



Press release

Start of the Romanian-Serbian network for treating the soil contaminated with heavy-metals

The treatment of the soil contaminated with heavy metals due to mining activities is a major issue in environment protection, of crucial importance for communities across the Romanian-Serbian border. Professors from Politehnica University Timisoara (Romania) and the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor (Serbia) launched, on June the 13th 2019 the project aimed at developing a network for education and research, to deal with this important topic. The Joint Steering Committee of the project, reuniting leading experts from both countries, set as priorities the initiation of environment protection activities and the sustainable use of natural resources in the cross-border area Romania-Serbia.

The activity of this 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**.

The project is jointly realized by the Politehnica University Timisoara (Romania), as lead partner, and the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor (Serbia), as partner, within the priority axis 2: Environmental protection and risk management. The total budget of the project is 301,480.20 EUR, of which the European Union finances 256,258.16 EUR, the Romanian Government 19,870.83 EUR, and the remaining amount is covered by the partners in the project.

During the following 18 months the partners will work to create the above-mentioned network, to support the local communities in learning about the risk factors for the environment, in adopting measures aimed at reducing the pollution of the soil due to mining activities and to support, in such a manner, the development of sustainable policies for using natural resources.

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