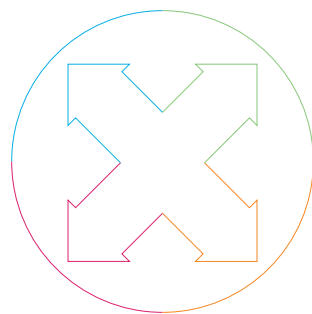




START



48 Stories of Success

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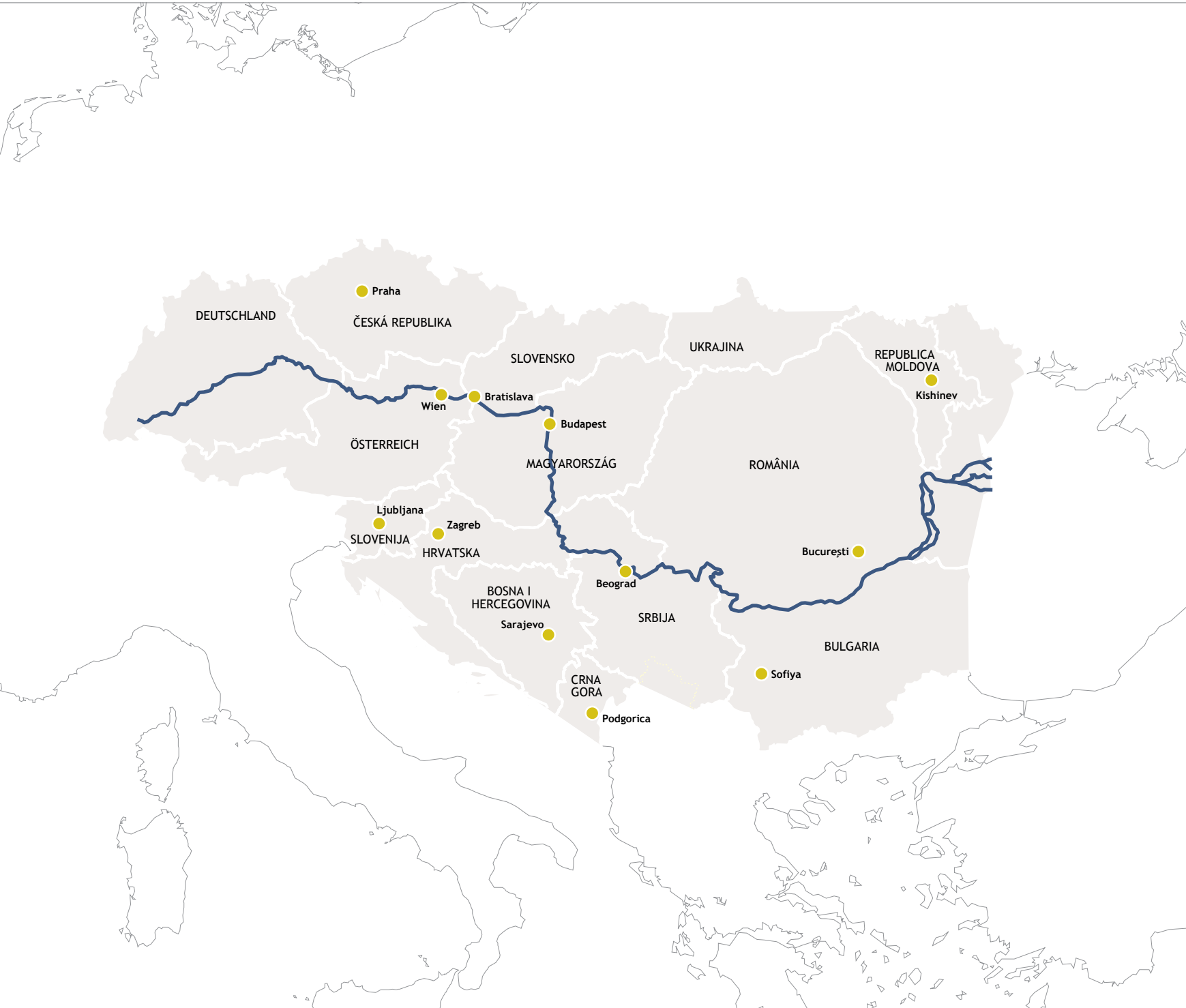
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START – Danube Region Project Fund



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The Danube River, flowing from the Black Forest in Germany to the shores of the Black Sea, forms the most international river basin in the world. With a great natural and cultural heritage, the region's economic and social potential is enormous. At the same time, the quality of life of its 115 million inhabitants varies greatly due to political and structural differences. To improve the living conditions for all, 14 countries developed the European Strategy for the Danube Region in cooperation with the European Commission.

To tackle the shared challenges, transnational cooperation is the key. Project ideas seem to flow freely in the Danube Region but most of them suffer from a lack of funding. To kick-start project development, the pilot initiative START – Danube Region Project Fund was established by the European Commission and Priority Area 10 "Institutional capacity and cooperation" of the European Strategy for the Danube Region, which is hosted by the City of Vienna. The EuroVienna EU-management & -consulting GmbH acted as affiliated entity to the City of Vienna for the purpose of this action and was entrusted by the City of Vienna with the overall management and implementation of START.

START was designed as a Seed Money Facility. Beneficiaries received an early pre-financing of 50 % of the total grant to cover their project expenses from the very beginning. The Seed Money principle especially benefits small organizations with limited access to funding.

Two open calls were organized in 2014 and 2015. Out of 1076 applications, 48 projects were funded, receiving between 10,000 € and 40,000 € each and lasting from 6 to 12 months. 204 partners from the 14 countries of the Danube Region worked together on projects addressing all of the different Priority Areas of the Danube Region Strategy. This publication offers an overview of all 48 projects that were supported by the START contribution.

Most Lead Partners were NGOs, followed by universities and research institutions. With support of the START initiative, these organizations implemented small projects with a macro regional impact. Some were subsequently able to set up larger projects eligible for funding in other EU-programmes. Project partnerships were established throughout the Danube Region, transnational cooperation was extended between different stakeholders and institutions and concepts of transnational projects were elaborated.

The strong interest and the great success of the initiative goes to show that there is indeed a high demand for a Seed Money Facility in the Danube Region.

For more information on the results of START and other initiatives of PA10, please visit the website: www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu





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Danube Ports in the Light of Numbers –
Introducing the new level of Port
Performance Indicator System for
the inland waterway ports

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Hungarian Federation of Danube Ports (HFDP)
	Hungary
Partner 1	National Company – The Maritime Danube Ports Administration J.S.Co. Galati
	Romania
Partner 2	Port Authority Vukovar
	Croatia

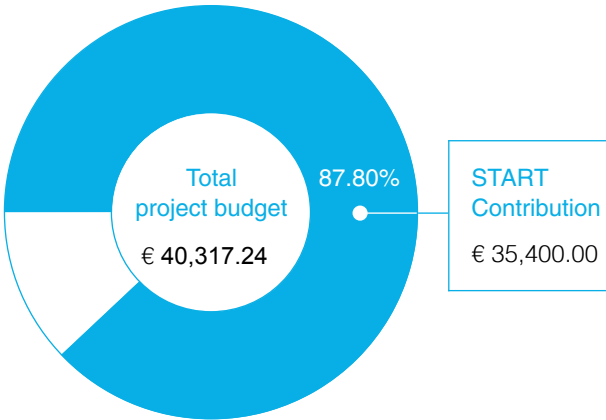
POPEI aimed at increasing the competitiveness and efficient operation of inland waterway ports by:

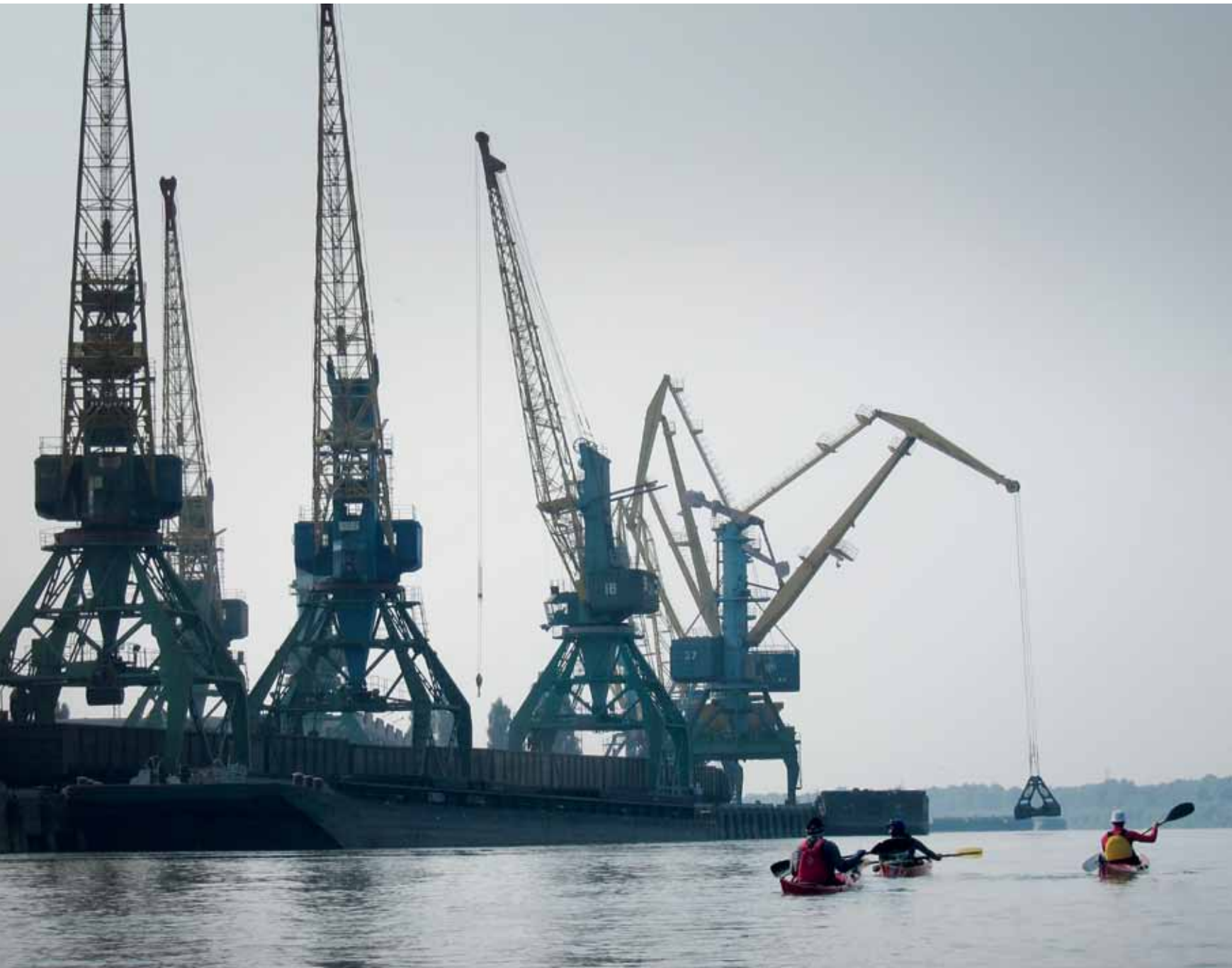
- 1. Adjusting Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to the ports' needs to enable their use in practice. As a result, the market receives real information on port services and performance.
- 2. Transforming the KPIs into a performance-indicator system which is applicable for (self-) measurement and the qualification of services.

The target groups were all of the ports along the Danube River, the focus was on the three partner countries Hungary, Romania and Croatia.

A new level of operation and cooperation was established for the Danube ports to step up the application of the performance-indicator system.

Project duration: 01.05.2015 – 31.01.2016





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Building Competency-based Training for Port Sector Labour Force in a Supportive Environment

New technologies, new jobs and almost an entire re-engineering of the technological processes require adjusting the labour-force competence of ports to labour-market demands.

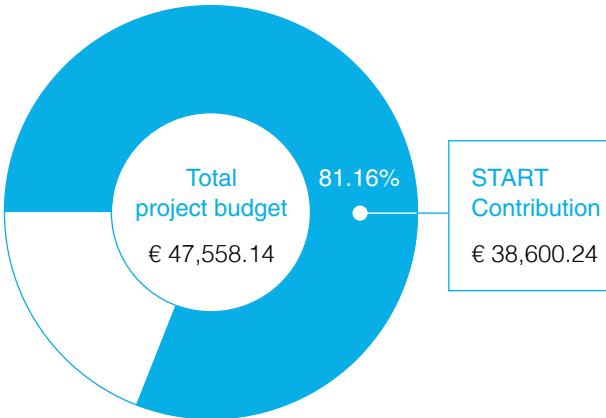
The overall goal of Training4Port is to increase the quality of port services and to improve the perception and the accessibility of jobs in ports. Therefore, a competence-based training was set up in a supportive environment.

Training4Port brought forth a detailed analysis of port-labour markets from three Danube countries (Moldova, Ukraine and Romania).

