

# START

## Final Event

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Vienna City Hall



With the financial support of the European Union  
EU Strategy for the Danube Region

StaDt  Wien



# Agenda



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|----------------------|---|
| <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> | <b>Welcome, Introduction</b>  |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | <b>START Danube Region Project Fund</b><br>Summary of initiative; Main successes and results  |
| <b>11:00 – 13:00</b> | <b>Presentation of START projects</b><br>Outcomes, achievements & recommendations   |
| <b>13:00 – 14:00</b> | <b><i>Lunch Break</i></b>   |
| <b>14:00 – 14:45</b> | <b>Priority Area 10: Future perspectives</b>  |
| <b>14:45 – 15:00</b> | <b>EuroAccess Danube Region</b>   |
| <b>15:00 – 15:30</b> | <b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>  |
| <b>15:30 – 15:45</b> | <b>Strategic Projects, Danube Strategy Point</b>  |
| <b>15:45 – 16:30</b> | <b>Future Funding Initiatives in the Danube Region:</b><br>Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF)<br>DTP Project Development Fund / Seed Money Facility |
| <b>16:30 – 17:00</b> | <b>Closing Session: Questions &amp; Answers</b>   |

# The START Team at EuroVienna



# Introduction

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- **Ms Renate Brauner**, Councillor of the City of Vienna
- **Mr Rudolf Schicker**, Coordinator of Priority Area 10 of the EUSDR, City of Vienna
- **Ms Alessandra Pala**, Head of Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme

# START – Danube Region Project Fund

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- **START – Summary of the initiative**

Gudrun Pabst, EuroVienna

- **START – Successes and results**

Sophie Deuer, EuroVienna

# I. Summary of the START initiative (I)

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## Study on needs for financial instruments by EC DG Regio, 2011

- Need to provide **“Seed Money”** as financial instrument to support project ideas in the Danube Region is high

## Objective of START

- **Kick-start project development** in the Danube Region
- Facilitate the **financing of transnational projects** (preparation activities, finding project partners, etc.) and also of **smaller projects**
- Help organisations and institutions develop and implement their project ideas (small organisations, NGOs, etc.)

# I. Summary of the START initiative (II)



## Main Principles

- **Pilot initiative:** a flexible approach was used during implementation
- **Seed money:** beneficiaries received a large **pre-financing** at the beginning of the project implementation (50%) and if approved, a second rate at midterm (25%)

## Budget for projects: € 1.350.000,00

- 95% by the EU Commission (with funds from the EU Parliament)
- 5% by the City of Vienna



## II. Calls for proposals & projects



- **2 open calls** for proposals were organised in **2014** and in **2015**
- The interest of potential applicants was very high

	Call 1	Call 2	Total START
Applications received	871	205	<b>1076</b>
Formally correct applications	651	164	<b>815</b>
Projects implemented	24	24	<b>48</b>
Total Partners involved	119	85	<b>204</b>

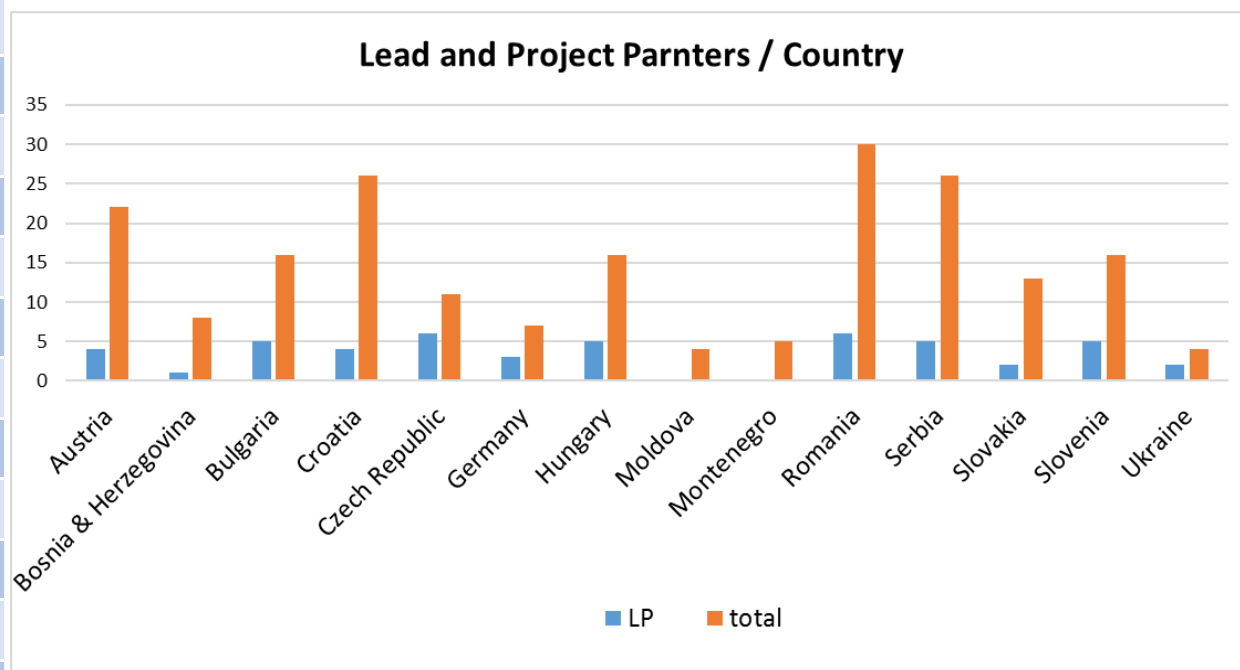
- START Lead Partners from all **14** Danube Countries!



# III. Lead and Project Partners (I)

## Selected Lead and Project Partners / Country

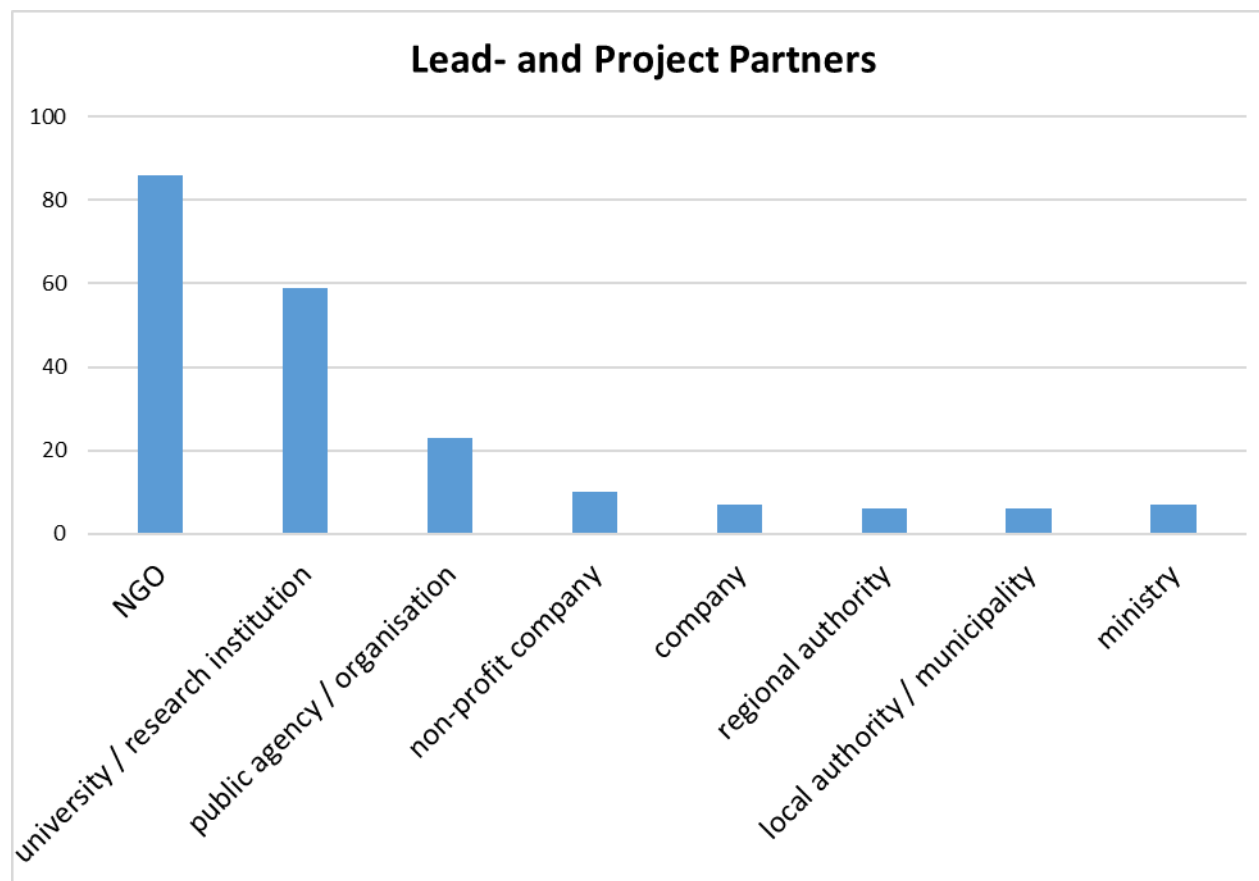
Country	LP	total PPs	total
Austria	4	18	22
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	7	8
Bulgaria	5	11	16
Croatia	4	22	26
Czech Republic	6	5	11
Germany	3	4	7
Hungary	5	11	16
Moldova	0	4	4
Montenegro	0	5	5
Romania	6	24	30
Serbia	5	21	26
Slovakia	2	11	13
Slovenia	5	11	16
Ukraine	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>204</b>



# III. Lead and Project Partners (II)

## Selected Lead and Project Partners / type of organisation

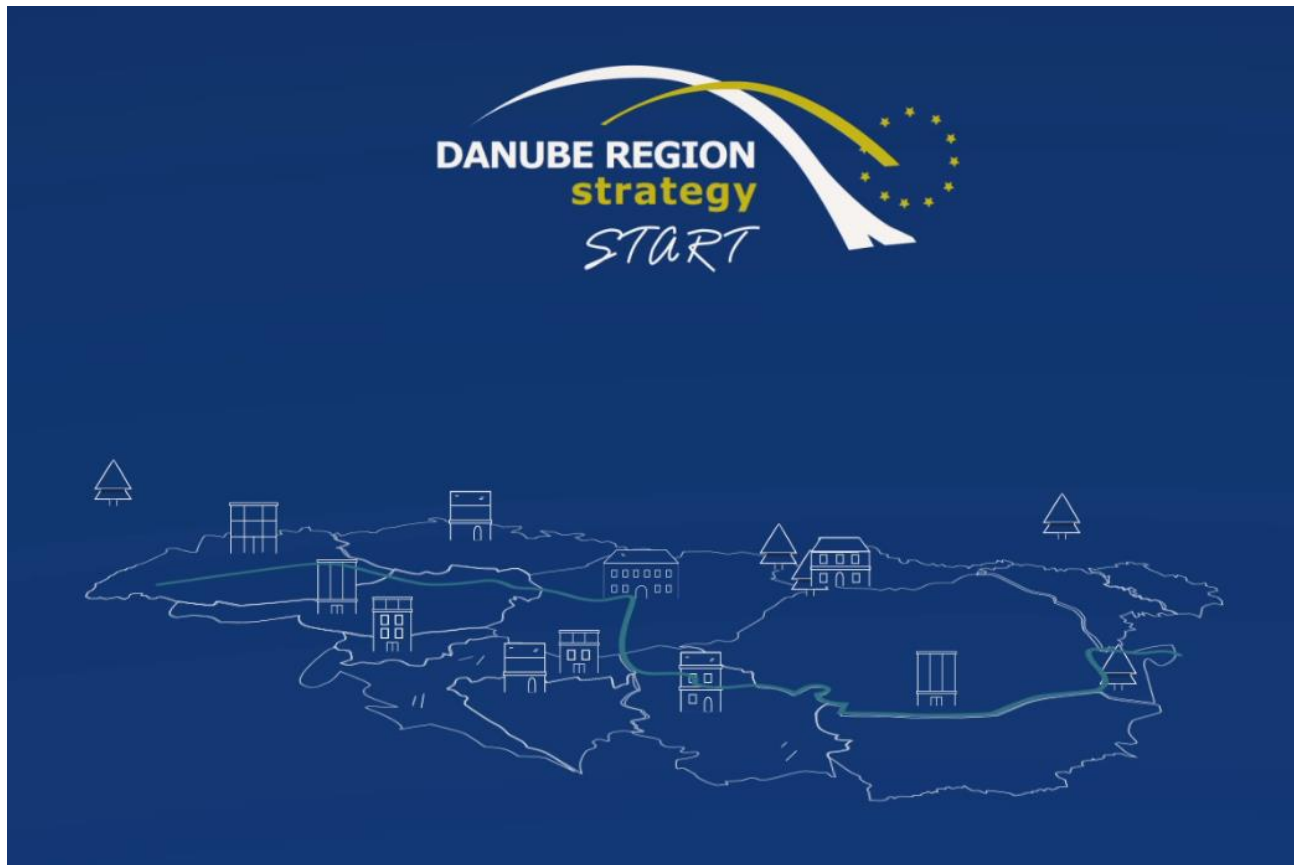
Type of Organisation	%	LP+PPs
NGO	42%	86
university / research institution	29%	59
public agency / organisation	11%	23
non-profit company	5%	10
company	3%	7
regional authority	3%	6
local authority / municipality	3%	6
ministry	3%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>204</b>



