
Danube Project Support Instruments: **START – Danube Region Project Fund** **DSPF – Danube Strategic Project Fund**



Seed Money Facility Event
Danube Transnational Programme
September 27th 2017

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START

Danube Region Project Fund



START – Background & Objectives



Study on needs for financial instruments by EC DG Regio, 2011

- Need to provide “**Seed Money**” as financial instrument to support project ideas in the Danube Region is high

Objective of START

- **Kick-start project development** in the Danube Region
- Facilitate the **financing of transnational projects** (preparation activities, finding project partners, etc.) and also of **smaller projects**
- Help organisations and institutions **develop and implement** their project ideas (small organisations, NGOs, etc.)

START – Main principles & Budget



Main Principles

- **Pilot initiative:** a flexible approach was used during implementation
- **Seed money:** beneficiaries received a large **pre-financing** at the beginning of the project implementation (50%) and if approved, a second rate at midterm (25%)

Budget for projects available € 1.350.000,00

- 95% by the EU Commission (with funds from the EU Parliament)
- 5% by the City of Vienna
- € 10.000,00 – 40.000,00 per project



START – types of eligible projects



Two types of projects were eligible:

- Type A: **A specific part of a larger project** (total value and duration of the overall project goes beyond the framework of START)

E.g. prepare project concept /action plan, define budget, submit an application, building partnerships, etc.

- Type B: **Implementation of a small project**

All activities related to the project were funded, however the project had to be transnational and / or have a macro regional impact

→ **Main difference to the DTP – Seed Money Facility**

START – Implementation



- START was implemented by EUSDR **PAC 10, City of Vienna** in close cooperation with its affiliated entity **EuroVienna**
- **2 open calls** for proposals were organised in **2014** and in **2015**
- The interest of potential applicants was very high

	Call 1	Call 2	Total START
Applications received	871	205	1076
Formally correct applications	651	164	815
Projects implemented	24	24	48
Total Partners involved	119	85	204

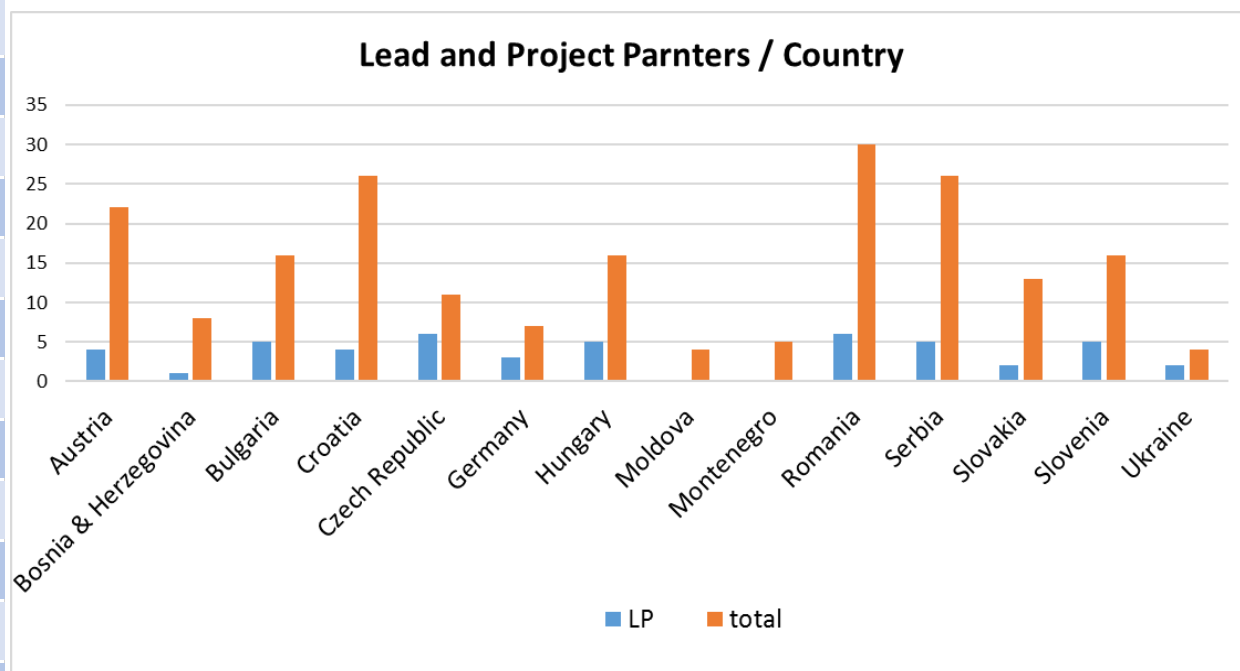
- START Lead Partners from all **14** Danube Countries!

