

## INVESTMENTS MADE BY ROMANIA THROUGH THE FUNDS ACORDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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**Abstract:** *This study refers to the investments that have been made by Romania at the level of its eight development regions, following the accession to the European Union and the implementation of its common policies, as well as the access to European funds made available to Member States for the development of programs. operational and projects in various fields of activity, during the programming periods, taking into account the needs that each country has but also depending on the degree of development of each region in that state. The provision of financial support from the European Union was made in order to reduce as much as possible the development gaps that were quite pronounced and are still visible today, but with this help it was possible to finance many projects and highlight the progress made.*

*Regarding our country, things went a little harder at the beginning and due to the lack of experience in this field, as well as the lack of specialized staff, but over time we began to realize how modernization activities should be carried out and improving living standards, with economic, social and cultural changes being supported by the European Union. In this article, I set out to analyze the results that were recorded by Romania following the access and implementation of European funds to finance investments.*

**Key words:** European funds, development gaps, investments.

**JEL Classification Codes:** O16, P43, O01.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The high level of investments that Romania has made was due to the support provided by the European Union, by providing structural funds, reaching the level of approximately 25% of gross domestic product, compared to the average of 18% of domestic product of EU Member States. gross, which highlights both the share of public investment and the degree of development of the country's production capacity. In 2009 there was a significant decrease in investment and managed to obtain a moderate share in the process of recovery of gross domestic product in the following period, so in 2014, especially in the first part, there was an increase in gross domestic product compared to the previous year, 2013, the same period, reaching the percentage of 2.4%, taking into account the sharp decrease in private investment, correlated with a limited capacity in order to make the most of the aid provided by the European Union.

Among the recommendations that the European Union makes to each member country, regarding Romania, are:

- the application of the UEFMI financial assistance program, respecting the conditions imposed in order to reduce poverty and the risk of poverty, in order to increase the efficiency of social transfers, providing increased attention to disadvantaged communities and people for various



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reasons, by strengthening the budgetary effort and applying the budgetary strategy in order to meet the medium-term objective set for 2015;

- strengthening the capacity of the public administration to achieve an increase in the efficiency and quality of the judiciary, combating corruption and speeding up healthcare reforms;
- encourage energy efficiency and competition in the field of energy, improve the functioning of the labor market;
- reform of corporate governance within state-owned enterprises in the field of transport and energy;
- increasing the quality of vocational training and education, but also access to them;
- improving energy policies, cross-border integration of energy networks, to allow physical reverse flows in gas networks.

Increasing lending in the private sector has become difficult due to the high level of non-performing loans and the consolidation of banks' balance sheets, thus becoming an obstacle to investment. A challenge is also the deficiencies that exist in the business environment, as well as the low demand for loans. In other words, if there were a more stable fiscal policy environment and a favorable business environment, investment levels would be much higher, with Romania ranked 48th in the World Bank's report (Ease of Doing Business Report, 2015) and ranked 20th among the Member States of the European Union.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has recently been directed to the fields of transport, energy, information and communication technology (ICT), machinery and agriculture, as a potential future is perceived in these areas and investing in these fields (in addition to medical infrastructure), will help Romania to progress and meet the objectives set in the Europe 2020 Strategy (expenditure on research and development and energy efficiency).

## **2. REPRESENTATIVE INVESTMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2007-2013**

In accordance with the National Development Plan, developed to outline the objectives that Romania had to meet in 2007-2013, we can mention: modernization and development of transport infrastructure, development of the economic field and increasing its competitiveness, improvement and protection of the environment, growth labor force and human capital development through training and vocational training, promoting social inclusion and reducing the risk of poverty, developing the agricultural sector and increasing labor productivity, reducing the differences between the development regions of our country (the most developed being the capital region, Bucharest - Ilfov) (National Development Plan, 2007 - 2013, page 5).

In order to be able to meet the priorities and objectives set in the period between 2007 and 2013, through cohesion policy (Cohesion Fund and European Development Fund), the European Union has provided an amount of 15.4 billion euros (the lower value per capita of European Union funding - 12, about 102 euros / year). From this amount there have been changes and modernizations in areas such as: environment, education and training, development of business activities, human resources, health, transport.

According to data provided by the European Parliament, the European Social Fund provided support and financial resources amounting to 3.684 billion euros (almost 85 percent of the total amount granted to our country) to make progress in the administrative field and human capital, creating more than 35,000 new jobs, more than 1,000 jobs in research and more than 13,000 jobs in small and medium-sized enterprises (European Parliament, Information Note, 2017, page. 6).

