

Nationaler Info-Day zum 2. Call des Danube Region Programms (DRP) 2021-2027

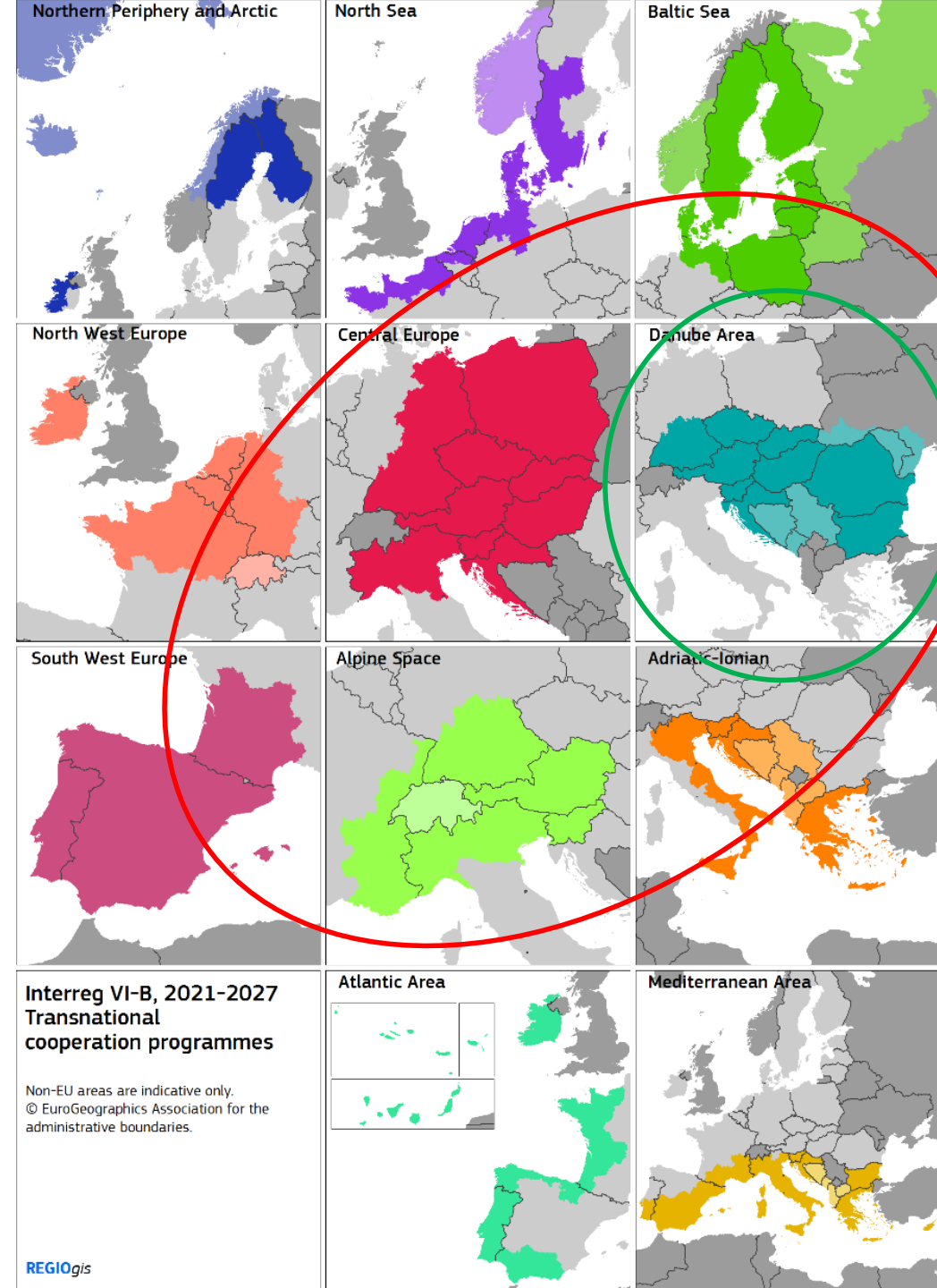
**Digitale Informationsveranstaltung des National Contact
Points am 20. September 2023**

Programm

13:00	Begrüßung und Einleitung	Jutta Moll-Marwan, BML
13:15	Das Danube Region Programm - Eckpunkte und Rahmenbedingungen des 2. DRP Calls	Anna Maria Kramann, ÖROK-Gst./NCP
13:45	Fragen & Antworten	
14:00	Was ist ein gutes Projekt? Evaluierungskriterien und weitere Tipps für eine erfolgreiche Projekteinreichung	Horst Schindler, DRP Joint Secretariat
14:40	Fragen & Antworten	
15:00	<i>Kaffeepause</i>	
15:15	DRP Förderfähigkeitsregeln und Berichtssystem	Mirjana Arsenić Petrović & Nashoan Al-Awli, DRP Joint Secretariat
15:35	Das österreichische Kontrollsystem 2021-2027	Irena Hnatkova, BML
15:50	Fragen & Antworten	
16:10	Resümee & Ende der Veranstaltung	Martin Hutter, Stadt Wien

Auswahl Programm(-raum)

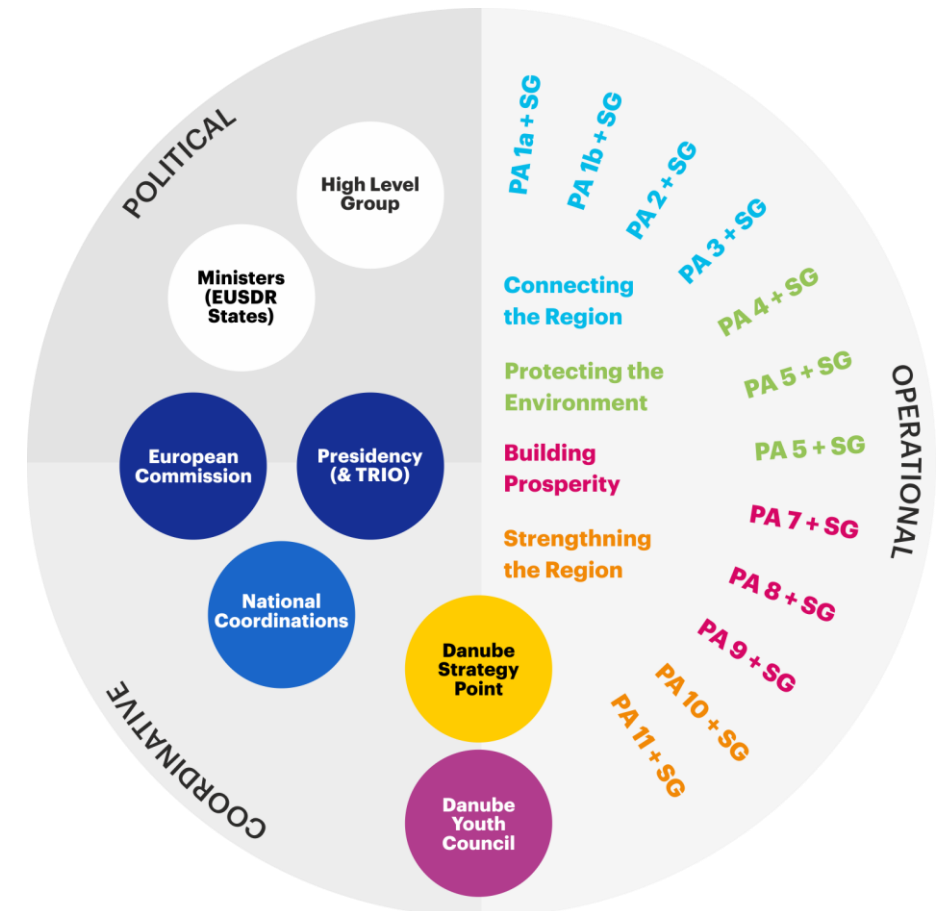
- Inhaltlichen Schwerpunktsetzungen des Programms (IP!) > Interventionslogik
- Innovationsgehalt für Programmraum/ capitalisation
- Projektpartnerschaft
- Bezug zur übergeordneten Makroregionalen Strategie



