

FUNDA

Enhancing Institutional Capacities for Managing Functional Urban Areas in the Danube Region

Good Practice Introduction in Romania

FUA Cluj-Napoca

PP06 - RDA SW

FUNDA Project Meeting
online – 12 February 2026

PP06 - Regional Development Agency South-West Oltenia
Sorin Cosmulescu

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Overview of the Good Practice

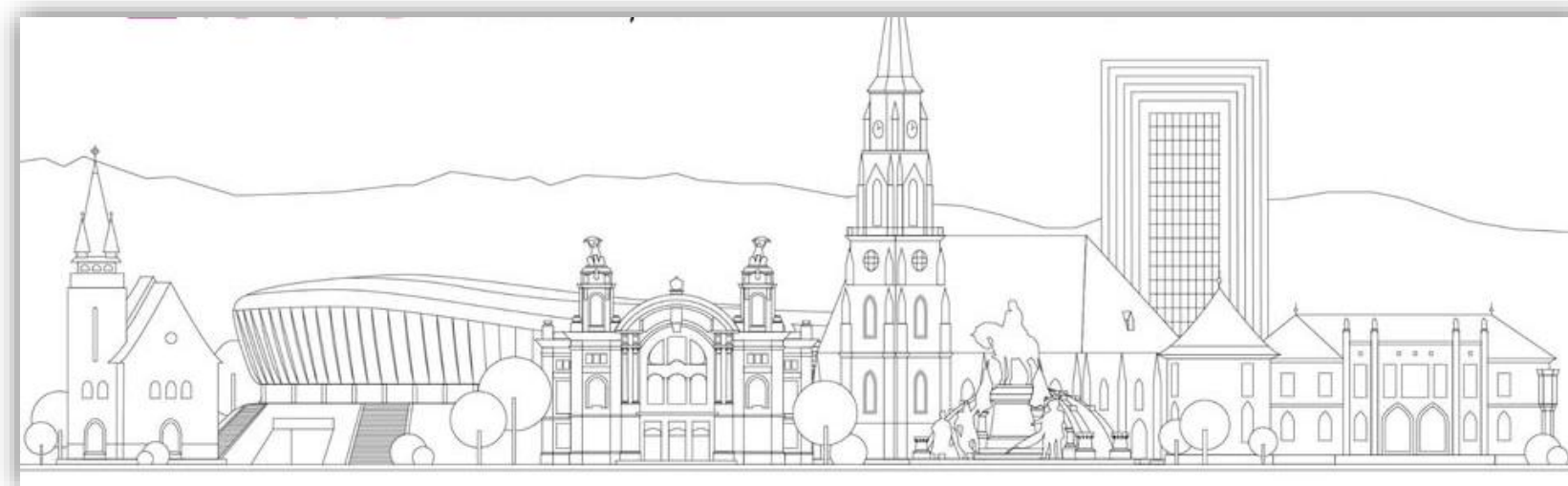
1. **Title: Integrated Urban Innovation Strategy – Cluj-Napoca FUA Country: Romania Region: Nord-Vest Status: Ongoing (since 2016) FUA Composition: Cluj-Napoca + Florești, Apahida, Bacia, Chinteni, Feleacu, Gilău etc.**
2. **Key Theme:**
 - Green governance
 - Innovation ecosystems
 - Sustainable urban development



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Background & Rationale

- 1. Cluj-Napoca FUA has become Romania's leading innovation hub**
- 2. Strong integration of green principles into planning and governance**
- 3. Rapid metropolitan growth required coordinated FUA-level strategies**
- 4. Effective collaboration between municipalities, universities, tech clusters, NGOs, and RDA**
- 5. Why it matters: It demonstrates how innovation and sustainability can reinforce each other at FUA scale.**
- 6. Long-term strategic vision (since 2016)**



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Objectives, Activities & Achievements

Main Objectives:

1. Strengthen metropolitan governance
2. Promote green mobility & sustainable development
3. Support innovation ecosystems and digital transformation