## IV. Budget and spending

START amount	€	%
Total START amount available	€ 1.350.000,00	100,00 %
Total START amount contracted*	€ 1.318.050,00	97,63 %
Total START amount certified	€ 1.268.153,13	96,21 %*
START amount per project (average) / (%)	€ 26.419,86	82,04 %

# V. START video



# START – Successes and results



## Evaluation:

- July – December 2016

## Involved groups:

- PAC team and SG members
- Lead and Project Partners of START
- General public

## Methods:

- Online questionnaires
- Interview
- Desk research

Evaluation of the Start Danube Region  
Project Fund of PA10 Institutional  
Capacity of the EUSDR

In reference to the Agreement number 2013CE160AT130

Published in December 2016

Sophie Deuer



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# START – Successes and results

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## Objectives:

- To analyse the initiative and its results
- To make the strengths and weaknesses visible
- To make recommendations for future follow-up initiatives

# START – Successes and results

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- **3 different online questionnaires:**
  - Q1: PAC team and SG members
  - Q2: Lead and Project Partners of START
  - Q3: General public
- **Total: 123 responses**

# START – Successes and results

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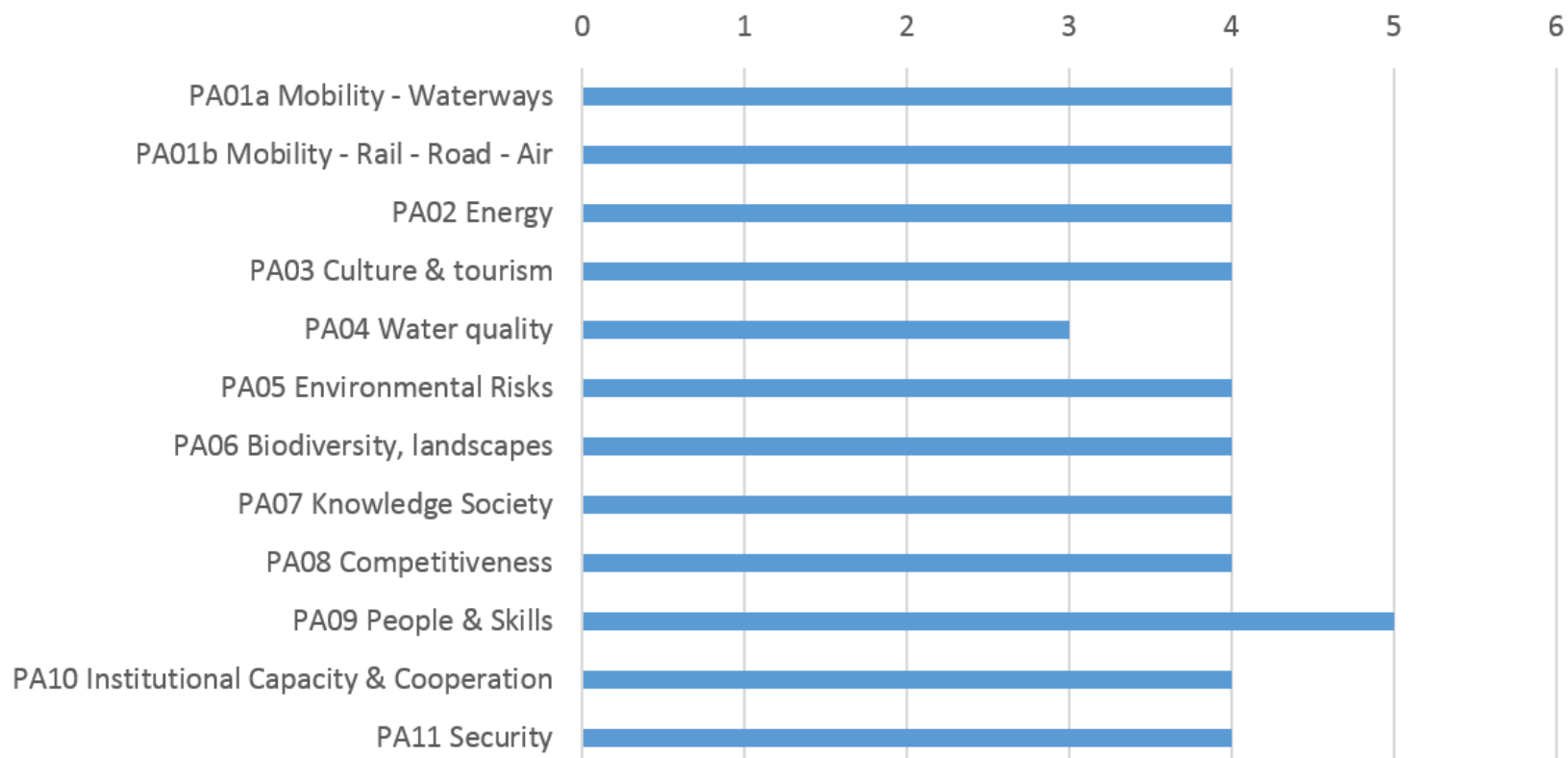
## Overall findings:

- Administrative burden perceived as rather low
- START initiative's overall structure well suited to needs
- Available funds too low
- Unit costs: Pro's outweigh the con's
- High level of achievement

