



**WATER-RELATED
FUNDING IS
AVAILABLE...**

HOW CAN WE APPLY FOR IT?

THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

The Danube region represents one fifth of the European Union's total area and is home to more than 100 million inhabitants. The region is comprised of 9 EU (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and 3 accession/candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) and 2 Non-EU countries (The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). The states show significant regional disparities in economic and social development. In order to increase growth and strengthen cooperation at a macro-regional level, the European Union in 2011 established the Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR.)

Key challenges to be tackled by the EUSDR are manifold: besides the fact that the participating countries are at vastly different stages in terms of their economic development, nearly all of the members are faced with different environmental issues. Cross-border cooperation in managing environmental issues is one of the priorities of the EUSDR and it represents the second, Environmental Pillar of the Strategy (apart other pillars of connectivity, strengthening socio-economic aspects and enhancing prosperity through better security and capacity-building.)



"THIS PROJECT IS CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (ERDF FUND) AND HUNGARY.



DISCLAIMER

THIS BROCHURE WAS PREPARED BY EUSDR PRIORITY AREA 4 FROM THE PROJECT DTP-PAC1-PA4 (ACRONYM: PA 04 WATER QUALITY). THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME FUNDED UNDER THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND CO-FUNDED BY HUNGARY.



The countries of the Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR)

FOCUS ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Six years after the launch of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and approaching the edge of the current financing period of 2014-2020, cooperation between the Danube Countries has entered a new phase with even stronger focus on funding opportunities and specifically on more efficient use of funds. In 2015 in their Joint Statement the Ministers in charge of EU Funds, European Affairs or European Integration agreed that the success of the EUSDR implementation requires the alignment of relevant programmes and use of these EU Funds in line with the EUSDR Priority Areas and targets.

THE PRIORITY AREA WATER QUALITY ACTIVE IN THE ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING

The Danube has the most international river basin in the world: it stretches over 2,800 km across Europe. The Danube Basin covers an area of over 800,000 km², over 19 countries. The drainage area of the Danube is also influenced by two major mountain chains: the Alps and the Carpathians. Water management is therefore a central issue to the Danube Region, as water does not recognize borders and its management requires strong coordination and cooperation.

Hungary, together with Slovakia has been assigned to coordinate the water quality issues in the EUSDR and to ensure integrated water management towards reaching the good quality of waters in the Danube River Basin. The main decision-making body of the Priority Area is the Steering Group, comprised of representatives from all Danube Region countries.

To address the challenges related to water quality the coordination of EUSDR Priority Area Water Quality (PA4) chosen the following tools: cooperation with relevant institutions; alignment of funding; facilitating project implementation and networking towards setting up project consortiums. One of the most important tasks of EUSDR PA4 is therefore to facilitate the alignment of funding. The aim is to assist the improvement of water quality by incorporating the tasks/standards of the EUSDR to the documents and operational programs of the European Structural and Investment Funds as well as other financing frameworks. The EUSDR PA4 contributed to facilitate the alignment of funding in a structured and systematic way and made effective actions to embed the priority interventions to the EU programs of the "2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework".



of project results provided through the permanent political and professional framework of an MRS. In many cases the substantial relevance with the strategic aims is an added value and projects could receive valuable points during the evaluation process. The connection with an EUSDR Priority Area (PA) cannot be more securely confirmed and stated towards the funding instruments than with the help of a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) received from the Strategy itself.

THE PROJECT LABELLING PROCEDURE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR OF THE EUSDR

The Environmental Pillar of the EUSDR established a common procedure for labelling projects. The same method applies for the labelling process under Priority Areas Water description of the project on the joint Project Data Sheet of Pillar-B containing fundamental project information and relevance. The sheet shall be completed in English and shall be submitted via e-mail to at least one of the two co-coordinators of the concerned Priority Area. Submission of project (idea) descriptions is continuous. The labelling of a project is carried out through consensual decision of the Steering Group (SG) members of the concerned PA. Decisions are taken at SG meetings or through written procedures.