Many small and medium-sized enterprises (approximately 3,200 in number) enjoyed and were the beneficiaries of the financial aid provided by the European Union through its funds for the development and development of their activities in the first programming period, 2007-2013.

Also during this time, in Romania, in the field of the environment there were changes such as: over 300 locations that stored garbage and waste were dismantled, because they were not in accordance with the rules of operation, and many were built wastewater treatment plants.

With the help of European funds, 560 projects in the field of competitiveness and research were supported, and also, in the field of education, the educational units in the country were modernized and rehabilitated.

In the field of health, with the help of European funds, 100 hospitals have been modernized and renovated. In the field of transport, modernization works of 122 kilometers of railway and 3400 kilometers of road were financed and new roads were built - 368 kilometers, of which 22 kilometers are railway and 314 kilometers belong to the TEN-T network. . During that period, there were also qualifications of people in order to increase the workforce and human capital (344893 qualifications), as well as employment, employing 43725 people.

The following are illustrated in Panorama Magazine as concrete examples of investment projects financed from European funds:

- in the North-West Development Region, more precisely in Cluj County, there has been an improvement of social services for families and children in need of social assistance and in this sense a building used for this purpose has been arranged. Through this project, 500 people who were in a disadvantaged situation enjoyed better living conditions. More than 50 new jobs have been created;

- also in Cluj County, in the respective time period 2007 - 2013, the tram lines were reconditioned on a distance of 11 kilometers, and the stations were arranged and received the endowment with the special equipment necessary for people with disabilities and were purchased new trams. Due to the implementation of this project, the benefits have not stopped appearing, being primarily about reducing travel time, reducing noise pollution and supporting citizens with certain disabilities;

- in the Center Development Region, emergency and intervention services were adjusted, significantly in a state of emergency and purchasing the necessary equipment for these operations (new vehicles - 40, of which 24 were equipped with equipment necessary for release, extinguishing fires and providing first aid, 3 vehicles specialized in investigating chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological incidents were purchased, equipment necessary for the command and control center for a better connection was also purchased. and communication in urgent and major cases), as well as staff training (647 citizens received training). The amount of this project reached 8.6 million euros, of which 6, EUR 14 million came from European funds and with the help of these funds the number of mobile emergency response centers was increased (127 centers out of 87 initially). If we refer to the average duration of intervention, according to official data, it was reduced to 27 minutes from 48 minutes in rural areas and 13 minutes from 25 minutes in urban areas (Panorama Magazine, no. 48, 2013, page. 45);

- another investment is the construction and arrangement of the bridge from Calafat (having a length of 1.4 kilometers), which realizes the railway and road connection between Romania and Bulgaria (Calafat - Vidin) and encourages the combined logistics solutions as well as the ecological ones, ensuring road, river and rail transport. The total amount of this investment in the field of

transport infrastructure reached somewhere around 226 million euros, of which the European Union aid was 70 million euros (Panorama Magazine, no. 50, 2014, p. 24).

The European Union, through the allocated funds and resources and through its common policies, supported and encouraged both the development and modernization of rural and urban regions, so Romania enjoyed and enjoys the positive results obtained from the implementation of the common agricultural policy, the policy territorial, social and economic cohesion.

In order to report these positive aspects, we mention that the European funds granted through the common agricultural policy were somewhere over the value of 10 billion euros in the period 2007 - 2013. These aids were allocated for the purpose of investments in the field of agriculture, for the development of this sector. of the country, but also for the improvement of the living conditions of the citizens who live in the rural regions of Romania. The priorities were the following: improving and modernizing farms throughout the country, obtaining the income stability of small farmers, ensuring the production of safe and quality food, providing products obtained at affordable rates to all Romanian citizens.

Within the framework of the common agricultural policy and with the help of European Union funds, vocational training courses took place, with the participation of more than 12,700 young farmers, with the aim of employment and the sustainability of agriculture, viticulture, forestry and fish farming. Financial resources amounting to EUR 229 million were provided for these activities. Also in this field, more than 2800 agricultural holdings have been reconditioned, modernized and equipped with equipment and machinery, so that Romania can bring the agricultural potential to a high level. The total value of these projects was about 1.87 billion euros.

