

## CONSILIUL MUNICIPAL CHIȘINĂU

### DECIZIE

nr. \_\_\_\_\_

din \_\_\_\_\_

Cu privire la implementarea Proiectului SPONGE CITY „Îmbunătățirea capacităților de adaptare la schimbările climatice urbane prin testarea și promovarea metodologiei sponge city la nivel transnațional”

În scopul implementării proiectului Proiectului SPONGE CITY „Îmbunătățirea capacităților de adaptare la schimbările climatice urbane prin testarea și promovarea metodologiei sponge city la nivel transnațional”, în temeiul art. 6 alin. (2) pct. (2) lit. d), alin. (3) lit. b), lit. h) din Legea nr. 136/2016 privind statutul municipiului Chișinău și art. 14 alin. (2) lit. b), lit. j), lit. n) din Legea nr. 436/2006 privind administrația publică locală, Consiliul Municipal Chișinău DECIDE:

1. Se acceptă participarea Primăriei Municipiului Chișinău, în calitate de Partener de proiect, la implementarea Proiectului SPONGE CITY „Îmbunătățirea capacităților de adaptare la schimbările climatice urbane prin testarea și promovarea metodologiei sponge city la nivel transnațional”, (codul proiectului DRP0200159), Programul regional pentru regiunea Dunării, primul apel de proiecte, finanțat din contul fondurilor Uniunii Europene, în valoare totală de 157 770,00 (o sută cinczeci și șapte de mii șapte sute șaptezeci) euro.

2. Se împuternicește Primarul General al municipiului Chișinău, dl Ion Ceban, cu dreptul de a semna, în numele municipiului Chișinău, Acordul de Parteneriat pentru implementarea proiectului menționat în pct. 1 al prezentei decizii.

3. Se desemnează Direcția generală arhitectură, urbanism și relații funciare în calitate de unitate responsabilă de implementarea, monitorizarea și raportarea activităților proiectului respectiv.

4. Direcția generală arhitectură, urbanism și relații funciare va înainta propuneri privind suma alocațiilor bugetare necesare pentru implementarea proiectului, conform etapelor preconizate, anual, la elaborarea bugetului municipal Chișinău, pentru anul curent și pentru anii următori până la finalizarea proiectului.

5. Consiliul Municipal Chișinău va aproba sursa de finanțare a sumei de 31 554.00 (treizeci și una de mii cinci sute cincizeci și patru) euro drept contribuție proprie obligatorie nerambursabilă a municipiului Chișinău, care reprezintă 20% din bugetul total al proiectului menționat.

6. Se stabilește că suma de 126 216.00 (o sută douăzeci și șase de mii două sute șaisprezece) euro va fi rambursată în bugetul municipal, prin intermediul liderului de proiect - Pecs, Slovenia, din contul fondurilor Uniunii Europene, conform

procedurilor stipulate în Manualul de implementare a „Interreg Danube Transnational Programme”, după fiecare perioadă de raportare a mersului implementării Proiectului.

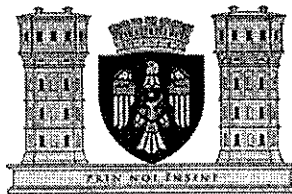
7. Direcția relații publice și buget civil, va asigura mediatizarea prevederilor prezentei decizii.

8. Primarul General al municipiului Chișinău, dl Ion Ceban, va asigura controlul îndeplinirii prevederilor prezentei decizii.

PREȘEDINTE DE ȘEDINȚĂ

SECRETAR INTERIMAR  
AL CONSILIULUI

Adrian TALMACI



**PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI CHIȘINĂU**  
**DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ ARHITECTURĂ, URBANISM ȘI**  
**RELAȚII FUNCIARE**

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**NOTĂ INFORMATIVĂ**

la proiectul de decizie „SPONGE CITY: Îmbunătățirea capacităților de adaptare la schimbările climatice urbane prin testarea și promovarea metodologiei "Oraș-Burete" la nivel transnațional.”

În contextul corespondenței derivate din participarea anterioară a Primăriei Municipiului Chișinău în calitate de partener de proiect, încadrul proiectului AGORA, proiect finanțat din fondurile Uniunii Europene, municipiul Chișinău este invitat să devină Partener în cadrul implementării proiectului „SPONGE CITY: Îmbunătățirea capacităților de adaptare la schimbările climatice urbane prin testarea și promovarea metodologiei "Oraș-Burete" la nivel transnațional”, prin programul „Interreg Programme Danube Region”, finanțat din fondurile Uniunii Europene, instrumentele de finanțare ERDF, IPA și ENI, se propune examinarea proiectului de decizie sus-menționat.

