



CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

Funding for investments and interregional collaboration

Košice, 30 March 2023

European Commission – DG REGIO – Unit D.1

Johan Magnusson – Team Leader

Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

- Nearly 1/3 of the EU budget, more than 390 billion EUR (European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund + Just Transition Fund) to reduce disparities between Europe's regions, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion and contribute to EU priorities.
- Built around five Policy Objectives:
 - A more competitive and smarter Europe (PO1)
 - A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe (PO2)
 - A more connected Europe (PO3)
 - A more social and inclusive Europe (PO4)
 - A Europe closer to citizens (PO5)

Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: legal framework

Art 3 (1) of the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Regulation**:

Policy Objective (PO) 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity

Specific Objective (SO) 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and uptake of advanced technologies

Specific Objective (SO) 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments

SO 1.3 type of actions: strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem **including industrial cluster development**



Interreg



- Strong strategic focus on green and digital transition
- Cooperation framework between national, regional and local actors from different Member States: working together across borders
- Less budget available EU-wide, smaller programmes, smaller projects
- Thematic approach: the 5 CPR objectives + 2 Interreg-specific objectives

Interreg



- Cooperation helps regions to improve their innovation and R&D policies & programmes (cluster policies in particular under Policy Objective 1)
- Interreg programmes a platform for SMEs to cooperate rather than compete with one another.
- Cluster organisations as target groups: cross-border, transnational and interregional programmes
- Funding foreseen as per <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/funds/interreg/21-27> Innovation cluster support & business networks for SMEs: EUR 107 million planned (Status: March 2023)

Interreg in types of cooperation 2021-2027

86 programmes, EUR 10 billion

- 4 strands: (A) cross-border, (B) transnational, (C) inter-regional and (D) outermost
- External cooperation is now fully integrated



Cooperation with Russia and Belarus has been suspended following the Russian aggression on Ukraine

Interreg



Key questions for potential beneficiaries:

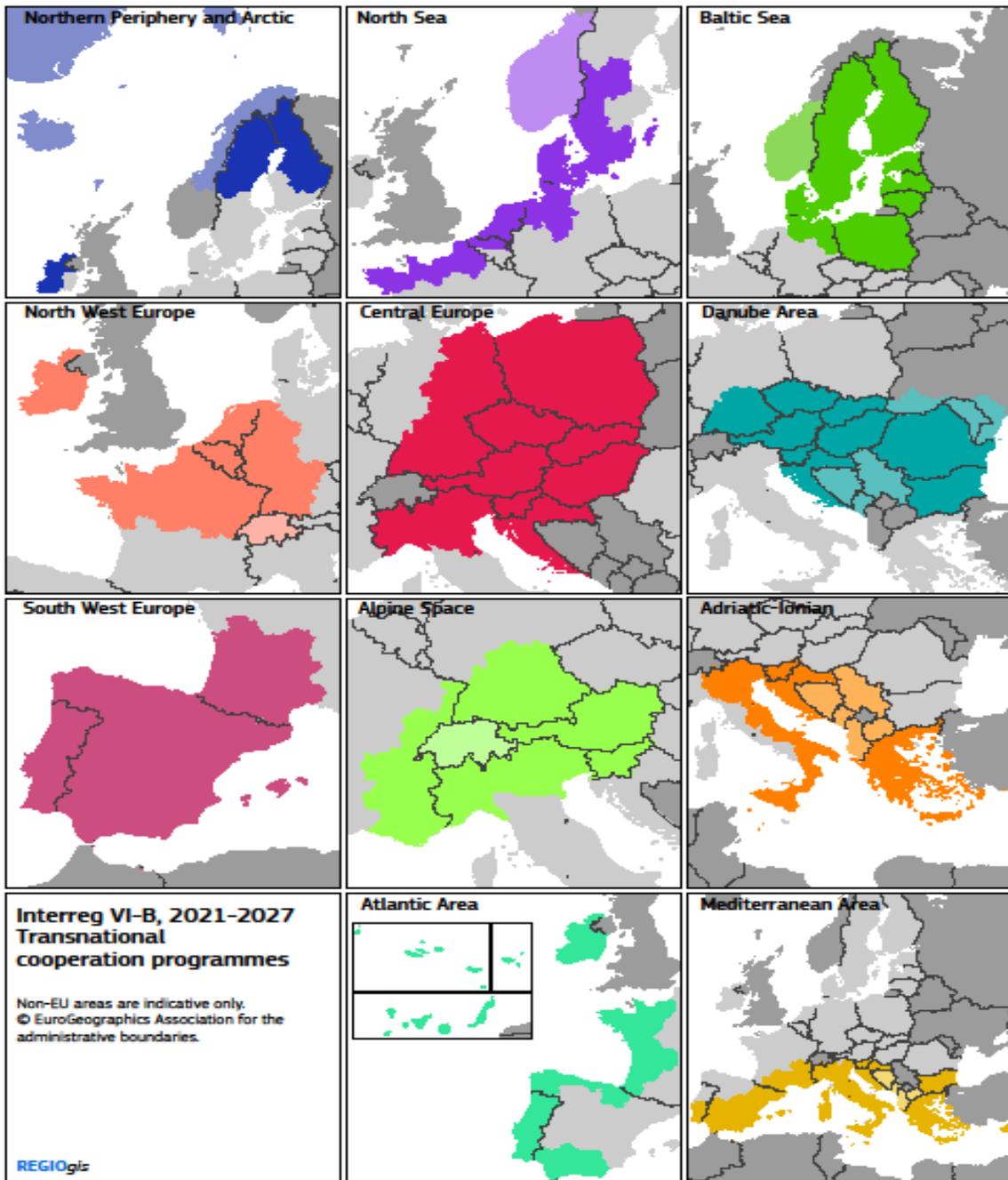
- Who do I want to cooperate with?
- Where are we all located?
- What theme do we want to cooperate on?
 - = defines the most suitable programme for you
 - then: www.interreg.eu
 - Check calls and contacts to see if there is a match

