

## Concept Note

### Regional Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine

#### Context and Rationale

Given the current geopolitical situation and the challenges facing our neighbour Ukraine, we believe that cooperation between local administrations in Romania's North-West and North-East Development Regions and their counterparts in Ukraine is essential to respond effectively to Ukraine's urgent needs. The shared border and proximity give these Romanian regions a key role in supporting efforts towards sustainable economic development, stability, and prosperity during the reconstruction process.

To support this, public institutions from Romania have developed a Cooperation/Partnership Agreement that sets the foundation for long-term collaboration under the "Regional Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine."

#### Objectives of the Alliance

The Agreement focuses on four main areas of cooperation to support Ukraine's reconstruction through joint cross-border actions:

**1. Developing a Joint Interregional Strategy**

A coordinated strategy will be created to identify logistical needs and set shared priorities for reconstruction, aligning the efforts of institutions on both sides of the border.

**2. Implementing Infrastructure Projects**

Includes modernizing and adapting key transport infrastructure—such as roads, railways, and ports—and developing storage and logistics facilities to support supply chains and reconstruction in Ukraine.

**3. Creating Economic Hubs and Promoting Investment**

A network of economic and logistics hubs will be set up to encourage investment and bilateral trade, supported by activities like business missions, B2B meetings, and promotional events.

**4. Strengthening Inter-Institutional Cooperation and EU Integration Support**

Ukrainian partners will receive technical assistance to align with EU policies and access EU funding. A joint working group will bring together institutions, universities, and international partners from both countries to share knowledge and build capacity.

## Geographic Relevance

Romania's North-West and North-East Development Regions border Ukraine and hold an important position in the overall support framework. Their shared borders with Ukrainian oblasts, transport connections, and institutional experience make them natural gateways for reconstruction support, cross-border investment, and humanitarian coordination.

**The North-West Development Region** includes six counties—Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Sălaj, and Satu Mare—and shares a direct border with Ukraine's Zakarpattia Oblast through Maramureș and Satu Mare counties. This strategic location, combined with solid infrastructure, makes the region a key hub for cross-border trade and cooperation.

The region has strong economic infrastructure, with 19 operational industrial parks and 20 smart specialization parks currently being developed. These parks support innovation and investment and could also serve in creating logistics corridors between the two countries. *The Regional Development Agency North-West (ADR Nord-Vest)* plays a central role in regional economic planning and runs the *INNO Department*, which focuses on attracting investors, supporting smart specialization parks, and managing a detailed database of investment-ready land parcels: <https://inno.nord-vest.ro>. Further details are included in the attached brochure.

The agency has mapped key regional assets, including transport infrastructure (airports, roads, railways), utilities, and development zones. These maps are included as annexes to this Concept Note and the Cooperation/Partnership Agreement.

ADR Nord-Vest is managing the 2021–2027 North-West Regional Program, and additionally serves as an Intermediate Body for the Health Program. The agency plays a key role in promoting sustainable development, innovation, and cohesion within the North-West region of Romania.

With its strong institutional capacity, experience managing EU funds, and cross-border cooperation, the North-West Region is well placed to contribute to the goals of the Regional Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine.

**The North-East Region** includes six counties, Bacău, Botoșani, Iași, Neamț, Suceava and Vaslui, and shares a direct border with Ukraine's Chernivtsi Oblast through Suceava and Botoșani counties. The geographic position allows and encourages the development of strategic hubs for cross-border cooperation.

Nine industrial parks and nine clusters are spread across the North-East Region, playing the role of regional industrial and innovation hubs that promote both local and foreign key sectors such as IT&C, agro-food or biotechnologies.

**The North-East Region** is an ambitious innovator, recognized as a frontrunner in implementing The Smart Specialization Strategy, that offers the Region the possibility of focusing the development resources on a small number of sectors, in which the region has economic advantages and skills in education and research, to achieve a sustainable economic transformation based on technologies and innovation with high added value.

The North-East Regional Development Agency is

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a true supporter of start-ups, through Rubik Hub and a reliable partner for investments, trade and fair cooperation. See North-East Investors Guide

With **€1,75 billion** financial support available from the EU for our region only, and with the North-East RDA as the Managing Authority for the 2021-2027 North-East Regional Program, major improvements are on the way! We are keen on improving the administrative capacity of the region, thus getting closer to the real needs of our partners, identifying projects and the right people. This will be our statement also within this Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine.

### Signing Ceremony

The Cooperation/Partnership Agreement establishing the “**Regional Alliance for the Reconstruction of Ukraine**” will be signed on June 12th, 2025, in Sighetu Marmăției, Romania. The ceremony will bring together institutional representatives from Romania and Ukraine, as high level representatives of European Institutions.

