cooperation

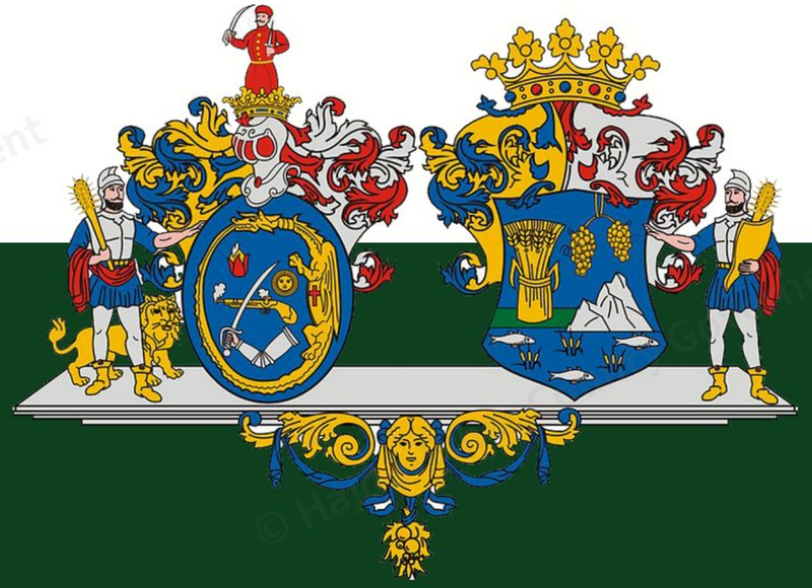
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2016-2026

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Who are we?

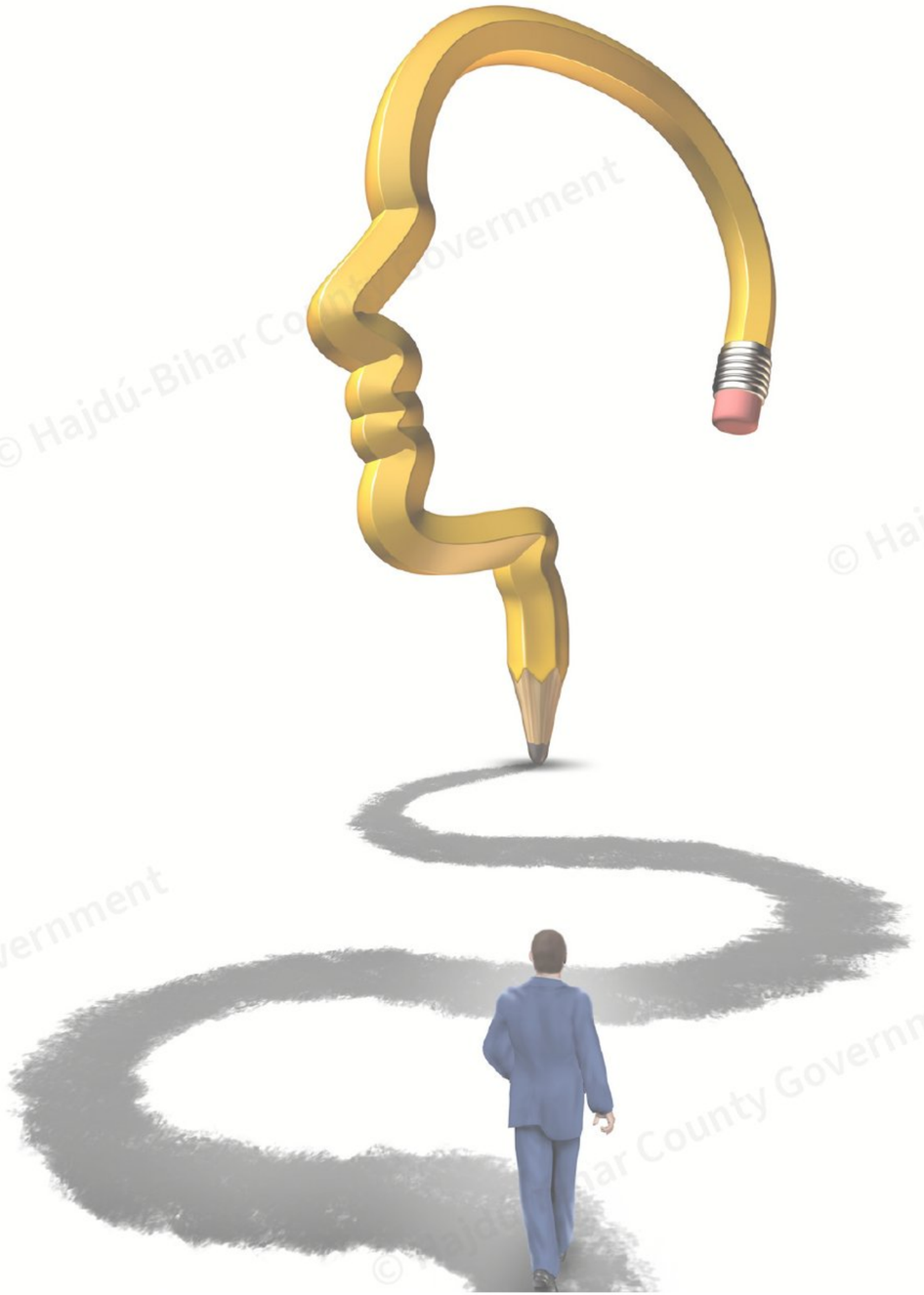
As a **regional player** with a good understanding of the strengths, challenges and opportunities of our 82 municipalities, representing also the national development and sectoral priorities, we are striving to further reduce the gap between our rural and urban areas, preserve our traditions and bring our communities together.



