



Info Day Slovakia

08 November 2023, online

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State of play

The 2nd Call - one-step procedure.

Only electronic submission through Jems.

There are no budget restrictions for the project.

One organization can be a partner in more than one project.

Opening Date of the Second Call: **2 November 2023.**

Call Deadline: **29 March 2024, 14:00 Central European Time (CET).**

The estimated starting date of the projects is January/February 2025.

The duration of projects must not exceed **36 months.**

The DRP covers the entire territory of Ukraine (UA) but the UA partners can't be the LP in the 2nd call.

Min. 3 partners are needed (at least one from EU Member states)





State of play

Danube Region Programme (DRP) has launched the 2nd call for proposals for the financial support to the programme specific objectives (SO) S02.2, S02.3, S02.4, S03.1, S03.2, S03.3 and to SO 4.2.

The programme will allocate for this 2nd call for proposals up to EUR 38 749 913,00 of the DRP's Interreg funds.

The maximum EU contribution to the projects is a co-financing rate of 80%.



Please be aware that for the 2nd call Priority 1 and Specific Objective 2.1 are closed.

INTERREG DANUBE
Priorities and Specific Objectives
2021 - 2027



PRIORITY 1:
A smarter Danube Region



PRIORITY 2:
A greener, low-carbon
Danube Region



PRIORITY 3:
A more social
Danube Region



PRIORITY 4:
A better cooperation governance
in the Danube Region





SO	Status in 2 nd Call for Proposals	Available Interreg funds per Priority in EUR	Indicative allocation per SO in EUR
SO 1.1	Closed		
SO 1.2	Closed		
SO 2.1	Closed		
SO 2.2	Open	15 339 422,00	5 960 525,00
SO 2.3	Open		4 524 737,00
SO 2.4	Open		4 854 160,00
SO 3.1	Open	15 228 726,00	4 563 214,00
SO 3.2	Open		4 563 214,00
SO 3.3	Open		6 102 298,00
SO 4.2	Open	8 181 765,00	8 181 765,00
Total		38 749 913,00	



Read factsheets:

1. A smarter Danube Region

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-1-smarter-danube-region>

2. A greener, low-carbon Danube Region

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-2-greener-low-carbon-danube-region>

3. A more social Danube Region

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-3-more-social-danube-region>

4. A better cooperation governance: Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macroregional governance

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-4-better-cooperation-governance-in-danube-region>



Priority 2 – A greener, low-carbon Danube Region

SO 2.1 Promoting renewable energy in accordance with directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainable criteria set out therein

SO 2.2 Promoting 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

SO 2.3 Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance.

SO 2.4 Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region.



SO 2.2 Promoting 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



Focus:

- Supporting harmonised, joint capacities and data availability in Danube Region scale climate change forecasting and vulnerability assessment to support policy making and awareness raising.
- Supporting harmonised, coordinated, joint disaster prevention, preparedness and response activities on environmental risks, on floods, droughts, or accidental pollution of rivers on transnational river(-basin) scale and climate-change related other disasters (e. g. wildfires, heat waves).
- Strengthen the preparedness and adaptive capacity of the society (including also disaster management organisations, volunteer rescue teams), economy and nature to cope with impacts of climate change and establish climate services to foster the resilience.



SO 2.3 Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance

Focus:

- Strengthening capacities for prevention and mitigation of water pollution or for restoration of good quality of transnational water bodies.
- Harmonising management practises between water management, agriculture, environment, navigation, hydropower and flood protection to improve the quality and quantity of water and sediment in transnational river systems, taking into consideration the potential impacts of climate change.
- Transnational coordination of water supply management, especially in relation to basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies.





SO 2.4 Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region

Focus:

- Transnational cooperation for the improvement of ecological connectivity between habitats, nature protection areas along transnationally relevant ecological corridors of the Danube Region and for transnational conservation and restoration measures for endangered umbrella species as well.
- Creation and strengthening of networks of cooperation in relation to the ecological regions and among protected areas.
- Coordinated and harmonised measures within transnationally relevant ecological regions ensuring resilience and adaptation to climate change to reduce its impacts on biodiversity.