Regiunea Dunării este afectată de dezastre naturale cauzate de schimbările climatice, care cresc intensitatea și frecvența valurilor de căldură, secetelor, incendiilor și ploilor abundente ce duc la inundații rapide la nivel local. Având în vedere că 75% din populația regiunii locuiește în orașe, aceste anomalii expun cetățenii unor riscuri specifice. Liderii comunităților locale trebuie să fie pregătiți pentru aceste evenimente meteo extreme. Gestionarea apei în mediul urban a adoptat în mare parte abordări tradiționale, inclusiv investiții în infrastructura gri la scară mare, care nu beneficiază de inovație și nu exploatează serviciile ecosistemice. Acceptarea socială a acestor proiecte este de obicei limitată, deoarece cetățenii nu sunt implicați în etapele de proiectare și testare. Așezările din regiunea Dunării prezintă diferite contexte microclimatice, infrastructurale, financiare, legale și sociale, dar toate au nevoie de sprijin în identificarea riscurilor climatice locale și a intervențiilor eficiente.

Colaborarea transnațională este esențială pentru schimbul de cunoștințe și pentru integrarea concluziilor la nivel macroregional. Parteneriatul intersectorial își propune să promoveze conceptul de "Sponge City" în regiunea Dunării pentru a răspunde acestor provocări. Un „oraș burete” este o zonă urbană proiectată pentru a gestiona surplusul de

apă folosind diverse tehnici, prevenind astfel inundațiile urbane. Aceasta reduce suprafețele impermeabile și mărește suprafețele absorbante: zone verzi, pereți vegetali, lacuri urbane, grădini de ploaie și pavaje permeabile.

Complementând această abordare cu sisteme de canalizare și stocare, se contracarează și penuria de apă. Proiectul analizează caracteristicile hidroclimatice și practicile de gestionare a apei din 12 orașe-pilot, dezvoltă un set de instrumente pentru planificarea măsurilor de „oraș-burete” și promovează aceste instrumente prin elaborarea participativă a planurilor de acțiune locale, studii de fezabilitate și investiții demonstrative. Rezultatele sunt integrate la nivel național și european.

Totodată, este de subliniat faptul că implementarea proiectului este prevăzută în perioada 01.01.2024 – 30.06.2027, cu activități planificate și distribuite în 5 perioade de implementare și raportare, fiecare perioadă cu o durată de 6 luni. Drept urmare a aprobării deciziei Consiliului Municipal Chișinău pentru aderarea la proiect, liderul de proiect va realiza procedurile necesare pentru includerea municipiului Chișinău în calitate de Partener al Proiectului. Etapele și procedurile care se impun au fost prezentate în scrisoarea oficială, iar municipiul Chișinău va deveni membru al consorțiului proiectului „NONA: New gOvernance for New spAces” și va începe implementarea activităților la 1 ianuarie 2024, și până la încheierea proiectului și a tuturor procedurilor subsecvente.

Având în vedere tematica proiectului, se impune desemnarea Direcției generale arhitectură, urbanism și relații funciare în calitate de subdiviziune responsabilă de implementarea, monitorizarea și raportarea activităților proiectului. Conform cerințelor proiectului, Direcția generală va institui unitatea de implementare a proiectului, membrii căreia vor fi responsabili de realizarea activităților proiectului, raportarea narativă și financiară, precum și alte acțiuni ce se impun, pentru buna implementare a proiectului din partea Municipiului Chișinău.

Implementarea acestui proiect este relevantă în contextul elaborării Strategiei de dezvoltare socio-economică a municipiului Chișinău, a Planului Urbanistic Zonal Centru (Nucleul Istoric), a Planului Urbanistic General al Municipiului Chișinău, și presupune conlucrarea cu ceilalți parteneri de proiect din regiunea Dunării, în scopul îmbunătățirii capacității orașului pentru utilizarea și gestionarea responsabilă a terenurilor, pentru o economie verde și sustenabilă.

Totodată, conform regulilor programului ”Interreg Danube Regional Programme” specificate în Manualul de Implementare, disponibil pe platforma online: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/>, managementul financiar prevede alocarea, din sursele proprii ale Municipiului Chișinău, a mijloacelor financiare pentru implementarea activităților, care vor fi rambursate în proporție de 80 %, la contul desemnat la partenerului, drept urmare a raportării financiare periodice, și încărcarea în sistemul de raportare, a facturilor de plată pentru serviciile și bunurile achiziționate. Ținând cont de divizarea proiectului în 5 (cinci) perioade a câte 6 luni fiecare, raportul financiar și raportul de

progres al proiectului se prezintă, de către fiecare partener, la sfârșitul fiecărei perioade prin sistemul electronic de monitorizare al programelor Interreg - eMS.

Suma totală pentru implementarea activităților proiectului de către Municipiul Chișinău, pentru perioadele rămase este de 157,770.00 Euro, dintre care 31,554.00 – contribuție proprie nerambursabilă, este prevăzută pentru implementarea activităților proiectului pentru anul 2024-2027.

Suma de 126,216.00 Euro va fi rambursată bugetului municipal prin intermediul liderului de proiect - Pecs, Slovenia, din contul fondurilor Uniunii Europene, conform procedurilor stabilite prin Manualul de implementare a „Interreg Danube Transnational Programme”, după fiecare perioadă de raportare a mersului implementării Proiectului.

Din cele expuse mai sus, Direcția Generală Arhitectură, Urbanism și Relații Funciare propune spre examinare și aprobare de către Consiliul Municipal Chișinău, a proiectului de decizie menționat supra.

