WELCOME TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOTOSANI!

BOTOȘANI
The Smart City to be

INTEGRATED ACTION PLAN (IAP) OF BOTOSANI'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

1. Introduction

The city of Botoșani in Romania has formally commitment to act as the Project Partner in the activities of the URBACT Action Planning Network entitled DigiPlace. DigiPlace is one of 23 URBACT Action Planning Networks approved by the Monitoring Committee in 2019. Thus, the DigiPlace is an action-planning network and this Integrated Action Plan (IAP) - its main deliverable.

The information presented in this document is a co-production and the result of the work of the URBACT Local Group (ULG) alongside local coordinator with the engagement of stakeholders directly interested and involved in digital journey, in Botosani, Romania.

In this respect, within the frame of this very network, the first milestone consisted of the co-production of an IAP Roadmap who was presented by each project partner in December 2020.

It succeded to map out the programmed activities at local level that would drive the co-production of the IAP draft and final versions. It also showed the clear link to and feedback loop from the transnational meetings of the network. Then, the second milestone has been the co-production of the first draft IAP by December 2021 which was subsequently peer reviewed during a transnational network meeting in November 2021. The completion of the IAP is set to occur in June 2022.

In fact, this IAP is just a valuable tool in defining what the city of Botosani plans to do next on a particular theme. But at the same time, the process of developing the IAP is just as valuable, in terms of transforming cross-departmental cooperation, local stakeholder involvement, understanding of thematic challenges and possible integrated solutions. That is why, as a result of the co-production process the IAP has strong implementation potential, ongoing stakeholder engagement and political buy-in.

1.1. About URBACT Digiplace Action Planning Network

The DigiPlace network is comprised of eight (8) city municipalities, between 25,000 and 230,000 inhabitants. Messina (IT) is the Lead Partner city and initiated the network by seeking like-minded small and medium size cities who are facing similar challenges in delivering successful digital innovation and achieving digital transition in their local contexts.

The complete list of project partners(PPs):

1) Ventspils municipal institution "Ventspils Digital Centre"(Latvia);
2) Municipality of Portalegre(Portugal);
3) Municipality of Botosani(Romania);
4) Municipality of Roquetas de Mar(Spain);
5) Municipality of Saint Quentin(France);
6) City of Oulu(Finland);
7) e-Trikala, Trikala(Greece).

The partners are, however, at different stages of their digital journey and offer expertise and knowledge in a variety of different areas, as well as requiring a range of differing support.

In this way, they create a well balanced and complementary partnership that has provided

mutual support during the production of their IAPs.

2. City Context

Botoşani is a small to medium sized city of 122,000 inhabitants, in the very north east of Romania. It is on the periphery of the EU, close to the borders with Ukraine to the north-west (60km) and Moldova to the east (55km). The urban centre is relatively compact with a separate old town and modern shopping areas. The city has a relatively peripheral position to the priority transport axes of the TEN-T network (road, rail, and air).

Employment sectors: textile products industry; chemical and artificial fibers industry; the industry of electrical machines and appliances; industry-based precision equipment and instruments; textile industry; wood industry, furniture production; electric machines and ICT equipment; the food and beverage industry; the metal construction and metal products industry; construction sector; trade activities/ retail sales; agriculture. Total number of employees=32,132 people.

Like many south and eastern EU cities, Botoşani has fast internet access. Digital literacy in the city is also relatively high, and the city does not consider the development of digital skills to be a major issue for them.

The journey for any city through its own Digital Transition must be unique by definition, but with many common themes and interventions that are highly transferable from and to other contexts.

Local Needs and Expectations

Botoşani's chief aim is to build on its local engagement activity to develop and implement a digital and smart city strategy, focused on the needs and priorities of the city. Developing digital means of engagement to compliment their existing work is another angle for exploration. The ongoing development of the municipality in terms of digital enablement of services and making it easier and more efficient for citizenss who interact with the municipality. Making smarter municipality services (e.g., waste collection) is also part of the programme. The three large local transport and mobility projects will be a key area for digital enablement. The team is aware that they have an opportunity to draw on the experience and expertise of other DigiPlace partners to positively influence the design and implementation of these projects.

- **public consultation** with relevant stakeholders, citizenss, businesses (that must involve also the chief architect, urban planners and scientists) – the need to organise a public consultation under the law provisions in order to have a better understanding on how to frame better the strategy and planning upon the outcome of the public consultation, the specific needs of citizenss, businesses and other relevant stakeholders;

- **a smart city strategy and planning** – in order to kick-start and implement taking into

consideration local infrastructure and accessibility, focusing on what the Municipality of Botosani is planning to improve (i.e. healthcare, transporation, mobility).

