

International Workshop on:
*“The Cultural Dimension of the Ports
from the Black Sea and Danube Region”*
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Funding Opportunities for
Cultural, Innovation and
Outreach Activities of Ports

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The activities of the Black Sea CONNECT Coordination and Support Action are funded the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 860055.

-  **Aim:** The Network was founded for the purpose of developing scientific, cultural and educational cooperation and exchanges among the Universities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States and other institutions with similar concern for the sustainable development of the BSR
-  **Members:** 120 Universities of 12 BSEC member countries
-  **Bodies:** Conference of Rectors of BSR, Executive Board, President, IPS
-  **Centers:** Center for Advanced Engineering Sciences (Romania), “B. S. Cobanzade” Research Center on Turkology, Baku State University, Center ACADEMICON (Turkey), Center for Coordination of Common Graduate Programs (Greece), Center for Coordination of Summer Schools & Short Term Certificate Courses (Ukraine), Center for Joint Research Projects (Azerbaijan), Center for BSUN Publications (Bulgaria)
-  **Consortia:** BSUN Consortium on Economics & Business, Consortium on Oral Health, Consortium on Tourism, Consortium on RES.
-  **Website:** <https://bsun.org/>

 **Programme: Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3)**

 **Call: Innovation investments Strand 2a (I3-2021-INV2a)**

 **Deadline date: 18 October 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time**

 **Objective:**

Turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities is the ambition of the green transition. The European Green Deal has the goal to make Europe a resource-efficient and competitive economy. In this framework, the EU sets its targets to reach climate-neutrality by 2050, therefore this will require substantial investments. I3 intends to support innovative value chain investments, to boost the economy through green technology and to create sustainable industry/transport. It also intends to provide support to interregional investments in sustainable food systems, sustainable agriculture, clean and efficient energy, sustainable industry, building and renovating, sustainable mobility, eliminating pollution and climate action.

 **Scope:**

- The present call for proposals under this topic encourages applications in one or more or a combination of the following investment areas (a non-exclusive list):
- Innovative investments in decarbonisation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to improve air quality, health and wellbeing;
- Innovative investments in SMART cities;
- Innovative business investments related to smart, sustainable/efficient transport solutions and/or alternative fuels;
- Investments in climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
- Investments in the management of natural resources, including the use of recycled materials, especially construction materials, plastics and textiles, to stimulate demand for secondary markets raw materials;

- Business investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency to make industry more sustainable;
- Business investments related to energy efficiency in buildings;
- Business investments related to a sustainable blue economy, contributing to the coastal protection;
- Business investments in circular economy to replicate and scale up successful circular economy solutions, which can generate EU added value;
- Investments in bioeconomy, efficient and sustainable agriculture and forestry, innovation in marine/ maritime and inland water sustainable solutions.



Expected Impact:



Short-term

- Deployment of innovative solutions compared to existing technologies/solutions;
- Uptake of technologically/economically reliable and viable solutions on the market.



Medium-term

- Creating new market opportunities for EU companies;
- Reinforcing the capacity of regions to invest, joining forces around shared S3 investment priorities (interregional investments);
- Innovation diffusion



Long-term

- Reinforcing/reshaping EU value chains whilst increasing EU competitiveness in global markets;
- Unlocking the innovation potential of EU regions/countries;
- Contributing to the European Green Deal objectives;
- Positive impact on environment, health, climate, social and economy;
- Economic growth and job creation.



 **Programme: Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)**

 **Call: Actions for the implementation of the Mission Restore our ocean and waters by 2030 (HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01)**

 **Deadline date: 27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time**

 **Expect Outcome:**

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Contribute to the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive as well as other EU instruments and policies that concern freshwater ecosystem protection;
- Contribute to the implementation of the protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains and coastal wetlands and salt marshes under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance[1];



- Reverse the deterioration of the state of wetlands, flood plains coastal wetlands and salt marches in the Danube river basin and in the adjacent Black Sea area, including by developing solutions to restore lateral connectivity of rivers with their associated floodplains and wetlands;
- Improve protection of local communities and ecosystems from extreme events (flood, droughts, storms) in the Danube river basin and its delta, in particular with nature based solutions linked to wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes;
- Improved monitoring of carbon sequestration capacity of wetlands and coastal wetlands and salt marshes and about the impacts of the changing climate system and different management methods on the capacity of these ecosystems to sequester carbon;
- Support the scaling up of wetlands, flood plains and coastal wetlands and salt marshes ecosystems and biodiversity restoration in the ‘associated regions’;
- Increased share of local revenue and business activities from the restored and protected wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes ecosystems in the overall local economic activities.