EU Strategy for the Danube Region



9 EU
Member States and
5 EU
accession
countries



EU Strategy for the Danube Region

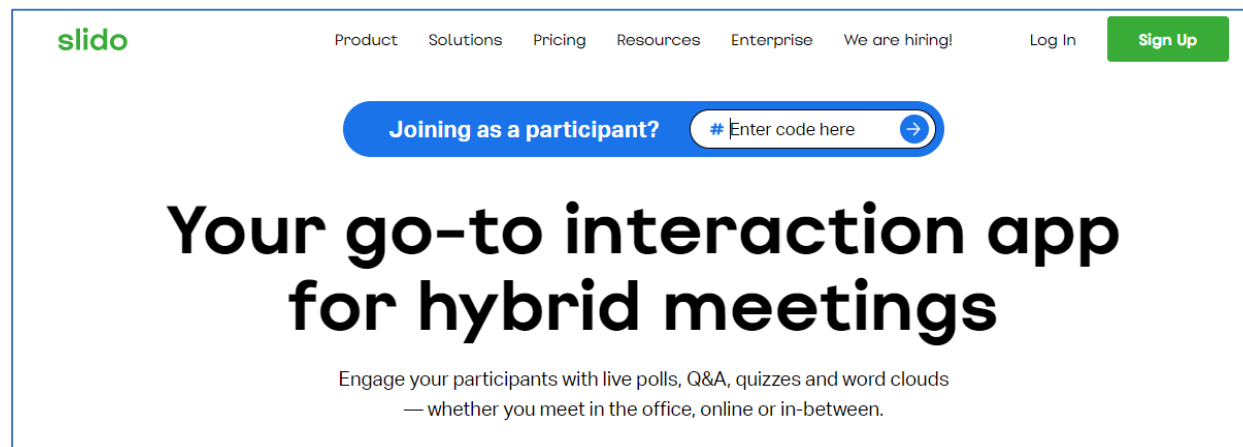


 Waterway Mobility	 Rail-Road-Air Mobility	 Sustainable Energy	 Culture and Tourism
 Water Quality	 Environmental Risks	 Biodiversity, Landscapes and Air & Soil Quality	 Knowledge Society
 Competitiveness	 People & Skills	 Institutional Capacity & Cooperation	 Security



Fragestellungen über Sli.Do

LINK:
SLI.DO
www.slido.com



Event link: <https://app.sli.do/event/huqB5bBpMktnMVhF4wA2y1>

Event code: **#DanubeRegionCall2**

Fragen bitte im Bereich **Questions & Answers (Q&A)** schreiben und/oder liken
kleine Umfragen zu Beginn und am Ende des Info-Days (werden immer durch Veranstalter aktiviert)



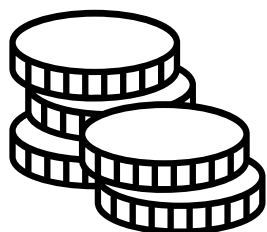


Das Danube Region Programm - Eckpunkte und Rahmenbedingungen des 2. Calls

Anna-Maria Kramann, National Contact Point, ÖROK-Geschäftsstelle

Danube Region Programme 2021-2027 – Eckpunkte

Programmbudget:
215,05 Mio. EUR
Interreg-Fonds
(ERDF, IPA & NDICI)



14 Programmstaaten



4 Programmprioritäten



Ein intelligenterer
Donauraum



Ein grüner, CO2armer
Donauraum



Ein sozialer
Donauraum

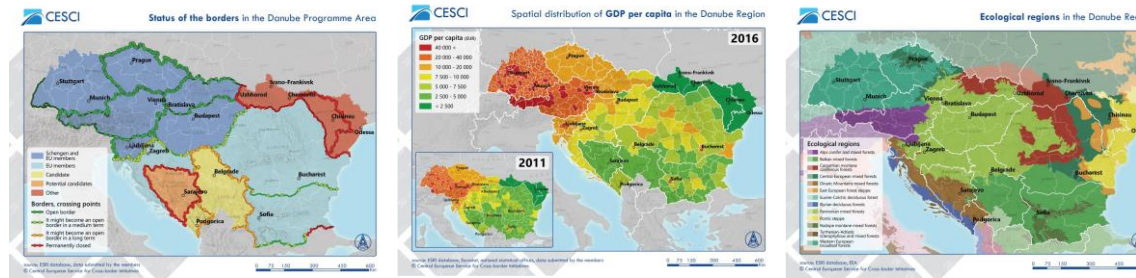


Eine bessere Governance
für die Zusammenarbeit
im Donauraum

EU Ko-Finanzierungsrate: 80% (Rückerstattungsprinzip → keine Vorfinanzierung)

Danube Region Programm: Mission Statement

„From a region of barriers to a region of flows“



- Programmziel: Überwindung der starken Fragmentierung des Donaupraums und Nutzung der gemeinsamen Chancen für eine stärkere politische Integration und Kohäsion des Donaupraums
- Wie?: durch transnationale Kooperationsprojekte, welche die wichtigsten Herausforderungen und Chancen des Donaupraums in bestimmten Förderschwerpunkten adressieren

Danube Region Programme – Themat. Prioritäten & Ziele



Ein intelligenterer DR

Ein grünerer, CO2armer DR

Ein sozialerer DR

Eine bessere Governance für d. Kooperation im DR

1.1. Förderung von **Innovation und Technologie-transfer**

1.2. **Kompetenz-aufbau für Smart Specialisation Strategien, industriellen Wandel** und Übergang zur Industrie 4.0

2.1 **Ökologisierung des Energie- & Verkehrssektors** durch Integration erneuerbarer Energien

2.2 Förderung der **Klimawandel-anpassungs-kapazitäten** und des **Katastrophen-managements**

2.3 Nachhaltiges, integriertes, transnationales **Wasser- & Sediment-management**

2.4 Schutz & Erhalt der **Biodiversität in ökologischen Korridoren** / Ökoregionen von transnationaler Bedeutung

3.1 Zugängliche, integrative und effektive **Arbeitsmärkte**

3.2 Zugängliches, integratives Qualitätsangebot im Bereich **allgemeine und berufliche Bildung**

3.3 Sozio-ökonomische **Entwicklung durch Kultur-/ Naturerbe, Kultur und Tourismus**

4.1 Unterstützung der EUSDR Governance

4.2 Verbesserung der **institutionellen Kapazitäten für** territoriale und makroregionale **Governance**

2. Call für klassische Projekte - Basisinformationen

1. Wie? **1-stufiges** Einreichverfahren **über JEMS** (Joint Electronic Monitoring System)
2. Wie viel? **max. 30% der Projektmittel des Programmes** für 2. Call verfügbar
→ bis zu 55,05 Mio. EUR EU Interreg-Mittel
3. Welche Themen? **Offener Call für alle spezif. Ziele** (*exkl. SO4.1 EUSDR Governance Support*)
4. Wann? **2. Oktober 2023 bis 29. Februar 2024** geöffnet

2. Call: Dokumente – Wo finde ich welche Infos



Interreg Programm

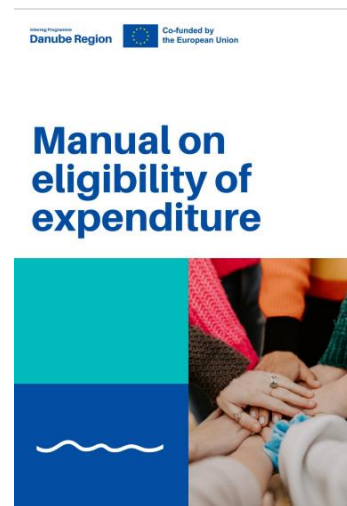
- Territorialen Herausforderungen
- Vision & Mission
- Themen, Aktionsfelder, erwartete Ergebnisse, Zielgruppen



Applicants' Manual

- Projektanforderungen
- Einreichverfahren und Evaluierung

→ **Neue Version (v1.2) mit 2.10. online!**



Manual on Eligibility of Expenditure

- Förderfähigkeitsregeln, Erläuterung der Kostenkategorien

→ Bereits online:

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/dtp-archive/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027/project-implementation-documents>

Call Application Package

- **Call Announcement:** → Call-spezifische Anforderungen / Regeln & Fristen
- **Application Form** (Offline Template)
- **Guidelines for filling in the AF** → Hilfestellung zum Ausfüllen des Antragformulars
- **Partnership Agreement, Declarations** (Pre-/Co-Financing, State Aid, etc.)
- **How to develop a transnational project** → Aufbau der Partnerschaft, der Interventionslogik, Projektkoordination & Kommunikation, etc.
- **Financial (self-) assessment tool for applicants**

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/dtp-archive/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027/how-to-apply/second-call>

Mit Öffnung des Calls am 2.10. online!

