

# The Added Value of Transnational Cooperation: Danube Transnational Programme



Programme co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI)



# 1

## Transnational cooperation increases cohesion in specific territories

The Danube Transnational Programme is the Interreg programme covering [the most disparate area](#). In fact, the Danube region is a very heterogeneous area including some of the richest and poorest countries of the EU, as well as pre-accession and neighbouring countries.

Considering its geographical coverage, the highly complex Danube Transnational Programme provides a political dimension to transnational cooperation which is unique in Europe, ensuring good mechanisms to contract partners from [non-EU countries](#) which can [participate in the DTP projects hand-in-hand with EU partners](#). The DTP builds capacities and enables each territory to learn from the others, tapping into methods and solutions that are developed or applied elsewhere in the region, from Germany to Moldova, from Serbia to Ukraine.



### Project evidence:

The management of a river crossing borders cannot be tackled individually by a single country. In the framework of the JOINTISZA project, key partners from EU countries, one accession country and one neighbouring country that share the Tisza River Basin, take joint efforts to improve the status of water management and flood protection in an integrated way, on transnational, river basin scale. Building on strong key actors contributions from the partner countries, an Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan will be drafted for an improved implementation of EU directives in the field.

This project is a good example of transnational cooperation beyond the borders, not only of the EU but even further, which the DTP fosters.

More information about JOINTISZA project.



## 2

## Transnational cooperation builds trust beyond borders and fosters European integration

The Danube Transnational Programme addresses [problems and challenges beyond borders which cannot be tackled individually by each country alone](#).

Cooperation zones, such as the Danube region, are the right scale for building effective partnerships. Each zone shares similar challenges beyond borders, which facilitates trust-building and seamless cooperation. The variety of natural environment, the socio-economic differences and cultural diversity of the various parts of the Danube region (including EU and non-EU countries) may be perceived as major challenges, but actually represent important opportunities and unexploited potential. Water pollution, maritime spatial planning, integration of transport systems are examples of issues that each country in the Danube region cannot solve separately from its neighbours.



### Project evidence:

Migration is a hot topic and requires the EU's solidarity and common response. And that's when the DTP project DRIM steps in offering solutions to improve the capacity of public institutions to respond to the needs of migrants through effective information sharing. DRIM is working on producing a comprehensive multilingual platform covering 8 Danube region countries and providing information in areas such as employment, health, etc. Migration and migrants are borderless and such a project with transnational dimension is very much needed in order to facilitate their integration in the Danube region and, as they move through it, they will find relevant national info, facilitating their integration and thus easing tensions over Europe.

This project is a good example that transnational cooperation in societal issues is gaining its importance and contributes to stable and solidary societies.

[More information about DRIM project.](#)



# 3

## Transnational cooperation funding is decisive in making macro-regional strategies work

The Danube Transnational Programme finances [projects](#) in which [strong complementarities](#) with the broader [EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#) are sought.

Many initiatives that underpin and implement the EUSDR are funded by the DTP and the majority of EUSDR Priority Areas are addressed by the DTP projects. Therefore, the DTP is well-suited to provide targeted solutions designed for the Danube region, bridging gaps between national and EU-wide initiatives. Moreover, the DTP provides direct financial support to the EUSDR, e. g. co-financing the activities carried out by the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators (PACs).

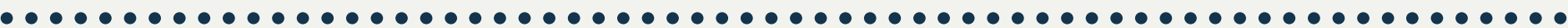


### Project evidence:

A captain navigating the Danube River from Bavaria to the Black Sea needs to overcome hundreds of administrative barriers and fill in 77 forms! The DANTE project aims at identifying and eliminating administrative barriers for inland waterway transport (IWT) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries. The participation of the project in different working groups created by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region will facilitate the involvement of public authorities responsible for these barriers in order to achieve the project results and ensure their real implementation on the ground.

This project is a clear example on how the joint effort contributes to reach both the EUSDR and DTP targets.

[More information about DANTE project.](#)





# 4

## Transnational cooperation is an innovative catalyst that triggers further public and private investment and accelerates urban and regional development

The DTP projects improve policy making, [initiate change](#) and therefore have [long term impacts](#).

The Danube Transnational Programme finances projects for the development and practical implementation of policy frameworks, tools and services and concrete small-scale pilot investments. The DTP project partners typically explore new terrain and test new approaches to common and deep-seated problems, creating new ideas and building capacities as they unfold. The demonstrated effects often inspire policy-makers to create frameworks that facilitate the upscaling of the new solutions. Through transnational partnerships that tackle common challenges and needs beyond borders, regions and cities in the Danube area can join forces instead of reinventing the wheel.



### Project evidence:

Entrepreneurship is the engine for growth and it should be cultivated in an effective and systematic way. The project ACCELERATOR has identified the need and works on exploring and piloting a new type of investment readiness programme called accelerator with the primary aim of enhancing access to innovation finance to startups from the Danube region, so that they become capable of involving equity financing for their expansion and future activities.

This project is a good example that finance and innovation should not be stopped by national boundaries. The partners from 9 Danube region countries join the efforts to stimulate transnational investments and business cooperation and thus contribute to urban and regional development.

More information about ACCELERATOR project.

