



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## D5.3. Open Call Package and Communication Toolkit Deliverable

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## D5.3. Open Call Package and Communication Toolkit Deliverable

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Abstract	The D5.3: Open Call Package and Communication Toolkit Deliverable report documents the selection and support process for third-party beneficiaries under the SUNDANSE project. The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call aims to provide a maximum of a €100,000 lump sum grant and a 9-month programme to at least three selected projects. Eligible applicants are Local or Regional Authorities (or a consortium of up to two) from associated regions. The objective is to accelerate the replication and scale-up of SUNDANSE sediment management solutions, focusing on core thematic areas like flow/sediment monitoring, quality assessment, or awareness raising.
Keywords	Cascade Funding, Open Call, FSTP, SUNDANSE, Danube River, Sediment Management, Local/Regional Authorities, and Replication.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The D5.3: Open Call Package and Communication Toolkit Deliverable Guidelines report details the cascade funding mechanism and Open Call guidelines for the SUNDANSE project. Its purpose is to transparently document the selection and support process for third-party beneficiaries, ensuring alignment with European Commission principles governing Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP).

The Open Call, formally titled SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call, aims to financially support a minimum of three projects from eligible regions. Each selected project, submitted by a Local or Regional Authority (or a consortium of up to two local/regional authorities) from an associated region, will receive a maximum €100,000 lump sum grant and access to a comprehensive 9-month SUNDANSE Programme.

The ultimate objective is to accelerate the replication and scale-up of the developed SUNDANSE sediment management solutions, contributing to improved river health and sediment dynamics in the Danube River basin.

The SUNDANSE Open Call focuses on projects that address at least one of the core thematic areas (e.g., Flow monitoring, Sediment quantity monitoring, Sediment quality assessment, or awareness raising on sediment flow alterations) and includes the replication of at least one core activity.

Applications are open for submission from 18 December 2025 until 18 February 2026. Applications must be submitted via the F6S platform. A dedicated communication campaign and support channels are in place to inform potential applicants.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

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- **CDoH:** Consortium Declaration of Honour
- **CET:** Central European Time
- **CINEA:** European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
- **DoH:** Declaration of Honour
- **EC:** European Commission
- **ESR:** Evaluation Summary Report
- **FSTP:** Financial Support to Third Parties
- **KYC:** Know Your Customer

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## 1 Introduction

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The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call report outlines the cascade funding mechanism and accompanying Open Call guidelines developed for the SUNDANSE project (Sustainable Sediment solutions for the Danube - Black Sea system). It provides a comprehensive overview of the objectives, structure, eligibility conditions, application process, evaluation methodology, financial support mechanism, and post-selection procedures for third-party beneficiaries.

The SUNDANSE project is a 48-month initiative, with a budget of almost €9 million, uniting 20 partners from 10 European countries to address critical environmental challenges in the Danube River and Black Sea system, primarily focusing on disrupted sediment dynamics. The project is a core component of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean & Waters" and the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse.

The purpose of this deliverable is to document and explain the cascade funding process to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with European Commission principles governing Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP).

The Open Call mechanism is designed to ensure an inclusive, transparent, and competitive selection process to identify and support high-impact projects that focus on the replication of the SUNDANSE solutions.

This process is structured in three main stages: the Submission Stage, the Remote evaluation stage, and the Contracting Stage, which is followed by the 9-month programme implementation. During this process, a thorough eligibility check is performed, an expert evaluation scores applications against defined criteria, and a final ranking is established to select the best-aligned proposals.

The SUNDANSE Open Call applications are open from 18 December 2025 until 22 February 2026 – 5pm CET. The evaluation and selection process is anticipated to be completed by end of March 2026, with the 9-month programme for selected projects commencing shortly after the contracting phase.

This report is structured into the following chapters:

- Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION
- Chapter 2. DESIGN OF SUNDANSE OPEN CALLS

- Chapter 3. TIMELINE
- Chapter 4. SUBMISSION PROCESS
- Chapter 5. EVALUATION, SELECTION AND CONTRACTING PROCESS
- Chapter 6. PROMOTION CAMPAIGN
- Chapter 7. CONCLUSION

All the official Open Calls documents are included in this deliverable as Annexes:

- **Annex 1: Guide for Applicants**
- **Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue**
- **Annex 3: Technical Proposal**
- **Annex 4: Sub-Grant Agreement**
- **Annex 5: Declaration of Honor – Single entity**
- **Open Call Communication Toolkit**

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## 2 Design of SUNDANSE Open Call

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The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call is a competitive process designed to identify and support Local and Regional Authorities from new associated regions who will replicate the project's solutions. The Open Call has a total budget of €500,000 for FSTP and will be divided in two Open Call: Open Call #1 supporting 3 projects within the Danube Basin and Open call #2 supporting two projects outside of the Danube Basin. Each selected project will receive a lump sum of €100,000.

Selected applicants will participate in a 9-month programme aimed at accelerating the deployment, testing, and engagement of the developed SUNDANSE solutions in their respective regions. The programme is structured into three stages with payments linked to milestones:

- Stage 1: Project Definition (2 months).
- Stage 2: Project Implementation (4 months).
- Stage 3: Project Evaluation (3 months).

