



# Czech Info Day DRP 2nd Call

**10 November 2023**

**Katalin Kovács-Kasza**  
Project Officer





INTERREG DANUBE  
Priorities and Specific Objectives  
2021 - 2027



PRIORITY 1:  
A smarter Danube Region



PRIORITY 2:  
A greener, low-carbon  
Danube Region



PRIORITY 3:  
A more social  
Danube Region



PRIORITY 4:  
A better cooperation governance  
in the Danube Region





SO	Status in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals	Available Interreg funds per Priority in EUR	Indicative allocation per SO in EUR
SO 1.1	Closed		
SO 1.2	Closed		
SO 2.1	Closed		
SO 2.2	Open	15 339 422,00	5 960 525,00
SO 2.3	Open		4 524 737,00
SO 2.4	Open		4 854 160,00
SO 3.1	Open	15 228 726,00	4 563 214,00
SO 3.2	Open		4 563 214,00
SO 3.3	Open		6 102 298,00
SO 4.2	Open	8 181 765,00	8 181 765,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>38 749 913,00</b>	



## Read factsheets:

### 2. [A greener, low-carbon Danube Region](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-2-greener-low-carbon-danube-region)

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-2-greener-low-carbon-danube-region>

### 3. [A more social Danube Region](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-3-more-social-danube-region)

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-3-more-social-danube-region>

### 4. A better cooperation governance: [Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macroregional governance](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-4-better-cooperation-governance-in-danube-region)

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/priorities-objectives-2021-2027/priority-4-better-cooperation-governance-in-danube-region>



# Priority 2 – A greener, low-carbon Danube Region

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 2.4 Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region.



## 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



### Focus:

- Supporting harmonised, joint capacities and data availability in Danube Region scale climate change forecasting and vulnerability assessment to support policy making and awareness raising.
- Supporting harmonised, coordinated, joint disaster prevention, preparedness and response activities on environmental risks, on floods, droughts, or accidental pollution of rivers on transnational river(-basin) scale and climate-change related other disasters (e. g. wildfires, heat waves).
- Strengthen the preparedness and adaptive capacity of the society (including also disaster management organisations, volunteer rescue teams) – economy and nature to cope with



## **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**

### **Focus:**

- Strengthening capacities for prevention and mitigation of water pollution or  
for restoration of good quality of transnational water bodies.
- Harmonising management practises between water management, agriculture, environment, navigation, hydropower and flood protection to improve the quality and quantity of water and sediment in transnational river systems, taking into consideration the potential impacts of climate change.
- Transnational coordination of water supply management, especially in relation to basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies.



## SO 2.4 Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region

### Focus:

- Transnational cooperation for the improvement of ecological connectivity between habitats, nature protection areas along transnationally relevant ecological corridors of the Danube Region and for transnational conservation and restoration measures for endangered umbrella species as well.
- Creation and strengthening of networks of cooperation in relation to the ecological regions and among protected areas.
- Coordinated and harmonised measures within transnationally relevant ecological regions ensuring resilience and adaptation to climate change to reduce its impacts on biodiversity.







# Priority 3 – A more social Danube Region



**SO 3.1** - Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets.

**SO 3.2** - Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning.

**SO 3.3** - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation



# SO 3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets

## Focus:

- 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).





## SO 3.2 Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning



### Focus:

- 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



## SO 3.3 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

### Focus:

- Valorisation of local cultural and natural heritage for the development of sustainable tourism products and tourism services in order to increase regional added value and employment.
- Improvement of accessibility of cultural and natural heritage for all, amongst others youth and vulnerable groups in order to promote social inclusion.
- Promoting community led natural and cultural heritage management and associated nature based and cultural tourism in rural areas and small cities



## **S.O. 4.2 Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance**

Focus:



- Integrated governance models for addressing challenges arising from demographic change (e.g. aging, depopulation, brain drain).
- Integrated urban-rural governance models including specific territorial development strategies for rural/remote areas.
- Support for more and stronger inter-institutional relations for the integrated development of transboundary functional areas.
- Capacity building considering especially a better involvement of local and regional public bodies as well as civic actors in transnational policy making, territorial development frameworks and governance models.
- Support for the monitoring and analysis of territorial processes affecting the cohesion and cooperation of the Danube Region.



