

Interreg Programme

Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

Danube Region Programme Seed Money Facility 2023





General Scope

- Tool for kick-starting development of strategic projects and large-scale initiatives for the EUSDR - to be later on can be financed by any other financing instrument
- All SMF projects have to be clearly in line with the EUSDR Action Plan
- All SMF projects have to be clearly address at least one EUSDR Priority Area (PA)
- Overall available budget: 3,600,000.00 euro Interreg Funds
- Maximum budget per PA: 300,000.00 euro Interreg Funds
- Co-financing rate: 20%
- Key documents: Call Announcement, SMF Programme Manual



Timeframe

- The call is open from the **27 November 2023 until the 29 March 2024**
- One-step procedure: applicants have to submit an application package including a fully developed Application Form (AF).
- The AF has to be submitted to the joint secretariat through Jems by **29 March 2024, 14:00 Central European Time (CET)**.
- Max. duration of projects: **12 months** (1 reporting period, one report)
- Estimated starting date of projects: May 2025.



Project Structure

COMPULSORY OUTPUTS





Project Structure

Report on the state of the play (needs analysis)

- Overview of past and current activities in the field and of complementary projects that were/are implemented; Description of the existing gaps

Main Project work plan

- A work plan, describing activities, outputs and expected results of the main project;
- The composition of the potential project partnership;
- An indicative budget plan for the main project.

Report on funding possibilities

- The analysis of funding sources for the main project;
- A road map defining steps to be taken after the seed money project is finalised.

Additional preparatory activities, e.g.

- community and stakeholders consultations
- participative planning
- socio-economic studies



Eligible Partners

- Local, regional, national public bodies
- Bodies governed by public law
- International Organizations
- Private bodies

All PPs must have legal personality and have to comply with further eligibility criteria

Eligibility of PPs to be confirmed by DRP National Contact Points (NCP)

In case of doubt (esp. IOs and private bodies) please contact your NCP pro-actively



Eligible Partners

Directly financed PPs have to come from the eligible Programme area:

- All DRP countries, except DE
- DE: only PPs from Bayern or Baden-Wuerttemberg eligible OR PPs which are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area and carry out activities which are for the benefit of the regions in the programme area.

Associated Strategic Partners (ASP)

- EU countries
- Non-EU countries from the Programme Area





Partnership Requirements

- Partnerships have to be set up by min. 2 and max 5PPs from at least 2 different countries of the programme area, The LP and at least one more PP
- The LP can be either from EU-member country or a non-EU-member country
- PPs from Ukraine cannot be Lead Partners
- Profit-making private bodies cannot be Lead Partners (other private bodies can, but it is recommended to double check the eligibility with the respective NCP anyway, in a pro-active way)



Partnership Requirements

Type of partner		Location	Budget	Cost categories
Directly financed partners	Lead partner	13 countries of the programme area (<u>all except for UA</u>)	Separate	Staff costs, flat rate of up to 40% of eligible direct staff costs
	Project partner	14 countries of the programme area	Separate	Staff costs, flat rate of up to 40% of eligible direct staff costs
Indirectly financed partners	Associated strategic partners (ASPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EU countries ➤ Non-EU countries of the programme area 	Part of a "sponsoring" directly financed partner budget	Travel and accommodation



Eligible Expenditures

Project Budget	Project budget	Interreg Fund
Compulsory outputs	EUR 62,500	EUR 50,000
Cumpulsory + Optional outputs	EUR 125,000	EUR 100,000

Eligible costs / project budget:

- Staff costs **only!!!**

+

Flat rate 40% of the staff costs to cover other expenditures incurred



Eligible Expenditures

Staff costs:

- Gross salary + costs directly linked to salaries (employment taxes and social security including pensions, etc.)
- Full time assignment
- Part time assignment:

Eligible staff costs = Total monthly salary (gross salary) * Fixed percentage

Eligibility in time: incurred between the Start date and end date of the project

Paid between: Start date & End date + 60 days



Eligible Expenditures

Reimbursement of Interreg Funds

- only one reporting period of 1 year covering the entire project implementation period: from the Start date to the End date of the project
- Shorter project implementation and shorter reporting is possible
- Estimated reimbursement of the Interreg Funds approx. 5 months from the project end