Keep project database

Browse the largest database of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes in the EU.

[Search the Keep.eu database](#)

Transnational Interreg programmes



Wherever there is an EU macro-regional strategy, or a Sea basin strategy or at least three countries with common territorial characteristics, there is an Interreg programme

Transnational Interreg programmes

- Transnational programmes help to deliver on key European political priorities by promoting cooperation among greater European regions (e.g. the Baltic Sea Region, the Danube region). They address joint opportunities, such as transport corridors, international business and research linkages.
- All transnational programmes require at least three countries to participate in a project.
- Of particular interest to SK-UA: Danube Region Programme

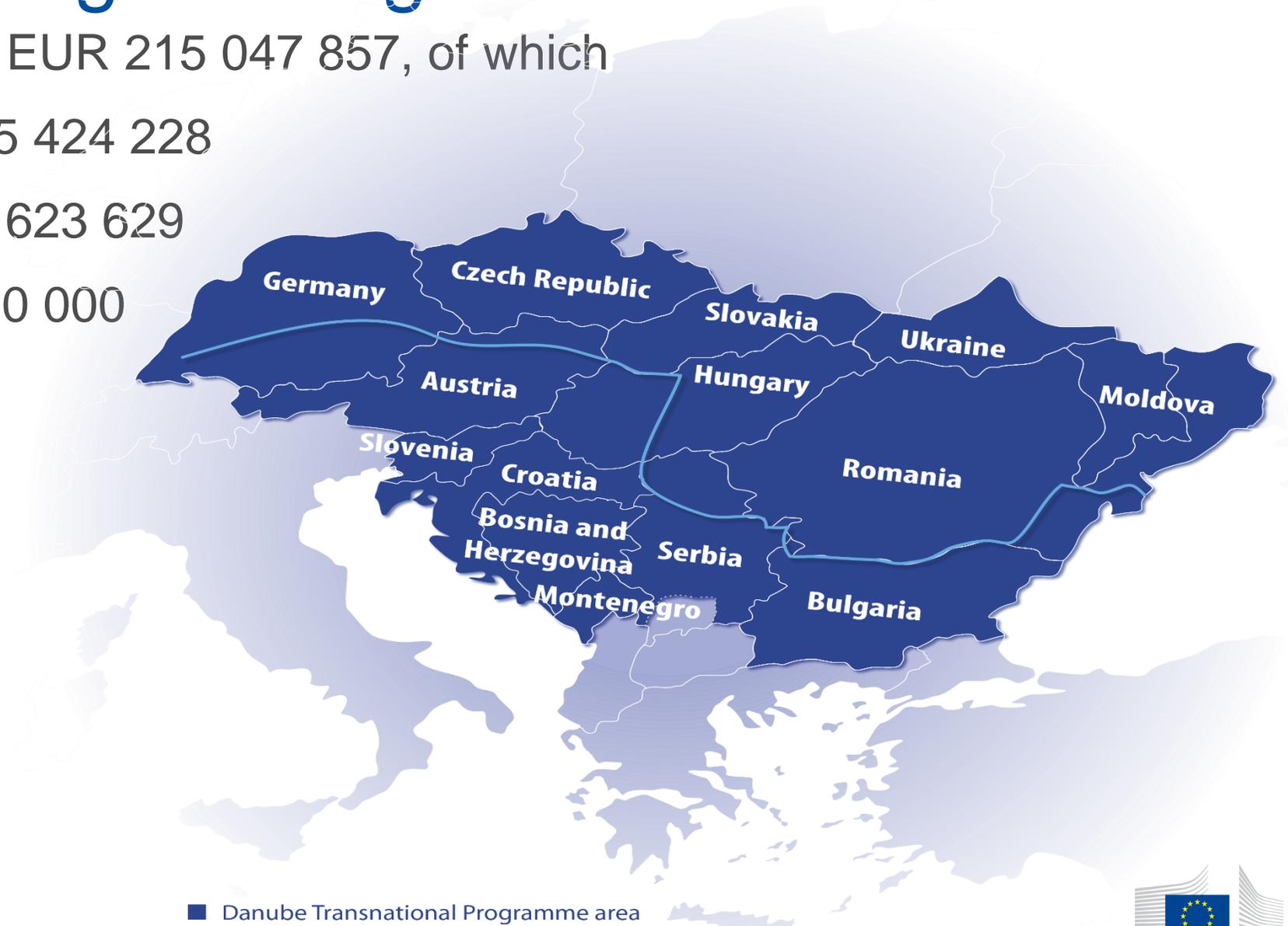
Danube Region Programme

Budget: TOTAL EUR 215 047 857, of which

ERDF: EUR 165 424 228

NDICI: EUR 19 623 629

IPA: EUR 30 000 000



Danube Region Programme: What can be supported?

