

Danube Transnational Programme

Call announcement for the 3rd Call for Proposals

January 2019

1. Introduction

The Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is launching its **third call for proposals for its priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4.1**. The Programme offers financial support to transnational projects contributing to the development of a more innovative; better accessible and sustainable Danube region. The programme has been designed under the territorial cooperation goal of the European Union. In practice, the programme combines financing from the EU structural funds - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the EU external funds – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

2. Objectives and priorities

DTP supports policy **integration in the Danube area** through projects addressing 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 e.g. TEN-T) and above the national level. Transnational projects should influence national, regional and local policies (policy driver).

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 looks to promote concrete pilot investments.

The Third call for proposals is open to all Specific Objectives but restricted to specific topics for the some SOs, according to the following table:

SO	Restriction for the 3 rd Call for Proposal	Available EU funds per Priority in EUR
SO 1.1	➤ Service innovation, with a focus on strengthening employment via innovative public policies (national or regional authorities should take the lead), and creative industries (with a strong accent on innovative urban regeneration via service hubs)	15,502,383.79 13,463,630.97 ERDF 795,801,87 IPA

SO 1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthening the capacity of the so-called support organisations (e.g. employment agencies, trade unions, labour market organisations) to provide innovative entrepreneurial training and education to individuals in the framework of the knowledge-based economy. ➤ Developing innovative social services able to better meet social needs and to provide services in general interest. 	<p>594,479.00 ENI MD 648,471.95 ENI UA</p>
SO 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water quality management, e.g. integrated policies, strategies, solutions, measures to reduce nutrient and hazardous substance pollution, improving quality of (surface and ground) waters in the Danube and its transnationally relevant (sub-)River Basin(s) - while monitoring is not expected to be in the main focus of such projects ➤ More efficient waste water treatment solutions that can prove transnational impact ; ➤ Integrated ground water resources management (from quality and / or quantity aspect) can also be potential topic, in case the transnational relevance and approach can reasonably be proved by a project. ➤ Managing water resources from quantitative aspects (balanced usage, inter-sectorial coordination and cooperation) having transnational impact on water bodies can also be considered as possible project topic. ➤ Strategic approach in harmonised and coordinated operative flood prevention measures (e.g. inter-sectorial coordination, including hydropower, navigation, etc.) for transnationally relevant river (basins) 	<p style="text-align: right;">18,988,035.78</p> <p>16,460,009.81 ERDF 974,337.27 IPA 743,098.00 ENI MD 810,590.70 ENI UA</p>
SO 2.2	Open	
SO 2.3	Open	
SO 2.4	Open	
SO 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transport corridors crossing the Danube region (e.g. addressing identified missing links, proposing solutions for improvement including [cross-border] traffic management systems, developing actions plans/ feasibility plans aimed at further developing the transport corridors – considering the pre-identified projects or their development status), ➤ Cycling routes crossing the Danube region (e.g. identifying missing links, proposing solutions for 	<p style="text-align: right;">12,827,512.13</p> <p>11,068,880.71 ERDF 671,049.92 IPA 520,168.50 ENI MD 567,413.00 ENI UA</p>

	improvement, developing actions plans/ feasibility plans aimed at further developing the routes) ➤ Inter- and multi-modality, including development of ports' connections to road and rail transport for the improvement of transport chains	
SO 3.2	Open	
SO 4.1	Open	<p>12,027,371.03</p> <p>9,918,396.26 ERDF</p> <p>858,974.77 IPA</p> <p>625,000.00 ENI MD</p> <p>625,000.00 ENI UA</p>
Total		59,345,302.73

In the restricted Specific Objectives, only the topics addressed and outlined in the table above will be considered for financing, based on the quality assessment.

3. Funds allocated for the call and co-financing

The programme will allocate up to **EUR 50,910,917.75 of ERDF, EUR 3,300,163.83 of IPA and EUR 5,134,221.15 of ENI** to the third call for proposals. The maximum EU contribution to the projects is 85% (for ERDF, IPA and ENI project partners).

4. Timeframe

The call will be open from the **28th January 2019**.

The third call of the Danube Transnational Programme is organised according to a two-step procedure.

- In the “*First step*”, applicants are requested to submit electronically, through the programme monitoring system (eMS), an Expression of Interest (EoI), outlining mainly the intervention logic of the proposal and its strategic relevance for the DTP. No additional supporting documents are to be delivered at this stage.
- In the “*Second step*”, the pre-selected project proposals will be invited to submit an Application Package including a fully developed Application Form (AF), which will contain more in-depth information about the content and it will be the basis for the selection of the project proposals.

The Expression of Interest (EoI) has to be submitted to the Joint Secretariat through the [programme monitoring system](#) by **14:00 Central European Time** on the **8th March 2019**.

The AF has to be submitted by the pre-selected projects to the Joint Secretariat through the same programme monitoring system, in autumn 2019.

5. Duration of projects

The duration of projects must not exceed **30 months**. This limit applies for the operative phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase.

6. LP principle

Each project has to appoint a lead partner who is responsible for preparation and submission of the application form. 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 institutions 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

Lead Partners have to be located in an EU Member State of the Programme Area.

The Lead Partner cannot be changed between the two steps.

7. Eligible partners

The following institutions are eligible to apply:

- Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law officially registered in the Programme Area (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 registered in one country the programme area)
- International organisations

- Private bodies (including private enterprises registered in a EU Member State of the programme area)

Availability of ENI funds for partners from Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will be under the condition that the compliance of the control systems of both partner states is stated by the programme Audit Authority and the revised Financing Agreement for Republic of Moldova is signed.

8. Partnership requirements

The Programme covers 14 countries, 9 of them EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany-Baden Württemberg and Bayern, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and 5 non-member states (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine). As a general rule, EU financing is only provided to project partners located in the programme Area.

Each project has to involve at least **three financing partners from three different countries** of the programme area: the Lead Partner and at least two project partners. Out of these financing partners, at least one, the Lead Partner, has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the programme area.

Applicants located outside the programme area but within the EU are not eligible to apply for funding as project partners in the 3rd call.

9. Call documents

The following documents, part of the Application Package, are compulsory to be submitted:

Step 1:

- Online Expression of Interest

Step 2:

- Online Application Form
- Declaration of co-financing (for all ERDF/IPA/ENI partners)
- State aid declaration (for all ERDF/IPA/ENI partners)
- Partnership Agreement
- *Declaration for International Organisations (only if applicable)*
- *ASP declaration (only if applicable)*

10. 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 application forms as well as official correspondence must be treated accordingly.

11. Relevant documents

The following official programme documents are to be read before the submission of a proposal:

- Danube Cooperation Programme;
- Applicants Manual;
- Guidelines for the Expression of Interest and Application Form.

The programme provides tools (e.g. project idea and partner search tool) and events (e.g. thematic seminars, info days) to facilitate the generation of project and to support applicants in the project development process.

For general advice on the programme and on eligibility requirements and 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.