START – Implementation



Selected Lead and Project Partners / Country

Country	LP	total PPs	total
Austria	4	18	22
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	7	8
Bulgaria	5	11	16
Croatia	4	22	26
Czech Republic	6	5	11
Germany	3	4	7
Hungary	5	11	16
Moldova	0	4	4
Montenegro	0	5	5
Romania	6	24	30
Serbia	5	21	26
Slovakia	2	11	13
Slovenia	5	11	16
Ukraine	2	2	4
Total	48	156	204

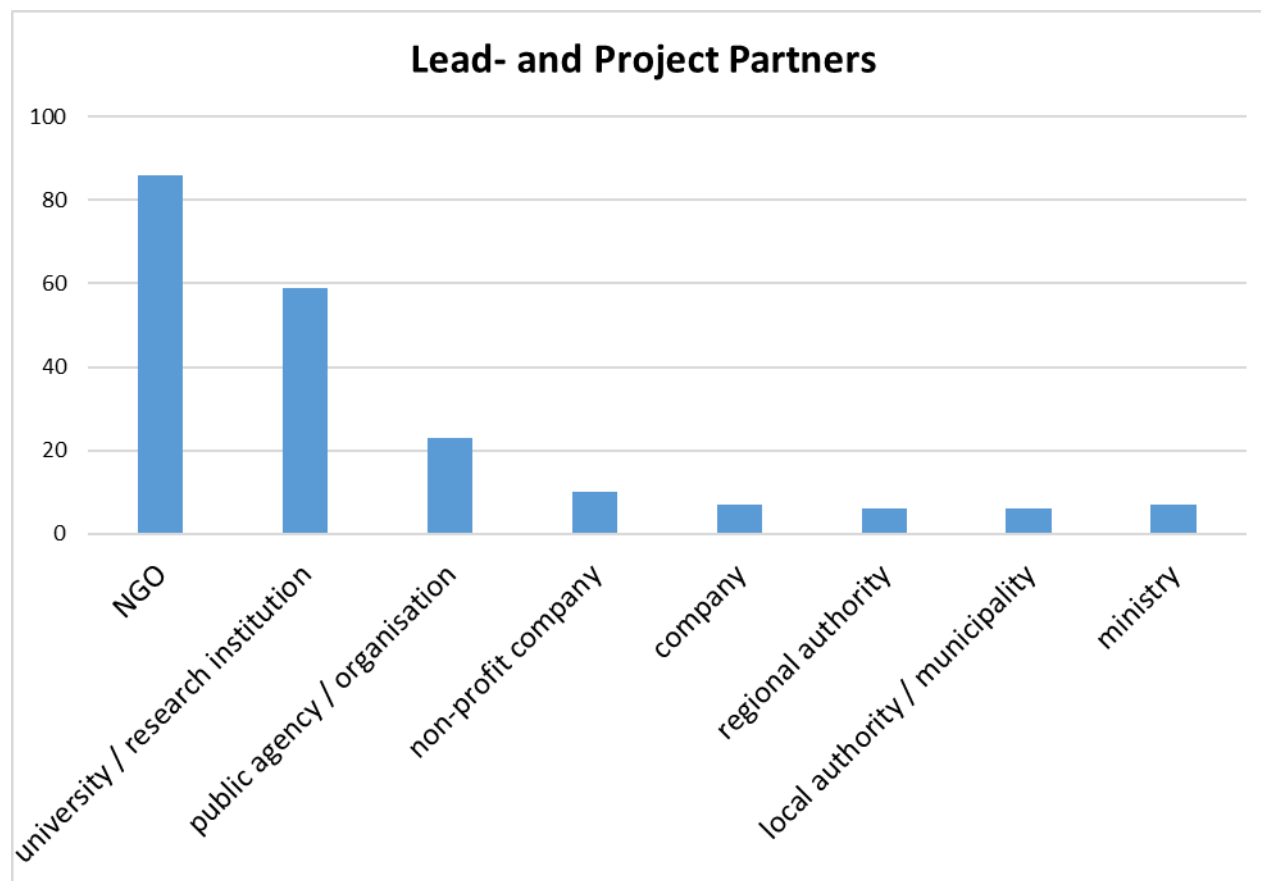


START – Implementation



Selected Lead and Project Partners / type of organisation

Type of Organisation	%	LP+PPs
NGO	42%	86
university / research institution	29%	59
public agency / organisation	11%	23
