

Danube Transnational Programme

Call announcement for the ENI Call for Proposals

January 2022

1. Introduction

The Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is launching the ENI **call for proposals for its specific objective 4.1**. Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges. 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 II (IPA II) (not available for the ENI Call) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

2. Objectives and priorities

DTP supports policy **integration in the Danube area** through projects addressing key challenges and opportunities of the region in specific fields of action, below the EU-level (not duplicating efforts in policy integration at the EU-level) and above the national level. Transnational projects should influence national, regional and local policies (policy driver).

All projects submitted for the ENI call have to aim at *building the capacity of Danube Region territories to work in a more integrated and participatory way through established partnership and networks, through exchange and learning as well as through the action planning, implementation and transfer processes. More specifically the ENI call aims at: support the enhanced cooperation of the ENI countries public administrations at national, regional and local levels; increase the institutional capacity of the ENI countries stakeholders to develop and implement transnational projects in the Danube Region in the thematic fields of the Danube Region Programme 2021-2027.*

3. Framework of the ENI Call

A. Intervention logic

The main elements of the intervention logic of the ENI Call are pre-set at programme level, according to the following definitions.

Main objective: ENI Call aims to build the capacity of Danube Region territories to work in a more integrated and participatory way through established partnership and networks, through exchange and learning as well as through the action planning, implementation and transfer processes.

Specific objectives of the Call for Proposals:

- Support the enhanced cooperation of public administrations at national, regional and local levels;
- Increase the institutional capacity of the ENI countries stakeholders to develop and implement transnational projects in the Danube Region in the thematic fields of the Danube Region Programme 2021-2027.

Result: should be defined by the applicants.

Projects should also define their **project outputs**¹ in order to contribute to the Programme specific output indicators that capture their work and effort.

Outputs tell what has actually been produced for the money given to the project. They should correspond to a Programme output indicator and directly contribute to the achievement of the project result.

Projects are expected to contribute to the output indicators listed below, but avoid selecting more than one indicator for the same output.

¹ **Projects outputs (non-exhaustive)**

- Awareness raising campaign(s); Studies;
- Action plans/Road maps (to enhance human resource management and development, policy framework (e.g., policies, laws and regulations): (1) organizational management (e.g., structure, staffing, financing, work process, facilities and equipment); (2) task networks (e.g., communication with other departments, stakeholders outside government);
- Capacity building actions (in the focus areas such as: (1) financial management; (2) economic planning; and (3) statistics, (4) organizational management etc.) (e.g. training programmes, conferences, workshops study visits etc.).

No.	Programme indicator	Output	Types of outputs to be recorded:
P07 (mandatory)	Number of documented learning interactions in finalised operations		The term “documented learning interactions” is defined as the process of acquiring/enhancing the PA’s knowledge and capacity for transnational cooperation through, capacity building, training, exchange of experience or any other type of learning processes.

Each project is expected to develop at least one learning interaction.

Besides the specific output indicator listed above, the projects under the Specific Objective 4.1. can contribute, if applicable, also to the Programme output indicators indicated below.

P26	Number of strategies for strengthening institutional capacities and transnational multilevel governance developed and/or implemented.
P27	Number of tools for strengthening institutional capacities and supporting transnational multilevel governance developed and/or implemented.
P28	Number of pilot actions for strengthening institutional capacities and supporting transnational multilevel governance developed and/or implemented.

B. Activities, work plan and work packages

It is expected that **one project** addresses **one single work package** (and the activities included therein) among the ones listed below meaning that there will be maximum **3 projects** financed **for Ukraine** and **3 for Moldova** (maximum 6 projects in total). In case projects addressing a specific work package do not reach the quality criteria of the Programme, then, the respective work package will not be addressed in the Call.

Besides the activities listed in the WP below, the Lead Applicants can add complementary activities provided that it is feasible to be implemented within the project timeframe and that contribute to the objectives of the selected WP. Besides the thematic work packages listed below, each project will have a mandatory management work package. In the WP management, the Lead Applicant shall provide a management plan that ensures the feasibility of full implementation of the proposed activities.