Priority 3 – A more social Danube Region



S0 3.1 - Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets.

S0 3.2 - Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning.

S0 3.3 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation



SO 3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets

Focus:

- The integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market, with special attention on regions that display high proportions of disadvantaged.**
- Retaining skilled labour and developing a more sustainable migration of educated people.**
- Capacity building for employment support bodies (information and data systems; coordination; training e. g. in social economy).**





S0 3.2 Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning



Focus:

- Developing innovative educational models, programs, practical tools and materials for disadvantaged learners, including early school leavers.
- Maximising the use of existing knowledge and experience to develop best practices in inclusive education policy and advancing education and policy reform.
- Innovative approaches to encourage and improve inclusive vocational education and training and life-long learning.



SO 3.3 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Focus:

- Valorisation of local cultural and natural heritage for the development of sustainable tourism products and tourism services in order to increase regional added value and employment.
- Improvement of accessibility of cultural and natural heritage for all, amongst others youth and vulnerable groups in order to promote social inclusion.
- Promoting community led natural and cultural heritage management and associated nature based and cultural tourism in rural areas and small cities.





S.O. 4.2 Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance

Focus:



- Integrated governance models for addressing challenges arising from demographic change (e.g. aging, depopulation, brain drain).
- Integrated urban-rural governance models including specific territorial development strategies for rural/remote areas.
- Support for more and stronger inter-institutional relations for the integrated development of transboundary functional areas.
- Capacity building considering especially a better involvement of local and regional public bodies as well as civic actors in transnational policy making, territorial development frameworks and governance models.
- Support for the monitoring and analysis of territorial processes affecting the cohesion and cooperation of the Danube Region.



What we do not finance

- **Projects without clear focus.**
- **The projects without clear territorial scenario.**
- **Projects with pre-dominant focus on research and data collection activities without translating their outcomes into applied solutions and, or policy strategies, planning.**
- **Projects with pre-dominant focus on infrastructure.**
- **Training which is not part of piloting e. g. expanding existing training.**





Important documents

The application package and all relevant information about the 2nd CfP will be available from the end of October 2023 on the program website: <http://www.interregdanube.eu>.

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

- Danube Region Programme document (IP);
- Applicants' Manual (Version 1.2 - date: October 2023);
- Manual on Eligibility of Expenditure (Version 2.0 - date: October 2023);
- Guidelines for filling in the AF (October 2023)
- How to develop a transnational project.



Other support

The program provides supporting tools at the application stage (e.g. individual consultations) and events (e.g. thematic webinars, info days) to facilitate project generation and support applicants in the project development process.

For general advice on the program and compliance requirements and national regulations, please contact your national contact point.

For advice on the thematic focus of the project, please contact the programme

danube@interreg-danube.eu



Strengthening the SK participation in the TNP projects

Prerequisites:

- Information about the programme. To understand what are the objectives and priorities. Deep understanding of what is financed by the programme.
- Understanding what is a transnational project and dynamics in such a project.
- To be aware of financial set up.



Challenges:

- Prefinancing and having awareness of how to bridge the initial period.
- Finding reliable partners.
- Having sufficient knowledge about project management.

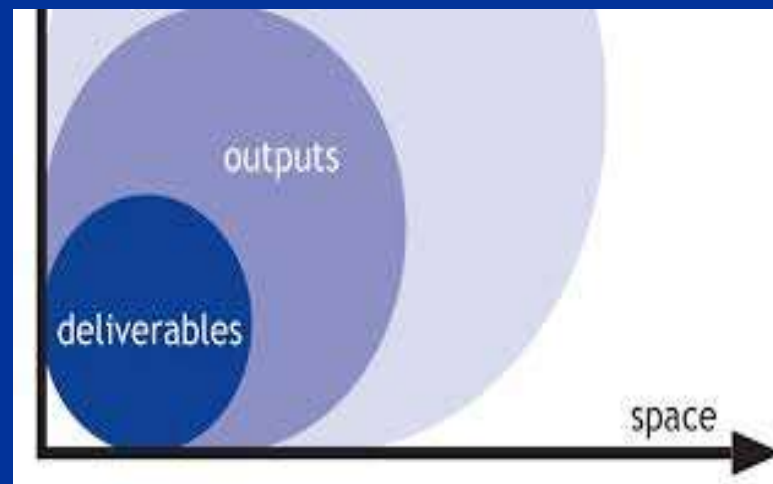


How to respond to the above:

- Always turn to your NCP, a source of reliable information and knowledge equipped personnel that will guide you;
- Connect with the professional associations from the region that operates in the same or similar thematic fields, the programme tools for matchmaking;
- Participate in the programme events, either online or physical events where you can learn more about the programme and call requirements and where you can liason with other stakeholders;
- If you are a LA turn to the respective PO in the MA/JS.

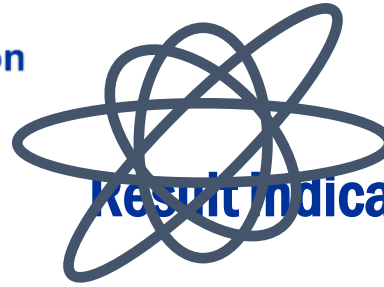


Intervention logic





Output indicator



Result Indicator

 RC082 Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion



RCR85 Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion



 RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed



RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations



 RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects



ISI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders, other than organisations counted under RCO 87
Organisations cooperating across borders (PPs, etc.) – e.g. organisations external to the partnership



 RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions



RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations



 RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders



ISI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders



 RCO120 Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages



ATTENTION: Projects have to contribute to at least two programme output and two result indicators to be considered eligible.

Output RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders and the corresponding result indicator ISI “organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders” are mandatory for all the projects!



Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders

- **Project partners** are the institutions included in the application form who receive financial support from the programme (Interreg funds).
- **Associated strategic partners** are organisations which are essential for the successful development of meaningful and useful outputs. These are the associated strategic partners defined in the project application form as well as such organisations, which are not directly involved in the project partnership, but the partnership plans to sign cooperation agreements with them. Their involvement in the development and assessment of outputs ensures that the end product is one that meets their expectations and is relevant to their needs and situations. They provide insight and information that would be difficult to obtain without their participation. Sustaining the outputs by, for example, adopting tools and strategies developed by the project, is also a primary role of the ASPs in ensuring the project has long-lasting legacy.
- **Formal cooperation** is cooperation between independent entities which is based on written contracts.

Quantification issues

The indicator **counts** the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including **project partners and associated strategic partners, as mentioned in the application form and subsidy contract.**



Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

Programme indicator RCO 83

Strategies and action plans jointly developed

- A joint strategy/action plan is to be counted if it is developed by the project, while revision or **update of existing strategies/action plans cannot be counted** under this indicator.
- Each developed **strategy/action plan** of the project shall be **counted only once** under the respective output indicator.
- In case a **strategy** is developed by the project and based on that also **action plan(s)** are developed within the same project, these are to be **counted separately** for this indicator.
- **Project management and communication-related strategies** such as e.g. the project communication strategy, **should not be considered** under this output indicator.
- **Guidelines, policy recommendations** and other similar documents of strategic relevance, but not being strategy/action plan **shall not be counted** under this output indicator.

Jointly developed strategy did not reflect the **common vision of the Danube Region** in the specific field. Strategies did not aim at **policy integration** in the Danube area in the targeted fields and did not aim to act as **policy drivers below EU level but above national level**.



Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

Programme indicator RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

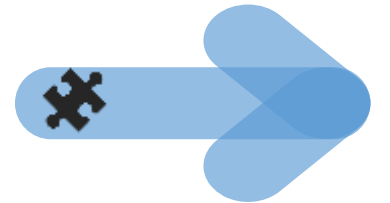
Jointly developed **pilot action** has an experimental nature either **testing of innovative products, methodologies, tools etc.** or demonstrating the **application of existing products, methodologies, tools to a certain territory/sector**; the feasibility and effectiveness of procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices.

Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organisations from the partnership in its implementation. The concept and implementation details of the pilot actions have to be jointly developed by the partnership, even though its implementation can be individual in certain partner regions.

In order to be counted by this indicator, the **pilot action** needs **not only** to be **developed**, but also **implemented within the project** and the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project.

Pilot actions did not result in solutions.

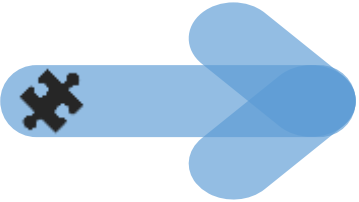
Carrying out project activities in a certain “pilot area” **without testing, or demonstrating a solution is not considered as pilot action** and not to be counted under this indicator.





Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

Programme indicator RCO 116
Jointly developed solutions

A blue arrow pointing to the right, with a puzzle piece icon on its tail.

Jointly developed solution contributes to solve a common problem, challenge addressed by the project. The **joint solution shall be pilot tested (RCO84)** to prove whether the solution meets the needs of the target groups.

The forms of solutions can be very diverse, **tools** (e.g. analytical, monitoring, management, decision making tools, instruments), **technologies** (software, ICT solutions, platforms), **methodologies**, **concepts**, **guidelines**, **processes**, **agreements**, **services** etc.



Read carefully Annex 1 of Applicants Manual on output & result indicator definitions and their linkages:

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/default/0001/57/eb0a742c65d6fd5a579075a602c376b2f3c66aba.pdf>



Assessment





Eligibility assessment

- confirms the correctness of submitted infos and docs to the applicant
 - in timely manner (deadline) and
 - in formal manner (e.g. completeness)
-
- Eligibility criteria are of “knock-out” nature
 - No subject of interpretation, possible answers just “YES” or “NO”



Completeness of submitted partner documents

- **Signed Partnership Agreement** (signed by each financing PP and countersigned by the LP)
- For each PP the scans of the following docs have to be uploaded filled in, signed and scanned:
 - **Declaration of co-financing**
 - **State aid declaration**
 - **Declaration for international organisations (if the case)**

Completeness of submitted ASP documents

- For each ASP a scan of the filled in, signed and scanned **declaration of interest for ASP** has to be uploaded to Jems.



Quality assessment

How is the AF assessed?

- Assessment procedure, assessment matrix and quality criteria are included in the:



Applicants' Manual

- **Please download it from the website :**
- <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/default/0001/57/eb0a742c65d6fd5a579075a602c376b2f3c66aba.pdf>
- **Please read the assessment sections thoroughly in order to prepare a high quality proposal!**



Quality criteria

- are linked to the specific objectives and results of the Danube Region Programme document
- are common to all Priorities
- assessment will be carried out by the MA/JS



Quality criteria groups:

- **Strategic assessment criteria:** contribution to the programme's objectives and to the programme's result
- **Operational assessment criteria:** viability and feasibility, value for money in terms of resources used against delivered outputs and results

Each criteria group is assessed on basis of different criteria with each being scored from 0 to 5.



- **Strategic** assessment is carried out **first** and independently from the operational assessment
- Only projects successfully passing the strategic assessment are assessed operationally
- The knock-out threshold is set at 70%:
 - If a proposal receives a lower score than 70% in the strategic assessment, it will not be assessed operationally and it fails the overall assessment.
 - If a proposal receives at least 70% in the strategic assessment, then it will be assessed also from an operational point of view.
 - The final score (%) of the proposal will be given by the weighed sum of the strategic and operational assessment scores (%)
 - Strategic = 70% of the total score
 - Operational = 30% of the total score



2nd call assessment grid

Pay attention:

Weights on key questions for our programme: territorial needs and challenges, transnational character, target groups use of outputs and involvement of non-EU countries.

Mind: EUSDR embedding



Thank you for your attention!

www.interregdanube.eu

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