- **exchange of good practices** and key take aways from cities that are developing a successful smart city strategy – the Municipality of Botosani needs to have a good exchange of best practices of other municipalities that are developing the implementing similar projects in order to understand how and what needs to be done, what problems they faced and their solution;

- **to host a [annual] public forum** – the Municipality of Botosani needs to host a public forum in order to be closer to its citizenss and to build and strong and open dialogue that is accessible to everyone; the public forum needs to be well-advertised and it should educate local citizens on what a smart city technology can and cannot do for them;

- **smart mobility –** the Municipality of Botosani needs to make a smooth transition toward a green and digital mobility to make available electric charging stations for electric or hybrid cars;

- **seek additional funding** – the Municipality of Botosani needs to seek additional funding in order not to burden local taxpayers for different future digital projects i.e. cloud services;

- **need to increase institutional capacity for digitalization** – The Municipality of Botosani would need for a designated office to be in charge with digitalization;

- **develop strong partnerships with organisations** – the Municipality of Botosani needs to develop partnerships with different organisations, both local and national to harness knowledge and reputation from experts in the relevant fields;

- **Cloud services and the use of new technologies –** the Municipality of Botosani needs to extend its could services and management as many public services are being digitalized more data is being generated and it needs to be stored in a secured system; nevertheless, the data can be used for various projects for the citizens' benefit as there are enormous possibilities in wide ranging issues data science can help with i.e. crime management, predicting abuse, finding missing children so on and so forth.

Local priorities:

• Modernisation of local transport

• Redescovering and opening up of the historic city centre

• Promotion and development of tourism offer of Botoşani
Identifying strategic options for tourism in the city of Botosani

• Building on the success of the Cornisa Aqua Park

• Development of digital tourism offer
Digital campaign for Tourism in the city of Botosani

• Continuation of the Digital government programme

In this respect, an important step to be taken by the Municipality of Botosani is to becoming a beneficiary of specific assistance to implement its own policy challenges outlined in the integrated urban strategy, through a thorough transnational framework and by setting up innovative participatory, governance and funding tools, based on the exploitation of innovative ICT instruments, through citizens-led methods for joint and integrated implementation, and monitoring.

3. Focus of the IAP

Digital innovation on its own cannot be expected to solve all of our urban challenges. It can be part of the solution in many cases; but most challenges are complex and need more than purely "digital" solutions. To avoid disillusionment from citizenss and other local stakeholders, we need to consider carefully how we present the role of digital innovations and new technology. Almost all cities and towns now have a range of projects and programmes that contain at least a component of digital transformation.

Thus, Botosani's vision for the current IAP on digital transformation is to create an enabling environment for Botosani to complete the digital transformation of its public services, taking into account a citizens-centric approach.

The main focus of Botosani's Integrated Urban Development Strategy is to reconnect and actively integrate the city of Botosani's digital transformation efforts into the region's economic and social life and beyond.

By the year 2030, Botosani Municipality will reach the EU standards in terms of sustainable development and will have a proactive and efficient local public administration, which will benefit from modern and coherent strategic and territorial planning tools, competent human resources, a high degree of computerization and of accessibility of the population to online services, involved in an effective dialogue and permanent cooperation with citizenss, but also with other administrations throughout the country and abroad.

PROBLEM FRAMING

As a first step to tackle a challenge, it is important to make the right diagnosis by examining the local context.

  ➢ *to have a clear problem statement (1)*

- lack of citizens' trust in public institutions;

- lack of citizens' awareness on the potential of digitalization;

- lack of a paper/vision on the touristic potential of Municipality of Botosani;

- ways to engage local citizens, business and public institutions and to identify a common ground for solutions and implementation of

- ways to break barriers and adapt to the new era of digitalization;

- new legislation that takes time to be understood and well implemented;

- finding budget for training local civil servants on the use of new technology;

- finding budget for cloud service, for specialized IT infrastructure;

- finding budget for a possible new IT department and GDPR specialists.

➢ *to better understand the problem itself and have a proper analysis of the situation (2)*

- public consultation on the new strategy for the Municipality of Botosani;

- public information campaign and make citizens aware on the Municipality of Botosani intention on applying new technologies;

- statistics reports on what are the main needs of local citizens and how we can meet them by using new technologies;

- a round table for discussion with stakeholders on the new strategy of Municipality of Botosani.

➢ *to create a shared vision on how to tackle the problem (3)*

- Analysing the outcome of the public consultation on the new strategy of Municipality of Botosani;

- Analysing the outcome of the public information campaign and awareness, i.e. how many local citizens have been involved or have interacted with- directly/indirectly;

- Analysing the outcome of discussion of the roundtable, i.e. how many local citizens have been involved, directly/indirectly and drafting a paper with main issues, identified solutions and ways to implement;

- Drafting the strategy plan and vision for the Municipality of Botosani for the next multiannual programme.

4. Description of the process for co-producing the IAP
The URBACT Local Group is the forum for co-production and the local coordinator leads the process, by supporting the engagement of stakeholders, with a series of meetings, events

and   inputs.
Using the Baseline Study as a foundation, the ULG has embarked on a co-production process exploring the challenges, focus and the future objectives.
Further on, during the Phase 1, they all had to contribute to implementing the projected activities, but in practice, communication among the ULG members and then between them and the local implementing team was slow and less efficient than initially expected.

That was the reason when for the Phase 2, planned to be implemented between May 7th 2020 and August 7th 2022, we came up with the solution to adjust the ULG making it more active and flexible.