One project consists therefore in total of two work packages – the WP management [This WP must include also the mandatory communication requirements in line with Annex XII, section 2.2 of EC Regulation 1303/2013] and one thematic work package selected from the list above:

WP1 - Awareness raising and communication - Raising awareness on transnational cooperation and its benefits in the ENI countries.

- Organisation of thematic conferences on topics relevant for transnational cooperation as defined in the new Danube Region Programme 2021-2027². The projects should not be focused on a single thematic field but should address the topics above in an integrated manner;
- Create videos showcasing the success stories with territorial focus, illustrating the ENI countries' benefits when participating in Danube Region transnational cooperation projects. The videos in local languages with English subtitles will be used to raise awareness of existence of transnational cooperation funds as well as the added value for the relevant stakeholders;
- Develop and implement communication/PR campaigns (incl. social media campaigns, e.g. LinkedIn, etc.);
- Create sectoral networks of key stakeholders that can act as multipliers.

The partnership should ensure that the relevant stakeholders representing also the regional/local level are reached and should not focus merely on the national level.

WP2 – Set up policy dialogue in thematic fields which represent a major challenge for the region as defined in the Danube Region Programme 2021-2027. The projects should not be focused on a single thematic field but should address the topics above in an integrated manner.

Activities (non-exhaustive list):

- Scoping study on enabling policy environment; policy briefs as discussion basis for policy dialogues. Local/regional/national dialogues events on EU policies with intensified involvement of civic and local stakeholders, forums of ideas and solutions for the development of the capacity of the target Danube Regions to apply EU policies in major topics of the region. The project should serve not only for initiating policy dialogue but also to setting up its whole process and ensuring its durability. For example, each dialogue should have results in the form of jointly elaborated recommendations which are then further used in the policy process (concrete plan/ideas to be developed and ideally already implemented by the project) etc.

² *innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship, renewable energy, climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches, water management in the DRB; transnational ecological corridors, transboundary ecological regions, water habitats, wetlands along major transnational rivers; policy, planning and institutional capacity towards more accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets in the Danube Region and services in education, training and lifelong learning; culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation, governance*

The partnership should ensure that the relevant stakeholders representing also the regional/ local level are reached and should not focus merely on the national level.

WP3 – Capacity building for the Ukrainian and Moldovan national/ regional/ local public authorities. The scope is to increase the institutional capacity of the Ukrainian/ Moldovan stakeholders to develop and implement transnational projects dealing with major Danube Region challenges. The project activities must have a strong territorial focus.

- Capacity building survey of training needs in the regions;
- Design and delivery of training programmes/workshops for strengthening the participation of ENI stakeholders in transnational projects relevant for the Danube Region;
- Action plans\Institutional Capacity building road maps;
- Implementation of Action plans and road maps and/or on-site trainings;
- Twinning activities which bring together public sector expertise from EU Member States and ENI countries with the aim of achieving concrete mandatory operational results through peer to peer activities (e.g. experience exchange between FLC, auditors).

➤ **Project intervention logic glossary**

Term	Definition
Project objective main	Describes the strategic and long term change that the project seeks to achieve for the benefit of the target groups.
Project objective specific	Describes the specific and immediate effects of the project and it can be realistically achieved within the implementation period.
Project result	Constitutes the immediate advantage of carrying out the project, telling us about the benefit of using the project main outputs. It should indicate the change the project is aiming for.
Project output	It tells us what has actually been produced for the money given to the project. It can be captured by a programme output indicator, and directly contributes to the achievement of the project results.
Project package work	Represents a group of related project activities required to produce project main outputs.
Project activity	Describes specific task performed for which resources are used. It is a work package component which may or may not result in a deliverable or an output.
Project	Is a side-product or service of the project that contributes to the

deliverable	development of a project's main output(s).
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Programme intervention logic terminology is explained in the relevant EC regulations and guidance papers.

4. Funds allocated for the call and co-financing

The available ERDF budget is roughly € 1.4 mil. **For each project a** maximum of €230.000 ERDF funds in total can be claimed by the respective ERDF PPs.