Cu respect,

**Svetlana DOGOTARU**  
**Șef al DGAURF**

**Interreg**



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the European Union

Replace with your Programme Logo

DRP0200159

**SpongeCity**

Application Form Export

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Version 2.0

Form language: EN

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Currency: EUR

## A - Project identification

### A.1 Project identification

<b>Project id (automatically created)</b>	DRP0200159
<b>Name of the lead partner organisation</b>	Pécsi Tudományegyetem
<b>Name of the lead partner organisation in English</b>	University of Pécs
<b>Project title</b>	Improving urban climate change adaptation capacities by testing and promoting the 'sponge city' methodology on transnational level
<b>Project acronym</b>	SpongeCity
<b>Programme priority</b>	A greener, low-carbon Danube Region
<b>Specific objective</b>	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
<b>Project duration in months</b>	30

## A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project. (in case of PAC/DSP CALL): highlight the main characteristics, strategic direction(s) and envisaged main achievements. / (in case of 1ST CALL FOR PROPOSALS): describe the followings:

- the common challenge of the programme area you are jointly tackling in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a transnational approach is needed;
- what is new/original about the project.

Danube Region is affected by natural disasters resulting from climate change, increasing the intensity and frequency of heat waves, droughts, fire incidents, and heavy rainfalls with flash floods on local level. Since 75% of the region's population lives in cities, these anomalies put the citizens at particular risk. Local community leaders must be prepared for these weather anomalies. Urban water management have so far mainly followed traditional approaches, including large-scale gray infrastructure investments, lacking innovation and the exploitation of ecosystem services. Their social acceptance is usually hindered as citizens are not involved in design and testing. Settlements have different micro-climatic, infrastructural, financial, legal and social backgrounds in DR, but they all need support in forecasting local climate risks and identifying effective interventions. Transnational cooperation is needed for this knowledge exchange and for mainstreaming the conclusions to macroregional level. The cross-sectoral partnership aims to spread the Sponge City concept in DR to answer these challenges. A sponge city is an urban area which has been designed to cope with excess rainfall using a variety of techniques. It mitigates/prevents urban floods by providing the area with the ability to naturally absorb the water. It reduces the extent of impermeable surfaces and increases the amount of absorbent land: green surfaces, green walls, bioswales, inner-city lakes, rain gardens, permeable pavements. Supplementing this approach with channelling and storage systems also helps to counter water shortages. The project analyses the hydroclimatic characteristics and water management practices of 12 pilot settlements, sets up a toolbox to support the planning of sponge city measures, tests and promotes the tools by participative elaboration of local action plans, feasibility studies and demonstration investments. Partners mainstream the results to national and EU level.



## A.3 Project budget overview

Funding source	Programme funding		Contribution				Total project budget	
	Funding amount	Co-financing rate (%)	State contribution	Public contribution	Total public contribution	Private contribution		Total contribution
Interreg Funds	1,622,807.36	80.00 %	78,467.50	240,799.50	319,267.00	86,434.84	405,701.84	2,028,509.20
Total EU funds	1,622,807.36	80.00 %	78,467.50	240,799.50	319,267.00	86,434.84	405,701.84	2,028,509.20
Total project budget	1,622,807.36	80.00 %	78,467.50	240,799.50	319,267.00	86,434.84	405,701.84	2,028,509.20

### A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurements Unit	Output Title	Output target value	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Organisations cooperating across borders	33.00	organisations	Establishment of transnational SpongeCity community to improve environmental monitoring in urban areas and promote ecosystem-based water retention measures in the Danube Region	33.00			
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	1.00	pilot actions	Implementing small-scale demonstration investments in HU, RO, HR and SI with citizen involvement (co-designing, testing) to test the local action plans, the toolbox and showcase sponge city actions	1.00			
Jointly developed	1.00	solution	Elaborating, testing, finetuning and spreading Sponge City Toolbox for	1.00			

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measuremen t Unit	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurem ent unit
solutions		s	improved hydroclimatic monitoring and planning innovative, ecosystem-based water retention measures in urban areas	2				
Strategies and action plans jointly developed	12.00	strategy/ action plan	Local 'Sponge City' Action plans elaborated, peer-reviewed by project partners and citizens, and endorsed	12.00				
					Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across the borders	0	201.00	No. of organisations
					Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	0	12.00	joint strategies

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measuremen Unit	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measure unit
						0	0	year/acti on plan
					Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	0	5.00	soluti ons

New sections of the application form:

**B16-1**

Please, describe your organisation's thematic and territorial competences and experiences are relevant for the project. (max 3000 characters per organisation)

**The General Directorate's relevant thematic and territorial competences and experiences for the SpongeCity project include:**

1. **Expertise in urban planning and development.**
2. **Expertise in development of strategies and regulations**
3. **Experience in designing and implementing policies and initiatives to support sustainable development.**
4. **Knowledge of the local context and challenges faced by lagging behind regions in the DANUBE area.**
5. **Collaboration with public authorities, institutions, and stakeholders involved in urban development and economic sectors.**

**C25**

Please, list your national, regional, local policies and strategies that the project will support.

