



# EU Strategy for the Danube Region

---

**Priority Area 7 – To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies**

## *Annex to the Rules of Procedure*

### **Criteria for Label of Flagship Project**

#### **Label of Priority Area 7 Flagship Project**

---

The Priority Area 7 Flagship Projects are outstanding projects which are expected to make a significant impact on the Danube Region as a whole in the field of research, higher education or information technologies.

The “Label Priority Area 7 Flagship Projects” (hereafter “the Label”) acknowledges the extraordinary importance of a project for the Danube Region Knowledge Society. Both ongoing projects and fully developed project proposals can apply for the Label.

To be eligible for the Label a project must, as a rule, be jointly developed by a minimum of three Danube Region countries, having a decisive impact in at least five Danube countries. The minimal financial volume of a project should be in the fields of:

- Research: more or equal to 5 mil EUR
- Higher Education: more or equal to 3 mil EUR
- Information Technology: more or equal to 2 mil EUR
- Networking Activities: more or equal to 1 mil EUR.

In exceptional cases, projects with a smaller financial volume may be eligible for the Label if the overall evaluation of all selection criteria ascertains their superior value for the Danube Region.

In order to identify suitable projects in the selection process, applications must include the information as listed below:

- project title,
- project description: planned activities,
- project period and timetable,
- project manager (including contact address, e-mail, phone, fax)
- state of the art in the field,
- project partners, in detail with proofs of their excellence (references, projects),
- expected outcome with special focus on end users/business related potential,
- expected impact on the Knowledge Society in the Danube Region or at least five of its countries,
- budget details,
- existing funding sources used or applied for.

Applications for the Label are to be submitted via e-mail to respective national Steering Group members for assessment. The application must contain all project details listed above. Failure to provide all of the required information results in the project's non-eligibility for the Label. Applications must be submitted at least one month prior to the Steering Group meeting at which the project is to be discussed.

The national Steering Group member will examine the completeness of the information provided and give a recommendation on whether the project is ready to be discussed during the next Steering Group meeting. If the project is scheduled for the Steering Group meeting, the respective national Steering Group member will forward the relevant information on the project to the other members of the Steering Group two weeks in advance of the meeting at the latest. Projects applying for the Label must be presented to the Steering Group at the meeting. The presentation should include all relevant details with special emphasis on the added value of the project to the Knowledge Society in the Danube Region. The presentation will not exceed ten minutes.

On the basis of the application and the presentation, the Steering Group will discuss and decide whether to award the Label to the project.

Projects awarded the Label are allowed to use official logo "Danube Region Strategy Knowledge Society Flagship Project" and are allowed to be called "Flagship project of Priority Area 7 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region".

### **Letter of Recommendation**

---

In addition to project labeling as “Flagship” the PA7 Steering Group aims to support smaller scale projects which are of relevance to the Danube Region by awarding them with “Letter of Recommendation”.

For awarding “Letter of Recommendation” the Steering Group establishes a pre-selection process. An assessment team should make a pre-selection and an assessment of the submitted projects.

The assessment implies evaluation of “potential impact of the project to reach the goals of Priority Area 7 of the EUSDR” and does not imply the evaluation of the scientific excellence of the project.

The assessment report should be submitted to Steering Group members at least two weeks prior to each Steering Group meeting or before previously announced e-mail voting.

On the basis of the application and the assessment, the Steering Group will discuss and decide whether to award the Letter of Recommendation to the project.