

ORIENT YOUR REQUEST!

In case you have a project proposal aiming a **Letter of Recommendation** from the EU Strategy of the Danube Region please contact the relevant Priority Area coordinators before request



PRIORITY AREA 05

„To manage environmental risks”

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<https://www.danubeenvironmentalrisks.eu/pa5-letter-of-recommendation>



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PRIORITY AREA 04

„To manage the quality of waters”

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<https://www.danubewaterquality.eu/projects>



PRIORITY AREA 06

„To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils”

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<http://groupspaces.com/BiodiversityLandscapesAirSoil/>



GOOD EXAMPLES

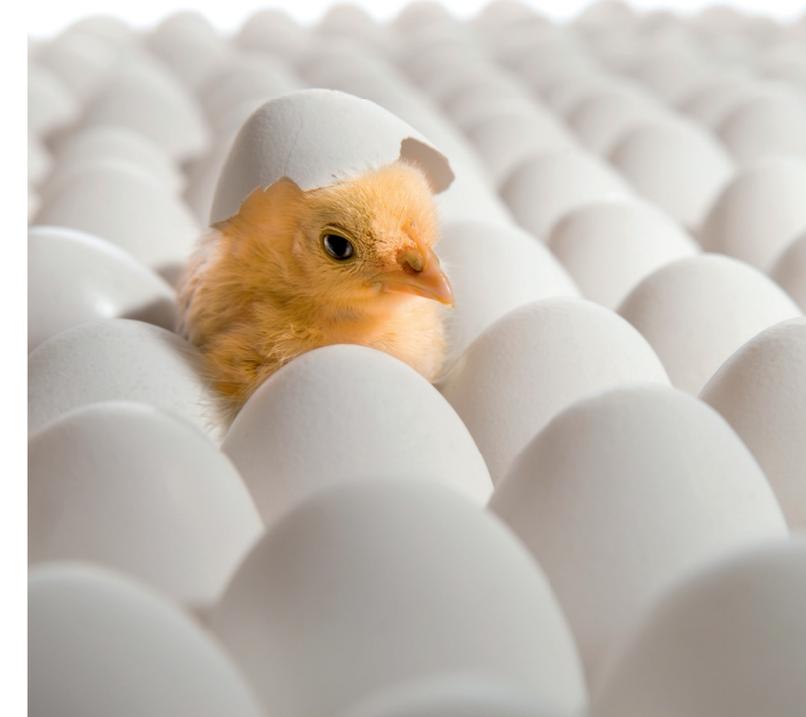
Since 2011 PA5 (Environmental risks) for instance issued 20 LoRs and PA4 (Water quality) 15 LoRs and 3 LoMs respectively for projects applied for transnational or cross-border cooperation funds.

However a LoR does not automatically imply that financing is granted to the project. In order to get financing projects must comply with the governing rules of the financing source and must successfully pass the specific evaluation phases. Nevertheless a LoR makes obvious that the project idea is highly accepted by the relevant sectoral organizations of the Danube region therefore it effectively helps assessors to come to a positive decision.

Nevertheless several projects labelled with LoR had been received a financial support already from different programmes e.g. the DriDanube and WateratRisk projects (coping with drought issues). But also the topics of sediment management (Danube Sediment and SEDDON-II), or integrated river basin management (i.e. JOINTISZA) and even the sustainable drinking water supply (CC-WARE) were beneficiary topics in the past years. Furthermore EastAvert, PLATFORM and RaabFlood4cast projects – dealing with flood forecasting and flood risk management – were successfully funded as well. Beyond these examples several new initiatives like DAREFFORT, DanubeFloodplain, DAMWARM+ or InterfloodCourse received LoR and are under evaluation currently to receive funds.



Give more
chance
for your
project
idea!



LETTER
OF RECOMMENDATION
FROM DANUBE
REGION STRATEGY

BENEFIT FROM THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE PRIORITY AREAS!

