



Press release

Agreement to form a network for enhancing environmental protection from pollutants of mining cross border areas

Politehnica University Timisoara (Romania) and the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor (Serbia) jointly launched a project in 2019 to develop an educational and research network, in charge with initiatives to protect the environment and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in the mining areas within the Romanian-Serbian cross-border region. Focus is placed on identifying the negative effects of heavy metal and arsenic pollution and on technologies to decontaminate affected areas by implementing green technologies.

The agreement to form the network, signed by the partnering institutions represents a decisive step towards bringing this network to life. The event took place on Wednesday, December 11, in the Council Hall of the Rectorate of Politehnica University, in the presence of the project team. His Excellency Vladan Tadić, general consul of the Republic of Serbia in Timisoara attended the ceremony. In his speech he stressed the importance of the scientific cooperation across the border, but also the contribution of people-to-people contacts for developing and strengthening the region. The educational and research network initiated by Politehnica University Timisoara and the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor aims to include not only experts in environmental protection issues, but also other experts, representatives of the local authorities and members of local communities, to create the synergy necessary for shaping sustainable public policies in the use of natural resources and improving the quality of environment in mining areas.

On this occasion, on Tuesday, December 10, the Joint Steering Committee, composed of leading experts from both parties, met to discuss the actions and stages of the implementation of the cross-border network of education and research, capable of implementing actions for environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Romania-Serbia cross-border area.

The activity of the network is financed by the project "Forming of network for enhancing environmental protection from pollutants of mining cross border areas", acronym NETMIN, eMS no. RORS-308, within the framework of the **Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme**, which ensures 85% of the funds.

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