1. **Socio-economic sustainable strategy of the Chisinau Municipality**
2. **Feasibility study for Rehabilitation of the Bâc riverbed**
3. **Chisinau Municipality Resilience Strategy (Draft)**

Please, also describe, what organisaiton in maganing the policy and how will you approach them to present our project results and influence the policy?

**C26 – C27**

Please list any previous projects that supported urban water management, preventing flash floods, draughts, etc., that might be linked to SpongeCity.

1. **Project “Climate change adaptation solutions”**
2. **Project “Natural solutions for the rehabilitation of the Bâc riverbed”**

Please explain briefly how will SpongeCity create an added value for them?

**SpongeCity will create an added value for the above stated projects by allowing to determine the framework for the actions that will allow to minimize the water intake of the river preventing floods and overflows, thus protecting the infrastructure that is suffering during the heavier rains because of the city's sloped relief.**

**C82**

All outputs should be used by relevant groups (project partners or others) after the project's lifetime, in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population. Please describe how your outputs will be used after the project ends and by whom, as well as how the institutional and financial support will be ensured.

1. **General use of the outputs**
  - 1.1. **Data and Research Findings:** The SpongeCity project generates valuable data and research findings related to water management, including flood risk assessments, hydrological modeling, and climate change projections. These outputs can be used by various stakeholders, including city planners, municipal authorities, and water management agencies, to inform decision-making and develop evidence-based policies.

- 1.2. **Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development:** The outputs of the SpongeCity project can guide urban planning and infrastructure development in Chisinau. City planners and municipal authorities can utilize the project's findings to identify vulnerable areas, design resilient infrastructure, and incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) into new development projects. This integration can help prevent flooding, enhance water retention, and improve overall water management.
- 1.3. **Policy and Governance:** The research findings and recommendations from the SpongeCity project can inform the development of water management policies and governance frameworks. Local authorities, together with relevant government agencies, can utilize these outputs to update existing policies or develop new ones that promote sustainable water management practices. This may involve integrating green infrastructure approaches, implementing water conservation measures, and establishing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms.
- 1.4. **Stakeholder Engagement and Public Awareness:** The outputs of the SpongeCity project can be used to engage stakeholders and raise public awareness about water management issues in Chisinau. By organizing workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns, the project's findings can be shared with the public, community groups, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and encourages collective action in implementing sustainable water management practices.

**2. Institutional and financial support can be ensured through the following measures:**

- 2.1. **Collaboration with Government Agencies:** Chisinau can collaborate with national and local government agencies responsible for water management and urban development. By aligning the SpongeCity project's objectives with the strategic priorities of these agencies, institutional support can be obtained. This collaboration can involve sharing project outputs, coordinating efforts, and accessing funding opportunities.
- 2.2. **Partnerships with International Organizations and Donors:** Chisinau can seek partnerships with international organizations and donors that support sustainable urban development and water management initiatives. These organizations can provide technical expertise, financial resources, and capacity-building support to implement the project's recommendations and ensure its long-term sustainability.
- 2.3. **Local Funding Mechanisms:** Chisinau can explore local funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the SpongeCity project's recommendations. This may include allocating a portion of the city's budget to water management initiatives, establishing public-private partnerships for infrastructure development, or introducing innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds or impact investments.
- 2.4. **Grant Programs and Funding Opportunities:** Chisinau can actively pursue grant programs and funding opportunities offered by national or international entities focusing on urban resilience, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development. By preparing strong project proposals based on the outputs of the SpongeCity project, the city can secure financial support for implementation.

**C83**

What will you do to make sure that relevant groups are aware of your outputs and are able to use them?

1. **Chisinau Municipality has established a vast network of cooperation with stakeholders in all the domains relevant to the project, including the private investment sector and the academia. Disseminating the information to the partners and civil society is a common practice that is used often in both calls to actions and public consultations of new projects.**

Please describe a specific address where the investment will be located.

Please describe the technical implementation, necessary equipment, measurements, methods for processing data, etc.

Please list all technical requirements and permissions (e.g. building permits) required for the investment according to the respective national legislation and indicate when you expect them to be available.

What organisations, companies will be involved into the implementation?

Who owns the site where the investment is located?

Who will retain ownership of the investment at the end of the project?

Who will take care of the maintenance of the investment? How will this be done? (max 2000)

