

Ivano-Frankivsk, June 25, 2026

Press Release

INSPIRE in Ivano-Frankivsk: Online Workshops, Improved Access to Environmental Education, Family Eco-Activities, and International Cooperation

The INSPIRE project — Inclusive and Nurturing Spaces for Progressive, Innovative, and Responsive Education (INSPIRE - ROUA00253), which aim is increasing accessibility of environmental education for pupils and children with special educational needs in the cross-border territory by creating inclusive spaces, innovative teaching methods, and increasing children's participation in extracurricular environmental education programs. . The project is being implemented under the Interreg NEXT Romania–Ukraine 2021–2027 program, funded by the European Union, and brings together Ukrainian and Romanian partners. The lead partner is Botoșani County (Romania), and the Ukrainian partner is the Executive Committee of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council.

As part of the INSPIRE project, a series of events took place in Ivano-Frankivsk, including online workshops for children and teenagers, the development of inclusive infrastructure, family-oriented environmental initiatives, international exchanges of best practices, and professional training sessions.

Online Workshop “The Enchanted Garden of Amulets”: Creativity and Intercultural Interaction

An online workshop was held for children aged 7–10 from the Ion Pillat Special Vocational and Technical School in Dorogoy and City Children’s Ecological Station of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council.



During the workshop, children got to know each other, participated in interactive exercises, and created protective talismans out of clay and natural materials. The event concluded with reflective activities titled “Tree of Impressions” and “Hand of Gratitude,” which helped develop emotional intelligence and foster friendships between students from Ukraine and Romania.

Online Workshop “The World of My Thoughts”: Developing Emotional Resilience

A workshop titled “The World of My Reflections. Island of Strength” was held for children aged 12–15.



Participants discussed their own experiences, dreams, and values, took part in creative exercises, and worked on developing self-reflection and emotional resilience.

The event's international format fostered intercultural communication and mutual understanding between Ukrainian and Romanian teenagers.

Ensuring Equal Access to Environmental Education

In April 2026, within the INSPIRE project, a specialized vehicle was purchased to ensure accessibility to educational and environmental activities, particularly for children with special educational needs.



The use of specialized transport will enhance students' mobility, expand opportunities for practical learning, and increase participation in joint activities.

Workshop for Children and Parents in the Vovchynetskyi Hills

A workshop was held in the Vovchynetskyi Hills, bringing together children and parents around the shared exploration of nature and the development of environmental awareness.



During the eco-walk, participants explored the natural environment of the Vovchynetskyi Hills, learned about local plant species, and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of ecosystem preservation. Teachers explained ecological interconnections in nature, the significance of plants, and responsible attitude toward the environment.

Workshop “The Invisible Threads of Nature”

During the tour of the City Children’s Ecological Station, participants explored nature from a new perspective. The workshop for children and parents aimed to develop environmental awareness and build a deeper emotional connection with the natural environment through direct experience.



Participants completed practical and research-based tasks that allowed them to explore nature through observation, interaction, and sensory perception. Emphasis was placed on understanding the value of natural resources and developing ecological thinking.

International Exchange of Experience and Development of Inclusive Education

An important component of the project was the international exchange of experience between educational institutions of Ukraine and Romania in the field of inclusive education. During meetings, educators and experts visited the Center for Alternative Therapies at the City Children's Clinical Hospital, where modern therapeutic approaches for working with children were presented. Participants were introduced to specialized equipment and discussed possibilities for integrating therapeutic methods into the educational process.

A visit to the Science City "New Energy" followed, where participants explored an innovative educational space and interactive learning zones.



Professional Development of Teachers and Implementation of Innovative Approaches

The project also included training sessions and professional dialogues for teachers and specialists at the City Children's Ecological Station. Educators discussed modern methods of inclusive and environmental education, as well as the application of nature-based approaches in the learning process.

These professional meetings served as a platform for exchanging experience among specialists and contributed to forming a shared vision for developing inclusive and environmentally oriented educational environments in local communities.



The event took place in a therapeutic garden established at the City Children's Ecological Station. The space includes sensory pathways, interactive panels, zones for developing different senses, as well as learning and recreation areas, including a gazebo and a patio. Plants were also planted, and functional green zones were created to support children's development and interaction with nature.

The results demonstrate the effectiveness of integrated educational approaches based on practical experience, interaction, and engagement of diverse target groups. The INSPIRE project contributes to strengthening an inclusive culture in the community, developing environmental awareness, and expanding international cooperation, laying the foundation for further sustainable educational initiatives.

The “INSPIRE” project will run through October 2026. Its budget is 404,141.61 euros, of which 363,727.44 euros are funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT Romania–Ukraine Program 2021–2027.

For more information about the project and for media inquiries, please contact:

Department of Investment Policy, Projects, International Relations, Tourism and City Promotion of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council

Contact person: Lidiia Cherevko

Position: Head of the Project Implementation Office

Phone: +380986347650

E-mail: inspireifroua@gmail.com

Website: <https://invest-if.com>

To learn more about the Interreg NEXT Romania–Ukraine 2021–2027 program, follow this link: www.ro-ua.net

The Interreg VI-A NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme 2021- 2027 is financed by the European Union and co-financed by the participating countries in the Programme.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Executive Committee of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or of the Interreg VI-A NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme 2021- 2027 management structures.

END