- Improving transnational cooperation to support joint technology generation, uptake and upscaling in the following fields: nanotechnologies, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing and processing (production technologies) and health industry (establishing joint medicine research **clusters**/centres, usage of digitalization and artificial intelligence in medicine/health care, analysing big data sets in medicine, biotechnology).
- Support for transnational uptake of technologies alongside thematic value chains: specialisation in transnational Danube Region **clusters** for emerging industries, support for a higher level and new forms of collaboration within the quadruple helix to encourage co-inventions and innovation cooperation as well.

Danube Region Programme: How to apply?

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/>

- Applications for funding can be submitted online during calls for project proposals.
- Projects selected based on a two-step application procedure: in the first step, applicants submit an Expression of Interest. Promising proposals will be invited to submit a detailed Application Form.
- Applications are assessed against a set of quality criteria defined in applicants' manual describing the programme's expectations in terms of content. Decisions on project selection are taken by the programme's Monitoring Committee.

Danube Region Programme: Contacts

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/>

MANAGING AUTHORITY and JOINT SECRETARIAT

Postal address: Prime Minister's Office 1357 Budapest, Pf:6. (Hungary)

Office address: Roosevelt Office Building, Széchenyi István tér 7-8, 1051 Budapest (Hungary)

National contact points:

Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation

Štefánikova 15, 811 05 Bratislava

Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine

9, Velyka Zhytomyrska Street, Kyiv, 01601, Ukraine

Cross border Interreg programmes

- European Cross-Border cooperation supports cooperation between regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them.
- With a budget of 6.7 billion EUR, the 73 cross-border Interreg cooperation programmes for 2021-2027 aim to boost cooperation actions across borders between neighbouring regions and countries.
- These cross-border programmes are made up of 49 internal programmes, 24 external (10 IPA and 14 NEXT) and the PEACE + programme.



Cooperation programmes to support UA and MD

Interreg NEXT	Calls period	Funding	Priorities	Info
Poland-Ukraine	May – July 2023	≈ EUR 38 million ≈ EUR 44 million	1.Health 2.Environment	CBC Poland Ukraine
Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine	April 2023 (TBC)	TBC	1.Resilience and green 2.Healthy and attractive 3.Cooperation	CBC HUSKROUA
Romania-Ukraine	June- September 2023	≈ EUR 34 million	1. Environment 2. Social development 3. Border issues	CBC Romania Ukraine
Romania-Republic of Moldova	No information yet	TBC	TBC	CBC Romania Moldova
Black Sea Basin	30 March to 4 July 2023	≈ EUR 33 Million	1. Blue and Smarter Region 2. Greener Region	First Calls for Proposals (blacksea-cbc.net)

Apply to the calls for proposals from May – July 2023



HEALTH

≈ EUR 38 million

ENVIRONMENT

≈ EUR 44 million

[CBC Poland Ukraine](#)

