Interreg Programme
Danube Region

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PAC / DSP Call for Proposal 2021 - 2027

5th July 2022

online

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Agenda

09:30 – 09:45	**Introduction and timeframe of the PAC Call**
09:45 – 10:30	General rules (budget allocation, partner's and partnership requirements)
10:30 – 11:30	Content framework and intervention logic: explanation, structure
11:30– 12:15	Assessment questions: how the AF is assessed
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:15 – 14:00	Financial management of the project (budget planning) and eligibility of expenditure
14:00 – 15:00	Application Form: how to fill in the AF
15:00 – 15:30	Implementation core rules
15:30 – 16:00	Wrap-up and closure

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Introduction

General framework

- One CfP (technically, timely) for both PAC and DSP
- One set of rules and documents for both project types (with certain individual adjustments)
- No change in general approach compared to DTP PAC I/II or DSP I CfP, but …
- It is a new CfP (different timeframe, revised content-elements / intervention logic, different electronic monitoring system …)

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Introduction

Timeline

- 6 years project duration (starting 1st January 2023)
- Launch and LA seminar 5th of July
- Opening of JEMS: 5th July 2022
- Deadline for submission in JEMS: 23rd September 2022, 14.00 CET
- Approval with conditions expected for November
- Conditions clearing: November/December 2022
- Contracting: January/February 2023

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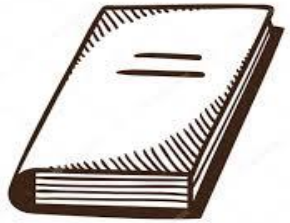
Introduction

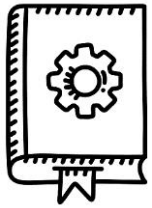
Documents

DRP INTERREG Programme (IP)

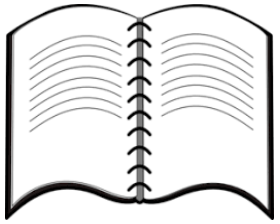


PAC/DSP Applicants Manual

Eligibility Expenditure Manual

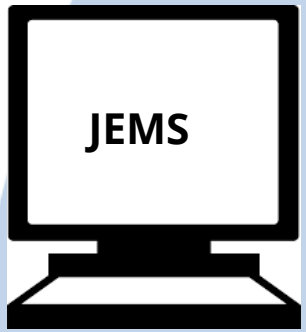


Annexes
Compulsory documents



Annex
Intervention logic
PAC/DSP

Guidelines for filling the AF



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Introduction

Compulsory documents

PAC/DSP Applicants Manual

Annexes
Compulsory documents

- ASP declaration (if relevant)
- Declaration for International Organizations (if relevant)
- **Declaration of Co-financing**
- **LP confirmation and signature**
- **State-Aid declaration**
- **Partnership Agreement**

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General Rules

Budget Allocation

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

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General Rules

Budget Allocation

- Allocation among PPs depending on concrete role and tasks of individual PPs in the project
- Balanced allocation among PPs expected in the sense that no single PPs shall dominate the partnership
- General eligibility of expenditure ruled in a separate DRP Eligibility Manual (valid for all CfPs)

- INTERREG funds (combining ERDF, IPA and NDICI)
- 20% co-financing rate

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General Rules

Partnership requirements

- Minimum 2 PPs from 2 countries
- Minimum 1 PP from a EU-member country
- LP can come from a EU or non-EU-member country
- LP cannot be a private enterprise
- LP-principle applies …
- MD and UA PPs eligible
- ASPs can be added

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General Rules

Eligibility of Partners

- See AM pp. 15

- RESTRICTED CfP: only PPs formally endorsed through the “List of PAC /DSP” can apply!

