



Danube Region Programme

Restricted call announcement for the support to the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators and Danube Strategy Point

July 2022

1. Introduction

According to the implementation framework of the Specific Objective 4.1, the Danube Region Programme is launching the **call for the financial support of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators (EUSDR PACs) and Danube Strategy Point (DSP)**.

The Programme offers financial support to transnational projects contributing to the development of a more innovative, more social and sustainable Danube Region. The programme has been designed under the territorial cooperation goal of the European Union. The uniqueness of the programme consists of offering a platform for cooperation in strategic areas between EU Member States and non-EU countries in the Danube region.

The EUSDR PACs and DSP Calls of the Danube Region Programme are organised according to a one-step procedure.

Only applicants nominated by the EUSDR governance bodies (see Chapter 9 for the list of nominated institutions) are invited to submit electronically, through the programme monitoring system JEMS, an Application Form (AF), outlining the intervention logic, the partnership, the budget structure and the strategic relevance of the proposal for the EUSDR and the DRP.

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

2. Objectives and priorities

Danube Region Programme support to the EUSDR shall contribute to ensuring continuity, stabilization and further evolvement of the EUSDR governance in view of successful implementation of the EUSDR Action Plan. A support scheme for EUSDR PAs



shall strengthen the internal governance of PAs and enable the effective functioning of PA Steering Groups under active involvement of non-EU partner states. It shall, furthermore, pave the way for a more strategic and comprehensive approach with regard to horizontal coordination among PAs, other EUSDR key-stakeholders, other macro-regional strategies and relevant Managing Authorities of funding programmes (“embedding”).

Danube Strategy Point is in charge of facilitating and coordinating the activities of EUSDR bodies and main actors and for carrying out horizontal EUSDR-level tasks in relation to EUSDR evaluation, monitoring, capacity building for specific target groups and communication, including support to the organization of EUSDR Annual Fora.

The DRP offers its financial support in achieving the above mentioned objectives, in line with the provisions of its Specific Objective 4.1.

3. Funds allocated for the Call and co-financing

The programme will allocate for this Call the following funds:

Call	Maximum budget EU contribution (Interreg funds)	Maximum budget total
PAC (maximum/ PA/ 6 years)	600 000,00	750 000,00
Total budget PAC support (all PA)	7 200 000,00	9 000 000,00
DSP (maximum/ 6 years)	4 400 000,00	5 500 000,00
EUSDR Annual forum (to be included in the DSP budget)	1 128 000,00	1 410 000,00
Total DSP budget	5 528 000,00	6 910 000,00



The maximum EU contribution to the projects is 80%.

4. Eligibility of expenditure

The following cost categories are eligible for PAC and DSP support:

1. Staff costs
2. Office and administration
3. Travel and accommodation
4. External expertise and services
5. Equipment

The method for reimbursement for all the cost categories above is real costs, except for Office and administration where the method for reimbursement is 15% flat rate

5. Timeframe

The call is open from the 5th July 2022 till the 23rd September 2022.

The Application Form has to be submitted through the programme monitoring system JEMS by **14:00 CET of the 23rd September 2022**. An earlier submission is recommended.

6. Duration of projects

The duration of projects must not exceed **6 years (72 months)**. This limit applies for the operational phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase. The starting date of the projects is 1st January 2023.

7. LP principle

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

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 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 project partners from two different countries** of the Programme area: the Lead Partner and at least another project partner. At least one project partner has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the Programme area.

Only organisations nominated by the EUSDR governance bodies are eligible to apply for the current call.

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 EUSDR PAC and DSP Call for Proposals:

- DRP Interreg Programme
- Applicants Manual for PACs and DSP
- Annex – Eligibility of project expenditure
- Annexed declarations to the Application Form
- Guidelines for the PAC and DSP Application Form (which include the technical guidelines for Jems)
- 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), Senior Project Officer in charge of SO4.1 of the DRP.