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Our goals

- "Hajdú-Bihar is a dynamic and modern county with a high added-value economy and a well-developed innovation ecosystem, based on **conscious and future-proof planning**, responsible towards its society and environment, committed to the preservation of its natural and cultural values and their sustainable use, while at the same time open to creative and innovative initiatives to provide its inhabitants with a quality, liveable environment and a responsible community."



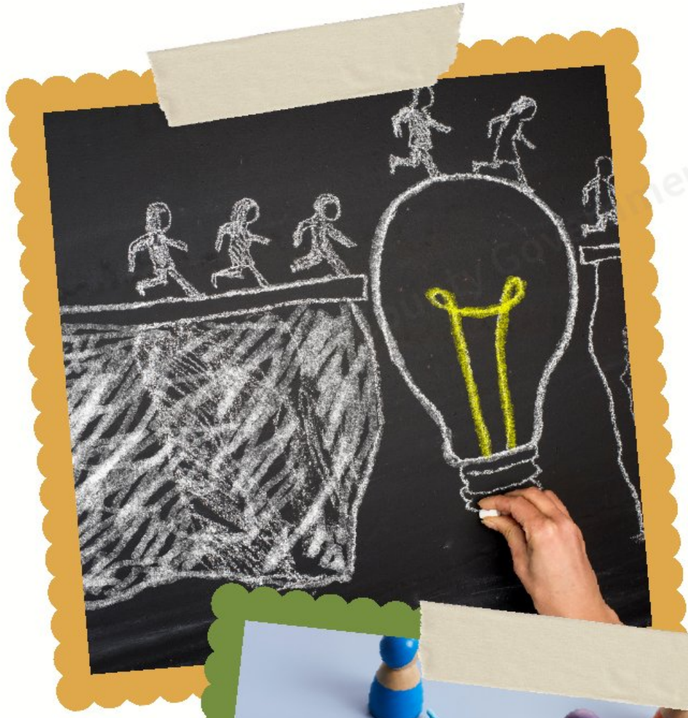
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Our activities

01 Hajdú-Bihar County Government is a territorial actor responsible for regional development, spatial planning, rural development and coordination

02 We work closely and continuously with all stakeholders at national, regional and local level

03 **Our active international cooperation strengthens the definition and implementation of development priorities and related actions**





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Building and maintaining professional relationships, and strengthening domestic and international networks



Participation in and presentations at numerous domestic and international events



Scientific research, daily policy-making environment, international professional context, and continuous monitoring of relevant literature



Event organization – full preparation and implementation of professional meetings, working breakfasts, international conferences, workshops, and competitions



Branding and design, content development, and the creation, editing, and publication of publications and videos

Roles

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Why international cooperation matters

1

- Strategic coordination (not direct environmental authority)
- Regional development planning
- Integrating sustainability into policies
- Building international partnerships