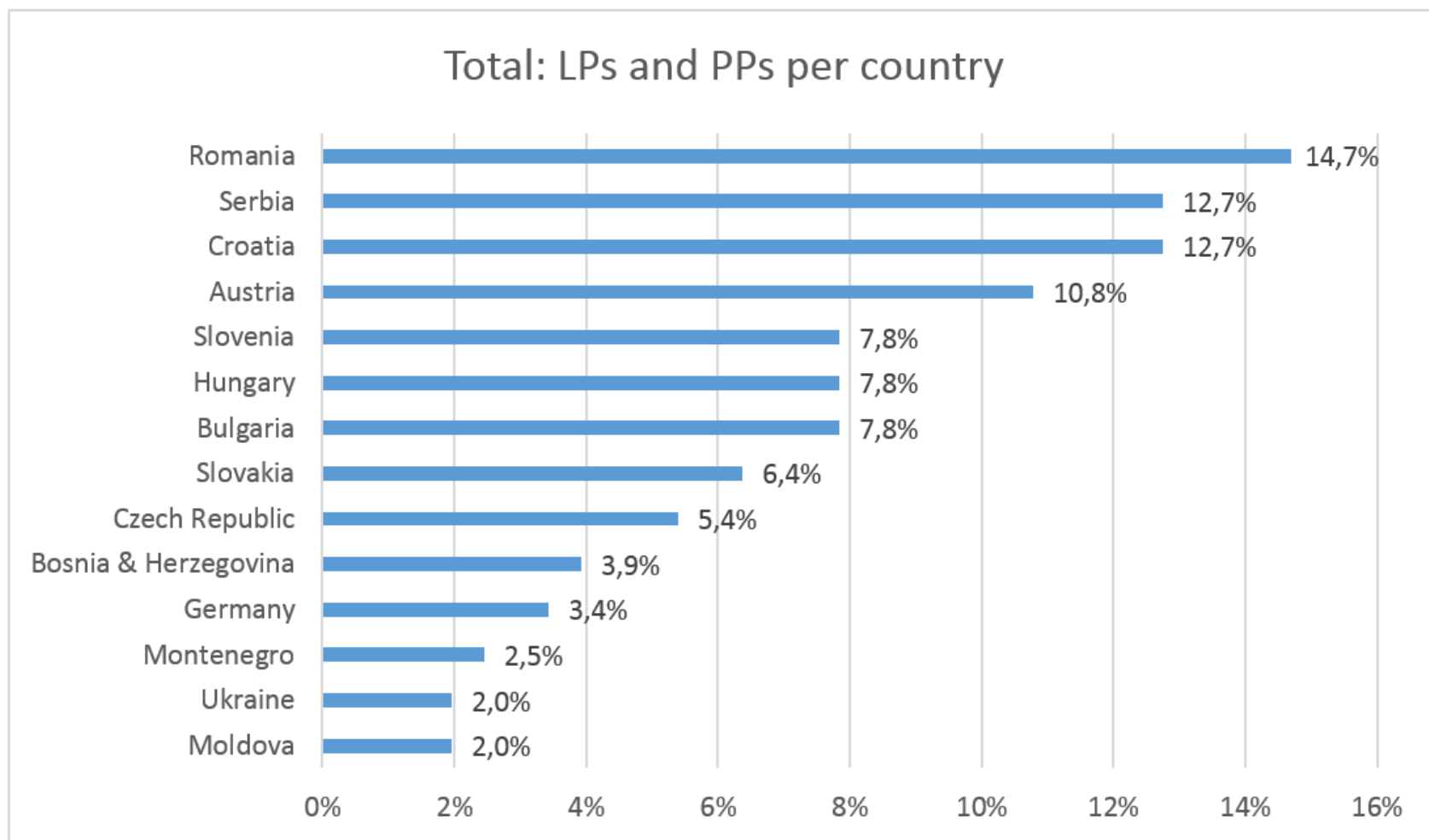


# START – Successes and results

Number of funded projects per PA



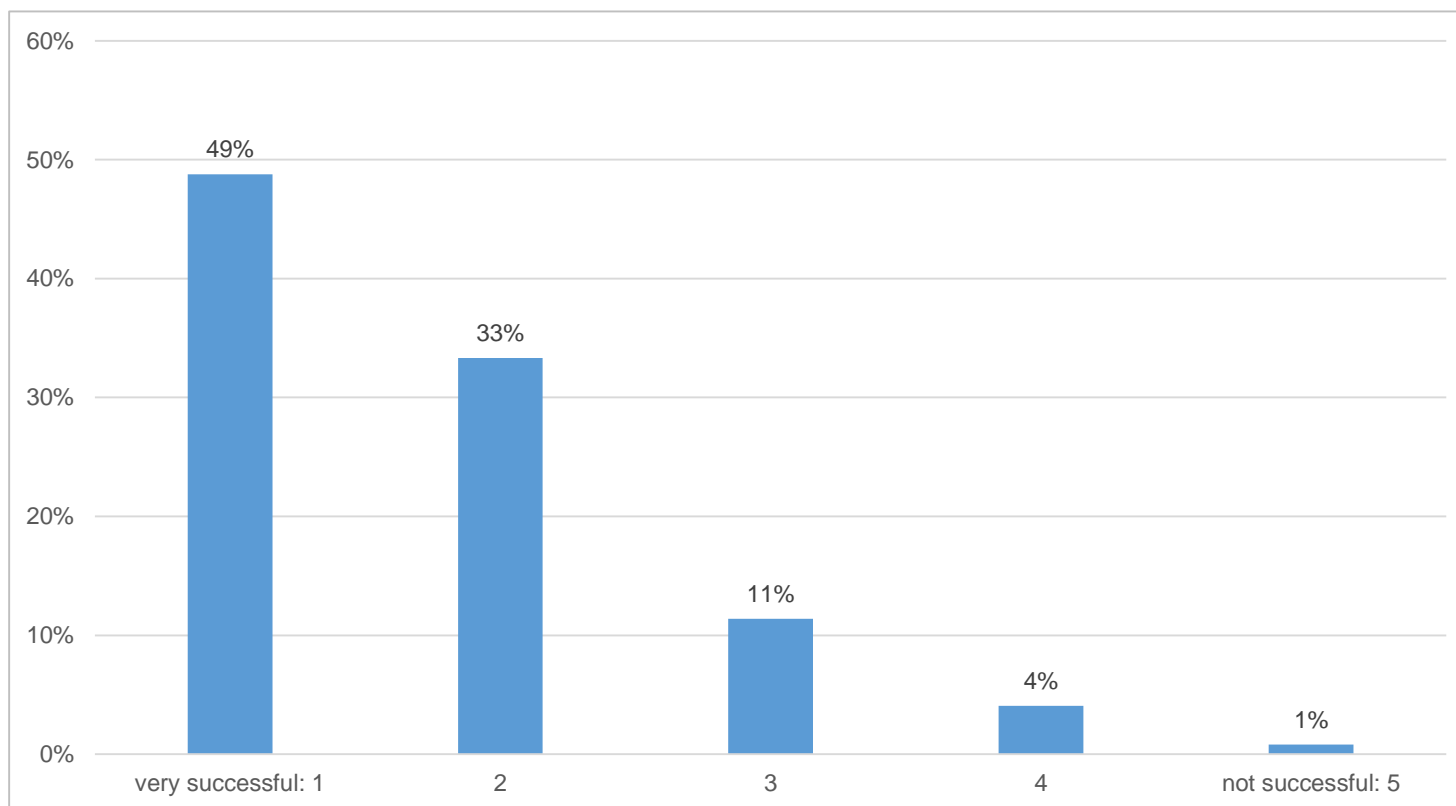
# START – Successes and results



# START success

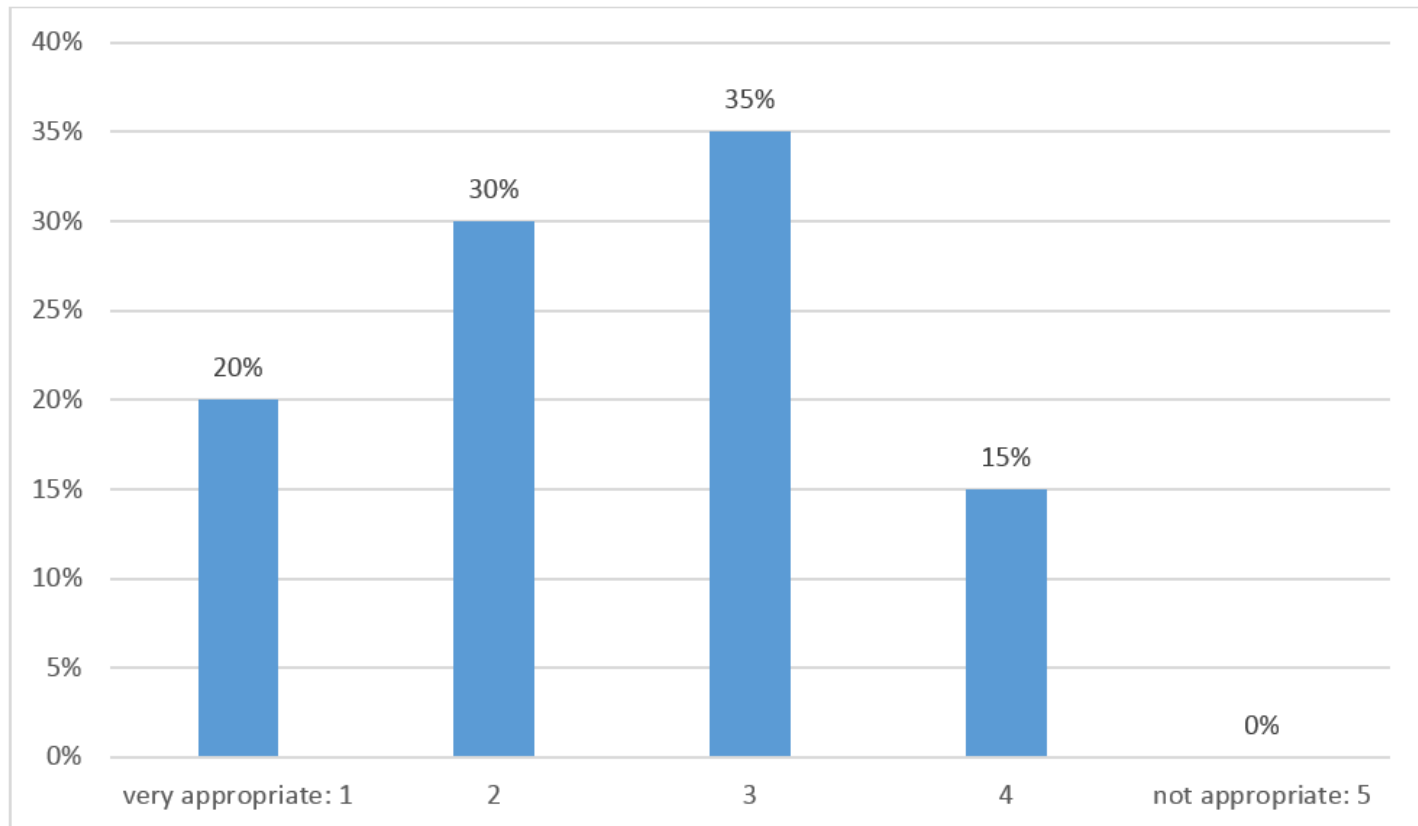
Q1 – Q3:

How would you rate the success of the START initiative as a contribution to the Danube Region?



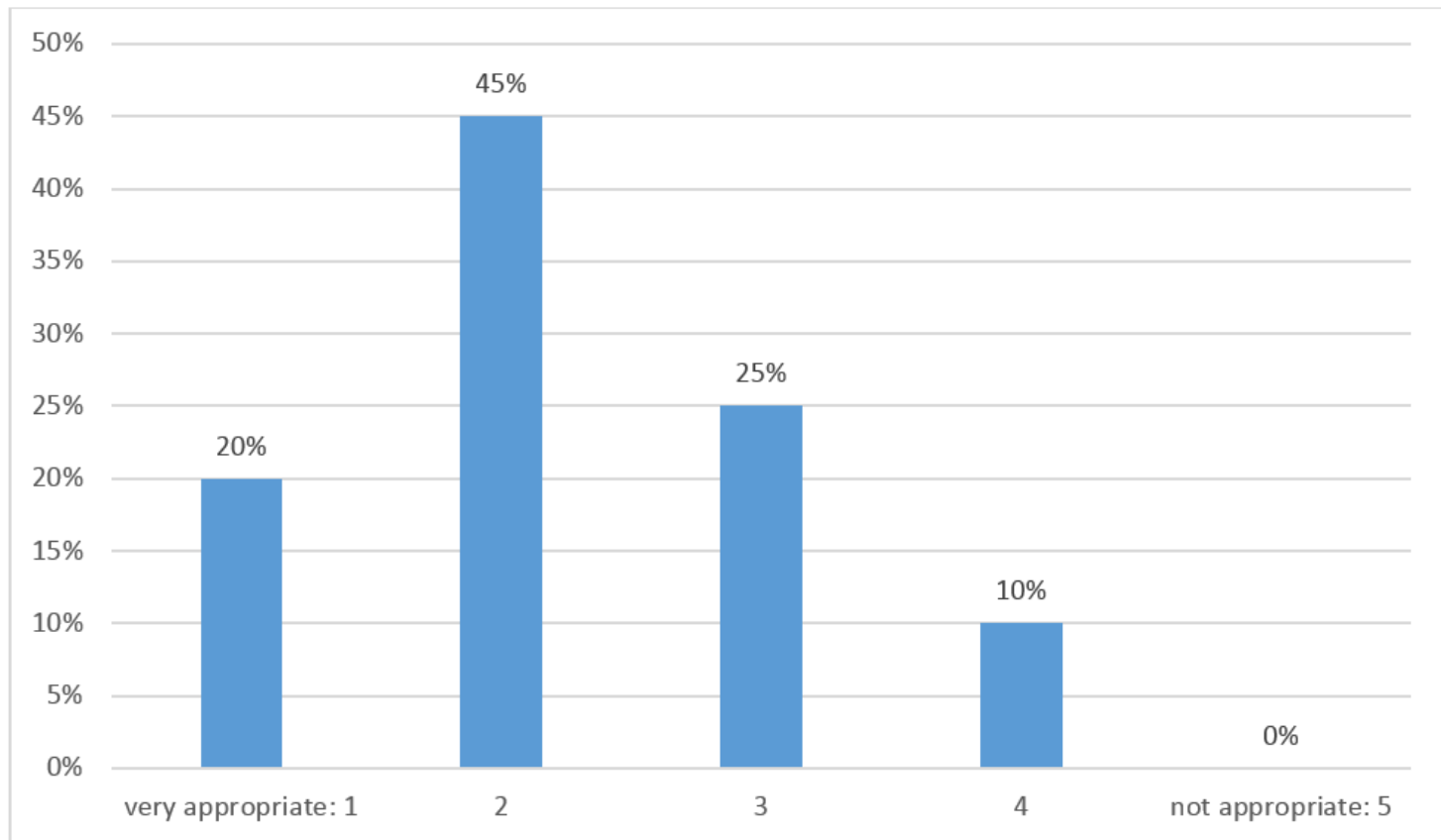
# Q1 PAC and SG members

How was the administrative burden of the selection process?