2. Call – Das einstufige Einreichverfahren

Einreichung eines vollständigen Antrags über das elektronische Monitoring System JEMS

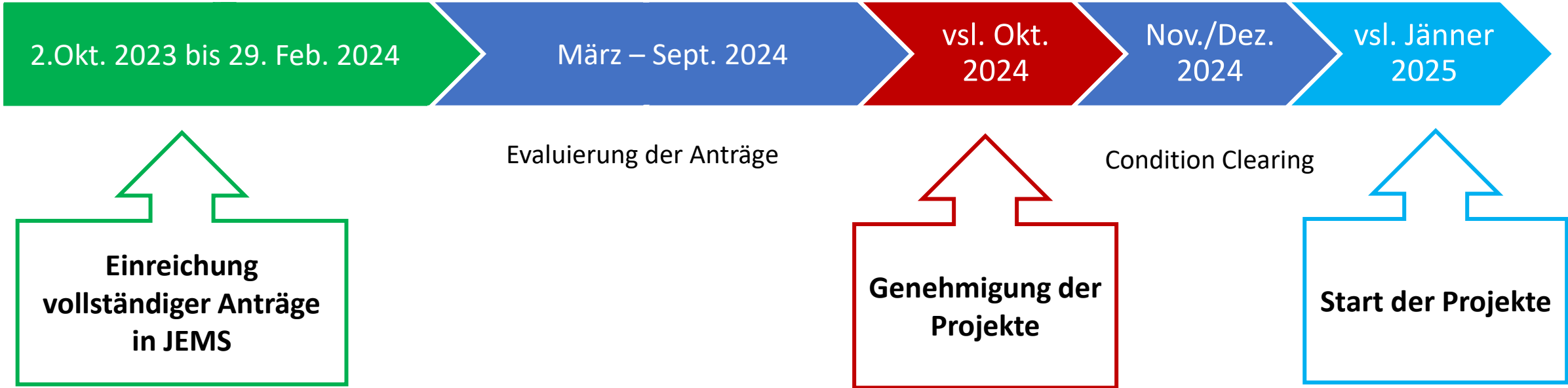
- Zusätzliche Dokumente **verpflichtend** einzureichen:
 - ✓ **Declarations of Co-Financing** (*für alle Projektpartner*)
 - ✓ **State Aid Declarations** (*für alle Projektpartner*)
 - ✓ **Partnership Agreement** (*unterzeichnet bei allen Projektpartnern*)
 - ✓ **ASP Declaration**, *falls relevant*
 - ✓ **Declaration for International Organisations**, *falls relevant*
 - ✓ **LP Confirmation & Signature** (*nur Lead Partner*)

2. Call – Zeitplan

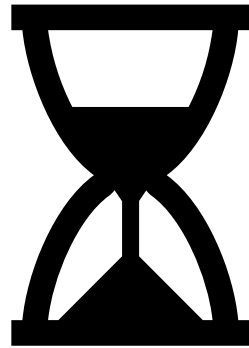
Start: 2. Oktober 2023

Deadline: 29. Februar 2024 (15:00 CET)

Weiterer Zeitplan: abhängig von Anzahl der Einreichungen



2. Call - Projektdauer



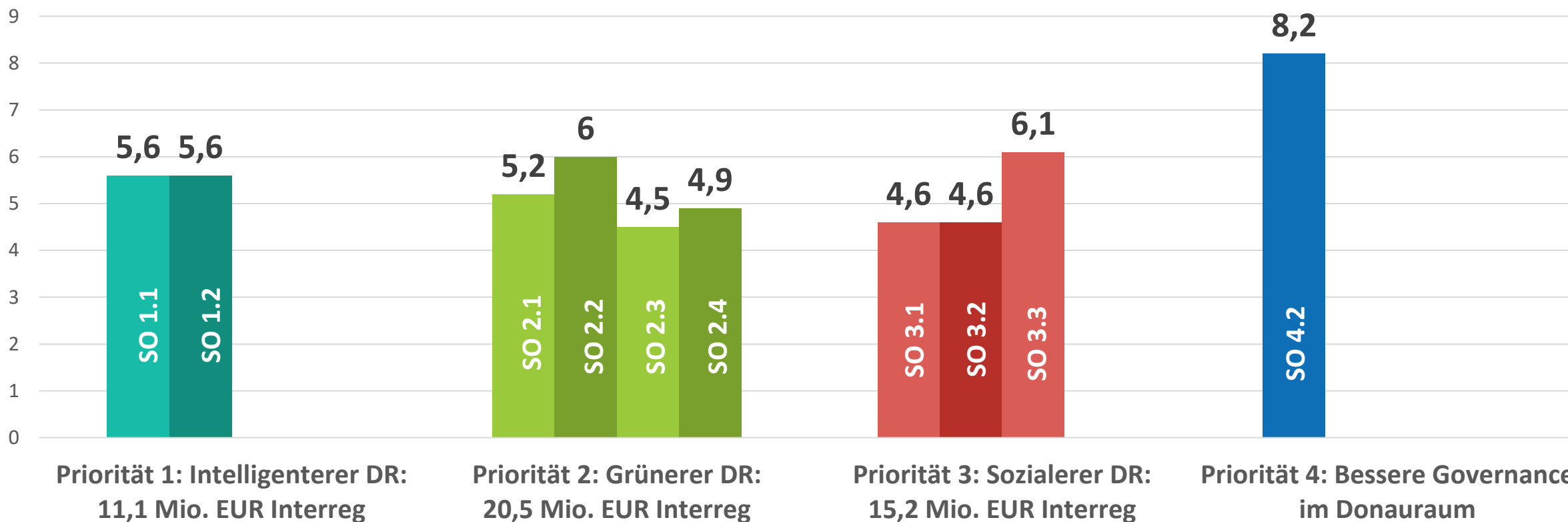
Projektlaufzeit ist **maximal 36 Monate!**

Projektstart ist vsl. Jänner 2025.

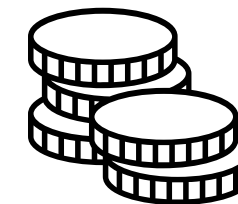
2. Call - Budget

**Verfügbares Maximal-Budget im 2. Call:
55,05 Mio. EUR Interreg-Fonds-Mittel**

Verfügbare Interreg-Fonds-Mittel pro Spezifischen Ziel in Mio. EUR



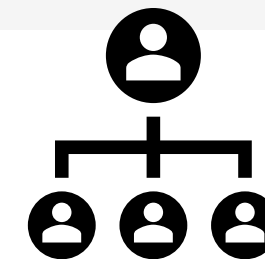
2. Call - Projektbudgets



- **Durchschnittliche Projektbudgets von 1,5-2,5 Mio. EUR** - abhängig von Konsortiumsgröße, Aktivitäten, etc.
- Errechnet sich automatisch aus der **Summe der einzelnen Partnerbudgets**
- Partnerbudgets ergeben sich aus den geplanten Aktivitäten und dazu notwendigen Personal, externen Leistungen, Ausrüstungskosten, Reise- und Unterkunftskosten
- Infrastrukturmaßnahmen/Investitionen nur in geringem Maße möglich -> DRP ist kein Investitionsprogramm!!! → transnationale Mehrwert muss begründet werden!
- **Partnerbudgets sollten ausgeglichen sein!** Je nach Institution, Rolle, Lohnniveau können Unterschiede begründet sein

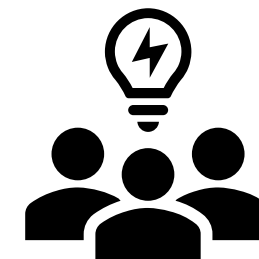
2. Call – Förderfähige Projektträger

- **Öffentliche Stellen:** Bundes- & Landesstellen, Gemeinden, etc.
- **Quasi-öffentliche Stellen** / Körperschaften des öffentlichen Rechts (*im Sinne des Vergaberechts*): Universitäten, Wirtschaftsagenturen, etc.
- **Internationale Organisationen**
- **Private Stellen:** NGOs/Vereine und private Unternehmen / KMUs



Zusammensetzung einer Projektpartnerschaft

- **Lead Partner (LP):** verantwortlich für Gesamtkoordination, Vertragspartner des Fördervertrags sowie Bindeglied zwischen Programm und Projektpartnerschaft
- **Project Partner (PP):** mit eigenem Budget, verantwortlich für spezifische Arbeitspakete / Aktivitäten
- **Associated Strategic Partner (ASP):**
 - Teilnahme ist wichtig und bringt Mehrwert für die Partnerschaft (z.B. Multiplikator, polit. Entscheidungsträger, etc.)
 - ist aus einem EU-Staaten (innerhalb & außerhalb des Programmraums) oder einem Nicht-EU-Staaten des Programmraums
 - ohne eigenem Budget (Reisekosten können von „Sponsoring“ Projektpartner übernommen werden),



