

START-TAF funding EUSDR PA4 -2015



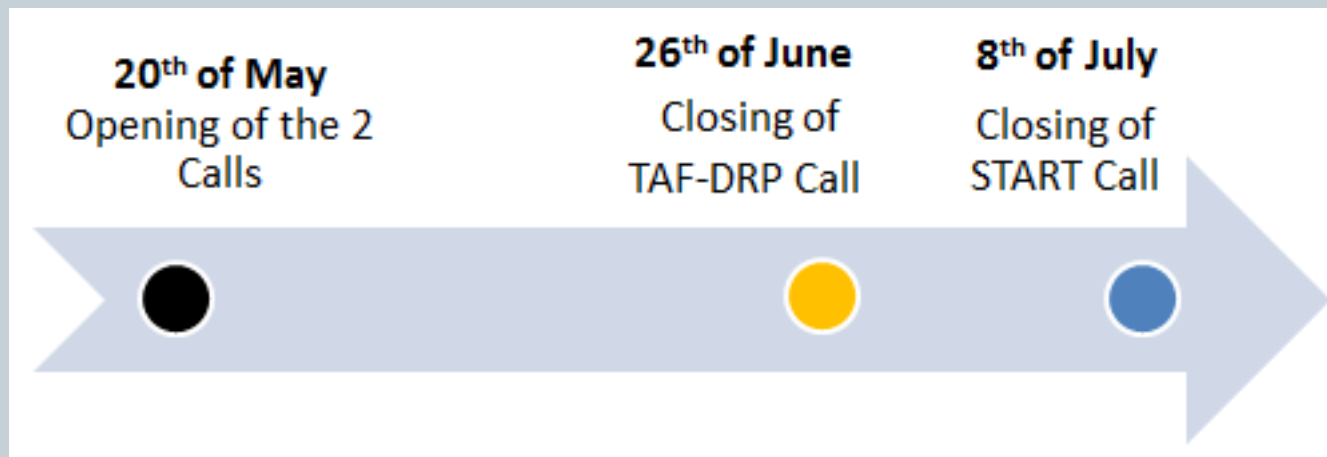
**PRESENTATION FOR THE SG MEETING
9 JUNE 2015
BUDAPEST**

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EUSDR PA4**

Timeline and application



The TAF-DRP and START Calls 2015 are **Open Calls**: any interested organisation in the Danube Region can download the application pack for each Call from the website of PA10: www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu and also from PA4: <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/9th-sg-meeting-1>.



Objective START



- The objective of START, in accordance with Commission Decision C(2013) 6180 of 27.09.2013, is to “**kick-start project development** in the Danube Region and to **facilitate the financing of transnational projects**”.
- START is to help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop and implement their project ideas.

Seed Money START (max 20.000 EUR for 1 project or 10.000 for 2 projects)



