

EN
ANNEX I

13 03 68– Technical Assistance Macro regional strategies 2014-2020: European strategy for the Danube region
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Introduction

Budget line

13 03 68

Legal basis

Article 58 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

Policy context

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region has been endorsed by the European Council in 2011. This Strategy proposes a cooperation framework and an Action Plan for the 14 countries of the Danube Region (9 EU Member States and 5 non EU Member States). The implementation of the Strategy is done by the countries themselves. The Commission acts as a facilitator.

General objectives

The resources allocated to the technical assistance for “macro-regional strategies 2014-2020:European strategy for the Danube region” - EUR 2 500 000 - will be used to support the governance of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in its initial implementation phase. The governance structure consists of Priority Area Coordinators, National Contact Points, existing institutions and stakeholders. This action will support the establishment of a Danube Strategy Point as described in the Commission Report on governance of macro-regional strategies (COM(2014)284). The Strategy Point will improve the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the coordination and interaction between the key stakeholders.

Expected results are a better governance system through closer networking, political commitment towards the Strategy and more efficient implementation through the exchange of experience.

Actions/ Type of financial intervention

Under Article 190 (1) (f) of the Rules of Application grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals, duly substantiated in the award decision. The assistance will be implemented through a direct grant to the Government of the Land Baden-Württemberg in its role as

hosting organisation of the Strategy Point for the Danube Region (the “Danube Strategy Point”). Following the request of National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators and the Danube Transnational Programme’s Programming Committee, the European Commission, in its role as facilitator, developed in May 2014 a Concept Paper for the Danube Strategy Point. The 14 Danube Countries selected (by majority vote) the Government of Land Baden-Württemberg (that acts also as NCP in the framework of the Danube Strategy) to host the Danube Strategy Point.

The establishment of a Strategy Point is a recommendation in the report from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the governance of macro-regional strategies (2014/284), where the need for more coordination and interaction between the responsible stakeholders and organisations was identified.

The Strategy Point will improve the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the coordination and interaction between the key stakeholders, through horizontal activities between Priorities, support for building up networks, organising events, support the work of key implementers PACs and NCPs etc, communication (e.g. gathering information about implementation, target development, communication activities to other stakeholders), monitoring and evaluation (e.g. analysis of reporting, providing consolidated reports, supporting evaluation procedures). Financial support to third parties (eg the PACs) shall not exceed EUR 60 000 per third party, in accordance with Article 210 RAP.

The State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg is the main responsible ministry for the Danube Strategy and is a public body.

The maximum rate of EU co-financing is 97%.

Two award criteria are to be applied for the evaluation of the proposal: a) relevance of the proposal with the objectives of the Strategy and b) efficiency.

The indicative budget: EUR 2 500 000.

Total budget

EUR 2 500 000

Indicative calendar for procedures

The grant agreement will be signed by end 2014.

Total budget

EUR 2 500 000