Project duration: 01.03.2015 – 29.02.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Union of Romanian Inland Ports
	Romania
	www.danube-ports.ro
Partner 1	Agency for Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration Moldova
Partner 2	Public Organisation Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube” Euroregion Ukraine
Partner 3	Association Global Project Romania



CLEAR BASIN



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Research of River-Port Sediment and Its Potential Use in Civil Engineering

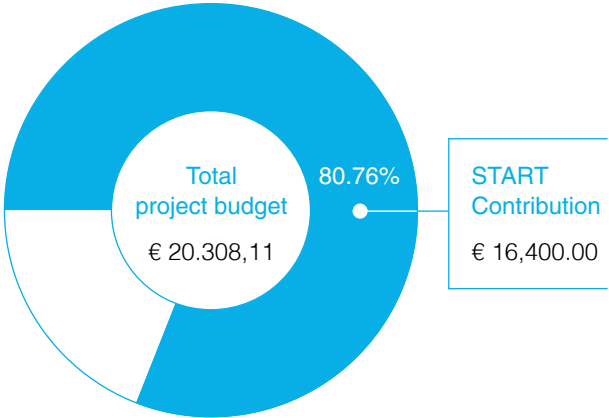
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Faculty of Civil Engineering Osijek
	Croatia
	www.gfos.unios.hr
Partner 1	Faculty of Civil Engineering, Belgrade
	Serbia
Partner 2	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
	Croatia
Partner 3	Port authority Osijek
	Croatia

The main objective of this project was establishing a “kick start project” dealing with port sediment collection and utilisation. The objective was analysing the problem of port sediment accumulation and defining its characteristics as potential building material. Riverbed sediment is affected by the river flow and changes its cross sections on locations at which sedimentation is a dominant process. To maintain ports’ mobility, minimum depth in rivers must be guaranteed. That’s why the amount of deposited sediment must be monitored and excessive amounts dredged out. Port bedload sediment is often polluted with toxic chemicals and creates problems of safe disposal. Research and laboratory analysis are needed for an alternative usage of the sediment in civil engineering or agriculture. So far, there has been no monitoring of sediment quality or its quantity in river ports.

One specific activity implemented within the CLEAR BASIN project was field and laboratory research on port sediment to be used as a building material. A survey including the analysis of sample selections was conducted and an assessment of potential problems with port sediment was elaborated. A final conference was organised to present the results of the research and the survey to the public.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016





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Measurement of Reliability in Inland Navigation along the Danube Fairway

The main objective of the overall project was to enhance the planning security of freight forwarders to reduce energy consumption and to increase the use of sustainable-transportation modes, especially inland water transportation (IWT) in the Danube Region.

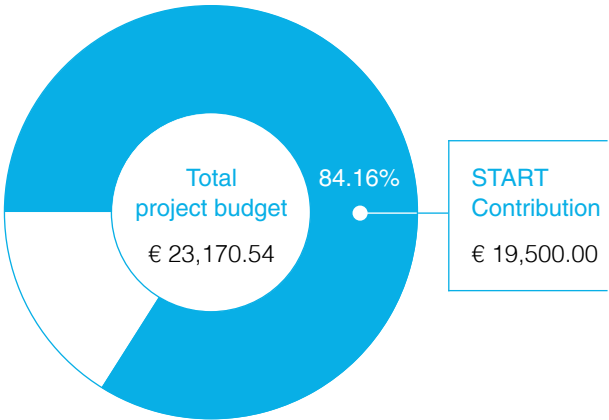
This is to be achieved by using a system-integrated model in the form of a “Proof-of-Concept” demonstrator that smartly connects forecasting, planning and optimisation of the planned capacities within the scope of a case study in the automotive industry.

The MREIND START project actively contributed to the development of the demonstrator by defining indicators to measure reliability (performance indicators) of the Danube as a transport mode. All indicators defined were successfully integrated into the demonstrator.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Innovation Center of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade Ltd.
	Serbia
	www.inovacionicentar.rs
Partner 1	TU Wien
	Austria
Partner 2	Maritime River Agency “AGENT PLUS” Ltd.
	Serbia







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Risk Assessment on Danube Area Roads

Road crashes are the region’s most serious transport problem. Crashes cost more than 2% of regional GDP.

The overall aim of RADAR is to cost-effectively save lives throughout the region and bring benefits for targeted road-user groups.

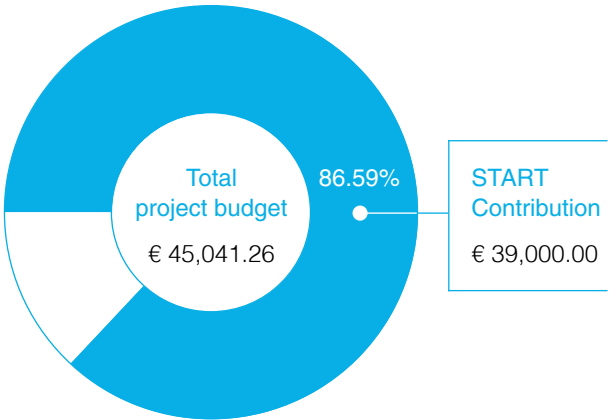
RADAR is the largest trans-national assessment undertaken to identify key risk factors. It identifies practical, affordable actions towards the ‘common road safety area’, proposed by the European Commission, so it can become uniformly safe to travel in the region.

The purpose of the RADAR START project was to prepare the project concept, to define the budget and to prepare and submit an application for funding of the overall RADAR project.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015

Project Partners

Lead Partner	European Road Assessment Association
	Slovenia
Partner 1	Automobile and Motorcycle Association of Slovenia
	Slovenia
Partner 2	Automobile Club of Serbia – Motor Vehicle Centre
	Serbia





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Transport Logistic Centre “VUKA”

Within the framework of the development of the TEN -T -network and Danube Strategy, there is a high need to intensify transport connections between the Baltic-Adriatic and the Mediterranean route.

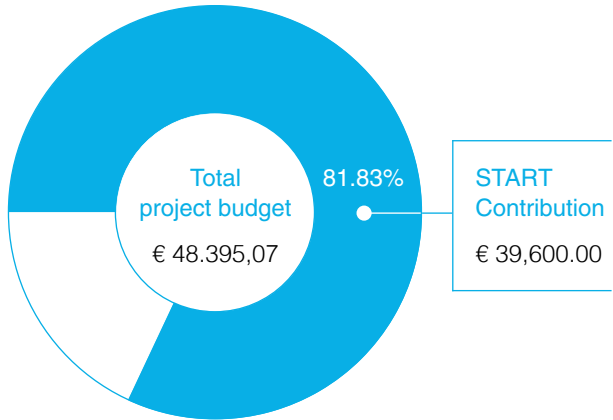
The overall project objective is to create the Transportation Logistic Centre “Vuka” in order to better connect the Danube Region and to improve the geo-strategic position of the Vukovar area. In addition, the centre shall start new related entrepreneurial activities, and finally attract investments and increase the competitiveness of the economy and of the area in general.

The START project TLC_VUKA contributed significantly to the development of the planned logistic centre. The most important results of the activities conducted within the START project were the establishment of a feasibility study and of a conceptual design (building space, landscape plan, etc.) for the realisation of the Transport Logistic Centre, as well as the promotion of the project and the consultation of relevant stakeholders.

Project duration: 01.05.2015 – 31.03.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Vukovar-Srijem County
	Croatia
Partner 1	Vukovar-Srijem County Development Agency Hrast Ltd.
	Croatia
Partner 2	Danube Office Ulm/Neu-Ulm
	Germany





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INTERVENTION ROUTES

The fast pace of life takes its toll in higher rates of different types of accidents in everyday life. Therefore, the demand for fast intervention by rescue services has increased. At the same time, rescue time is considerably extended and consequently endangers human lives and property.

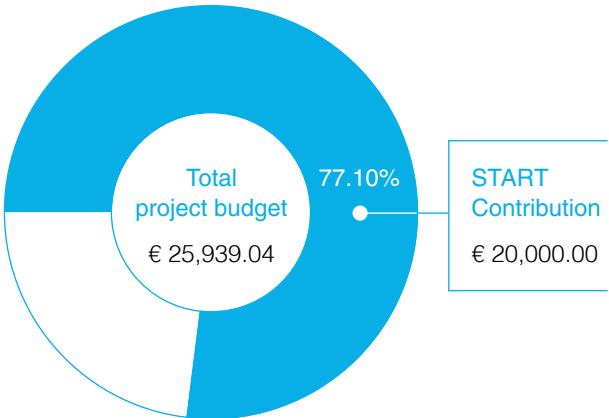
The aim of the INTR project was to connect target groups of spatial planners, architects, administrative authorities, representatives of legislator, project managers as well as professionals that use the intervention routes (e.g. firefighters, first-aid workers etc.) and draw their attention to the problem of intervention routes in urban areas in the entire Danube Region.

With the support of START, an analysis of the current situation of the intervention route in Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia was conducted. A seminar was organised to exchange experience and further enhance cooperation between relevant stakeholders. A follow-up review in the form of a study was elaborated which can be used as a guideline for improvements in the region.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.05.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Geoplus Lt.
	Slovenia
	www.geoplus.si
Partner 1	Fire Fighting Association of Slovenia
	Slovenia
Partner 2	Croatian Firefighting Association
	Croatia
Partner 3	Firefighter Association of Serbia
	Serbia





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Southeast Europe Network of Transport and Logistics Centres

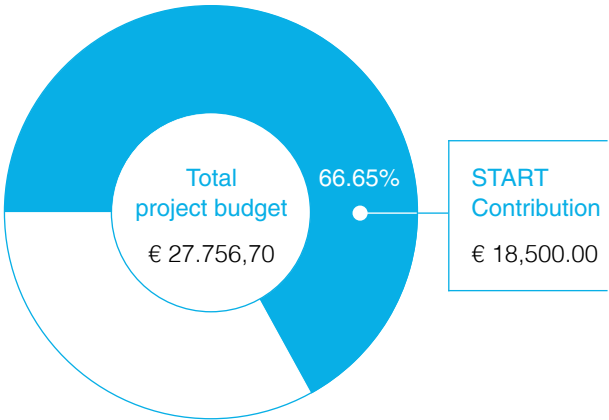
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Intermodal Transport Cluster
	Croatia
Partner 1	Transport and Logistics Cluster of Vojvodina
	Serbia
Partner 2	Pro-rail Alliance
	Croatia

Transport technologies and logistics centres in the Danube Region are poorly developed in comparison to those other regions in the EU. The growing demand for logistics requires development of capacities in Croatia, Serbia, Hungary and Romania. A detailed action plan for logistics and regional development is deemed necessary as well as the integration of logistic potentials from the Danube Region into the western European transport and logistics network.

The aim of the START project SENT was to enhance the quality of logistics centres in the Danube Region, by establishing a co-operation between regional logistics centres, promoting them amongst regional stakeholders, and preparing an application for funding for the overall project. With the support of START, a partnership for the overall project was established; two workshops and study visits as well as several meetings were organised. A detailed project concept was elaborated for further funding and presented at the final event.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 30.06.2016







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Data Support for the Enhanced Use of Deep Geothermal Energy in the Danube Region

Project Partners

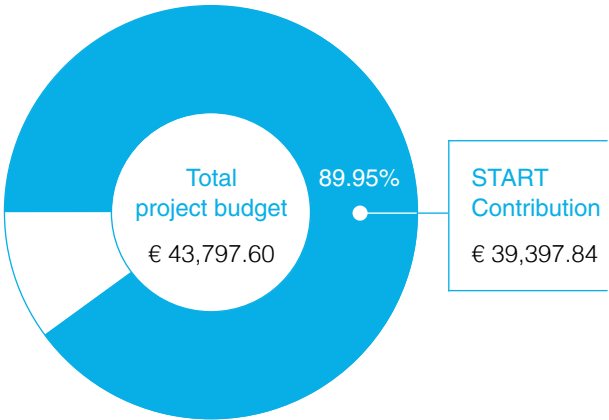
Lead Partner	Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary
	Hungary
	www.mfgi.hu
Partner 1	Geological Survey of Federation of B&H
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Partner 2	Geological Survey of Croatia
	Croatia
Partner 3	Geological Survey of Czech Republic
	Czech Republic
Partner 4	Geological Institute of Romania
	Romania
Partner 5	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology
	Serbia

The main aim of the overall DanReGeotherm project is to provide scientifically-based information on the deep geothermal potential of the Danube Region in order to enhance the sustainable use of the untapped resources.

As data access and data policy of the overall DanReGeotherm project are key factors in the successful project performance, information on data delivery and acquisition was examined in detail in the framework of the START project. After the evaluation of the results, the elaboration of the overall project's exact database policy was possible.

By defining the concrete database concept for the overall DanReGeotherm project (dynamically-developing database), a major step was made towards its successful implementation. In addition, the data will provide the base for a future project called DARLING, which deals with energy efficiency and is planned to be submitted in the next Danube Transnational Programme call.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015





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Sustainable Municipal Energy Policy

Project Partners

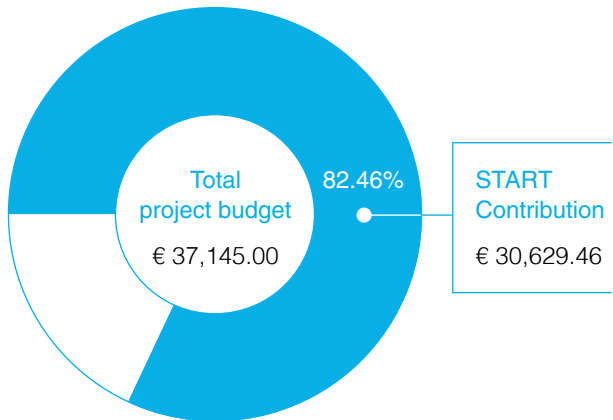
Lead Partner	PORSENNA NGO
	Czech Republic
Partner 1	Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions (E-zavod)
	Slovenia
Partner 2	The International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems (SDEWES Centre)
	Croatia
Partner 3	Styrian Energy Agency
	Austria
Partner 4	Hungarian Urban Knowledge Centre
	Hungary
Partner 5	University of Belgrade, School of Electrical Engineering
	Serbia

The aim of the overall SMEP project is to support a sustainable municipal energy policy and stabilise municipal energy costs in Eastern Europe with a software application and methodological support.