Semi-subsistence farms also received financial support from the European Union, so that an estimated 52,000 farms could be restructured and transformed into viable farms, whose products are of superior quality. Through the funds of the common agricultural policy, 321000 farms have been helped to produce biodiversity (3.7 million hectares of land) and support organic farming (covering an area of 85212 hectares of land).

In Costești Vale, also through the implementation of the common agricultural policy and with the help of European Union funding, it was possible to modernize the egg sorting and packaging unit. The total value of the project was 20,514,558 lei, of which 8,205,561 lei came from the European Union, and the center produces approximately 1 million eggs per day, production that ends up being exported, but also on the domestic market of the country . Approximately 110 inhabitants of the area work in this production center.

Another example would be the modernization of a farm in Dâmbovița, which deals with milk production. Here the investments were for the production of biogas in order to create its own electricity system based on the use of wastewater and manure from the stables and thus obtained its own heating system, with the advantage of significantly reducing electricity and wastewater consumption. , and the animals showing an improved condition with the help of ventilation, thus eliminating unpleasant odors and harmful and carrier insects of various bacteria and diseases. This farm received the aid of the European Union in the amount of one million euros, and its contribution was in the amount of 4 million, according to the data provided by the European Commission (Romania Sheet - CAP in your country, page 3).

The European Union has supported, through the common agricultural policy, the sustainability of agricultural production, but also the modernization and development of rural areas, thus strengthening the economic activities of these regions.

The common agricultural policy also provided the necessary financing for investments in local communities so that their inhabitants benefit from a modern rural infrastructure and access to services is improved. From these resources were funded projects for the improvement of water infrastructure (1600 kilometers and 2400 kilometers of wastewater infrastructure) and roads (2300 kilometers of roads).

The European Commission has developed the sheet entitled Romania - CAP in your country, which mentions that more than eight billion euros of public resources, which include aid from the European Union, but also national funds, have funded numerous projects and activities aimed at the development and modernization of agricultural holdings and rural areas of our country.

The Operational Program for Fisheries (POP) for the period 2007-2013 provided funding through the resources of the European Fisheries Fund, with the objectives of:

- sustainable development of fisheries-specific areas;
- development of the primary fishing field;
- encouraging the market for fishery products;
- improving living conditions in these areas;
- adequate and effective implementation of the common fisheries policy.

In our country, this program has not made spectacular progress, mainly because there was no well-defined national strategy. Through the Agricultural Payments and Intervention Agency (APIA), funding from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) resources is provided according to the area of land owned, so many farmers (approximately 1.1 million) receive direct payments per hectare owned. The Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture carries out the following measures:

- providing food from stocks for interventions for disadvantaged people;
- the national wine program;
- supporting the restructuring of the sugar industry;
- encouraging fruit consumption in schools;
- subsidies granted to fruit and vegetable producers;
- supporting the supply of milk and dairy products in schools.

The European funds have been and continue to be allocated according to the values of the gross domestic product obtained by each region and thus three classifications have been obtained:

- poorly developed regions, the gross domestic product per capita is below the European Union average, less than 75%;
- transition regions, the gross domestic product per capita is 75-80%;
- more developed regions, with values of the gross domestic product per capita over 90% of the European Union average

Particular attention should be paid to accessing European non-reimbursable funds, as well as adopting measures regarding the economic and social development of Romania's development regions and establishing a strategy for attracting and absorbing the resources granted by the European Union in order to reduce disparities between regions (Tosun , 2014).

Across the country, as a general result, the value of gross domestic product per capita has increased, but this increase is not enough and regional disparities still persist, but the impact of EU accession has led to high sectoral potential and greater real convergence. accentuated after 2012, compared to the European Union average. Statistics show that in 2022 the gross domestic product per capita will reach the value of 66.3% of the average value of the European Union, representing the recovery of development differences.

In the agricultural field there are also different structures from those in the Member States, but by implementing the common agricultural policy (CAP) in 2007-2013 the difficulties encountered were highlighted, but it led to the perpetuation of dual farming, most small farms practice subsistence farming compared to large farms that received financial aid.