Thus, local stakeholders such as, representatives of the City Hall, of the Municipal Council, and companies involved in the digital transformation throughout the city of Botosani, as well as representatives of some local public institutions were invited to join the ULG.

Then, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings had to take place online, or, in some cases, we opted for on-to-one meetings with the ULG members.

Progress steps and main discussions we have had:

- *1 online consultation with ULG on objective and action plan*
- *Proposals received from ULG members on future actions that can be integrated in IAP*
- *Feedback received from ULG members on draft IAP*
- *Internal meetings with the Deputy Mayor, City Manager and the representative of an ICT local company for updates about Digiplace project and IAP development*
- *SSA proposal development and clarification for its eligibility*
- *Planning SSA implementation and test period*
- *Ad-hoc URBACT expert support for monitoring progress of IAP development*

Learning process from transnational meetings

Transnational meeting	Main learnings
Oulu, Finland, November 2021 	Digital service implementation Technopolis Peltola Technology Village University / 6G Room Massive automation of society needs more than 5G can offer. • 6G will merge physical, digital and biological worlds fulfilling UN SDGs of digital societies. • 6G requires more radical transformations: - Capabilities of wireless transmission must be pushed to the limits - Massive utilization of artificial intelligence in networks and applications - Radical innovations needed for future wireless business ecosystems.

4.1. Timeframe in co-producing the IAP:
[phase 1 & phase 2]

For the implementation of the URBACT III Action Planning Network entitled "DIGIPLACE - Digital Innovation for Cities", Phase 1 has been approved by the Monitoring Committee on 25th June 2019 and Phase 2 has been approved by the Monitoring Committee on 7th May 2020.

The reporting periods and deadlines for submission of the reports in Phase 2 are the following:

- 1 st reporting period: 07 May 2020 – 30 September 2021 (deadline for submission 31 December 2021)

- 2 nd reporting period: 01 October 2021 – 07 August 2022 (deadline for submission 7 November 2022)

All partners, Botosani included, finalised their IAP Roadmap by mid December 2020.

All partners finalised their consolidated draft IAP by the end of December 2021.

All partners finalised their final version of the IAP by the end of May 2022.

Part 2 - Action Plan

5. Objectives, actions and schedule

Digital innovation on its own cannot be expected to solve all our urban challenges. It can be part of the solution in many cases; but most challenges are complex and need more than purely "digital" solutions. To avoid disillusionment from citizenss and other local stakeholders, we need to consider carefully how we present the role of digital innovations and new technology. Almost all cities and towns now have a range of projects and programmes that contain at least a component of digital transformation.

There is no sole definition of what a smart city is. However, several common components can be described such as:

- smart transportation systems, known as smart mobility;

- traffic management;

- smart buildings using sensors that can collect data needed to automatically lighting, heating and cooling;

- smart health services that simplify and optimize registration;

- processing tax forms; so on and so forth.

Thus, Botosani's vision for the current IAP on digital transformation is to create an enabling environment for Botosani to complete the digital transformation of its public services, taking into account a citizens-centric approach.

For this digital transformation we will work across five themes, such as:

5.1 Digital transformation and Urban mobility

5.2 Digital transformation and Citizen's engagement

5.3 Digital transformation and Historical heritage

5.4 Digital transformation and International cooperation

5.5 Using (big) Data for Citizens

5.1 Digital transformation & urban mobility

Objective 1: Support with digital solutions Botosani's commitment for the Covenant of Mayors Climate Pact measures by 2030.

The city's mobility focus is of great interest to several partners that are also focussing on smart transport systems. Botoşani can explore and implement state of the art systems, without so many restrictions from pre-existing legacy systems – this will help partners to see what is possible with enough freedom to design without constraints.

Action title: **Urban sustainable transport in Botosani City**		Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Modernization of urban mobility by rehabilitation of the tramway system/ introduction of 11 electric buses**	Stakeholders: Eltrans S.A. Botosani Local public	Links to Strategy: Urban Mobility Plan, Sustainable Energy and Cimate Action Plan(SECAP)
		Finance & Resources: ERDF 2014-2020/2021-2027, National Plan for Recovery and Resilience; budget: EUR 20M
		ACTION Readiness:
ACTIVITIES Summary		

ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Public consultation regarding the future of public urban transport (tramways vs. electric buses)	2021 - 2022	Introduction of 11 electric buses to replace the current tramway system in Botosani city	Organising a public consultation under the law provisions; empowering the citizenss; adopting the outcome of the consultations; taking a final decision and
1.2 Public transport Modernisation in Botosani municipality through the purchase of electric buses	2022-2023	Modernized public transport experience offered to the citizenss- 11 new electric buses and roads' rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of roads by removing old tramway rails; emplacement setting up charging stations for electric buses; along the bus route; procurement of electric buses to cover the routes formerly served by the tram lines
1.4 Digitization of public passenger transport at the level of Botosani Municipality	Tbd, expected to start in 2023 after completion of 1.1	• A coherent management system • optimisation of services offered to the passengers • improvement of living for local citizenss	Procurement of command-and-control traffic system; testing and operation of the system
1.5 Setting-up GPS tracking for the control centre and for the passenger's information systems	Tbd, expected to start in 2023 after completion of 1.1	• optimisation of local transport • a higher and more accurate system of information for the citizenss using the public transport	Procurement of GPS tracking control centre; testing; operation of the centre
1.6 Setting-up smart units for automatic taxation and validation of travel tickets	Tbd, expected to start in 2023 after completion of 1.1	• 20 units for autommatic taxation and ticket validation • Digitalization of services offered to the citizenss	Procurement of automatic taxation and ticket validation system; testing and operation of the system