Activities Implemented:

1. Development of integrated urban innovation strategy
2. Participatory processes & stakeholder co-creation
3. Implementation of green mobility and digital public services

Key Results:

1. Strong multi-actor cooperation
2. Improved public services (digital, mobility, participatory budgeting)
3. Increased attractiveness for investment and talent

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Governance, Stakeholders & Financing

Stakeholders Involved:

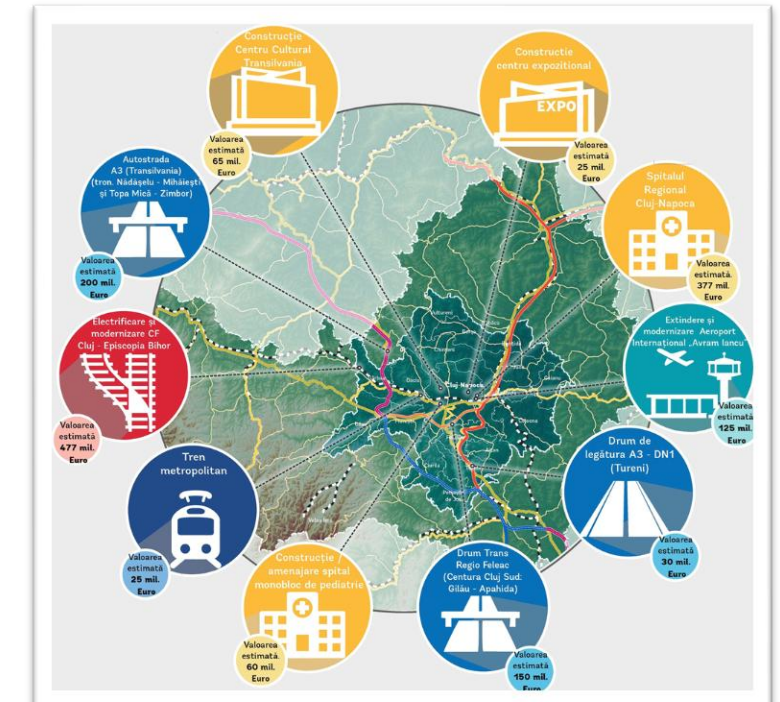
1. Municipalities of the FUA
2. Universities & research centers
3. Tech clusters & private sector
4. NGOs & civil society
5. North-West RDA

Governance Model:

1. Multi-level governance
2. Coordination led by Cluj-Napoca Municipality + NW RDA

Financial Mechanisms:

1. ERDF
2. Horizon Europe
3. Local budgets
4. Private co-financing



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Lessons Learned & Transferability

Lessons Learned:

- 1. Highlight co-creation & stakeholders' engagement**
- 2. Flexible governance is essential for innovation**
- 3. Long-term vision ensures continuity and impact**

Transferability: High — suitable for FUAs with:

- 1. Strong academic environment**
- 2. Active tech ecosystem**
- 3. Willingness to adopt participatory and green governance models**
- 4. Link the practice to FUNDA themes (governance, planning, innovation)**

Why it's a Good Practice for FUNDA:

It shows how FUAs can integrate innovation, sustainability, and governance into a coherent metropolitan strategy.

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How Partners Should Use This Example

- 1. A template for structuring our own Good Practice in our FUAs**
- 2. A benchmark for clarity and completeness**
- 3. A reference for the level of detail expected**
- 4. An inspiration for identifying impactful practices in our FUAs**

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Contact & Additional Materials

1. Contact Person: Dr. Ovidiu Cîmpean

2. Supporting Materials:

Photos, documents, and additional evidence to be uploaded to the shared FUNDA folder.

3. Closing Message:

Cluj-Napoca FUA demonstrates how innovation-driven governance can transform a metropolitan area into a resilient, sustainable, and competitive region.



THANK YOU!

Interreg
Danube Region



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<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/funda>

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