

Danube Transnational Programme

Call announcement for the 1st Seed Money Facility Call for Proposals

October 2017

1. Introduction

According to the implementation framework of the Specific Objective 4.2, the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is launching the **1st Call for the Seed Money Facility (SMF)**. This instrument is aimed at providing support to strategic projects in the thematic fields of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). Small scale financial assistance is available for EUSDR-relevant project ideas – regardless the financial instrument to be addressed with the project developed, be it national, mainstream EU, transnational or cross border or by any other public or private investor (such as IFIs) or public-private partnership.

The DTP 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 (IPA II) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The 1st SMF Call of the Danube Transnational Programme is organised according to a simplified procedure.

Applicants are invited to submit electronically, through the programme monitoring system, an Application Form (AF), describing the strategic relevance of the addressed topic for the EUSDR and the work to be implemented for each compulsory output.

The application and selection procedure, as well as the implementation procedures are detailed in the *SMF Programme Manual*.

2. Objectives and priorities

All SMF projects submitted for the support of the EUSDR have to *develop complex strategic transnational projects contributing to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region to be funded by any funding source available in the region.*

The DTP offers its financial support in achieving the above mentioned objective, in line with the provisions of its Specific Objective 4.2¹.

Proposals submitted under this 1st SMF call shall be aligned to at least one of the EUSDR PA topics outlined and described in the SMF Programme Manual.

3. Funds allocated for the Call and co-financing

The programme will allocate for this Call 1,530,000.00 EUR of EU funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI). The maximum number of proposals approved per Priority Area is 3 (for a maximum of 36 proposals). Each proposal will have an **overall budget limit of 50,000.00 EUR**. EU contribution to each project is 85% (**42,500.00 EUR**) for ERDF, IPA and ENI project partners.

Total amount of the 1 st SMF call	EU Fund available	Total project budget	EU funds per project	Max number of proposals per PA
1,530,000.00 EUR	ERDF, IPA, ENI	50,000.00 EUR	42,500.00 EUR	3

4. Timeframe

The Call will be open from **02.10.2017** to **07.12.2017**.

The Application Form and its annexes have to be submitted through the eMS DTP monitoring system latest by 15:00 Central European Time on **07.12.2017** through this link: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/dtp-ems>. An earlier submission is recommended.

Among other compulsory and eligibility requirements, applicants shall submit as well a *Declaration of alignment* signed by the relevant EUSDR PAC(s), stating that the proposal is in line with the restricted topics identified by the EUSDR PACs (included in the SMF Programme Manual). In order to timely receive the declaration before the submission deadline, applicants are strongly recommended to contact the related EUSDR PACs and send to them the developed proposal (through the PDF version generated by the eMS) not later than **08.11.2017**. This will allow the EUSDR PACs to have sufficient time to check its alignment and sign the declaration before the call deadline.

¹ DTP CP, section 2.A.6.1/P4/11c: “**Establish a seed money/project development fund facility (Financing fund)**. This instrument is providing support to strategic projects in the thematic fields of the Strategy. Small scale financial assistance is available for EUSDR-relevant project ideas – regardless the financial instrument to be addressed with the project developed, be it national, mainstream EU, transnational or cross border or by any other public or private investor (such as IFIs) or public-private partnership.”

5. Duration of projects

The duration of projects is set at **12** months.

6. LP principle

Each partnership has to appoint a Lead Partner (LP) who is responsible for the submission of the Application Form. In case of approval of the project, the LP takes over the full responsibility for reporting and communicating the project progress to the DTP MA/JS. The LP bears legal responsibility for the partnership and is also the link between the project and the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat (MA/JS) of the Programme.

7. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions/bodies having one of the following legal statuses:

- Local, regional, national public body/ body governed by public law (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- International organisation
- Private (non-profit) body

8. Partnership requirements

The Programme covers 14 countries, 9 of them EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany: Baden Württemberg and Bavaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and 5 non-member states (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and parts of 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 **two financing partners from two different countries** of the programme area to a maximum of five financing partners. Out of these financing partners, the LP has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the Programme area.

9. 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.

10. Relevant documents

The official programme documents for the 1st SMF Call for Proposals, besides this call announcement:

- Danube Cooperation Programme
- SMF Application Package
 - SMF Programme Manual
 - Application Form template and its declarations:
 - a. Lead Partner Confirmation
 - b. Declaration of Alignment
 - c. Declaration of co-financing
 - d. State Aid declaration
 - e. Declaration of International Organisation (if applicable)
 - f. ASP declaration (if applicable)
 - SMF eMS Guidelines
- Partnership Agreement template
- Subsidy Contract template
- DTP Control Guidelines

The Application Package and all relevant information about the programme are available on the programme website: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu>.

In case of questions, please contact the Joint Secretariat (danube@interreg-danube.eu).