1.7 Setting-up video surveillance at the intersections and passenger stations	Tbd, expected to start in 2023 after completion of 1.1	• Safer public transport	Procurement of video surveillance system, testing and operation of the system

5.2 Digital transformation & citizen's engagement

Objective: Increase capacity to work in a collaborative manner, using ULG and CLLD (community-led local development) models, for digital transformation projects by 2030.

The city's experience with citizens' engagement, participation and ground-up design processes will be relevant to other partner cities as well. Some of them are looking for youth' participation in digital projects, including Botoşani.

The ULG format is new for the city and the team have indicated that support from other PPs in good practice for managing a ULG would be welcome in phase 2. Links with the local University in the town of Suceava are also being explored. This nearby city also has previous experience with URBACT projects and so may also prove source of local collaboration. The city of Botosani also wants to support the creation of a smart urban space involving citizenss, with smart mobility and environment, smart governance and safe living through surveillance and security.

Action title: **Annual Public Forum** in a hybrid format			Action owner: **Municipality of Botosani, NGOs, local businesses**
Short description: To **host a public forum to be closer to citizenss, to build a stronger and open dialogue between citizens, businesses and public institutions**	Stakeholders: **citizenss, Municipality of Botosani, NGOs, local businesses**		Links to Strategy: Urban Mobility Plan
			Finance & Resources: TBD
			ACTION Readiness: TBD
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
To organise a public forum in a hybrid format and to ensure that all	TBD	Streghten Municipality's strategy plan; Discussing main	• Invite stakeholders • Ensuring digital infrastructure for the hybrid format

stakehorders are at the round table		issues and ensuring a good dialogue between stakeholders; Drafting a position paper with main take-aways from the debate.	• Ensuring live streaming • Take online questions from digital participants.

Action title: **Local Development Strategy – CLLD- through the LAG Botosani**			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Within this strategy, with the involvement of the community, around 7 million euro will be invested for the people in marginalized urban areas, through several projects which will be implemented by Botosani City and its partners**	Stakeholders: **Local Action Group Botosani** NGOs, private companies and individuals (natural persons)		Links to Strategy: Urban LAG Strategy, Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City
			Finance & Resources: Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, ERDF Project budget: EUR 7M
			ACTION Readiness: In progress

ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Asphalting streets Izvoarelor, Vilcelei and Zimbrului, in the back of Imparat Traian District	2021-2023	- Offering the people in the periphery the same living conditions as in the city centre - Answering to a need of the community living in the area that resulted from a public consultation held in 2016, upon the creation of the urban LAG	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works

1.2 Emplacing a relaxation space on Pedagogical high school square	2021-2023	- Increasing the number of relaxation spaces for the people living in marginalised areas - Revitalising the area by emplacing smart equipment, pedestrian areas, energy efficient lighting system, gazebo, smart benches, etc	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works.
1.2. Setting-up relaxation spaces in Historical Centre and Parcul Tineretului urban marginalized areas	2021-2023	- Increasing the number of relaxation spaces for the people living in marginalised areas - Revitalising the area by emplacing smart equipment, efficient lighting system	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.5. Establishment of Botosani Community Centre- with social, educational and socio-medical servicers	2021-2023	- Rehabilitation of building of former kindergarten and repurposing it to open a community centre - Offering social, educational and socio-medical services for 840 people in the urban marginalised areas	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.6. Setting-up 2 new playgrounds,	2021-2023	- Offering the people in the periphery the	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and

rehabilitation of 2 existing playgrounds and establishment of a sports field in the urban marginalized area- ERDF		same living conditions as in the city centre	conducting of works; final reception of works
1.7. Landscaping the territory of the Local Development Strategy, including the existing roundabouts, following a competition of ideas for the inhabitants- ERDF	2021-2023	- Answering to a need of the community living in the area that resulted from a public consultation held in 2016, upon the creation of the urban LAG	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.8. Building a block of flats for the people in the urban marginalized area- ERDF	2021-2023	- Offering the people in the periphery the same living conditions as in the city centre	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.9. Establishing a social market for the people in the urban marginalized areas- ERDF	2021-2023	- Answering to a need of the community living in the area that resulted from a public consultation held in 2016, upon the creation of the urban LAG	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.10. Urban marginalized areas in action: ESF complementary measures for the ERDF infrastructure actions listed above- competition for ideas to landscape the roundabouts, competition of asphalt drawing for children,		- Offering the people in the periphery the same living conditions as in the city centre	Preparation, implementation and evaluation of the soft activities

intercultural events, intergenerational activities between children, young people and seniors, community "police"			