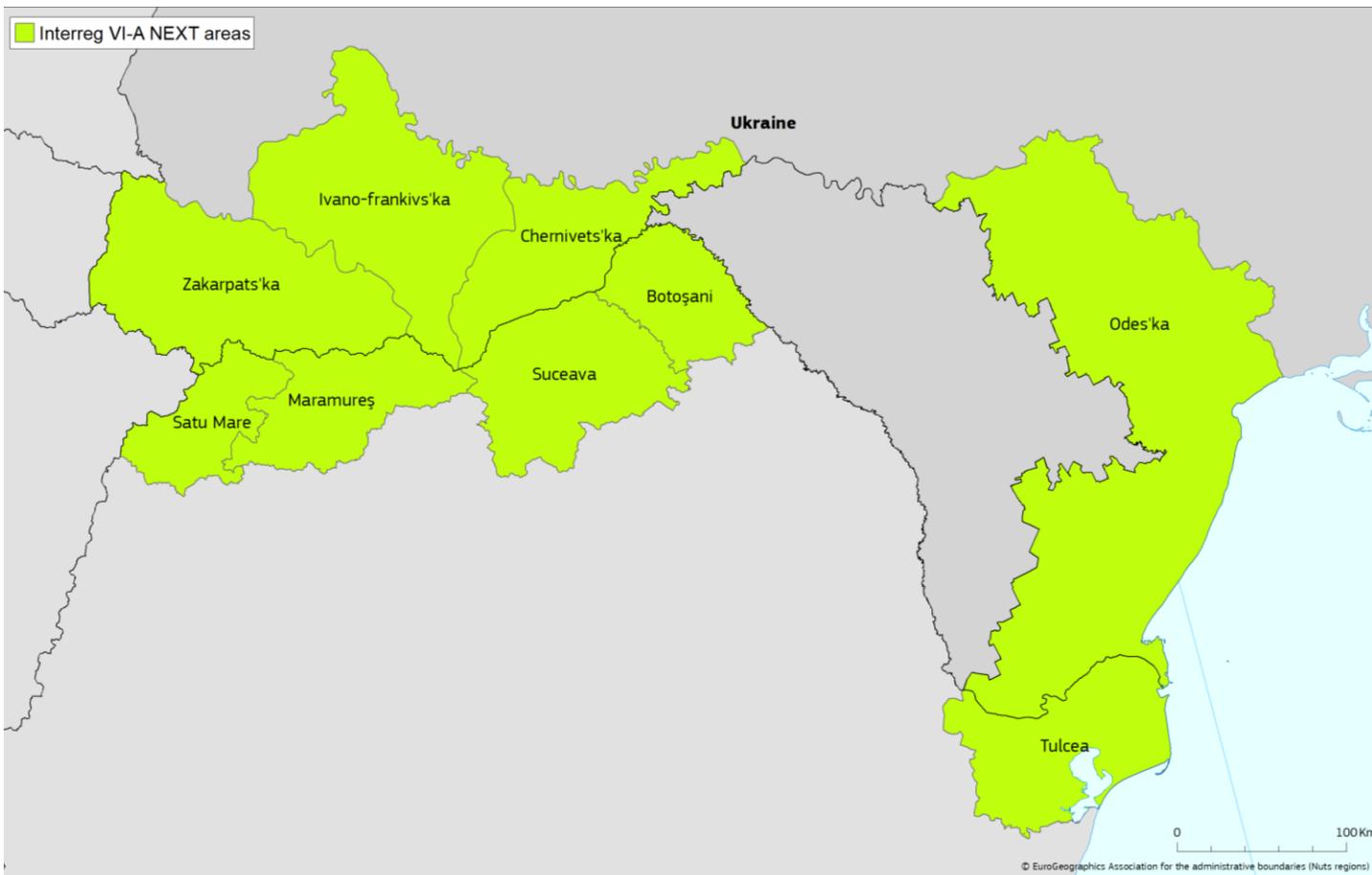
Interreg



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NEXT Romania – Ukraine

Apply to the calls for proposals
from June- September 2023



Environment
Social development
Border issues

≈ EUR 34 million

[CBC Romania Ukraine](#)

