

# CITIZENS' SUMMARY



## 2021 Annual Implementation Report

### **This is a summary of the main activities of the Danube Transnational Programme in 2021.**

The Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is a financing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg. ETC is one of the goals of the European Union cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from 14 Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bayern), Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and Ukraine (Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast, Odessa Oblast), together composed of 69 regions.

The implementation of Danube Transnational Programme is supported by the European Union with an allocation of EUR 231,924,597.00, complemented by the national contributions of the countries participating in the programme.

# 2021

**In 2021, the Danube Transnational Programme met with a double challenge:**

Proceeding with the Danube Transnational Programme – regular programme and project implementation tasks and evaluation and capitalization of the results.

Preparing the Danube Region Programme (DRP) – preparation of the first call for project proposals of the new programme.

## Audit

The audits on operations were carried out in 2021. Altogether 42 project partners in 43 projects have been selected for audit. In the audited period 13 irregularities were revealed regarding 8 beneficiaries with the total amount of €6,604.24.

## Danube Region Programme

Programming of the new Danube Region Programme (DRP) has been going on full speed with 5 Task Force meetings organised during the year. In the 10th meeting (December 2021), the Task Force approved:

- Interreg Programme (IP) document;
- use of Interreg Funds option in the DRP, giving the opportunity for equal participation in the programme of EU and non-EU countries;
- budget of the programme and its distribution among programme objectives;
- new name: Danube Region Programme.

## Impact Evaluation

The programme impact evaluation started in 2021 and the contractor, KPMG, submitted the final evaluation report incorporating the DTP partner states comments by December 2021.

## EUSDR

In parallel with the development of the DRP IP, the MA/ JS worked closely with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) bodies to develop the framework for the future financing of the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) and the Danube Strategy Point. Based on the inputs the MA/ JS developed the Applicants Manual for the future calls. The Slovak EUSDR Presidency & the Annual Forum were successfully implemented in 2021 as well.

## Technical Assistance

Technical assistance agreement with Moldova was signed in mid-2021, including provisions on advance payment. The technical agreement with Ukraine was under final checks by the Ukrainian national authority in 2021, however the current war situation postponed further steps for an unpredictable period.

## Project Implementation

In January 2021 the MA/ JS launched the written procedure for approval of the 2nd call projects extension with one year until December 2022. The third call projects submitted their first reports in 2021 and the first year review for all the 35 projects was also conducted.