2. Call – Projektpartnerschaft

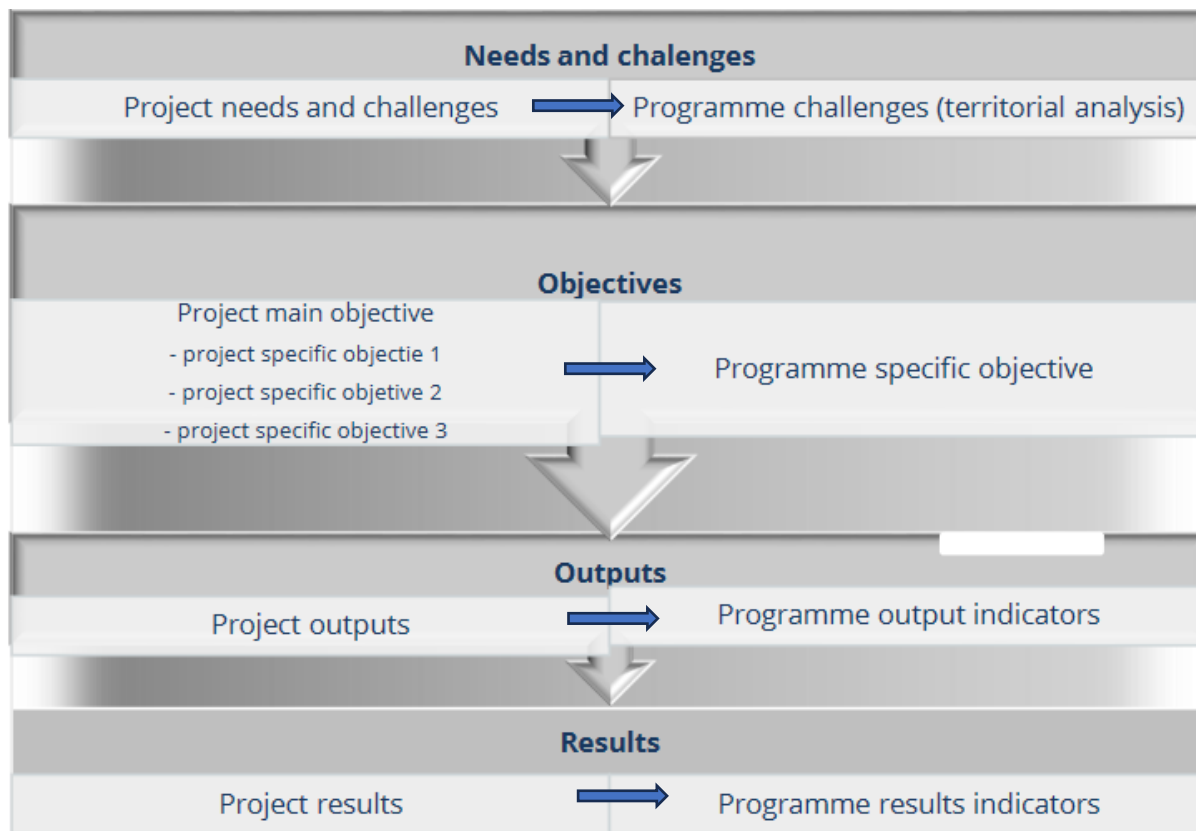
- Gefördert werden grundsätzlich **nur Projektpartner aus dem Programmgebiet***.
- **Mindestens 3 Partner aus 3 verschiedenen Programmstaaten, davon 1 aus EFRE-Programmstaat** → idR größere transnationale Partnerschaften aus Ø 10-15 Partner aus 7-12 Programmstaaten!
- **Lead Partner Prinzip - aus allen Programmstaaten (außer Ukraine) möglich! Private Unternehmen können nicht Lead Partner sein!**

Wichtig:

- **Transnationale Partnerschaft** → „gewisse“ geographische Abdeckung des Donauraums, keine regionale Konzentrierung
- **Ausgewogene Mischung aus sektorübergreifenden relevanten Partnern** (Policy-Partnern, Umsetzungspartnern, Know-How-Trägern etc.) → Kompetenz & Relevanz entscheidend!
- Starker Fokus auf **Einbeziehung von Nicht-EU-Staaten** – Bewertungskriterium im Quality Assessment!
- Bedeutung von Associated Strategic Partners (ASP) nicht unterschätzen!

**Das DRP deckt die gesamte Ukraine ab - unter der Annahme, dass die außerhalb des Programmgebiets durchgeführten Maßnahmen zu den Programmzielen beitragen.*

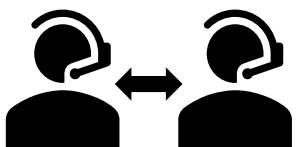
Die Interventionslogik



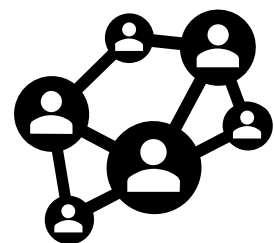
Ausführliche Beschreibung im Applicants' Manual bzw. dem Leitfaden „How to develop a transnational project“ (ab S. 9).

- **Project main objective:** beschreibt den langfristigen strategischen Wandel, den das Projekt erzielen möchte
- **Project specific objectives:** beschreiben die spezifischen, unmittelbaren Effekte des Projektes; können in Projektlaufzeit realistisch erreicht werden
- **Project result:** beschreibt, was das Projekt tatsächlich während seiner Laufzeit verbessern konnte → wird vom Programme Result Indicator erfasst
- **Project output:** beschreibt, was tatsächlich durch die DRP-Förderung produziert wurde („Endprodukte“) → wird vom Programme Output Indicator gemessen und trägt direkt zur Erreichung der Projektergebnisse bei.
- **Project activity:** beschreibt die notwendigen Schritte / Aufgaben, die zur Erreichung der Projektziele & Outputs umgesetzt werden müssen
- **Project Deliverables:** sind die Zwischen-/Nebenprodukte meiner Aktivitäten, die für die Entwicklung der Outputs notwendig sind.

2. Call – Unterstützung für Antragsteller (1)



- Bilaterale **Konsultationen** mit
- **National Contact Points**
 - **Joint Secretariat:** 1x individuelle Konsultation pro Antrag (auf Basis einer Projektskizze)



- Partnersuche via **Match-Making Platform (ab Ende September)**
- National Contact Points als Ansprechpartner für Partnersuche



- **Allgemeine Lead Applicant Webinare** zum 2. Call:
 - 10. Oktober,
 - 7. November
 - 20. November

Anmeldung demnächst auf DRP-Website:

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/dtp-archive/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027/how-to-apply/second-call>