The SMEP START project looks at the current state of energy management in municipalities across the Danube Region and more specifically at the implementation of ISO 50001 (several Czech and Austrian municipalities implement the ISO standard, but others are lacking). The project builds on the idea of bringing together European institutions (mainly from Eastern Europe), stakeholders and cities to address challenges and opportunities for the transition into an environmentally-sustainable, cost-effective and energy-efficient management of a municipality’s property.

With START support, a survey and assessment report were established which led to a better understanding of the municipalities’ opinions on ISO, energy management and energy policy across the region. At the final networking workshops, a consortium of nine partners of energy agencies, municipalities and universities was established to work on the implementation of the overall SMEP project.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015





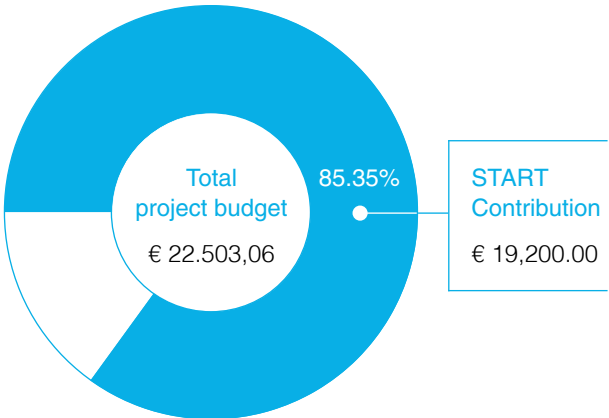
Energy Planning in Communities

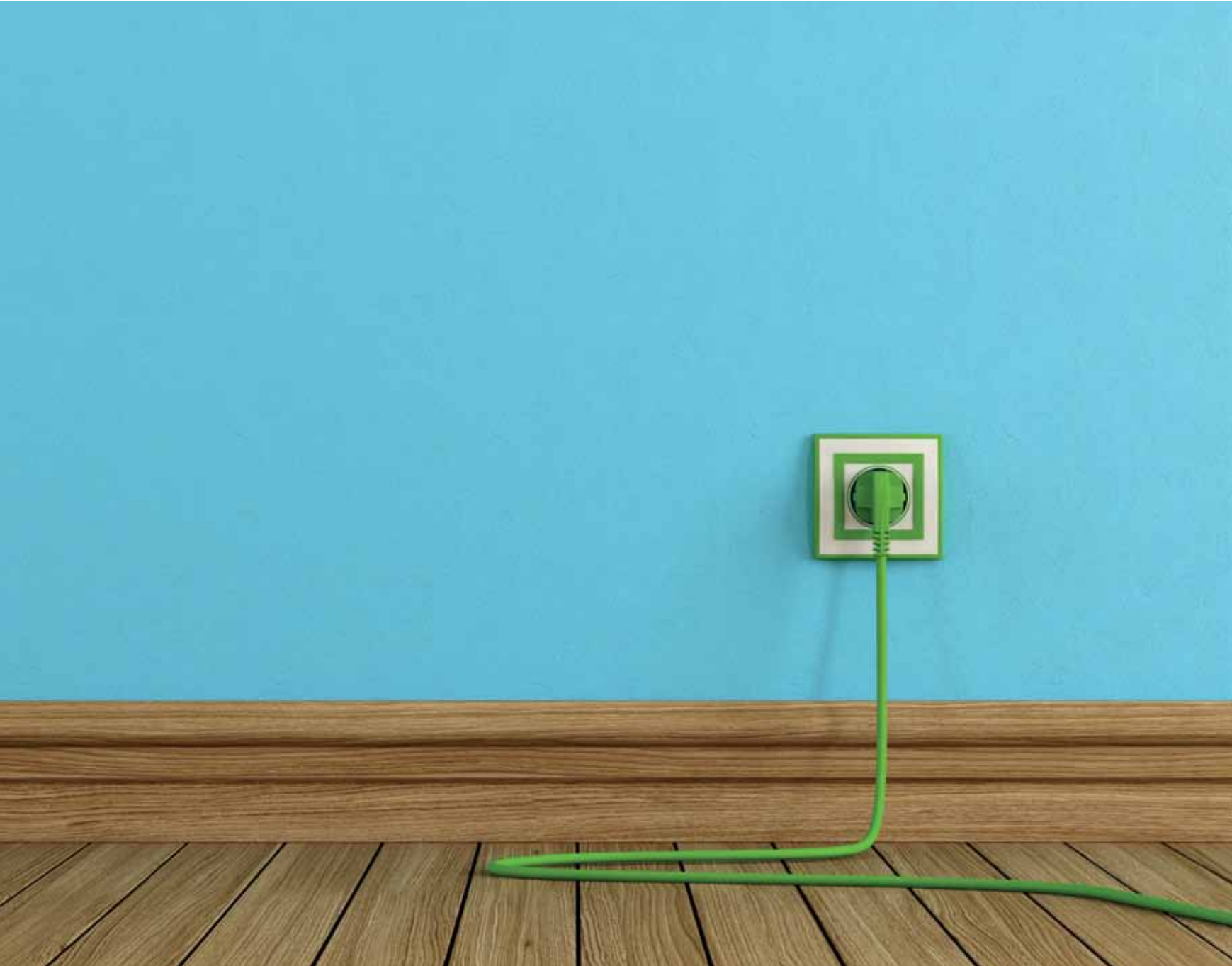
The Danube Region is heavily reliant on fossil energies, particularly on natural gas which is mainly imported from Russia. This makes the Region vulnerable regarding security of supply and also keeps energy price high due to the transfer costs. The EUSDR, therefore, set the objective of supporting energy efficiency investments and the use of renewable energies. As urban areas represent more than two thirds of the energy consumption, the role of local authorities in energy saving is significant. The EPIC START project had the specific objectives of setting up an international network to transfer the elaborated tools and concepts for enhanced renewable energy use to regional/local levels. EPIC project partners examined the current energy-planning methods in the four participating countries; Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia. Conclusions of the different surveys were summarised in a handbook for local decision makers for further consideration.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	South Transdanubian Regional Development Agency
	Hungary
	www.manergyproject.eu
Partner 1	Regional Energy Agency North
	Croatia
Partner 2	City Development Agency East Sarajevo
	Bosnia Herzegovina
Partner 3	Municipality of Danilovgrad
	Montenegro





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Improving Energy Efficiency in Local Authorities in the Danube Region

Project Partners

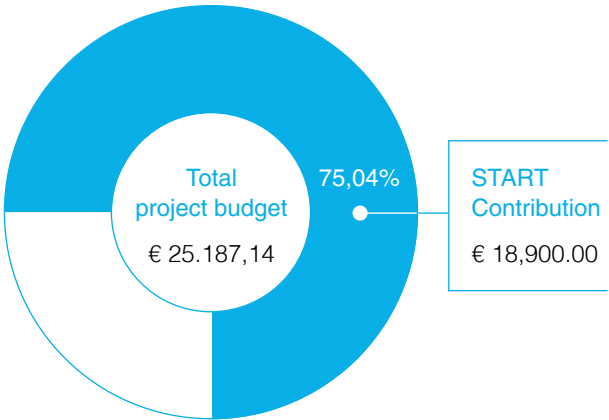
Lead Partner	Association EcoEnergy
	Serbia
	www.ekoenergija34.com
Partner 1	Society for Sustainable Development Design
	Croatia
Partner 2	NPO for Sustainable Energy Development CEZAR
	Croatia
Partner 3	Goriška Local Energy Agency, Nova Gorica
	Slovenia

In the Danube Region, energy prices are high due to expensive transport costs. Current energy production methods in the area are significant sources of pollution and need to be changed. Exploitation of renewable energy and energy efficiency (EE) strategies are not very common in the Region and must be enhanced to guarantee sustainable growth.

The main objectives of the IEEDR project were to stimulate EE and better coordinated efficient energy management systems. Cooperation between developed and less developed countries must be enhanced and experiences exchanged.

The main objective of the START Project was to create a project consortium and to prepare a project application for the Danube Transnational Programme or other funding sources. Local authorities were identified in Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia, a survey of their needs in relation to energy efficiency was conducted, and all collected data was analysed and summarised. The outcomes served as the project- proposal base.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016





Danube Cycling



Middle and Lower Danube Cycling Routes

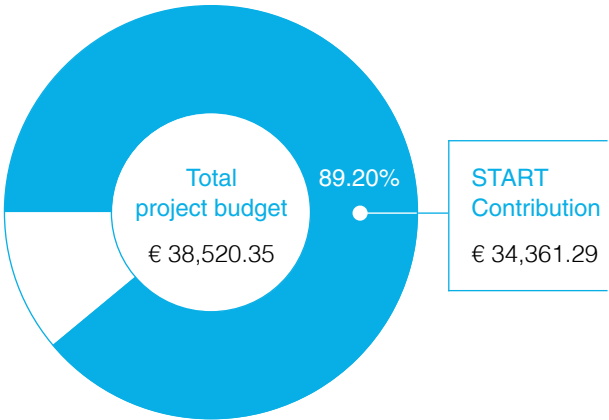
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Danube Competence Center
	Serbia
	www.danubecc.org
Partner 1	Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism
	Bulgaria
Partner 2	Cycling Romania
	Romania
Partner 3	Cyclists' Union
	Croatia
Partner 4	Velo-Ruse
	Bulgaria
Partner 5	Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation
	Bulgaria

The main objective of Danube Cycling was to introduce and support joint and standardised infrastructural development and new operational activities in the Middle and Lower Danube Region and to promote cycling tourism as a form of sustainable tourist development. The project created and supported national and regional networks of stakeholders along the route, establishing recommendations to improve national policy frameworks. Action plans provide the legal and regulatory instruments for safe and efficient bicycle use. In addition, designs which aim at developing and promoting cycling products along the route were made.

The Danube Cycling project paved the way for follow-up projects such as the “Iron Gate Cycling Route” which aims at connecting Serbia and Romania.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016



Authentic Danube



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Authentic Danube – Delivering Tourism Excellence for Visitors and Industry

Project Partners

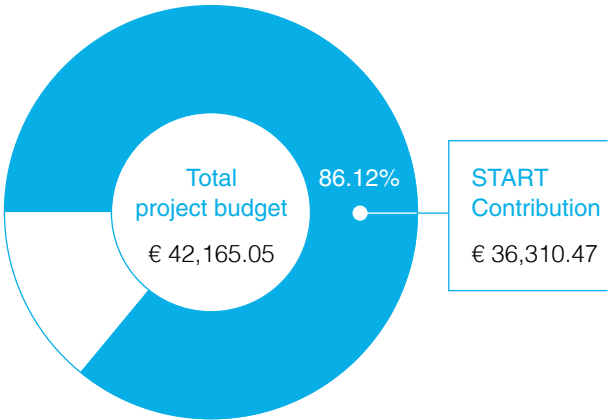
Lead Partner	Authentic Bulgaria Association
	Bulgaria
	www.authenticbulgaria.org
Partner 1	Municipality of Knjazevac
	Serbia
Partner 2	Municipality of Belogradchik
	Bulgaria
Partner 3	European Wilderness Society
	Austria

The project concept is based on the existing Authentic Bulgaria Quality Mark which supports smaller tourism service providers to develop better tourism products and attract high-value, sustainability-sensitive customers. Key issues are related to strengthening the competitiveness of micro, small and medium tourism service providers by enhancing their access to global markets with the help of a certification scheme.

The Authentic Danube START project focused on the development and testing of a certification scheme for small hospitality sector representatives and for wineries with capacity to host visitors. It undertook research and used customer feedback to enable educating members on new trends in tourism development.

Within the START project, a supply-demand analysis and a stakeholder assessment were established. The results were used for elaborating the certification criteria and the training programme. A network of certified partners was established to raise awareness of the Authentic Danube Quality Mark across the region and amongst selected international markets.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015





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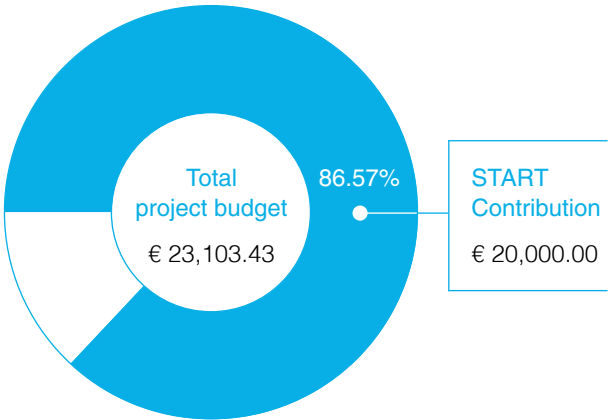
Cross-border Ecotourism in the Danube Region

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Association for the development of Social&Wellness Tourism
	Romania
	www.danubeecotourism.com
Partner 1	National Tourism Authority of Romania Romania
Partner 2	Authentic Bulgaria Association Bulgaria
Partner 3	Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia Serbia

The objective of the overall Danube Ecotourism project is to foster the development of sustainable eco-tourism in the lower Danube Region in order to create new job opportunities for the young and unemployed by increasing public awareness about the socio-cultural and environmental value of the Riparian area. The aim of the START project was to enable direct communication between Romanian, Bulgarian and Serbian experts of sustainable eco-tourism, to define realistic integrated cross-border criteria for eco-tourism development and to develop a work plan on how cross-border eco-tourism products can effectively be offered to tourists. With the help of START, the overall project design was elaborated and submitted under the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross Border Programme.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 30.06.2016





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Make Your Day! – Contemporary Fine Artist Exchange and Networking

People in the Danube Region have a special shared cultural heritage which was developed over centuries by different cultures, ethnicities and religions. Strengthening the dialogue between cultures is important for an open and respectful society and for social and economic development.