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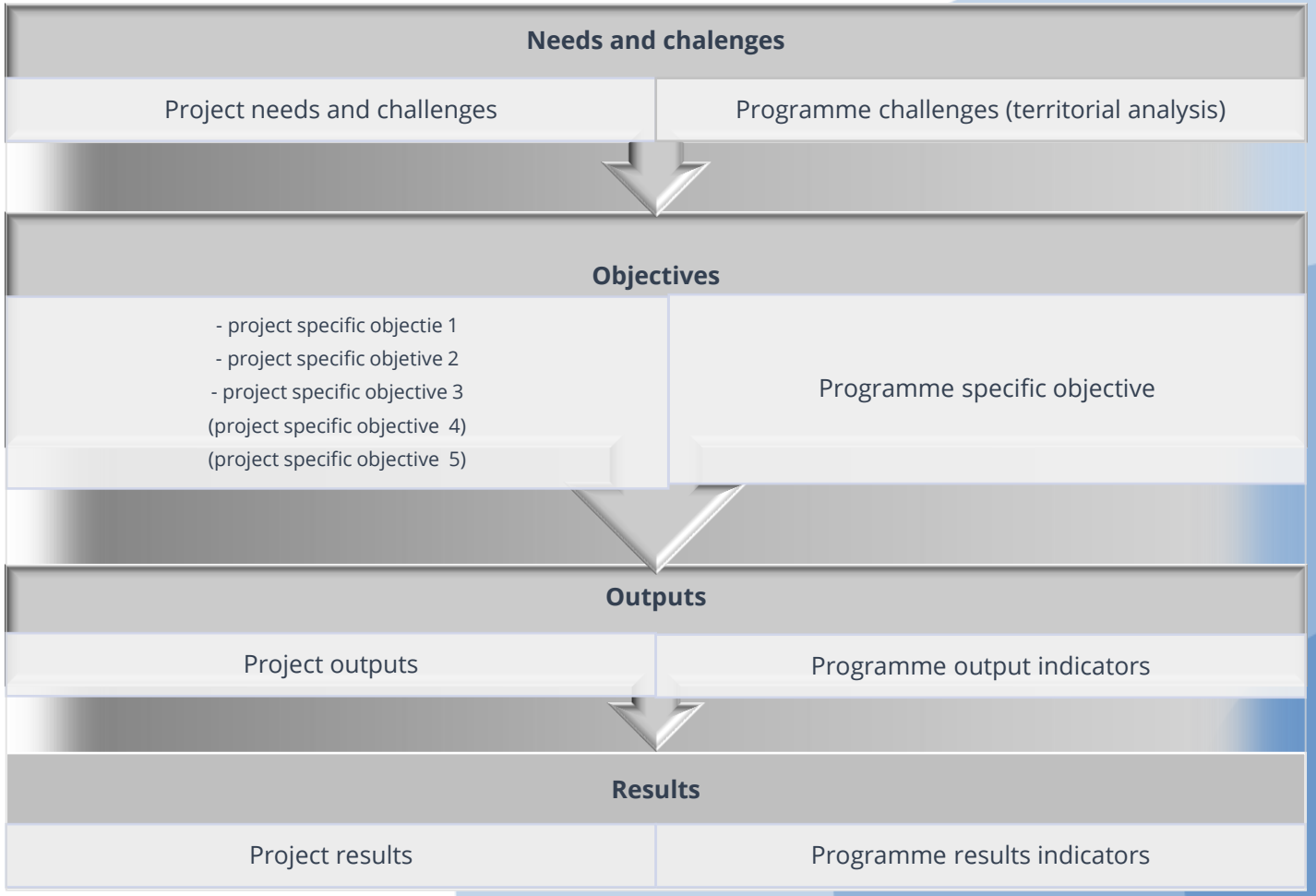
Content Framework

Intervention Logic

➢Intervention Logic is a INTERREG-wide used methodology derived from EC regulations and HIT

➢The coherence of the project intervention logic (projects specific objectives, activities, outputs and results) with the programme intervention logic (specific objectives, output indicators and results indicators) is a pre-condition for a project to be funded under DRP. Projects not showing a clear link to a programme specific objective and/or not contributing to the respective programme results will not be funded in the programme's framework.



