

Webinar on the thematic focus of Specific Objectives 3.1 and 3.2



Objectives for today's webinar:

- Participants to understand the core focus areas and the most of relevant considerations in specific objectives 3.1 & 3.2 in the context of the 3rd Call of the DRP
- Participants to understand the basic timelines and support opportunities provided for the 3rd Call

Content

A. Specific Objective 3.1

1. Call 3 approach - background & rationale
2. Focus
3. Partnership
4. Budget

B. Specific Objective 3.2

1. Call 3 approach - background & rationale
2. Focus 1 CoVE support (strategic)
3. Focus 2 Cove support (operational)
4. Partnership
5. budget
6. PAC 9 CoVE presentation

Content

C. Key considerations

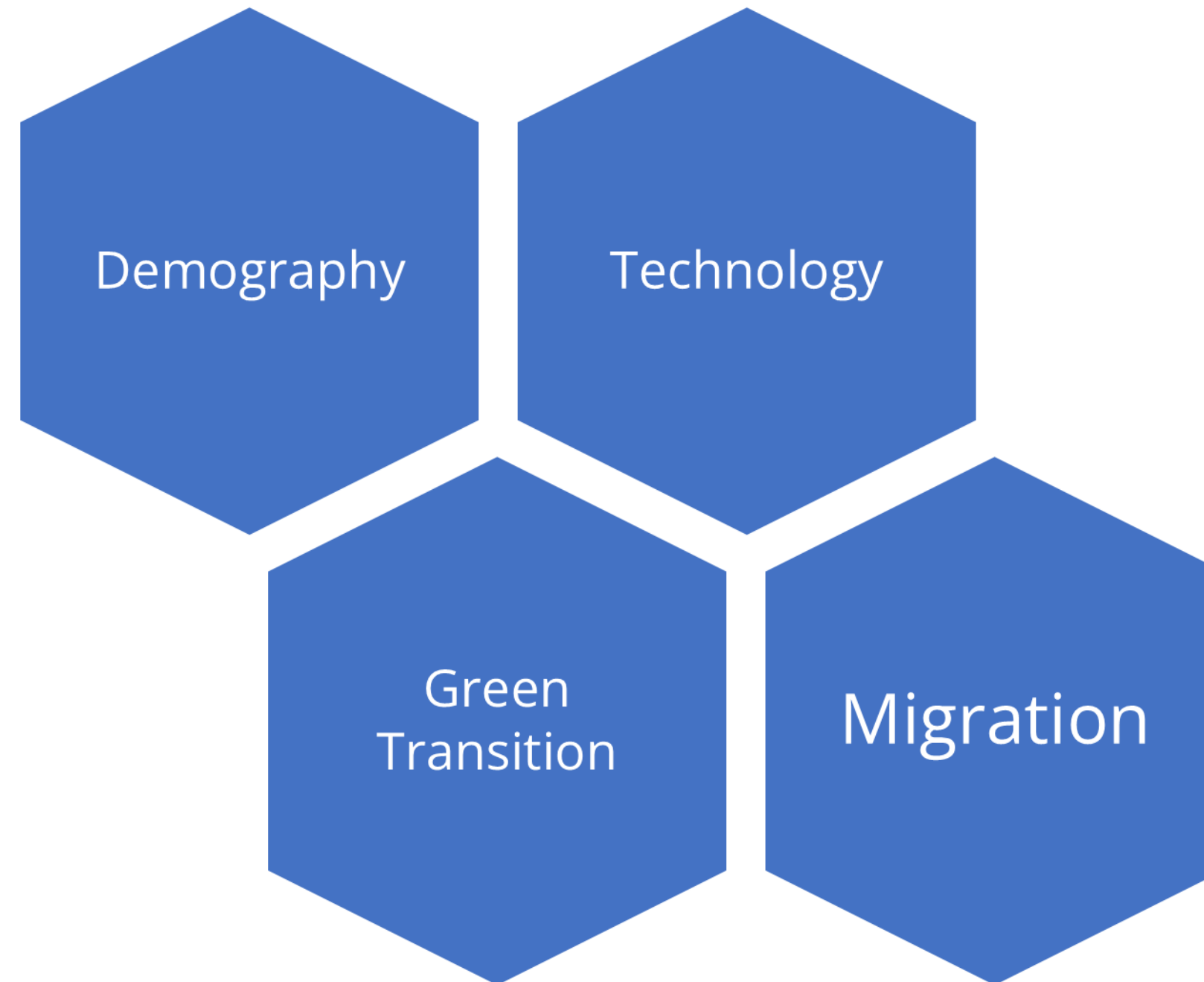
D. Timeline of the 3rd Call

E. Support

Specific Objective 3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets

- The integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market, with special attention on regions that display high proportions of disadvantaged.
- Retaining skilled labour and developing a more sustainable migration of educated people.
- Capacity building for employment support bodies (information and data systems; coordination; training e. g. in social economy).**