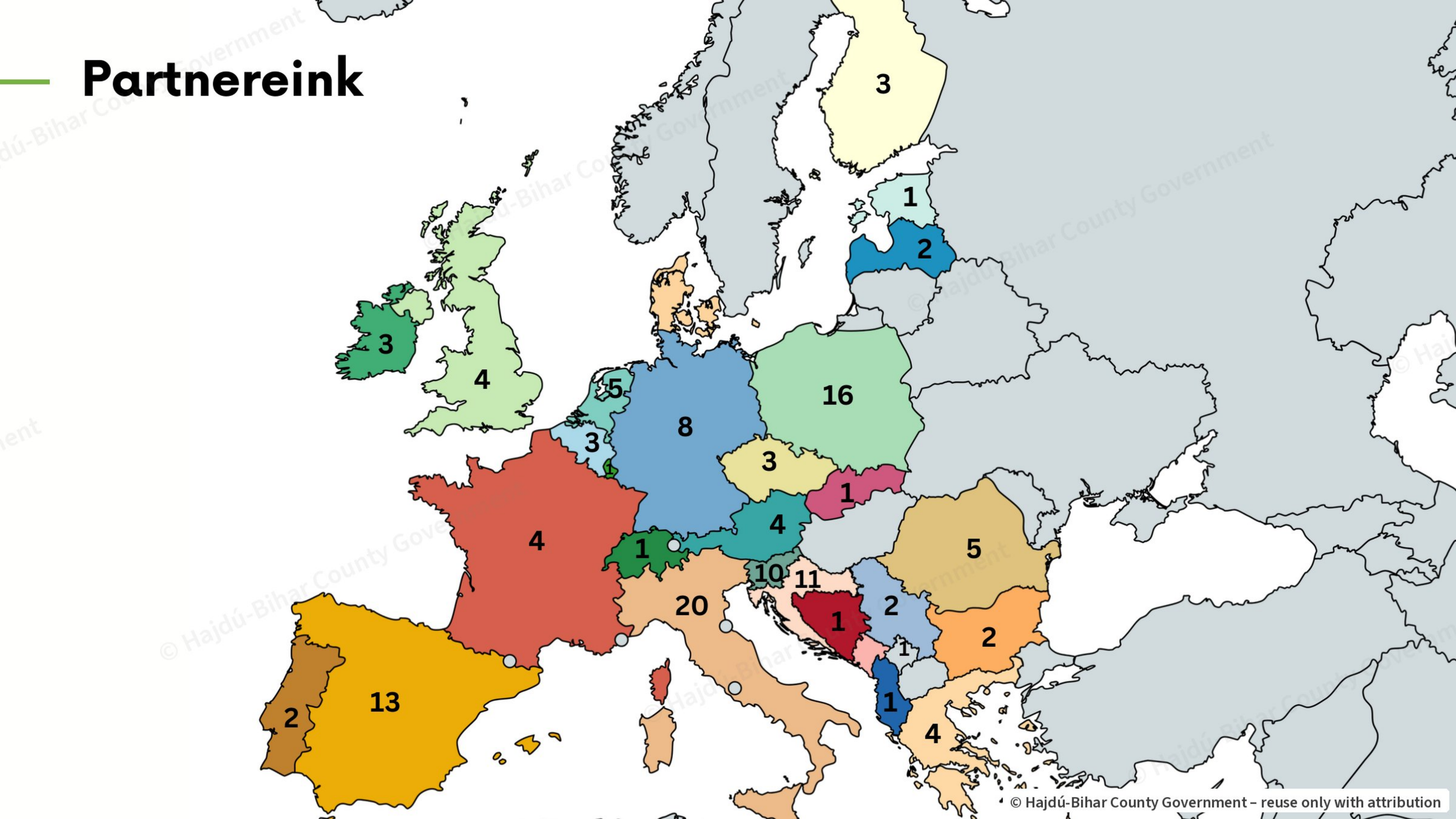


2

- Environmental challenges are cross-border
- Access to EU funding and expertise
- Learning from best practices
- Joint solutions for shared ecosystems

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Partnereink



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HBC in a nutshell

Environment

Climate change: extreme weather, drought, inland flooding, energy issues
Great Plain
Rich natural heritage, geothermal potential, nature protection

Economy

Polarised (Debrecen + other)
Agri-food, heath industry, machinery+pharma
SMEs: lack of innovation
Culture, education, tourism

Society

Lack of culture of collaboration
Unused potential in communities - rich cultural heritage
Local identity - efficient methods needed
Digital literacy to be improved

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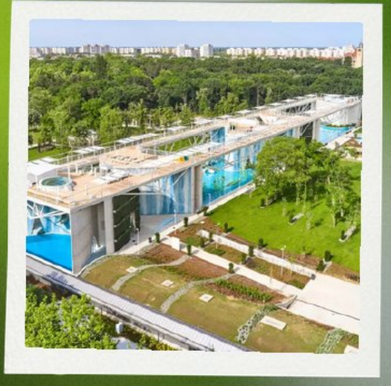








