

## Annex I - Overview of thematic focuses for the 2nd Call of START

PRIORITY AREA	Restricted / open Call	Eligible thematic focuses <u>open</u> for this call	Priorities of PACs within the Pre-Selection
<b>PA 1a) Mobility and intermodality - Inland waterways</b>	OPEN	ALL	<b>1) Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance</b> <b>2) Administrative Procedures in Danube navigation</b> <b>3) Innovative Danube Vessels</b>  <u>Initiatives to:</u> 1) Raise effectiveness of waterway maintenance activities to improve the navigability of the waterway 2) Reduce environmental impact and improve economic performance of the Danube fleet 3) Reduce administrative barriers in Danube navigation
<b>PA 1b) Mobility and intermodality - Rail, road and air</b>	OPEN	ALL	
<b>PA 2) To encourage more sustainable energy</b>	RESTRICTED	<b>1) Sustainable Energy</b> The thematic focus is aiming to support projects dealing with different aspects of promoting sustainable energy. The projects within this thematic focus should focus on topics such as climate protection, developing new technologies and promoting and fostering use of any kind of renewable energy sources. The projects' scope and outcomes can be various, from sharing knowledge, raising awareness, policy development, developing new tools/technologies or to enforce and facilitate cooperation between different initiatives/organisations/managing authorities/national administrations including strategic level as well as implementation of concrete initiatives. <u>This thematic focus refers to following actions of the EUSDR Action Plan:</u> - Action 8 - To extend the use of biomass, solar energy, geothermal, hydropower and wind power - Action 10 - To implement the National Renewable Energy Action Plans and to prepare a Danube Region Renewable Energy Action Plan - Action 11 - To explore the possibility to have an increased energy production originating from local renewable energy sources to increase the energy autonomy - Action 12 - To develop a comprehensive action plan for the sustainable development of the hydropower generation potential of the Danube River and its tributaries (e.g. Sava, Tisza and Mura Rivers) - Action 13 - To develop and set up pre planning mechanism for the allocation of suitable areas for new hydro power projects - Action 15 - To encourage the Energy Community members/ observers in adopting and implementing the Renewable Energy Directive - Action 16 - To facilitate networking and cooperation between national authorities in order to promote awareness and increase the use of renewable energies  <b>2) Energy Efficiency</b> The thematic focus is aiming to support projects dealing with different aspects of promoting sustainable energy. The projects within this thematic focus should focus on topics such as climate protection, developing new technologies and promoting and fostering use of any kind of renewable energy sources. The projects' scope and outcomes can be various, from sharing knowledge, raising awareness, policy development, developing new tools/technologies or to enforce and facilitate cooperation between different initiatives/organisations/managing authorities/national administrations including strategic level as well as implementation of concrete initiatives. <u>This thematic focus refers to following actions of the EUSDR Action Plan:</u> - Action 14 - To promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in buildings and heating systems including by renovating district heating and combined heat and power facilities as required by Energy Performance of the Buildings Directive and Renewable Energy Directive - Action 17 - To provide local authorities, businesses and citizens in the Danube Region consultative support with issues relating to mitigation of climate change and energy efficiency"	
<b>PA 3) To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts</b>	RESTRICTED	<b>1) Develop specific green tourist products for the Danube Region</b> <u>This thematic focus refers to following actions of the EUSDR Action Plan:</u> - Action - "To improve planning and infrastructure for tourism" - Action - "To support the improvement of the quality of tourism products" - Action - "To promote sustainable tourism"  <b>2) Support the initiatives and projects that contribute to the cultural diversity as a key factor for a common cultural identity within the Danube Region</b> <u>This thematic focus refers to following actions of the EUSDR Action Plan:</u> - Action - To build on cultural diversity as strength of the Danube Region - Action - To collect existing data on cultural activities and establishing a comprehensive data base giving an overview of cultural activities in the Danube Region - Action - To promote cultural exchange and exchange in the arts.  <b>Project applications are expected to address following targets</b> (The targets listed are relevant for both thematic focuses*): - Target 1 - To develop a Danube brand for the entire Danube Region based on already existing work - Target 3 - Develop new and support existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region - Target 4 - Develop green tourist products along the Danube Region - Target 5 - To create a "Blue Book" on Danube cultural identity - Target 6 - To ensure the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage and natural values by developing relevant clusters and networks of museums, interpretation and visitors centers within the Danube Region - Target 7 - Promoting exchange and networking in the field of contemporary arts in the Danube Region  *Each target corresponds to one or several actions and projects listed in the EUSDR Action Plan or that are monitored within PA3	
<b>PA 4) To restore and maintain the quality of waters</b>	RESTRICTED	<b>1) Integrated River Basin Management</b> Project objectives would focus on integrated river basin management and strengthening cooperation at sub-basin level (A2 of Roadmap).  <b>2) Wastewater treatment</b> Project objectives would focus on the issue of wastewater treatment: - To building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure (A4 of the Roadmap) - To promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements (A5 of Roadmap)  <b>3) Water resources protection and safeguarding of drinking water supply (A1 and A13 of Roadmap); Improvement of the retention capacity of the landscape (within A1 of the Roadmap)</b> Projects objectives would focus on protection of quality and quantity of water resources and retention of the water in river basin to protect the landscape against drought/flood. Both aspects will be evaluated in relation to climate change. Climate change itself is not involved in the PA4 Roadmap, but its impacts should be considered.	