In practical terms, nearly 20 Danube basin water related projects and ideas were introduced in the frame of the high-level working group of the Water Quality Priority Area (Steering Group (SG) meetings) since 2011. Projects were introduced to the SG, assisted to be set up or selected for different funding instruments from general EU funding possibilities to specific EUSDR funding (Danube Region Project Funds START and TAF, or to the Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF)). The EUSDR PA4 coordination team regularly informs its stakeholders of the different funding possibilities.

However, a LoR does not automatically imply that financing is granted to the project. In order to get financing projects must comply with the governing rules of the financing source and must successfully pass the



JOINTISZA
kick-off
meeting,
1-2 March
2017,
Szentendre

specific evaluation phases. Nevertheless, a LoR makes obvious that the project idea is highly accepted by the relevant sectoral organizations of the Danube region.

Therefore, it effectively helps assessors to come to a positive decision. An example of a positive result of the above support is the JOINTISZA project that was awarded funding within the Danube Transnational Programme, being implemented since 1 January 2017.

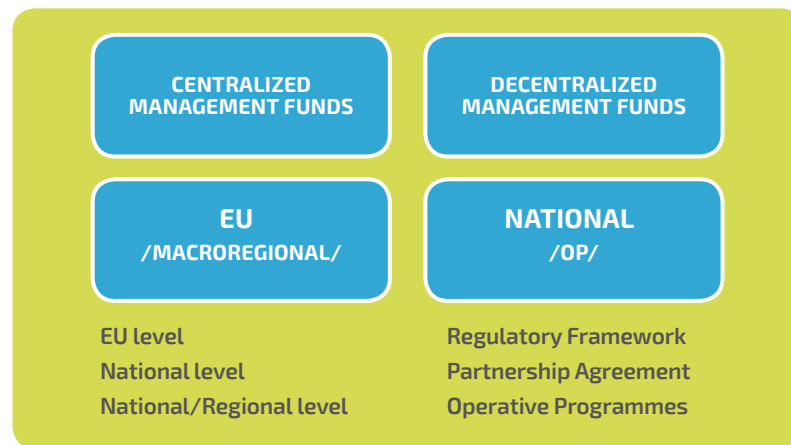


**FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
FOR TRANSNATIONAL WATER
PROJECTS TIPS COLLECTED
BY DANUBE REGION STRATEGY
WATER QUALITY PRIORITY AREA**

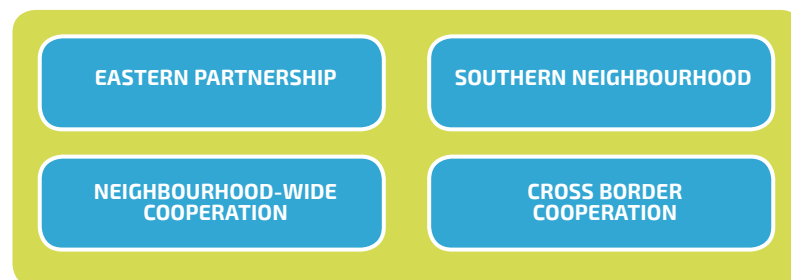
FINANCING WATER NEEDS IN THE EU

USUALLY NO SPECIFIC HEADING FOR WATER

There are no specific programmes financing exclusively water needs in the EU. However, several funding possibilities exist that could be appropriate to finance different water- related projects, for example in Hungary the Environmental Operative Programme contains separate priorities for integrated water projects and also examples are to be found in other countries, such the Rural Development Programme in Bulgaria. One needs to distinguish whether to search in sector-specific programmes or consider funding within different decentralized funding programmes via regional or national channels.



DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES



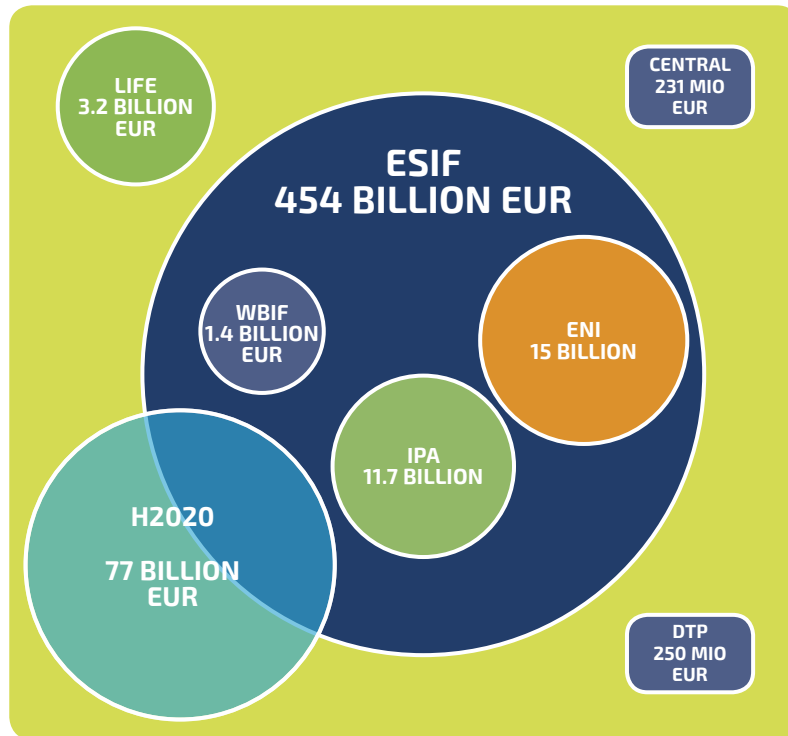
MANY FURTHER OPTIONS



DIFFERENT FINANCIAL VOLUMES

One needs to pay attention that most of the available funds are within the ESIF sources, other programmes (like different INTERREG programmes) only possess small portions of financial means compared to ESIF.

FINANCIAL VOLUME



THE MOST IMPORTANT EU PROGRAMMES FOR WATER- SPECIFIC NEEDS ARE:

CENTRALIZED PROGRAMMES

General characteristics of the Programme Horizon 2020



- ▶ Thematic objectives to be supported by the programme and its assimilation to the EUSDR priority areas: Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: climate action in support of the Paris Agreement; Greening the economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ▶ Available budget per categories to be supported: 2018: 703,5 m EUR, 2019: 762,95 m EUR, 2020: 643,95 m EUR
- ▶ Expected date of calls, submission dates: opening: 7 November 2017, deadlines: 27 February, 2018 (1st stage), 4 September, 2018 (2nd stage), 19 February, 2019 (1st stage), 4 September, 2019 (2nd stage)
- ▶ Eligible partners: participants from Member States, Associated States, Third Countries
- ▶ Typical project size (budget) and duration: budget: varies from topic to topic, duration: varies, most common 3 years
- ▶ Expected oversubscribed based on the experiences: Average success rate for the whole of Horizon 2020: 11,6%, it varies from programme to programme

11.8% SUCCESS RATE (6% NON EU)

www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020
www.ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

General characteristics of the LIFE Programme



- ▶ Priority areas and thematic objectives to be supported by the LIFE programme and its assimilation to the EUSDR priority areas:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>

Environment sub-programme priority areas	Budget 2017	Budget 2014-2020
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	83 M €	495 M €
The ENV priority area will develop, test and demonstrate approaches, best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base		
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	101,9 M €	610 M €
The (NAT) priority area will develop, test and demonstrate best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base		
Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)	16,9 M €	163 M €
The GIE priority area will promote awareness-raising on environmental matters, support the communication, management and dissemination of environmental information, and promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement		

New LIFE call opened on 18 April 2018!
www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2018/index.htm

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES (EXAMPLES)



TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMMES (EXAMPLES)



General characteristics of the Programme



Priorities

<p>Innovative and socially responsible Danube Region</p>	<p>Environment and culture responsible Danube Region</p>	<p>Better connected and energy responsible Danube Region</p>	<p>Well governed Danube Region</p>
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Links to EUSDR PA4

DTP Seed Money Facility (SMF): To support the development of complex strategic transnational projects contributing to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, projects that will apply for funding from any other EU, national or other funding sources

Open call for seed money projects, Targeted only to a limited number of topics for each EUSDR Priority Area

Two and maximum five financing partners from at least two different DTP countries of the programme area: the Lead Partner and at least one project partner.