Action title: **CLLD mechanism through the Integrated Local Development Strategy**			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Besides the urban LAG, Botosani city is also implementing the CLLD mechanism through the Integrated Local Development Strategy**	Stakeholders: **NGOs, private companies, and individuals (natural persons)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City
			Finance & Resources: Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, ERDF Project budget: EUR 0.9M
			ACTION Readiness: In progress

ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Improving the physical, economic, and social regeneration of marginalized communities-landscaping a recreational area in Adrian Adamiu Street no. 12 and Adamiu Street	2022-2023	- Increasing the number of relaxation spaces for the people living in marginalised areas - Revitalising the area by emplacing smart equipment, - efficient lighting system	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.2. Improving the physical, economical and social regeneration of marginalized communities-landscaping a recreational area in Aleea Nucului no. 12A	2022-2023	- Increasing the number of relaxation spaces for the people living in marginalised areas - Revitalising the area by emplacing smart equipment, efficient lighting	Obtaining the building permit, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works

	system	

5.3. Digital transformation & historical heritage

Objective: Increase the valorisation of local living heritage using digital tools by 2030.

There are several areas in need of modernisation, including active use of the historic city centre, which is underused and in need of development. Work is started in all these areas, but digital innovation offers the opportunity to add much value to new developments.

Action title: **Back to Our Common Roots** **Due to the current war situation in Ukraine, Ivano Frankivsk partner has temporary stopped all activities**		Action owner: Municipality of Botosani	
Short description: **Set up the Botosani Cross-Border Multimedia Museum of Cultural Diversity**	Stakeholders: **NGOs, private companies and individuals (natural persons) in Botosani(RO) and Ivano Frankivsk(UA)**	Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, Local Action Plan for Heritage Preservation	
		Finance & Resources: ENI, Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 project budget: EUR 467,800	
		ACTION Readiness: in progress	
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Set up the Botosani Cross-Border Multimedia Museum of Cultural Diversity	2021-2023	- 1 multimedia museum emplaced in a cellar of the historical centre - A smart and up-to-date experience for the visitors of the museum - Contribution to the rise of the HO-RE-CA income as a result to the improvement of tourism	Procurement and elaboration of technical design, procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works
1.2. Underground scanning of Botosani Historical Centre main square	2021-2023	- Revealing a myth stating that the cellars under the main square of the city are	- Geo-radar surface scanning - 3D scanner underground scanning - Aero photogrammetry with drones - Creating virtual tour

		connected and form an underground route - Highlighting the route for touristic purposes, if the myth is confirmed - Rise of the income of local HO-RE-CA as a result to the tourism growth	- Creating interactive map Uploading virtual tour and interactive map of the project website
Action title: **Eminescu- One Culture**			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **One Culture, One Route in Botosani-Balti Cross Border Area**	Stakeholders: **NGOs, private companies and individuals (natural persons) in Botosani(RO) and Balti(MD)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, Local Action Plan for Heritage Preservation
			Finance & Resources: ENI, Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova 2014-2020 project budget: EUR 682,396
			ACTION Readiness: In preparation
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Creating a cross-border cultural route having in its centre the poet Mihai Eminescu, which is part of the common heritage of the two countries	2022-2023	- Mihai Eminescu cross-border cultural route created and marked with smart equipment - Increased number of tourists with positive impact on HO-RE-CA income - A new experience for the citizenss in Botosani to promote the national poet	Designing a touristic strategy starting from the promotion of Botosani as a cultural city, with the national poet in its centre

ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.2. Infrastructure works to highlight the route are planned for both implementing cities	2022-2023	- Getting the location ready to be used on touristic purposes - Ensuring a smoother access for both the local inhabitants and the tourists	The building permit was obtained. The next step is to procure the works and conduct them, then have the final reception
1.3. Designing a web page containing a virtual cross border cultural route and to promote the cross-border touristic potential	2022-2023	- Highlighting the cross-border route and offering a virtual tour for the people that cannot travel to Botosani	Procurement of web design services; implementation of the contract
1.4. Placing outdoor digital totems	2022-2023	- 10 digital totems to mark the route	Procurement of totems and their placement in accordance with the provisions of the technical documentation
1.5. Several people-to-people activities	2022-2023	- The citizenss in Botosani will have the opportunity to exchange experiences with their peers in the Republic of Moldova-Study visits, drawing contests, summits, etc	Organisation, implementation and evaluation of the people-to-people activities

Action title: **Rehabilitation and touristic development of the historical monument Ensemble of St. Gheorghe Church**		Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **rehabilitation works and heritage objective digitization services at the St. Gheorghe Church in Botosani**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**	Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, Local Action Plan for Heritage Preservation
		Finance & Resources: Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, ERDF project budget: EUR 1.57M
		ACTION Readiness: In progress

ACTIVITIES Summary

ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Building(church) rehabilitation works	2021-2023	- People in Botosani will get back the main church of the city - The church will also be included in the historical, religious and cultural tours of the city - Expected increase in the income of HO-RE-CA as a result of the tourism growth	- Works are under implementation Final reception and handover of the rehabilitated objective
1.2. 3D scanning, data processing and creation of metadata sheet, creation of an interactive virtual tour for online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation	2022-2023	- Local heritage digitalised and available for the people who cannot travel to Botosani	Procurement of digitalisation contract, implementation, and reception of works