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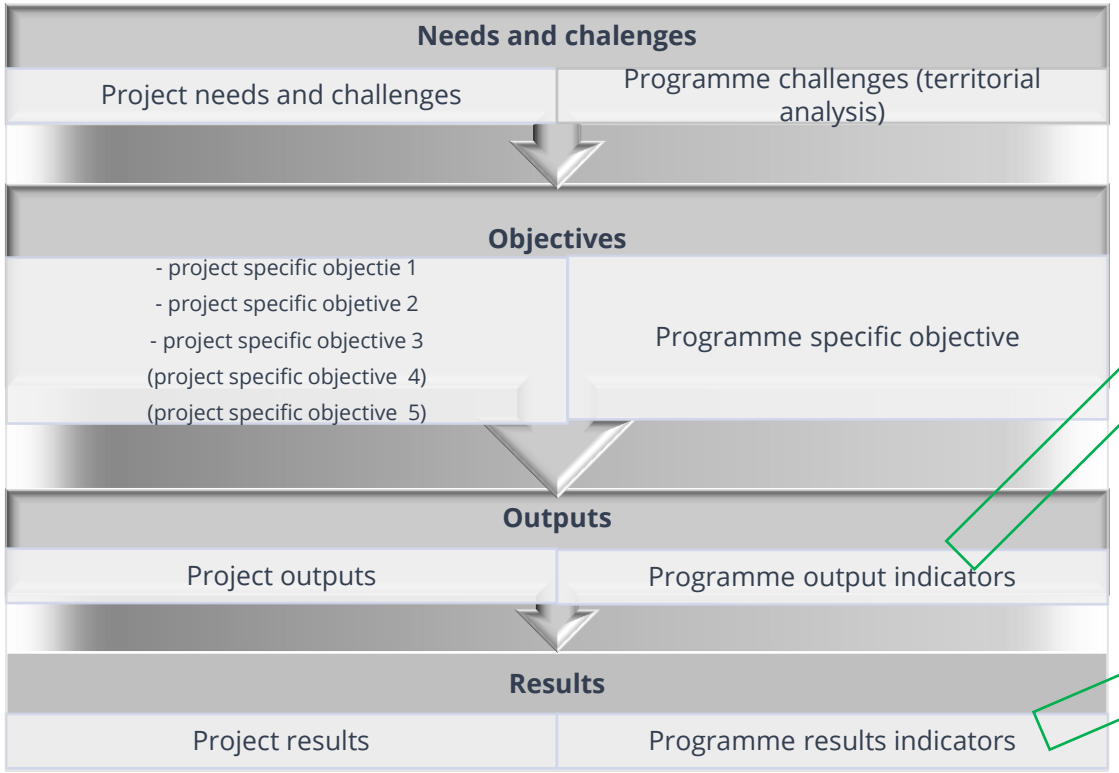
Content Framework

Intervention Logic



- RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
- RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions
- RCO 118 Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies

- RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
- RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic PAC/DSP

- All main strategic/content-related elements developed jointly by DRP-EUSDR
  - Project Specific Objectives
  - Activities
  - Outputs
  - Deliverables
  - Horizontal elements
- Main strategic/content-related elements described in

  A) Applicants manual pp. 30
  B) Annex to Guidelines for AF

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic PAC

- "Menu" of 5 Specific Project Objectives (SPO)
- SPO1 must be addressed by all applications
- Minimum 3 SPO must be addressed
- Modular concept: IF a certain SPO is addressed THEN also related mandatory activities, outputs and deliverables must be addressed
- Applicants are free to add activities, outputs or deliverables as long as they are in line with the related SPO (which cannot be altered) and contribute to programme output and result indicators

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic PAC

- No more work packages but activities (outputs, deliverables) directly relate to one SPO
- Management / communication approached as horizontal tasks for achieving SPOs
- Horizontal elements:
  - Better involvement of non-EU member countries (all PAs)
  - Encouragement and better inclusion of youth into the implementation of the EUSDR action plan (relevant PAs)