8 thematische Webinare zu den spezifischen Zielen

2. Call – Unterstützung für Antragsteller (2) : Thematische Webinare zu spezif. Zielen

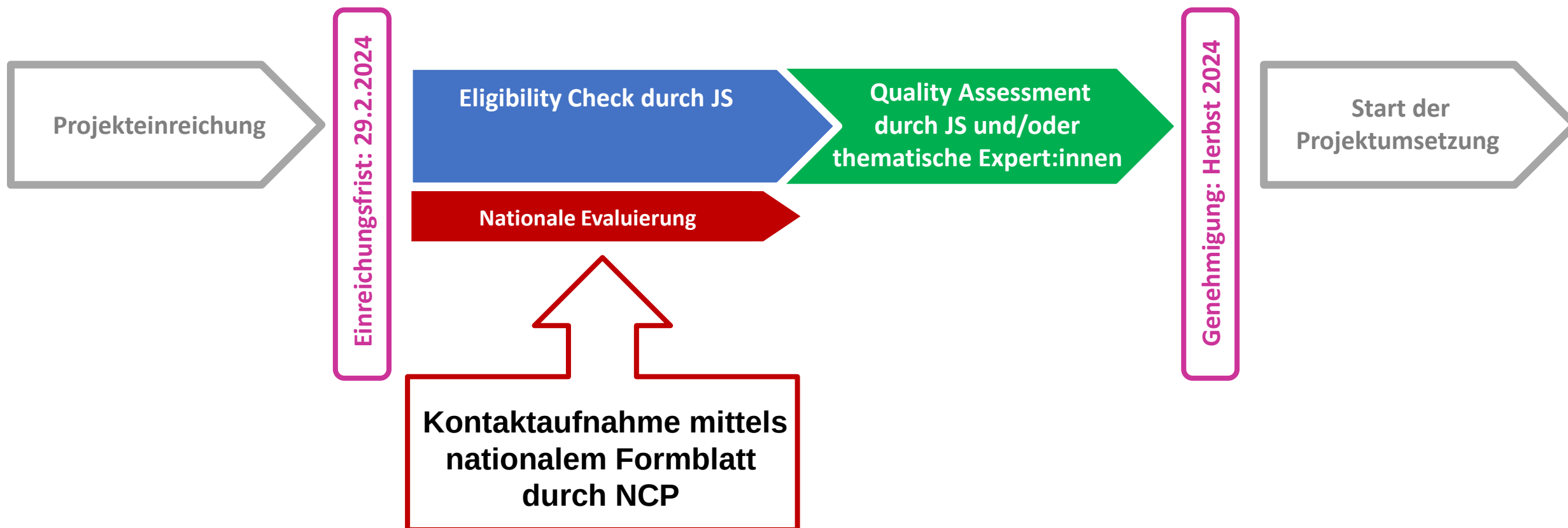


Webinar zu Spezifischen Zielen 1.1 und 1.2 "Research and innovation & Skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship"	26. September (10:00-12:00) - Anmeldung bis 25.9. (12:00)
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 2.1 "Renewable Energy"	28. September (10:00-12:00) - Anmeldung bis 27.9 (12:00)
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 4.2 "Institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance"	29. September (10:00-12:00) - Anmeldung bis 28.9. (12:00)
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 3.3 "Culture and sustainable tourism"	6. Oktober - Anmeldung demnächst
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 3.1 "Labour market and access to quality employment"	12. Oktober (vormittags) - Anmeldung demnächst
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 3.2 "Education, training and lifelong learning"	12. Oktober (nachmittags) - Anmeldung demnächst
Webinar zu Spezifischen Zielen 2.2 (Climate Change adaptation, risk prevention) und 2.3 (Water management)	13. November (vormittags) - Anmeldung demnächst
Webinar zu Spezifischen Ziel 2.4 "Protection and preservation of the nature and biodiversity"	13. November 2023 (nachmittags) - Anmeldung demnächst

Aufbauen auf vorhandenen Ergebnissen...

- **Keep.eu:** Datenbank von Projekten und Projektträgern der grenzüberschreitenden, transnationalen und interregionalen INTERREG-Programme: <https://keep.eu/>
- **NCP Projektdatenbank:** <https://www.oerok-projektdatenbank.at/>
- Vorgängerprogramme **Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) - Genehmigte Projekte:** <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects>
- **Genehmigte 1. Call Projekte des Danube Region Programms** im Herbst auf DRP Website veröffentlicht

Nationale Evaluierung – Zeitplan



Nationale Evaluierung

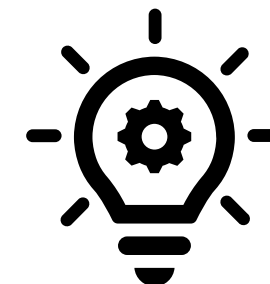
Abfragen & Überprüfung von nationaler Seite im Rahmen der Projektevaluierung

Folgende Aspekte werden im Rahmen der nationalen Evaluierung nach Projekteinreichung national abgefragt bzw. überprüft:

- **Rechtlicher Status der Projektantragsteller** (Rechtspersönlichkeit, öffentlich/privat)
 - Orientierungshilfe für die Feststellung des Status von Projektpartnern (öffentlich/privat):
<https://www.oerok.gv.at/kooperationen/info-service-oesterreich-ncp/finanzkontrollsystem-in-oesterreich>
- **Nationale Ko-Finanzierung**
- **Finanzielle und technische Kapazität der Projektantragsteller**

**Achtung: Bestätigung des Projektträgers in der Projektevaluierung kann nur nach Überprüfung erfolgen!
Stellen Sie daher bitte der nationalen Kontaktstelle alle erforderlichen Unterlagen zur Verfügung!**

Ein gutes Projekt ...



- weist einen **klaren transnationalen Charakter** auf = adressiert eine transnationale Herausforderung/Problemstellung, die eine transnationale Lösung braucht → klar erklären, warum transnational zusammengearbeitet werden muss!
- achtet auf eine **ausgewogene qualitative Partnerschaft** (thematisch, geographisch, etc.)
- folgt einer **klaren Interventionslogik**
- verfolgt einen **innovativen, territorial integrierten Ansatz**
- liefert **messbare, realistische und dauerhafte Ergebnisse**, die über das Projektende hinaus weiterbestehen und aufgenommen werden → **Nachhaltigkeit der Projekte** = wichtig!
- trägt zu relevanten **Strategien und Politikfeldern** bei (Beitrag zu EUSDR = verpflichtend!)
- baut **auf bestehendem Wissen** auf
- demonstriert eine **effiziente Ressourcenmobilisierung** („*value-for-money*“)



Kontakte und Informationen

DRP Joint Secretariat

Akadémia utca 3,
1054 Budapest (Ungarn)

Email: danube@pm.gov.hu

Website: <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/>

DRP National Contact Point

Anna Maria Kramann

ÖROK-Geschäftsstelle
Fleischmarkt 1
1010 Wien

Tel.: +43 1 53 53 444-21

Email: kramann@oerok.gv.at

Website:
<https://www.oerok.gv.at/kooperationen/etz-transnational-netzwerke/danube-transnational-2021-2027>



Was ist ein gutes Projekt? Evaluierungskriterien und weitere Tipps für eine erfolgreiche Projekteinreichung

Horst Schindler, Danube Region Programme Joint Secretariat



DRP 2nd Call

Horst Schindler

20th September 2023, online

Nationaler Infotag



**Funded by
the European Union**



Abstract

- Jems
- Assessment procedures
 - Eligibility assessment
 - Quality assessment
 - What are the criteria?
 - How can criteria be met?



Preparing the AF in Jems





Jems basics

- Jems is a web application
- Jems access via email address and password combination given by MAJS
- The LA can add further users that can edit the application but these users cannot submit the AF.
- In case you forgot your user name (e-mail address with which you registered), please contact us at jemshelpdesk@interreg-europe.eu.



Project overview

Application form

Project version
(current) V. 1.0

A - Project identification

A - Project identification

B - Project partners

Partners overview

LP1 Lead Partner

PP2 Partner 1

PP3 Partner 2

Associated Strategic Partners

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.3 Project partnership

C.4 Project work plan

S01

S02

C.5 Project Results

C.6 Project Time Plan

C.7 Project management

D - Project budget

Dashboard / Applications / **DRP0200405 – Test - application**

Application form **DRP0200405 – Test - application**

Project overview

Project overview

Status: **Step 1 Draft** (updated on 04.11.2022)

Project ID and acronym	DRP0200405 – Test - application
Applicant name	Susanne Belihart
Project name	Let's get started
Programme priority	2. - A greener, low-carbon Danube Region
Specific objective	2.1 - Support greening the energy and transport sectors in the Danube Region by enhancing the integration of renewable energy sources
Call	DRP - 1st call for proposals Ends 21.11.2022. Time left: 0 days, 0 hours and 0 minutes.

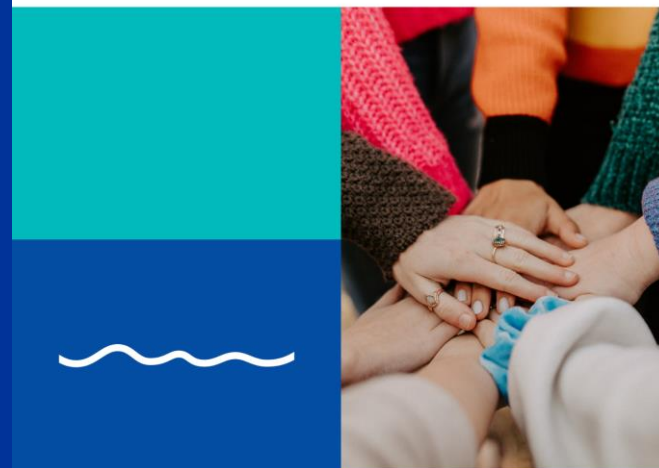


Guidelines

- Download from our website
- Detailed information with screenshots



Guidelines for filling in the AF





Assessment procedures for the 2nd Call



Applicant's Manual 2021—2027





How is the AF assessed?

- Eligibility and Quality assessments
- Assessment procedure, assessment matrix and quality criteria are included in the:



Applicants' Manual

- Please download it from the website - updated for the 2nd call:
- Please read the assessment sections thoroughly in order to prepare a high quality proposal!