Megatrends



Priority 3 - specific objective 3.1

Responding to change with:

- New or developed information and data systems
- New models of working, support and coordination e.g. expanded functions of PES
- Strategies and piloting towards collaborative service delivery
- Training methodologies e. g. in social economy; understanding and measuring skills; AI
- Understanding and developing use of specific tailored tools and services for disadvantaged

Indicative examples:

- Creation of an information system and support for the provision of information and data about life events connected to the periodic and permanent migration of workforce, caused by labour market inequalities between the Eastern and the Western parts of the DR macro region
- Build-up of a “Danube observatory system” about labour migration and its impacts on cohesion; involving public bodies responsible for monitoring & evaluation, academia and civil society

Partnership:

Public employment Services; employment support bodies; universities and research organisations; science parks; companies, chambers and their associations; social partners; sector skills councils; national and regional authorities and development agencies; schools; minority representative organisations.

Note: partnerships with a strong non-EU representation will be appreciated.

Budget: 3 000 000.00

Specific Objective 3.2 - Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning

- Developing innovative educational models, programs, practical tools and materials for disadvantaged learners, including early school leavers.
- Maximising the use of existing knowledge and experience to develop best practices in inclusive education policy and advancing education and policy reform.
- Innovative approaches to encourage and improve inclusive vocational education and training and life-long learning

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

“CoVEs bring together a wide range of local partners, including VET providers, employers, research centres, development agencies and employment services (among others), to develop ‘skills ecosystems’ that contribute to regional, economic and social development, innovation and smart specialisation strategies”

European Training Foundation

The Understanding of a CoVE

- Centres of expertise industrial training institutes/ centres, regional VET centres, industry skills centres, Innovative centres, centres of competence
- Multiple organisations as part of skills ecosystem
- Integrated in frameworks of regional development, innovation and smart specialisation
- Strive towards vocational excellence - to be understood as a wide reaching and inclusive concept of skills provision
- International outlook

SO3.2 Two focus areas in support of CoVEs

1. CoVE support – strategic

Build on the work of the EUSDR PA9 Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence 2021

1. CoVE Support - Strategic

- Pilot programmes of work with a transnational character on specific areas of work e.g internationalization of CoVEs, CoVEs and social inclusion, public private partnerships; CoVEs and smart specialization; lifelong learning
- Creating networks, forums and working groups on specific themes connecting VET policy makers and providers with companies and industry representatives across the Danube Region
- Developing a support function for the understanding, guidance and complementarity of different programmes in the Danube Region supporting CoVEs (National, regional, transnational)
- Awareness and capacity building programmes for CoVEs in the Danube Region
- Strategic CoVE development in fields of transnational interest across the Danube Region

2 CoVE Support - Operational

The development of existing CoVEs or new CoVEs - developing their excellence potential (see broad understanding of excellence)

- CoVE focussed initiatives to modernise and transform the quality of VET systems to strategically support social, economic and pedagogical changes and challenges, e.g. new skill needs in the context of the green and digital transition
- The formation of multilevel Public Private Partnerships for VET and skills development
- Actions aimed towards embedding CoVEs in local innovation ecosystems and connecting them at the Danube level
- Facilitating the bringing together of CoVEs that share a common interest in specific sectors and innovative approaches to tackling societal challenges (e.g. social inclusion, green skills, digitalisation, AI, upskilling individuals with low qualification levels, etc.)

Partnership:

VET providers including schools; tertiary education institutions; research institutions; science parks; companies, chambers and their associations; social partners; sector skills councils; national and regional authorities and development agencies; public employment services; minority representative organisations

Budget: 3 000 000.00

Timeline

- 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

Support

- **DRP INTERREG Programme website** - 3rd call
<https://interreg-danube.eu/calls-for-proposals>
 - Lead applicant (8/10/2025) 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
 - ad-hoc advice on technical/formal issues
- Network of DRP National Contact Points
- **EUSDR PAC 9**

Danube Region Programme Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat

Stephen Halligan

stephen.halligan@interreg-danube.eu

+36 30 828 5669

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/interregdanube/>

<https://www.facebook.com/InterregDanube/>

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