Interreg

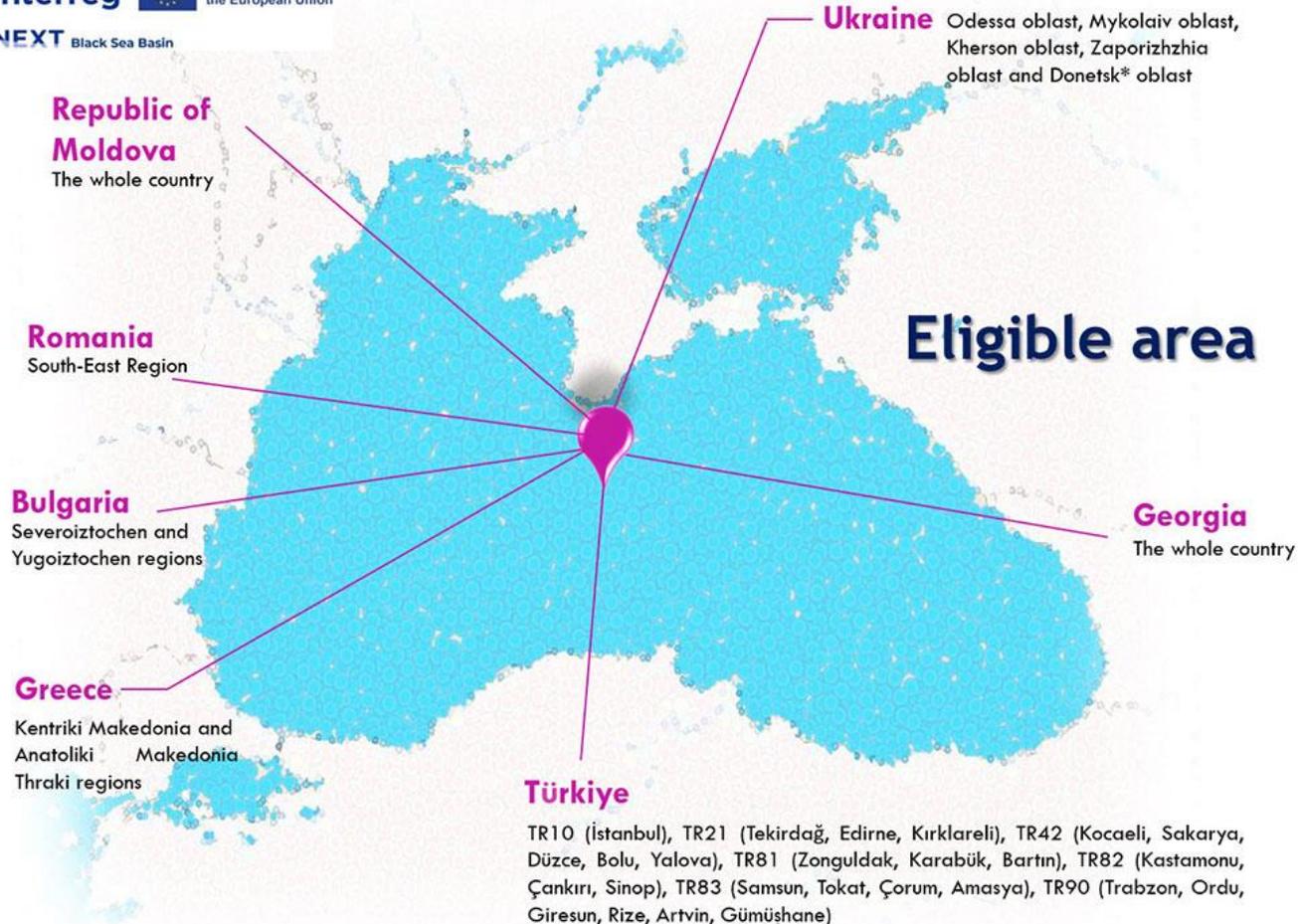


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NEXT Black Sea Basin

Apply to the calls for proposals from 30 March to 4 July ≈ EUR 33 Million

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NEXT Black Sea Basin



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NEXT Black Sea Basin

Policy Objective 1
A more competitive and smarter Europe

Priority 1
Blue and Smart region

Specific Objective
Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities

Thematic concentration

Policy Objective 2
A greener Europe

Priority 2
Clean and Green region

Specific Objectives

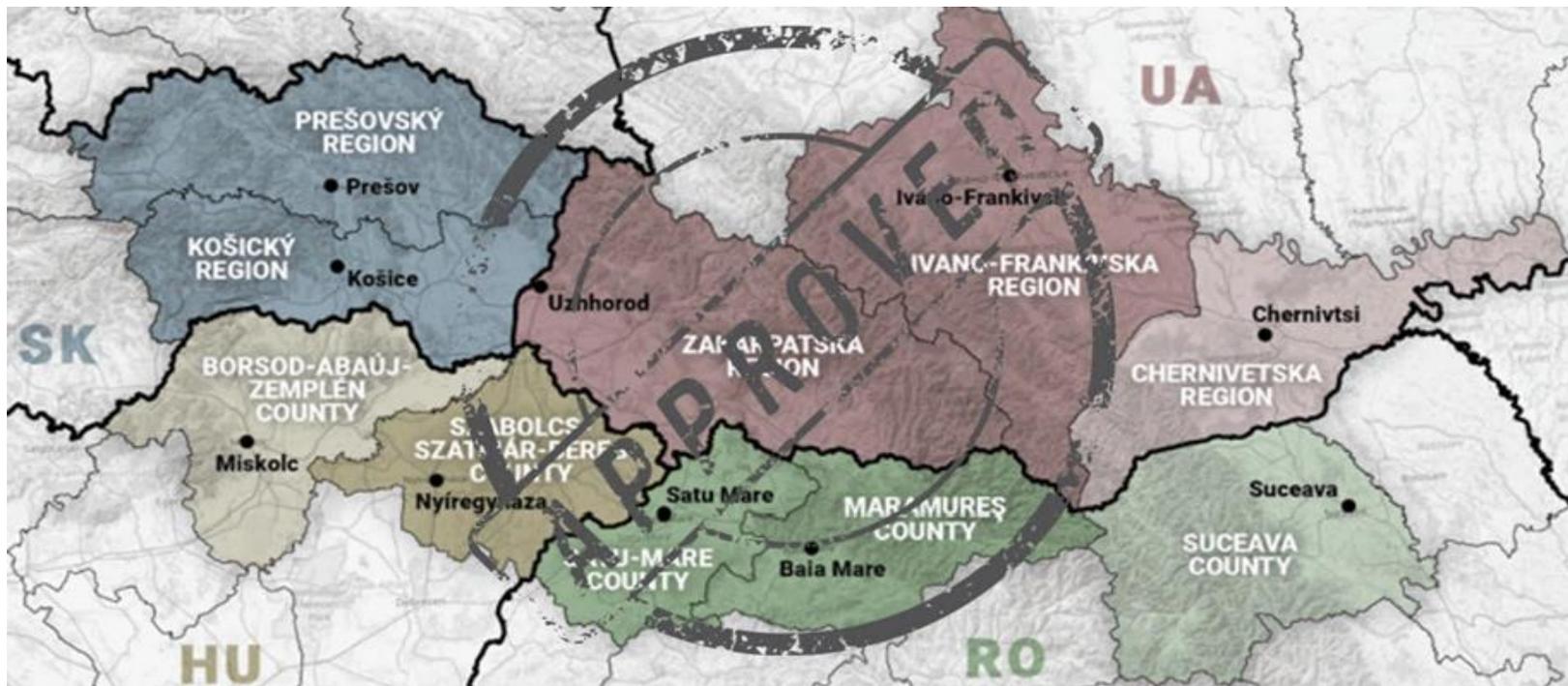
- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention
- Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure



[First Calls for Proposals \(blacksea-cbc.net\)](http://blacksea-cbc.net)



HUSKROUA Cross border Interreg programme



**New Interreg Programme between
Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine**



Interreg



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HUSKROUA Cross border Interreg programme

Approved on 3 November 2022

Total budget: EUR 73 million (including EUR 66 million of EU contribution)

Managed by Hungary (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade). **Every project must cover at least one Ukrainian beneficiary and at least one beneficiary from a Member State**

First call for projects expected to be launched in April

The programme supports three priorities:

- 1) A resilient and green border region
- 2) A healthy and attractive border region
- 3) A cooperating border region

HUSKROUA Cross border Interreg programme

Possible support for cluster initiatives:

Under the priority “A healthy and attractive border region”, the programme will invest in common and joint tourism products, including development of cross-border networks and routes. Support may be provided for:

- Preparation of cross-border tourism products.
- Investments in infrastructure to restore, upgrade or transform elements of cultural heritage.
- Establishment of joint platforms for marketing.