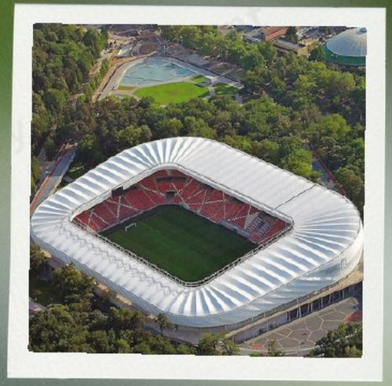














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- Leveraging Cluster Policies for Successful Implementation of RIS3

CLUSTERS3



- Development of Financial Ecosystems for the Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in Rural Regions

DelFin



- Enhancing environmental management capacities for sustainable use of the natural heritage of Central European SPA towns and regions as the driver for local and regional development

HEALING PLACES



- PUblic authorities Role Enhancing COmpetitiveness of SMeS

PURE COSMOS



- EUropean REgions of GAstronomy building resilience and creating economic growth

EUREGA



- PreservatiOn and promotion of natUral and cultural heRitage through GreenWAYs

OUR WAY



- Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorize dark night skies

Night Light



- Improving regional policies to better protect natural heritage of peri-urban open spaces

RENATUR



- Enhancing the Entrepreneurship of SMEs in Circular Economy of the Agri-Food Chain

SinCE-AFC



- Cities for a Good Energy Governance

CitiEnGov



Completed INTERREG projects 2014-2020

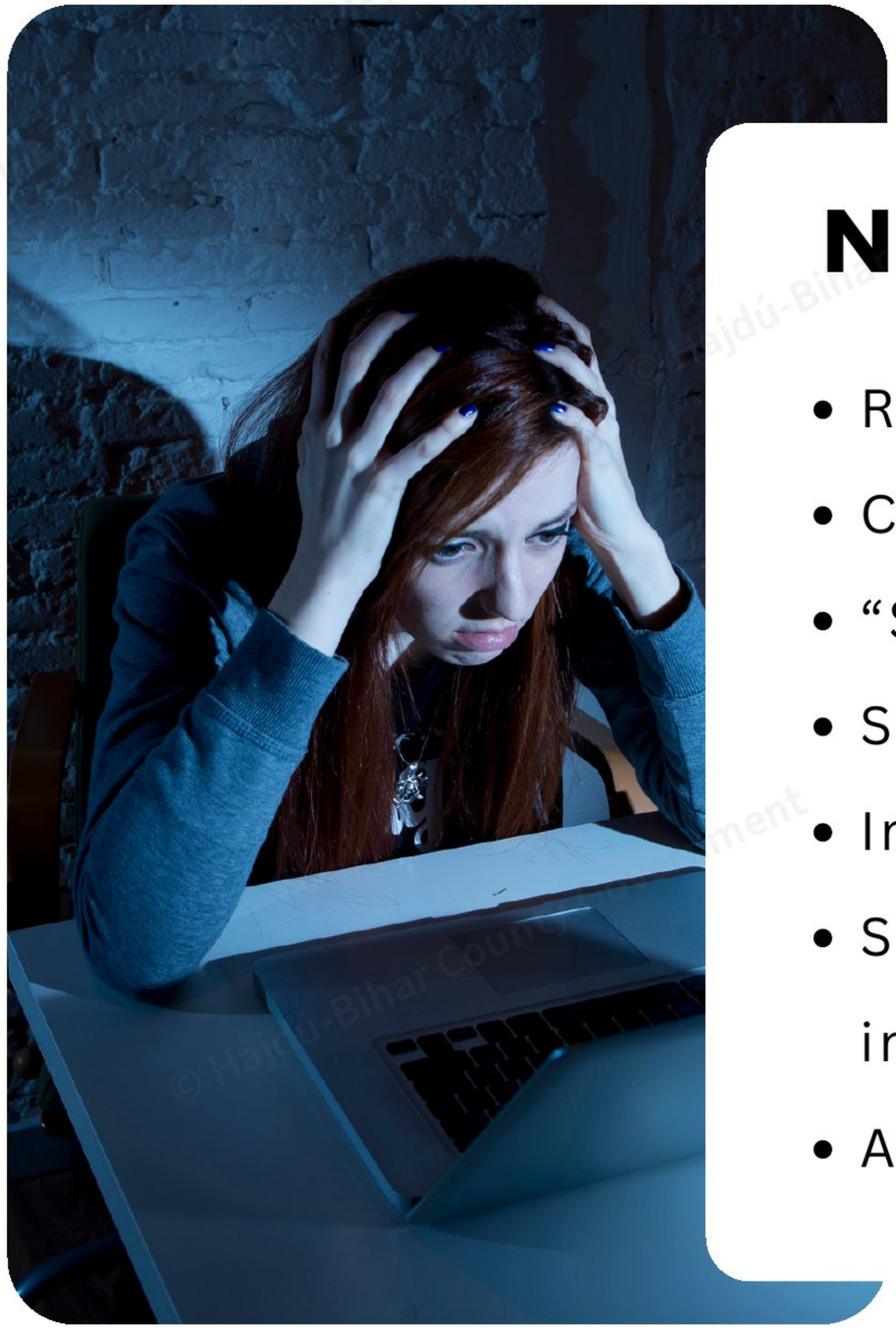
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Development priorities 2021-2027