Eligibility requirements for the 2nd Call



Applicant's Manual 2021—2027





Eligibility assessment

- confirms to the applicant the correctness of submitted infos and docs
 - in timely manner (deadline) and
 - in formal manner (e.g. completeness)
-
- Eligibility criteria are of “knock-out” nature
 - No subject of interpretation, possible answers just “YES” or “NO”



Check is carried out by MA/JS and assisted by DRP NCPs

- 9 criteria for the overall proposal
- 3 criteria on the level of PPs

Failure to meet an eligibility requirement leads to:

- Rejection of the whole proposal (criteria 1-9)
- Rejection of PP(s) with eligibility problem (10-12)



overall criteria

1. The AF has been submitted within the set deadline (date and time)

- Deadline: 29.02.2024



overall criteria

2. The AF has been submitted through the programme monitoring system

- Jems will not allow submission beyond deadline
- Don't leave tasks to the last moments as Jems could be overloaded!
- Make sure, your application is really submitted in Jems

➤ Check & Submit

Run pre-submission check

Submit project application

- Status of the application is now **“Submitted”** **CHECK!**



3. The AF is compiled in English

- All parts of the AF are compiled in English, the official language of the DRP

4. Partnership is composed by at least three financing partners from at least three DRP partner countries. At least one partner shall be a beneficiary from an EU Member State

- Financing PPs receive Interreg funds co-financing



5. Lead applicant (LA) is an eligible beneficiary

- Fulfils the requirements of the programme
- Will be checked together with the NCPs



6. At least 3 joint cooperation levels are indicated

According to Art 23(4) of EU reg. 1059/2021:

- Joint development
- Joint implementation
- Joint staffing
- Joint financing

No need for description, just
ticking ☒

Make your choice in Jems section C.7.5!



7. Completeness of partnership agreement

- Scanned version of PA is uploaded in Jems
- PA containing all compulsory parts
- Only Article 5 may be adapted by the partnership
- Must be signed by all directly financed partners (PPs but no ASPs)



8. The proposal has selected at least two different programme output indicators

- RCO 87 – “Organisations cooperating across borders” is mandatory



9. The proposal has selected at least 2 different programme result indicators

- ISI – “Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders” is mandators as it is connected to RCO 87



PP criteria

10. Financed partners are eligible

- PP fulfils the requirements of the programme



Reminder

Eligible applicants

- Local, regional, national **public bodies/ bodies governed by public law**
 - “body governed by public law” according to Article 2(1) of Directive 2014/24
- **International organisations** (under national (DRP Partner State) / international law)
 - Fulfil EU, programme and national requirements in terms of control, validation of costs and audits
- **Private bodies** (non-profit & profit making, founded by private law)
 - Legal personality
 - Make available results of the project to general public
 - Apply principles of public procurement
 - They assume the final financial liability for all sums wrongly paid out



Reminder

Eligible applicants

- Private non-profit bodies
 - Can be LP, PP, ASP
- Private profit making bodies
 - Cannot be Lead Partner



Geographic eligibility

Reminder

- Direct EU financing only for PPs located in Programme area
- Legal entities in **DE** outside Programme area
 - Competent in their scope of action for eligible area
 - Activities for the benefit of the programme area
 - Fulfil general eligibility (II.1.1)
- Legal entities in **UA** outside Programme area
 - implemented operations outside programme area must directly contribute to the objectives of the programme
- ASPs
 - EU countries
 - Non-EU countries of the programme area





12. Completeness of submitted partner documents

- For each PP the scans of the following docs have to be uploaded filled in, signed and scanned:
 - Declaration of co-financing
 - State Aid declaration
 - Declaration for international organisations



13. Completeness of submitted ASP documents

- For each ASP a scan of the filled in, signed and scanned ASP declaration has to be uploaded to Jems



Missing documents (i.e. Annexes),
parts of documents and/or signatures
may be completed by LA
within **5 working days** from MA/JS notification.



- Lead partner confirmation and signature - filled in and signed by LA
- Partnership agreement – 1 document, filled in and signed by each financing PP
- Declaration of co-financing - filled in and signed by each financing PP
- State aid declaration - filled in and signed by each financing PP
- Declaration for international organisations - filled in and signed by each respective financing PP (if applicable)
- Declaration of interest for ASP - filled in and signed by each ASP (if applicable)

- Templates can be downloaded from DRP 2nd Call webpage
- Time-consuming process, **start it as soon as possible**
- Only scans have to be uploaded to Jems – no originals needed at this stage
- Avoid high resolution when scanning annexes into “.pdf”
- Pack (convert) all files and upload in one single “.zip” file



Quality requirements for the 2nd Call

Horst Schindler
Project Officer



Applicant's Manual 2021—2027





Quality criteria

- are linked to the specific objectives and results of the Danube Region Programme document
- are common to all priorities
- assessment will be carried out by the MAJS



Quality criteria groups:

- **Strategic assessment criteria:** contribution to the programme's objectives and to the programme's result
- **Operational assessment criteria:** viability and feasibility, value for money in terms of resources used against delivered outputs and results

Each criteria group is assessed on basis of different criteria with each being scored from 0 to 5.



- **Strategic** assessment is carried out **first** and independently from the operational assessment
- Only projects successfully passing the strategic assessment are assessed operationally
- The knock-out threshold is set at 60%:
 - If a proposal receives a lower score than 60% in the strategic assessment, it will not be assessed operationally and it fails the overall assessment.
 - If a proposal receives at least 60% in the strategic assessment, then it will be assessed also from an operational point of view.
 - The final score (%) of the proposal will be given by the weighted sum of the strategic and operational assessment scores (%)
 - Strategic = 60% of the total score
 - Operational = 40% of the total score



What is assessed?	Criteria	Weight
Strategic	18	60%
Threshold at 60% 		
Operational	9	40%



Strategic relevance:

Territorial needs and challenges

- Territorial needs and challenges are clearly and coherently described
- Territorial needs and challenges are clearly addressed
- Capitalisation of relevant previous projects and synergies with on-going projects **AND** bringing added value to them are demonstrated



Common shortcomings:

- General needs of the entire region are presented, without any specific project related information focussing on the targeted area by the project
- There is a mismatch between the described needs/ challenges and planned activities.
- There is no (clear) information about the status quo (past initiatives, relevant results of previous projects, added value).



Strategic relevance:

Intervention logic

- Coherent with the programme's one
- Coherent in terms of
 - the definition of the objectives, expected outputs and results
 - the link between the objectives expected outputs and results
 - the link between the needs of the target groups and the proposed outputs and results
- Envisaged activities can realistically reach the planned outputs and results



Common shortcomings

- Intervention Logic lacks internal coherence.
- Described activities cannot logically lead to the achievement of the project objective.
- Described outputs cannot logically contribute to the achievement of the envisaged results.



Strategic relevance:

Intervention logic

- Project's **main objective** is in line with the selected programme SO, clearly defined and supported by appropriate activities
- Project's **specific objectives** contribute to the achievement of the main objective and they are linked to the project outputs
- Project's **main result** captures the advantage of carrying out the project. There is a clear link between the **activities** and the result; appropriate partners are involved in the different SOs proving that the planned result can actually be reached
- Proposed **outputs** are achievable within the project lifetime and as a result of the proposed activities; there is a clear connection between the outputs and the needs of the target group



Common shortcomings

- Project's **main objective** is too briefly described and/or using DRP CfP wording.
- Instead of the **main objective**, project activities are described.
- Project activities are mentioned instead of project **specific objectives**.
- Project **specific objectives** are not (entirely) coherent with the project activities.



- Project outputs are presented instead of defining the **project result**.
- **Project result** does not indicate the advantage of carrying out the project or it is not coherent with planned activities/ outputs.
- **Project outputs** are not sufficiently or clearly described.
- **Project outputs** do not seem achievable as a result of the planned activities.



- Project **activities** are not clearly and comprehensively described (the context in which they are implemented or their benefits/ importance are described instead).
- **Role of individual partners** is not clear (“all partners contribute”)



Strategic relevance:

Contributions to EU strategies and policies

- Relevant EU strategies/policies (other than EUSDR) of the thematic field - addressed and contributed to
- Relevant EUSDR Priority Area(s), targets – identified and contributed to
- EUSDR is embedded in the proposal (needs and challenges, synergy/capitalisation, work plan, durability and transferability)



Common shortcomings

- Unrelated **strategies** are mentioned or project's contribution thereto does not seem realistic.
- Inappropriate **EUSDR targets** are listed or project's contribution thereto does not seem realistic.
- There are no specific actions proving the **EUSDR embedding** in the proposal.



Strategic relevance:

Partnership composition

- Right mix of countries and competences for the project topic and its geographic focus, if relevant
- Role of partners is balanced and relevant for achieving the main objective
- Non-EU countries are involved



Common shortcomings

- Geographical coverage is limited even though the addressed topic is relevant for a wider area.
- Partners do not have the (most) appropriate competences to implement the planned activities.
- Some relevant sectors / levels of governance are missing.
- The partnership composition favours one/ two countries.
- Benefits of the involved countries vary to a significant extent.
- Partners' involvement is not coherent with their expertise.