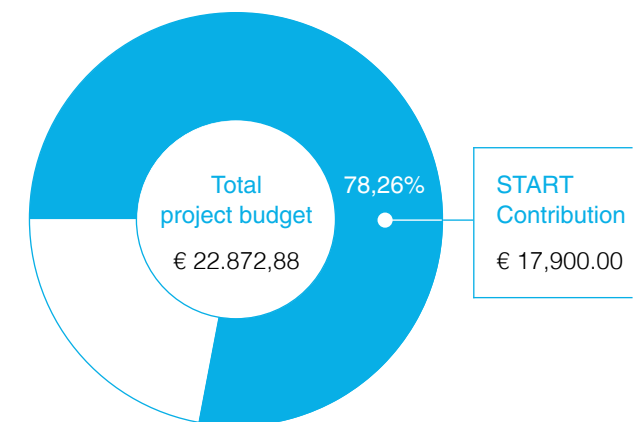
The MYD project intended to foster the transcultural dialogue and to encourage awareness of contemporary fine art through artist exchanges in the Danube Region.

Artists of Croatia, Hungary and Romania worked together in three joint exhibitions and a five-day creative camp. The goal was to embrace and introduce contemporary art to the public and give especially young artists the opportunity to participate and show their work.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Culture and Green Zone Association of Szigetvár Hungary
Partner 1	Attila Jozsef Culture and Art Association Croatia
Partner 2	CULTURA NOSTRA Association Romania







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Towards the Assessment of Ecological Status of Water Bodies in the Sava River Basin

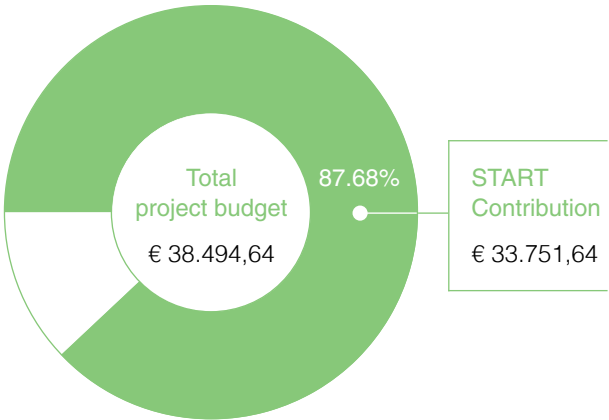
Project Partners

Lead Partner	University of Belgrade, Institute for Biological Research Siniša Stanković
	Serbia
	www.ibiss.bg.ac.rs
Partner 1	Jožef Stefan Institute, JSI
	Slovenia
Partner 2	Elektroproject Joint Stock Company
	Croatia
Partner 3	Water Research Institute Bratislava
	Slovakia
Partner 4	Public Institution „Waters of Srpska“
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Partner 5	International Commission for the Sava River Basin
	Croatia

The Sava River Basin represents an important part of the Danube River Basin due to its natural heterogeneity and biodiversity. Although the data collection on the environmental status is performed through national monitoring programmes, most of the activities are limited to certain river sections, and particularly to chemical and biological parameters. No common database and data-exchange mechanism has been established. The main objective of the STAWA project was to propose a platform for efficient exchange of monitoring data and information on the Sava River Basin.

The outcome of the START project provided supplementary information for the development of future water management, flood protection and plans for the development of navigation; thus, it facilitates sustainable use of natural resources on a local, national and transnational level.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Sustainable Sanitation in Small Settlements of the Danube Region

65% of the total population in the Danube Region is not connected to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The quality and efficiency of wastewater services vary widely within the region and are mostly below international benchmarks. Plans exist for equipping small settlements with WWTP in the near future. The types of treatment technologies selected for these future investments have a major effect on water quality and nutrient management.

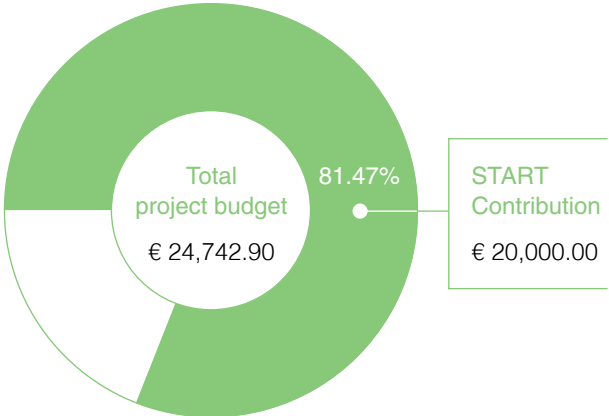
The main objective of the overall SANDANUBE project is to bridge the gap between legislation and the current practice and to improve water quality for the Danube Region by using the most appropriate technologies.

START funding was used to identify funding options for the overall project, to analyse partners and stakeholders and to establish a survey on the existing wastewater-treatment legislation. A workshop and a study visit were organised and the overall project proposal for EU-programmes such as Life, Horizon 2020 etc. was elaborated.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE)
	Slovakia
	www.gwp.org
Partner 1	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Health Sciences (UL ZF)
	Slovenia
Partner 2	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WiSDOM)
	Moldova





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CleanRiver – Creation of Feasibility Study for Improvement of Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Ukraine

Many waste-water systems in Ukraine suffer from outdated treatment facilities and a permanent overuse. This leads to a discharge of unpurified or insufficiently purified water into the rivers.

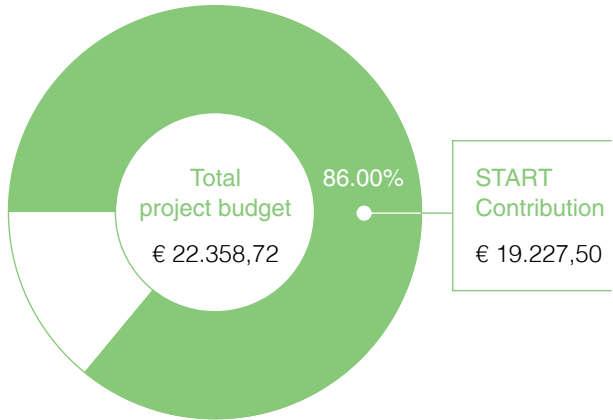
The aim of the overall project was to improve the waste-water facilities in the cities of Uzhgorod, Mukachevo and Beregovo to improve the water quality in the river basins of the Danube Region.

While feasibility studies for the Cities Uzhgorod and Mukachevo were already elaborated, the final study for Beregevo was established within the START project Clean River.

Project duration: 01.02.2015 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	NGO Transcarpathian Agency for Investment, Innovation and Development Ukraine
Partner 1	Municipality of Nyíregyháza, City of County Rank Hungary
Partner 2	City Council of Michalovce Slovakia







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Decision-Support Tool for Logistical Operations of Flood Management

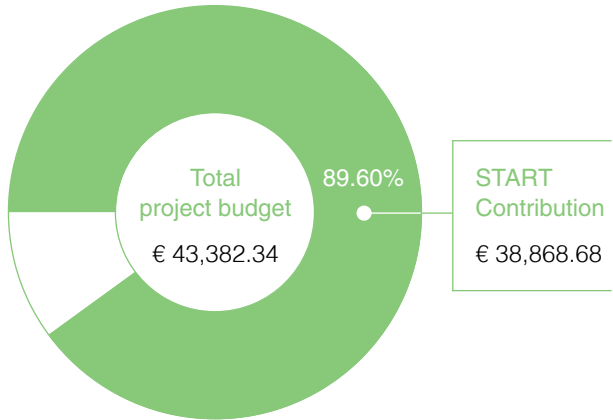
The Delog-Flood START project builds on the positive results of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross Border Cooperation project FLOODLOG which finished in 2014. In the FLOODLOG project, a concept and a pilot were developed for flood modelling and geo-information-system (GIS) support in related logistical activities of crisis-management authorities for the border region. The Delog-Flood START project took on the experiments of FLOODLOG and was the starting phase of a larger project, involving more partners and areas in the Danube Region. In the context of the START project, the project partners assessed current management processes and decision-support systems and developed an international consortium of strategic partners.

The results of Delog-Flood comprise a status-quo report on the project-related situation focussed on Hungary and in the neighbouring Danube countries (taking into consideration the available logistics, information systems, i.e. database, availability, actuality, etc.), and the submission of a DELOGFLOOD project proposal for the Danube Transnational Programme Call.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research
	Hungary
Partner 1	University of Security Management in Košice
	Slovakia





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HelpTeamUkraine – Capacity Building and Improved Cooperation of Volunteer Rescue Teams for Better Flood and Emergency Protection

Project Partners

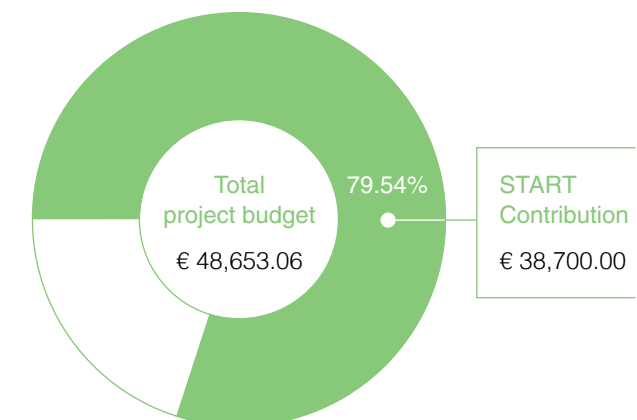
Lead Partner	Comprehensive Rescue Center Ukraine
Partner 1	Transcarpathian Agency for Investment, Innovation and Development Ukraine
Partner 2	Comprehensive Central Emergency Service Slovakia
Partner 3	Central-Budai Volunteer Unit of Civil Protection Hungary
Partner 4	Vysocina Region Czech Republic

The Ministry of Civil Protection of Ukraine was reorganized in 2013 and now falls into the governance of State administrations of each region of Ukraine. This results in the lack of a professional base and a lack in know-how. The main objective of the overall HTU project is to purchase the equipment needed for volunteer rescue organisations and establish a base for volunteer rescuers with a training centre in the Transcarpathian Region.

The main objective of the HTU START project was to transfer volunteer rescue-service knowledge and practice from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia to the Transcarpathian Region. HTU conducted a feasibility study on the Training Center for Rescue Volunteers and implemented study tours for knowledge exchange.

Through the START project, the capacity of Ukrainian volunteer-rescue service organisation was significantly improved and the base for a strong network of volunteer and professional rescue organisations from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine was established.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016



E-FLOOD Platform



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Establishment of Flood Forecasting Platform for Drava and Mura Rivers

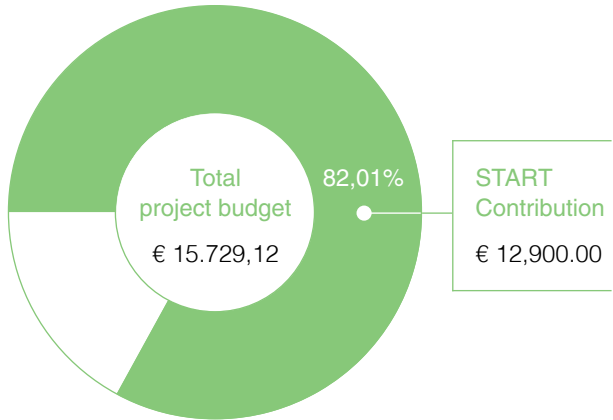
In recent years, extreme flooding of the Drava and Mura rivers has occurred due to climate changes and increased intensity of extreme meteorological events and as a consequence of lacking multilateral information-exchange mechanisms. Currently, all hydrological forecasting models of Drava and Mura rivers are based on various data sources of different quality. Therefore, a partnership initiative consisting of hydro-power companies and water-management authorities, decided to set-up a comprehensive transnational flood forecasting system for the Drava and Mura sub-basins, to tackle the flood-safety issues.

Within the START project, a situation analysis of existing frameworks on warning and response systems with a comparison of existing flood management systems in Danube area was conducted. A partnership network for the overall project was set up and a project proposal for future funding in Cross Border, Transnational Programmes or Horizon 2020 was elaborated.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Drava River Electricity Producer Ltd.
	Slovenia
	www.dem.si
Partner 1	HEP Group
	Croatia
Partner 2	General Directorate of Water Management
	Hungary





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Quantification of Morphological Changes in River Channels and Their Impact on Flood Risk

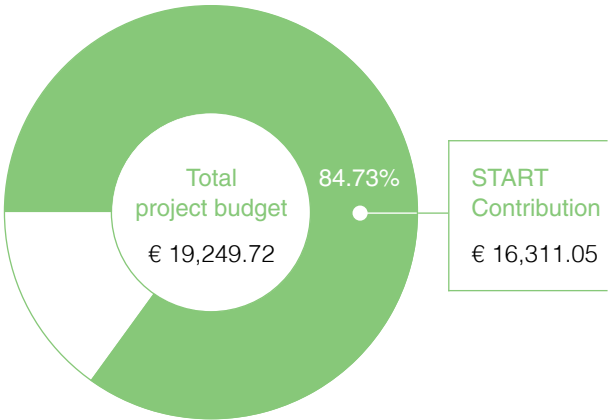
Rivers are dynamic systems in which changes in their morphology can affect all kinds of flooding and play a crucial role in flood risk. Historically, the primary changes have been caused by increasing urbanisation around the rivers and human interventions. As a result, alteration in the shape of the channel, longitudinal profile, land use and placement of structures to the channel and floodplain has taken place. These changes have not been assessed in detail yet, and in many practical cases, institutions involved in catchment management are not familiar with the best practice to handle these problems. The target of the overall project is to better manage floods by quantifying morphological changes in river channels, analysing their impact on flood risk, sharing output with all institutions involved in catchment management, and establishing a network as base for cooperation.