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<b>PA 5) To manage environmental risks</b>	RESTRICTED	<p><b>1) Improvement of flood forecasting</b> The duty is to improve the accuracy and reliability of forecasting. E. g.: Inventory on the available data, information and exchange mechanism, designation of data needs by the national flood forecasting institutions and transnational instruments. Possible solutions is to create and operate national, bilateral, multilateral data exchange platforms for the national forecasting services of the Danube Region to provide them with the necessary data/information to improve their flood forecasting capabilities, taking into account the existing mechanisms and systems.</p> <p><b>2) Information exchange on the operation of hydraulic structures</b> Flood forecasting and flood management need real time information and data on the operation of flow control structures. The goal of this Measure is to agree with the EUSDR countries and the operators of flow control structure to make their operational rules and real time data available for the national flood forecasting institutes and for the flood management organisations.</p> <p><b>3) Coordination of operative flood management plans</b> Coordination in operative flood management is increasingly important with more floods affecting multiple countries and exceeding peak historical levels in the last years. Our focus is to coordinate the operative flood management and civil protection plans (evacuation plans and procedures, safeguarding people, goods, emergency rescue plans, etc.) considering the benefits of the civil protection mechanisms for the shared flood basins or stretches of common interest to better use the available resources.</p> <p><b>4) Exchange of flood protection techniques, technologies and experiences</b> For the last decade a proliferation of new flood protection techniques and technologies could be seen. Some countries use mobile dams, some use mobile walls, some others prefer inflatable dams etc. The floods of the recent decade provided the opportunity to learn about advantages and/or disadvantages of these structures. Our aim is to collect and exchange information of the new equipment both from design and operational point of view.</p> <p><b>5) Develop an education/training network</b> It was recognized that some Danubian countries have no organized education, training facilities in connection with water and flood management, prevention. Focus on how to develop an education/training network of universities/training centres to "train trainers" and develop curricula for training of flood managers.</p> <p><b>6) Enhance coordination of operative flood protection methods and equipment</b> For risks that are common to a large number of countries in the region (i.e. floods) it is important to strengthen cross-border cooperation to ensure that civil protection authorities have a good understanding of each other's systems. Task 1: Coordination of the regional disaster risk assessment / damage data recording methods and measures, taking into account the specific effects of the climate change phenomena in the region, for better disaster prevention. Task 2: Build advanced training and appropriate capacity of the flood rescue teams and civil protection operative units Task 3: Establishment of the cooperation forum of the Danube basin municipalities and/or relevant institutions for better preparedness, awareness and data sharing during flood related interventions and other regional disasters.</p> <p><b>7) Handling special risk scenarios</b> There is a number of potential hazards which may play an important role in the safety of the inhabitants in the Danube River basin. These circumstances might have not been incorporated in the first cycle of flood risk management plans, but the updates of plans shall address these issues which can appear because of the extremities of the climate (e.g. icy floods) or which are related to other natural phenomena (e.g. wind and lake waving, water swinging). The projects should deal with these issues and address these threats in Danube basin wide level.</p>	
<b>PA 6) To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils</b>	OPEN	ALL	
<b>PA 7) To develop the knowledge society (research, education and ICT)</b>	OPEN	ALL	
<b>PA 8) To support the competitiveness of enterprises</b>	OPEN	ALL	
<b>PA 9) To invest in people and skills</b>	RESTRICTED	<p><b>1) To promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through education and training (Work Area 5 of PA9 Work Plan)</b> Education and training systems should enable all individuals to acquire and develop skills required to foster tolerance, intercultural dialogue, non-discrimination and democratic values. Equal opportunities in learning and active global citizenship should be promoted and can contribute towards the social inclusion of individuals from minorities and vulnerable groups (e.g. Roma). Barriers for drop-outs to return to education and training need to be removed as well as preventive approaches and cooperation between education sectors strengthened. Mutual learning on best practices should be developed.</p> <p><b>2) To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalized communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities (Work Area 7 of PA9 Work Plan)</b> A specific focus has to be put at empowering Roma to reduce their risk of poverty and ensuring access and opportunities. Therefore projects should be implemented and the networks between existing initiatives and actors should be enhanced.</p>	
<b>PA 10) To step up institutional capacity and cooperation</b>	RESTRICTED	<p><b>1) To ensure sufficient information flow and exchange at all levels:</b> Improvement of the capacity of administration to share information and know how needs to be addressed. Strengthening interdisciplinary and inter-institutional working and consultation mechanisms also at international level will help to address cross cutting issues and to take into account cross sectoral linkages. Eliminating and overcoming administrative and legal obstacles for cooperation and adjusting regional competences to local needs would strengthen cooperation between institutions and local municipalities both at local, regional and international levels.</p> <p><b>2) To facilitate the administrative cooperation of communities living in border regions:</b> Direct regional and local cooperation across borders should be promoted. One of the Danube Region's features is that different national minorities live in the border areas. This also points to a need for easier crossings and better cooperation. Citizens, entrepreneurs and municipalities of border areas need better information and services</p>	
<b>PA 11) To work together to tackle security and organised crime</b>	OPEN	ALL	<p><b>1) Security offensive - Enhancing police cooperation</b> Combating drug trafficking, THB and fighting the cybercrime;</p> <p><b>2) Danube centres for cooperation and information</b> Enhancing cooperation through contact centres for cooperation between the law enforcement authorities along the Danube River;</p> <p><b>3) Security required for individual movements in the world wide web (e-ID)</b> ID security in the worldwide web, visa and consular issues in the Danube region;</p> <p><b>4) Strengthening the rule of law and combatting corruption</b> Corruption counteraction, fight against organized crime and enhancing the rule of law;</p>