

# **On a failed DTP project proposal**

Sorin Cheval

Research Institute of the University of Bucharest

## Reasons to apply

- ❑ Professional background – climatology: urban climate, climate change, climatic hazards
- ❑ Participation to and coordination of SEE projects (South Eastern Europe Transnational Programme – CCWaterS, CC-WARE)
- ❑ Experience in projects submission (conceiving, writing, submission, e.g. SEE, national, FP7 etc); focus on research
- ❑ Experience in evaluating national and international projects
- ❑ Constant interest in the Danube region
- ❑ Consistent networking in the Danube basin
- ❑ Framework / Opportunity

# Project proposal

1st call for proposals (2015)  
1st step

## 1. Project identification

Project title

**Integrated urban climate monitoring for enhanced bio-comfort and health risk management in the Danube region within climate change context**

Project acronym

DUCLIMA

Project duration (month)

24

Lead Applicant

University of Bucharest

Programme priority

PA2. Environment and culture responsible Danube region

The cooperation programme is structured across four priority axes

**Integrated urban climate monitoring for enhanced bio-comfort and health risk management in the Danube region within climate change context**

- Priority axis 1: Innovative and socially responsible Danube region
- Priority axis 3: Better connected and energy responsible Danube region
- Priority axis 4: Well governed Danube region

## Priority axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region

- The programme strengthens joint and integrated approaches to preserve and manage the diversity of natural and cultural assets in the Danube region as a basis for sustainable development and growth strategies.
- Moreover the programme envisages investing in the creation and/or maintenance of ecological corridors of transnational relevance in the Danube region.
- This intervention is directly interlinked with water management and the control of environmental risk factors such as climate change and flood risks.
- Furthermore disaster prevention and disaster management (risk management) is addressed related to risks that are caused by non-functioning ecosystems and man-made changes in climate conditions.

## Priority axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region

- The programme strengthens **joint and integrated approaches to preserve and manage the diversity of natural and cultural assets** in the Danube region as a basis for sustainable development and growth strategies.
- Moreover the programme envisages **investing in the creation and/or maintenance of ecological corridors** of transnational relevance in the Danube region.
- This intervention is **directly interlinked with water management and the control of environmental risk factors** such as **climate change** and flood risks.
- Furthermore **disaster prevention and disaster management (risk management)** is addressed related to risks that are caused by non-functioning ecosystems and man-made changes in climate conditions.

## **Priority axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region**

**Specific objective 2.4** - Improve preparedness for environmental risk management (short title).

Establish and develop a **more effective governance system for environmental protection addressing emergency situations** and improve the preparedness of public authorities and civil protection organisation contributing to the reduction of risks and impact on ecosystem services, biodiversity and human health.

## **Priority axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region**

**Specific objective 2.4** - Improve preparedness for environmental risk management (short title).

The disaster **risk assessment should both cover single-risk and multi-risks** as it is important to analyse the negative synergies of the natural disasters.

Looking at and simulating cascading effects will help Danube region authorities and stakeholders to better understand the nature and the aggregate impacts of disasters.



## **Priority axis 2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region**

**Specific objective 2.4** - Improve preparedness for environmental risk management (short title). Overall, the **main envisaged results** are:

**Improved strategic and operational cooperation and interoperability** among the emergency response authorities and stakeholders at all levels in the Danube countries. This includes the **development of joint strategies and action plans** for more effective management of natural and manmade disasters; building up a **common knowledge base and data observation capacities**, and mechanisms for the exchange of information; joint development of tools, development and practical implementation of education, training and capacity building.

Integrated urban climate monitoring for enhanced bio-comfort and health risk management in the Danube region within climate change context

**SO2.4 Expected results**


**Project objectives**


**Improved strategic and operational cooperation and interoperability among the emergency response authorities and stakeholders at all levels in the Danube countries.**

The main objective is to **enhance the human bio-comfort in the cities from the Danube region** by improved urban climate monitoring, smart ecosystem services and efficient management of the health risks induced by extreme meteorological events, within the present and future climate.

- 1. This includes the development of joint strategies and action plans for more effective management of natural and manmade disasters,**
- 2. building up a common knowledge base and data observation capacities,**
- 3. mechanisms for the exchange of information,**
- 4. joint development of tools,**
- 5. development and practical implementation of education,**
- 6. training and capacity building.**

1. To enhance the monitoring of urban climate in the Danube region, by integrating data from various sources.
2. To assess the human bio-comfort and health risks in the selected cities, within the present and future climate conditions.
3. To create ecosystem services and urban planning that will enhance the bio-comfort in the public space and support the mitigation of health risks of the selected cities. The outcomes will be integrated into a joint strategy for risk management addressing immediate needs and climate change adaptation in urban areas

