“Project “Danube River Environmental Assessment and Monitoring” - DREAM is co-funded by the European Union through European Regional Development Fund under the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme.”

Public Call for Applications

Selection of a beneficiary for the uptake and use of the EFMS

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1. Purpose of the call

The project partnership of the DREAM project invites eligible organisations to submit applications for selection as beneficiary for the uptake and use of the EFMS (Environmental Factors Monitoring System) developed under the project.

The selected beneficiary will be the organisation chosen to integrate the EFMS into its activities and operations for public-benefit purposes in line with the objectives of the DREAM project and the applicable project and programme requirements.

2. Background

The DREAM project develops and demonstrates an integrated environmental monitoring solution supporting monitoring, assessment and public-benefit use in relation to the Danube River environment.

This beneficiary selection process is intended to identify the most suitable organisation to ensure the effective uptake, operational use and sustainability of the EFMS during the applicable sustainability period.

3. Who may apply

Applications may be submitted only by organisations that are public authorities, public institutions or other public-law bodies legally established in Bulgaria or Romania.

4. What is being selected

The present call concerns the selection of one beneficiary organisation for the uptake and use of the EFMS developed under the DREAM project.

The detailed rights and obligations of the selected beneficiary will be regulated separately through the subsequent handover / right-of-use / sustainability documentation.

5. Application package

Applicants must submit the Application Form, the documents indicated in Section 5 of the Application Form where applicable, and any other document expressly requested in the present call notice.

6. Obtaining the application package

The application materials shall be made available through the project website. Upon download of the application package, the system shall generate a Unique Application ID linked to that download. The applicant shall use that ID in all documents and correspondence related to the procedure.

Only applications bearing a valid Unique Application ID generated through the project website download mechanism shall be admitted to the evaluation process, unless correction of a minor formal omission is expressly allowed under the approved procedure.

7. Submission method

Applications shall be submitted in signed hard copy, by registered mail or traceable courier, in a sealed envelope, within the deadline stated in this call.

The envelope shall clearly state:

- Application for EFMS Beneficiary Selection – DREAM (ROBG00169)
- Unique Application ID
- Applicant name (full legal name)

8. Deadline for submission

Applications must be sent no later than **16.12.2026**. Timely dispatch shall be proven by the postal receipt or equivalent courier receipt clearly stating the date of sending. Applications received within 7 calendar days after the submission deadline may still be admitted if accompanied by such proof of timely dispatch. Applications received after that 7-day tolerance period, or received without proof of timely dispatch, shall not be evaluated.

9. Requests for clarification before submission

Applicants may submit questions in writing until the deadline indicated in the published call notice. Questions of general relevance may be answered in a transparent manner through the same public channel used for the call.

10. Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee shall consist of 6 voting members from the project's implementation team.

Each project partner may additionally nominate up to 3 experts. The total number of experts shall not exceed 9. Experts may participate only with advisory, supervisory, legal, technical or transparency-support functions and shall not have voting rights.

11. Applicable declarations

All voting members, experts, legal advisers and any other persons participating in the procedure shall comply with the applicable Programme Code of Conduct and shall sign the mandatory Programme declaration(s) required thereunder before taking part in the process.

12. Evaluation process

The evaluation will be carried out in two stages.

Stage 1 – Eligibility check: applications will be checked for applicant eligibility, formal completeness, signed submission and fulfilment of the mandatory eligibility declarations.

Stage 2 – Quality assessment: eligible applications will be assessed by the Evaluation Committee on the basis of the approved scoring matrix and Evaluator Score Sheet.

13. Scoring and thresholds

Applications will be scored on a total scale of 100 points under the following criteria:

- Relevance of intended uptake and public-benefit use – 35 points
- Sustainability and durability through 20.06.2031 – 30 points
- Institutional profile and comparable experience – 20 points
- Existing readiness or credible plan to ensure readiness before handover – 15 points

To be recommended for selection, an application must obtain at least 60 points out of 100 in total, at least 50% of the maximum score under Criterion 1, and at least 50% of the maximum score under Criterion 2.

14. Scoring method and tie-break rules

Each voting member of the Evaluation Committee shall score independently using the approved Evaluator Score Sheet. The final score of each applicant shall be the arithmetic mean of the valid total scores awarded by all voting members.

If two or more applicants obtain the same final score, the ranking shall be determined by applying, in order: higher score under Criterion 1; higher score under Criterion 2; higher combined score for the operational-use frequency sub-items defined in the score sheet; higher score for the project participation table; and, only if necessary, a limited written clarification concerning objectively missing or unclear information.

15. Clarifications during evaluation

Where permitted by the procedure, the Evaluation Committee may request written clarifications limited strictly to objective clarification of existing information. Clarifications may not be used to substantially improve, replace or rewrite the application.

16. Reserve list

The project partnership may establish a reserve list ranked in descending order of final score. If the provisional selected applicant withdraws, is found unable to proceed, or does not complete the subsequent formalisation stage, the partnership may invite the next ranked eligible applicant.

17. Notification of results

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of the procedure. The communication of the result shall include the eligibility result and, where applicable, the final score and ranking outcome.

18. Contact point for the procedure

The contact point for the procedure is the Lead Partner of the DREAM project.
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