



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

The BMBF Danube Region call - a pillar of the German research cooperation with Central Eastern and South Eastern European Countries

Dr Matthias Hack

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

DANUBE-INCO.NET General Assembly meeting & side-meetings

PA7 Steering Group-meeting

Vienna, December 10, 2014

German strategic framework elements

German coalition agreement (27.11.2013):

- **Completion of European research area (ERA)**, strengthening of the European innovation system, **cooperation in research with Central Eastern and South Eastern European Countries** as central political aims, integrated in à

Strategy of the Federal Government on the European Research Area (ERA) (16.07.2014)

- addressing the 6 **ERA Priorities**
 - 1) More effective national research systems
 - 2) Optimal transnational cooperation and competition
 - 3) An open labour market for researchers
 - 4) Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
 - 5) Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
 - 6) Strengthening the international dimension of the European Research Area
- measures for “strengthening the performance of the European Research Area as a whole **with a focus on EU-13 States**” (incl. accession candidates)

Calls for proposals implementing the “German ERA-Strategy” and fostering the cooperation with the Danube Region

	„CESEER*“	„Joint Research Structures“	„Danube call“
Objectives	Preparation of applications for R&D projects in Horizon2020 et al.	Exploiting knowledge and innovation potential in less research intensive European regions	Encourage stronger links between the leading innovative regions upstream and the developing regions downstream
Target Region	Those CESEEC that became EU member since 2004 plus GRC plus WBC	Those CESEEC that became EU member since 2004 and are official EU accession countries	Danube Region
Status	Launched on November 3, 2014, permanently open until December 2017	To be launched in December 2014	1st call was closed on April 30, 2013, 31 projects are currently ongoing, 2nd call is planned for early 2015

* CESEER: Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region

BMBF call: “Ideas competition for the establishment and development of innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube Countries”

The call

... aims to establish networks with excellent researchers in the Danube Countries in order to develop joint cooperation strategies and projects.

... encourages stronger links between leading innovative regions upstream and developing regions downstream.

... fosters international links along the entire value chain in order to support technology transfer and innovation.

Conditions:

- Network requirement: at least one partner from upstream and downstream countries each
- Duration of projects: 2 years (1+1); phase 1 for network building, phase 2 for preparing follow-up proposals (e.g. in Horizon 2020)
- Funding from German side: up to 80.000 € per project

Contribution of the Danube Region call 2013 to the goals of the EU-Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

Results for 2013 call so far:

- High demand from German institutions (67 proposals)
- Good balance between upstream / downstream countries' participation (70 / 59 partners are involved in 31 approved projects)
- Specific support for EUSDR pillars
 - 1 – mobility/energy: 5 projects
 - 2 – climate/environment: 9 projects
 - 3 – ICT/key technologies/health: 17 projects
- Promising mid-term observations
 - Project phase 1 with high networking effects
 - High demand for phase 2 applications (->preparation of joint H2020-proposals)

Participation possibilities for Danube Countries:

- BMBF offers to open up the planned call (spring 2015) for participation in and co-funding of projects by other Danube Countries
- Ongoing multilateral discussion on aspects of the call (e.g. Ulm follow-up group)
- Evaluation process based on lead-agency-principle / agreement on selected jointly funded projects in a joint selection meeting (opt.)

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Matthias Hack,
Federal Ministry of Education and Research,
Germany
Matthias.Hack@bmbf.bund.de