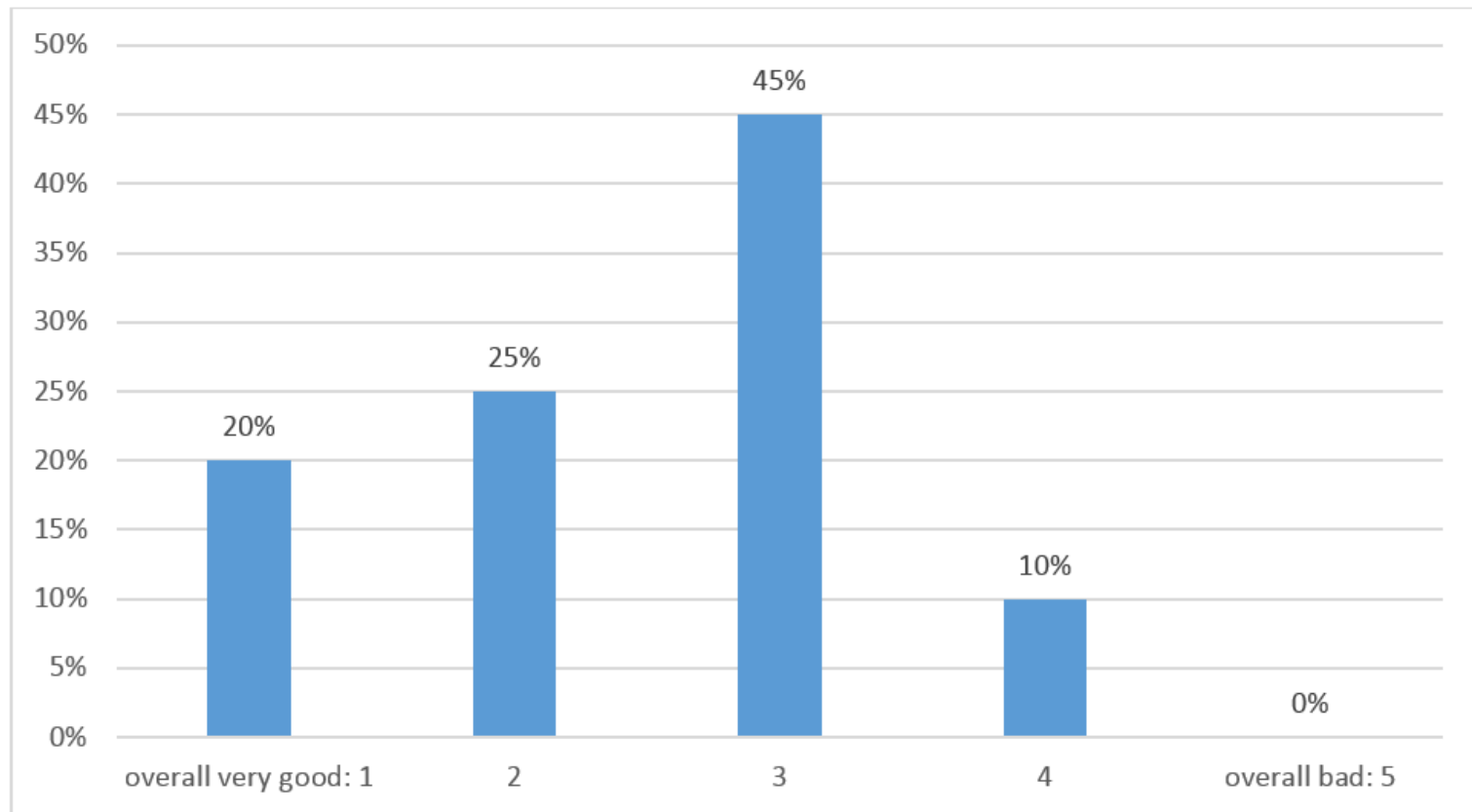
# Q1 PAC and SG members

How was the number of applications to be reviewed?



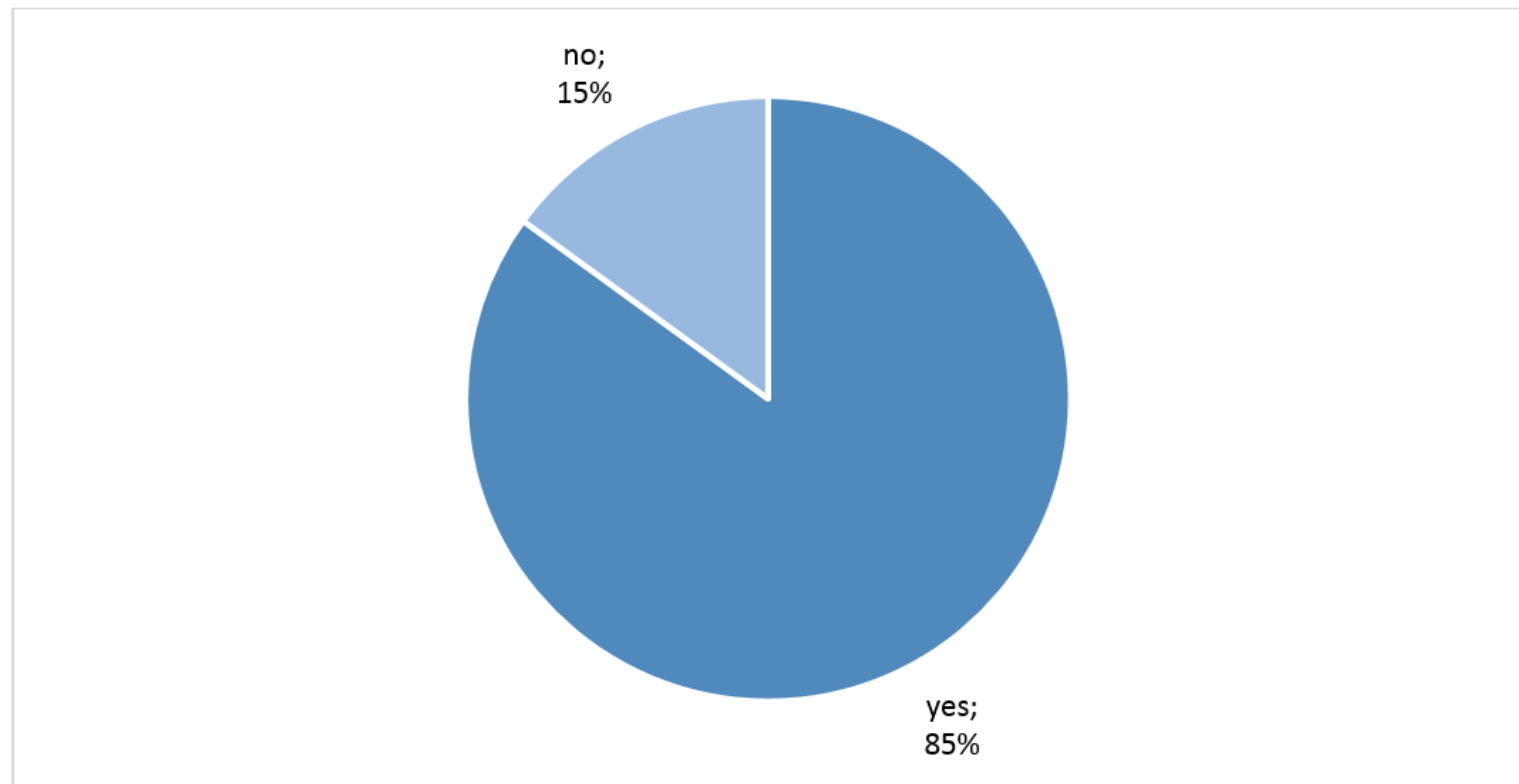
# Q1 PAC and SG members

## How was the overall quality of applications?



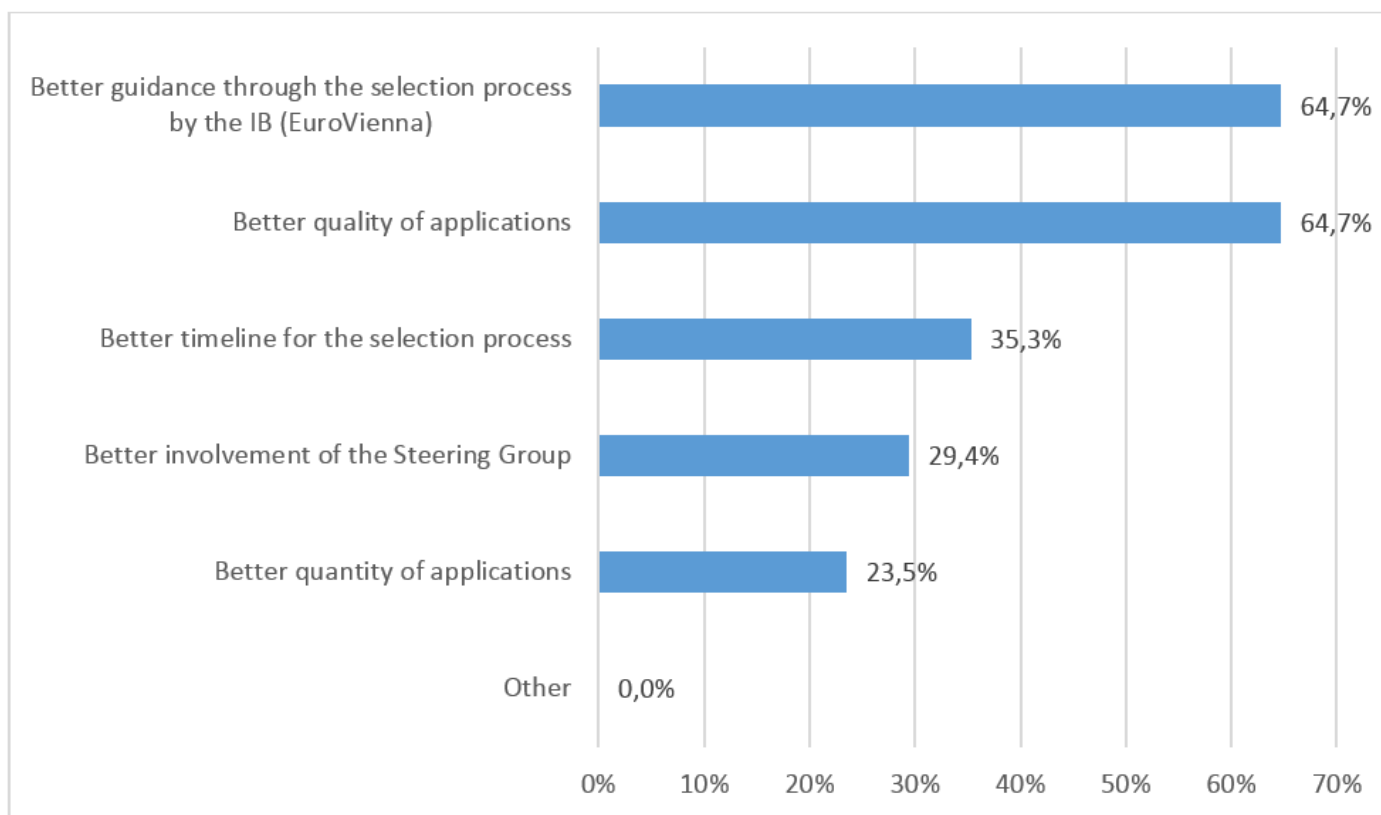
# Q1 PAC and SG members

Were there improvements between the 1st and the 2nd call for proposals?



# Q1 PAC and SG members

If yes: What were the improvements? \*



\* Multiple answers possible.



