

Webinar on thematic focus of Specific Objective 2.2 and 2.3



Transnational Cooperation

transnational dimension:

- project **topic, addressed challenge** and contributing **project activities** have **transnational, broader territorial and/or thematic character and relevance** (not limited to a few, 3-4 countries)

transnational impact:

- based on the planned activities and outputs the **impact of the project** can be considered **relevant on transnational scale** and not only on local level in different parts of the region

A collection of different local actions of PPs under one „umbrella“, or cross-border cooperation is not transnational

What is supported

- **improving policies and institutional capacities** (e.g. integrated strategies, action plans, policy & sectoral dialogs, trainings)
- **harmonising management processes** (e.g. management, contingency plans)
- **elaborating, pilot testing joint solutions** (e.g. monitoring, forecasting tools, data bases, decision support tools, methodologies, transnational small-scale investments (but no major infrastructure))
- **information, communication, dissemination activities** (supporting the thematic activities)
- **reasonable mix of activities** with clear thematic focus
- **territorially integrated, cross-sectoral approaches**

SO 2.2 - Promoting climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

SO 2.3 - Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance

SO 2.2 – needs and challenges

- Danube Region exposed to climate change
 - increasing annual mean temperatures,
 - wet regions becoming wetter, dry regions drier
 - increasing intensity and frequency of heat waves, dry periods, heavy rainfalls
- increasing frequency & severity of environmental disasters
 - floods, droughts, forest fires
- impacts on ecosystem, economic sectors, human life on transboundary scale
- impacts of accidental pollutions along major rivers need coordinated transnational emergency response

SO 2.2 - Focus

- strengthening cooperation of key actors of transnational area
- Danube Region scale CC forecasting & vulnerability assessment
- harmonised, coordinated disaster prevention, preparedness, response (CC induced environmental risks)
- preparedness and adaptive capacity to cope with impacts of CC
- flood & accidental pollution management actions
- targeting broad & coherent transnational space in its entirety
 - e.g. main transboundary river(-basin)s

SO 2.2 – What is supported

- **harmonised CC modelling, forecasting & vulnerability assessment on DRB scale**
 - applied at policy and operational level
- **CC adaptation**
 - integration of research results
 - improving skills and competences for policy makers and stakeholders
- **coordinated flood risks / drought prevention**
 - option of nature-based solutions
- **combat flood, drought, accidental pollution of transboundary rivers and CC related other disasters**
 - harmonised planning, monitoring, alert systems, inventories
 - improving operational cooperation, capacities of emergency response bodies
- **regional level CC environmental risks related disaster preparedness activities**

SO 2.2 – What is **not** supported

- if need for cooperation on transnational level not demonstrated
- target area on local level (urban, municipal) instead of broad and coherent transnational space
- pre-dominant focus on infrastructure
- pre-dominant focus on technical solution development without application by target users
- pre-dominant focus on research /data collection without translating into applied solutions / policy strategies, plans
- water scarcity related CC adaptation - low water periods affecting balanced use and quality of water (addressed in SO2.3)
- biodiversity related CC adaptation - on habitats, protected areas and forestry
(related to SO2.4 – not open in 3rd CfP)

SO 2.2 – state of play after 2nd call

8 projects supported

- **SAFETY4TMF** - transnational accidental pollution risks of Tailings Management Facilities in DRB
- **Be Ready** – urban heat islands
- **Sponge City** - (flash-)floods and water scarcity in urban areas
- **RESTORIVER** - NBSs in urban/peri-urban riverside areas for CC adaptation
- **Danube-ADAPT** - harmonised DR data for CC forecasting and vulnerability assessment
- **InDiMaND** – unified disaster management framework for DR
- **LAREDAR** – coordinated lakes and reservoirs management to reduce flood risks along transnational rivers
- **TRANSFER Danube** - integrated monitoring system & tools for agro-climatic risks within DR