HUSKROUA Cross border Interreg programme

Possible support for cluster initiatives:

Under the priority “A cooperating border region”, the programme aims to increase the economic performance of the region.

In particular the programme will invest in creating and developing operational networks like clusters, network of science and industrial parks and logistic centres.

The programme will also support a transfer of knowledge with respect of such actions.

HUSKROUA Cross border Interreg programme

Managing Authority:

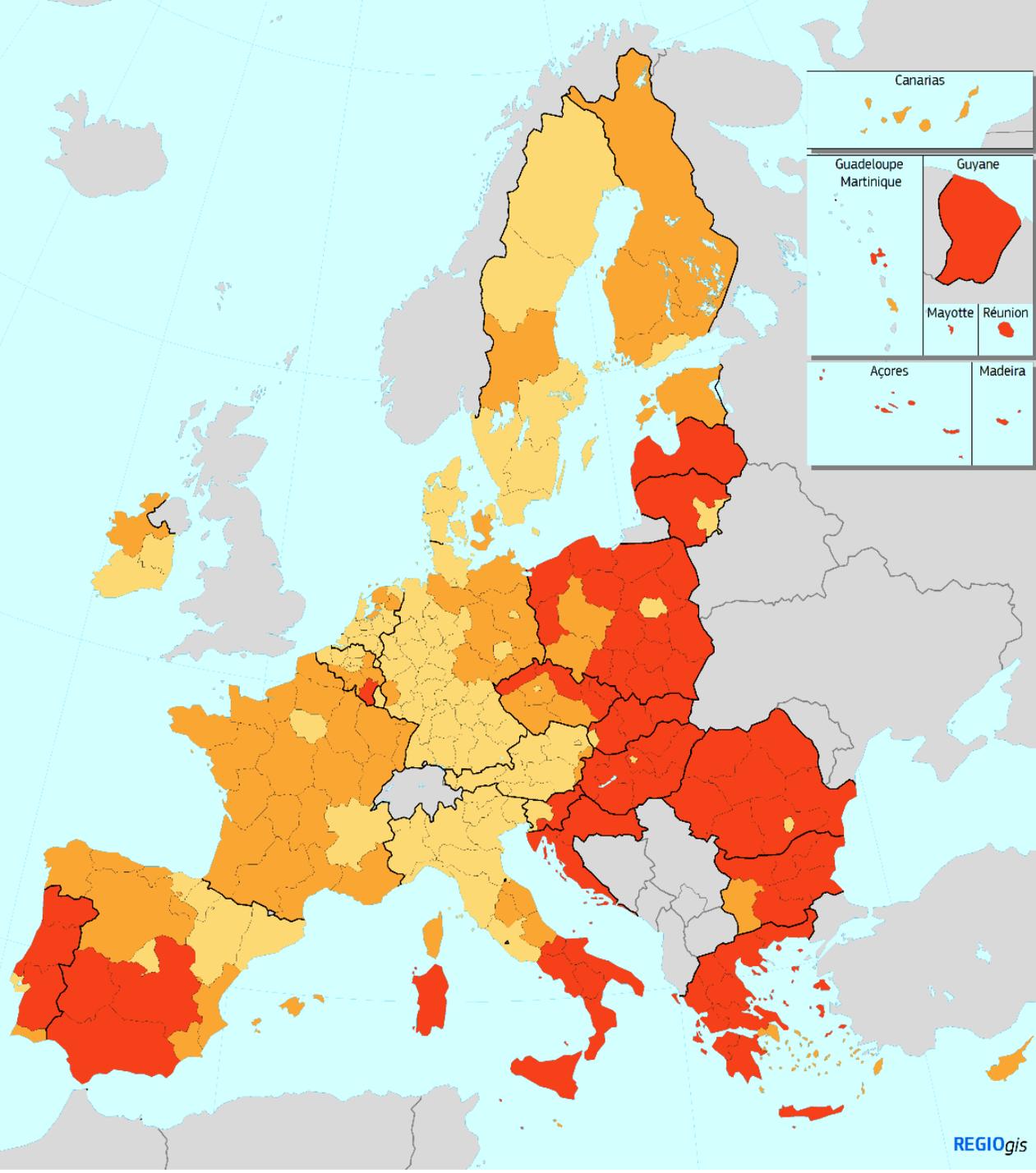
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
Department for Cross-border Cooperation Programmes
Address: 1027 Budapest, Medve u. 25-29. „B” F30/2
www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade

National contact points:

Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Section of Cross-border Cooperation Programmes
Address: Pribinova 4195/25 | 811 09 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
<https://www.mirri.gov.sk>

Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
International Technical Assistance Coordination Department
Address: 12/2, Mykhaila Hrushevskoho Street, 01008 Kyiv, Ukraine
<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/sekretariat-kabinetu-ministriv-ukrayini>





Mainstream national and regional programmes

Wherever there is an EU region, there is a Cohesion programme

Mainstream national and regional programmes

- Shared management: Commission not involved in project selection
- Selection of projects through calls launched by programme Managing Authorities
- Programmes select eligibility criteria, but support to clusters explicitly mentioned in the Community legal basis (Art 3.1 of the ERDF Regulation)
- NEW for the 2021-2027 period: Art 63 (4) of the CPR:

All or part of an operation may be implemented outside of a Member State, **including outside the Union**, provided that the operation **contributes** to the objectives of the programme.

