

DRP 3rd call for proposals

**4th Meeting of the Danube
Region Platform on Centres
of Vocational Excellence**



online – 30th September 2025

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Content

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- Open SOs & budgets
- SO 3.2
- Characteristics of a CoVE & understanding of excellence
- Synergies
- Resources & tools

Core understandings & timelines of 3rd CfP

- **call opening: 22 September 2025**
(Online application in **DRP Jems** – accessible on programme website)
- **submission deadline: 15 December 2025**
- **1-step application & selection procedure**
- **thematically targetted CfP**
 - SOs have specific thematic scope for 3rd CfP & certain SOs closed
- **project duration: max. 30 months**
- **estimated project start: 1 July 2026**

Open SOs & budget – 3rd call

SO	Status in 3rd CfP	Indicative Interreg funds allocation per SO EUR	Focus
SO 1.1	Closed		
SO 1.2	Open	2,800,000.00	Innovation & entrepreneurship
SO 2.1	Open	4,000,000.00	Energy & transport
SO 2.2	Open	5,500,000.00	Climate change & disaster management
SO 2.3	Open	5,000,000.00	Water & sediment management
SO 2.4	Closed		
SO 3.1	Open	3,000,000.00	Labour markets-employment
SO 3.2	Open	3,000,000.00	Labour markets – education
SO 3.3	Closed		
SO 4.2	Open	4,000,000.00	Governance
Total		27,300,000.00	

- **Interreg contribution 80% of total budget**
- No advance payment of Interreg funds contribution
- Reimbursed on periodically reported and validated PP's cost-basis
- project partners need sufficient cash-flow capacities

SO 3.2 - Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning

Thematic focus:- Support of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) in the DR CoVE support – strategic:

Build on the work of the EUSDR PA9 Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence 2021

- Pilot programmes of work with transnational character on specific areas of work e.g. internationalization of CoVEs, CoVEs and social inclusion, CoVEs and smart specialization; lifelong learning
- Creating networks, forums and working groups on specific themes connecting VET policy makers and providers with companies and industry representatives across the Danube Region
- Developing support function for understanding, guidance and complementarity of different programmes in Danube Region supporting CoVEs (National, regional, transnational)
- Strategic CoVE development in fields of transnational interest across the Danube Region

SO 3.2 - Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning

Thematic focus:- Support of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) in the DR CoVE Support – operational:

The development of existing CoVEs or new CoVEs - developing their excellence potential (see broad understanding of excellence)

- CoVE focussed initiatives to modernise and transform quality of VET systems to strategically support social, economic and pedagogical changes and challenges, e.g. new skill needs in context of green and digital transition
- Formation of multilevel Public Private Partnerships for VET and skills development
- Actions aimed towards embedding CoVEs in local innovation ecosystems and connecting at Danube level
- Facilitating the bringing together of CoVEs that share common interest in specific sectors and innovative approaches to tackling societal challenges

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Characteristics of a CoVE:

- recognised in its field as high-quality VET provision
- role in promoting regional development and employment
- local skills ecosystem: hub for innovation and knowledge transfer, and fostering
- collaboration between education, businesses, the community, public administration and other stakeholders
- connected and active internationally

Excellence:

The programme considers excellence in the context of CoVEs as a wide-reaching and inclusive concept of skills provision which encompasses pedagogy, social justice, lifelong learning, transversal skills, organization, innovation, continuing professional education and community needs

Synergies with other programs, projects, initiatives e.g. Erasmus+ & ETF

- Identify **what has already been implemented**
 - territorial analysis of target area and thematic field
 - relevant projects, initiatives
 - what achievements can be built upon, used
 - what is not to be duplicated
- **Synergy building** with ongoing projects - **bring added value**
 - sharing complementary knowledge, outputs
 - strengthening networking
 - broader outreach & higher visibility potentials
- Integrate **capitalisation, synergy building activities** in work plan

Resources & tools

- **DRP INTERREG Programme website - 3rd call**
<https://interreg-danube.eu/calls-for-proposals>
 - Lead applicant webinar (8 October 2025)
 - thematic webinars
 - Applicants Package
- **DRP matchmaking platform for partner search**
<https://interreg-danube-region-programme.b2match.io/>
- **DRP MA/JS**
 - [bilateral online consultation \(strongly recommended!!!\)](#)
 - ad-hoc advice on technical/formal issues
- **Network of DRP National Contact Points**
<https://interreg-danube.eu/contact-us#ncp>
- **EUSDR PAs**

Danube Region Programme - Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat

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