The available ENI budget is: € 2.33 mil. for Moldova **and** € 2.48 mil. for Ukraine. **No maximum budget per project partner is set for the ENI PPs, but the budget has to be justified by the proposed activities within the project.**

The maximum EU contribution to the projects is 85% (for ERDF and ENI project partners). 15% of the proposed project budget is to be co-financed.

5. Timeframe

The call will be open from the **26 January 2022 to 10th March 2022.**

The Application Form has to be submitted to the Joint Secretariat through the programme monitoring system (eMS) **by 15:00 Central European Time on the 10th March 2022.**

An earlier submission is recommended.

An online seminar for applicants is planned for the 9th February 2022. Details will be provided on the DTP website.

Depending on the number of proposals received, the eligibility as well as the quality assessment is planned to be finalised by the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat (MA/JS) in March 2022.

6. Duration of projects

All projects for increasing the institutional capacity of ENI countries should be finished until **30 June, 2023** (latest project end date) without possibility of prolongation. Estimated date for starting the projects is 1st May 2022.

7. LP principle

Each project has to appoint a lead partner who is responsible for preparation and submission of the Application Form. The LP can only be chosen from among the ERDF partners.

The partnership can opt to choose that the ERDF LP is only a Financial LP (called LP). The LP signs the Subsidy Contract with the MA/JS on behalf of the partnership, bears the overall financial responsibility and is responsible for receiving and transferring the EU contribution to the PPs. Out of the ENI PPs the partnership may nominate a Content LP (CLP). The Content LP is responsible for the management of the content of the project and ensuring a coordinated implementation of the activities.

Nevertheless the partnership can also choose the **traditional ERDF LP** who is responsible for the overall project implementation (both financial and content).

In case of approval of the project, the Lead Partner (traditional ERDF LP or LP and ENI Content LP depending on the set up of the partnership) takes over the full responsibility for management, communication, implementation, and coordination of activities among the involved partners.

The LP bears legal responsibility for the whole partnership. The LP is also the link between the project and the MA/JS of the Programme (in case of separation of the Financial and Content Lead Partnership, both LP and Content LP are ensuring the link between the project and the MA/JS).

The following institutions can be lead partners:

- Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- International organisations
- Private **non-profit** bodies

8. Eligible partners

The following institutions are eligible to apply:

- Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law officially registered in the Programme Area (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 registered in one country the programme area)
- International organisations
- Private bodies (non-profit)

9. Partnership requirements

The Programme covers 14 countries, 9 of them EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany-Baden Württemberg and Bayern, 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.

Note that in the ENI Call for Proposals, Organizations from IPA countries can be involved only as Associated Strategic Partners.

Each project should involve **at least 2 project partners** (PPs), out of which one, the LP, should be from an EU Member State of the DTP programme area and one from Moldova or Ukraine, depending which country is addressed by the project. Additionally the partnership can involve up to 2 ERDF PPs and up to 4 ENI PPs coming from the UA or MD depending which country the project is addressed to (in conclusion in **total maximum: 3 ERDF and 5 ENI PPs** can be involved).

Applicants located outside the programme area but within the EU are not eligible to apply for funding as project partners.

10. Call documents

The following documents, part of the Application Package, are compulsory to be submitted through the programme monitoring system (eMS):

- Application Form
- Declaration of co-financing (for all ERDF/ENI partners)
- State aid declaration (for all ERDF /ENI partners)
- Partnership Agreement
- *Declaration for International Organisations (only if applicable)*
- *ASP declaration (only if applicable)*
- *Lead Partner Confirmation and Signature*

11. 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 Application Forms as well as official correspondence must be treated accordingly.

12. Relevant documents

The following official Programme documents are to be read before the submission of a proposal:

- Danube Cooperation Programme;
- Applicants Manual;
- Guidelines for the Application Form.

The programme provides support through consultations with the MA/JS to facilitate the generation of project and to support applicants in the project development process.

For general advice on the Programme and on eligibility requirements and national rules, please contact your [National Contact Point](#).

For advices related to the thematic scope of the project and the thematic alignment of the project to the call requirements etc., please contact danube@interreg-danube.eu.