

Pilot Actions

LOT 2

ResInfra@DR call for Expressions of Interest

to participate in a ResInfra@DR support activity
for planned or to be upgraded programmes, support
measures and calls for *research infrastructures*

ADDRESSED TO
PROGRAMME OWNERS, MINISTRIES OR
FUNDING AGENCIES /FUNDING AUTHORITIES

**ResInfra@DR - Pilot Activity 2 within the project
ResInfra@DR**

BACKGROUND

The ResInfra@DR project is designed to strengthen Research Infrastructures (RI) in the Danube macro-region (DR) and runs from January 2017 to June 2019. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main activities of the ResInfra@DR project include:

- a dialogue focusing on relevant regional, national and macro regional but also EU level policy fields involving also end-users of RIs;
- special trainings for defined target groups, thus contributing to capacity building with an outreach to the entire macro-region and beyond the partnership involved;
- a collection of a dataset of competent and qualified reviewers for RI assessments;
- **two pilot activities focusing on**
 - (a) peer actions including nine existing RIs (pilot activity 1, not subject of this EoI);
 - (b) LOT 1: Ex-ante support of three planned or to be upgraded RIs or **LOT 2: RI measures in countries of the Danube macro region (pilot activity 2 and subject of this EoI);**
- the dedicated dissemination and capitalisation actions contribute to the policy take up and utilisation of the results.

The present call concerns the second pilot activity, “Ex-ante support to three planned RIs or RI measures in the macro region”.

The second pilot activity puts a focus

(a) on existing or future support measures resp. funding schemes which are/will be supporting RIs. (subject of this LOT 2 of the EoI call)

(b) on planned research infrastructures where substantial parts already exist including planned networked RIs; (NOT subject of LOT 2 of this EoI call)

(c) the further development or the envisaged upgrading of existing research infrastructures including networked RIs; (NOT subject of LOT 2 of this EoI call).

This LOT 2 call addresses the research ministries acting as programme owners as well as relevant agencies and funding authorities addressing research infrastructures.

Throughout the activity, entities responding to this Expressions of Interest (EoI) call will receive **recommendations and expert opinions free of charge**. Expert fees and travel costs will be covered by ResInfra@DR.

PURPOSE

The main **purpose of this call LOT2 for EoIs** is to identify **interested ministries or agencies** wishing to participate in the **pilot activity focusing on Research Infrastructures in the Danube macro-region**. Received EoIs will enable the local partners of ResInfra@DR to define useful support action together with the interested parties in a dialogue process.

The core element of this support action will consist of specific **recommendations provided by an expert team** that will work together with the ResInfra@DR partnership. Teams have to be set up according to the question addressed and will consist of external experts who will be identified and selected on a case by case basis and of ResInfra@DR partners. ResInfra@DR will launch a separate call for experts in time and in agreement with the interested parties. During this highly cooperative process with the interested programme owners or agencies, **dialogue meetings with important stakeholders can also be organised.**

This EoI call does not provide assessments for a specific investment in a specific RI which are regularly received by funders or the relevant ministries.

This EoI addresses agencies and ministries who are looking to find new solutions and to establish new approaches e.g.

- for ex-ante processes;
- overall monitoring approach;
- formal evaluations on the programme execution by a funder;
- programme level approaches concerning impact

and other issues that help the funders and programme owners to develop their current practice.

Core topics treated in the work and finally covered with recommendations may include the subjects listed in the figure below (components of a case specific focus), but the specific focus needs to be adapted together with the addressed programme owners or agencies involved in the pilot activity on a case to case basis:

Exemplary topics and focus of support



This EoI invitation is directed to¹:

- **National authorities such as ministries and agencies** in charge of research infrastructures from the Danube macro-region especially those
 - who regularly receive requests for financing of RIs or who develop RI initiatives themselves
 - which are still in a pre-decision phase for supporting existing initiatives.
 - which develop/update RI specific measures i.e. competitive funding schemes through calls or related plans .
- **Regional authorities** who plan to locate a research infrastructure on their covered territory, i.e. in the framework of funding through regional, national or EU funds. Specific support needs and realistic support options have to be clarified with the ResInfra@DR project partners
- **Macro-regional active networks** which intend to establish or upgrade geographically dislocated research infrastructures and which want to focus on one or more countries/regions to promote their involvement are welcome to submit an application as long as the EoI request is handed in from the above mentioned organisations.
- This invitation also addresses **ResInfra@DR partners** which can respond to the EoI on an equal base.
- Note that only entities from **countries part of the Danube macro region** can apply to this EoI, an exception would be the case where an initiative would be created outside of the DR but the main benefit will occur in the Danube region. Applications are welcome for the EoI request as long as they are handed in from the above mentioned organisations.