SO 2.2 – Partnership

capable of influencing relevant transnational, national policies, strategies, higher operative levels in addressed thematic field in all countries of targeted transnational area

Primarily

- national, regional public authorities, organisations responsible for water-flood management
- hydro-meteorological services
- disaster management authorities
- professional and volunteer civil protection and rescue organisations

Additionally

- regional governments
- interest groups, NGOs
- research institutions & universities

SO 2.3 – needs and challenges

- Danube Region covers water system of the Danube River Basin
- focus on surface & underground water bodies of transboundary river(basin)s
- pressures:
 - **increasing periods of low water in transnational river systems**
 - **increasing water use, decreasing ground water levels, shrinking supplies**
 - contamination and water pollution
- impacts beyond country borders → need for cooperation of upstream & downstream countries

SO 2.3 - Focus

- harmonising management practises between key sectors to address potential impacts of climate change and improve quantity and quality of water and sediment
- transnational coordination of water supply management, including basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies
- geographic scope on whole Danube River Basin, or sufficiently broad part of it, major transnational river(basin)s, in their entirety

SO 2.3 – What is supported

- target potential impacts of CC on transnational water management
- key topics on transnational river(basin)s scale
 - water scarcity
 - balanced use of water
 - coordinated management of low-water periods
- harmonising & coordinating policy approaches, management practises in transnational river systems of DRB between
 - water management
 - agriculture, forestry
 - environment, nature protection
 - navigation
 - hydropower production

SO 2.3 – What is **not** supported

- if need for cooperation on transnational level not demonstrated
- not focusing on whole DRB, or its main transboundary river(-basin)s
- missing focus on water scarcity, balanced water use, low-water periods
- pre-dominant focus on infrastructure
- pre-dominant focus on technical solution development without application by target users
- pre-dominant focus on research /data collection without translating into applied solutions / policy strategies, plans

SO 2.3 – state of play after 2nd call

7 projects supported

- **AQUATIC PLASTIC** – macro-plastic in transboundary rivers
- **Danube Water Balance** – harmonised DRB water balance modelling system
- **DanubeSediment_Q2** - DRB sediment balance and quality management
- **MicroDrink** - micro-plastics in drinking water resources
- **Tethys** - Hazardous Substances water pollution in DRB
- **D-CLEAN** - mitigate municipal wastewater and stormwater
- **InnoWATCCH** - water retention measures as groundwater management solution

SO 2.2 – Partnership

capable of influencing relevant transnational, national policies, strategies, higher operative levels in addressed thematic field in all countries of targeted transnational area

Primarily

- national, regional public authorities, organisations of the relevant thematic sectors (water management, agriculture, forestry, environment-nature protection, navigation, hydropower production)
- hydro-meteorological services
- infrastructure and (public) service providers (e.g. water supply, waste-water treatment, hydro power plants, inland navigation)

Additionally

- interest groups, NGOs
- research institutions & universities

Budget allocations – 3rd call

Priority 2	Interreg funds Indicative allocation per SO EUR
SO 2.2	5 500 000,00
SO 2.3	5 000 000,00

Timeline of 3rd call

- **official call opening: mid-September**
(Online application in DRP Jems – accessible on programme website)
- **submission deadline: 15 December 2025**
- **project duration: max. 30 months**
- **estimated project start: 1 July 2026**

Resources & tools

- **DRP INTERREG Programme website - 3rd call**
<https://interreg-danube.eu/calls-for-proposals>
 - Lead applicant and thematic webinars
 - Applicants Package (in September - for the moment check 2nd CfP Applicants' Manual)
- **DRP matchmaking platform for partner search**
<https://interreg-danube-region-programme.b2match.io/>
- **DRP MA/JS**
 - bilateral online consultation (strongly recommended!!!)
 - ad-hoc advice on technical/formal issues
- **Network of DRP National Contact Points**
- **EUSDR PAs**

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Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union