Strategic relevance:

Transnational cooperation

- Project's transnational dimension and impact - demonstrated through geographical coverage, planned activities and outputs
- Added value of the transnational cooperation - clearly demonstrated in comparison to a national/ cross-border approach



Common shortcomings

- Project activities are not jointly implemented or they are not harmonised.
- Project's transnational impact is limited due to a restricted geographical area covered by the partnership.
- Project outputs do not have a transnational impact (local/ national relevance).
- The added value of the transnational cooperation is not clearly demonstrated.



Strategic relevance:

Target groups/durability&transferability / horizontal principles

- Relevant target groups – clearly identified, listed and involved
- Integration and use of project outputs by the target group
- Concrete measures to ensure durability and transferability of project outputs
- Contribution to the programme's horizontal principles – coherent with the overall territorial needs and with the programme's and project's objectives



Common shortcomings

- Inappropriate target groups are mentioned.
- It is not clear how the target groups will adopt/ use the project outputs.
- Durability and transferability of project outputs is too generally explained without references to concrete measures.
- Project's contribution to the horizontal principles is not presented in the light of actual activities.



Operational relevance:

Work plan

- Timetable and spending forecast – realistic and coherent
 - Clear link between the activities/outputs
 - Achievable activities and outputs
 - Readiness to be implemented
- Activities – described in detail (how, where, when and by whom) and balanced in terms of geographical implementation



Common shortcomings

- Time plan is not realistic (act. too short/ long) or not coherent (sequence is illogical).
- Work plan is not coherent
- The project does not seem to be ready for the implementation.



Operational relevance:

Project management

- Management structure – clear, transparent, efficient and effective
- Lead Applicant's capacity (knowledge and resources) to manage EU co-financed projects demonstrated
Or
- Adequate measures for management support ensured



Common shortcomings

- Managing structures are not proportionate to the needs of the project or tasks are not clear.
- Effective internal communication is not apparent.
- Quality management structure is missing or procedures are not clear.
- LA is less experienced in implementing/ coordinating EU projects (esp. ETC) or lacks necessary capacities to manage the project.



Operational relevance:

Communication

- Communication objectives are clearly linked to the project specific objectives
- Communication activities and deliverables are appropriate to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders



Common shortcomings

- Communication activities (incl. strategies, communication channels) are not well tailored to project objectives, activities, outputs, type of addressed stakeholders or target groups
- Not all PPs are involved in communication activities



Operational relevance:

Project budget

- Budget allocated to each activity is justified and quantified
- Budget of each cost category (based on real costs) is coherent with the planned activities and involved partners
- Partners' budget is consistent with their involvement in the activities



Common shortcomings

- Budget is inappropriately distributed per PP/ Act. / SO/cost category/reporting period
- Amount allocated to External Expertise is too high - raising the question of the relevance of the respective partner in the project
- Requested amounts for equipment or infrastructure and works are not justified by planned activities.



Final scores:

- Proposals scoring overall less than 60% will be recommended by the MA/JS for rejection.
- Proposals scoring overall between 60% and 74% will be subject to further discussions and a final decision will be taken by the MC.
- Proposals scoring overall 75% or more will be recommended by the MA/JS for immediate selection.
- Final decision on financing the proposals will be taken by the MC based on the results of the technical assessment and the ranking list.



coming next: **WEBINARS**

SO 1.1 and SO 1.2	26.09.
SO 2.1	28.09.
SO 4.2	29.09.
SO 3.3	06.10.
SO 3.1	12.10. (morning)
SO 3.2	12.10. (afternoon)
SO 2.2 and SO 2.3	06.11. (morning)
SO 2.4	06.11. (afternoon)



Thank you for your attention!



Horst Schindler
Coordinator Energy &
Transport

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Fragen & Antworten



DRP Förderfähigkeitsregeln und Berichtssystem

Mirjana Arsenić Petrović & Nashoan Al-Awli, Danube Region Programme Joint Secretariat

Interreg Programme

Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

2nd Call for proposal // Eligibility of expenditure

20 September 2023

AT National Info-Day // online

Mirjana Arsenic Petrovic // Nashoan Al-Awli





Eligibility

- General eligibility rules
- Non-ineligible expenditures
- Eligibility in time (exception: costs incurred in the last reporting period)
- Eligibility by cost categories



Hierarchy of rules

1. EU regulations (CPR, ERDF regulation and Interreg regulation)
2. Programme rules – laid out in the Manual of Eligibility of Expenditure
3. National rules (including specific institutional)

The eligibility rules laid down in the Manual on eligibility of expenditure cannot be overruled by national or institutional legislation



Non-eligible costs

- Interest on debt
- Value added tax (VAT), **except:**
 - **for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT)**
 - for operations the total cost of which is at least EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT)
 - where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation
- Fines, financial penalties and expenditure on legal disputes and litigation
- Costs of gifts
- Costs related to fluctuation of foreign exchange rate
- Purchase of land and existing buildings
- In-kind contribution (including unpaid voluntary work)
- Project expenditure split among project partners (i.e. sharing of „common costs”)



Eligibility in time

Eligible project expenditure has to be actually **incurred and paid between the starting date and the end date of the project** as defined in the approved Application form

Exceptions:

Preparation costs in amount of 18,500 EUR (EU contribution is 14,800 EUR) per project

Expenditures (including control costs) from last reporting period to be paid within 60 calendar days from the end date of the project



Cost categories

1. Staff costs
2. Office and administrative expenditure
3. Travel and accommodation costs
4. External expertise and service costs
5. Equipment expenditure
6. Infrastructure and works



Staff cost

- Salary payments
- Any other costs directly linked to salary payments incurred and paid by the employer, such as employment taxes and social security
- Overtime is eligible if directly related to the project
- Ad-hoc additional benefits, ad-hoc salary increase/ bonus applicable only to the project - **NOT ELIGIBLE**



Staff cost

Staff costs may be reimbursed in the Danube Region Programme using two methods:

A. on a real cost basis (proven by the employment document and payslips)

or

B. as a flat rate up to 20% of direct costs other than staff costs

Each project must choose one the above reimbursement option in the final AF and this should remain unchanged through the entire project lifecycle.



Staff cost - reimbursement methods

A. Real cost reimbursement method

- *Full-time* working on the project
- *Part-time* with a *fixed percentage* of time worked per month for the project

B. Flat rate reimbursement method

- *20% of direct costs other than staff costs*



Office & administrative cost

- Flat rate method
- 15% of eligible staff cost
- No justification/ supporting document needed
- Office and administrative cost shall not be claimed as direct cost under any other cost category



Travel and accommodation costs

The travel and accommodation costs can be reimbursed using two methods:

A. as a flat rate of 15% of staff costs

or

B. on a real cost basis

In the interest of the simplification, project partners are strongly advised to choose option A.



Travel and accommodation costs – flat rate basis

Travel and accommodation costs can be calculated as a flat rate of 15% of staff costs



Travel and accommodation costs - real cost basis

Travel costs:

- tickets: flight tickets (including the costs for carbon offsetting), bus, train, local transportation etc.
- travel and car insurance
- fuel, car mileage according to the rules relevant for the beneficiary's institution
- toll, parking fees (e.g. parking at the event, at the airport)
- taxi costs and car rental according to the criteria of "further eligibility rules" of this cost category

Costs of meals

Accommodation costs

Visa costs

Daily allowances



Travel and accommodation costs - real cost basis

- Travel and accommodation costs of the ASPs shall be planned in the sponsoring PP budget under Travel and accommodation cost category (and not CC External expertise)
- Travels outside the programme area are subject of approval from JS: if possible to be included already in the AF!



External expertise and services costs

Clearly and strictly linked to the project and essential for its effective implementation

- a. Studies or surveys (e.g. evaluations, strategies, concept notes, design plans, handbooks)
- b. Training
- c. Translations
- d. IT systems and website, development, modifications and updates
- e. Promotion, communication, publicity or information linked to the project
- f. Financial management
- g. Services related to the organisation and implementation of events or meetings (including rent, catering or interpretation)
- h. Participation in events (e.g. registration fees)
- i. Legal consultancy and notarial services, technical and financial expertise, other consultancy and accountancy services
- j. Intellectual property rights
- k. Verifications: Externalised control activities for the verification of the project expenditure by authorised national controllers where it is relevant for the control system of the concerned Partner State
- l. The provision of guarantees by a bank or other financial institution where required by Union or national law or in a programming document adopted by the monitoring committee
- m. Travel and accommodation for external experts, speakers, chairpersons of meetings and service providers
- n. Other specific expertise and services needed for the given project



External expertise and services costs

- Registration fees for participation in events to be planned under CC External expertise and services costs (and not under BL Travel and accommodation)
- Stakeholders' travel and accommodation costs to be planned under CC External expertise (and not under CC Travel and accommodation)
- Costs of website and project logo created by PP as a simple communication tool are not eligible



Equipment costs

Purchase, rent or lease of equipment costs is eligible in case it is necessary for the project implementation and is foreseen in the approved AF.

