

Danube Transnational Programme
Call announcement for the support to the
EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators Call for Proposals
September/October 2016

1. Introduction

According to the implementation framework of the Specific Objective 4.2, the Danube Transnational Programme is launching the **1st Call for the financial support of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators (1st EUSDR PACs call)**. The Programme offers financial support to transnational projects contributing to the development of a more innovative, better accessible and sustainable Danube Region. The programme has been designed under the territorial cooperation goal of the European Union. In practice, the programme combines financing from the EU structural funds - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the EU external funds – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The 1st EUSDR PACs Call of the Danube Transnational Programme is organised according to a one-step procedure.

Applicants are invited to submit electronically, through the programme website, an Application Form (AF), outlining mainly the intervention logic of the proposal and the strategic relevance for the EUSDR and the DTP.

The application and selection procedure is detailed in the *PACs Applicants Manual*.

2. Objectives and priorities

All projects submitted for the support of the EUSDR, including the financial support to Priority Area Coordinators, have to aim at *improving the governance system and the capabilities and capacities of public institutions and key actors involved in complex transnational project development to implement the EUSDR in a more effective way*.

The DTP offers its financial support in achieving the above mentioned objective, in line with the provisions of its Specific Objective 4.2¹.

¹ DTP CP, section 2.A.6.1/P4/11c: "Establish a facility for direct support to EUSDR governance. The Danube Strategy addresses a wide range of issues; these are divided among four pillars and eleven priority areas. Each of the eleven priority areas of the Danube Region Strategy are managed by two Priority Area Coordinators (PACs). PACs are in charge of implementing the priority areas and

3. Funds allocated for the Call and co-financing

The programme will allocate for this Call the following funds:

Amount	EU Fund
3,600,000.00 EUR	ERDF, IPA, ENI

The maximum EU contribution to the projects is 85% (for ERDF, IPA and ENI project partners).

The maximum EU contribution per priority area is 300,000.00 EUR, which has to be co-financed with 15%.

4. Timeframe

The Call will be open from 12.09.2016 to 21.10.2016.

The Application Form has to be submitted to the Joint Secretariat latest by 15:00 Central European Time on 21.10.2016 by uploading it on the website of the programme (<http://www.interreg-danube.eu>). An earlier submission is recommended.

5. Duration of projects

The duration of projects must not exceed **36** months. This limit applies for the operational phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase.

6. LP principle

Each EUSDR Priority Area has to appoint a Lead Partner (Project Partner 1) who is responsible for the submission of the Application Form. In case of approval of the project, Project Partner 1 takes over the full responsibility for reporting and communicating the project progress to the DTP MA/JS. Project Partner 1 bears legal responsibility for the partnership and is also the link between the project and the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat (MA/JS) of the Programme.

7. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are the nominated EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators, having one of the following legal statuses:

- Local, regional, national public body/ body governed by public law (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

were designated by the European Commission (EC) in February 2011. The aim of this element of the priority is to provide a stable source of funding for the Priority axis in the long run. The programme focuses on providing tools to PACs to fulfil their coordinating role more effectively"

- International organisation
- Private body (including private enterprises registered in a EU Member State of the programme area)

8. Partnership requirements

The Programme covers 14 countries, 9 of them EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany: Baden Württemberg and Bavaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and 5 non-member states (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and parts of Ukraine). As a general rule, EU financing is only provided to project partners located in the Programme Area.

Each project has to involve at least **two financing partners from two different countries** of the programme area. Out of these financing partners, Project Partner 1 has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the Programme area.

9. Programme Language

The official language of the programme is English. Therefore, all communication between applicants and the MA/JS is carried out in English. Information in the Application Form as well as official correspondence must be communicated accordingly.

10. Relevant documents

The official programme documents for the 1st EUSDR PAC Call for Proposals:

- Danube Cooperation Programme
- PACs Applicants Manual
- PAC Application Form (and related declarations)
- Guidelines for the PAC Application Form
- Partnership Agreement template
- Subsidy Contract template

The Application Package and all relevant information about the programme are available on the programme website: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu>.

In case of questions, please contact Johannes Gabriel (johannes.gabriel@interreg-danube.eu; +36 1 795 5886), Project Officer in charge of SO4.2 of the DTP.