non-profit company	5%	10
company	3%	7
regional authority	3%	6
local authority / municipality	3%	6
ministry	3%	7
Total	100%	204



START – Study



- **START study was elaborated to summarise main results and successes** (available for download at PA 10 webpage!)
- **Online questionnaire was established and sent to 3 different target groups:**
 - Q1: Priority Area Coordinator Teams and SG Members of EUSDR
 - Q2: Lead and Project Partners of START
 - Q3: General public
- **Total: 123 responses**

START – Overall findings of the Study



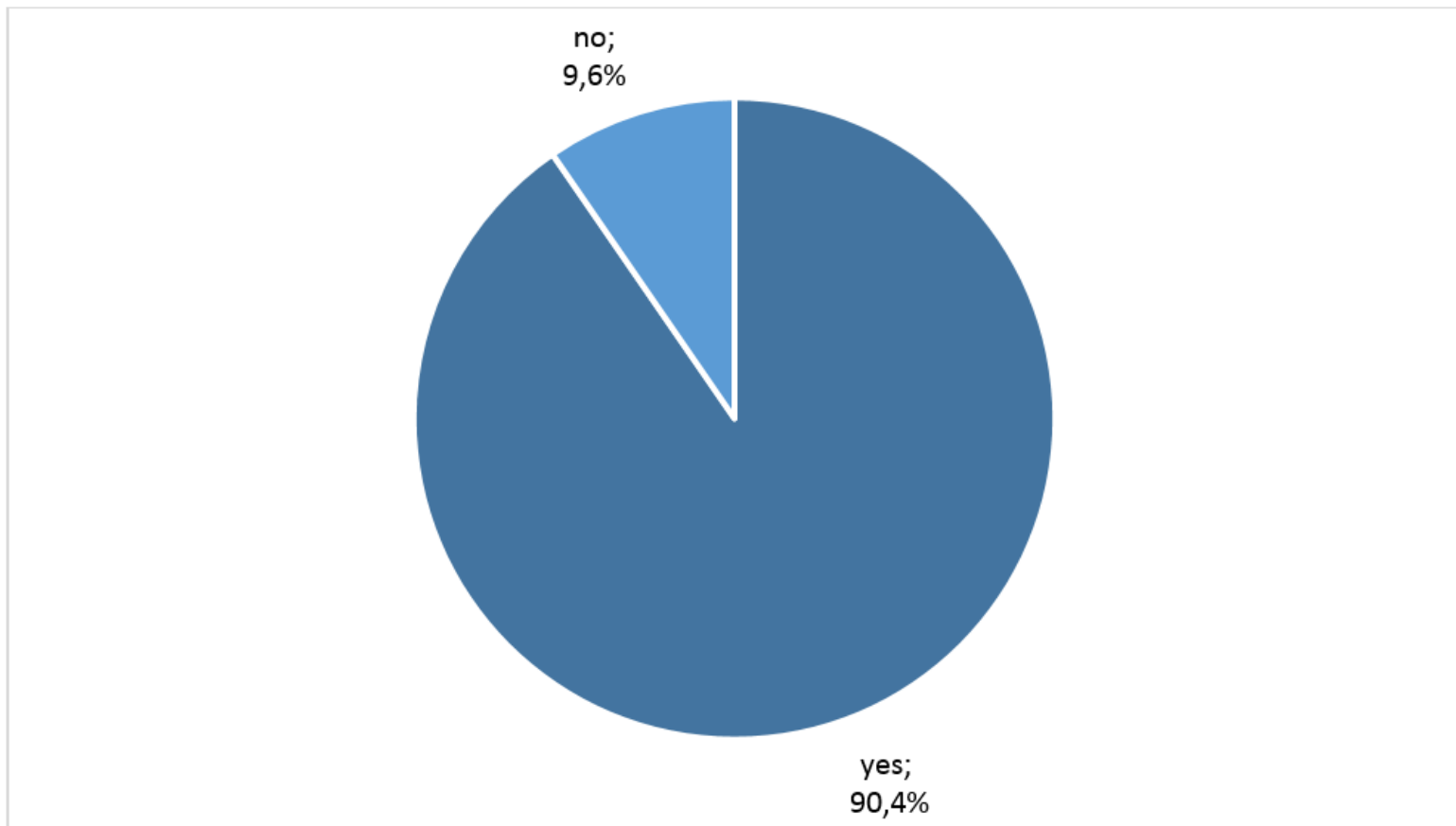
Overall findings:

- Administrative burden was perceived as rather low for
- START initiative's overall structure well suited to needs
- Available funds were too low
- Unit costs: Pro's (low administrative burden) outweigh the con's (lack of differentiation e.g. salaries by country, etc.)
- High level of achievement
 - All PAs were addressed by implemented projects
 - All EUSDR countries covered
 - Organisations with limited access to funding were addressed

START – Project Partners intentions



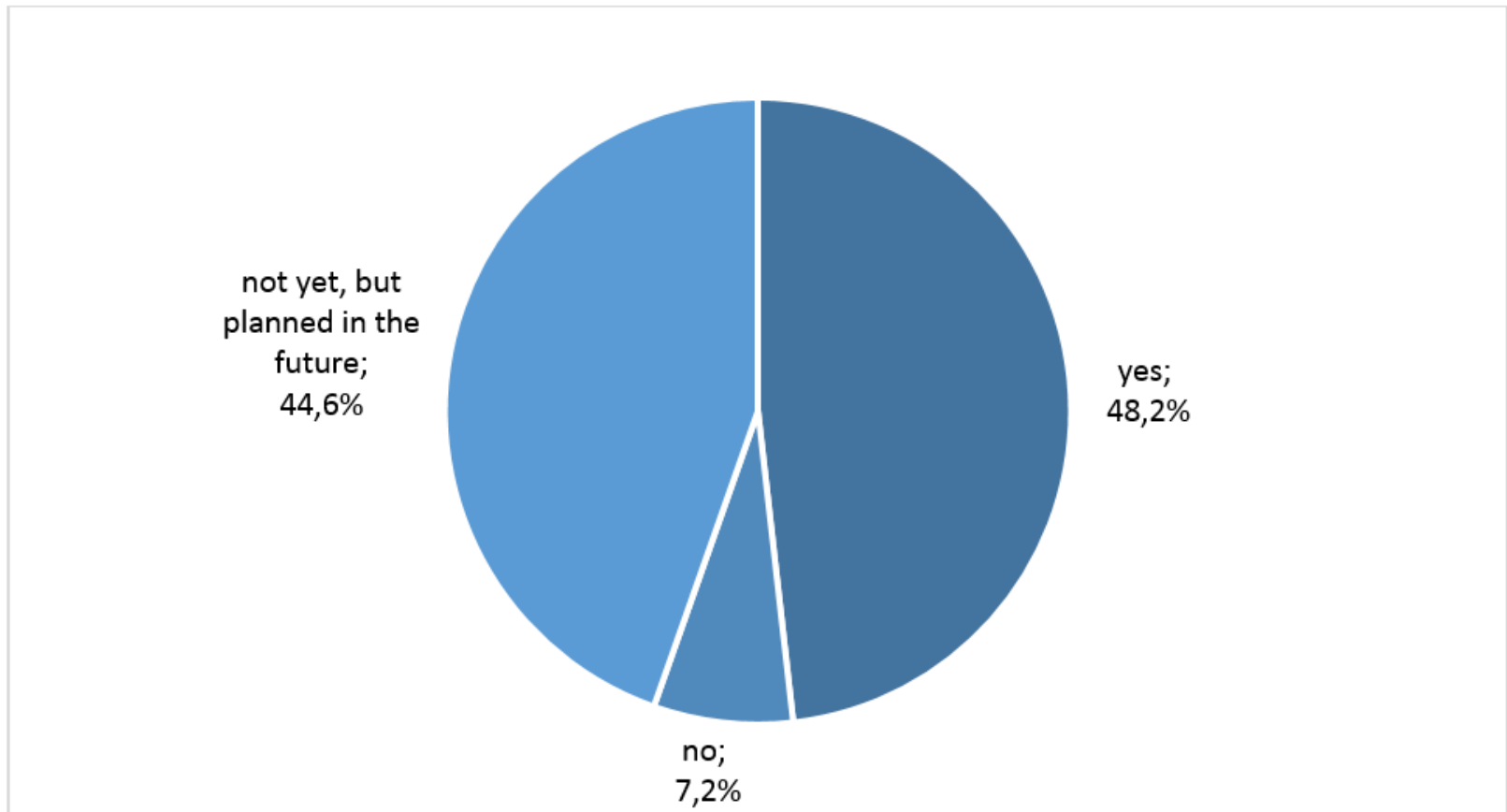
Did you originally plan to submit a project proposal as a result of the START project activities?