No	Country	Institution	Acronym	Type
1	Romania	University of Bucharest - Center for Environmental Research and Environmental Impact	UB-CCMESI	Public body or body governed by public law
2	Austria	University Salzburg, Salzburg	SBG	Public body or body governed by public law
3	Austria	Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Vienna	ZAMG	Public body or body governed by public law
4	Bulgaria			body governed by public law
5	Croatia		body governed by public law	
6	Croatia		body governed by public law	
7	Czech Republic		body governed by public law	
8	Czech Republic		body governed by public law	
9	Czech Republic		body governed by public law	
10	Hungary		body governed by public law	
11	Hungary		body governed by public law	
12	Rep. Moldova		body governed by public law	
13	Romania		body governed by public law	
14	Romania	Bucharest City Hall, District 3, Bucharest	BCH3	Public body or body governed by public law
15	Slovenia	Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Ljubljana	AMGI	Public body or body governed by public law
16	Slovenia	National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana	NIJZ	Public body or body governed by public law

No	Country	Institution	Acronym	Type	
1	Romania	University of Bucharest - Centre for Environmental Research and Environmental Impact	UB-CCMESI	Public body or body governed by public law	
2	Austria	University Salzburg, Salzburg	SBG	Public body or body governed by public law	
3	Austria	Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Vienna	ZAMG	Public body or body governed by public law	
4	Bulgaria			body governed by public law	
5	Croatia		body governed by public law		
6	Croatia		body governed by public law		
7	Czech Republic		body governed by public law		
8	Czech Republic		body governed by public law		
9	Czech Republic		body governed by public law		
10	Hungary		body governed by public law		
11	Hungary		body governed by public law		
12	Rep. Moldova		body governed by public law		
13	Romania		body governed by public law		
14	Romania		Bucharest City Hall, District 3, Bucharest	BCH3	Public body or body governed by public law
15	Slovenia		Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Ljubljana	AMGI	Public body or body governed by public law
16	Slovenia		National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana	NIJZ	Public body or body governed by public law

# Evaluation Report

Regrettably, following the careful quality assessment of the proposals only a limited number of applications could be selected to the second step.

Specifically, the assessment of your proposal showed an insufficient contribution to the overall strategic relevance; therefore, it has not been checked for the operational relevance and failed the overall assessment.

# Evaluation Report

*Summary of the assessment outcomes:*

The proposal plans to “enhance human bio-comfort in the cities of the Danube region by **1)** improved urban climate monitoring, **2)** smart ecosystem services and **3)** efficient management of health risks induced by **4)** extreme meteorological events (a type of environmental risk), within the present and **5)** future climate.”

It has a strong focus on **I.** climate change adaptation, **II.** urban environment and **III.** human health. SO 2.4 of the DTP is in the framework of TO/IP 6d of the EC regulation - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.

IP = Investment priority

# Evaluation Report

- On the one hand, considering this, the main focus of projects in SO 2.4 is supposed to be on environmental risks affecting mainly ecosystems and biodiversity, while the **climate change is to be considered as additional factor in this context** (climate change issues are to be addressed under IP 5a, which is not targeted by DTP).
- On the other hand, SO 2.4 of DTP is formulated so to focus on **environmental protection** addressing emergency situations ... contributing to the reduction of risks and impact on ... and human health. Heat waves can be considered environmental risk with impact on human health, which, even if not fully in the scope of SO 2.4 under IP 6d, still has certain relevance for the DTP.

IP = Investment priority

- The proposal focuses on 8 target cities, but only three of them are identified, not allowing understanding the specificities, common needs and different characteristics.



- The proposal intends to capitalise results of similar projects, but not really clarifying what the added value of this proposal is in comparison to those.

- The partnership involves 8 countries, targeting 1-1 cities in each, however, considering that MD PP is involved as ASP and no ENI funding is available, activities in relation to Chisinau are not realistic in this framework.

# Evaluation Report

- While on thematic expertise, good mix on nationally relevant actors involved, with very strong dominance of the health sector, the local administration of the target cities and the policy/decision making actors on national level are very much under-represented (missing), which can affect how successfully the developed plans, strategy can be implemented.

- Potential contribution to the EUSDR could have been better explained, as well as the measures to ensure sustainability of the results.

## Main reasons for the failure

- Late start for elaborating the proposal (one month)
- Too complex and ambitious objectives – move away from the objectives of the programme, vagueness, difficult to prioritize the activities
- Insufficient stress on the linkages with the programme objectives
- Late start for forming the partnership (one month before the submission)
- Too many partners (16), unbalanced partnership
- Overlapping the tasks, subjective selection of partners, uncorrelated with the project objectives, non-EU partners
- Weak support from the team, insufficient feedback from the partners

## Concluding remarks

- The full understanding of DTP objectives is required = time + team
- Read all the relevant documents and keep your objectives within the scope
- Be careful at *climate change*!
- It is never too early to start!
- The objectives must be clear and in perfect concordance with the DTP
- Look for the ideal partnership = manageable quantity + (re)known quality
- ASP – good or bad?
- Involve the stakeholders from the very beginning
- Work within a consolidated team

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Sorin Cheval**

**Research Institute of the University of Bucharest**

[sorin.cheval@icub.unibuc.ro](mailto:sorin.cheval@icub.unibuc.ro)

[sorincheval@yahoo.com](mailto:sorincheval@yahoo.com)