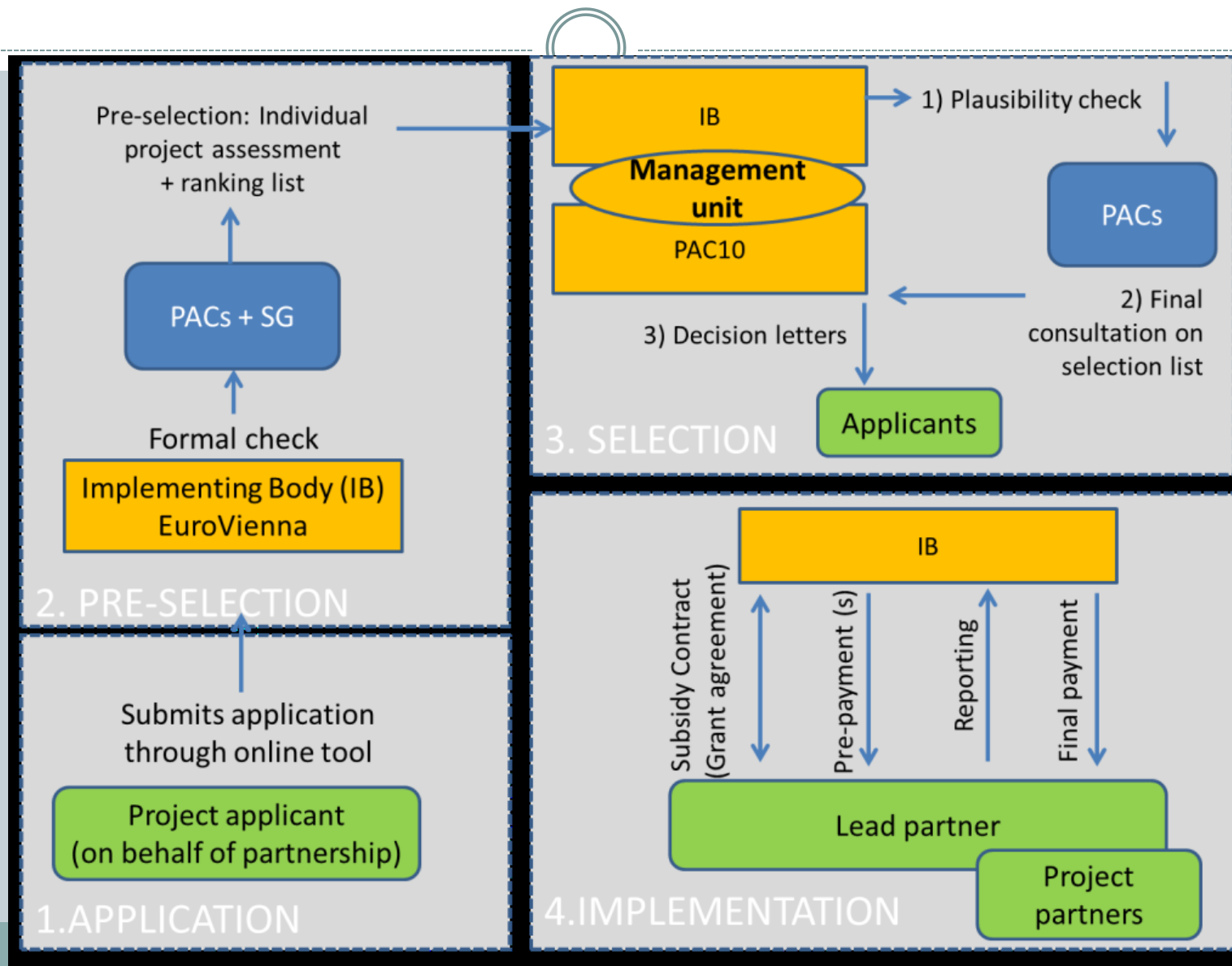
- Beneficiaries receive a **large pre-financing** for their projects (50% of the START grant is paid at the beginning of the project). A second pre-payment of 25% can be paid at midterm, **project partners must co-finance at minimum 10%** of the project total costs.
- A second Call is now launched in May 2015. **No more Call is foreseen in 2015-2016.** Integration of START or a comparable Seed Money Facility into the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is envisaged from 2017 onwards.

Requirements for projects – main changes from the previous Call



- **Possible START funding per project:** € 10.000,00 – € 20.000,00 (*Call 1: max. € 40.000,00*)
- **Possible project duration:** 6–8 months (*Call 1: 6-12 months*)
- **Restricted Thematic Call for the following Priority Areas:** (*Call 1: Open Call for all PAs/ no thematic restrictions*)
 - PA 02 Energy
 - PA 03 Culture & Tourism
 - PA 04 Water Quality
 - PA 05 Environmental Risks
 - PA 09 People & Skills
 - PA 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation
- **Requirements regarding the structure of the projects** **Lead Partner + min. 2-max. 3 additional Partners** (*Call 1: max. 5 additional Partners*)
- **Partners from at least 2 Danube Region Countries** (*Call 1: exceptions foreseen*)
- **2-4 activities are possible** (*Call 1: 3 to 6*)

Management structure unchanged



START TIMETABLE



- **20th of May** **Launch of the Call** on PA10 and Danube Region websites
- **Until 6th of July** PACs disseminate the Call among their stakeholders
- Applicants download the application pack and prepare their application
- **6th - 8th of July (until 12.00 CET)** **Online submission of applications – Closing of the Call**
- **STEP 2** **8th – 25th of July** **Formal check by IB**
- **STEP 3** **27th of July – 18th of September** Pre-selection by PACs and SG
- **STEP 4** **21st of Sept. – 9th of October** **Plausibility check** of best-ranked applications by Management Unit – incl. consideration of budget, thematic and geographic balance
- IB sends the outcomes of the selection to PACs

- **STEP 5** **9th – 20th of October** Final consultation of PACs and their SG on the list of selected projects
- **STEP 6** **Until end of October** **Notification of applicants by PAC10**

- **STEP 7** **November-December** **Contracting** with selected applicants
- **STEP 8** **Between November 2015 & February 2016** **Beginning of project implementation**
- **July 2016** **Closing of the last projects**

Eligible thematic focuses open for this START call: PA4



1) Integrated River Basin Management

Project objectives would focus on integrated river basin management and strengthening cooperation at sub-basin level (A2 of Roadmap).

2) Wastewater treatment

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)

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)

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.

PRE-selection START



Applicant and project partners:

- It the partnership relevant for the purpose of the project?