START – Project Partners achievements

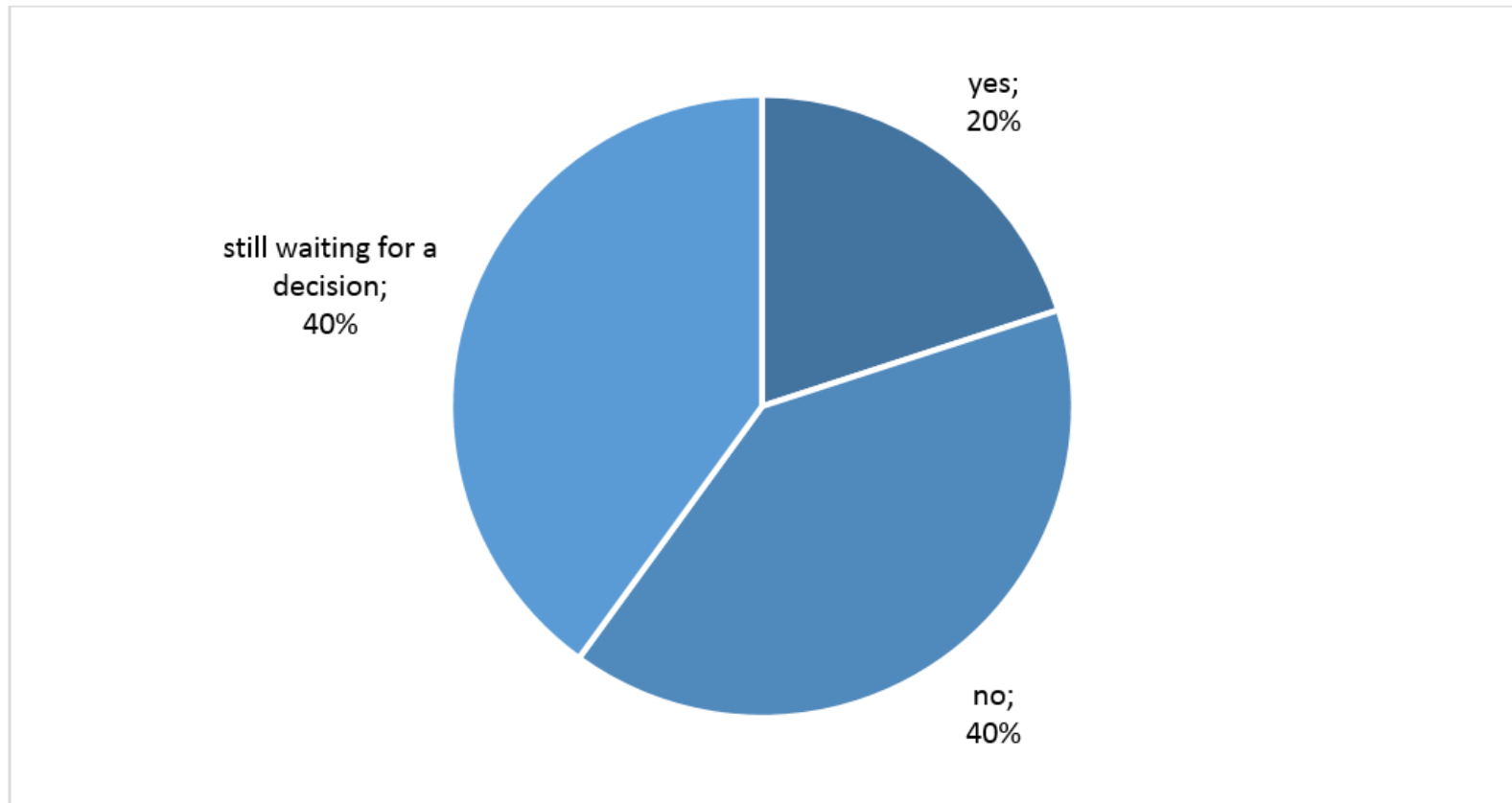


Did you submit a project proposal as a result of your START project activities?



