

START - Danube Region Project Fund

What is START?

The realisation of projects and initiatives is essential for the success of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

START – Danube Region Project Fund is a new **pilot initiative of the EUSDR** and provides **Seed Money** for the development and implementation of Danube Region projects. Seed Money means that beneficiaries receive an early pre-financing in order to cover the project expenses from the beginning. This helps especially small organisations with limited resources to *START* their projects.

START is coordinated by **PAC 10** (Priority Area Coordination 10 of the EUSDR) of the City of Vienna, with the involvement of all Priority Areas. **EuroVienna** ensures the operational implementation of the Facility.

The total allocation to *START* amounts to **€ 900.000**. **95%** of the *START* budget is financed by the **European Commission**, **5%** by the **City of Vienna**. The *START* initiative is running until the **end of 2016**, **2 calls** for project proposals are foreseen.

What kinds of projects are supported?

→ Projects located in the entire Danube Region:

- EU Member States: *Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria), Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia;*
- EU Accession Countries: *Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and*
- Non-EU Countries: *Moldova and Ukraine.*



→ In principle, projects must involve **at least two partners from two EUSDR countries**.

→ Eligible applicants are **public** or **private** organisations with **legal personality** (no individuals). *START* is especially designed for **small institutions, non-governmental and civil society organisations**.

→ Projects which address topic(s) from at least one of the **Priority Areas (PA) of the EUSDR**:

Pillars	Priority Area
Connecting the Region	PA 1A Mobility – Waterways
	PA 1B Mobility – Rail – Road – Air
	PA 02 Energy
	PA 03 Culture & Tourism
Protecting the Environment	PA 04 Water Quality
	PA 05 Environmental Risks
	PA 06 Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soil
Building Prosperity	PA 07 Knowledge Society
	PA 08 Competitiveness
	PA 09 People & Skills
Strengthening the Region	PA 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation
	PA 11 Security

→ Projects must be of **public interest** and have a **macro-regional impact**.

→ Project duration: **6 months to one year**.

→ **START** is designed to support two different **types of projects**:

<p>A) A specific part of a larger project The budget of the overall project is larger than available START funding (but below € 25M): → START can finance e.g. the preparation phase and/or the implementation of specific work packages of the overall project. → Result: specific work packages are completed.</p>	<p>B) A small project The total budget of the project fits within the limits of START: → START can finance the entire project implementation (incl. preparation activities, if any). → Result: the project is completed</p>
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→ For both types of projects (A and B), START funding can be used to carry out **following activities**:

<p>Project development activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare the project concept/action plan, follow up steps, a communication strategy, etc. • defining the budget for project implementation • finding funding options • prepare and submit an application for funding • building strategic partnerships, networking 	<p>Project implementation activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organise specific workshops, seminars, trainings, networking events etc. • organise/take part in public events, panel discussions, etc. • conduct research studies, evaluations, surveys, etc • conduct actions relevant for the project
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How much funding is available?

START EU grants can range **from € 10.000 to € 40.000 per project**. In addition, project partners must co-finance at least **10%** of the total project costs, from their own resources or other (non-EU) sources.

As START is a Seed Money, **50% pre-financing** is paid after project selection, to provide sufficient cash-flow. A **second pre-financing (up to 25%)** can be paid after validation of the interim report, halfway through the project duration. The payment of the balance is done after validation of the final report and expenses declared.

How to apply?

Applicants have to complete the **START application form**, which will be online on the PA 10 homepage from **18th of July** until **17th of September**. The completed applications have to be submitted through an **online application tool**, which will be opened from **15th to 17th of September, 24:00 CET**. The link to the online application tool can be found on the 1st page of the application form. Please read carefully the document **“Guidelines for applicants”** before completing the application.

Applications submitted directly to the Implementing Body (EuroVienna or PAC 10) e.g. via E-Mail will not be assessed.

Contact

If you have any general questions on START, please contact **EuroVienna** or **PAC 10**:

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More information

www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu



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