



# **Danube Region Programme**

## **Call announcement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals**

**31 October 2023**

### **1. Introduction**

Danube Region Programme (DRP) is launching the **2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals for the financial support** to the programme specific objectives (SO) SO2.2, SO2.3, SO2.4, SO3.1, SO3.2, SO3.3 and to SO 4.2.

The programme offers financial support to transnational projects contributing to the development of a more innovative, sustainable and more social Danube Region. The programme has been designed under the territorial cooperation goal of the European Union. The uniqueness of the programme consists of offering a platform for cooperation in strategic areas between EU Member States and non-EU Partner States in the Danube region.

### **2. Objectives and priorities**

DRP supports policy integration in the Danube area through project proposals aimed at contributing to 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 (as policy drivers).

In order to achieve a higher degree of territorial integration of the very heterogeneous Danube region, the transnational cooperation programme will act as a policy driver aiming to tackle the common challenges and needs deriving from specific policy fields. Therefore, transnational cooperation is expected to deliver tangible results through the development and practical implementation of policy frameworks, tools and services. To this end, the programme seeks to promote concrete pilot initiatives.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals is open for applicants to the programme specific objectives (SO) SO2.2, SO2.3, SO2.4, SO3.1, SO3.2, SO3.3 and to SO 4.2 according to the following table:

SO	Status in 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>38 749 913,00</b>	

### 3. Funds allocated for the call and co-financing

The programme will allocate for this 2<sup>nd</sup> 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%.

### 4. Eligibility of expenditure

The following cost categories are eligible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals:

1. Staff costs
2. Office and administration



3. Travel and accommodation. The travel costs are reimbursed based on the flat rate of 15% of the staff costs. Real costs option can be chosen in dully justified cases. Such possible justified cases can be (non-exhaustive list): PPs from not easily accessible areas, non-reimbursement of staff etc.
4. External expertise and services
5. Equipment
6. Infrastructure and works

## 5. Timeframe

The call is open from the **2 November 2023 until the 29 March 2024**.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals of the Danube Region Programme is organised according to a one- step procedure where the applicants have to submit an application package including a fully developed Application Form (AF).

The **Application Form** (AF) has to be submitted to the joint secretariat through Jems by **29 March 2024, 14:00 Central European Time (CET)**.

An earlier submission of the documents is recommended.

## 6. Duration of projects

The duration of projects must not exceed **36 months**. This limit applies for the operational phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase. The estimated starting date of the projects is January 2025.

## 7. Lead Partner principle

Each project has to appoint a lead partner (LP) who is responsible for preparation and submission of the application form as lead applicant. In case of approval of the project, the lead partner takes over the full responsibility for management, communication, implementation, and coordination of activities among the involved partners. The lead partner bears legal responsibility for the whole partnership. The lead partner is also the link between the project and the managing authority/joint secretariat (MA/JS) of the programme.

The following types of entities 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



The LP can be either from a DRP EU Member State or from a DRP non-EU Partner State.

**EXCEPTION: in the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals applicants coming from Ukraine can participate only as project partners.**

## 8. Eligible partners

The following types of entities, officially registered in the programme area<sup>1</sup>, are eligible to apply:

- Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law (including EGTCs registered in one country of the programme area)
- International organisations
- Private bodies (non-profit organisations and private enterprises / private profit-making organisations)

## 9. Partnership requirements

The programme covers 14 countries, 9 of them are EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Germany: Baden Württemberg and Bavaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and 5 Non-EU Partner States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine with four provinces: Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast, Odessa Oblast<sup>2</sup>). As a general rule, EU financing is only provided to project partners located in the programme area<sup>3</sup>.

Each project has to involve at least **three directly financed project partners from three different countries**<sup>4</sup> of the programme area: the lead partner and at least two project partners. At least one project partner has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the programme area. Involvement of project partners coming from non-EU Partner States is strongly supported by the programme and is subject to quality assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions for geographic eligibility described in detail in section II.1.3 of the DRP Applicant's Manual

<sup>2</sup> DRP will cover the entire territory of Ukraine provided that the part of the operations implemented outside programme area (the UA regions not officially involved in the programme) directly contribute to the objectives of the programme. (Reg. (EU) 2021/1059, Art.37)

<sup>3</sup> Exemptions from this rule may apply to partners in Germany and Ukraine are specified in the Applicants Manual (under II.1.3.).

<sup>4</sup> The size of the partnership should reflect the scope of the project and remain manageable. The average number of partners in transnational projects is approx. 10-15 partners from 7-12 countries



**Applicants located outside the programme area but within the EU are not eligible to apply for funding as project partners in the 2<sup>nd</sup> call.**

## **10. Call documents**

The following documents, part of the application package, are compulsory to be submitted by **29 March 2024, 14:00 CET**:

- Online Application Form
- Declaration of co-financing (for all directly financed partners)
- State aid declaration (for all directly financed partners)
- Partnership Agreement
- Declaration for International Organisations (only if applicable)
- Associated strategic partner (ASP) declaration (only if applicable)
- LP confirmation and signature

The listed annexes of the AF are to be signed, stamped, if applicable, by the legal representative of the respective entity and the scanned versions of each documents are to be uploaded to the Application annexes section in JEMS.

## **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 the application form as well as official correspondence must be communicated accordingly.

## **12. Relevant documents**

**The application package and all relevant information about the programme are available on the programme website: <http://www.interreg-danube.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.**

The programme provides tools (e.g. individual consultations) and events (e.g. thematic seminars, info days) to facilitate the generation of project proposals and to support applicants in the project proposals development process.



Before developing a project proposal, it is highly recommended to read factsheets for each SO to make sure that the focus of the proposal fits the Programme.

For general advice on the programme, on the eligibility requirements and on the 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, please contact [danube@interreg-danube.eu](mailto:danube@interreg-danube.eu) or address the MA/ JS project officer responsible for the coordination of the topic (more information is found on the programme website).