Scope:

- The proposals will focus on demonstration of active and passive restoration of wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands such as salt marshes including in the transitional waters of the Danube river delta at a large scale.
- The demonstration activities will combine measures to restore and protect wetlands, flood plains or coastal wetlands such as salt marshes, measures to re-connect wetlands, improvement of protection of communities against floods using nature based solutions involving wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands (e.g.: salt marshes) and mitigation of impacts of droughts on these ecosystems and on connected riverine ecosystems, together with reduction of impacts of pollution, in particular from adjacent agricultural and industrial activities and urban pollution in particular from discharges of waste waters.
- The demonstration activities should entail a holistic approach of returning the ecosystem to the conditions prior to its disturbance, including where appropriate, re-introduction of species, restoration of lateral connectivity to a river, removal of pressures as well as a long term protection and monitoring.



Goal:

The projects funded under this topic will:

- build links with other Mission activities and other relevant activities within the lighthouse and its area to maximize synergies, as well as with the European Blue Parks, other Mission lighthouses and their activities;
- build links with the Mission implementation monitoring system that will be part of the Mission Implementation Support Platform and with the Danube river basin lighthouse support facility and platform, for reporting, monitoring and coordination of all relevant implementation activities in the lighthouse area as well as with the Blue Parks technical support platform;
- support the Ocean and water knowledge system, in particular by contributing to biodiversity monitoring, modelling and knowledge creation and data.
- contribute to the possible extension of the LULUCF Regulation^[6] to marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Proposals are expected to show how their activities and results will support the European Green Deal and how they will achieve the Mission's objectives, in line with the timeframe of the Mission phases, i.e.: by 2025 for the 'development and piloting' phase and 2030 for the 'deployment and upscaling phase'.




Specific Topic Conditions:

Activities are expected to achieve TRL 5 to 7 by the end of the project.

Cross-cutting Priorities:

- Societal Engagement
- Ocean sustainability and blue economy
- EOSC and FAIR data

 **Programme: Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)** **Call: Research and Innovation actions in support of the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission (HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01)** **Deadline date: 27 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time** **Expect Outcome:**

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- A set of weather and climate risk insurance products to be used or replicated across EU regions and communities.
- Mechanisms to record, collect and share climate-related risk and losses data integrated within the Risk Data Hub [1], the Copernicus services, and other initiatives.

- Guidance on insurance pricing that reflect risks reduction measures, and to ensure affordable insurance cover.
- Trial innovative risk transfer solutions to deal with climate-induced risk, including parametric insurance and insurance of nature-based solutions.
- Advance public sector modernization when it comes to the demand for insurance solutions for climate adaptation.
- Open up opportunities in the insurance market for cutting edge risk transfer solutions.
- Reinforced policy frameworks to facilitate the allocation of substantial additional national and regional budgets to increase the penetration in the EU of insurance solutions to deal with climate-induced risks.

 **Scope:**


- This topic relates to all three objectives of the strategy, and is part of the key enabling conditions described in the Mission Implementation Plan[2], to test novel insurance solutions, insurance products and risk-transfer mechanisms. The applied research and the experimentation with innovative solutions as further outlined below under points 1 and 2 should be at the centre of the project.
- Insurance is a key tool to compensate for losses after extreme climate events, yet its use in the climate adaptation domain is limited at the moment for a variety of reasons. Recent studies show that between 1980-2019, direct economic losses in EU-27 from climate-related events totalled at least EUR 419 billion[3]. Only 35% of these losses were insured on average across the EU.
- Proposals should address both the following aspects:
 1. Best practices and filling the gaps on insurance coverage for climate adaptation
 2. Trialing and experimentation of insurance solutions in EU regions and communities

 **Goal:**

The proposals should:

- Develop a pilot of innovative insurance solutions in at least three regions or communities (vulnerable to different climate risks and located in different geographical areas) to address their climate risks. Such solutions could be new ones or from improving existing ones.
- Inform their plans with the guidance and recommendations from the deliverables under point 1.
- Demonstrate sustainability of the solutions piloted beyond the life of the project.
- The project should work closely and establish synergies with other projects within the Mission and other relevant initiatives in the domain of climate adaptation insurance, such as the Climate Resilience dialogue, work being done by the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA), relevant Horizon 2020 projects[4].

 **Programme: Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)**

 **Call: Research and innovation on cultural heritage and CCIs II- 2022 (HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-02)**

 **Deadline date: 21 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time**

 **Expect Outcome:**

The project should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- The establishment and development of a network of and for the cultural and creative industries (CCIs)[1] in the EU Member States and associated countries, covering the diversity of the CCIs in terms of sectors, countries and company size, with particular attention to small and medium-sized enterprises[2].

- Well-founded and prioritised recommendations for EU policy on R&I and in other key areas for the CCIs, including to contribute to the 2030 objectives of the European Green Deal[3], notably in terms of environmental sustainability, while strengthening competitiveness and internationalisation.
- Structurally strengthened cooperation between CCIs across sectorial, geographical and cultural borders, as well as between CCIs and other economic sectors[4], empowering the CCIs to assume a proactive innovation-driving role, resulting in more innovations with a cultural and creative base.
- European CCIs ready for the green and digital transitions.