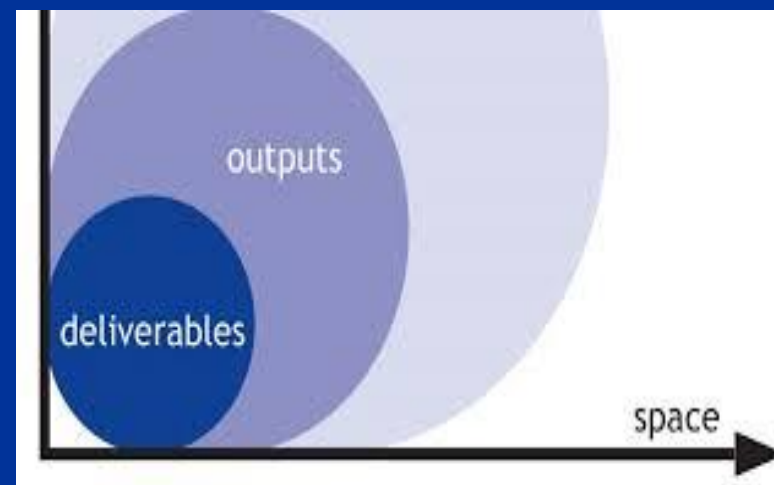
## What we do not finance

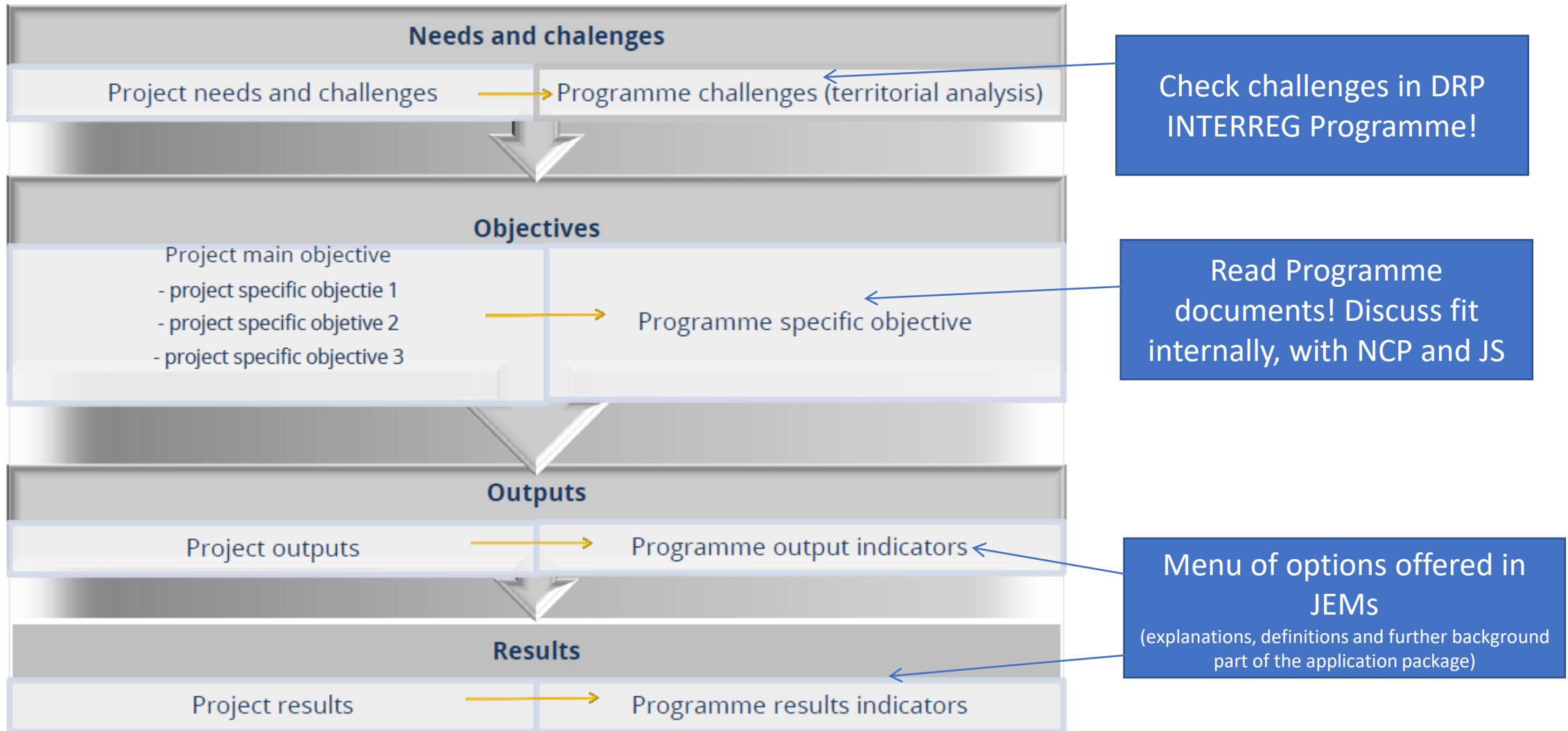


- Projects without clear focus.
- The projects without clear territorial scenario.
- Projects with pre-dominant focus on research and data collection activities without translating their outcomes into applied solutions and, or policy strategies, planning.
- Projects with pre-dominant focus on infrastructure.
- Training which is not part of piloting e. g. expanding existing training.