SMF CALL:

open till 7 December 2017, decision in 2018. Max. project budget 50,000 EUR.

- ▶ Fixed project duration: 12 months
- ▶ Lead Partner – located on the territory of an EU MS
- ▶ 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
- ▶ **Private enterprises are not eligible**



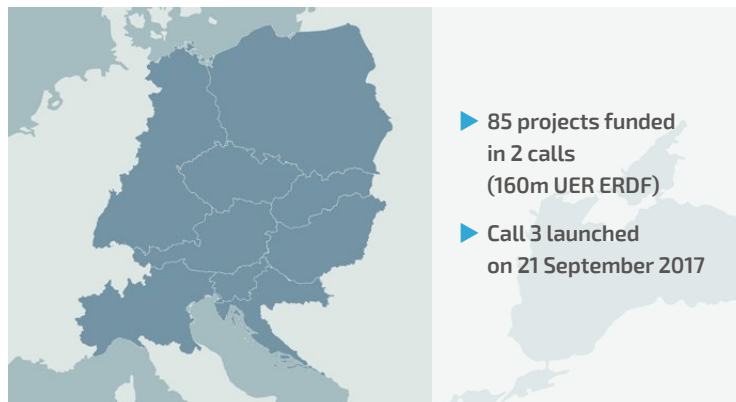
DTP 3RD CALL:

TBD (possibly from end 2018–early 2019)

- ▶ Funding sources: ERDF / IPA / ENI
- ▶ 85% EU funding rate
- ▶ Eligible partners: Public / International / Private*;
- ▶ Typical project: 1,5 - 3 M EUR with duration of 30-36 months (regular project)

www.interreg-danube.eu

General characteristics of the Programme



INTERREG CE 3RD CALL: Thematic objectives to be supported by the programme and its assimilation to the EUSDR priority areas:

- ▶ 4 Priority Axes (including 10 programme specific objectives - SOs):
- ▶ P1 Innovation (TO 1) EUSDR Priority areas 7, 8 and 9
- ▶ P2 Low carbon (TO 4) EUSDR Priority area 2
- ▶ P3 Environment and culture (TO 6) EUSDR Priority areas 3, 4, 5 and 6
- ▶ P 4 Transport (TO 7) EUSDR Priority areas 1A and 1B

Available budget per categories to be supported: Total programme budget for projects: ca. 231 m EUR ERDF (out of which ca. 88,8 m EUR ERDF for projects under Priority axis 3 Environment and culture)

Eligible partners (territorial and institutional eligibility criteria);

- National, regional and local public bodies
- Private institutions, including private companies
- International organisations under national law and, with restrictions, under international law

Minimum partnership requirements:

- ▶ At least 3 partners from 3 countries (of which 2 from the CENTRAL EUROPE area)
- ▶ Possibility of involving partners located outside the programme area, if duly justified (up to 20% of the total ERDF contribution to the project)

Typical project size (budget) and duration;

Duration: 24 to a maximum of 36 months (latest possible end date 31 December 2021)

Recommended size:

- ▶ Total budget of 1- 5 m EUR (average budget of about 2,1 m EUR)
- ▶ Maximum partnership size of 12 partners (average of 10 partners,, larger partnerships also possible, if justified)
- ▶ Expected oversubscribed based on the experiences (ratio between the submitted and endorsed/winner projects proposals);
- ▶ Success rate of 2nd call proposals (one-step procedure) of about 24%

Requiements:

- ▶ Cooperation between regions for answering to common challenges and shared needs
- ▶ Novel solutions and their pilot implementation
- ▶ Transfer of existing knowledge for better solutions
- ▶ Creating opportunities, seeding larger investments

The next call for proposals is expected to open in early 2019!
www.interreg-central.eu

General characteristics of the Programme



FOURTH CALL (7 MAY – 22 JUNE 2018)