Action title: **Consolidation and restoration of Mihai Eminescu National Theatre**			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **rehabilitation works and heritage objective digitization services at the Mihai Eminescu National Theatre in Botosani**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, Local Action Plan for Heritage Preservation
			Finance & Resources: Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, ERDF project budget: EUR 5M
			ACTION Readiness:

ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 consolidation and rehabilitation works	2020-2023	- People in Botosani will get back the main cultural building in the city centre - The theatre will	procurement and conducting of works; final reception of works

			also be included in the historical and cultural tours of the city - Expected increase in the income of HO-RE-CA as a result of the tourism growth	
1.2. **digitizing the patrimony objective - 3D scanning of the lens, data processing and creation of the metadata sheet**	2022-2023		Local heritage digitalised and available for the people who cannot travel to Botosani	Procurement of digitalisation contract, implementation, and reception of works

5.4. Digital transformation & international cooperation

Objective: Increase digital service delivery for Botosani Municipality in order to fulfil international commitments by 2030.

The integrated urban strategy embeds policy approaches and good practices coming from applied by transnational cooperation projects international participants in various projects.

Thus, the Municipality of Botosani has already ratified and adopted the Integrated Urban Development Strategy in accordance with article 7 of the EU-ERDF Guidance, approved with by the Resolution no. 1301/2013, as part of the North-East Region (RO)-Regional Development Plan 2014-2020. In addition, the Municipality of Botosani is a confirmed Covenant of Mayors Signatory beginning with December 2015.

Municipality of Botosani is part of the specific urban priority axis within the National Operational Programme for Housing.

Municipality of Botosani is also eligible under the EU Regional Operational Programme/ ERDF and ESF.

The local public authorities in Botosani Municipality are interested in local development priority and, in this sense, a unitary approach to this objective is fundamental to the outline future perspective, in medium and long term. In this context, it was necessary to develop the Integrated Urban Development Strategy of Botosani Municipality for the period of 2014 - 2023. This constitutes the framework document, in the medium and long term, for establishing the local action plan for integrated urban development, priority areas that need financing and preparation of the local portfolio of projects that have taken into account the directions of the period 2021 – 2027 financial programming of the European Union funds and beyond.

Action title: **RESPONSE- integRatEd Solutions for POsitive eNergy and reSilient CitiEs**		Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **project implemented in a consortium which also includes: Turku (Finland), Dijon (France) Eordala (Greece), Bruxelles (Belgium), Gabrovo (Bulgaria), Luhansk (Ukraine) Zaragoza (Spain), Bucharest (Romania)**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**	Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, SECAP
		Finance & Resources: Horizon 2020 Programme project budget: EUR 288,000
		ACTION Readiness:

ACTIVITIES Summary

ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1. The pilot model of Dijon and Turku will be taken over by Botosani acting as follower city, who will design a feasibility study for a future positive energy district	2021-2024	1 feasibility study for the creation of a positive energy district	Analysing the model of the lighthouse cities (Turku and Dijon) on their journey to achieve their positive energy districts Elaboration of the feasibility study for the positive energy district in the former industrial area of Botosani City (an area that comprises a highschool, a hospital and several blocks of flats)

Action title: **RO-UA Partnership for Climate Change Mitigation**		Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Establishment of Energy Management Agencies(EMAs) and its Innovative Science Promotion**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO) & Ivano Frankivsk(UA)**	Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, SECAP
		Finance & Resources: ENI-Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 project budget for Botosani: EUR 91,422

			ACTION Readiness: In progress
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1. Drawing of roadmap (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans) of how SECAPs may be implemented and monitored	2021-2023	Quarterly reports of the achievements of the targets included in the SECAP of Botosani City	Drafting the reports with quarterly frequency
1.2. Set up of Energy Management Agencies(EMAs) in Ivano-Frankivsk and Botosani	2021-2023	1 fully functional energy management agency in Botosani City	Founding an NGO that will host the EMA, ensuring the human and material resources for its operation
1.3. Installation of RES innovative installations in IF and Botosani	2021-2023	1 fully operational city solar charging station	Designing the technical documentation, obtaining the building permit, procurement of the equipment and installing it near the Polyvalent Hall of Botosani City
1.4. Development of concept and design of Innovative Science Promotion(InnoSciPromo) centers	2021-2023	1 fully operational centre for the children to experience the laws of physics by operating the devices available in the centre (augmented reality sandbox, wind and solar energy systems powering blocks of flats, Bernoulli effect demonstrations, stirling engine, TEG modulators for Peltier effect, etc)	Procurement of the equipment, placing it in the headquarters of EMA
1.5. Pilot operation of InnoSciPromo centers for kids and youth	2021-2023	Offering the kids and youth a practical way to	Ensuring tours of children and youth (target group of 4000 persons envisaged)