### **3. REPRESENTATIVE INVESTMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2020**

For the second programming period, 2014 - 2020, the European Commission (in 2010) set through the Europe 2020 Strategy as objectives to achieve economic growth and development, sustainable, smart and that can promote the inclusion process. Through the common policies mentioned above, Romania has to achieve objectives such as:

- increasing the employment rate for people aged between 20 and 64;
- distribution of two percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the field of development and research;
- increasing up to 24% the rate of renewable energy resources;
- increasing by 42.99% the efficiency of energy resources;
- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 19 percent, comparable to 1990;
- lowering the percentage of early school leaving below 11.3 percent;
- increasing the number of graduates of higher education for the age group between 30 and 34 years over the percentage of 26.7%;
- reducing the number of people (with at least 580,000 people) affected by poverty or who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion and those living in disadvantaged areas (Buda, 2017, page. 5).

Romania received from the European Union in order to meet these objectives, financial resources in the amount of 36,741,999,556 euros to finance numerous projects in all areas of activity: transport - transport infrastructure, energy - energy infrastructure, creation of new jobs on long-term and high-quality, low-carbon economy, environmental protection, prevention of environmental risks, adaptation to climate change, efficient and appropriate use of resources, competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, education and training, research and innovation, assistance technology, communication and information technology and public administration.

Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics (ELI - NP), is the name of one of the projects for which European Union funding and support has been granted (the total amount of the project exceeds 300 million euros, of which more than 250 million come from European funds ) for the period 2014 - 2020, which is carried out in Ilfov county, Măgurele locality, and through this project a state-of-the-art technology was born, which is used in nuclear physics for research and for applications that use laser equipment.

At the same time, another project (RO-NET) is underway to modernize the high-speed communications network throughout the country, without including the country's capital and surrounding areas. The total cost of this project is about 70 million euros, of which 50 million euros is European Union aid. This project builds the network through which the Internet will be provided in the regions of the country that do not have access to communication networks, thus reducing the digital differences that exist between rural and urban regions.

A multitude of projects are underway during this period, but it can be noted that the results obtained from the use of European funds do not yet reach the level expected and set at the beginning of the programming period, this is also the result of poor access to European resources. since 2015, and after this period a large number of projects were launched and later the results began to be seen.

If we refer to the agricultural field, the National Rural Development Program receives the resources of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and with them implements the common agricultural policy that supports and encourages investments in agriculture and the development of rural areas. this priority period being: economic and sustainable growth, modernization, the creation of new jobs, obtaining high quality products and innovation. According to the European Commission, the objectives to be achieved through this program refer to strengthening competitiveness in the agri-food field, rational and efficient use of natural resources, improving the quality of ecosystems, development and socio-economic modernization of rural areas (European Commission, Romania - CAP your country”, pages. 2-3).

During this period, through the implementation of the common agricultural policy, small farmers with a total area of less than 30 hectares were supported by applying redistributive payments, Romania adopted the granting of 12.3% of payments made directly, so that payments are linked not only of the land surface, but also of the products obtained. For small farmers, a lump sum of less than 1250 euros was granted per year. The amount of direct payments amounts to 11.6 billion euros (European Commission).

Taking into account all the positive results obtained by Romania in terms of implementing economic cohesion policy, in 2019 we held the sixth place in the ranking that the European Union made with all member countries that received aid to finance agricultural projects and the development of rural areas, but the progress made will only be known exactly after the end of the current programming period.

According to the authors Liviu Bogdan Ciucă (2020) and Daniel Buda (2017), in our country the differences between the regions of the country are still visible, despite the efforts and investments made and the progress obtained, still requiring financial support from to the European Union in order to continue the process of regional development in order to achieve a modern and developed country, similar to the other Member States.

For the current programming period and to avoid the problems encountered in the past, the Common Strategic Framework has been created in order to properly implement the 2020 Strategy. This framework includes the five structural funds - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund (CF) , European Social Fund (ESF), European Fisheries and Maritime Fund (EMFF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which represents about 42% of the total budget for this period (Anghelache et al., 2019).In order to prevent the very low level of absorption of funds and not to repeat the mistakes of the past, a different approach is needed, taking into account the situation of each region.

Regarding the resources that were granted for financing the field of agriculture and rural development, the National Rural Development Program was established, which classifies the activities undertaken in 4 annexes taking into account the field and type of investment. The LEADER program is one of the funding priorities and supports the modernization of forestry and agriculture, as well as the efficient use of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions in rural areas of the country (Anghelache et al., 2018).

Since 2014, for the current period 2014 - 2020, the agricultural policy supports more young farmers who use organic processes, giving Member States more freedom in granting funding, and

these measures are much better in line with Romania's needs and had the largest number of agricultural holdings in the European Union in 2013, 3.6 million.

