

Online Training on EU Funding Opportunities in the Danube Region

How can civil society organisations in the Danube Region identify suitable EU funding opportunities and start developing new project ideas and partnerships at an early stage? These questions were at the heart of our online training **“Potential Funding Opportunities in the EU Context.”** The session brought together **30 participants from nine Danube countries**, creating a valuable space for cross-border exchange, networking and the development of future cooperation.

For the first time, the session was also translated using **Wordly**, providing participants with live multilingual translation and captions. Participants could access the translation directly via Zoom or by scanning a QR code, making the session more accessible across different languages.

At the beginning of the session, participants received an introduction to the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** and its different Priority Areas. Particular attention was given to strengthening institutional capacity, cross-border cooperation and the participation of civil society.

The session then provided an overview of the changing **EU funding landscape**. Under the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework, different funding instruments are expected to become more streamlined and consolidated. As negotiations are still ongoing, many programmes and deadlines have not yet been finalised. This makes it all the more important to start developing project ideas, identifying suitable partners and preparing for future funding opportunities now.

Participants were also introduced to practical opportunities for networking and partner search. Various platforms and networks can help organisations exchange information about funding opportunities, find partners and jointly develop project ideas. **ViMA Danube** also provides opportunities for cross-border exchange through interest groups, events and “Search & Offer” functions, while supporting communication across different languages.

During short breakout sessions, participants exchanged their own experiences, needs and ideas. The discussions highlighted, in particular, the importance of **early networking, sharing good practices and providing support for the development of EU projects**.

The training showed that even though many future funding programmes are not yet open, it is already worthwhile to **build partner**.