Within the MORCHFLOOD START project, research was conducted in two Carpathian rivers situated in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (Bečva and Topľa) and outputs were summarised in a study which was shared in workshops with all partners and stakeholders. The results provided answers regarding steps to improve the integrated river basin management and which strategy will contribute to mitigating the flood risk.

Project duration: 01.11.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	University of Ostrava
	Czech Republic
	www.osu.eu
Partner 1	Institut of Geography SAS
	Slovakia
Partner 2	Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences
	Slovakia







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Ex-situ Survey to Preserve Sturgeon Genetic Diversity in the Middle and Lower Danube

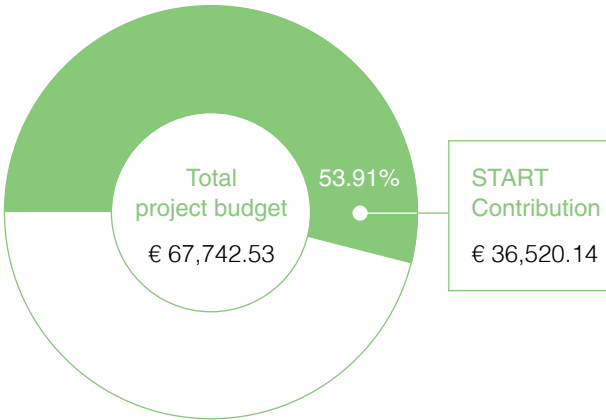
Project Partners

Lead Partner	International Association for Danube Research
	Austria
	www.iad.gs
Partner 1	University of Natural Resources and Natural Sciences, Vienna
	Austria
Partner 2	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
	Austria
Partner 3	Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
	Bulgaria
Partner 4	Institute for Multidisciplinary Research
	Serbia
Partner 5	NIRDEP Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development
	Romania

Sturgeons, a flagship species of the Danube Basin, underwent a dramatic decline in the last century and are now critically endangered. Hence, there is an urgent need to preserve the populations in ex-situ facilities (outside the natural habitats) and support the conservation of the native genetic diversity for future reintroduction into their natural habitats.

The main objectives of the START project were (1) to obtain an overview of the existing ex-situ facilities in the Middle and Lower Danube countries, (2) to mobilise the support of local stakeholders and fishery authorities for sturgeon conservation and (3) to develop a roadmap for concerted, basin-wide actions for ex-situ conservation. Target groups include local entrepreneurs and authorities, governmental and non-governmental organisations involved in water quality, biodiversity and fishery fields, scientific and technical networks.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Bee=Biodiversity

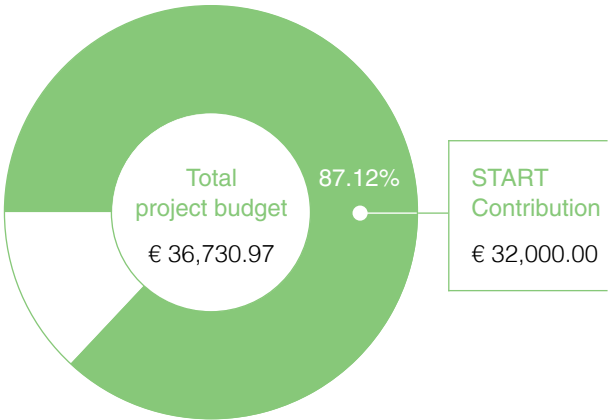
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Veles' Vision
	Serbia
Partner 1	Beekeeping Association of Šavnik
	Montenegro
Partner 2	University of Graz
	Austria
Partner 3	Public Veterinary Institute of Republic of Srpska "Dr Vaso Butozan"
	Bosnia and Herzegovina

The B=B project addressed the pollination crisis of bees (scientifically termed Colony Collapse Disorder – CCD), which is a direct threat to biodiversity. To improve the protection of the bees especially in non-EU member states, a coordinated action among states is crucial. The START project raised public awareness by presenting confirmed facts to the public and relevant decision makers in the EU accession countries of the Danube Region – Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Meetings and seminars were organised to raise public awareness about CCD. A report on the status quo of CCD was elaborated and disseminated to stakeholders and decision makers. The START project made a significant contribution to the long-term goal of banning pesticides that are responsible for the pollination crisis.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015





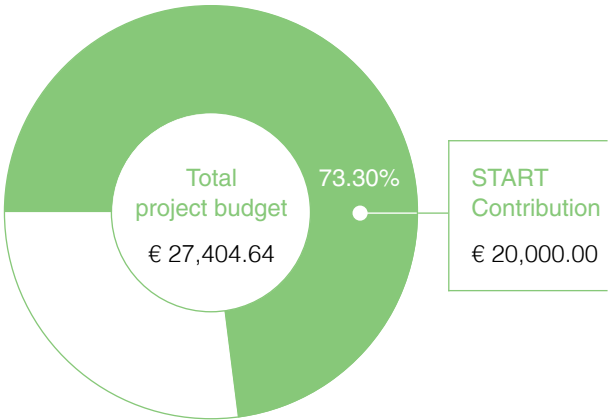
Soil- and Sustainable- Operations Network in the Danube Region

The overall project goal of SONDAR is to protect soil and restore biodiversity in the Danube Region. To reach this goal, sustainable operations between sciences, local and regional alliances, schools and the public in all Danube countries are necessary. A network was already set up between partners in Hungary, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Austria. Within the START project SONDAR+, a painting box with soil colours from all Danube countries was developed to raise public awareness for the importance of soil. A biodiversity map was created to summarise data regarding types of soil, erosion risk, water retention etc. Finally, a project concept for the overall SONDAR project was elaborated by the partners.

Project duration: 01.11.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	BIENE - Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network Lower Austria / Europe
	Austria
	www.biene-netzwerk.at
Partner 1	National Agriculture and Food Centre (NAFC) Slovakia
Partner 2	Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty for Civil Engineering Czech Republic
Partner 3	Association LandisWater Austria





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Preserving Wildlife Corridors in Mountains as Green Infrastructure in the Danube Basin

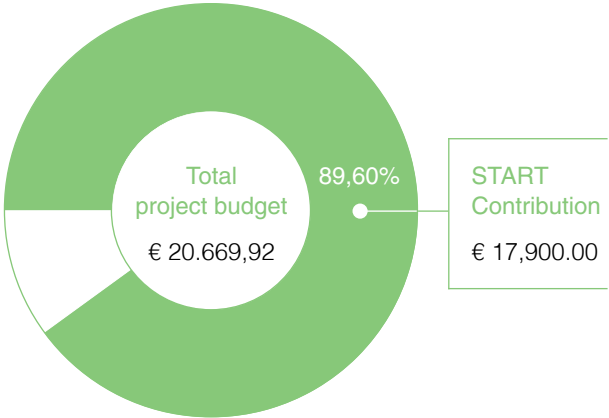
Mountainous regions in the Danube Basin harbour many species and habitats that are threatened in Western Europe or close to extinction. Economic growth in the area goes hand in hand with a growth of transportation, intensified land usage and fragmentation of landscapes; this results in consequent loss of biodiversity. Wildlife corridors need to be preserved in the entire Danube Region and require a transnational solution. A coherent Carpathian-wide integrated approach is crucial to facilitate the interaction between wildlife corridors, development of built-up areas in the region and spatial planning as all three aspects are interrelated to each other.

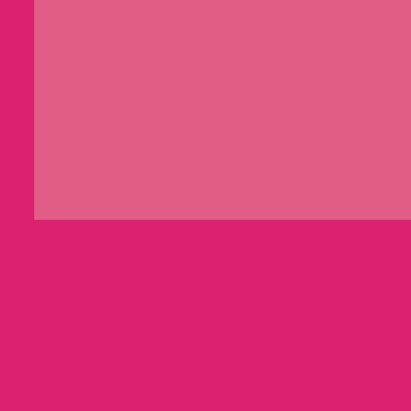
With the START support, partners developed a comprehensive project concept including a detailed budget plan and communication strategy to be submitted in the Danube Transnational Programme. A partner structure and rules of the steering and monitoring committee were set up and project meetings were organised to identify the specific project activities.

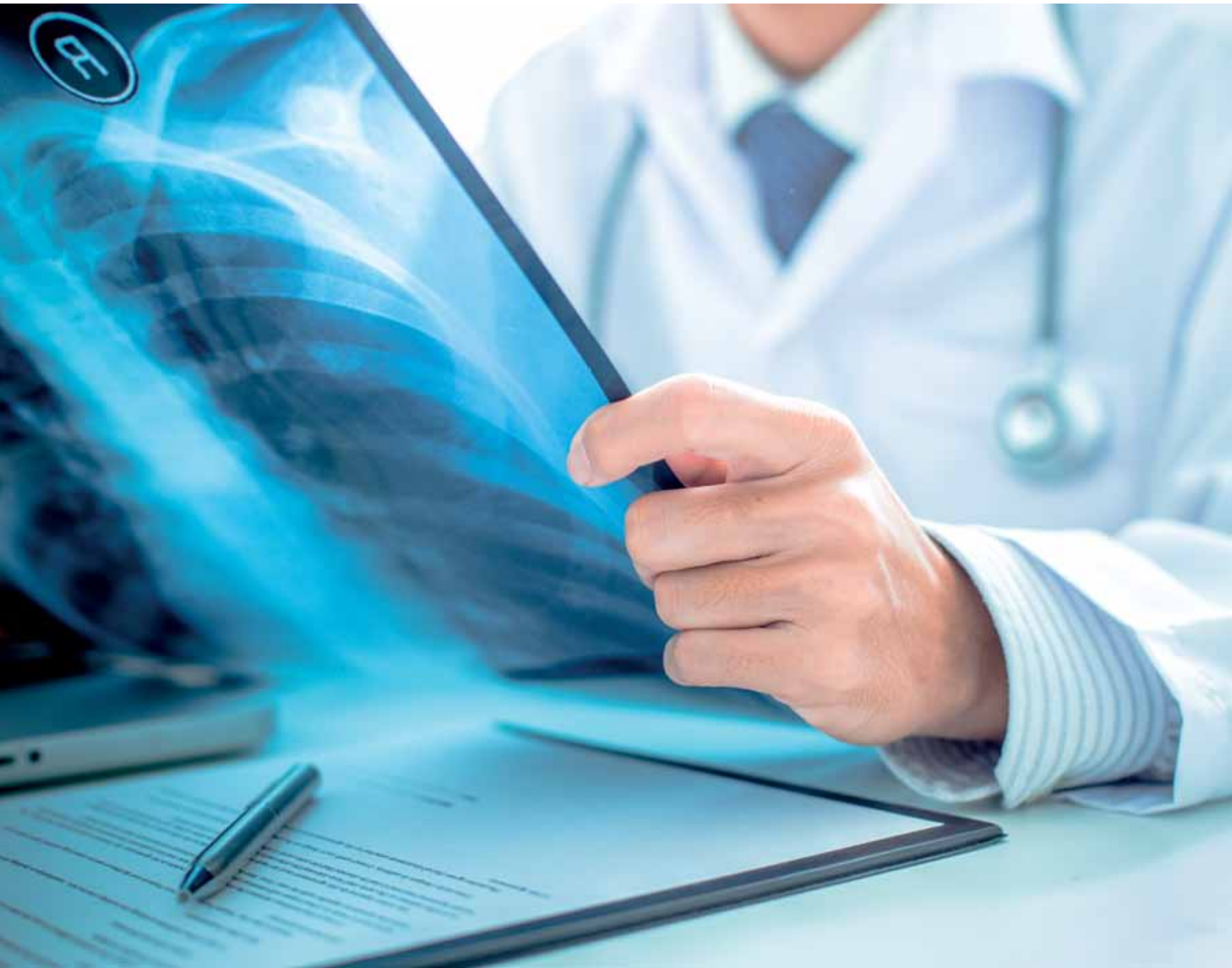
Project duration: 01.01.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Olomouc branch
	Czech Republic
	www.hnutiduha.cz
Partner 1	NFA (National Forest Administration) ROMSILVA Piatra Craiului National Park Administration
	Romania
Partner 2	UNEP Vienna - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC)
	Austria







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Pulsating Water Jet as an Orthopaedic Technique without Thermal and Mechanical Damage of Large Joints with Minimal Traumatising Impact on Patient

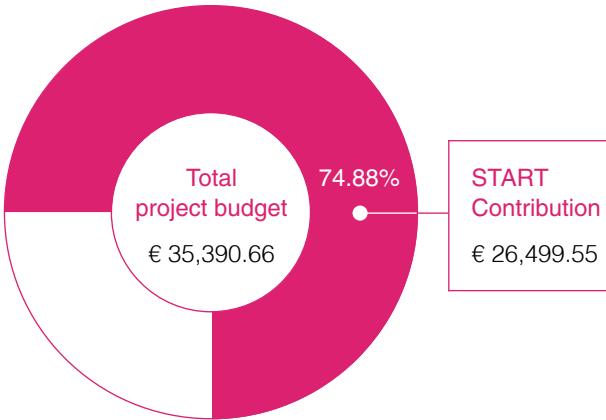
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Institute of Geonics of the CAS, v.v.i.
	Czech Republic
	www.ugn.cas.cz
Partner 1	Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences
	Slovakia
Partner 2	Technical University of Košice, Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies with seat in Prešov
	Slovakia
Partner 3	Innovation Centre Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade Ltd.
	Serbia
Partner 4	Treichel Engineering Ltd.
	Germany
Partner 5	Mechanical Engineering Faculty in Slavonski Brod
	Croatia

The aim of the overall project is to develop and implement a surgical technique for orthopaedic revision surgeries, which compared to usual techniques, does not damage human tissue and has limited traumatic effect. This technique is based on Pulsation Water Jet (P JW).