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Content Framework

Intervention Logic PAC

Specific Objective **Mandatory*** Optional	Activity **Mandatory** Optional	Output **Mandatory** Optional	Deliverable **Mandatory** Optional
1. To coordinate Steering Groups and to develop activities for a better involvement of the Steering Group Members in the Priority Areas' activities for implementing the EUSDR Action Plan; providing coordinated support to EUSDR monitoring and evaluation.	**Planning, organization and implementation of SG meetings and work with SG members through sharing of information, consultation, coordination and other communication with the SGs.**		**Documentation of implemented SG meetings**
	Planning and implementing evidence-based measures for the further development of the PA.		Action plan for strengthening SG capacities and performance
2. To facilitate the embedding of the EUSDR into EU-funded programmes	**Exchange and cooperation of PAs (PACs and SGs) with Cohesion Policy Programmes/IPA/NDICI Programme Authorities in fields of interest to the PA.** **Exploiting the funding opportunities of the EC centrally managed programmes. Cooperation with MA networks and general coordinating with other institutions engaged in the embedding process.**		**Documentation of embedding activities**

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Content Framework

Intervention Logic PAC

3. To support policy development and policy initiatives as well as usage of cutting-edge knowledge (EU/ international, as appropriate).	**Developing and preparing thematic policy initiatives, studies or recommendations and activities on the policy level and promoting policy exchange, mutual learning and knowledge sharing.**	**Policy documents (studies, recommendations, handbooks, guidelines etc.)[1]**	**Policy documents (studies, recommendations, handbooks, guidelines etc.)[2]**
		Implemented further policy initiatives and tools (large-scale policy-focused conferences, policy-networks, platforms for policy exchange etc.)[3]	Implemented further policy initiatives and tools (large-scale policy-focused conferences, policy-networks, platforms for policy exchange etc.)[4]
4. To enhance coordination between core PA stakeholders and to encourage their involvement in the implementation and updating of the EUSDR	**Coordination actions among EUSDR PAs, further relevant EUSDR bodies/actors with focus on the involvement of youth (where relevant) and contributing to the main EUSDR developments and initiatives.** **Coordination actions between EUSDR PAs and EU institutions as well as other macro-regional, EU-level or international key-actors.** **Improving the coordination between EUSDR PAs and further stakeholders .**		
		Solutions for strengthening the capacities and performance of PA working groups[5]	Stakeholder cooperation schemes and networks Implemented high level visibility measures (ministerial, macro-regional, EU- or international level)

Output in case a solution has been tested during the project

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Content Framework

Intervention Logic PAC

5. To facilitate on-going projects and development of future projects for the Priority Area, specifically project generation, partner search and identification of funding opportunities for the Priority Area stakeholders.	**Supporting project development as well as capitalisation and networking of ongoing macro-regional projects.**		**Projects supported (development and/ or implementation)**

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic DSP

- Set of 4 mandatory SPOs
- All pre-defined elements (SPOs, activities, outputs and deliverables) are mandatory
- Applicants are free to add activities, outputs or deliverables as long as they are in line with the related SPO (which cannot be altered) and contribute to programme output and result indicators

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic DSP

- No more work packages but activities (outputs, deliverables) directly relate to one SPO
- Management approached as horizontal task for achieving SPOs
- Horizontal elements
  - Better involvement of non-EU member countries

