



# A greener, low carbon Danube Region

**1 June 2022, 9.30 – 11.30 CET**  
**online seminar**

**Specific objective 2.4**

Protecting and preserving  
the biodiversity in ecological  
corridors and eco-regions



# Transnational Cooperation

- an instrument of EU Cohesion Policy
- financially support cooperation projects beyond national level
- in a geographically defined area addressing common needs and challenges
- complement mainstream programmes
- bring together policy makers, academia & research, civil society and private actors



# Danube Region

## a region of barriers

- highest number of countries (14) - highest number of borders
- highly fragmented political and administrative status
- heterogeneous and diverse in terms of natural environment, socio-economic & cultural features

EU measures for stronger cohesion with accession & neighbourhood policies - better integration of Danube space



# Funding opportunity

SO 2.4

Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and ecoregions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region



## SO 2.4 – Needs and challenges

Danube Region - colourful mosaic of biogeographical regions & rich biodiversity

- major rivers & mountain ranges - important transnational ecological corridors
- endangered by many factors:
  - human interventions
  - fragmentation of transnational habitats and ecosystems
  - spreading of invasive alien species
  - climate change impacting conditions of ecosystems
- weak management capacities & skills for transnational ecological regions
- impacts beyond country borders → need for cooperation on a broader territorial level → transnational cooperation



## SO 2.4 - Focus

Territorial focus:

- broader, transnational ecological corridors
- transboundary ecological regions
- water habitats, wetlands along major transnational rivers

Thematic focus:

- improvement of ecological connectivity between habitats, nature protection areas along transnationally relevant ecological corridors
- transnational conservation and restoration measures for endangered umbrella species
- strengthening networks of cooperation in ecological regions & among protected areas
- ensuring resilience & adaptation to CC to reduce its impacts on biodiversity



## SO 2.4 – What is supported

- improve policies and institutional capacities (e.g. integrated strategies, action plans, policy & sectoral dialogs, trainings)
- harmonising management processes (e.g. management plans)
- elaborating, pilot testing joint solutions (e.g. data bases, monitoring tools, conservation / restoration methods)
- reasonable mix of activities with clear thematic focus
- territorially integrated, cross-sectoral approaches
- taking into consideration potential negative effects of CC



## SO 2.4 – What is supported

- improve, manage, monitor ecological connectivity along transnationally relevant ecological corridors
  - potentials of green and blue infrastructure developments and solutions for effective defragmentation
- revitalisation & rehabilitation of water habitats along major transnational river (systems)
  - potentials of restoration and reconnection of floodplains, wetlands
- establishing management and cooperation networks of transboundary ecological regions & protected areas
- resilience of habitats and ecosystems of transboundary ecological regions and their ability to adapt to climate change impacts
  - eco-friendly land use systems, landscape management, soil protection and restoration measures
- solutions in prevention and control of IAS and management of their priority pathways
- monitoring, conservation, restoration and management plans for endangered umbrella species





## SO 2.4 – What is **not** supported

- if need for cooperation on transnational level not demonstrated
- not focusing on transnationally relevant geographic area (ecological corridor, transboundary ecological region)
- pre-dominant focus on infrastructure
- pre-dominant focus on technical solution development without application by target users
- pre-dominant focus on research /data collection without translating into applied solutions / policy strategies, plans
- potentials of floodplain restoration in case focusing on flood protection (addressed in SO2.2), or focusing on water quality issues (addressed in SO2.3)



# Partnership

- minimum requirement: 3 financing partners from 3 DRP countries
  - number of countries to be involved → ensuring broad territorial impact in DR
  - number of PPs → ensuring thematic and territorial relevance and competence in a coherent mix and balanced way
- integration of non-EU countries - utmost importance!!!
- „INTERREG funds“ = equal participation of non-EU partners
  - no differentiation of PPs by ERDF, IPA and NDICI funds
  - Lead Partner can be from any DRP country



# Budget

- Total Programme budget: 213,103,953.00 EUR
- „INTERREG funds“ – ERDF, IPA and NDICI funds in a single pot
- EU contribution part: 80%
- Priority 2 total budget: 74,586,383.00 EUR
- 50% of budget available in 1st Call for Proposals
  
- no advance payment of Interreg contribution!!!
- reimbursed on periodically reported PP's cost-basis!!!
- project Partners need sufficient cash-flow capacities!!!



# Follow developments

- DTP website:
  - general information,
  - (draft-) Danube Programme document
  - Call for Proposals announcement & documents
- DRP events (thematic webinars, kick-off event, Lead Applicant Seminar)
- DTP National Contact Points
- National events (national info days)
- MA/JS Project Officer (bilateral consultations)
- EUSDR PAs



# Contact

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<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027>