

**Phase I – Concept Note**  
**QUALITY ASSESSMENT GRID**  
**Project identification**

Project title	
Project acronym	
Project number	
Official name of the Lead Applicant organization	

No.	Criteria	Description	Numerical assessment	Comments	Sections in CN
<b>A. Strategic criteria</b> <b>The assessment will focus on the information regarding the project proposal to be developed. All the sections of the Concept Note regarding the relevance of the project, the strategic character and/or the importance of the cross-border partnership are being assessed in this phase, while the maturity of the project proposal is going to be the exclusive subject of the Full Application assessment.</b>			<b>0-80</b>		
A.1	The project is relevant to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals (10 p).	<p>Do the challenges addressed in the project match the thematic focus of the selected specific objective as set out in the CP?</p> <p>Maximum score will be given to project ideas directly contributing to the programme's objectives, having a significant contribution to achieving the output/results indicators, especially those</p>	<p>The project's results and main outputs clearly link to programme priority and its indicators: The project main overall objective clearly links to an Investment priority (Ip) of the Programme = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The project main results clearly link to a programme result indicator = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The project main outputs clearly link to the project specific objectives = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The project main outputs clearly link to programme output indicators, stated in the Performance Framework of the Programme; for Ips 7/b, 7/c and 9/a, the key</p>		<b>Project objectives, expected results and main outputs C.2.1.</b>

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		listed in the Performance Framework of the CP.	implementation steps defined by the targets set for the 2018 milestone are also relevant = <b>4 p.</b>		
A.2	The proposed intervention is of considerable impact in the programme's area; strategic projects must be potential best-practices in their areas of intervention (including synergy with other EU initiatives and avoidance of duplication) ( <b>5 p.</b> ).	Is the proposal (the Concept Note) accompanied by support letters from relevant authorities, key professionals and targeted communities on national/regional/county level? What are the synergies with other past or current EU and other projects or EU initiatives the project makes use of? How does the project make use of building available knowledge?	The project is acknowledged and/or supported by relevant authorities, key professionals and the targeted communities. = <b>2 p.</b> The project has synergies with implemented project carried out under previous cooperation programmes / EU programmes= <b>2 p.</b> The project capitalizes the results of previous EU projects= <b>1 p.</b>		<b>Project summary A.2., Project context C.2.3., C.2.4., C.3.2., C.3.3., Support letters</b>
A.3	The proposed intervention is part of a relevant development strategy on county, regional or national level ( <b>5 p.</b> ).	Does the project contribute to any of the policies and strategies relevant to the Programme area? All projects should demonstrate their contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional strategy,	The project contributes to the implementation of the EUSDR <sup>1</sup> = <b>1 p.</b> The project is in line with a national / regional strategy, relevant for the Programme area = <b>3 p.</b> The project is in line with the county strategy, relevant for the Programme area = <b>1 p.</b>		<b>Project context C.3.1., extracts from relevant strategies</b>

<sup>1</sup> The EUSDR is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the EC on 08 December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council on 24 June 2011. The Strategy was developed by the Commission together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders in order to address common challenges.

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		subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies.			
A.4	The project addresses common territorial challenges and opportunities in the programme area - there is a real demand for the project; the project is of cross border value (5 p).	<p>What are the common territorial challenges that will be tackled by the project?</p> <p>What is the projects' approach in addressing these common challenges and / or joint assets?</p> <p>Does the project justify the need for cross border cooperation (does the proposed approach - activities, outputs and their use - and the partnership demonstrate the need for cross border cooperation)?</p> <p>The project demonstrates new solutions that go beyond the existing practice in the sector / programme area / participating countries or adapts and implements already developed solutions.</p>	<p>Common challenge is widely addressed in the Programme area by the project = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The approach is new and it is proven that the cross-border cooperation is needed = <b>1.5 p.</b></p> <p>There is a real demand for the project = <b>1.5 p.</b></p>		<p><b>Project relevance</b>  <b>C.1.1., C.1.2., C.1.3.</b></p>
A.5	The project proves all 4 joint	Does the project show a	Partnership demonstrates strong commitment		<b>Project</b>

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	cooperation criteria (5p).	strong cross border character?	and contributions (observing joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing) = 5 p. <b>Intermediate score can be granted, depending on the provided information.</b> Minimum 2 joint criteria are described, in case of Associated Partners are involved (joint development and joint implementation).		relevance C.1.4. / Cooperation criteria												
A.6	The project addresses clearly identified needs and constraints of the target country (ies) and/or region(s) (10 p).	Have the local specific needs been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	Addressed needs are clearly described = 3 p. The proposed solutions are relevant for the identified needs and constraints = 4 p. There are verifiable information sources to support the data presented (statistics, published surveys, etc.) = 3 p.		Project summary, A.2., Project relevance C.1., Target groups C.2.2. statistics, surveys, etc.												
A.7	The target groups and the final beneficiaries are clearly defined and strategically chosen Clear rationale is given on the necessity of the intervention in relation with the identified needs of the target group (10 p).	Are the selected target groups relevant in relation to the selected specific objective? Are they defined in terms of provenience and number? Is the selection methodology clearly described?	The target groups are strategically chosen considering the specifics of the project = 4 p. The target groups are clearly defined in terms of provenience = 2 p. There are numerical indicators attached regarding the size of the target groups = 2 p. The selection methodology is clearly described = 2 p.		Target groups C.2.2.												
A.8	The proposal contains specific added-value elements related to horizontal principles, and environmental issues (5 p).	Does the project plan outputs that will bring additional value in the field of horizontal principles?	Contribution to the following horizontal principles is clearly demonstrated: <table><tr><td>Ip</td><td>6/c, 7/b, 7/c</td><td>8/b</td><td>9/a</td></tr><tr><td>Sustainable development</td><td>3 p.</td><td>1 p.</td><td>0,5 p.</td></tr><tr><td>Equal opportunities</td><td>0,5 p.</td><td>1,5 p.</td><td>3 p.</td></tr></table>	Ip	6/c, 7/b, 7/c	8/b	9/a	Sustainable development	3 p.	1 p.	0,5 p.	Equal opportunities	0,5 p.	1,5 p.	3 p.		Horizontal principles C.4.
Ip	6/c, 7/b, 7/c	8/b	9/a														
Sustainable development	3 p.	1 p.	0,5 p.														
Equal opportunities	0,5 p.	1,5 p.	3 p.														