#### Questions, recommendations from evaluators

1. We should describe, **how urban interventions affect wider geographical areas** (preventing floods and droughts already outside the borders of the cities). Please, give some examples from your regions.
  - *Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Chisinau has integrated SuDS techniques into urban planning and development projects. SuDS involve the use of permeable surfaces, green roofs, rain gardens, and retention ponds to manage stormwater runoff. By implementing SuDS, Chisinau can reduce the volume of water entering downstream areas, thereby mitigating the risk of flooding in neighboring regions.*
  - *Reforestation and Green Infrastructure: Chisinau has recognized the importance of green spaces and reforestation to prevent floods and droughts. The city has undertaken initiatives to increase the number of trees, create urban forests, and establish green corridors. These measures enhance water absorption, regulate local climate, and reduce the likelihood of flooding by improving soil permeability and retaining water.*
  - *Riverbank Restoration: Chisinau has implemented projects to restore and protect riverbanks along major watercourses like the Bâc River. These initiatives involve stabilizing eroded riverbanks, planting vegetation, and implementing erosion control measures. By preventing further erosion and restoring natural habitats, the city can reduce sedimentation downstream, improving water quality and minimizing flood risks for adjacent areas.*
  - *Water Conservation and Management: Chisinau has implemented water conservation measures, including improved water distribution networks, efficient irrigation systems, and public awareness campaigns. By reducing water wastage within the city, the overall demand for water decreases, resulting in more water availability in surrounding regions during droughts.*
  - *Cross-Border Collaboration: Chisinau has also engaged in cross-border collaborations with neighboring countries to address water management challenges. Joint initiatives, such as*

*sharing data, implementing coordinated flood control measures, and harmonizing policies, can lead to effective regional solutions that benefit wider geographical areas beyond the city limits.*

2. **How will you address and involve local municipalities**, settlements from your region to understand their water management issues and support them by forwarding the project's findings, measurement results, policy recommendations? What are those forums, where you usually meet and consult other municipalities?
  - *Regional Water Management Conferences: Chisinau can organize regional conferences focused on water management, inviting representatives from local municipalities and settlements within the region. These conferences can serve as platforms for sharing project findings, measurement results, and policy recommendations. They provide an opportunity for municipalities to learn from each other's experiences, discuss challenges, and identify collaborative solutions.*
  - *Working Groups and Task Forces: Chisinau can establish working groups or task forces specifically dedicated to water management. These groups can comprise representatives from Chisinau and neighboring municipalities. They can meet regularly to exchange information, discuss common issues, and jointly develop strategies and policies for effective water management. These working groups can also facilitate the dissemination of project findings and recommendations.*
  - *Technical Training and Capacity Building Programs: Chisinau can organize technical training and capacity building programs targeted at local municipalities and settlements. These programs can focus on water management practices, data collection and analysis, and the implementation of sustainable solutions. By equipping local stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills, Chisinau can foster a collaborative environment and encourage the exchange of information and best practices.*
  - *Online Platforms and Knowledge Sharing Portals: Chisinau can develop online platforms or knowledge sharing portals to facilitate communication and collaboration among municipalities. These platforms can include discussion forums, resource libraries, and interactive tools for sharing project findings, measurement results, and policy recommendations. This digital approach enables continuous engagement, even between physical meetings, and allows stakeholders to access information conveniently.*
  - *Partnership Agreements: Chisinau can establish formal partnership agreements with neighboring municipalities and settlements to promote cooperation in water management. These agreements can outline shared goals, responsibilities, and resources, creating a framework for collaboration. Through these partnerships, Chisinau can support other municipalities by sharing project findings, measurement results, and policy recommendations, and work together to address water management challenges collectively.*
3. We need to justify it better so that we can disseminate our results throughout the Danube region. So please **list some of the municipalities or institutions you are in contact with outside your own country. It would be particularly useful to list international organisations** of which you are members or have participated in events, etc.
4. Please, mention if you have contacts to **ICPDR or GWP CEE**, especially if you worked with them in any issues.



# SpongeCity

2<sup>nd</sup> preparatory meeting

11 Nov 2022 MS Teams

## Final partnership and ASPs

All partners are kindly asked to involve ASPs form national level, and - if necessary – further organisations with relevant competences (e.g.: public utility companies, civil associations). National relevance of the project should be underpinned by ASPs, this is an evaluation criterium (number of PPs+ASPs is an indicator).

Very important: A local municipality (settlement) must be involved form all partner regions as ASP, if the PP is not a municipality.

Please, upload the ASPs to JEMS by 17 Nov.

Current status:

	Partner	Country	Targeted settlement status	Other ASPs: national level or expertise
LP	University of Pécs	HU	Pécs, ASP	Danube Connect? WWF? Blue Planet Foundation?
PP2	Koprivničke vode, Koprivnica	HR	Koprivnica, ASP?	
PP3	Paris Lodron University, Salzburg	AT	Salzburg?, ASP?	
PP4	BSC Kranj Regional development agency of Gorenjska	SI	Kranj, ASP?	
PP5	Prague 9th District (represented by EUDA)	CZ	Prague, PP	
PP6	University of Ss Cyril and Methodius	SK	Trnava, ASP?	
PP7	University of Mostar	BiH	settlement, ASP?	
PP8	Municipality of Chisinau	MD	Chisinau, PP	
PP9	Regional development agency Eastern Serbia	RS	settlement, ASP?	Association for water technology and sanitary engineering Business Association communal enterprises KOMDEL International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage
PP10	ASPECT-Management and Intercultural Relations	BG	settlement, ASP?	
PP11	Capital City Podgorica	MNE	Podgorica, PP	
PP12	Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association	RO	Satu Mare, ASP?	