Within the scope of the START project WORTH, an international working team was created, a feasibility study to introduce the new technique in medical practice was prepared, and workshops for project preparation were organised. All results were incorporated into a HORIZON 2020 project proposal, which will be submitted in 2017.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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BioEthics Standards in Translational Research: An Integrated Approach of Bioethics Education in Biomedical Sciences and its Role in the Development of the Knowledge Society in Danube Region Countries

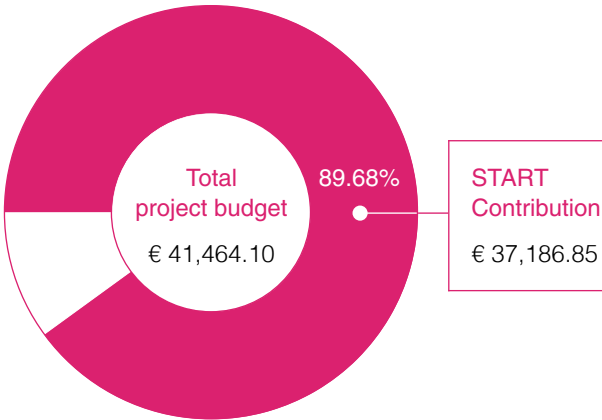
Project Partners

Lead Partner	University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UASVM)
	Romania
	www.usamvcluj.ro
Partner 1	Bulgarian Center for Bioethics (BCB) Bulgaria
Partner 2	Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade Serbia
Partner 3	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty (UL-BF) Slovenia
Partner 4	National Institute of Legal Medicine (NILM) Romania
Partner 5	“Vasile Goldis” Western University of Arad (VGWU) Romania

In recent decades, revolutionary advances have been made in biomedical research (e.g. in genomics, stem cells and nanotechnology). In order to integrate and translate these new discoveries into novel and effective therapies, the Danube BEST-NetWORK offered an independent body in the Danube Region to advise policymakers while stimulating debates on bioethics and translational research.

With support of START, a core curriculum which addressed the most important issues related to the BioEthic standards and their relevance for Translational Research within the EU and Danube Region countries was established. Seminars to improve the career development of clinical researchers were organised and the international competitiveness of the involved partners was enhanced by organising and participating in international scientific events.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016



Danube Peering



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Strengthening Peering and Supporting Internet Exchange Points in the Danube Region

It is critical for the development of broadband Internet in the Danube Region to support national Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and inter-connect (peering) cross-border ICT infrastructure.

The aim of Danube Peering is to strengthen cooperation among IXPs in the region to develop cross-border Internet connection and better accessibility of online content abroad and thus create a connected Danube Region.

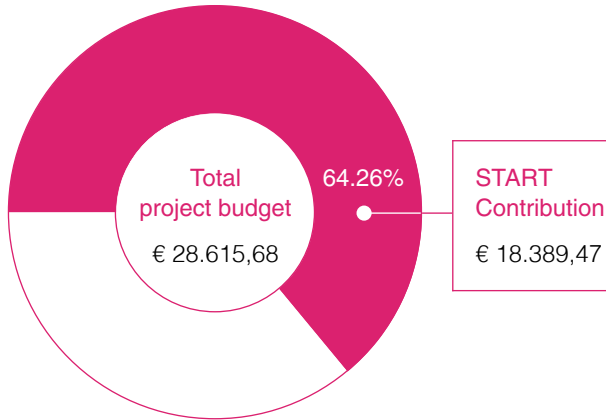
The project was divided into two key activities; first, strengthening the cooperation among independent peering nodes in the Danube Region, mainly in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, by organising an international conference in Budapest. The second key activity of the project included the elaboration of a feasibility study and the establishment of the Internet Exchange Point in Montenegro.

The project contributed towards creating the Connected Danube Region by linking Internet infrastructures and developing broadband Internet in other Danube Region Countries.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	NIX.CZ Association
	Czech Republic
Partner 1	University of Vienna
	Austria
Partner 2	Council of Hungarian Internet Providers
	Hungary
Partner 3	University of Montenegro
	Montenegro





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Feasibility Study on Implementing a Pan-European Social Platform to Support Lifelong Learning and Employability

To overcome difficulties related to the employment of knowledge workers in the Danube Region and the decrease of job security, the overall SoPI Project aims at connecting graduate students with recruiters who seek competent workers via e-communities.

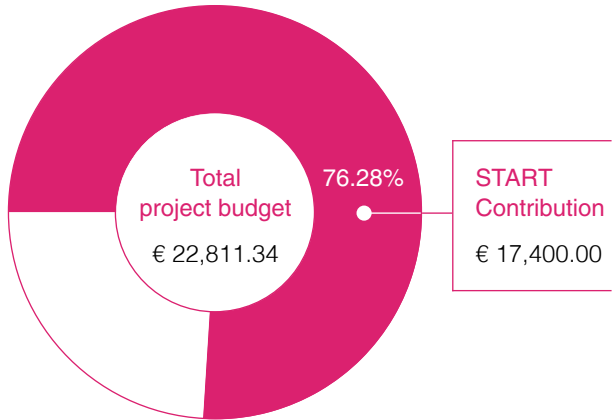
START-SoPI contained a feasibility study – market surveys, domain analysis, cost-benefit analysis, risk analysis – with the purpose of checking the feasibility of a Social Platform for Supporting Lifelong Learning and Employability at the European level, in general and in the Danube Region in particular.

The START project was helpful in showing that by putting the platform concept into practice, added value for the Danube Region was generated: the knowledge level of the Danube Region countries and the employability level of the university graduates would increase, the organisations would be provided with the needed skilled workers, and competitiveness would rise by strengthening the collaboration between universities and organisations.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Bucharest University of Economic Studies
	Romania
	www.csie.ase.ro
Partner 1	University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest
	Romania
Partner 2	Vienna University of Economics and Business
	Austria
Partner 3	RT-RK
	Serbia







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Smart Furniture Remanufacturing

Project Partners

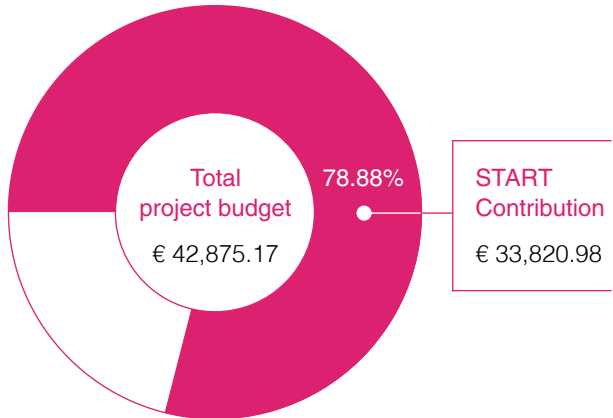
Lead Partner	Bulgarian Furniture Cluster
	Bulgaria
	www.furnitureclusterbg.com
Partner 1	Ecoplus. The Business Agency of Lower Austria Ltd.
	Austria
Partner 2	Wood and furniture Cluster DRVO-PD Prijedor
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Partner 3	Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion
	Hungary
Partner 4	PRO WOOD Regional Wood Cluster
	Romania
Partner 5	Serbian Furniture Cluster
	Serbia

The overall FurnituRe project aims at giving the furniture-manufacturing industry new input in the direction of recycling. With reduced energy and resource consumption, remanufactured goods are produced at a fraction of the original cost and with lower polluting emissions. The project simultaneously addresses a regional lack of skilled workforce, the craft's low attractiveness for young people and the low level of innovation in enterprises, which are relevant problems for most of the countries in the Danube Region.

Within the framework of the START project, the partnership for the overall project was established, cluster cooperation in the furniture sector was strengthened by organising networking events, and funding opportunities for the overall project were located. By producing an extensive research study, the status quo of the environmental aspects of the furniture sector and furniture remanufacturing was defined as a key instrument for environmental sustainability and business growth.

A project proposal was elaborated for the Danube Transnation Programmes' first call in which all findings of the START activities were included.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016



SIRA Danube connected



Smart and Innovative Rural Areas – Connect Centres of Competences

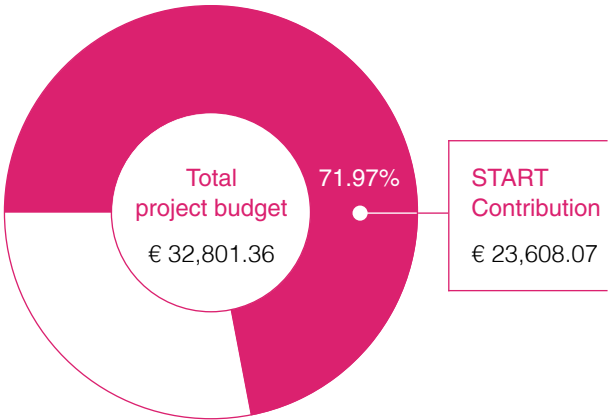
Project Partners

Lead Partner	University of Hohenheim
	Germany
	oez.uni-hohenheim.de/siradanube
Partner 1	Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine King Michael I of Romania
	Romania
Partner 2	University of Novi Sad
	Serbia
Partner 3	Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Ruse
	Bulgaria
Partner 4	University of Ljubljana
	Slovenia
Partner 5	University of Szeged
	Hungary

The overall project Smart and Innovative Rural Areas (SIRA) Danube, aims at fostering the competitiveness of rural areas by enhancing their institutional set-up. For this purpose, SIRA Danube forms innovation hubs and centres of competences for knowledge brokerage in the Danube Region and establishes their transnational network structure.

The main objective of the START project was to develop the complete project plan and proposal for funding within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 for the described overall project. Together with ten already-existing partners, the draft concept was specified, including its legal and financial set-up, stakeholder involvement and national co-financing and sustainability of the centres of competences.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.12.2015





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Danube ICT Clusters' Sustainable Cooperation for Smart and Inclusive Growth

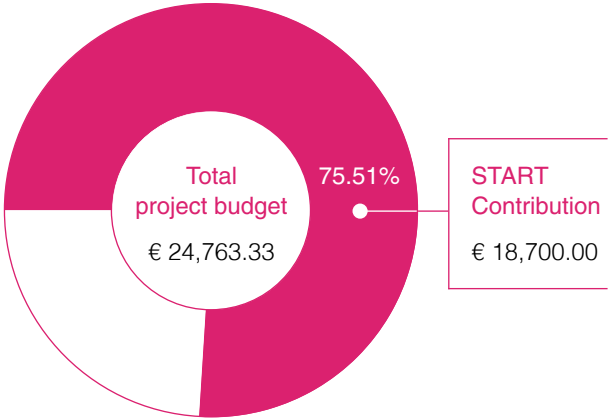
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Foundation „Cluster Information and Communication Technologies“
	Bulgaria
	www.ictcluster.bg
Partner 1	Cluj IT Association
	Romania
Partner 2	Montenegrin IT Cluster
	Montenegro
Partner 3	Vojvodina ICT Cluster
	Serbia

ICT is a key to innovation and smart development and could bring smart solutions to traditional sectors. In countries such as Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania and Montenegro, smart innovations will create more jobs and increase competitiveness. The main objectives of the overall Danube ICT project is to create sustainable, long-term, strategic transnational cooperation among ICT clusters, which shall result in the elaboration of a common strategy for transnational cross-cluster and cross-industry collaboration for the benefit of SMEs. The specific objectives are: to share experience and good practices for collaboration and to identify the strategic areas and industries relevant for the common cooperation, to increase the competitiveness of the traditional sectors in the Danube Region.

The main activities of the START projects were the organisation of a Strategic ICT Clusters' meeting and the elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan which also included two concrete pilot-project ideas. The Action Plan lays the foundation for a series of common actions that members of the ICT Network shall undertake in the near future to smartly exploit some of the business opportunities in the Danube Region. The agriculture and automotive industries were identified as the most important industries for future collaboration.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.05.2016





Sava Region Initiative for Innovative Development

Project Partners

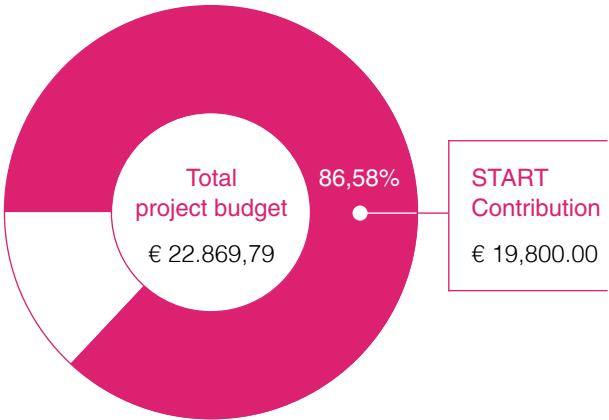
Lead Partner	Technology transfer centre Ltd.
	Croatia
	siweb.fsb.hr
Partner 1	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Sarajevo
	Bosnia Herzegovina
Partner 2	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
	Serbia
Partner 3	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
	Slovenia

Currently, there is very limited cooperation between higher-education institutions (HEI), public-research organisations (PRO) and industry in the four countries observed in this project (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia). There is no institutional support or support on the regional level for cooperation initiatives.

Experiences from the past show that such local and regional cooperation existed, and it led to successful execution of projects of different sizes and nature. There is strong desire in regional HEIs and PROs for positive steps forward and for cooperation in exchanging innovative ideas and projects that could be further developed jointly.