# Q1 PAC and SG members

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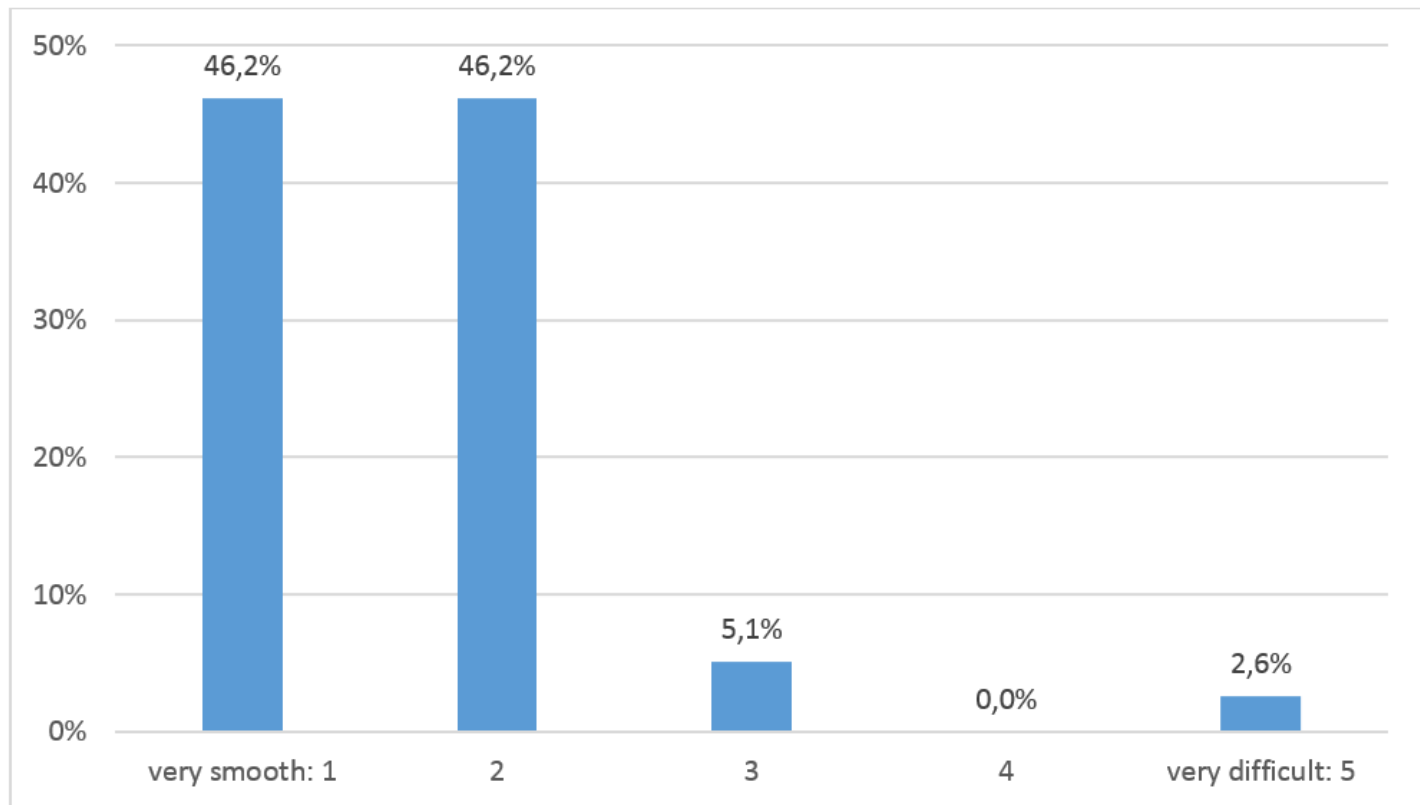
## **START structure:**

- Seed money
  - Small scale projects
  - Open calls for proposals
  - Small organisations
  - Transnational partnerships
- > Overall structure well suited

# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

LPs:

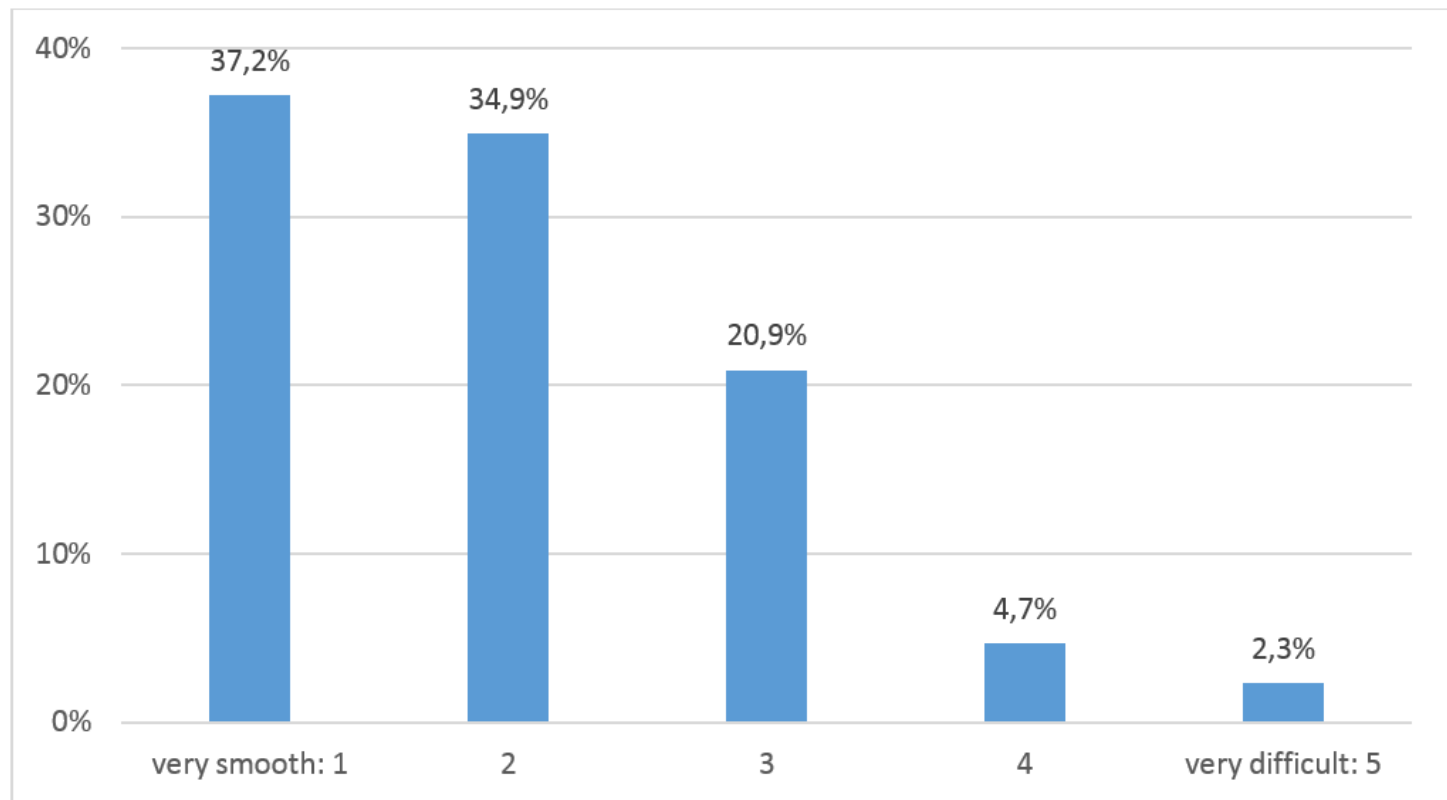
In general, I would rate the implementation of my START project as...



# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

PPs:

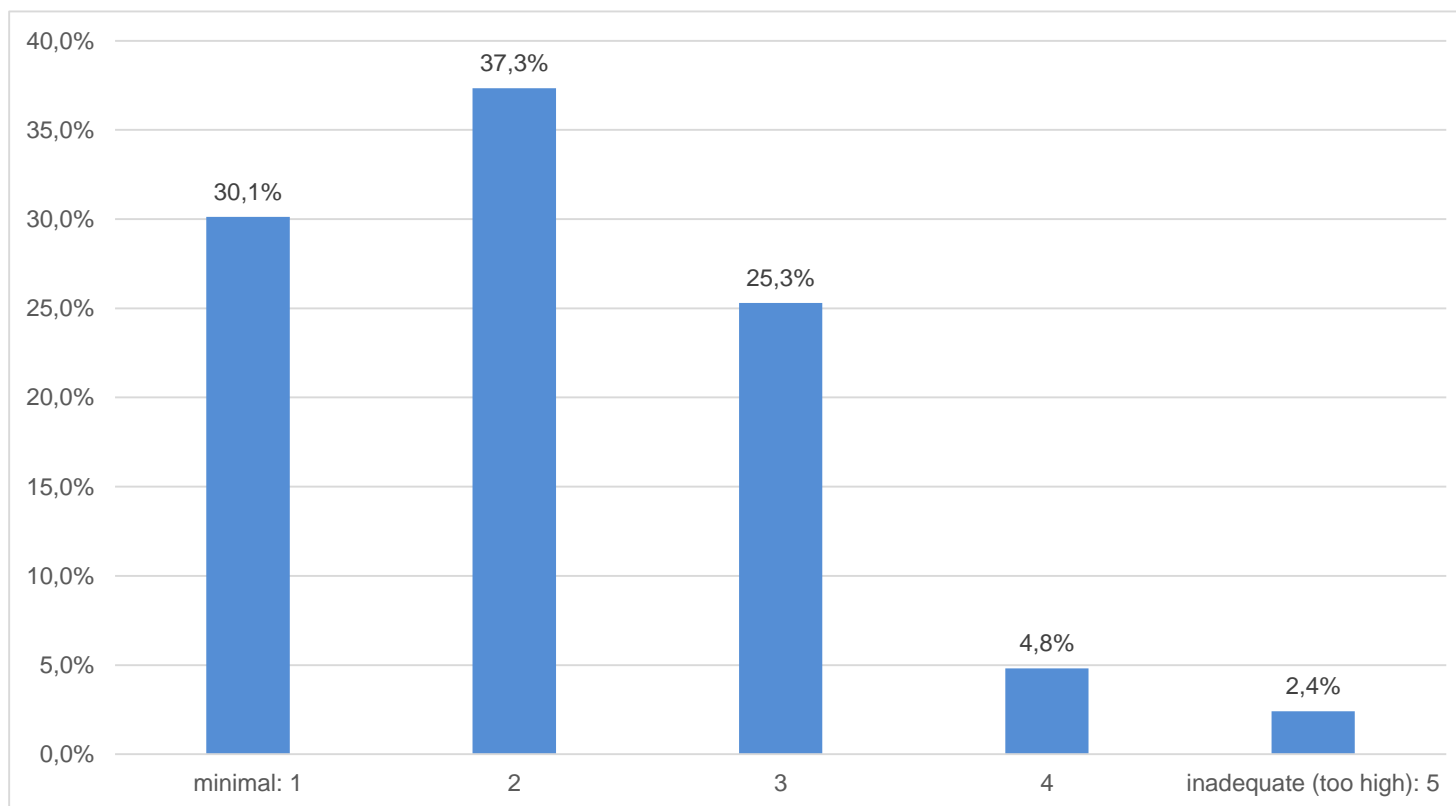
In general, I would rate the implementation of my START project as...



# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

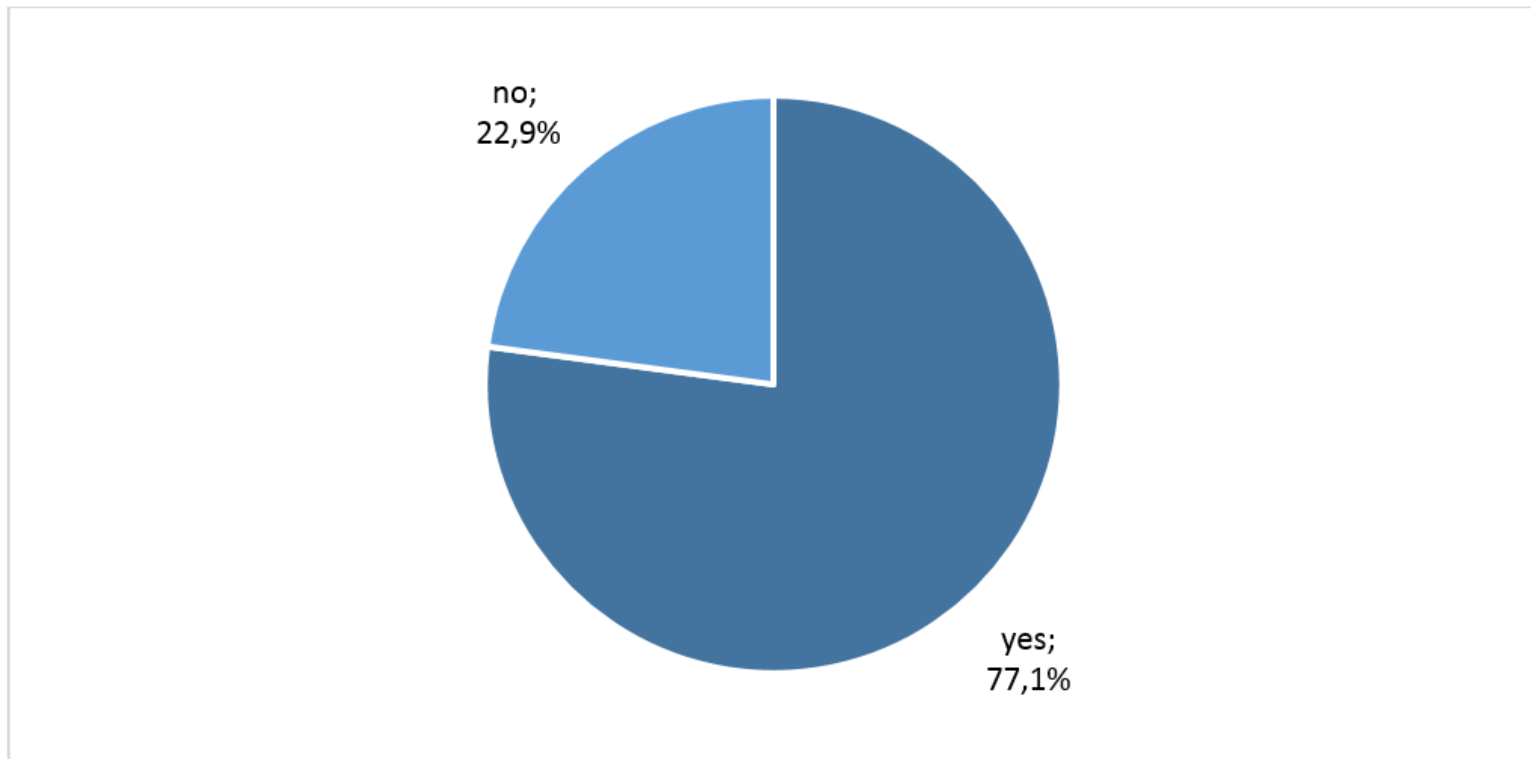
## LPs and PPs:

The administrative burden during the implementation phase was...



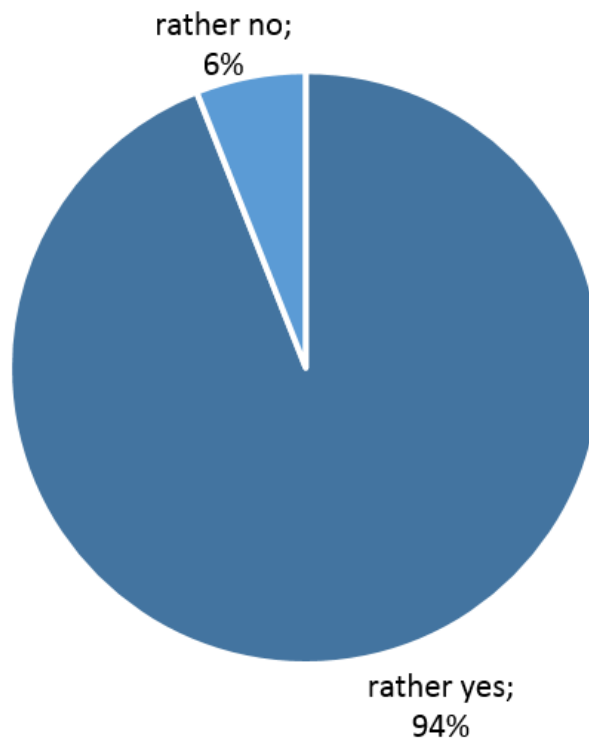
# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

Did you have prior experience with EU funded projects before START?



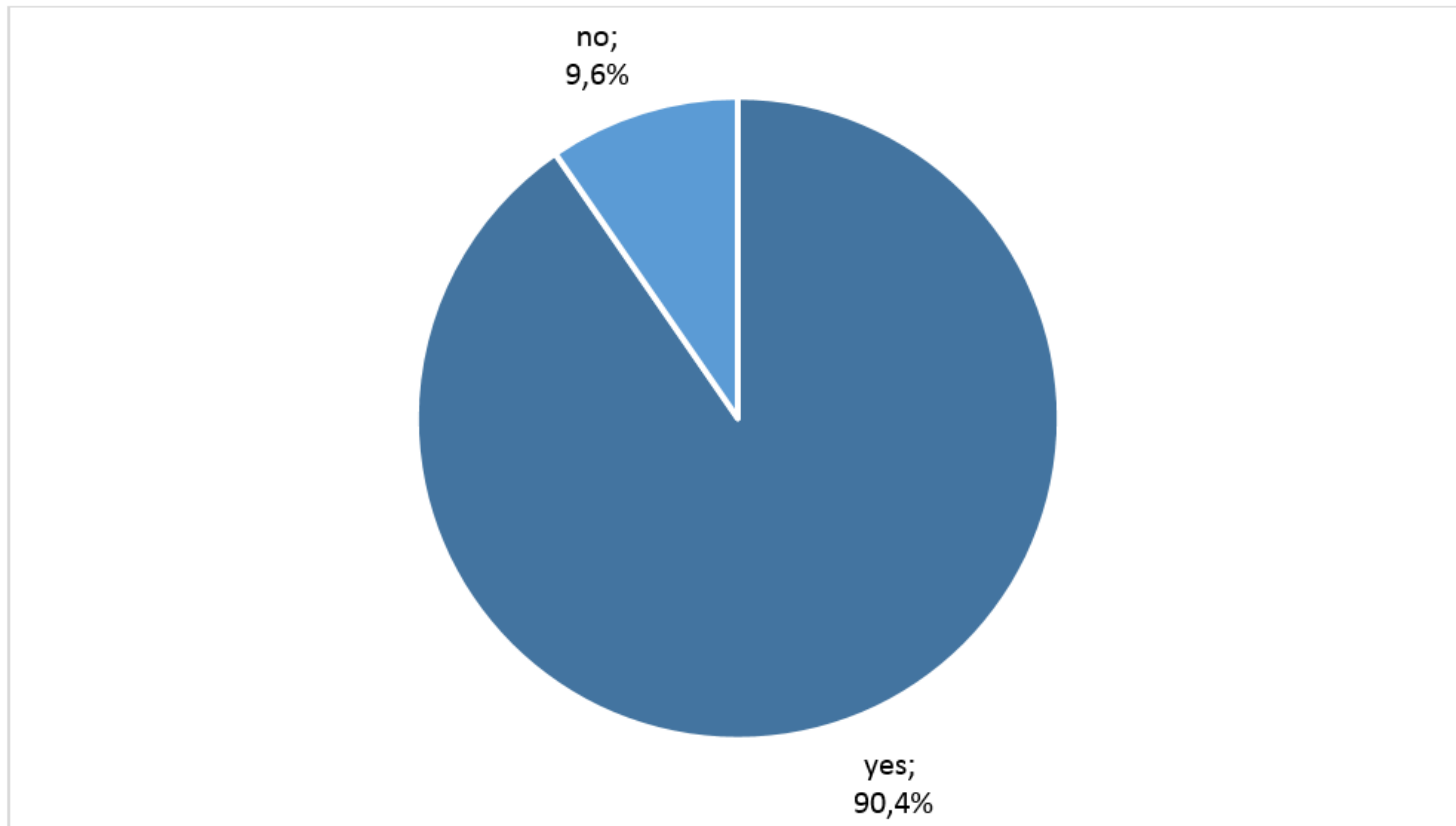
# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

Do you consider the experience you gained with START valuable for your future EU funded projects?



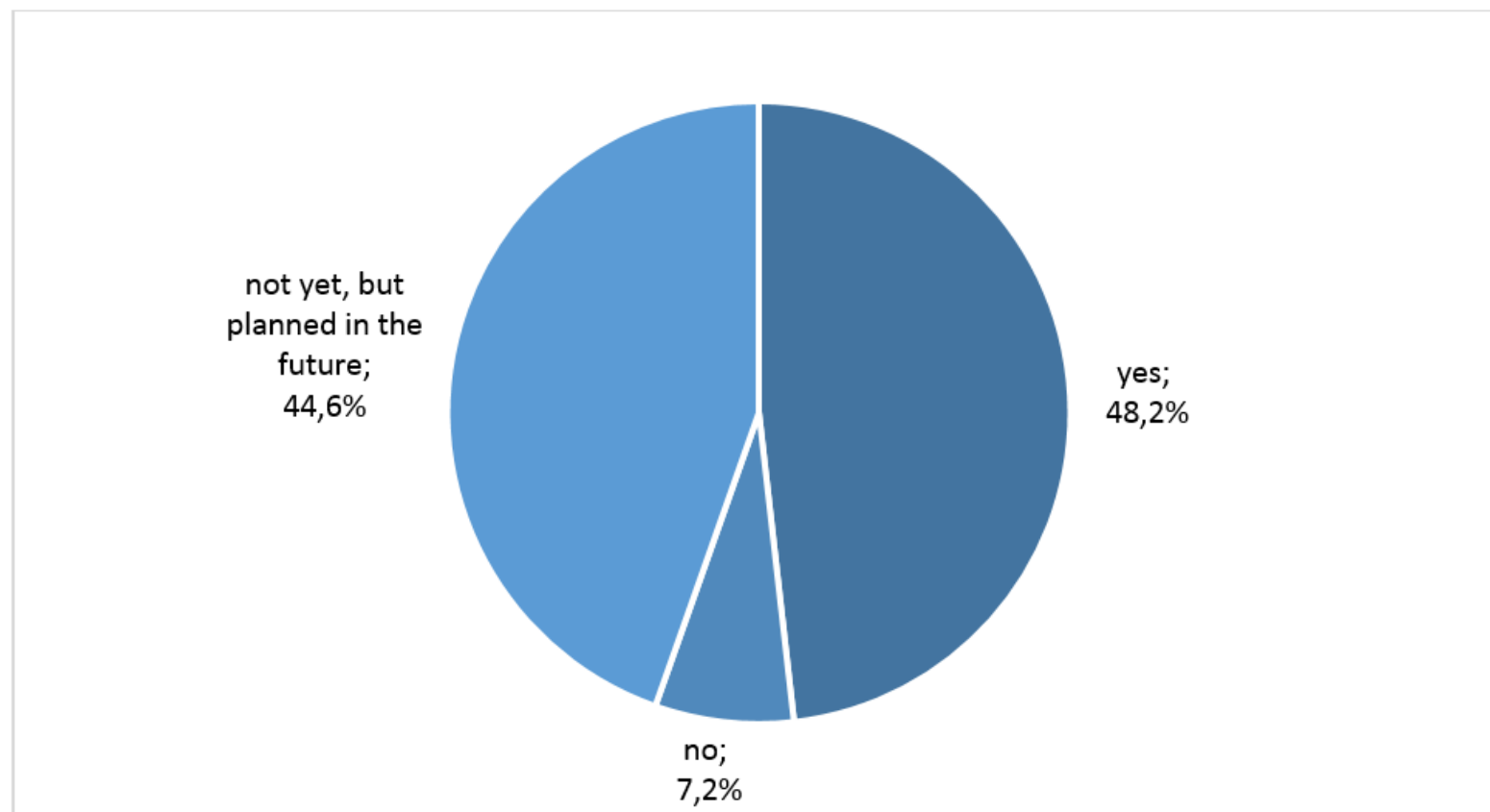
# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

Did you originally plan to submit a project proposal as a result of the START project activities?



# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

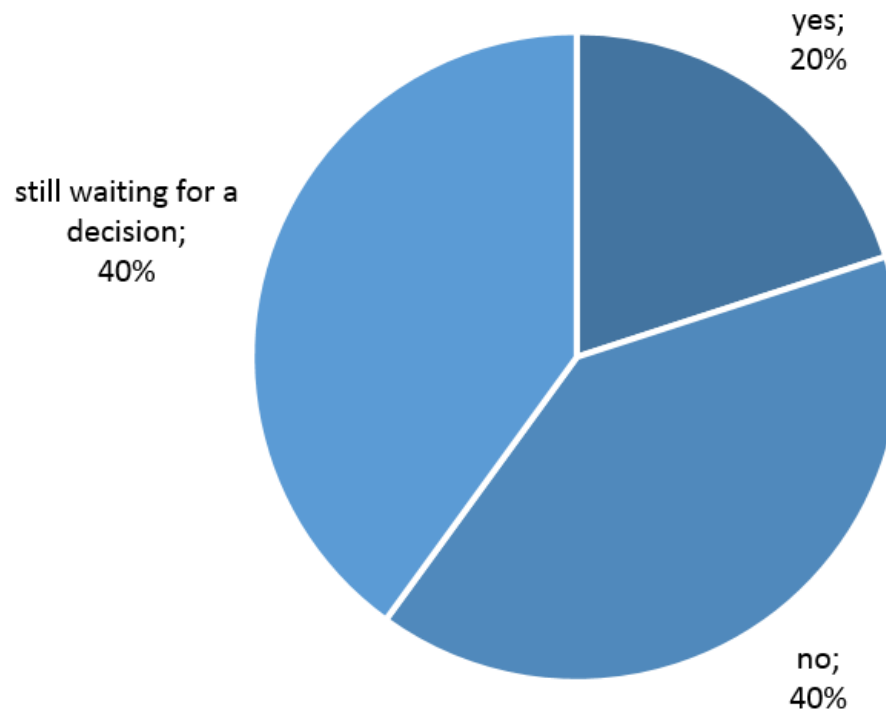
Did you submit a project proposal as a result of your START project activities?





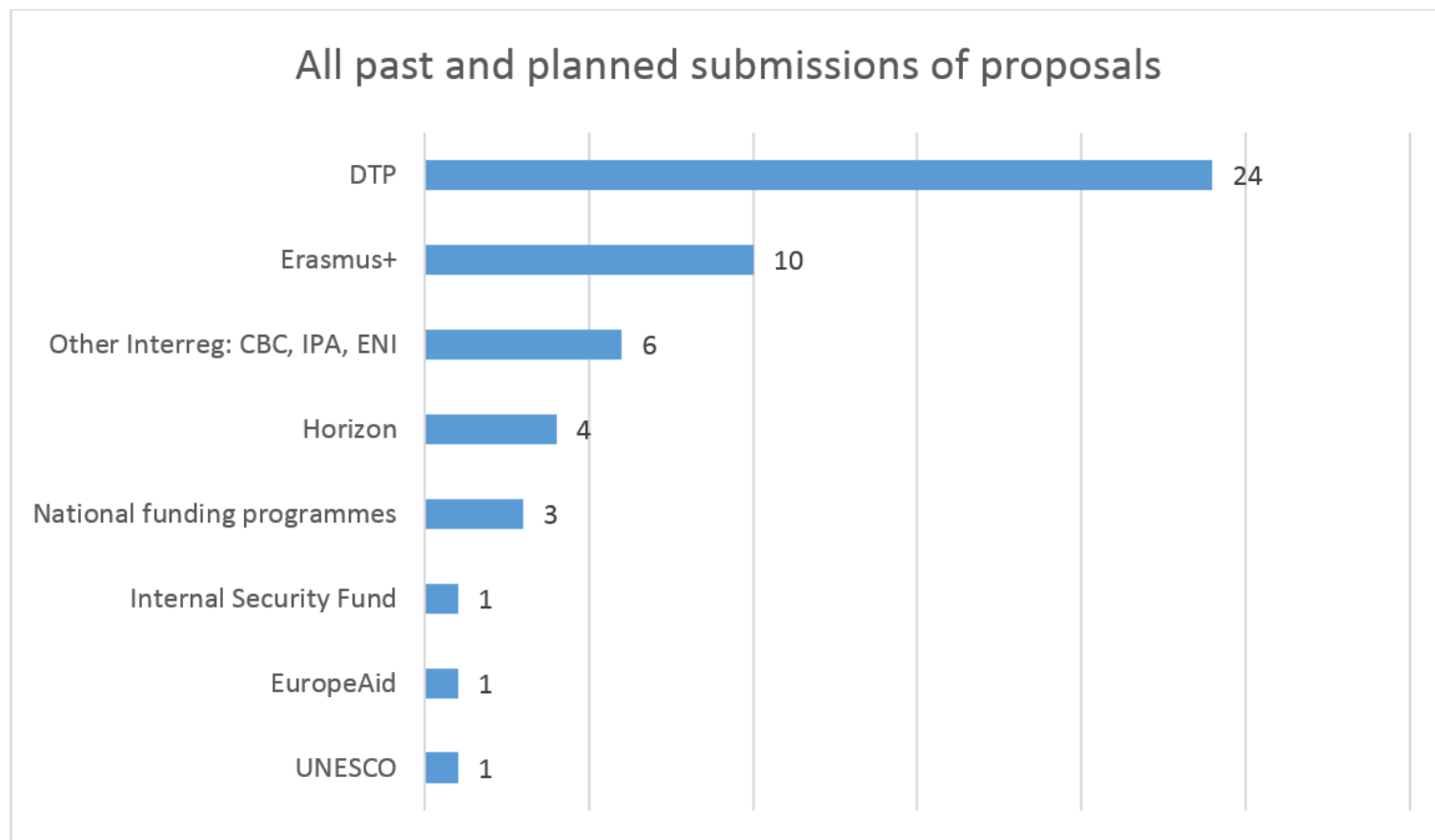
# Q2 Lead and Project Partners

Was your project proposal selected for funding?

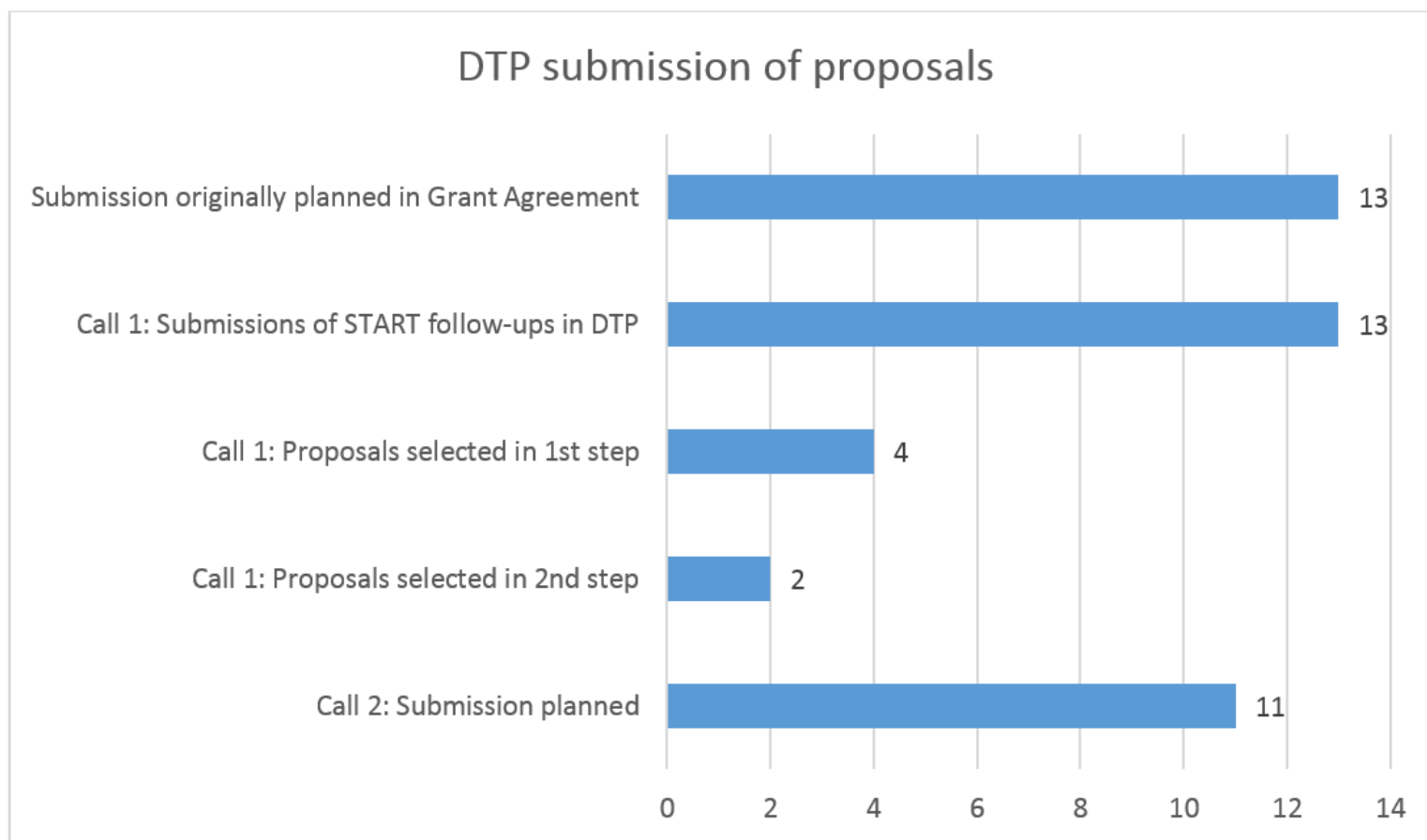


# START successes and results

## Submission of proposals for further funding:



# START successes and results



# Q3 General public

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- Current needs for funding in the Danube Region
  - Results will be available as annex to the evaluation study
- Visibility

# START successes and results



## Recommendations:

- Unit costs vs. real costs – consistent approach
- Larger project volumes (min. 45.000 €)
- Fewer partners
- Closer/more defined relationship with DTP
- Maintain both preparatory actions and ,main stage‘ actions (type A and B)
- Visibility within the other PA's and more interconnected approach

# START successes and results



## Conclusions:

- START very well suited for needs in the Danube Region
- High level of achievement
- High demand, very competitive
- Follow-up needed