		learn Physics by experience	
Action title: Rehabilitation of the city heating system – phase II			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Modernize district heating system in the city of Botosani**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City, SECAP
			Finance & Resources: Cohesion Fund, Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020. Project budget: EUR 8.74M
			ACTION Readiness: Pre-contracting stage
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1 Procurement and implementation of a SACET Data Acquisition and Transmission System	2022-2023	- 1 modernised central heating system for the citizenss in Botosani	Procurement of services, conducting services, making the final reception
1.2. remote monitoring and operation	2022-2023	- 1 digitalised remote monitoring and operation system	Procurement of services, conducting services, making the final reception
Action title: Administrative simplification and reduction of bureaucracy			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Administrative simplification and reduction of bureaucracy by implementing digitization measures in Botoșani Municipality**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City
			Finance & Resources: Administrative Capacity Operational Programme 2014-2020 project budget: EUR 640,120
			ACTION Readiness: In progress
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.1. developing and implementing an integrated IT solution. The IT modules /	2021-2023	- Digitalisation of services of the City Hall for the inhabitants of	The IT solution is under implementation; testing and operation; final reception

functionalities both back-office and front-office that are to be integrated into the solution are: -Mobile module for services addressed to citizenss; software for order of service; online services on local taxes and fees; possibility to make online payments; automatic publication on the site of information of public interest (urban certificates register, no certificates issued, no uncta certificate issued, value of investments made, budget execution, etc.); online agricultural register services module; management of public / private assets; GIS map; automatic income accounting; management of investments and public procurement; agricultural register; management of rental income; management of parking revenues; on site collection and fiscal inspection; register of green spaces; the unique summary of taxpayers; automatic import of treasury statements; calculation of taxes and duties; project		Botosani (phase 1)	

management module; automatic registration of documents from other modules (eg: taxes, agricultural register, etc); mobile performance indicators.			
Action title: **Efficiency and performance in the local public administration**			Action owner: Municipality of Botosani
Short description: **Efficiency and performance in the local public administration of Botosani City**	Stakeholders: **Local community in Botosani(RO)**		Links to Strategy: Integrated Strategy for the Development of the City
			Finance & Resources: Administrative Capacity Operational Programme 2014-2020 project budget: EUR 601,651
			ACTION Readiness: In progress
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
1.2. Introduction of measures to simplify administrative procedures in Botoşani Municipality and reduce bureaucracy due to the implementation of a unitary IT solution, in addition to those already implemented or under implementation digitization of urbanism and planning	2021-2023	Digitalisation of services of the City Hall for the inhabitants of Botosani (phase 2)	Procurement of the services to design the IT solution; testing and implementation of the solution; final reception and operation of the IT solution

5.5. Using (big) Data for Citizens

Artificial Intelligence (AI) started its journey in 1956, although it began to storm its way a little later. Today we see a lot of features and benefits of AI as it is everywhere. From our daily use of Smartphones to automation transportation, which is in development. AI has lots of benefits in our society and everyday life. This action might very well be seen as a pilot

project as we are looking to find out if, where and how other municipalities in Romania or in the EU have implemented it and we are seeking exchanges of good practices in order to find out steps and solutions for implementation. Moreover, data protection is the most crucial part. The data needs to be protected from any kind of power failure, cyber-attacks, natural crisis, or any other type of crisis.

As the Municipality of Botosani is adapting and using new technologies, becoming a smart city, i.e., smart e-ticketing service, or setting-up a smart centralized command and control traffic management, we'll try to make use of all the stored data for the citizens' benefit in a safe and secured manner. We'll also make sure that AI's innovative anonymization technology protects the individual identity, and it is in line with privacy regulations. At the inception phase we need a public information campaign, a public consultation and a round table/ forum for debate to draft a paper/strategy that should outline local citizens needs, policy framework, technical assistance, exchange of good practices and a table of actions. Furthermore, we'll need a secure cloud service that ensures backing up the data and stores it at a secure location so that any kind of unanticipated malfunction would not disrupt the service.

Action title: **Big Data for Citizens**			Action owner: **Municipality of Botosani, NGOs, local businesses**
Short description: **Setting-up a new department and developing programmes that use AI and Machine Learning for the benefit of citizens of Botosani Municipality**	Stakeholders: **local citizens, Municipality of Botosani, NGOs, local businesses**		Links to Strategy: *Urban Mobility Plan*
			Finance & Resources: TBD
			ACTION Readiness: TBD
ACTIVITIES Summary			
ACTIVITY	Dates	OUTPUTS	Related ACTIVITIES
Developing a new programme that uses data in a safe and secured manner and setting-up a new	TBD	Finding solutions for problems such as health, public transport systems, education, disaster response through public information campaign	• Ensuring a venue for the IT department; • Setting up a new IT department; • Hiring IT specialists; • Hiring GDPR specialists;

department that will develop AI and/or Machine Learning (ML) to find out how it can benefit the citizens of Botosani Municipality		and public consultation; Attracting specialists in the city of Botosani; Streghten Municipality's digitalisation plan/vision.	• Ensuring technological infrastructure; • Organising a local hackathon; • Public information campaign to identify the needs of local citizens.

6. Small Scale Actions (SSA)

a. Context for SSA

Within a larger context, Romania still must adapt and adopt specific action following the negotiation with the EU regarding environmental issues.