Another example, the city of Blaj made investments from European funds of about 600 euros per inhabitant, the city hall quickly rebuilding a new hospital. The City Hall attracting European funds in the amount of 13 million euros and the local administration signing in 2019 - 2020 numerous contracts financed from European Union funds in the amount of 61,430,891 lei (12,723,310 euros), and this amount represents its own budget allocated to investments on a period of seven years. According to the last census made in Blaj, the investments made from European resources are worth 3,071 lei, 600 euros per inhabitant. Through the Center Regional Development Agency, there are eight ongoing projects funded by European resources:

- improving the quality of living in Blaj: expanding and modernizing the road infrastructure: paved sidewalks and the road system (in crowded neighborhoods, such as: Eroilor, Gării, Andrei Mureșianu), building the sewerage network and streets in the Lake area Chereteu, the construction of the ultramodern Municipal Library in the city center - with the value of 28,791,973 lei, according to Axis 13, 2023 being the year of completion of the project;

- the extension of the Blaj Hospital Outpatient Clinic will build a new building horizontally similar to the one that already exists and will be attached to the hospital building - project value: 10,700,750 lei, the year of completion being 2021;

- rehabilitation of Ciufud Gymnasium Schools - here will be modernized to the highest standards, plus the extension of the one-storey building and Veza - modernization of the building in order to obtain functional performance: project worth 6,246,548 lei, with 2021 year of completion;

- arrangement of Veza Park by modernizing 9,000 square meters, plus construction and arrangement of recreation and leisure areas: construction of an artesian well, skatepark alleys, landscaped green spaces, toilets, surveillance devices and public lighting and automated irrigation system: value the project is 4,175,741 and the year of completion was 2020;

- rehabilitation of the nursery on Eroilor Street through works to extend the old building where the kindergarten operated and equipping the building according to the needs of preschool education: the value of the project is 2,794,503 lei with the completion period in 2021;

- streamlining public administration by applying measures to adapt the existing administrative structure, by strategic planning, streamlining processes dedicated to citizens, building and commissioning a civic innovation center, transparency in decision making, by simplifying operations for residents: value the project is of 3,427,098 lei, and the completion is in 2020;

- efficient public administration: the project involves providing quality services to citizens, reducing the level of bureaucracy and simplified administrative procedures: the value of the project is 2,624,758 lei, ending in 2021;

- Grandparents of the community is the name of the project and it aims to build and establish a day center in order to provide primary social services for the elderly (65 places) and who have a permanent residence in the municipality of Blaj, setting up a mobile service for the provision of food and food, which consists of a table on wheels for 45 elderly people and the establishment of the community assistance service: the value of the project is 2,669,517 lei, with completion in 2021.

The Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications registered favorable results in 12 months of activity regarding the absorption of European funds, and the amount of investments is 5.3 billion lei, of which 4.2 billion lei represent non-reimbursable amounts offered by to the European Union, and 2020 is the year in which the Large Infrastructure Operational Program was carried out the best and the relevant Minister Lucian Bode stated in a press conference the following: "I consider that a great success registered in the 12 months of activity concerns the field



of absorption of European funds. The year 2020 is the best year since the beginning of the Large Infrastructure Operational Program, currently having on budget title 58 related to investments from European funds 4.2 billion lei spent until October. We estimate that by the end of the year we will exceed 6 billion lei in total investments from non-reimbursable European funds. The value of investments at 10 months amounts to 5.3 billion lei, of which 4.2 billion lei are non-reimbursable European funds. Over 80% of the total investments made by the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications represent non-reimbursable European funds, a percentage I consider very good”.

The non-reimbursable external funds received from the European Union amounted to 4.2 billion lei every ten months, an amount granted for investments in railway and road projects, which meant an increase of 150%, compared to the previous year, 2019 .

In the second programming period, 2014 - 2020, 112 contracts were signed. These amount to 9.680 billion euros, and of that amount 6.506 billion euros are non-reimbursable aid (FEN) granted by the European Union, ie a percentage of 144.37% of the total granted. Between November 2019 and September 2020, 32 contracts were concluded, which received funding of 1.813 billion euros, of which 1.188 billion euros were represented by European non-reimbursable funds (FEN, 26.36% of the total amount, here we include and the Sibiu and Pitești areas). Applications have been signed for the financing of investments in an estimated amount of 30 million euros from European funds in order to develop and modernize the ports of Tulcea and Isaccea, as well as the platform in Galati. The project for the rehabilitation of the port of Isaccea amounted to 4 million euros and was completed in April, 2020, and for the port of Tulcea the value was 13 million euros, the first stage in July 2020. For the rehabilitation and modernization of the road structure, in order to avoid traffic jams, plus the construction on a certain segment of the railway in the area of the multimodal platform in Galati, stage II, a contract was concluded in September 2020, amounting to 12 million.