This specific EoI does not address Research entities such as universities, research centres, academies or dedicated legal bodies to implement or manage a research infrastructure. A second EoI call, LOT1 is open at the same time which covers such requests. In LOT1 specific questions concerning investment in a specific RI can be also addressed, in such case the legal entity should reply to the EoI through the specific call announced in parallel.

FURTHER STEPS

- **Further process and outputs:** EoIs received will be screened by the ResInfra@DR partnership on how well they fit the purpose of the action along pre-defined criteria (see below). Based on the EoIs received, the partnership will start a dialogue with the interested programme owners or agencies to specify core fields where the expert teams can support realistically and with a strong focus on the support needs.

¹ Typical initiatives of research infrastructures (RIs) include equipment, facilities or (virtual) platforms, material repositories, data repositories, information systems and services, which are indispensable for scientific research activities and for the dissemination of the results. RIs can be single-sited or distributed, can be an e-infrastructure, and can be part of a national or international network of facilities, or of interconnected scientific instrument networks.

- **ResInfra@DR partners and selected Experts** will form a team and will clarify through dialogue which relevant goals and type of support can be realistically achieved. During exchange meetings, the workmode should be defined jointly in order to maximize the applicability of results by ministries or agencies.
- **The support offered** will include expert opinions and recommendations; elements of roadmaps; when necessary, thematic (scientific) expert opinions; dialogue meetings with stakeholders within or outside of the applicant's country (depending on the specificities of the case). During the first stage, a **confidential full set of recommendations** will be available for the specific measure and the involved stakeholders. Secondly, participating organisations will jointly agree with the expert team on a **publishable and non-confidential version of the recommendations**. Finally, a concluding report based on agreed and publishable parts will be prepared and presented. In order to safeguard the information received, confidentiality declarations on the disclosure of information will be signed by all included experts.
- A core element of the action will consist of a process of **mutual learning** for the involved actors (funders and agencies), and the team involved in planning. Therefore involved actors will be invited to a **mutual learning meeting** (including both pilot activities).
- Note that this is not a formal review or evaluation, neither a full ex-ante assessment for a measure but it can help to trigger and steer next steps for progressing with preparations.
- ResInfra@DR will **support at least three planned RI-related initiatives**, but based on the number of EoIs received and the type of necessary support expected, this number could also be increased.
- **Financial conditions:** The offered support by the ResInfra@DR project will be **free of charge** and the process and products including the recommendations established will be **freely available for the participating organisations** and **no dedicated payment** from or to the participating organisations is envisaged. The necessary expert fees for selected thematic experts, costs of meetings and travels will be covered by ResInfra@DR.
- **Confidentiality:** The organisations answering this EoI should be aware that a certain **sharing of information** is necessary, an **agreement on disclosure of information** will be signed to ensure confidentiality throughout the process. Confidentiality declarations on the disclosure of information will be signed by all included experts. Only explicitly agreed parts (formally approved by the participating organisations) will be shared.
- **Timing:** Note that the support takes place **till the end of January 2019**. For any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact one of the partners listed below.

RESPONSE AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest (EoIs) are sent in written and shall include 4 elements (content is kept confidentialy):

1. A maximum of in total 3 pages of information containing the following elements:
 - Type, background of the (planned) research infrastructure support measure, programme, call etc.
 - Information on the core stakeholders or actors involved in the process e.g. as a list. This can also contain weblinks where information can be found;
 - Overview (can also include data) about the current situation in the specific field and of the planned measure, where available;
 - Stage of development in the planning - which steps have already been concluded, what is planned further;
 - Current challenges and related questions which could be potentially addressed to an expert team, including questions for which answers are sought (note that questions on financing are **not** a core point).
 - Adding questions where you currently search for solutions are important to clarify the support which can be offered realistically.
 - Where applicable, information on the strategic relevance for the Danube macro region;
 - Names of expert(s) you would suggest as potential team members of the expert team offering recommendations and support (this is not mandatory, and their inclusion in the expert team will be reviewed in accordance with the purpose of the Action).
2. A letter from the organisation informing about the general interest to participate can be added, such letter can be also added at a later stage.
3. Contact details including e-mail and phone.
4. Information on availability during October to start a clarification process.

