

Minutes of the SMF Info-session of Priority Area 9 'People & Skills'

Date: 13 December 2023, 10:00-12:00

Venue: Online

Chairs: Roland Hanak (AT), Jürgen Schick (AT) and Mykhailo Omelchenko (UA).

The Seed Money Facility Info-session was organised by the Priority Area Coordinators of Priority Area 9 'People & Skills' to inform interested stakeholders in the fields of education and labour market policy about the Seed Money Facility Call. More specifically, potential thematic areas for the development of strategic projects were presented.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Roland Hanak (Austria) and Jürgen Schick (Austria), Priority Area Coordinators of PA9, welcomed Johannes Gabriel (Danube Region Programme), Nicole Hauder (Danube Strategy Point) and all the participants of the meeting. The participants of the meeting were invited to act as multipliers, spreading the information of the info-session.

PRESENTATION OF THE SEED MONEY FACILITY

Johannes Gabriel (Danube Region Programme) introduced the Seed Money Facility Call, which was published under the Danube Region Programme. He informed about the technical specifications, outlining the timing, the budget, the application procedure and the expected outputs of the Call. Furthermore, a [matchmaking platform](#) was build-up, to enable the search for project partners in the Danube Region.

The technical specifications of the Seed Money Facility Call are as follows:

- Timing of the call: 27 November 2023 – 29 March 2024
- Budget: Up to EUR 100,000 Interreg-funds per project
- Co-financing rate: 80%
- Project duration: Up to 12 months
- Partnership: Minimum two (and max. 5) partners from at least two different countries
- Eligibility of partners: Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law (including EGTCs), international organisations and private non-profit bodies.
- Project outputs: Main Project Work Plan, Report of the state of play, Report on funding possibilities

More information on the Seed Money Facility is available on the presentation [slides](#), and on the official [website](#) of the call.

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS UNDER PRIORITY AREA 9

Applications need to illustrate their relevance and relation to one (or more) of the eight Actions of Priority Area 9. The list of actions under Priority Area 9 is available [here](#). While the decision on selecting the thematic focus of a project is upon the applicant, the Coordinators of Priority Area 9 presented three potential and narrowed down areas for the development of strategic projects:

1) Measures supporting the reintegration of veterans

Mykhailo Omelchenko (Ukraine) presented a potential thematic area, focusing on the emerging topic of reintegration of veterans, resulting from the rapidly increasing number due to the war. The general objective is to (re)integrate veterans into Ukrainian society and the labour market, including their educational profile, offering opportunities for Lifelong Learning.

2) Excellence in VET for a green and inclusive Danube Region;

Jürgen Schick (Austria) referred to the four actions related to Education and Training and presented key issues and potential topics for regional cooperation, including lifelong learning, basic competences, equal opportunities and quality assurance. The topic 'Excellence in VET for a green and fair transition', which is linked to the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence and related EU policy priorities, was highlighted as a potential topic of interest.

Please find more information in the slides available on the [PA9 website](#).

3) Inclusion of marginalized groups in the labour market, with a specific focus on Roma;

Roland Hanak (Austria) pointed out that with several million people, Roma are the biggest ethnic minority in the Danube Region. Moreover, he highlighted the valuable experiences of projects for the integration of Roma in the labour market in Austria and that such experiences could be exchanged in a transnational project. In this context, he also referred to the EU Roma Strategic framework focusing on equality, inclusion, and participation.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Jürgen Schick (AT) and Roland Hanak (AT) closed the info-session thanking all participants for their participation.

MORE INFORMATION

[Call announcement](#)

[Seed Money Facility Programme Manual](#)

[Recording of the applicant seminar of the Danube Region Programme, 7 December 2023](#)

[EUSDR Action Plan](#)