START – Project Partners achievements

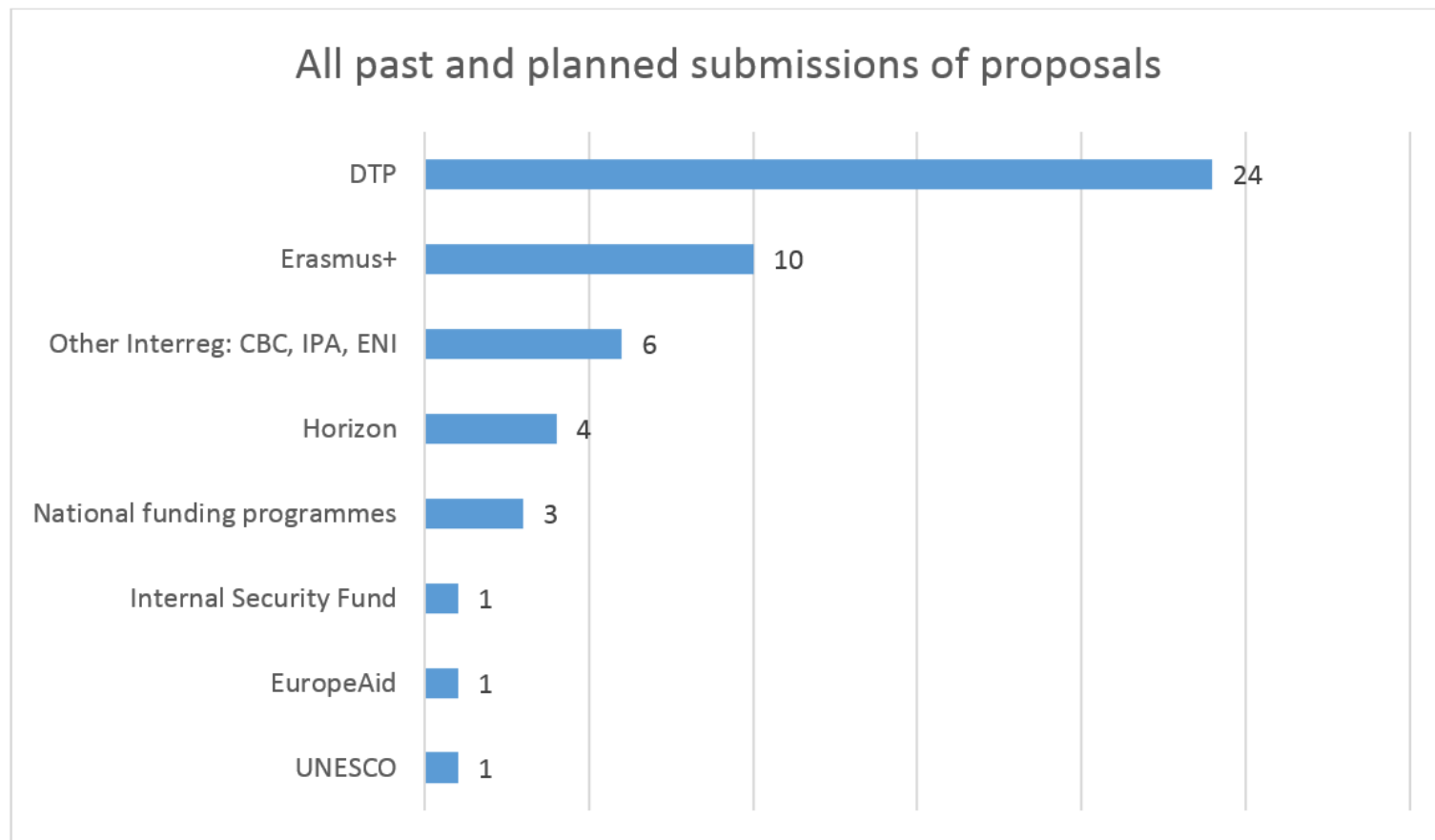
Was your project proposal selected for funding?