JEMS:

- Please, fill in: PP4 – Contact sheet; PP6 & PP7 Identity, Address, Contact sheets by **14 Nov**

GDrive – please complete by **14 Nov**:

- Relevance: BG, CZ, SI, BiH, MNE missing,
- Partnership: BG, CZ, SK, SI, BiH, MNE missing

## Conclusions of JS consultation

- thematic match with programme objective
- involving different sectors is a positive value, but we have to consider how similar actions can be implemented in the partner regions if the partners' competences are different
- weak translational justification: why do these problems need to be managed on transnational level?
- better description of local needs (each partner)
- if we create a joint strategy for the region, competent high level organisations need to be involved for endorsement – rather create joint guidelines, which can be a solution output if the partners will test it in the project, collect feedback and finetune it
- or: strategy content: multiplication of urban water retention tools, necessary measurements
- further universities are not needed as ASP, scientific background is provided – but of course they can be added if you decide so
- local action plans need to be endorsed (~implemented), so settlements need to be involved as PP or ASP
- flash flood risk map ok
- check existing platforms of urban water retention measures – added value needs to be justified
- follow-up: how will the decision support platform be maintained?
- who will use the decision support system – settlement categories?
- investments: risky due to limited time for implementation (permissions, procurements, seasonality, etc.)
- pilot idea: database & modelling

## Investments listed on GD so far

Please, upload your small physical investment needs into GD Investment table by **17 Nov**, if you wish to implement an investment. Important: the translational relevance needs to be justified!

E.g. an investment can be implemented if it is recommended by the toolbox – i.e. it cannot be started before the delivery of the toolbox. It should test the toolbox (pilot) by implementing one of the actions recommended by the tool, and the relevant partner will have to measure its benefits during the project, provide this feedback for the partnership. On this basis the tool can be finetuned.

## Datacube, GIS remote sensing

Please, describe your current GIS systems and need to integrate the system introduced by Paris Lodron University – on the Google Drive ('GIS Systems'), by **17 Nov**.

Description was sent by Dr Hermann Klug.

## Intervention logic – reshaped after JS consultation

1. **Analysis:** Collect methods to assess heavy rain risks under different categorized physical conditions and urban land uses. The tool will support the identification and communication of high risk areas.

2. **Online toolbox** – possible content:
  - a. GIS based tool for assessment of needs and possibilities (Datacube, urban flash flood risk map, etc integrated into partners existing systems if possible),
  - b. Excel based tool for comparison of different variants of urban water management,
  - c. Decision Support System summarising all findings
  
3. **Strategy:** Recommencing risk reduction measures for different risk situations, guidance for the selection of best options for measures and guidance for the application and implementation of these measures. Also, integrating and harmonizing results of previously funded INTERREG, Horizon2020, and Life projects focusing on climate-proof management of water related issues such as urban floods, heavy rain and drought risk prevention, small water retention measures and protection of water resources through sustainable land-use management. The project considers that so far, the majority of water management and flood protection measures lack innovation and follow more traditional approaches, including large scale grey infrastructure investment programs or capital projects. They have not been balanced by green infrastructure, which takes into account valuable ecosystem services provided by nature in the landscape settings. A joint risk management strategy for heavy rain risks in urban areas.
 

Please, consider if such strategy's national or at least regional level endorsement could be achieved in the project?
  
4. **Local action plans:** Incorporation of natural and small retention measures in a form of action plan to be implemented in urban environment. Create the basis for public authorities to adapt their regional and local development to the existing risks and by this to improve their management capacities. All action plans need to be officially endorsed by the involved local authorities during the project (!). Citizens will be involved to the elaboration (participative planning, peer reviews).
  
5. **Pilot action:** testing the tool at the involved local municipalities
  
6. **Investment preparation:** Feasibility studies, permissions, etc. for necessary investments identified by the tool + listed in the local action plan (e.g. experimental rain garden). This would justify the implementation of the local Aps.
  
7. **Trainings for municipal staff** – how to use the toolbox, how to integrate its principles into urban management plans, local building regulations, etc.
  
8. **Trainings for inhabitants** – how to retain and use water at households. Target groups can be further defined: pensioners, children, etc. Grey water utilization need to be added.

