Form for requesting establishing of a new THE PEP Partnership by the Steering Committee

Partnership Description

1. Name of the Partnership

| THE PEP Partnership on Environmentally healthy mobility in leisure and tourism (TRANS DANUBE) |

2. Objective

Following the “Common Vision for Sustainable Mobility in Tourism” developed in the TRANS DANUBE project, the main objective of the partnership is to contribute to the development of a Danube region, which provides socially fair, economically viable, environmentally friendly and health promoting mobility and tourism for citizens and guests of the region by developing climate friendly, low-carbon and low-emission, multimodal and efficient transport systems and sustainable tourism services.

3. Scope and purpose

Following the objective of the transnational projects TRANS DANUBE and Access2Mountain, the partnership included the following activities:

a) Collect good practices and identify solutions for mobility management through sustainable accessibility and interconnectivity between cities and regions in the PEP member states.

b) Develop and implement of environmentally sound mobility offers and packages like trains and busses, dial a ride busses and taxis, environmentally friendly alternative vehicles, ships and boats, and in particular focusing on promotion of health promoting human powered mobility like cycling and hiking.

c) Strengthen the cooperation between relevant stakeholders of different levels and sectors by creating a network of regions committed to sustainable mobility for tourists and inhabitants.
d) increase the institutional capacity of the relevant organisation to develop, implement and operate sustainable mobility services by providing guidelines, trainings as well as organizing study visits and networking workshops.

The regions will benefit from tourists being able to reach resp. to be mobile at destinations in the hinterland of the Danube without private cars. Better accessibility and connectivity will result in further economic growth.

4. List of initial partners

The partnership is based on the partners of the projects Transdanube and Access2mountain. Within both projects in sum 26 partners and more than 50 observers from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine are cooperating on the issue of environmentally healthy mobility in leisure and tourism.

The Transdanube Pearls project (follow up project of Transdanube) consists of 15 financing partners from 10 countries along the Danube + 17 Associated Strategic Partners representing national ministries, regional and local authorities as well as transport and tour operators.

5. Management arrangements

Lead partner: The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management supported by the Environment Agency Austria

The partnership is expected to be implemented in the course of the currently developed follow up project of Transdanube, the Transdanube. Pearls project being submitted in the first call of the Danube Transnational Programme.

The foreseen project management mechanisms include the day-to-day project management, financial management according to program rules and quality management on the transnational as well as on the partner level. In order to ensure efficient and effective workflows, the LP (Environment Agency Austria) who is responsible to carry out these tasks, will be supported by subcontracted external experts. Guidelines and templates will support the bi-annual reporting process and secure the correct management of the project. Regular meetings will secure the exchange of information and provide an adequate platform for discussing open questions. Steering committee meetings, chaired by the LP will be organized along with the eight partner meetings,
which will be held in different partner regions.

The partnerships asks THE PEP Member States to support the development of the Transdanube.Pearls project. Furthermore the members states are invited to sign the common vision, which is the basis of the future work in the partnership. THE PEP secretariat is asked to support the partnership by providing links to THE PEP National Focal Points as well as the other partnerships and by supporting the dissemination of the partnership results among THE PEP Member States.

6. Target groups

REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES will benefit from increased institutional knowledge resulting from joint action implementation and trainings. Regional mobility plans will provide a guideline for regional development beyond project lifetime. Joint transnational action will make it easier for them to position the topic of sustainable mobility on the political agenda of the relevant NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, which should integrate the project results in national policies. TRANSPORT OPERATORS are important partners for the successful implementation of project activities. Therefore they will be involved in the development of the regional mobility plans and the development of new services. Furthermore they will be invited to participate in the trainings carried out by certified sustainable mobility managers in the regions. TOURISM ORGANIZATION/DESTINATION MANAGEMENTS have a unique argument for the development of sustainable tourism including specific products. By offering the possibility to reach their destination and to move around the destination with sustainable means of transport they can attract additional - environmentally conscious – visitors. In the trainings they will learn more about the existing sustainable mobility offers in their region and on how to improve them in the future. INHABITANTS AND TOURISTS will benefit from new and better connected mobility services as well as information for their travel purposes incl. tourism and leisure activities.


This partnership supports the implementation of goals 1 and 4 of the Paris Declaration by promoting the development and practical implementation of concepts and measures environmentally healthy
mobility in leisure and tourism.

8. Work plan and specific expected deliverables for 2-4 years
See Expression of Interest attached (time table included)

9. Reporting and monitoring
The partnership will provide the requested information about the project status and current important questions under discussion in the partnership for the regular Steering Committee Meetings of THE PEP. The partnership seeks to get valuable feedback of the national ministries represented in THE PEP. Monitoring will be done according to the rules of the Danube Transnational Programme (bi-annual reports, eight project steering committee meetings, internal and external quality assurance, etc.)

10. Expected financial management
Given the approval of the project by the responsible authorities of the Danube Transnational Programme, funding will be provided from ERDF & IPA Funds. National/regional co-financing will be provided by the partners.

Documentation

11. Relevant accompanying document
Expression of Interest submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme on October 30th, 2015.

Letters of intent are not required as per decision of the Steering Committee at its 13th Session regarding existing THE PEP Partnerships.