Cohesion policy in Slovakia 2021-2027

- **Slovakia receives EUR 12.6 billion** for the period 2021-2027 for Cohesion Policy investments to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion.
- **Policy Objective (PO) 1: EUR 1.9 billion** to foster digitalization, enhance research and innovation capacities and boost the competitiveness of small and medium businesses. A special focus is also put on strengthening the cooperation between academic, private and business sectors.

Cohesion policy in Slovakia 2021-2027

SO 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments (ERDF)

Measure 1.3.3 Support for business networking (EUR 9.5 million)

The main objective of the action is to develop the innovation ecosystem by supporting the building and development of cluster ecosystem and platforms supporting the improvement of the competitiveness of businesses.

Related types of actions:

- supporting cluster organisations and platforms promoting competitiveness, including their involvement in addressing innovation challenges, international networks, partnerships and projects;
- support the networking of SMEs with large enterprises.

Cohesion policy in Slovakia 2021-2027

SO 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and uptake of advanced technologies

Measure 1.1.1 Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation in research, development and innovation and increasing research and innovation capacities in enterprises

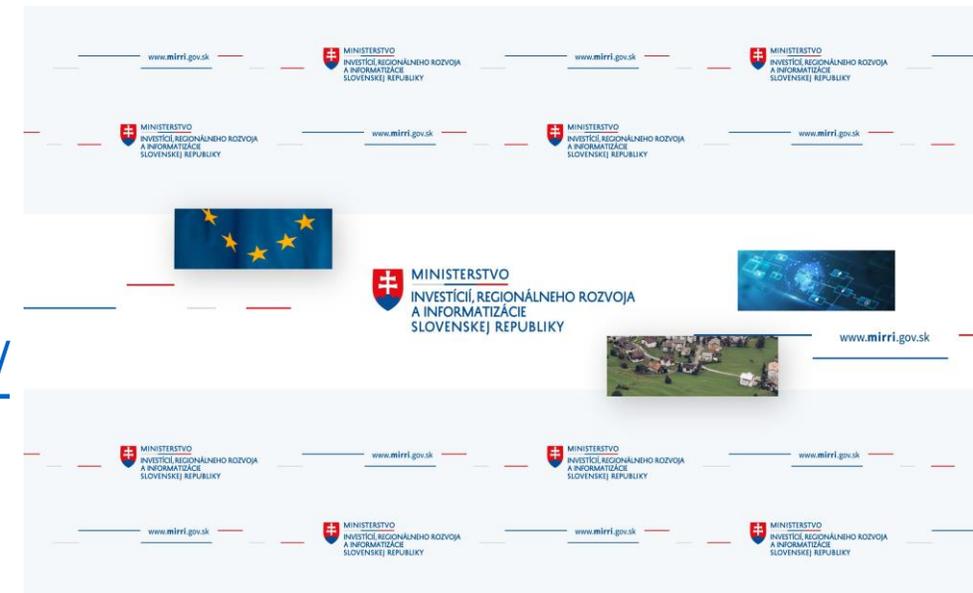
Cluster organisations may be listed as eligible beneficiaries or partners for interventions under Specific Objective 1.1/measure 1.1.1 in the area of RDI projects (but without specific allocation for cluster organisations).

Cohesion policy in Slovakia 2021-2027

Managing Authority:

Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie SR

- <https://www.eurofondy.gov.sk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/MIRRISR>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mirrisr/>
- https://www.instagram.com/ministerstvo_irri_sr/



Interregional cooperation: 6 cooperation projects addressing cluster p

Interreg
Europe



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- **57** partners from **19** Member States
- **EUR 12,7** Million ERDF Interreg Europe programme funding

Results:

- **544** people with increased professional capacity
- **61** policy instruments improved
- **52** Million EUR mobilised

ELISE
Interreg Europe

RUMORE
Interreg Europe

STRING
Interreg Europe

ClusterFY
Interreg Europe

CLUSTERS3
Interreg Europe

CLUSTERIX 2.0
Interreg Europe

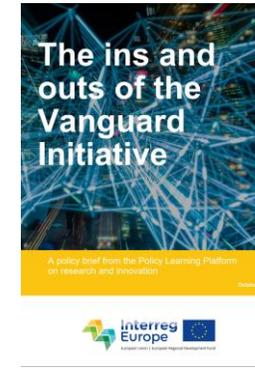
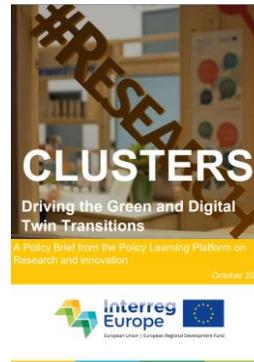