- Equipment must be purchased in **compliance with public procurement rules**.
- **The full costs of the equipment can be allocated to the project** (provided that national or institutional regulations allow that project equipment is reimbursed in full). However, also depreciation is eligible if in line with national rules on the matter.
- In case only **depreciation costs are declared to the projects**, the eligibility rules relevant for depreciation costs shall be applied.



Equipment costs

- In justified cases, costs for the purchase of specific thematic second-hand equipment may be eligible subject to the following conditions:
- (a) no other assistance has been received for it from the Interreg funds or from the funds listed in point (a) of Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060;
- (b) its price does not exceed the generally accepted price on the market in question; and
- (c) it has the technical characteristics necessary for the operation and complies with applicable norms and standards.



Infrastructure and works

Only small scale infrastructure is eligible where:

- the transnational impact of the investment is demonstrated
- the activity is essential for the project's implementation
- it is approved in the Application Form



Sources of funding:

- 80% INTERREG Funds
- 20% own contribution – national level information, NCP support

Control costs (FLC):

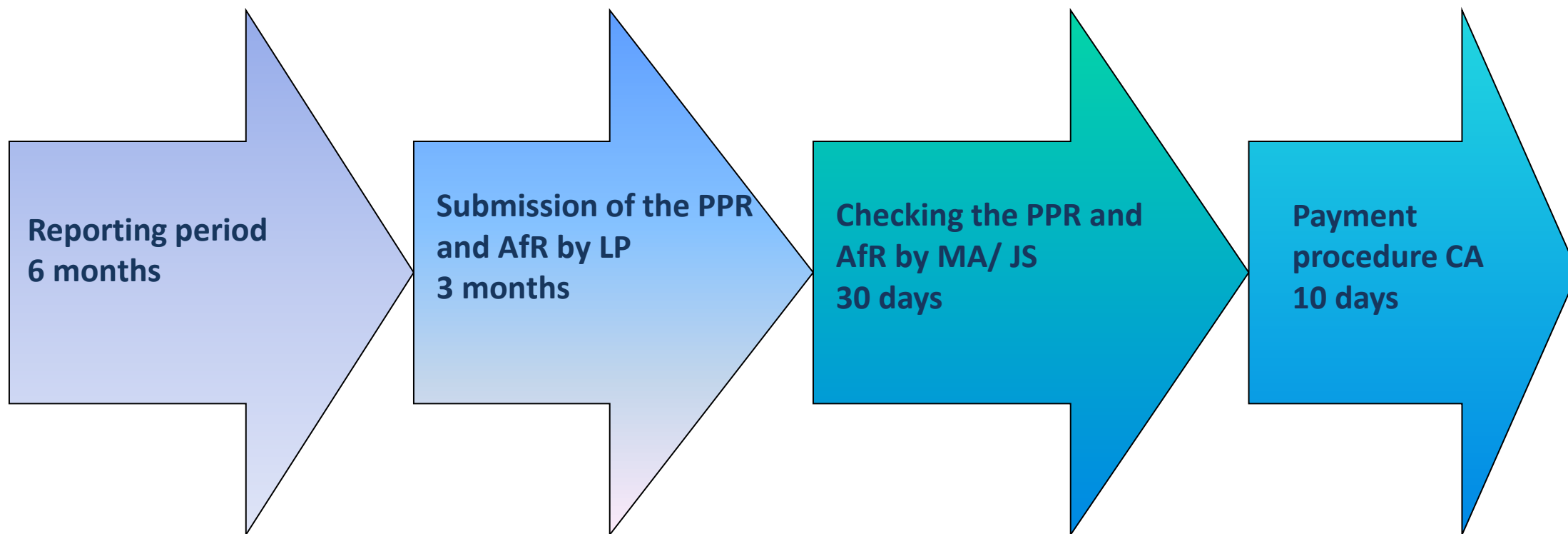
- to be planned under external experts and services cost category
- applicable for AT, DE and MD project partners

Use of the EURO

- Project budget (and partner budget) to be planned in Euro
- All expenditure to be reported in Euro
- EU contribution will be transferred to the LP in Euro



Timeframe of reimbursement



Das Kontrollsystem in Österreich für die Programmperiode 2021-2027

Irena Hnatkova, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft

Kontrollsystem in Österreich für die Programmperiode 2021-2027

DI Irena Hnatkova
BML, Abt. III/6
Wien, 20. September 2023

Rechtliche Grundlage

- gemäß Art. 46 Abs. 3 der **Interreg-VO** ist in jedem Partnerland eine Prüfstelle als Kontrollinstanz einzurichten
- Vereinbarung nach **Art. 15a-B-VG** zwischen dem Bund und den Ländern („15a-Vereinbarung“)
 - Art. 7 Abs. 1 regelt die Aufgaben der **Prüfstelle**
 - Art. 7 Abs. 4 regelt die **koordinierende Prüfstelle** und ihre Aufgaben

Kontrollsystem in Österreich

- Kontrollsystem in AT ist ein **dezentrales System mit 4 operativen Prüfstellen** und einer koordinierenden Prüfstelle
- **Koordinierende Prüfstelle:** Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft, Abt. III/6 – Koordination Regionalpolitik und Raumordnung
- Ansprechpersonen der koordinierenden Prüfstelle:
 - Vivian Thurner, vivian.thurner@bml.gv.at
 - Irena Hnatkova, irena.hnatkova@bml.gv.at

Prüfstellen in Österreich

Prüfstelle	Prüfkosten
Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes	5% v. Echkosten + 300€ Sockelbetrag
Prüfstelle Salzburg	3% v. Echkosten + 1.000€ Sockelbetrag
Prüfstelle Burgenland	5% v. budgetierten und genehmigten Gesamtkosten
Wirtschaftsagentur Burgenland GmbH	5% v. budgetierten und genehmigten Gesamtkosten <u>zzgl. USt</u>

Kosten sind förderfähig (Kostenkategorie: external expertise and services)

Zuordnung zu den Prüfstellen Burgenland & Salzburg (gem. Art. 7 der 15a Vereinbarung)

1. Begünstigte im **inhaltlich/ thematischen** Zuständigkeitsbereich oder im Auftrag der Länder Burgenland oder Salzburg
2. alle Vorhaben mit einer **Förderung aus Landesmitteln** von Burgenland oder Salzburg; bei mehreren Bundes- oder Landesförderstellen erfolgt die Zuordnung zu jener Vertragspartei, auf die der größte nationale Förderungsanteil entfällt
3. alle Begünstigten, die mehrheitlich von Burgenland oder Salzburg **finanziert** werden bzw. deren Organe mehrheitlich von einem der beiden Bundesländer beschickt sind
4. alle Begünstigten im **Zuständigkeitsbereich oder im Auftrag** von Städten oder Gemeinden oder alle Begünstigte, deren Vorhaben eine Förderung aus Mitteln von Städten oder Gemeinden erhält, wenn sie in den Bundesländern Burgenland oder Salzburg liegen

Beauftragung der Prüfstelle



- Nach der Projektgenehmigung wird jedem Projektpartner eine **Prüfstelle vom BML zugewiesen**
- Übermittlung des vorgegebenen Standard Vertrag zur **Beauftragung der Prüfstelle** inkl. Kontaktdaten mittels NCP
- Beauftragung erfolgt direkt durch den Projektpartner mittels vorgegebenen **Standard Vertrag**
- Bitte um rasche Kontaktaufnahme und Vertragsübermittlung an die zugewiesene Prüfstelle

Ansprechpersonen / Kontakt

- Hauptansprechpartner für Sie in Österreich bei Fragen zur Projektabwicklung sind der **National Contact Point (NCP)** in Wien
 - Martina Bach, bach@oerok.gv.at
 - Anna Maria Kramann, kramann@oerok.gv.at
 - Andrea Silberberger, silberberger@oerok.gv.at
- Weiterer Hauptansprechpartner ist der **Lead Partner** des Projektes **bzw.** für den Lead Partner das jeweilige **Gemeinsame Sekretariat**
- Für Prüfungen die Ihnen zugewiesene **Prüfstelle**

Sonstiges

- Alle Dokumente bitte genau durchlesen
- Einhaltung der Fristen
- Anweisungen NCP einhalten
- Haftung für ordnungsgemäße Durchführung
- Beschwerdemöglichkeit mittels Form C
- **Kein EFRE gefördertes Projekt ohne Prüfung**



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Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

DI Irena Hnatkova
BML, Abt. III/6
Irena.hnatkova@bml.gv.at



Fragen & Antworten



Resümee & Abschluss

Martin Hutter, Stadt Wien



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Vielen Dank!