#### **Budget**

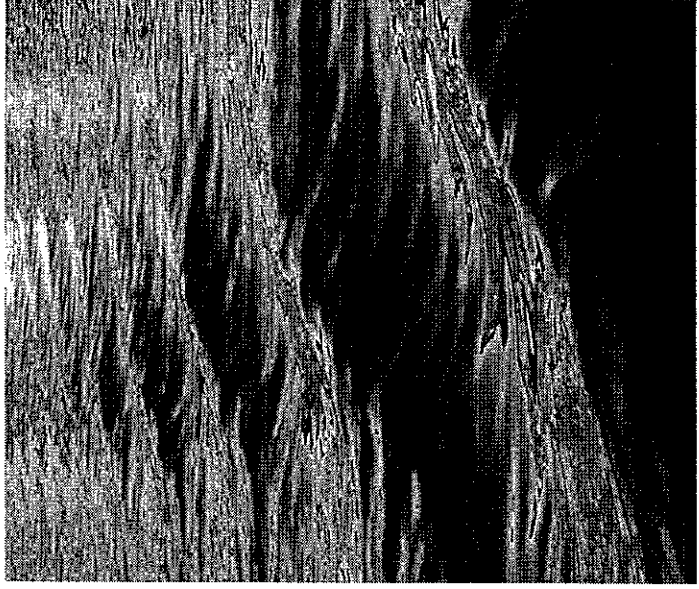
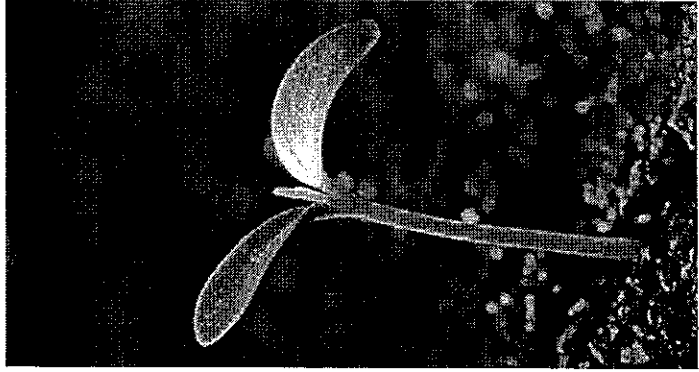
- PTE will send table for all PPs on Monday, budget needs will be collected by Wednesday,
- 150 000 – 180 000 EUR budget per country is estimated, depending on involved ASPs, investment needs, etc.

Attendees:





**SpongeCity**  
preparation for the 2nd step  
17/05/2023 9:00



# Agenda

- Conclusions of the Lead Partner seminar (09/05)
- Summary of the assessment outcomes & Recommendations
- Financial rules
- Next steps

## Timeframe of the 2nd step

- Launch of the 2nd step – 24th April 2023
- Deadline for submission – 16th June 2023 **16.06.2023, 14:00 (CET)**
- Selection with conditions – October 2023
- Conditions clearing – Oct/Nov 2023
- Final approval – November 2023
- Subsidy contract signing – December - February 2024
- Implementation – December 2023/ January 2024

## Possible changes before final submission

- **MAX 4 PPs** may be changed between EoI and AF
- This refers just to
  - Financing partners. (not ASPs)
  - replaced ones and/or those who withdrew from EoI
- Adding partners is allowed without limitation
- Main & specific objectives, results, outputs basically stay unchanged, but more elaborated
- Only corrections/improvements according to the recommendations of DRP
- Essence of content and logic stays the same
- Administrative changes (legal succession) are not considered as change
- Project duration does not exceed **30 months!**



## Administrative tasks

- **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)
    - A detailed description of their role and contribution within the project
    - It is not enough to specify only who they are
- Avoid high resolution when scanning annexes into ".pdf"

## Administrative tasks

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

## Intervention logic

**Intervention logic can be modified only in case it is recommended in the invitation letter, or if it brings improvement, but not altering the original project (of EoI)**

# Typical mistakes

## RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders

- **Project partners** are the institutions included in the application form who receive financial support from the programme (Interreg funds).
- **Associated strategic partners** are organisations which are essential for the successful development of meaningful and useful outputs. These are the associated strategic partners defined in the project application form as well as such organisations, which are not directly involved in the project partnership, but the partnership plans to sign cooperation agreements with them. Their involvement in the development and assessment of outputs ensures that the end product is one that meets their expectations and is relevant to their needs and situations. They provide insight and information that would be difficult to obtain without their participation. Sustaining the outputs by, for example, adopting tools and strategies developed by the project, is also a primary role of the ASPs in ensuring the project has long-lasting legacy.
- **Formal cooperation** is cooperation between independent entities which is based on written contracts.

### Quantification issues

The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects. The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities, including project partners and associated strategic partners, as mentioned in the application form and subsidy contract.

# Typical mistakes

## **Programme indicator RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed**

- A joint strategy/action plan is to be counted if it is developed by the project, while revision or update of existing strategies/action plans cannot be counted under this indicator.
- Each developed strategy/action plan of the project shall be counted only once under the respective output indicator.
- In case a strategy is developed by the project and based on that also action plan(s) are developed within the same project, these are to be counted separately for this indicator.
- Project management and communication-related strategies such as e.g. the project communication strategy, should not be considered under this output indicator.
- Guidelines, policy recommendations and other similar documents of strategic relevance, but not being strategy/action plan shall not be counted under this output indicator.

Jointly developed strategy did not reflect the common vision of the Danube Region in the specific field. Strategies did not aim at policy integration in the Danube area in the targeted fields and did not aim to act as policy drivers below EU level but above national level.

# Typical mistakes

## Programme Indicator RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

Jointly developed pilot action has an experimental nature either testing of innovative products, methodologies, tools etc. or demonstrating the application of existing products, methodologies, tools to a certain territory/sector; the feasibility and effectiveness of procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or the transfer of practices.

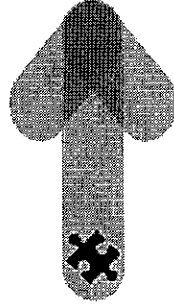
Jointly developed pilot action implies the involvement of organisations from the partnership in its implementation. The concept and implementation details of the pilot actions have to be jointly developed by the partnership, even though its implementation can be individual in certain partner regions.