For the rehabilitation of the infrastructure in the port of Drobeta Turnu Severin, the works were financed, and the value they amounted to was 505,750 lei, and for the feasibility study for the purpose of investments in infrastructure in the ports of Tișovița, Drencova and Svinița, for mooring boats. for recreation, the amount of 482,750 lei was granted, and for the feasibility studies for the investments in the modernization of the ports from Oltenița and Bechet, the amount of 505,750 lei was offered.

Funding was obtained from the European Union through the agreement of the European Commission for the rehabilitation of the public transport infrastructure in Bucharest and on the Black Sea coast and for the restoration of the water supply system in Timiș County. The value of the funded projects reaches somewhere around two billion euros.

Corina Cretu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, approved the financing of several projects, such as: “Integrated road infrastructure network for the orbital area of Bucharest”, “Improving transport services on metro line 2, Berceni-Pipera”, “Protection and Rehabilitation coastal zone - Phase II ”and“ Regional project for the development of water and wastewater infrastructure in Timiș County ”, important projects in Romania, according to a communiqué of the European Commission, projects belonging to the Large Infrastructure Operational Program. The project Integrated road infrastructure network for the orbital area of Bucharest, is the solution for the small and limited capacity of the highway around Bucharest, carrying out rehabilitation works of two-lane road segments for the same direction, as well as building connections between Domnești and DJ602, Oltenița and DN4 and Mogoșoaia and DN1A. Also included in this project is the construction of 51 kilometers of highway on the South Beltway of Bucharest, in order to prevent

congestion in traffic. Of the total value of this project (1.2 billion euros) more than one billion euros comes from the European Union, according to the European Commission.

Another project refers to “Improving transport services on metro line 2, Berceni-Pipera” and refers to technical interventions and works on metro line M2, purchase of subway liners and reconstruction of the rail substructure, but also the network electrical and plumbing along the 19 km underground line of the metro. The project will be financed with about 100 million euros through cohesion policy and the total cost amounts to almost 115 million euros.

For the project "Protection and Rehabilitation of the coastal area - Phase II", which aims to make changes to the beaches, works to consolidate and build retaining walls, works for dredging and additional sand covering the beaches, will be allocated more than 600 million euros from the European Union. This project takes into account the climate changes that are taking place in Romania, in order to prevent and control the risk of coastal cohesion along the Black Sea coast, especially in Constanța County.

For the regional project for the development of water and wastewater infrastructure in Timiș County, the European Union provides aid and support to Romania in the amount of 135 million euros out of a total of 160 million euros, and this project aims to develop sustainable water supply systems water and wastewater treatment and more than 380,000 people will have access to good quality drinking water.

These four major projects that have been approved in favor of Romania are included in a package of 25 large infrastructure projects to be implemented in ten Member States: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Romania and refers to a wide range of areas, such as: transport, health, environment, research, energy and related to a co-financed at the country level, amount to about 8 billion euros. At the level of the European Union, 25 such projects have been adopted and report on how improvements and contributions are made to the quality of life of the citizens of the respective states, in accordance with the statements made by Commissioner Corina Crețu.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The improvements were evident for each country that accessed and used the help provided by the European Union. Investments were made in transport infrastructure, the old roads were rehabilitated, but new ones were also built, the railways also benefited from renovations, in the field of environment investments were made in these states, many of them wanting an economy. with the lowest possible carbon dioxide emissions, the reduction of pollution and the lowest possible consumption of energy production, it was also possible to increase the gross domestic product, many new jobs were created in the European Union, and Reducing the unemployment rate, many small and medium-sized enterprises have benefited from financial support from the European Union, and emphasis has been placed on investing in research, innovation, technology development and information.

Regarding the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI), Romania still faces a multitude of difficulties at legislative and institutional level that hinder the process of accumulation of foreign investment stocks: lack of investment strategy to establish a clear framework of incentives for investors, low visibility of the FDI Agency and its activity.

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