# Intervention logic

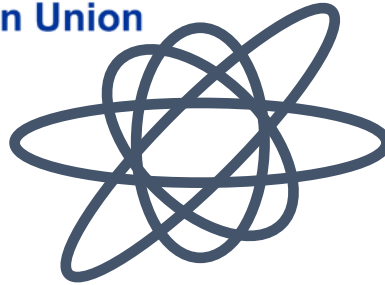













## Output indicator



## Result indicator

-  RCO82 Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion
-  RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed
-  RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
-  RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions
-  RCO 87 Organisations cooperating across borders
-  RCO120 Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages



-  RCR85 Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion
-  RCR 79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
-  ISI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders, other than organisations counted under RCO 87  
Organisations cooperating across borders (PPs, etc.) - e.g. organisations external to the partnership
-  RCR 104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
-  ISI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders



**ATTENTION:** Projects have to contribute to at least two programme output and two result indicators to be considered eligible.

Output RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders and the corresponding result indicator ISI “organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders” are **mandatory** for all the projects!



ALL levels of the intervention logic and the relation between them matter!!

- **Challenges:** often neglected by applicants and/or developed based on generic assumptions only
- **Objectives:** fit to one Programme S.O. must be ensured (not only semantically) and
- **Project outputs/result(s) and activities** have to be substantially aligned with them
- Partnership set-up has to support the intervention logic (often THE weak point of applications)



- No Work Packages any longer under INTERREG 2021-2027 Programmes; activities structured along specific project objectives
- No WPs management/communication any longer (seen now as horizontal tasks for achieving project objectives)
  - Budget not structured along WPs any longer, only along budget lines, activities and specific objectives
  - Budget to be indicated per activity; overall budget envisaged for management to be indicated in the management section of JEMs and per PP
- Outputs and/or deliverables to be defined per activity
- Activities and related outputs/deliverables have to clearly support the overall intervention logic



**Read carefully Annex 1 of Applicants Manual on output & result indicator definitions and their linkages:**

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/default/0001/57/eb0a742c65d6fd5a579075a602c376b2f3c66aba.pdf>



# Assessment





## Eligibility assessment

- confirms the correctness of submitted infos and docs to the applicant
  - in timely manner (deadline) and
  - in formal manner (e.g. completeness)
- 
- Eligibility criteria are of “knock-out” nature
  - No subject of interpretation, possible answers just “YES” or “NO”



## Completeness of submitted partner documents

- **Signed Partnership Agreement** (signed by each financing PP and countersigned by the LP)
- 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 (if the case)**
  - **LP confirmation and signature (only for LP)**

## Completeness of submitted ASP documents

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





# Quality assessment

## How is the AF assessed?

- Assessment procedure, assessment matrix and quality criteria are included in the:



## Applicants' Manual

- Please download it from the website :
- <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/default/0001/57/eb0a742c65d6fd5a579075a602c376b2f3c66aba.pdf>
- Please read the assessment sections thoroughly in order to prepare a high quality proposal!



## Quality criteria

- are linked to the specific objectives and results of the Danube Region Programme document
- are common to all Priorities
- assessment will be carried out by the MA/JS



## 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.



- **Strategic** assessment is carried out **first** and independently from the operational assessment
- Only projects successfully passing the strategic assessment are assessed operationally
- The knock-out threshold is set at 70%:
  - If a proposal receives a lower score than 70% in the strategic assessment, it will not be assessed operationally and it fails the overall assessment.
  - If a proposal receives at least 70% in the strategic assessment, then it will be assessed also from an operational point of view.
  - The final score (%) of the proposal will be given by the weighed sum of the strategic and operational assessment scores (%)
  - Strategic = 70% of the total score
  - Operational = 30% of the total score



## 2nd call assessment grid

**Pay attention:**

**Weights** on key questions for our programme: territorial needs and challenges, transnational character, target groups use of outputs and involvement of non-EU countries.

Mind: EUSDR embedding



## Important documents

The application package and all relevant information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP are available on the program website: <http://www.interregdanube.eu>.

The following official programme documents are to be read before the preparation and submission of a proposal:

- Danube Region Programme document (IP);
- Applicants' Manual (Version 1.2 - date: October 2023);
- Manual on Eligibility of Expenditure (Version 2.0 - date: October 2023);
- Guidelines for filling in the AF (October 2023)
- How to develop a transnational project.