With the support of START, several meetings were organised and four regional workshops were implemented to bring together regional HEIs, PROs and industry (especially SMEs). A new assembly with the aim of strengthening the regional cooperation and providing information to funding opportunities for its members was founded.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 31.07.2016







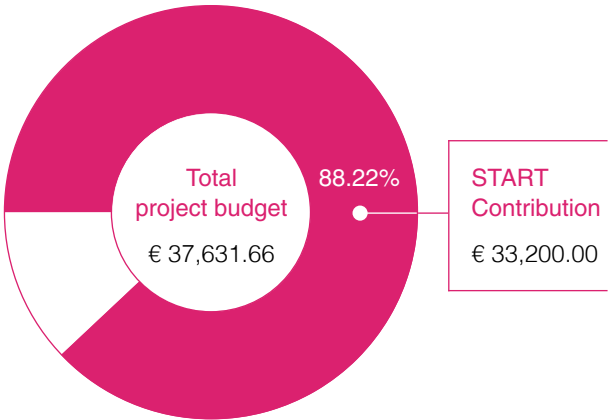
Danube Competence Centres for Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Ruse
	Bulgaria
	www.danube.travel
Partner 1	Vienna Board of Education Austria
Partner 2	Budapest Enterprise Agency Hungary
Partner 3	Czech Technical University in Prague Czech Republic
Partner 4	ORICUM Romania
Partner 5	American Councils for International Education in Moldova Moldova

The overall goal of Danube ENTRE is to build up a discussion about fostering creativity and entrepreneurship by setting up Competence Centres for Creativity and Entrepreneurship. Those centres will represent a network for exchange of practices and transfer approaches to foster creativity and entrepreneurship. To implement the 'Competence Centres for Creativity' with EU funding, a detailed project preparation was necessary. This was conducted as the Danube ENTRE START project. The main aim of the project was to transform the project idea into a fundable project concept, including the implementation of a feasibility study on the regional context, the preparation of the concrete project concept, the budget plan, and identification of available funding possibilities and thus the preparation and submission of the application for the Danube Transnational Programme.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 30.09.2015





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Milestones of Learning Development – Strategic Improvement and Development of Lifelong learning Programmes within Danube Region

Project Partners

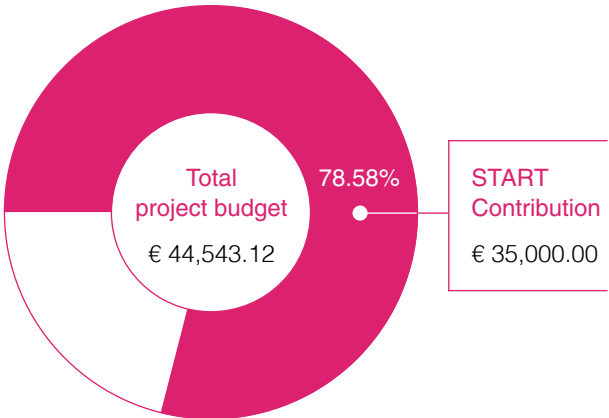
Lead Partner	South East European Youth Network
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	www.seeyn.org
Partner 1	Local Democracy Agency Sisak (LDAS)
	Croatia
Partner 2	Youth Center Bit Cernomelj
	Slovenia
Partner 3	Cooperation for Voluntary Service – Bulgaria
	Bulgaria
Partner 4	BalkanIDEA Novi Sad
	Serbia
Partner 5	Youth for Participation
	Hungary

Investing in the skills of young people is very important to fight unemployment, to foster democracy and to ensure a stable, tolerant and prosperous society.

However, the long-term impact of trainings and non-formal education programmes for young people and youth workers is thwarted, because the commitment of the participants ends upon completion. The young peoples’ learning experience must be enhanced and extended by identifying their needs and requirements and implementing development plans for lifelong-learning activities.

With the support of START, a study was established which provides a detailed assessment of young people’s needs in relation to lifelong learning. It serves as a baseline for other organisations which work in a similar field. A partner and expert meeting was organised to strengthen cooperation in the thematic field; concrete project proposals for future funding were elaborated.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Danube Social Service & Education Cluster –
Creating more accessible, effective and
integrated social services and inclusive
education programmes delivered to
vulnerable groups in danger of social
exclusion through clustering of social NGOs

Project Partners

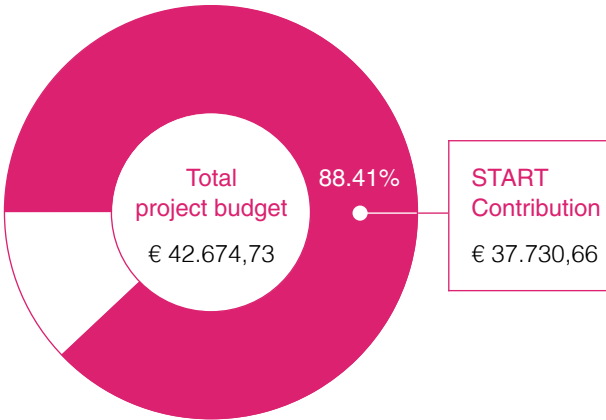
Lead Partner	Federation of Social NGOs in Bulgaria
	Bulgaria
	www.socialngonetwork.ro
Partner 1	Agapedia Romania Foundation
	Romania
Partner 2	Foundation Liebenau
	Germany
Partner 3	Concordia Charitable Private Foundation for Social Projects
	Austria

Romania and Bulgaria have the highest share of people facing the risk of poverty and social exclusion within the EU. The Danube Social Service and Education Cluster targets the significant mismatch between skills provided by vocational training in both countries and labour market demands. The DSSEC START project aimed at enhancing the vocational training quality, the access to lifelong learning, the general education of disadvantaged groups (in particular Roma children) and the access to social services for children and older people.

Two national workshops addressing “Danube Social Services & Education Cluster in Action” and a transnational conference (“Danube Social Services and Education Cluster – bottom-up perspectives on EUSDR for social inclusion and poverty reduction”) were organised with the support of START.

The project’s main output was the set-up of a transnational cluster of social NGOs, which presents a common position paper (including national case studies) : <http://socialngonetwork.eu/en/>.

Project duration: 01.03.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Roma Integration across the Danube: Best practices and social entrepreneurship models exchange between Romania and Bulgaria

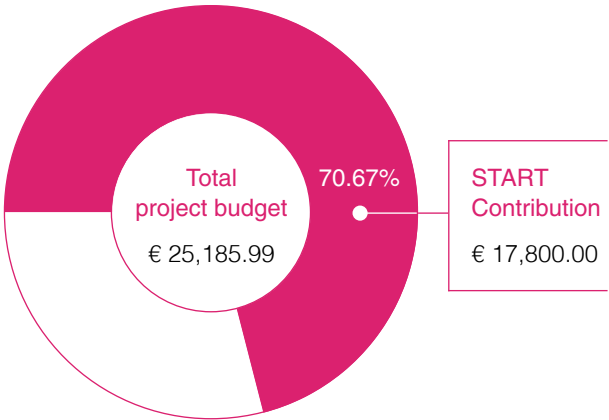
80% of the Roma population in Europe lives in the Danube Region. To promote efficient Roma integration policies in the countries, a framework for cooperation and sharing best practices as well as knowledge is fundamental. While Roma inclusion actions have been supported in recent years through some European funds, the effects remain limited in the south of Romania, one of the country’s poorest regions and home to an important Roma community (more than 8% of the total population). In Bulgaria, on the other hand, Kavarna, a small town in the North East region has become a model for its comprehensive approach to Roma integration. RID aimed at facilitating the useful exchange of experience between municipalities, civil society and Roma entrepreneurs from the two countries.

The main project activities were: organising a best practice exchange visit in Kavarna and drafting a report on Kavarna’s integration model. Organising a two-day workshop in Kavarna to share best practices and to identify business opportunities in the region. A follow-up report on the results and the future cooperation possibilities was established and disseminated to municipalities’ networks and social entrepreneurs and to the public.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Romanian Center for European Policies
	Romania
	www.crpe.ro
Partner 1	RomanoButiq
	Romania
Partner 2	Center for the study of Democracy
	Bulgaria





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Integration of Roma Children into the Education System – Countries of the Danube Region

Project Partners

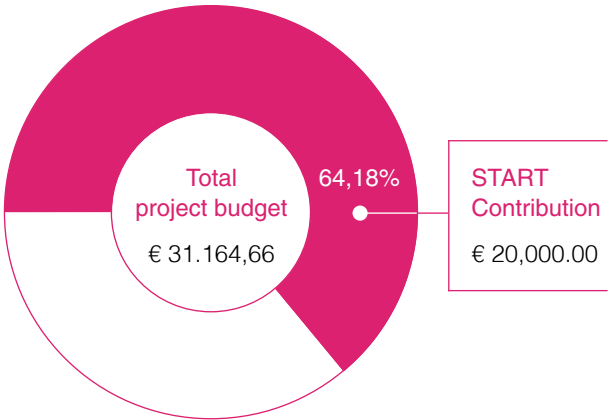
Lead Partner	Institute for Romological Studies, Education and Culture
	Slovenia
	mfdps.si/sl/node/2856
Partner 1	International School for Social and Business Studies
	Slovenia
Partner 2	Roma Community Center 8. April
	Serbia
Partner 3	The West University of Timisoara
	Romania

The social inclusion of the Roma population largely depends on education. Many Roma children don't attend primary education, mainly due to their low socioeconomic status, limited access to schools and a high rate of unfounded channelling of Roma children into special education. The overall aim of the project was to raise the amount of Roma children in primary schools, decrease the number of drop-outs and to ensure conditions for increasing educational levels of Roma people in the region.

The main objective of this project was to equip teachers and Roma school mediators/assistants with the necessary skills and knowledge to work with Roma children, and to exchange good practices among Slovenia, Romania and Serbia.

Within the project RomaEdu-Danube, teachers and Roma school mediators/assistants were trained in Slovenia, Serbia and Romania. Training plans were elaborated and implemented in the three countries, and the results were evaluated and presented at a final conference in Romania.

Project duration: 01.11.2015 – 30.06.2016







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START-Danube Network of Training Experts
for Public Administration

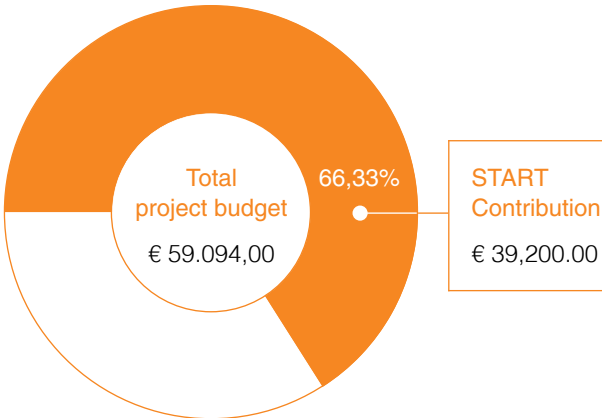
Project Partners

Lead Partner	Euro-Institute
	Germany
	www.euroinstitut.org
Partner 1	University of Public Management Kehl / University of Applied Sciences
	Germany
Partner 2	Department of Information Systems & Operations, Vienna University of Economics and Business
	Austria
Partner 3	University of Ljubljana
	Slovenia
Partner 4	Foundation for Professional Development in Public Administration
	Romania
Partner 5	National University of Public Service
	Hungary

As an overall objective, the project aims at strengthening administrative capacities on the local and regional level in the entire Danube Region by implementing a sustainable transnational capacity-building approach throughout the entire Danube Region. The aim is to install a three-level transnational network between vocational education and training systems, civil services and governments.

Within the START project, DANTE4PA focused on strengthening administrative capacities of public authorities in the Danube Region by developing a process model of a transnational vocational-training approach for public administration. Its immediate objective was to form a transnational institutional network, and to prepare a business plan for the launch of transnational-administrative capacity building.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Building Capacities in the Danube Region

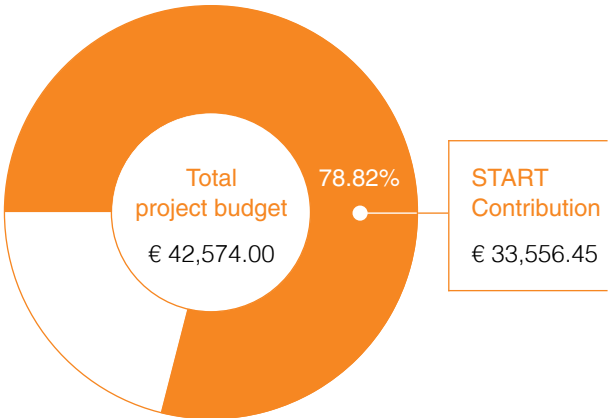
Project Partners

Lead Partner	L&R Social Research
	Austria
	www.lrsocialresearch.at
Partner 1	Vocational Training Institute Burgenland Austria
Partner 2	insitu World Heritage consulting Austria
Partner 3	University of Applied Science Burgenland Austria
Partner 4	Balteanu Despina Individual Enterprise Romania

The overall B-CAP project concept is based on the experiences of model projects in Serbia and Moldova. The main objective of B-Cap was to establish a method regarding how smaller towns and villages in the regions of the Danube Area – such as Baile Herculane in Romania – can be enabled to restore architecturally-valuable districts through qualification of previously-unemployed youth and elderly by the use of different financing instruments. Another target was the development of touristic strategies for Baile Herculane.