In order to be counted by this indicator, the pilot action needs not only to be developed, but also implemented within the project and the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project.

Pilot actions did not result in solutions. Carrying out project activities in a certain "pilot area" without testing, or demonstrating a solution is not considered as pilot action and not to be counted under this indicator.

# Typical mistakes

Programme Indicator RCO 116  
Jointly developed solutions



Jointly developed solution contributes to solve a common problem, challenge addressed by the project. The **joint solution shall be pilot tested (RCO84)** to prove whether the solution meets the needs of the target groups.

The **forms of solutions** can be very diverse, **tools** (e.g. analytical, monitoring, management, decision making tools, instruments), **technologies** (software, ICT solutions, platforms), **methodologies, concepts, guidelines, processes, agreements, services** etc.

In case a solution (e.g. a methodology) is jointly developed by the project, but not pilot tested and validated within the project to be feasible and applicable (see RCO84), then that product of the project shall not be counted under this output indicator.

## Assessment

### 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.



## Assessment

### **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 focusing 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).
- IL 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.

- **Project's main objective** is too briefly defined 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 results** are not described in connection to the result indicators, but rather outputs are merely listed.
- **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”)
- **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.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

- **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.**
- **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**

- 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 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.

# Recommendations

- The topic has link to SO 2.2, although its **urban focus has certain territorial limits** in the SO context.
- The project intervention logic is fairly coherent with the programme one and the proposal can have potential contribution to achieving the targeted programme SO.
- The addressed challenge has transnational dimension and the proposal provides reasonable arguments for the potential transnational added value of the cooperation, although, even considering **the broad partnership** in the DR context (13 PPs and 20 ASPs from 12 DR countries - 4 PPs from 4 non-EU countries) **and its urban focus, the scale of outreach to DR municipalities (180 planned) seems to be rather ambitious and accordingly the potential transnational impact has its limits.**
- The **specific objectives could have better reflected the desired effects** of the related activities and outputs.
- Most of the outputs and project results are fine, just few would need **certain fine-tuning and pilot actions further details.**
- The composition of the partnership in connection to the addressed topic is reasonably mixed and quite balanced regarding the type of PPs involved, their expertise and competences.

# Recommendations

- PP level allocations seem to be balanced and mainly reasonable, although the one of **PP PMC from MD seems to be overestimated.**
- In the work plan **some of the activity allocations seem to be high.**
- Please reconsider the **potential management challenge** of coordinating the involvement of so many ASPs in the project implementation, especially by so few PPs.
- Underpin how **realistic** it is to effectively **involve** another 168 municipalities by the partnership in the relevant project activities; involving universities and research institutions from all DR countries.
- **ICPDR and the GWP CEE** international organisations are recommended to be part of the target groups.
- Please explain the **added value of this project compared to previous ones** in the DR.
- Project **specific objective descriptions** are recommended to **better reflect the desired effects** of the related activities and outputs instead of presenting the key actions.
- Please describe the **format of the planned broad network of municipalities** and by **what measures the durability** of that network would be ensured beyond the project.
- The **pilot action descriptions** are recommended to justify in the DR context **why in those countries are planned to be implemented** and even if the same solution is to be tested the related investments are to **be better differentiated**

## Recommendations

- **O.1.2 is to be reconsidered** as not really fitting the linked output indicator.
- **O.2.2 is to be linked to the solution indicator** and not pilot action.
- **O.2.4 is a deliverable** and not an output and accordingly **R6 result is not applicable**.
- **R2** would need to be **linked to the pilot action** output
- **R5 is missing** the referred **solution output**.
- The **analysis activities in SO1**, as well as Act. 2.1 and 2.2 would need **more detailed description** of activities to justify the budget allocations, or their reconsideration.

**Describe everything in details: pilots, contributions to strategies, partners' roles, links to previous projects with exact benefits!**

# Financial rules

1. Staff costs (real cost/flat rate: 20% of direct costs other than staff costs)
2. Office and administrative expenditure (flat-rate: 15% of staff)
3. Travel and accommodation costs (real cost/flat rate: 15% of staff costs) – ASP travel as well!  
Partners are strongly advised by the JS to choose the flat rate option
4. External expertise and service costs – see Notes, Stakeholders’ travel and accommodation costs to be planned under CC External expertise
5. Equipment expenditure
6. Infrastructure and works

## **Control costs** (only in case of AT, DE and MD PPs):

To be planned under external experts and services cost category

Expenditure incurred in the **last reporting period**: to be paid within 60 calendar days from the end date of the project

Invoicing **between partners** shall be avoided.

Project expenditure split among project partners is not eligible (i.e. sharing of „common costs“)

## Financial rules

### Equipment costs

- Only equipment listed in the approved AF are eligible
- Full costs of the equipment should be allocated to the project, if in line with national and institutional regulations
- If not, only depreciation costs shall be allocated to the project
- Rental or leasing costs for a certain period during the project lifetime are eligible