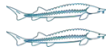


DANUBE4all – CALL FOR ASSOCIATED REGIONS



BACKGROUND

Over one million barriers on Europe's rivers have resulted in extensive loss of river connectivity and 70-90 % of Europe's floodplain areas are ecologically degraded due to human modifications. Despite having an ambitious EU policy framework in place, implementation of fresh and transitional water ecosystem restoration is lagging behind. Reasons for this lie among others in a lack of knowledge, awareness and participation of local people and business actors.



THE DANUBE4all PROJECT

The HORIZON EUROPE project aims to restore freshwater ecosystems in the Danube river basin by developing a comprehensive Restoration Action Plan. The project which runs from January 2023 to December 2027 seeks to address the lack of knowledge, awareness, and participation of local people and business actors in the implementation of freshwater ecosystem restoration.

By promoting the improvement of ecological status, biodiversity, and ecosystem connectivity through the development and implementation of innovative Win-Win Nature Based Solutions, DANUBE4all aims to enhance the free-flowing status of rivers and floodplains, reduce flood and drought risks, and improve sediment and biota continuity.

The project will implement demonstration activities at three sites in the Danube river basin and provide tailored business cases for SMEs, as well as innovative tools to accelerate citizens' and stakeholders' engagement. The project will also provide GIS and Citizen Science tools for upscaling restoration actions via ten Synergy Sites and transfer outcomes to five Associated Regions by developing Replication Roadmaps for restoration action.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We are pleased to announce the launch of a call for Associated Regions to participate in the DANUBE4all project. We are looking for 5 Associated Regions that we can provide with technical assistance to use the outcomes and knowledge of DANUBE4all to prepare roadmaps, plans, and projects to restore freshwater ecosystems in their region. To achieve this, we will implement special formats, workshops, and exchange activities to continuously share DANUBE4all outcomes and knowledge. All developed tools and restoration measures, as well as the development and draft versions of the Danube Basin Restoration Action Plan, will be fully open, usable, and made applicable to the Associated Regions.

By joining us as an Associated Region, you will have the opportunity to access our expertise, knowledge, and tools to develop your own roadmap, plan, or project to restore freshwater ecosystems in your region. We believe that by working together, we can achieve our shared goal of restoring freshwater ecosystems and promoting sustainability across Europe.



WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible beneficiaries for this call are local and/or regional authorities from Member States and associated countries to the Horizon Europe Programme. Applicants should have a good command of English, must be eligible for participation in the EC Horizon Europe Framework

Programme and must ensure the following obligations of the Grant Agreement, namely Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping)¹.

The selected beneficiaries commit to carry out the following activities in their role as associated region to the DANUBE4all project:

- Contribute to three workshops to be held in their region (in 2024-2026) to develop restoration solutions in cooperation with other stakeholders.
- Develop a roadmap by December 2027 of restoration actions for their region to support the replication of DANUBE4all solutions and tools. The development of this roadmap will be technically assisted by DANUBE4all partners via capacity building, trainings and guidance on structure and content.

Please note: Countries that are part of the DANUBE4all consortium can not participate: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

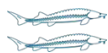


FUNDING & ELIGIBILITY

The grant each associated region can apply for is up to €100.000.

List of type of activities that can receive financial support:

- Revitalisation of ecological systems
- Ecosystem monitoring and restoration
- Nature base solutions restoration measures
- Reconnection of floodplains
- River connectivity, river-sea reconnection
- River dynamics improvement
- Sediment management
- Litter clean up in rivers and connecting ecosystems
- Citizens involvement



APPLICATION PROCESS

Opening date: Friday, March 31st 2023

Deadline model: Single-stage

Deadline date: Tuesday, May 31st 2023

Applicants should use the Application form (Annex 1).

For submission upload the proposal to this [LINK](#)



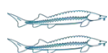
TIMELINE

Evaluation and selection: June 2023

Granting completed: June 30th 2023

Project implementation: any time from July 1st 2023

Project end: December 31st 2027



ASSESSMENT PROCESS

¹ for more details refer to https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

The assessment panel will rate all of the eligible proposals for good practices against a scorecard linked to the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** How much does the proposal relate to the DANUBE4all project?
- **Fit with principles:** How well does the proposal fit with the DANUBE4all project principles?
- **Resources:** What resources does the proposal have at its disposal to implement the proposed actions?
- **Local Network:** How strong is the local network of the organisation behind this proposal?
- **Impact:** What will be the estimated impact of the project to join the DANUBE4all project?

Furthermore, the representativeness of different river related challenges and the geographic coverage will also be considered.



PRIVACY

Personal data that will be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, also known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).



CONTACT

Project coordinator Helmut Habersack
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email: danube4all@boku.ac.at

ANNEX 1

CALL FOR ASSOCIATED REGIONS



APPLICATION FORM

TITLE OF YOUR PLANNED ACTION	<i>Please describe in 150 characters...</i>
LOCATION OF YOUR ASSOCIATED REGION	<i>Country, Region/Province/County, Municipality</i>
CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON REPRESENTING THE APPLICANT	<i>Name and Surname, function, email contact</i>
CONTACT DETAILS OF THE OFFICIAL WHO HOLDS THE RESPONSIBILITY BEHIND THE GOOD PRACTICE AND WHO AUTHORISED THIS APPLICATION	<i>Name and Surname, function, email contact</i>
WEBSITE (OPTIONAL)	



INTRODUCTION

SHORT STATEMENT	<i>Please clearly define the challenge in your associated region and why you believe that your river ecosystem restoration could support the goals for the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters” reflecting the objectives of DANUBE4all (max 1000 characters)</i>
RELATED CHALLENGES	<p><i>Which topic relates best to your planned action (tick one box)?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Revitalisation of ecological systems <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem monitoring and restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Nature base solutions restoration measures <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnection of floodplains <input type="checkbox"/> River connectivity, river-sea reconnection <input type="checkbox"/> River dynamics improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment management <input type="checkbox"/> Litter clean up in rivers and connecting ecosystems <input type="checkbox"/> Citizens involvement <p><i>Please elaborate why (max 1500 characters)</i></p>

SUMMARY	<p><i>Please describe (max 5000 characters):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The problem and main challenge</i> - <i>The current baseline situation (describe shortly the river restoration activities in the area)</i> - <i>Funding currently available to implement activities</i> - <i>Actions you hope to implement in the future</i> - <i>Stakeholders/partners to be potentially involved in these actions</i> - <i>Why would you like to join the DANUBE4all project?</i>


BUDGET

Please indicate your planned budget (max. total EUR 100.000). Only actual costs incurred by the recipients when implementing the supported activities will be reimbursed.

Personnel costs/€	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/€	Purchase costs - Equipment/€	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/€	Indirect costs/€	TOTAL Grant amount/€ (max. € 100.000)


IMPACT

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THE DANUBE4ALL PROJECT?
<i>Please justify (max 3000 characters)</i>


CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

BY SUBMITTING THIS FORM YOU GIVE YOUR EXPRESS CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE TO THIS DANUBE4ALL CALL OF INTEREST FOR ROLE ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING RULES
<input type="checkbox"/> I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE in the DANUBE4all project under the participation rules (see Annex 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> I GIVE MY EXPRESS CONSENT to the processing of my personal data, as described in the Privacy Statement

DATE, PLACE AND SIGNATURE