The project labelling procedure in the framework of Pillar-B

(Environment) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a permanent task. The method applies for the labelling process under Priority Area 4 (Water quality), 5 (Environmental risks) and 6 (Biodiversity&landscapes) will be described in the followings for the mutual understanding and common advantages.

HIGHLIGHT YOUR PROJECT!

Several regional and EU-wide funding programmes created their rules concerning how they are taking the macro-regional approach into account during the project selection process, in order to support the implementation of such strategies. At the same time, funding programmes recognized – especially those under the INTERREG umbrella – the benefit of the strengthened cooperation with a macro-regional strategy (MRS), namely the long term sustainability of project results provided through the permanent political and professional framework of an MRS. Therefore in many case the substantial relevance with the strategic aims is an added value and projects could receive valuable points during the evaluation process. The connection with an EUSDR Priority Area (PA) cannot be more securely confirmed and stated towards the funding instruments than with the help of a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) received from the Strategy itself. Since the PAs have their own decision making bodies – set-up from the representatives of 14 countries – the positive declaration can be concerned as the will of the whole Danube Basin to support the initiative.



HOW TO RECEIVE A LOR?

Project Leaders (with agreement of Project Partners) shall submit the description of the project on the joint Project Data Sheet of Pillar-B containing fundamental project information and relevance.

The sheet shall be completed in English and shall be submitted via e-mail to at least one of the two co-coordinators of the concerned PA. Submission of project (idea) descriptions is continuous.

PRINCIPLES DURING THE EVALUATION FOR LABELLING A PROJECT AND TO ISSUE A LOR

1. The project makes a clear contribution to one or more Actions of the Priority Areas 4, 5 & 6 as outlined in the Action Plan of the EUSDR (and/or contributes to the achievement of its targets),
2. The project has a transnational impact on the macro-region or a significant part of it, which can derive from national, regional and local activities as well,
3. The project is realistic, technically feasible and equipped with credible funding,
4. The project demonstrates visible benefits and added value for implementation of the EUSDR,
5. The project provides concrete sustainable results for the Priority Area objectives,
6. The project is not in contradiction with other policy objectives,
7. The project and its activities are located within the geographical area of the Danube Region,
8. The project is agreed by the requested Pillar-B Steering Group(s)

PROJECT LABELLING PROCESS

The labelling of a project is carried out through consensual decision of the Steering Group (SG) members of the concerned PA. Decisions can be taken at meetings or through written procedures, thus:

1.

Steering Group meetings are the occasions for regular decision-taking on projects. Meetings are usually held two times per year where project leaders are invited to present the details of their initiation. In case the decision on project labelling is taken at the SG meeting, Project Leader shall be notified within one month after the day of the meeting when the decisions have taken effect.

2.

Written procedures are used for decision-making in exceptional cases out of SG meetings, continuously by notifying one of the SG members. If there are project descriptions submitted and collected per quarters of year, written procedures shall be started at the beginning of next quarter of year. Regularly such procedures last 15 working days via email between SG members, but in case consensus cannot be reached they can be continued for another 15 working days. Project Leader shall be notified after the end of the written procedure about its outcome. In urgent and well-founded cases (i.e. when the submission deadline of a call for proposals makes it necessary) exceptional written procedures may be started at any time of the year with a shorter consultation period.



PROJECT IDEAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT OR ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE

The Project Data Sheet can also be used to submit project ideas to the Priority Area Coordinators at an early stage, which can be discussed and further developed by the Steering Group (supporting partner search, or providing early stage involvement of sectoral decision making level etc.). By indicating the project as an idea in the Data Sheet, it is clear that the submission will not result the issuing of a Letter of Recommendation. This will be done at a later stage, when the project is ready to be submitted according to criteria.

Projects which have been already financed shall not receive a Letter of Recommendation. In case it is needed Project Leaders can ask for a 'Letter of Merit (LoM) for promoting by the EUSDR'.