The above points 1-4 should be prepared in English language and should be sent to: resinfra.pilot@zsi.at

TIMEFRAME

- Announcement of the call: 1 October 2018
- **EoI submission deadline: 10 October 2018 12:00 CET**
- The received EoIs will be screened by the ResInfra@DR partners. The local ResInfra@DR partners will approach the EoI applicants for further clarification (depending on availability). A final decision on the support will be made after further clarification within the partnership.
- As a further step, **a joint meeting of the interested organisations will be organised in November 2018** (potentially in Belgrade, Budapest, Prague or Vienna).

CRITERIA

Priority criteria for inclusion in the Pilot action to be used by the ResInfra@DR partnership for the EoIs are:

- Interest and motivation of the proposer/the EoI applicant including also the internal backing of the plans;
- Feasibility of the support i.e. specific and realistic questions which the team consisting of ResInfra@DR partners and external experts can indeed provide answers for;
- Relevance for region(s) and countries of the EUSDR or further integration in european developments and integration i.e. concerning the participation in EU wide activities.

Given the complexity and the diversity of the potential applicants and EoIs received, a more precise list of selection criteria cannot be provided at this stage.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

In the case of questions, interested entities can contact the ResInfra@DR partners for further information. Once an EoI is received, the corresponding partner will also support the process.

Austria:

ZSI-Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (Centre for Social Innovation), Lead partner
Linke Wienzeile 246, 1150 Vienna, Austria
DI Martin Felix Gajdusek, Phone: +43-1-4950442-67 e-mail: gajdusek@zsi.at

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic engineering (at the Department for Water-Atmosphere-Environment)
Address: Muthgasse 107, A-1190 Vienna, Austria
Person in charge of the project: Doris Gangl e-mail: doris.gangl@boku.ac.at

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska
Address: Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banja Luka
Person in charge of the project: Sinisa Marcic e-mail: s.marcic@mnk.vladars.net

Bulgaria:

Applied Research and Communication Fund
Address: 5, Alexander Zhendov St., Sofia 1113, Sofia
Person in charge of the project: Marko Hajdinjak e-mail: marko.hajdinjak@online.bg

Ministry of Education and Science

Address: 2A, Kniaz Dondukov Blvd., 1000 Sofia
Person in charge of the project: Kalin Mutavchiev e-mail: k.mutavchiev@mon.bg

Croatia:

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

Address: Dnaje Svetice 38, 10000 HR Zagreb

Person in charge of the project: Mirela Čokešić e-mail: Mirela.Cokesic@mzo.hr

Czech Republic:

Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, (The Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies)

Address: Filosofický ústav AV ČR Kabinet pro studium vědy, techniky a společnosti Jilská 1 110 00 Praha 1

Person in charge of the project: Jan Balon e-mail: Balon@flu.cas.cz

Hungary:

Institute of Economics,

Centre for Economic and Regional Studies,

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

1097 Budapest, Toth Kalman u. 4.

Person in charge of the project: Attila Havas e-mail: attila.havas@krtk.mta.hu

Romania:

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Address: No. 21-25 Mendeleev street, Sector 1, postal code 010362, Bucharest

Person in charge of the project: Raluca Ciobotaru e-mail: raluca.ciobotaru@uefiscdi.ro

Serbia:

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development

Address: Njegoseva 12, 11000 Beograd/Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Person in charge of the project: Tijana Knezevic e-mail: tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs

Slovakia:

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

Address: Lamačská cesta 8/A, 811 04 Bratislava

Person in charge of the project: Anna Krivjanska e-mail: anna.krivjanska@cvtisr.sk

Countries part of the Danube macro-region for which no dedicated contact is identified: (Germany (Bayern, B-W only), Montenegro, Slovenia, Ukraine only oblasts included in DR) will be arranged on a case by case basis, here the following organisation can be approached:

ZSI-Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (Centre for Social Innovation), Lead partner

Linke Wienzeile 246, 1150 Vienna, Austria

DI Martin Felix Gajdusek, Phone: +43-1-4950442-67 e-mail: gajdusek@zsi.at

The ZSI will organise also the documentation of the EoI call

The document for the response to this EoI (not exceeding 10 MByte) must be sent by e-mail to: resinfra.pilot@zsi.at