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			and non-discrimination					
			Equality between men and women	0,5 p.	1,5 p.	0,5 p.		
				<b>4 p.</b>	<b>4 p.</b>	<b>4 p.</b>		
			Clearly demonstrated contribution to any of the programme level environmental indicators (Annex II.2 of the GfA and Annex V.6) = <b>1 p.</b> ;					
A.9	The proposal demonstrates relevant impact in terms of approach, in relation to the output indicators of the relevant Investment priority (15 p).	Is there proportionality between the ratio of estimated output indicators of the operation and total output indicators per Ip versus ratio of costs of the operation and the total allocated budget per Ip? Please consult the relevant Fact Sheet.	90%-100% = <b>15 p.</b> 80% - 90%= <b>12 p.</b> 70%-80% = <b>8 p.</b> 60%-70%= <b>4 p.</b> 50%-60%= <b>1p.</b> 40%-50%= <b>0 p.</b>					<b>Total project estimated budget (annex V.3)</b>
A.10	The size of the proposed partnership is in line with the proposed objectives, activities and the overall volume of the project; The project involves the relevant partners needed to address the territorial challenge/opportunity and the objectives specified (10 p).	The foreseen partnership covers the needed professional competencies; The Lead Applicant and his partners / associated partners have relevant experience for implementing the proposed project <sup>2</sup> ;	Score will be maximum 10 points depending on the organization's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects of similar size and complexity. The role and responsibilities of the Applicants / Associated Partners are well justified and the contribution to the project is properly defined = <b>2 p.</b>					<b>Project Partners B., Work Plan / Work Packages C.5. Job descriptions and / or ToRs.</b>

<sup>2</sup> Flagship Projects are projects of significant complexity and the capacity of the partners is of high importance in the efficient and sustainable management of the projects. Therefore, the Programme strongly recommends avoiding the externalization of the project management. Moreover, maximum score will be granted only to applications ensuring the project' management staff.

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			<p>Partner organisations have proven experience in the thematic field concerned, as well as the necessary capacity to implement the project (financial, human resources, etc.) = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>With respect to the project's objectives, the project partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is balanced as regards the levels, sectors, territory = <b>2 p.</b></li> <li>- consists of partners / associated partners that complement each other = <b>2 p.</b></li> <li>- all partners / associated partners play a defined role in the partnership = <b>2 p.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>B. Operational criteria</b> <b>The following two operational criteria are related to the Concept Note, in terms of financial allocation versus activities planned in order to develop full mature project proposals.</b>			<b>0-20</b>		
B.1	<p>The overall design of the action is coherent;</p> <p>The action is feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results (10 p).</p>	<p>In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved; take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders?</p> <p>There is coherence between the expected results and the proposed approach. Can the listed results described be achieved through the proposed approach (do the planned outputs and activities lead to the described results? Is the proposed approach realistic?)</p>	<p>There is a logical link (correlation) between problems, objectives, resources, activities, outputs and results= <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The project activities are clearly described, realistic and achievable = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The proposal is realistic and consistent from a technical point of view = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The project results are realistic = <b>2 p.</b></p> <p>The activities follow a logical time-sequence = <b>2 p.</b></p>		<b>Work Plan /</b> <b>Work Packages</b> <b>C.5</b> <b>The Concept</b> <b>Note Budget</b>

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B.2	The estimated costs are realistic, eligible in terms of destination and sufficient in relation to the objectives set (10 p)	The planned budget of the project is adequate in relation to the planned activities, outputs, results, and involvement of current and planned partners.	Maximum score will be granted for the CN estimated budget, if well justified, balanced against the planned activities and eligible = <b>10 p.</b>  <b>Intermediate score can be granted, depending on the provided information.</b>		<b>Work Plan / Work Packages C.5 The Concept Note Budget</b>
<b>The concept note is recommended for support :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES  <input type="checkbox"/> NO			<b>Total score<sup>3</sup>:</b>	<b>Comments</b>	

<sup>3</sup> The minimum threshold for the Quality Assessment is of 65 points out of the total possible score of 100 points. Also, the minimum threshold for the strategic criteria total score is of 50 points out of the total possible score of 80 points.