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic DSP

Specific Objective	Activity	Output	Deliverable
1. To provide support to the EUSDR core-governance and core-stakeholders in the implementation of the EUSDR; supporting the internal and external communication aiming for an increased visibility of the EUSDR in the macro-region and beyond.	Providing support for decision making of EUSDR bodies relating to the core-governance and -management of the EUSDR and the implementation of the EUSDR Action Plan. Providing support to the respective EUSDR Presidency for planning and implementing the Annual Forum. Increasing the visibility of the EUSDR and ensuring smooth internal as well as external communication based on the existing communication strategy; evaluation and further development of the existing communication strategy.		Updated EUSDR Communication Strategy Implemented Annual Forum Documentation of implemented NC meetings, PAC-meetings, NC-PAC meetings, or other main events in relation to the EUSDR core-governance
2. To strengthen the internal and external horizontal coordination of the EUSDR on cross-cutting issues between Priority Areas and National Coordinators as well as on the embedding of the EUSDR into EU-funded programmes.	Providing support for NCs and PACs with respect to EUSDR-internal horizontal coordination measures. Facilitating a stronger involvement of EUSDR core-stakeholders (including relevant EU-institutions or bodies) into PA and Steering Group activities Building stronger ties, facilitating exchange and promote closer cooperation and exchange between the EUSDR and further relevant stakeholders (regional, national and international alike) and encouraging the exchange of experiences with other relevant programmes, as well as with other macro regional strategies. Facilitating close contact with the Managing Authorities of the ESIF instruments and other European Funding		Interim and final report/analysis on embedding

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Content Framework

Project Intervention Logic DSP

3. To further develop and implement a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the EUSDR as basis for evidence-based decision making and for visualizing the added-value of the EUSDR. To coordinate EUSDR reporting.	Further developing and implementing an EUSDR monitoring, evaluation and data collection system in close cooperation with the NCs, PACs, European Commission and appropriate experts Supporting the revision of EUSDR core-documents, EUSDR core-decision making processes and EUSDR reporting (other than PAC reporting to the DTP) based on evidence gained through monitoring and evaluation.		Updated Monitoring and Evaluation framework and related documents EUSDR evaluation report Revised decision-making process and internal procedures Templates for EUSDR core-documents EUSDR reporting template
4. To develop and support measures aiming to improve stakeholder involvement in EUSDR Action Plan implementation and / or revision	Providing a platform for multilevel exchange to bring together thematic, funding, national, regional and EU and other relevant stakeholders in accordance and cooperation with EUSDR Priority areas. Planning and implementing capacity building measures		Updated Framework for strategic EUSDR projects Capacity building framework

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Assessment

Assessment procedure - eligibility

- 13 yes/no “knock-out” criteria
- Non-fulfillment leads to rejection of a PP or the entire proposal
- “Healing period” of 5 days in case of findings

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Assessment

Assessment procedure - eligibility

- Non-fulfillment of criteria 1-10 can lead to the rejection of the proposal

No.	Eligibility criteria	Description
1	The AF has been submitted within the set deadline (date and time)	The AF has been submitted within the date and time set in the call announcement.
2	The AF including LP confirmation have been submitted through the programme monitoring system	The AF and the signed LP confirmation have been submitted through the official programme monitoring system.
3	The AF is compiled in English	All parts of the AF are compiled in English, the official language of the DRP.
4	The amount requested by the individual project is in line with the call provisions	The total EU funding request by each PAC project or DSP project is in line with the maximum defined in the call for proposals
5	Partnership is composed by at least two financing partners from at least two DRP participating countries. At least one partner shall be a beneficiary from a Member States	Partnership complies with the minimum requirement for a transnational DRP partnership: at least two financing partners (receiving Interreg funds co-financing) from at least two DRP participating countries. At least one partner shall be a beneficiary from a Member State of the programme area.
6	Lead Applicant is an eligible beneficiary	The Lead Applicant fulfils the requirement set in Section II. of the Applicants Manual.
7	At least 3 joint cooperation levels are indicated	According to Art 23(4) of EU reg. 2021/1059, among the four levels of cooperation (joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing) beneficiaries shall cooperate in the development and implementation of projects as well as in the staffing or financing of projects, or both thereof.
8	Completeness of Partnership Agreement	The Partnership Agreement is complete and signed by all directly financed partners.