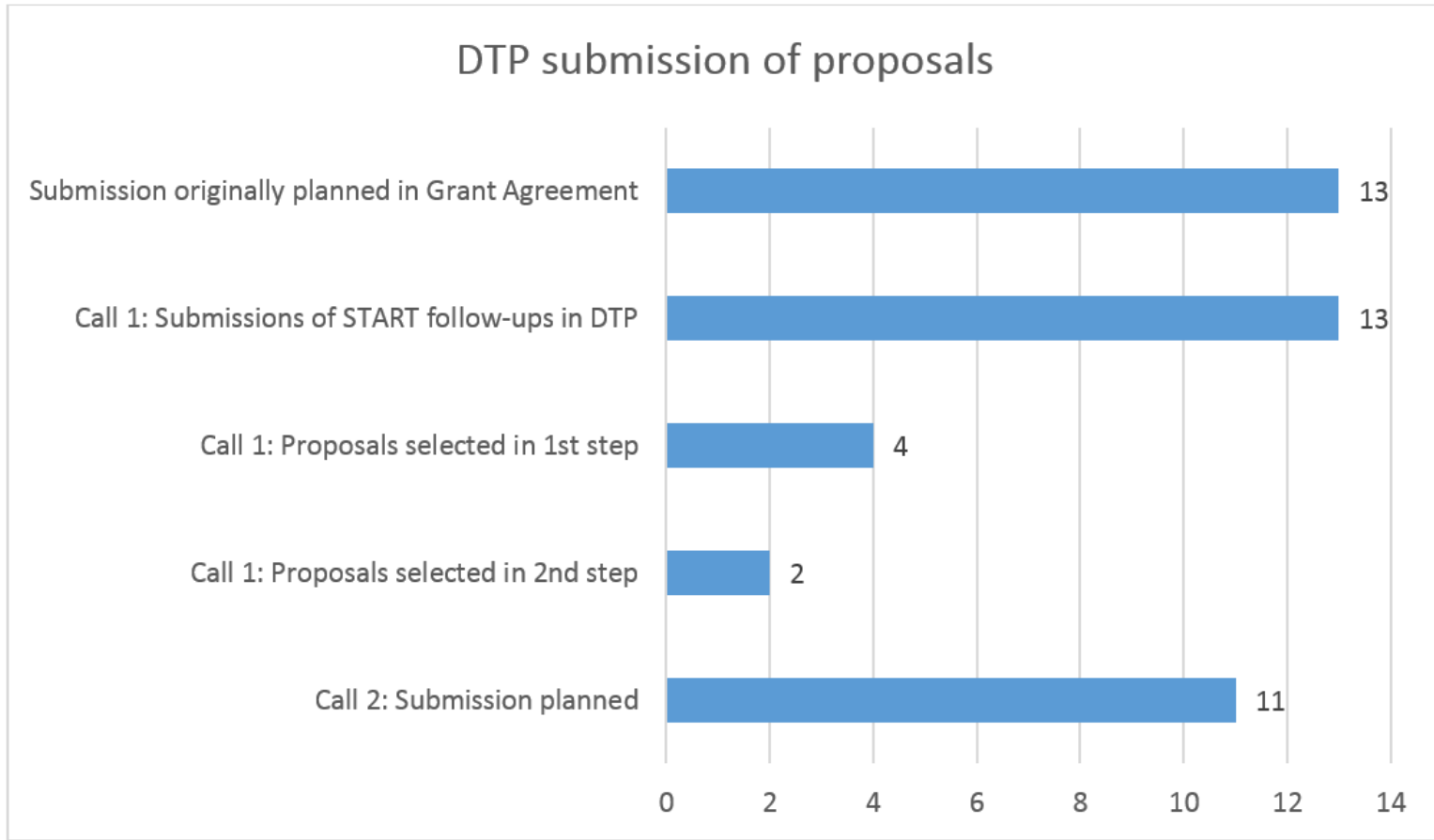
START – Project Partners applications



Submission of proposals for further funding: total 50



START – DTP submissions



START – Recommendations & Conclusions



Recommendations:

- Unit costs vs. real costs – consistent approach is better
- Larger project volumes (min. 45.000 €)
- Fewer partners or min. € 15.000,00 per partner
- Both types of projects are needed according to the results of the study

Conclusions:

- START very well suited for needs in the Danube Region
- High demand, very competitive (number of applications vs. money available)
- Follow-up needed

START – VIDEO



START – 48 stories of success & Danube Project Support Toolkit



START publication

→ Summary of all START projects



Danube Project Support Toolkit

→ Includes lessons learnt from START and analysis of 9 different project support instruments



Available for download on the PA 10 webpage!

www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu

DSPF
Danube Strategic Project Fund



What is the Danube Strategic Project Fund?



Danube Strategic Project Fund:

- Is a new facility aiming at supporting the **implementation of transnational strategic projects** aligned with the **objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**
- Is co-financed by
 - the **European Commission: 97%** and
 - the **City of Vienna 3%**
- Lasts from **01.09.2016 – 31.08.2019** (36 months)

The financial support to DSPF projects:

- **Min. € 70.000,00 - Max € 100.000,00 / project**
- **Max. € 969.000,00 in total**

Planned DSPF projects:

- Approx. **10-12** projects will be supported

Project implementation period:

- Approx. **Nov. 1st 2017 – Oct. 31st 2018** (12 months)

What kind of projects will be supported?