Policy Learning Platform & clusters



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Policy briefs, articles



Clusters: an established innovation policy for regional specialisation



02 June 2020 | By Platform

Events

Clusters driving the twin transitions: key learnings



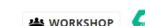
14 December 2021 | By Platform

Webinar recording: Cross-sector inter-cluster cooperation



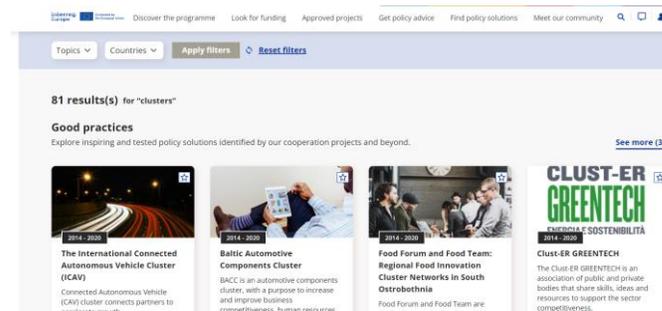
20 January 2021 | By Platform

Clusters as drivers for regional innovation



20 June 2018 | By Platform

Good practice database



All resources on our website: www.interregueurope.eu/policy-solutions?keywords=clusters



First call for project proposals

Call open: 5 April to 31 May 2022

Results:

- 134 project proposals submitted
- 72 projects approved starting March 1, 2023

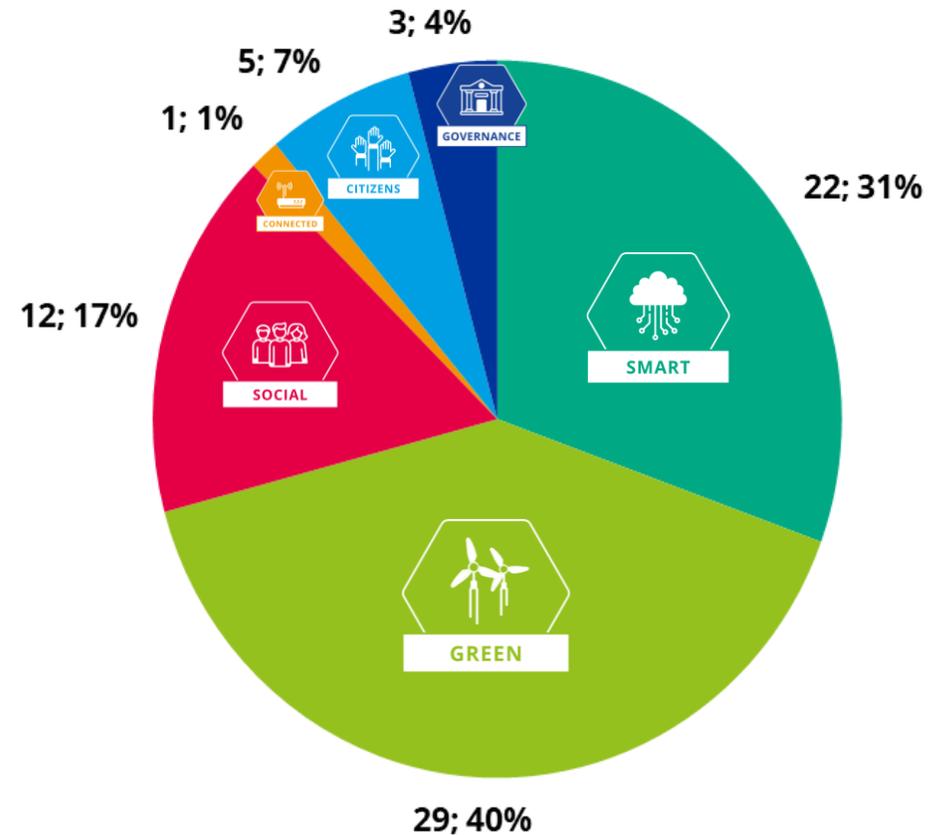
Two projects addressing the topic of clusters:

DEBUTING - Developing Business Through Inclusiveness and Gender Awareness - New Cluster Competences

AccelerateGDT - Realign Cluster Policies to Accelerate the Twin Green and Digital Transitions



Projects recommended for approval



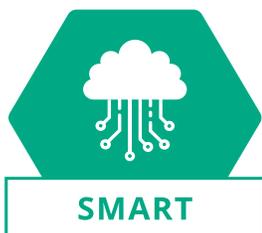
Second call for project proposals

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Europe



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1. When? **15 MAR – 9 JUN 2023, 12 noon** (CEST Paris time)
2. How much? Up to **EUR 130 Million**
3. About what? All **topics** open



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[EU Spotify](https://www.spotify.com/eu)

Thank you

JOHAN MAGNUSSON

Team Leader Danube and Baltic Sea Regions



European Commission

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)

Unit D.1 – Macro-regions, Transnational, Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement

B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

+32 229-92093

johan.magnusson@ec.europa.eu



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