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Assessment

Assessment procedure - eligibility

- Please mind that the correct/complete selection of mandatory elements is subject of the eligibility check and can lead to the rejection of an proposal

9	The proposal has selected the mandatory programme output indicator *RCO 118 – Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies* and the corresponding result indicator *RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion*	Each EUSDR support project has to contribute to the output indicator RCO118 - *Organisations cooperating for the multi-level governance of macro-regional strategies* and the corresponding result indicator *RCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion*
10	The proposal is addressing all mandatory project objectives and related mandatory activities as well as related mandatory outputs/deliverables	The proposal addresses all elements (specific project objectives, activities, outputs/deliverables) defined as mandatory in section II. of the Applicants Manual. In order not miss one of the manadory elements when setting up the project structure a easy-to-use overview over the intervention logic is provided as Annex 2 of the Applicants Manual.

Assessment

Assessment procedure - eligibility

- Non-fulfillment of criteria 11-13 lead to the rejection of a PP (which can cause the rejection of the entire proposal)

No	Eligibility criteria	Description
11	Financed partners are eligible	The financed partner fulfils the requirements set in Section II.1 (General rules for the eligibility of project partners) and Annex 1 of the Applicants Manual.
12	Completeness of submitted partner documents	The documents (Declaration of co-financing, State Aid declaration, Declaration for International organisations) are filled in and signed by the partner.
13	Completeness of submitted ASP documents	The document (ASP declaration) is filled in and signed by the ASP.

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Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality

- Assessment along quality related criteria ranked 0 - 5
- Project proposals have to receive a minimum 60% to be recommended by the JS for selection. Proposals might be selected for approval with or without conditions (to be fulfilled within the deadline set by the DRP MA/JS)
- Project proposals scoring less than 60% will be recommended by the DRP MA/JS for re-submission

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (PAC)

Assessment Criteria PAC			
Assessment main questions	**Guiding questions**	**Points**	**What is being assessed**
Are the challenges of the PA well identified, described, addressed and in line with the scope of the Call?	To what extent are the challenges of the PA identified and described? Are they connected to the scope of the Call for Proposals?	Max 5 points	The assessors shall check if the needs/ challenges of the PA – both regarding policies in the field concerned as well as governance of the PA - are clearly and comprehensively described and if they are linked with the scope of the Call for Proposals.
	To what extent is the proposal addressing the identified challenges?		The assessors shall check if, or to what extent, the activities described in the work plan are responding to the identified needs/ challenges.
Is the proposal clearly contributing to the EU Strategy for Danube	To what extent are activities clearly targeted at improving the functioning of the PA and in line with the EUSDR Action Plan?	Max 5 points	The assessors shall check if the activities are appropriately related to the coordination of the PA and are in line with the EUSDR Action Plan.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (PAC)

Region?	To what extent is the durability of the project outputs clearly ensured?		The assessor shall check if concrete, specific and logic provisions supporting the durability (from an institutional, financial and political point of view) of project outputs and main result are provided.
	To what extent does the project prove to make a positive contribution to the programme's horizontal principles?		The description of the project contribution to the horizontal principles is coherent with the overall territorial needs and with the programme and project objectives. The LA should outline how the project is bringing a contribution to the horizontal principles and how this is translated at the level of the work plan. In case of negative effects, the steps to overcome such negative effects should be realistic and time bound.
	Is the proposal involving relevant target groups?		The assessors shall check if all relevant target groups are identified and listed in a coherent manner.
Is the intervention logic coherent?	To what extent is the project intervention logic coherent with the programme's one?	Max 5 points	The project's intervention logic should mirror the programme's one in terms of links between the project's objectives, results and outputs/ deliverables to the programme's ones in a clear and coherent way. Furthermore it shall offer the possibility to assess the extent of the project's contribution to the achievement of the specific objective and results of the relevant priority. The more inconsistencies there are between the programme and the project intervention logic, the lower the score should be.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (PAC)