Compulsory documentation

- Lead Partner Confirmation Sheet
- Partnership Agreement
- Statement of Co-financing
- Associated Strategic Partner Declaration (only if applicable)
- Declaration for International Organizations (only if applicable)



Assessment - Eligibility

Project affected

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 signed LP confirmation has been submitted in the Jems	The AF has been submitted through the programme electronic and monitoring system (Jems).
3	The AF is compiled in English	The AF is compiled in English, as the official language of the DRP.
4	Partnership is composed by minimum two and maximum five financing partners from at least two DRP participating countries of which at least one is located in an EU Member State	Partnership complies with the requirements for the partnership: minimum two and maximum five financing partners from at least two DRP participating countries of which at least one is located in an EU Member State
5	Lead Applicant is an eligible beneficiary	The Lead Applicant fulfils the requirement set in the Applicants Manual.
6	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.
7	Partnership Agreement	All partners have signed the Partnership Agreement.
8	The maximum budget of the seed money project is in line with the call provisions	In case the SMF project is only developing the mandatory outputs, the maximum EU contribution is EUR 50,000.00 euro. In case the SMF projects also implements other type of preparatory projects, the maximum EU contribution is 100,000.00 euro.

Partner affected

No	Eligibility criteria	Description
9	Financed partners are eligible	The financed partner fulfils the requirements set in, Section II.2.1 of the Programme manual.
10	Completeness of submitted partner documents	The documents (Lead Partner confirmation, Declaration of co-financing, State aid declaration, Declaration for international organisations) are filled in and signed by the partner.
11	Completeness of submitted ASP documents	The document (ASP declaration) is filled in and signed by the ASP.



Assessment

Assessment main questions	Guiding questions	Points
Relevance assessment		
Relevance of project topic to EUSDR action plan	To what extent is the theme of the project to be developed relevant to the EUSDR action plan and one or more Priority Areas?	5 points
	Within the thematic field concerned, to which extent the concrete challenges to be tackled are clearly described and relevant to the EUSDR action plan and one or more Priority Areas?	5 points
Total		10 points
Strategic assessment		



Assessment

Strategic assessment		
Transnational dimension and impact of the main project	To what extent has the estimated geographical scope of the main project been described?	5 points
	To what extent the macro-regional dimension and impact of the main project has been described?	5 points
Coherence of the seed money project work plan	Are the activities that will lead to the development of the pre-defined outputs clearly described and realistic? In case additional preparatory activities are proposed, are they clearly described and realistic?	5 points
	To what extent are the activities logically linked, described in detail (how, where, when and by whom they will be undertaken)?	5 points
Partnership composition	To what extent is the partnership suitable to implement the planned activities, mandatory and additional ones if applicable and able to deliver the pre-defined outputs?	5 points
	To what extent is the role of the partners clearly described and balanced?	5 points
Target group	To what extent is the target group of the seed money project clearly identified?	5 points
	To what extent are the target groups involved throughout the seed money project implementation?	5 points
Value for money	To what extent is the budget allocated to each output and additional activities justified and correctly quantified?	5 points
	To what extent is the budget allocated to the partners balanced and reflects partner responsibilities?	5 points
Total		50 points



Information and guidance

- EUSDR PAC / Steering Group: thematic guidance, ensuring fit of an project with EUSDR action plan and the preferences of a PA
- DRP MA/JS thematic project officer: technical (project structure, budget, Jems, ...) with thematic background
- DRP NCP: general guidance and eligibility questions
- DRP website (all relevant CfP documents)
- Info events run by DRP MA/JS (one more early 2024) and by EUSDR PAs



DRP contact for applicants

EUSDR PA	DRP PO
1a, 1b, 2	Horst Schindler
3	Natalia Liholot
4, 5, 6	Gusztav Csomor
7, 8	Katalin Kovacs-Kasza
9	Steven Halligan / Natalia Liholot
10, 11	Johannes Gabriel
<i>General</i>	<i>Johannes Gabriel</i>
<i>Financial</i>	<i>Arpad Kovacs</i>