



Project factsheet - Assessment grid

PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project Ref. No.	DRP0200367
Project title	Danube Region Programme
Acronym	PilotInnCities
Priority axis	1. - A more competitive and smarter Danube Region
SO	1.1 - AdvancedTechnologies
Lead partner	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
Lead partner country	#esko (CZ)
Lead partner legal status	Public
Project duration	30
Total Interreg Funds	1981872.00
Total Eligible Budget	2477340.00

Project Summary

Cities and urban areas are home to 75% of EU citizens and are responsible for the equivalent amount of CO2 emissions, consumption of energy and primary materials as well as economic activities expressed by GDP. This gives cities a key significance when addressing current global challenges and ensuring individual and collective wellbeing. Innovative solutions and technologies are vital components of the needed transition of European cities to livable, sustainable and efficiently organized places i.e. Smart Cities. However, the implementation of innovations faces numerous obstacles, especially at municipal level where the complexity of Smart City concepts contrasts with a lack of know-how and adequate resources. In the Danube Region, this disproportion is further amplified by the fragmentation of local government. This results in a low ability and willingness of municipalities to become early adopters of innovations, slowing down not only their own development but also the uptake, upscaling and internationalization of innovative solutions. As a consequence, innovative Smart City businesses, especially SMEs and start-ups, have problems to reach their natural market, which negatively affects their competitiveness: the very essence of PA 8 of the EUSDR - and by extension prosperity. This ecosystem problem, identified by the consortium, is based on inefficient cooperation among stakeholders and lack of processes and stable support mechanisms. To stimulate the uptake and upscaling of Smart City innovations, the project aims to lay foundations and provide guidelines for more efficient quadruple helix collaboration, using the Finland-inspired method of agile piloting as a central instrument. Agile piloting is a compact and flexible approach designed to facilitate innovation partnerships between businesses and municipalities based on pilot experiments in real urban living-lab environments. Offering an all-win scenario, the method motivates diverse stakeholder groups to engage in co-creation and develop synergies. Ultimately, by bridging gaps between stakeholders, the implementation of agile piloting promises to shorten the time span between a minimum viable product and a scalable Smart City solution ready for transfer via best practice sharing and internationalization. However, agile piloting needs to be adjusted to the specific conditions of the Danube Region. Therefore, the project connects stakeholders from several countries that will jointly design a tailored agile piloting model. It will be provided as an agile piloting methodology: a project management manual containing practical guidelines for all phases of agile piloting that can be used universally by stakeholders across quadruple helix. Most importantly, the methodology will be updated to version 2.0, based on a set of pilot actions in municipalities. With national and regional governments being the primary target groups, the project will also deliver an action plan to guide them during adoption of agile piloting towards long-term application e.g. support programs. These stakeholders will thus be equipped with a

concrete toolbox to support the uptake and upscaling of innovative Smart City solutions, cultivate the ecosystem and set an example for others. The project takes an unparalleled peer-to-peer learning-in-process approach that joins forces of project partners to tackle long-lasting systemic challenges that tend to be avoided at the national level or are perceived as given conditions having to be accepted or solved by someone else. The EU-level cooperation is used as a leverage to mobilize and engage national stakeholders who are a necessary part of the solution, but also to put together and jointly use all pieces of know-how that are already available in specific countries. Partners will work hand-in-hand and act as transnational transmitters set in national environments. Their goal is to create a universal solution by extracting common traits of various Danube Region parts and to harmonize the approach to Smart City innovations across countries considering national predispositions. To tackle very complex and abstract systemic challenges the project proposes a concrete, practical tool that makes the transformation happen directly in city streets and engages quadruple helix stakeholders in co-creation inside living labs. This differs from the prevalent soft approach focusing on often ineffective strategies and seminars alone. In addition, the project's timing opens a once-in-a-long-time opportunity to follow up on the recent Interreg Europe's peer review in Helsinki and make the unique Finnish know-how accessible to a large circle of stakeholders across the Danube Region. At the same time, the lead partner's position of a national PA8 EUSDR coordinator creates a strong connection all the way from the transnational policy-making level down to municipalities where the implementation of innovations takes place.

LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS

No.	Institution name	Country	Total Interreg funds	Total eligible budget
MoIT CR	Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic	#esko (CZ)	255752.00	319690.00
CzechInvest	Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest	#esko (CZ)	184000.00	230000.00
MIRDI SR	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic	Slovensko (SK)	192040.00	240050.00
ZMOS	Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	Slovensko (SK)	158400.00	198000.00
Neumann N. Kft.	Neumann János Nonprofit Ltd.	Magyarország (HU)	192000.00	240000.00
HROD.net	HROD.net Community Development Nonprofit Ltd.	Magyarország (HU)	154400.00	193000.00
DSI	Digital Serbia Initiative	Serbia (RS)	141600.00	177000.00
DEH	Danube Engineering Hub Association	România (RO)	168000.00	210000.00
UTCB	Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest	România (RO)	171560.00	214450.00
EurA	EurA AG	Deutschland (DE)	175000.00	218750.00
ZDE	Center for Digital Development	Deutschland (DE)	189120.00	236400.00
TOTAL (EUR)			1981872.00	2477340.00

LIST OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

No.	Institution name	Country
Neumann	SEVEN BORDERS - Cross-border Association of Local	

N. Kft.	Governments in the Carpathian Basin	Magyarország (HU)
MoIT CR	Dnipropetrovsk Regional Investment Agency	Ukraine (UA)
MoIT CR	Dzermal Bijedic University of Mostar	Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)
MoIT CR	Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic	#esko (CZ)
HROD.net	Association of Towns, Villages Cultural Region	Magyarország (HU)
DEH	Blejoj City Hall	România (RO)
ZDE	German Association of Towns and Municipalities	Deutschland (DE)
MIRDI SR	The Office for Public Procurement	Slovensko (SK)