

10 September 2025

Project launch announcement

Țigănași Commune hosts the launch of the “4SOFT” project: Romania and Moldova united for a more resilient future

The Cotnari Commune (Lead Partner) and Țigănași Commune from Romania, together with the Gangura Commune and Cărbuna Village from Republic of Moldova, officially launched the project entitled “Improving the response to emergency situations through cooperation between Cotnari Commune, Tiganasi Commune, Carbuna Village and Gangura Commune” (acronym: **4SOFT**). The launch event was hosted by Țigănași Commune on 10 September 2025.

The **4SOFT** project is funded under the Interreg NEXT Romania–Republic of Moldova Programme, Programme priority Green Communities, Specific objective 1.1: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, considering eco-system-based approaches.

The 24-month project (July 2025-July 2027) brings together four local authorities committed to improving the safety and resilience of their communities. With a total budget of **1,304,048.16 EUR** (of which **1,173,643.33 EUR – 90% EU co-financing**), **4SOFT** will deliver modern equipment, common training sessions, and cross-border cooperation mechanisms for emergency response.

Addressing common challenges

The project responds to a pressing issue in the cross-border area: **insufficiently equipped emergency response services** and the **increasing frequency of extreme natural phenomena** such as floods, heavy snowfalls, or fires. These conditions expose almost **16,000 residents** to significant risks. Through **4SOFT** project, the four partner communities will strengthen their prevention and intervention capacities, reduce response time in critical situations, and foster sustainable cooperation across borders.

Which are our project aims and objectives?

👉 **Project aim:** To improve the response and prevention capabilities of the partner communities (Cotnari, Țigănași, Gangura, and Cărbuna) in emergency situations by equipping them with modern specialized equipment and establishing a joint cross-border emergency response programme.

👉 **Specific objective:** To boost the **emergency response and prevention capacity** of Cotnari, Țigănași, Gangura, and Cărbuna by providing specialized equipment and organizing **joint cross-border drills**. The project will **strengthen cooperation**,

coordination, and effective use of resources, ensuring a faster and more efficient response to emergencies.

👉 **Communication objective:** The project seeks to **empower local safety staff and residents in Cotnari, Țigănași, Gangura, and Cărbuna** by raising awareness of the importance of the newly acquired emergency equipment and ensuring its proper use. Through targeted training and outreach, the strategy will **build confidence, encourage responsibility, and promote effective emergency response behaviors**. Ultimately, the goal is to create a **well-informed, proactive community** where emergency teams and citizens alike are prepared to act swiftly and effectively, contributing to a safer and more resilient cross-border region.

How we will achieve the objectives?

To turn plans into reality, the 4SOFT project will implement **five key activities**:

- 1. Project management and implementation**

Dedicated project teams will be established by each partner to ensure smooth coordination, supported by consultancy services for reporting, monitoring, and compliance with Interreg visibility rules.

- 2. Contracting consultancy services for public procurement**

External experts will guide all partners in carrying out transparent and compliant procurement procedures for the acquisition of emergency equipment.

- 3. Purchase of specialized emergency equipment**

Each partner commune will be equipped with modern intervention tools (firetrucks, backhoes, generators etc.)– delivered, tested, and formally handed over to local emergency teams.

- 4. Training and joint emergency exercises**

A series of training sessions and cross-border drills will prepare staff to use the new equipment effectively, enhance communication protocols, and exchange best practices between Romanian and Moldovan teams.

- 5. Communication and visibility**

Project progress will be shared through websites, launch and closing conferences, videos and photos, and permanent visibility panels, ensuring transparency and community awareness.

Expected outputs

Output 1.1 – New specialized equipment for emergency intervention

- **Target value:** 1,109,654.00 EUR
- **Description:** In order to respond to existing problems, the partners will purchase specialized equipment to be used in case of emergencies:
 - Cotnari Commune: firetruck, generator;
 - Țigănași Commune: firetruck, backhoe;
 - Gangura Commune: backhoe, towable firefighting pump, grader,

- saltspreeder, generator;
- Cărbuna Village: backhoe, grader, towable vacuum tanker.

Output 1.2 – Cross-border cooperation for proper training regarding the use of the specialized equipment

- **Target value: 4 organisations**
- **Description:** The four partners will implement a **joint operational plan and procedures** to ensure the proper use of the new equipment. This will guarantee continuous collaboration, efficient resource use, and standardized emergency response procedures. Training together will enhance **interoperability** and strengthen cross-border collaboration, promoting sustainability and resilience.

Project target results

The **4SOFT** project will achieve two concrete results with direct impact on the partner communities:

- **Cross-border cooperation sustained** – Four local authorities (Cotnari, Țigănași, Gangura, and Cărbuna) will continue to cooperate beyond the project, ensuring long-term collaboration in emergency management.
- **Population better protected** – A total of **15,798 residents** will benefit from improved protection measures against floods, fires, snowfalls, and other disasters, thanks to modern equipment and coordinated intervention capacity.

Why this project matters

Communities on both sides of the Romania–Moldova border face growing risks from floods, fires, and heavy snowfalls. Limited resources and outdated equipment have slowed down intervention capacity. The 4SOFT project directly addresses these challenges by pooling resources, modernizing emergency services, and strengthening cross-border cooperation for a safer and more resilient future.

Future perspective

Beyond its 24-month implementation, the project will leave a long-lasting legacy: modern equipment, trained staff, and tested response protocols. The four partner communes are committed to maintaining cooperation, organizing regular joint drills, and ensuring that the equipment remains fully operational to protect citizens well after the project ends.

Project launch conference held by Țigănași Commune

The official launch of the 4SOFT project was marked by a **press conference held on 10 September 2025**, hosted at the **Cultural Centre in Țigănași Commune, Iași County**. The event also offered the possibility of online participation via Zoom, ensuring wide accessibility.

Organised by **Țigănași Commune**, the conference gathered representatives of all four partner communities — Cotnari, Țigănași, Gangura, and Cărbuna — along with regional media representatives, stakeholders and members of the public.

The event also highlighted the project **main objectives** and the **cross-border cooperation dimension**, underlining how Romanian and Moldovan partners will jointly contribute to safer, more resilient, and sustainable communities.

This event was **one of the four launch conferences organised by each partner**, as foreseen in the project's visibility and communication plan, ensuring that the project gains wide recognition across all participating communities.

Voices from the conference organizer

"This project is a unique opportunity for Țigănași Commune to strengthen its emergency response capacity through the acquisition of modern equipment such as a firetruck and a backhoe. Building on our previous experience with European-funded projects, we are ready to coordinate efficiently, ensure transparency, and work closely with our Romanian and Moldovan partners. Our common goal is to protect the nearly 5,000 residents of Țigănași and contribute to safer, more resilient communities across the border."

— Chirilă Iulian, Mayor of Țigănași Commune

"Through 4SOFT we not only invest in modern equipment but also in the resilience of our people. This cross-border cooperation ensures that our teams are better prepared to face any challenge together" — Maria Mirela Andrici, Project Manager, Țigănași Commune

Contact information

For more details on 4SOFT project, please contact the pa:

Țigănași Commune (Partner)

Mayor – Chirilă Iulian

Project Manager – Maria Mirela Andrici

 primaria_com_tiganasi@yahoo.com

 <https://www.primariatiganasi.ro/>

*This project is implemented under the **Interreg NEXT Romania–Republic of Moldova Programme** and is **co-funded by the European Union**.*