- **Sustainable environment**
- **Climate adaptation**
- Complex development of the county’s economy
- Further development of accessibility
- Flexible, adapting, smart society
- Healthy and caring society
- Development of an environment to support innovative economy in Debrecen and around
- Liveable countryside, liveable municipalities



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New challenges

- Resilient communities
- Climate adaptation, nature-based solutions
- “Slow food” movement
- Smart villages, digitisation
- Industry 5.0
- Social innovation, creative industries and inclusive cultural potential
- Ageing society - silver economy

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Ongoing INTERREG projects 2021-2027

European regions promoting renewable energy self-sufficiency

2023-2027

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union
EXPRESS



Governing Community Resilience

2023-2027

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union
GOCORE



Smart village transition, a model for more competitive, and attractive villages in Central Europe

2023-2026

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
Co-funded by the European Union
More than a Village



Systemic approach for sustainable tourism strategies in rural areas

2023-2027

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union
SYSTOUR



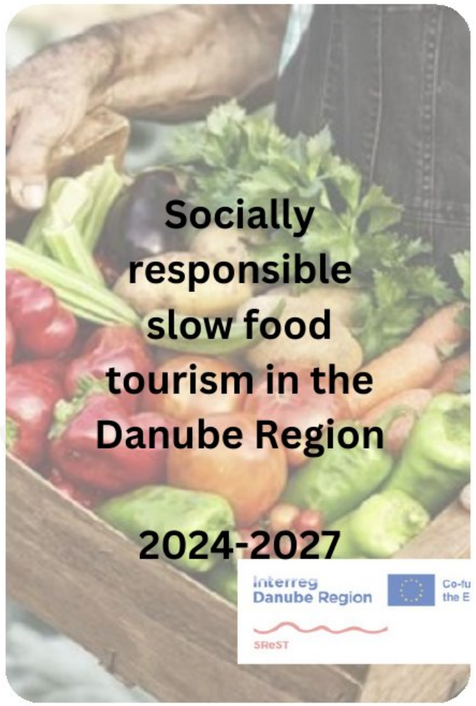
Improving policies for waste management of electrical and electronic equipment

2023-2027

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union
WEEEWaste

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Ongoing INTERREG projects 2021-2027







Interreg Danube Region — Co-funded by the European Union — SReST

Interreg Europe — Co-funded by the European Union — OpenRegioCulture

Interreg Europe — Co-funded by the European Union — FLAVOR

Other activities include:

- Participation in the national working group
  - dedicated to the development of green and blue infrastructures
  - dedicated to Circular Economy Platform
- Expert contribution as Associated Partner (NBS4LOCAL, HORIZON projects)

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Focus on rural/small town communities



Climate resiliency



Social inclusion & local identity



Digitisation



Economic prosperity

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Research

- RIS4DANU – Sustainable Smart Specialisation for the Re-opening of Industrial Sites in the Danube Region: promotes the green transition by supporting place-based innovation for green and inclusive transitions

- TICCA4DANU – Transformative Innovation for Climate Change Adaptation in the Danube Region: supports the green transition by driving systemic, transformative change for climate change adaptation (CCA)

- SPADES – Sustainable Planning and Adaptive Development for Environmental Soil Systems: supports the green transition by promoting sustainable soil management, improved spatial planning, and climate-resilient land use policies







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Moments


















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