Waste collection typically accounts for 10 to 25 percent of a municipality's budget, and it often represents high costs and poor performance almost everywhere. Also, we can observe that there is a number of bins generally over-full, increasing health and environmental risks, and making town centres and districts ugly.

Smart waste solutions leveraging digital technologies allow trash bins to be remotely connected and monitored, with data showing the fill level and the date and time of the latest waste collection, and generating alerts in case of fire, vandalism, or unauthorised bin movements.

Presently, there are 81 authorized points for outdoor waste containers in city's neighbourhoods managed by the local public waste collection service company in Botosani.

In addition, endeavoring to apply more effort in our city's digital journey, Municipality of Botosani has launched the idea for a smart waste management.

Now, as a project partner within the frame of the DigiPlace activity planning network, the Municipality of Botosani is interested to explore the opportunity of including video surveillance systems for outdoor waste container poins to be supported as an SSA.

The small scale action is looking at technology to help understand citizen behaviours in relation to waste and recycling, to use this in future policy making.

By installing video surveillance cameras interconnected with the metropolitan surveillance is to reinforce the informative campaign and to encourage citizenss to collect the municipal waste selectively. It will represent an opportunity to experiment and take an important step towards the smart waste management.

b. Snapshort of our Small Scale Action:

What we want to test through our Small Scale Action: If introducing video surveillance for monitoring selective waste collection can lead to a higer degree of compliance of selective waste collection regulation.
Period of implementation: March - June 2022

What we want to integrate in our Action Plan: If a large-scale project is appropiate for installing video surveillance connecteted to increasing compliance for selective waste collection regulation. Complementary, consider a new project on how to best sort thorugh the video data, identify patterns and collaborate with local authorities (local police) for enforcemenet interventions and increase awareness for residents on importance of selective recycling.

c. Progress for implementing the SSA in 2021:
   1) Municipality of Botosani has launched the Procurement Process for the procurement of 3 video surveillance systems (within SSA limited budget).
   2) The video surveillance systems would complete the informative campaign and encourage citizenss to collect the municipal waste selectively.
   - Municipality of Botosani would claim the costs for buying video camera equipment on the URBACT network budget.
   - This estimated cost is around EUR 8,500.
   - The other connected costs with the people to monitor the waste platforms, costs related to informative campaign and encourage citizenss to collect the municipal waste selectively are expected to be covered from different financial sources, such as the Municipal Budget of the City of Botosani.

   d. Results, lessons learnt, upscaling and replication plans

   In March 2022, the 3 video surveillance systems were installed at 3 different authorized sites for outdoor waste collection managed by the local public waste collection service company in Botosani.
   The 3 Video Surveillance Systems are functional and monitored by the municipal police dispatcher.
   Video surveillance cameras are interconnected with the metropolitan surveillance system which has been developing during the last years.
   They were given into the custody of the apartment owners associations which cooperate with their members (residents) and being allowed to access the Municipal Video Surveillance System Control Room.
   The whole system is to assist the apartment owners associations in their daily contacts and cooperation with the residents aiming at better implementation and overall improvement of selective waste collection being continually enhanced and closely monitored.

In addition, *the municipality of Botoşani planned the "Extension of the video surveillance network in the Downtown Marketplace" within the frame of the Public Investment Programme back in 2020. This project meets numerous requests from the municipal police department. The general objective to which these works contribute is the increase of security and the prevention of crime as well as the decrease of the intervention time, creating a favorable environment for the economic development. That video surveillance system is composed of 9 surveillance video-cameras, 5 of them are fixed and 4 are mobile.*

7. Framework for delivery

· Detail of who will deliver actions – roles and responsibilities of stakeholders

· Detail of governance during and after URBACT support

- All projects are implemented by interdisciplinary teams, involving the Municipal Offices and Departments, such as, the Project Management Department, the Local Development Department through the Investment Service, the Energy Department, the Construction Department, the Economic and Accounting Department, the Public Procurement Service, the Human Resources Service, the External Relations Office, the ICT Department. The other ULG members will have an advisory role in implementing the plan. We will benefit from their expertise in the field, within the limits of the legislation in force. For the contracting of works, services and products, the Public Procurement Law will be applied in a transparent manner. As to establish possible partnerships with legal entities from the private sector (NGOs, economic agents), transparent selection procedures are also carried out, ensuring equal treatment to all those who are interested in participating in the projects and have expertise in the field.

- At the end of the project a working group would be set up to monitor the progress of the plan during the sustainability period. The group should also be formed by the representatives of several Municipal Departments/ Offices, starting with the project implementing local team members who were involved in drawing up the IAP.

8. Resourcing

9. Risk analysis

Risk identified	Mitigation plan	Intensity
geopolitical insecurity *e.g. cyber attacks, delay in launching calls for the EU coperation programmes*	- *Constant contact with national authorities;*	*High*

volatile and unstable socio-political environment	- *Constant contact with the stakeholders, local, regional and national authorities*	*High*
Low interest and involvment of the ULG members	- *Enhance and diversify the liaison with the stakeholders and local community*	*High*