	To what extent is the project intervention logic coherent and well defined in terms of: ➢ definition of the objectives, expected results and outputs/ deliverables ➢ link between the objectives, expected results and outputs ➢ link between the needs of the target groups and the proposed outputs and results		First the assessors should check if the elements of the intervention logic are well defined and explained (Specific Objectives, activities, outputs/ deliverables, results). The project's intervention logic should follow a cause – effect relation: IF right activities are implemented and appropriate outputs/ deliverables are delivered, THEN the planned objectives are reached and the envisaged results are achieved. The assessor shall check the coherency and comprehensiveness of the description of activities and their added value compared to past similar initiatives. Please, consider whether the activities described are in line with the type of involved partners (and their overall competences) and if the sequence of the activities are logical: the more incoherencies are detected the lower the score will be (please list the incoherencies). The assessors shall check if the proposed outputs/ deliverables and result are in line with the needs of the target group and if they are useful.
	To what extent the envisaged activities can realistically reach the planned outputs/ deliverables and results?		Please consider if the proposed outputs/ deliverables and results are achievable within the project's lifetime and by implementing the proposed activities and if they are realistically and correctly quantified.
	Is the proposed work plan realistic?		The assessors shall check if the structure of the work plan is clear and if there are logical correlations between the activities and the role of the PPs. Furthermore the assessors shall check if the planning of activities is detailed for the first two years and if it offers a clear overview on the main activities and outputs to be developed by the end of the project.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (PAC)

Do the partners have clear and balanced roles in the partnership?	Is the role of the partners clearly described?	Max 5 points	The assessors shall evaluate if the roles of the PPs are described in a coherent and clear way.
	Is the partners' involvement in the project balanced?		The assessors shall evaluate if the distribution of tasks among the partners is equitable and if their involvement corresponds to their thematic competence and it contributes to the achievement of the project objectives.
Is the project budget coherent and realistic?	Is the budget realistic compared to the proposed activities?	Max 5 points	The assessors shall evaluate the overall value of the proposal. The general quality, structure and soundness shall be analysed against the requested Interreg funds budget. The assessors shall evaluate the appropriateness of the allocated budget/ activity/ period/ cost category considering the planned actions, duration and involved partners.
	Is the budget appropriately distributed between the PPs?		Generally, the LP has more responsibility as it is responsible for the general management of the project and this might generate higher budget compared to the other PP(s). Role of the LP should be checked in the description of the project management structure. Role of the partners in each activity should be checked against allocated budget.
Total		Ma x 25 points	

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Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (DSP)

Assessment Criteria DSP			
Assessment main questions	**Guiding questions**	**Points**	**What is being assessed**
Are the challenges of the DSP well identified, described, addressed and in line with the scope of the Call?	To what extent are the challenges with regard to supporting the governance of the EUSDR identified and described? Are they connected to the scope of the Call for Proposals?	Max 5 points	The assessors shall check if the needs/ challenges of the DSP with regard to supporting the governance of the EUSDR and it's main actors are clearly and comprehensively described and if they are linked with the scope of the Call for Proposals.
	To what extent is the proposal addressing the identified challenges?		The assessors shall check if, or to what extent, the activities described in the work plan are responding to the identified needs/ challenges.
Is the proposal clearly contributing to the EU Strategy for Danube	To what extent are activities clearly targeted at improving the functioning of the EUSDR.	Max 5 points	The assessors shall check if the activities are appropriately related to supporting the governance of the EUSDR and it's main actors.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (DSP)

Region?	To what extent does the proposal take into consideration the capitalisation of outputs/ deliverables and results of the previous DSP project(s) (i.e. what outputs and results will be used and how they will be integrated in the day-to-day work)?		The assessor will check if the applicant explained which and how the existing knowledge/ outputs/ results of the previous DSP project are exploited and for which purposes.
	To what extent is the durability of the project outputs/ deliverables clearly ensured?		The assessor shall check if concrete, specific and logic provisions supporting the durability (from an institutional, financial and political point of view) of project outputs and main result are provided.
	To what extent does the project prove to make a positive contribution to the programme's horizontal principles?		The description of the project contribution to the horizontal principles is coherent with the overall territorial needs and with the programme and project objectives. The LA should outline how the project is bringing a contribution to the horizontal principles and how this is translated at the level of the work plan. In case of negative effects, the steps to overcome such negative effects should be realistic and time bound.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (DSP)