The START B-CAP project aimed at developing a concept and financing structure for a vocational centre for youth and elderly which offers training on historically-adequate restoration. The project partners also established a concept for a tourism strategy in Baile Herculane to ensure the future use of the renovated buildings for touristic purposes.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Capacity Building for Small and Medium Cities – City Centre Revival

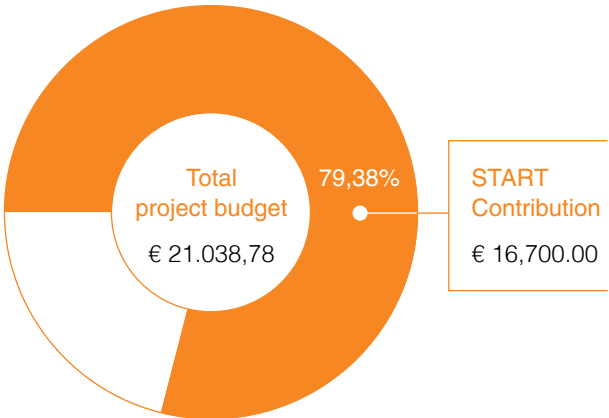
Many small and medium cities of the Danube Region are negatively influenced by social and demographic changes. Towns are aware of the need to react and to implement integrated strategies. The overall objective of the CCR project was to strengthen the cooperation among municipalities and key stakeholders in participatory planning of town center renewal. Within the Central Europe project EPOurban, an approach was already developed to strengthen the private owners' willingness and ability to cooperate and to invest.

In the scope of the CCR START project, a concrete action plan (incl. timetable) was developed. Existing project ideas were structured and a detailed work plan was elaborated. A budget plan for the identified activities was calculated and a project application to the Danube Transnational Programme was submitted. In addition, partnerships were extended to the entire Danube Region and also to non-EU Member States and a communication strategy was developed as well.

Project duration: 01.11.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

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



goodworks ATHURO



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Socio-Ecological Production: goodworks and practical cooperation for sustainable public procurement

Public procurement often fails to support regional, sustainable and social standards, and price is often the only important factor in selection criteria. To make public procurement more transparent and comprehensible and more in favour of suppliers which guarantee regional, ecological and social standards, a new EU-directive was issued.

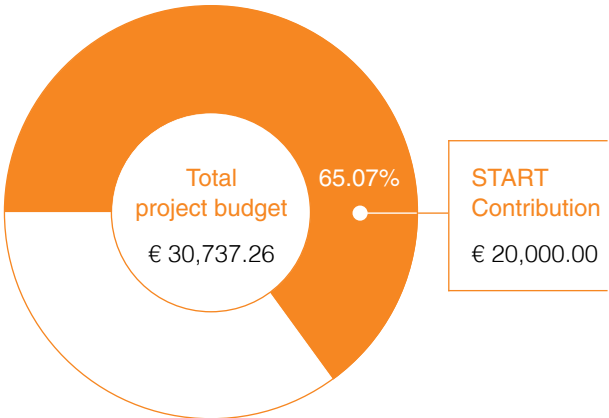
“goodworks ATHURO” aimed at contributing to this initiative by elaborating country concepts regarding the status quo and perspectives of socially-sustainable public procurement on different political levels: national, regional, municipal level in Austria, Hungary and Romania. Products were selected from social enterprises which suit public demand and meet the requirements of sustainable criteria. Five products/ services in Hungary and in Romania were labelled with the goodworks quality mark.

Throughout the project, the cooperation between social enterprises to coordinate bigger contracts was promoted and a goodworks network in Romania was founded.

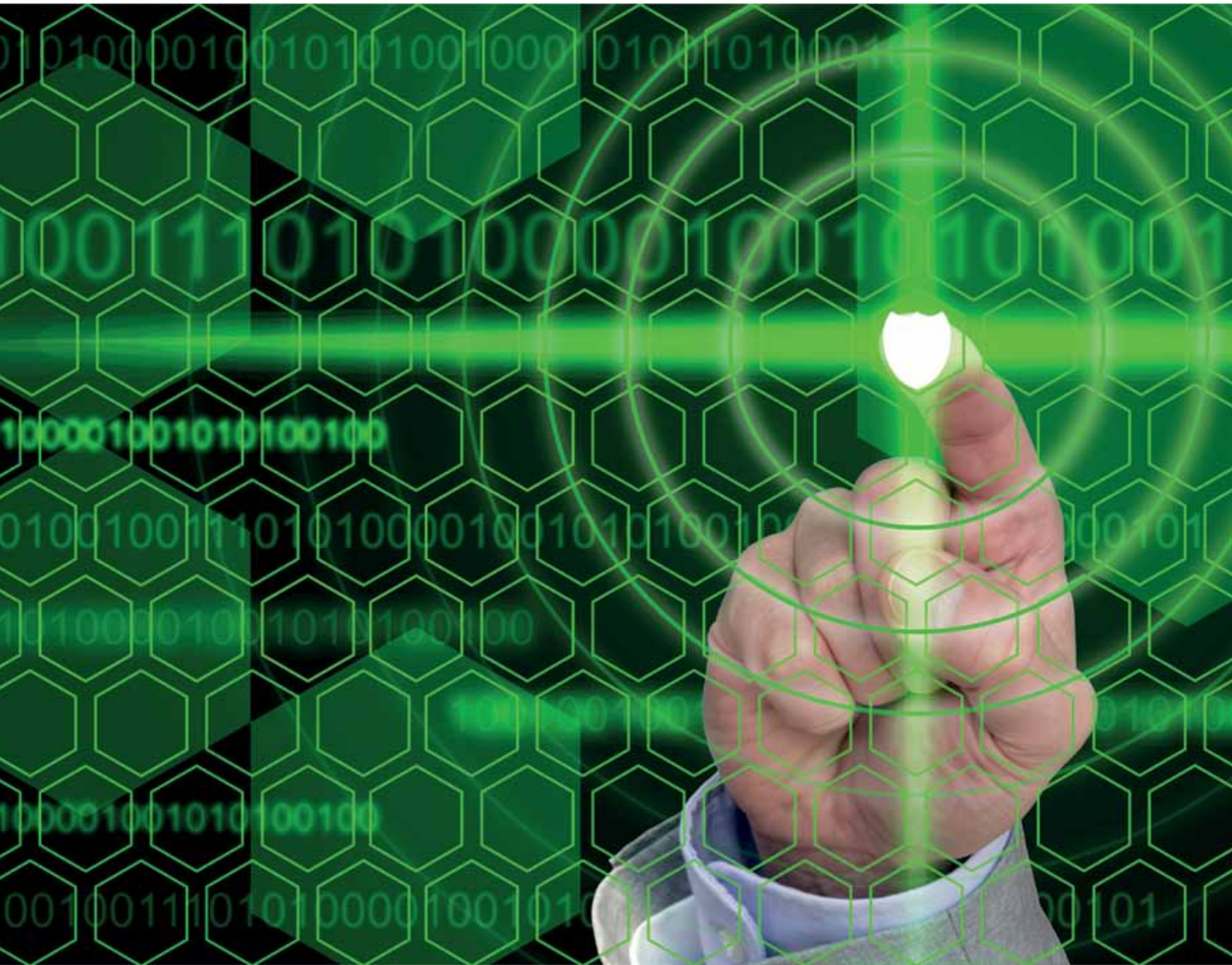
Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 31.07.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	goodworks Innovation Agency EEIG
	Austria
	www.goodworks.social
Partner 1	“AUR” - the National Association of Human Resources Specialists (A.N.S.R.U.)
	Romania
Partner 2	LEED Nonprofit Ltd.
	Hungary







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Cybersecurity in the Danube Region

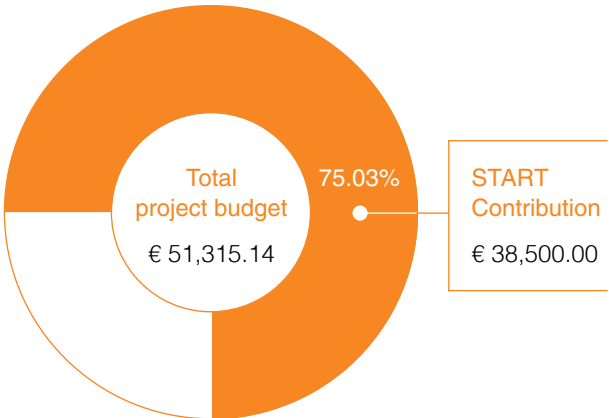
Project Partners

Lead Partner	CZ.NIC Association
	Czech Republic
	www.nic.cz
Partner 1	nic.at Ltd.
	Austria
Partner 2	Eduron IS d.o.o.
	Croatia
Partner 3	RENAM Association
	Moldova
Partner 4	Academic Network of Serbia - AMRES
	Serbia
Partner 5	DataCentrum
	Slovakia

While there are many common issues in the field of cyber security, including the need to safeguard critical infrastructure to protect against possible attacks, there has been no activity linking the individual national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) in the Danube Region. CSDanube aimed at strengthening the cooperation of CSIR teams and jointly combating cybercrime in the entire region.

Cyber crime is generally not bound to borders, yet some types of attacks are regionally targeted. The project was able to establish an information flow among the individual CSIR teams. The goal was to establish an infrastructure for information exchange that works also after the project's completion, based on ongoing needs (attacks). The above-mentioned activities, together with the implemented trainings, strengthened the experts' capacities.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016





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Illicit Trafficking of Firearms in the Danube Region

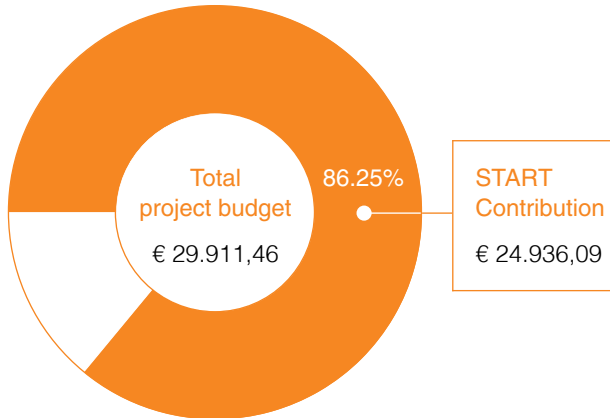
The START project ITF tackles the illicit trafficking of firearms, which is one of the key elements of organised crime in the Danube Region. After the armed conflicts in the Western Balkans in the 90s, large quantities of military weapons remained on stock, and they have supplied the European black market until today. ITF aimed at enhancing law enforcement activities and security in the Danube Region by strengthening cooperation between law enforcement, judicial authorities and researchers.

The project resulted in an exchange of know-how, best practice and information flow between countries' criminal and judicial authorities upstream and downstream the Danube Region. By establishing a platform of stakeholders and a serious-crime-threat assessment (as well as a set of suggestions on how to improve operations between the criminal police and prosecutors and to boost research on the matter in the Danube Region) ITF promoted safety in the Danube Region and in the rest of the EU. Europol will be able to use the gathered information in its reports and initiatives.

Project duration: 01.04.2015 – 31.03.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Foundation - Centre for European Perspective
	Slovenia
Partner 1	Belgrade Centre for Security Policy
	Serbia
Partner 2	Centre for Security Studies
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Partner 3	Center for Monitoring and Research CeMI
	Montenegro





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Combating Cybercrime in the Danube Region
– Law Enforcement 2.0

Combating cybercrime and cyber-attacks which affect critical infrastructure and information systems are key issues of the European Union strategy plan.

This project aims at improving the fight against cybercrime in the Danube Region by fostering the knowledge and know-how transfer (training activities) through cyber exercises and modules for technical and behaviour oriented prevention.

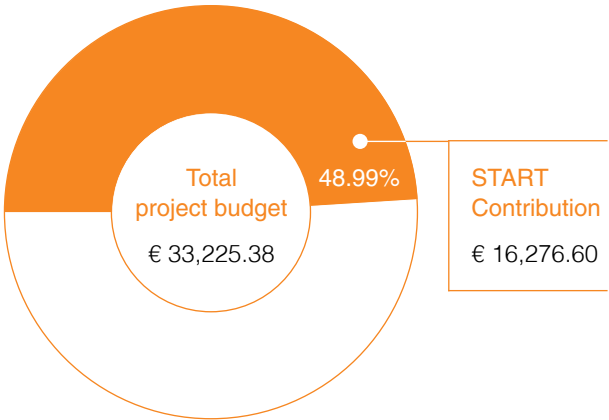
The START project covered the thorough preparation of the application for this overall project, the collection of relevant data, a brief feasibility study, a tailor-made project concept (incl. milestones, benchmarks, risk analyses, monitoring measures and a reliable share of tasks) and a detailed budget plan.

A series of four workshops was conducted to shape the content and the design of the future overall project. An application under the ISF (Internal Security Fund) is planned with the established outputs.

Project duration: 01.12.2015 – 30.06.2016

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Ministry of the Interior Baden-Württemberg
	Germany
Partner 1	Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic
	Czech Republic
Partner 2	General Inspectorate of Romanian Police
	Romania





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Countering Trafficking in Persons

Project Partners

Lead Partner	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)
	Romania
	www.selec.org
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

Southeast Europe in general and the Danube region in particular are transit areas for illegal migrants on their way to Western Europe. Affected countries have recorded an increased pressure from illegal migrants over the last years. In many situations, the migrants become victims of trafficking in human beings (THB). The objective of the overall project is to improve the police cooperation in the Danube Region by enhancing the information exchange, improving coordination of information sharing, coordinating joint investigations and conducting regional operations in the project implementation field. As a result, more efficient measures will be taken, and safety and security will be increased in the region.

START CTP Project Partners elaborated a questionnaire regarding the national situation on trafficking in human beings (THB) and one regarding the national situation on illegal migration (IM). Reports on THB and IM were elaborated on the base of the answers received. In a one day conference, the reports were presented, discussed and adopted. In addition to the reports, regional operations were assessed and decisions about new common operations were taken.

Project duration: 01.01.2016 – 31.07.2016