Scope:

To an ever greater degree, creative and cultural aspects drive innovation[5] and growth. Successful new digital and physical products and services need to be appealing and attractive, adapted to cultural traits and market needs. Similarly, societal transformations such as the green and digital transitions depend on behavioural changes, which are largely based on changes in culture and perceptions. In such processes, the human is at the centre, and the cultural and creative industries are key to success.

 **Goal:**

The goal is to facilitate the establishment of a culture and creativity driven European innovation ecosystem, with the cultural and creative industries (CCIs)[6] at its heart. Such a system should contribute decisively to Europe's future prosperity, wellbeing, social and cultural cohesion as well as environmental sustainability.

Proposals should show how projects will:

- Establish a strong, inclusive and representative network of and for the CCIs with a focus on research and innovation. The network should extend across CCI sectors at EU^[7] level, and establish connections to other important economic sectors. It should be an inclusive platform, which taps into the business potential of all CCI actors while supporting the green and digital transitions. The network should have the capacity to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, by facilitating cooperation, mutual learning and capacity building within R&I for and with the CCIs. Important aspects of the network include interoperability and scale. A collaborative platform should be used to this end.

- Contribute to the design and prioritisation of EU policy actions, particularly R&I policy actions, that will create favourable conditions for the growth of a dynamic and well-functioning CCI-driven innovation ecosystem. This should include at least the following:
 - Assess needs for future R&I actions for the CCIs, and set up a priority list per sector and company size.
 - Map the needs of the CCIs in terms of technology investment, skills, policy and regulation, etc. to allow them to contribute to the EU's 2030 Green Deal goals as well as to the digital transition. Assess these needs at national & European levels and provide recommendations for EU level action.
 - Identify and propose key policy actions, including suitable regulatory innovation frameworks, needed to foment the creation of a culture and creativity driven European innovation ecosystem.



Programme area

The programme area covers nine EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany with two lands Baden-Württemberg and Bayern, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and five non-EU Member States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine¹ with four provinces: Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast, Odessa Oblast), being composed of 70 NUTS2 regions.



Programme priorities and specific objectives

A smarter Danube Region	Enhancing innovation and technology transfer Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
A greener, low-carbon Danube Region	Promoting renewable energy Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster management Improving water and sediment quality Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions

Programme priorities and specific objectives



Programme budget

The Interreg funds budget of the programme is EUR 213,103,953.00, which represents a single amount for all the 14 countries participating in the programme. This amount will be complemented by the national contributions of the project partners (PPs) participating in the supported projects. Individual projects under priority axes 1-4 will receive the European Union support up to 80% of their total eligible costs.

 **Programme budget**

Priority axes (PA)	Interreg funds (EUR)
PA 1: A more competitive and smarter Danube Region	40,489,751.07
PA 2: A greener, low-carbon Danube Region	74,586,383.55
PA 3: A more social Danube Region	55,407,027.78
PA 4: A better cooperation governance in the Danube Region	42,620,790.60

The indicative allocation of funds for each of the calls for proposals is specified in the respective call announcements.

 **Cooperation criteria**

In order to be eligible, projects must contribute to at least three out of the following four cooperation criteria.

- ✓ Joint development (compulsory) – i.e. partners have to be involved in an integrated way in developing ideas, priorities and actions in the project development process.
- ✓ Joint implementation (compulsory) – i.e. project activities must be carried out by partners in a cooperative way that ensures clear content-based links and be coordinated by the lead partner.

 **Cooperation criteria**

- ✓ Joint financing– i.e. the joint project budget shall be organised in line with activities carried out by each project partner. The LP is responsible for the administration and reporting towards the programme bodies as well as the distribution of the funds to the partners.
- ✓ Joint staffing – i.e. the project should not duplicate functions within the partnership. In particular, project management functions should be appointed only once at project level (LP ensures the overall project management while at partner level there are project structures dealing with the individual tasks of the PPs).

If applicable, projects can contribute to all four cooperation criteria.

 **Projects` duration**

The maximum duration of the projects is fixed in the call announcement. However all projects financed by DRP have to be finalised by 31 December 2028.



Durability of operations

Durability of project outputs and results is crucial for ensuring territorial impact and long-term benefits which continue after the project end, in order to reach the project's overall objectives. Therefore, projects have to ensure that outputs obtained and results achieved are durable and suitable to be continued after project closure.



Type of project activities

Activities and related expenditures are eligible according to the eligibility rules set out in the Interreg Programme. This being the case, projects should carefully consider the following aims:

- contribution to sustainable territorial development;
- leverage effect on investment, development perspectives and policy development;
- facilitation of innovation (including social innovation), entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and information society by concrete cooperation action and visible results (creation of new products, services, development of new markets, improvement of human resources based on the principles of sustainability);
- contribution to integration by supporting balanced capacities for transnational territorial cooperation at all levels (systems building and governance).

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