	Is the proposal involving relevant target groups?		The assessors shall check if all relevant target groups are identified and listed in a coherent manner.
Is the intervention logic coherent?	To what extent is the project intervention logic coherent with the programme's one?	Max 5 points	The project's intervention logic should mirror the programme's one in terms of links between the project's objectives, results and outputs/ deliverables to the programme's ones in a clear and coherent way. Furthermore it shall offer the possibility to assess the extent of the project's contribution to the achievement of the specific objective and results of the relevant priority. The more inconsistencies there are between the programme and the project intervention logic, the lower the score should be.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (DSP)

	To what extent is the project intervention logic coherent and well defined in terms of: ➢ definition of the objectives, expected results and outputs/ deliverables ➢ link between the objectives, expected results and outputs/ deliverables ➢ link between the needs of the target groups and the proposed outputs and results		First the assessors should check if the elements of the intervention logic are well defined and explained (Specific Objectives, activities, outputs, results). The project's intervention logic should follow a cause –effect relation: IF right activities are implemented and appropriate outputs are delivered, THEN the planned objectives are reached and the envisaged results are achieved. The assessor shall check the coherency and comprehensiveness of the description of activities and their added value compared to past similar initiatives. Please, consider whether the activities described are in line with the type of involved partners (and their overall competences) and if the sequence of the activities are logical: the more incoherencies are detected the lower the score will be (please list the incoherencies). The assessors shall check if the proposed outputs and result are in line with the needs of the target group and if they are useful.
	To what extent the envisaged activities can realistically reach the planned outputs and results?		Please consider if the proposed outputs and results are achievable within the project's lifetime and by implementing the proposed activities and if they are realistically and correctly quantified.
	Is the proposed work plan realistic?		The assessors shall check if the structure of the work plan is clear and if there are logical correlations between the activities and the role of the PPs. Furthermore the assessors shall check if the planning of activities is detailed for the first two years and if it offers a clear overview on the main activities and outputs to be developed by the end of the project.

Assessment

Assessment procedure – quality (DSP)

	To what extent is the project intervention logic coherent and well defined in terms of: ➢ definition of the objectives, expected results and outputs/ deliverables ➢ link between the objectives, expected results and outputs/ deliverables ➢ link between the needs of the target groups and the proposed outputs and results		First the assessors should check if the elements of the intervention logic are well defined and explained (Specific Objectives, activities, outputs, results). The project's intervention logic should follow a cause –effect relation: IF right activities are implemented and appropriate outputs are delivered, THEN the planned objectives are reached and the envisaged results are achieved. The assessor shall check the coherency and comprehensiveness of the description of activities and their added value compared to past similar initiatives. Please, consider whether the activities described are in line with the type of involved partners (and their overall competences) and if the sequence of the activities are logical: the more incoherencies are detected the lower the score will be (please list the incoherencies). The assessors shall check if the proposed outputs and result are in line with the needs of the target group and if they are useful.
	To what extent the envisaged activities can realistically reach the planned outputs and results?		Please consider if the proposed outputs and results are achievable within the project's lifetime and by implementing the proposed activities and if they are realistically and correctly quantified.
	Is the proposed work plan realistic?		The assessors shall check if the structure of the work plan is clear and if there are logical correlations between the activities and the role of the PPs. Furthermore the assessors shall check if the planning of activities is detailed for the first two years and if it offers a clear overview on the main activities and outputs to be developed by the end of the project.

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Implementation Framework

- 6 years project duration
- 6-monthly reporting periods
- Original application has to comprise a 6-year workplan with detailed descriptions covering AT LEAST the 1st 2 years and ongoing regular tasks
- 2-year review for adjusting/amending content and budget of projects
- Organization of Annual Fora a like before, but unspent budget will be deducted after each AF by default