Relevance of the project:

- Is the project of public interest?
- Is the project relevant for the EUSDR and in particular for the PA addressed (Contribution of the project to the PA's Action Plan – and if applicable, to the selected thematic focus(es))?
- If START funding is requested to finance a specific part of a larger project: is the overall project relevant for the EUSDR? Is the requested EU grant adequate/justified to reach the project objectives and implement project activities? (*Remark: this aspect will be also assessed in detail as part of the plausibility check*)

Macro-regional dimension or impact of the project:

- Are the project activities taking place in the Danube Region?
- Are expected project results of relevance for the Danube Region?

Professional experience of the applicant/partnership, which can be assessed through the quality of the application form:

- Is the application clear (style, layout, etc), understandable (language) and concise?
- Is the planned project well described, realistic and feasible?
- Is there a consistency between planned project objectives, activities and budget?

TAF-DRP

Objective

The objective of **TAF-DRP** is to help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop their project ideas into fundable/bankable project concepts, by providing them **technical assistance and advice through TAF-DRP experts**. Selected applicants **do not receive a grant!**

This third Call for proposals **is the last one in the period 2015-2016**. Integration of TAF-DRP or a comparable Facility into a mainstream instrument from 2017 onwards is currently not known.

The budget available for expert services in this Call is **450.000€**

With the available budget, **between 15-20 project ideas** will receive technical assistance services (this covers a **service value of approx. 25.000€ incl. VAT** and 1-2 travels per project).

Expert services TAF-DRP



- As indicated in the calendar in section 4, TAF-DRP expert services are expected to be delivered between approx. October 2015 and April-May 2016.
- Experts are assigned directly by the IB, on the basis of a framework agreement established with each selected consortium in 2013.
- The maximum value of expert services is 25.000€ incl. VAT per project. In addition the IB can cover travel costs for 1 to 2 business trips of the expert(s) to the beneficiary, depending on project's individual needs and available budget.

PRE-selection TAF-DRP



Applicant (and project partners if applicable):

- Is the applicant/partnership relevant for the purpose of the project?
- How far does the applicant/partnership actually need external support/TAF-DRP services?

Relevance of the project:

- Is the project of public interest?
- Is the project relevant for the EUSDR and in particular for the PA addressed (contribution of the project to the PA's Action Plan – and if applicable, to the selected thematic focus(es))?

Expected change to the status quo

- Are the TAF-DRP services requested adequate in relation to the financial size of the future project?
- Are TAF-DRP services likely to make a major contribution to the change of the project status quo?

Macro-regional dimension or impact of the project:

- Is the future project of macro-regional dimension?
- Are expected project results of relevance for the Danube Region?

Commitment of the applicant

- Are the planned follow-up actions relevant in relation to the project, convincing and realistic?
- Do the steps taken so far reveal a solid commitment to the future project?

Clarity of the application

- Is the application clear (style, layout, etc), understandable (language) and concise?

Eligible thematic focuses open for this call

TAF -DRP



- **1) Integrated River Basin Management**

Project objectives would focus on integrated river basin management and strengthening cooperation at sub-basin level (A2 of Roadmap).

- **2) Wastewater treatment**

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)

- **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)**

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.

Provisional calendar TAF-DRP

STEP 1 20th of May Launch of the Call on PA10 and Danube Region websites

Until 24th of June PACs disseminate the Call among their stakeholders
Applicants download the application pack and prepare their application

24th -26th of June (until 12.00 CET) Online submission of applications – Closing of the Call

STEP 2 29th of June – 10th of July Formal check by IB

STEP 3 13th of July – 1st of September Pre-selection by PACs and SG

STEP 4 2nd – 14th of September Plausibility check of best-ranked applications by Management Unit – incl. consideration of budget, thematic and geographic balance → IB sends the outcomes of the selection to PACs

STEP 5 15th – 30th of September Final consultation of PACs and their SG on the list of selected projects

STEP 6 Beginning of October Notification of applicants by PAC10

STEP 7 October 2015 – April/May 2016 Assignments / Delivery of expert services

STEP 8 Autumn 2016 Follow up reports by beneficiaries

PACs selection criteria

1. Macro-regional dimension
2. Importance for priority area
(in accordance with the Roadmap)
3. Partnership
4. Support to non-EU members
5. Part of the bigger project/Single project

Specifically whether the proposal is in line with

- Roadmap activities (whether fits to the Actions and milestones specifically) and if yes, that is an added value.
- Existing working activity
- Alignment of funding list, whether it is on our adopted list.
- Number of participating countries, whether more countries are partners in the proposal
- Danube territory, whether the proposal would be implemented in Danube area
- Transboundary impact, whether the proposal would have a transboundary impact (macro-regional dimension)
- Replicability, whether its results are replicable in other countries.
- Whether professionally the application is clear.

CONTACTS



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