## Support for applicants

- DRP INTERREG Programme (website)
- Applicants Package (Applicants Manual, Guidelines for filling the AF in JEMS, Call Announcement – all on website, coming soon)
- Recorded Thematic Seminars (website)
- Lead Applicants' Webinars on 2nd Call (website and on 20 November)
- JS: ad-hoc advice on technical/formal issues (via email)
- JS: one bilateral consultation per proposal (on request and based on a max. 2-page project outline) – please contact the Project Officer
- National Contact Points



# 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).





# Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- Project outputs are presented instead of defining the project result.
- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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”)



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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.





## **Common shortcomings**

- 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.



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## **Common shortcomings**

- 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



## Common shortcomings

- 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.



## Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

### 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.



## Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

### 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**.



## Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

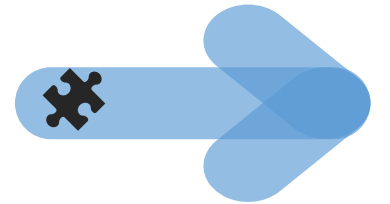
### Programme indicator RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

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.

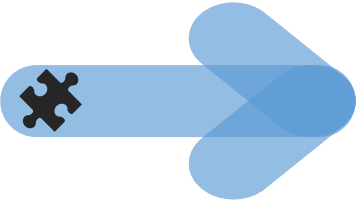
**Pilot actions did not result in solutions.**  
Carrying out project activities in a certain “pilot area” **without testing, or demonstrating a solution is not considered as pilot action** and not to be counted under this indicator.





## Some typical mistakes in project intervention logic

### Programme indicator RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions

A blue puzzle piece icon on the left side of the slide, pointing towards the right. The puzzle piece is black and is positioned at the start of a blue arrow-like shape that points to the right.

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.

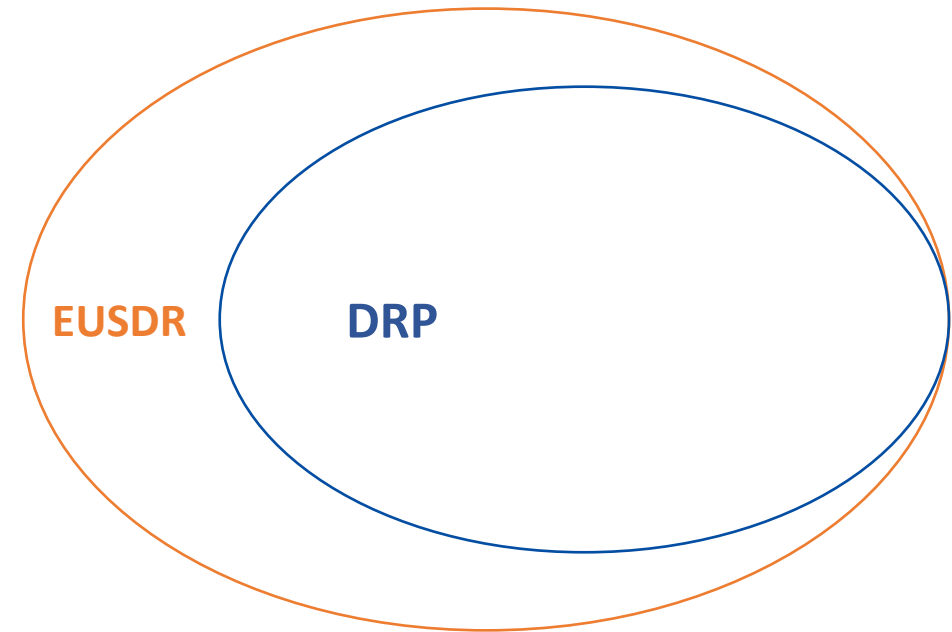
**The forms of solutions** can be very diverse, **tools** (e.g. analytical, monitoring, management, decision making tools, instruments), **technologies** (software, ICT solutions, platforms), **methodologies, concepts, guidelines, processes, agreements, services** etc.



# DRP and EUSDR

---

- Same geographical area
- DRP fully embedded in EUSDR ...
- but EUSDR with larger (thematic) scope
- DRP is a funding instrument
- EUSDR a strategic framework
- DRP is directly supporting the governance of the EUSDR ...
- ... but otherwise one amongst other funding instruments relevant to the EUSDR



**! Each application has to prove the contribution to and embeddedness of the EUSDR in the proposal**



**Thank you for your attention!**

**[www.interregdanube.eu](http://www.interregdanube.eu)**

**Ms Katalin Kovács-Kasza**

**E-mail: [katalin.kovacs-kasza@interreg-danube.eu](mailto:katalin.kovacs-kasza@interreg-danube.eu)**