The DSPF will provide financial support to projects that:

- Have a **strategic impact**, especially in view of **Enlargement and Neighbourhood policies**;
- Include **cross-cutting** and/or **horizontal measures** covering **several Priority Areas** of the Strategy;
- Follow a **multi-level governance approach**;
- Support the establishment of **economic and social cooperation**;
- **Foster integration** and reconciliation of Danube countries, with a particular focus on the role of **young people**

Facts & figures

- In **March 2017**, interested applicants submitted applications via a supporting Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) of the EUSDR
- The DSPF call for proposals resulted in **56 applications** received by the PACs
- **37 of them were supported** and considered as **complete** after the Formal Check by the IB
 - Project Applications address **all Priority Areas** of the EUSDR
 - Most **Lead Partners** come from **Hungary & Austria** (7), followed by **Bulgaria** (5) and **Slovenia & Romania** (4)
 - In total **128** organisations participate as Lead or as Project Partners
 - Most organisations come from **Serbia** (17) followed by **Romania & Austria** (15) and **Bulgaria** (14)
 - **14** projects mainly focus on youth, **28** involve partners from pre-accession or neighbourhood countries, **23** involve partners from countries of the EUSAIR

Timeline of the initiative

Activity	Timeframe
DSPF Jury Members will assess all application	Oct. 3rd 2017
Summary of results and final selection	End of Oct. 2017
Contracting phase with selected Lead Partners	Nov. / Dec. 2017
Project start	Nov. / Dec. 2017

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With the financial support of the European Union