- ▶ All thematic priorities are open and all the remaining ERDF (M 74 EUR) available for this fourth call.
- ▶ Project duration: reducing phase 2 to 1 year
- ▶ Simplification: eligibility & phase 2 lump sum
- ▶ Impacting 2014-2020 period: projects results
- ▶ Geographical coverage: new requirement: Importance to go beyond transnational area

WATER PROJECTS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED!

www.interreg-danube.eu



SPECIFIC CROSS BORDER PROGRAMMES IN THE DANUBE REGION:



www.huskroua-cbc.net



Romania-Ukraine
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

www.ro-ua.ro-ua-md.net/en



Romania-Republic of Moldova
ENI-CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

www.ro-ua.ro-ua-md.net/en



Hungary-Croatia
Cross-border Co-operation Programme

www.huhr-cbc.com/en



www.si-hu.eu



www.si-at.eu/en2



www.interreg-athu.eu/hu



www.romania-serbia.net



www.interreg-ipa-husrb.com



interregobg.eu



www.sk-at.eu



www.interreg-bayaut.net



www.si-hr.eu/en2



www.interreg-hr-ba-me2014-2020.eu



www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu



www.at-cz.eu/at

CBC experiences

Very good co-financing rates (85%) ✓

Relatively high success rate (40%- depending on the programme) ✓

Less competition (compared to H2020) ✓

Preparation time: 7-36 months ✓

6-9 partners ✓

DANUBE STRATEGY ADDITIONALITY

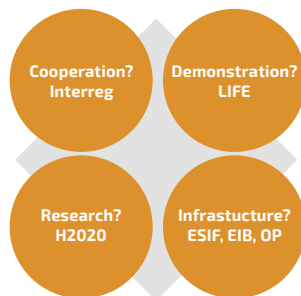
PROJECTS CAN GIVE SIGNIFICANT INPUT TO THE ACTIONS AND/OR CAN SERVE AS A PILOT ACTIVITIES OR GOOD EXAMPLES RELEVANT IN BASIN- WIDE SCALE.

Successful examples:

- ▶ Setting up the first European Territorial Cooperation Area with a Non- EU country with EUSDR help (Szabolcs county-Kisvárdá, Transcarphatia)
- ▶ Danube-Pannon region cooperation with 6 cities (HU-HR-SR)
- ▶ Assistance in UA for urban-waste water issues, Soltvyno salt mine
- ▶ Danube START: Financing feasibility of UWWT in Beregove, UA
- ▶ PA4: WFD, UWWT implementation: discussion with SG members, identification of further needs, fill gaps (buffer strips, UWWT small settlements)
- ▶ PA4 Study trips UA, SR, BiH, MD

HOW TO SET UP A GOOD PROJECT?

- 1. step:** Clear targets: the project idea is ready
- 2. step:** Search for appropriate funding depending on the project characteristics
- 3. step:** Partner search and project design



FURTHER EUSDR PA4 TIPS

- ▶ Active participation in OP programming: Danube projects receive additional points in SK (+2), SR (+1) Cross Border Programmes.
- ▶ Participate at EUSDR SG meetings, financed for Non- EU countries
- ▶ Lobby for increased INA/EPI funds
- ▶ Search for financial sources
- ▶ Provide assistance in setting up consortiums for proposals
- ▶ Assist in sub- basin cooperation
- ▶ Promote partner search

CO-OPERATION IN PROJECT PROPOSALS-EXAMPLES:

- ▶ JOINTISZA
- ▶ DanubeSediment
- ▶ REVITAL

USEFUL SOURCES

- ▶ EuroAccess: Online-tool for searching EU funding options
- ▶ KEEP.EU - EU projects database

www.danube-region.eu
www.danube-euroaccess.eu

EUSDR ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR



PRIORITY AREA 04

„To manage the quality of waters”

www.danubewaterquality.eu/projects



PRIORITY AREA 05

„To manage environmental risks”

www.danubeenvironmentalrisks.eu/pa5-letter-of-recommendation



PRIORITY AREA 06

„To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils”

groupspaces.com/BiodiversityLandscapesAirSoil

MORE INFORMATION

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION, PRIORITY AREA 4

“To restore and maintain the quality of waters”

www.danubewaterquality.eu
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