# START successes and results

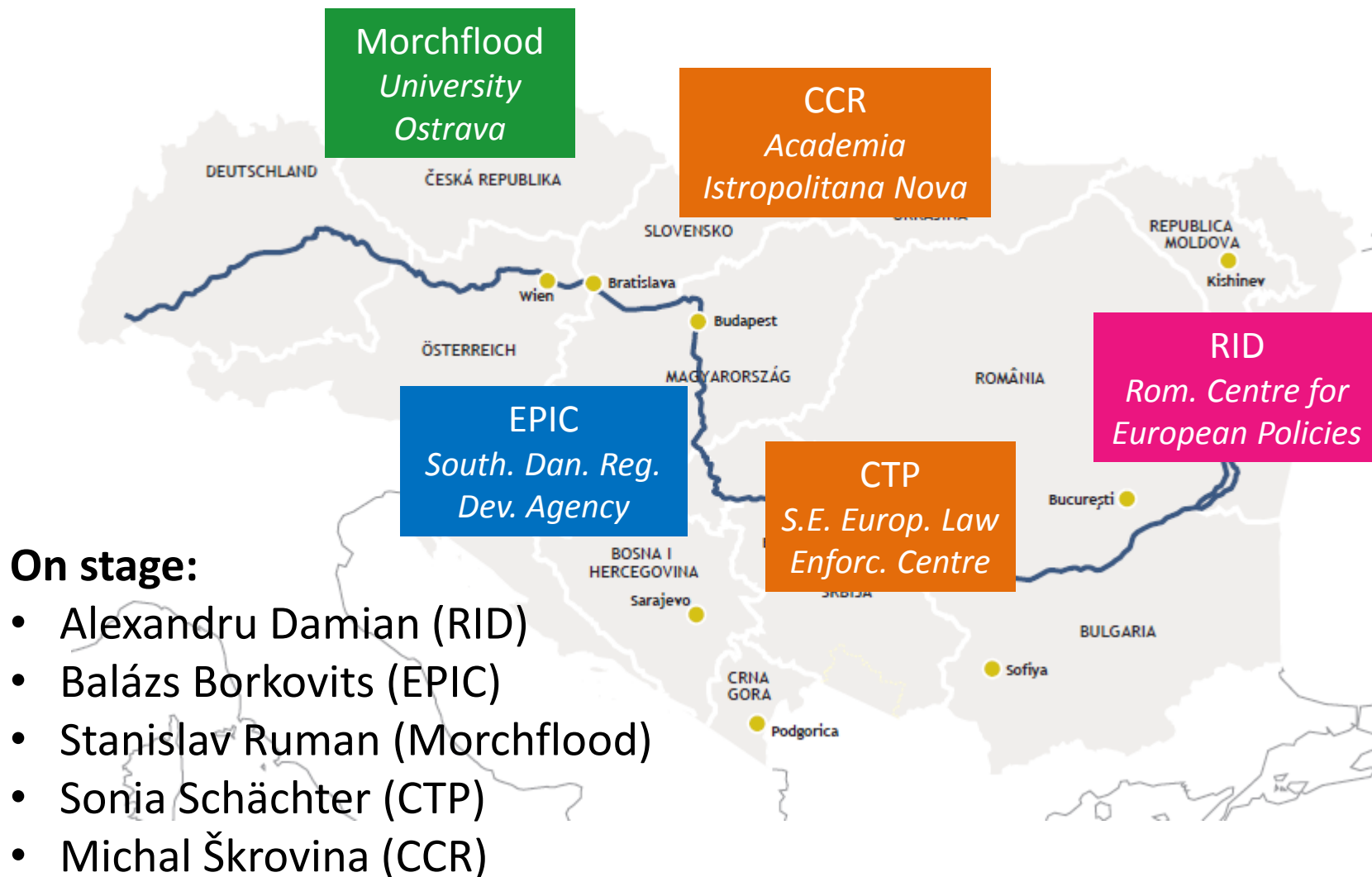
START publication:

- All 48 implemented projects
- Project contents and basic data

Available for download  
within the next days!



# START Projects





# EPIC - Energy Planning in Communities



- Main objective:
  - Support energy efficiency investments and the use of renewable energies in urban areas
- Main activities:
  - Setting up an international network
  - Analysis of current energy-planning methods in the four countries
- Main output:
  - Handbook for local decision-makers



## Project Partners

Lead Partner	South Transdanubian Regional Development Agency
	Hungary
	<a href="http://www.manergyproject.eu">www.manergyproject.eu</a>
Partner 1	Regional Energy Agency North
	Croatia
Partner 2	City Development Agency East Sarajevo
	Bosnia Herzegovina
Partner 3	Municipality of Danilovgrad
	Montenegro





# MORCHFLOOD



- Main objective:
  - Quantification of morphological changes in river channels and their impact on flood risk
- Main activities:
  - Research in two Carpathian rivers (Bečva and Topľa)
- Main output:
  - Study including steps to improve integrated river basin management



## Project Partners

Lead Partner	University of Ostrava
	Czech Republic
	<a href="http://www.osu.eu">www.osu.eu</a>
Partner 1	Institut of Geography SAS
	Slovakia
Partner 2	Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences
	Slovakia

# MORCHFLOOD





# RID – Roma Integration across the Danube



- Main objective:
  - Develop best practices and exchange on social entrepreneurship models between municipalities, civil society and Roma entrepreneurs
- Main activities:
  - Best practice exchange visits and workshops
- Main output:
  - Widely disseminated report on future cooperation possibilities



## Project Partners

Lead Partner	Romanian Center for European Policies
	Romania
	<a href="http://www.orpe.ro">www.orpe.ro</a>
Partner 1	RomanoButiq
	Romania
Partner 2	Center for the study of Democracy
	Bulgaria

# RID – Roma Integration across the Danube



\*A traditional Roma craftsman part of a social enterprise in Romania

# CCR – City Centre Revival



- Main objective:
  - Strengthen cooperation amongst municipalities in participatory planning of town centre renewal
- Main activities:
  - Development of an action plan including establishment of a partnership
- Main output:
  - Submission of project proposal in DTP

PA 10   

## Project Partners

Lead Partner	Academia Istropolitana Nova Slovakia
Partner 1	SCHABL Consulting e.U. Austria
Partner 2	Municipality of Celje Slovenia



# CCR – City Centre Revival

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# CCR – City Centre Revival





# CCR – City Centre Revival



# CTP – Countering Trafficking in Persons



- Main objective:
  - Improve police cooperation on countering human trafficking and illegal migration
- Main activities:
  - Surveys on the different national situations
  - International conference: Common directions, regional approaches, planning operations, etc.
- Main outputs:
  - Report on human trafficking
  - Report on illegal migration



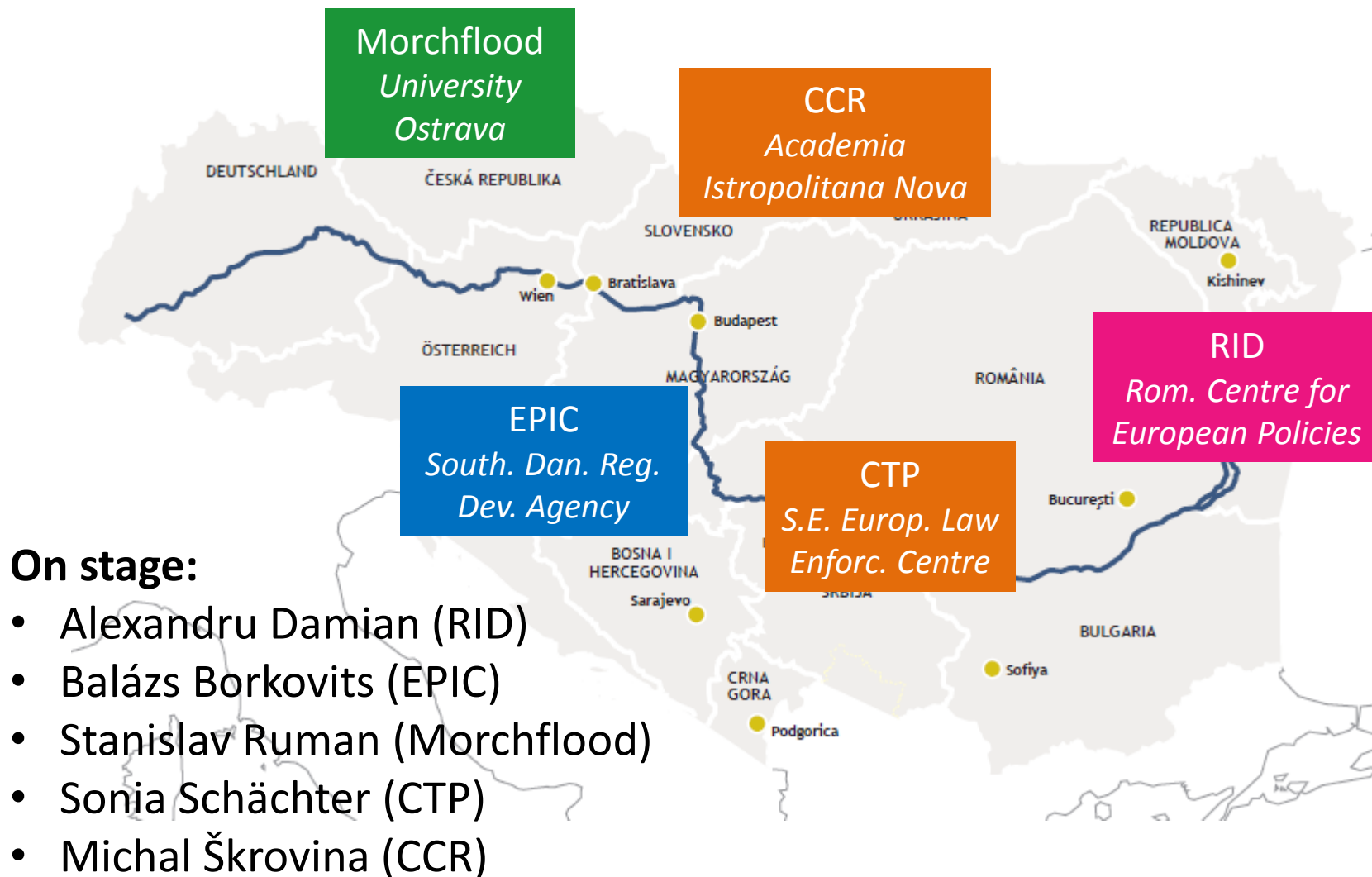
## Project Partners

Lead Partner	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)
	Romania
	<a href="http://www.selec.org">www.selec.org</a>
Partner 1	General Inspectorate of Romanian Police-Directorate for Combating Organized Crime
	Romania
Partner 2	Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Croatia, Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate
	Croatia
Partner 3	Border Police General Directorate, Ministry of Interior
	Bulgaria

# CTP – Countering Trafficking in Persons



# START Projects



## PA 2 – Energy – EPIC



“The project EPIC is a great example of the **tangible results** that we all wish to see in the Danube Region.

This project does not only contribute to the **well-being of citizens** in the Danube Region, but also to the **Action Plan of PA2**, and therefore the success of the whole Strategy.”

## PA 5 – Env. risks – Morchflood



“The project Morchflood gives a good example of how research can support institutions responsible for river basin management.

With a thorough and complex investigation of the morphological changes and the hydraulic properties of the channels, **the project greatly contributed to the understanding of the effect of artificial interventions and [...] natural processes on flood risks. [...]**

The project **delivered expected outputs and results successfully** and its outcomes [...] clearly contribute to Action 1 and 2 of the PA”.



## PA 9 – People & Skills – RID



“The results of the RID project demonstrates that **"unbureaucratic" seed money facilities - like START - are essential** to initiate new projects - **especially for the target group of Roma** - and to integrate Roma into the project development process. Indeed we know that exchange of experiences and development of projects often fails because of trivial reasons like missing language skills, no financial possibilities for traveling or missing knowledge about funding possibilities.

The project also emphasised the **success** of certain projects and initiatives in **Romania and Bulgaria** and intensified the **exchange of know-how and experiences** between municipalities, civil society and Roma entrepreneurs”.

# PA 10 – Inst. Capacity – CCR

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“Towns are aware of the threat of economic, social and demographic **decline** in their historical centres and their need to react, but often lack the **necessary knowledge**. CCR tries to find solutions with a very **innovative approach**, namely bringing together all the relevant stakeholders and developing participative city planning.

We at PA 10 hope that this project will be funded in the future and can continue to develop in the Danube Region, as **participation of local actors and civil society in governance at all levels** is one of our main thematic pillars.”

# PA 11 – Security – CTP



“The project “Countering Trafficking in persons” touches very important and urgent topics. Its thematic coverage fully corresponds to PA 11 action *“To foster the cooperation in the field of countering smuggling and trafficking in human beings”*. One of the main assets of the project is the **involvement of countries of origin, transit and destination** for trafficking in persons. Such an approach is proved to be successful for countering the problem.

Being the first PA 11 project in this area, it will give **a further impetus for development in the broad area of migration management** and enhancing **police cooperation** in the Danube region.”

**It's time to say good bye...**