To be eligible, projects must specifically address at least one of the following core thematic areas related to sediment dynamics and river health:

- Flow monitoring
- Sediment quantity monitoring
- Sediment quality assessment
- Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations

Applicants are also required to select and replicate at least one activity from the list presented in Annex 2 – Replication Activities Catalogue.

Funded beneficiaries will receive support from a mentor (up to 1 day per month) and the SUNDANSE consortium will monitor project progress.

Each funded project must deliver the following core outputs by the end of the program:

- Stakeholder Engagement Outputs.
- Regional Action Plan & Roadmap.
- Evaluation of resources usage and impact of the project.

To address any question the applicant may have, they can contact [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu) and the Open Call Team will reply.

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### 3 Timeline

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The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 follows a structured process to ensure fair and transparent evaluation and selection of applicants. The application deadline is final; all other dates, including those of the programme, may be subject to change. The timeline for the application and initial evaluation stages is detailed below.

#### **Application & Evaluation Timeline**

- Application submission:
- Launch date: 18 December 2025
- Submission deadline: 22 February 2026 (17h00 CET)

Applications must be submitted via the dedicated F6S platform: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>.

- Eligibility & Technical check:
  - Timeline: 19 February 2026 to 27 February 2026

The SUNDANSE Consortium performs internal checks on the eligibility criteria of the applications

- Application evaluation:
  - Timeline: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 to 25 March 2026

The evaluation process involves an External Expert Evaluation Board, where each proposal is reviewed by a minimum of two external evaluators, and the resulting ranking and selection are subsequently reviewed and approved by the Selection Committee to ensure compliance with established rules and validation of Evaluator's choices.

- Announcement of the results:
  - Timeline: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

All applicants will be notified via email about the outcome of their application. Successful projects will then begin the onboarding phase in the 9-month SUNDANSE Programme.

- Post-selection & Implementation

Following a successful evaluation and the signing of the Sub-Grant Agreement, the selected projects will enter the 9-month SUNDANSE Programme, which is anticipated to commence shortly after the results announcement.

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## 4 Submission process

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The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 adopted a fully digital submission process, managed via the F6S platform. The platform acts as the single entry point for all applicants, ensuring a streamlined and transparent submission experience. Submissions via any other channel will NOT be accepted.

The application link for all submissions is: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>.

The Open Call launched on 18 December 2025 and will remain open until 22 February 2026 at 17:00 CET.

### Eligibility Requirements Summary (Submission Stage)

To be considered eligible, applications must meet several key requirements, including:

- **Applicant Type:** Must be Local/Regional Authorities from associated regions.
- **Geographical Eligibility:** Must be established in EU Member States/Associated countries in areas of the Danube River and NOT in countries with SUNDANSE partners. Eligible countries are Germany, Slovakia, Moldova, Hungary and Croatia.
- **Financial Limit:** Must not exceed the €100,000 funding limit, representing 100% of the project costs.
- **Submission Deadline:** Must be submitted through the correct F6S link <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-open-call-1/apply> before the deadline.
- **Completeness and Language:** All mandatory questions must be answered, all requested documents uploaded (incomplete applications will be disqualified), and all communication must be in English.
- **Multiple Submissions:** A maximum of 1 application per applicant will be accepted.

The F6S system records the timestamp of the final submission to ensure transparency in meeting the deadline. The SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 will accept a maximum of 1 application per applicant. In case an applicant submits more than 1 application, only the application submitted first (as registered in the system) will be considered. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Failure to submit the application by the submission deadline, regardless of cause, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit well in advance of the deadline. Resubmissions are possible provided the call deadline has not passed, but are only guaranteed if requested at least 2 business days before the deadline via [support@f6s.com](mailto:support@f6s.com).

This submission process was designed in alignment with best practices for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), ensuring accessibility, traceability, and equal treatment.

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## 5 Evaluation, selection and contracting process

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The evaluation, selection, and contracting process for the SUNDANSE Open Call #1 will follow established best practices for FSTP by F6S. The process consists of four structured and successive steps:

- Step 1: Admissibility and Eligibility Check.
- Step 2: Remote Expert Evaluation.
- Step 3: Ranking and Selection of Applicants.
- Step 4: Contract Preparation and Signature.

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## 5.1 Step 1: Eligibility Check

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The first step involves verifying the eligibility of submitted applications. This step ensures that only those applications meeting all the eligibility criteria and requirements advance to the next stage of evaluation.

Applications that do not meet one or more of these criteria will be deemed ineligible and will be excluded from further evaluation. Rejected applicants will be notified via email with a justification for their disqualification.

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## 5.2 Step 2: Remote Expert Evaluation

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Proposals passing the eligibility check will move on to the external remote evaluation phase. This phase will be conducted by a panel of External Expert Evaluators who have relevant experience in the SUNDANSE domains.

Each eligible application will be evaluated independently by a minimum of two experts. The evaluators are required to sign a contract, which includes a declaration of confidentiality and the absence of conflicts of interest.

### **Evaluation Criteria & Scoring:**

The evaluators will assess each application against three main criteria (see Details in Annex1 : Guidelines for Applicants):

- Excellence: Ambition, problem description/motivation, and soundness of the approach.
- Impact: Demonstration of environmental and social impacts.
- Implementation: Planned approach, strategy, and quality/effectiveness of resources.

Each criterion will be scored on a scale from 0 to 5 (decimal point scores may be given). The minimum threshold for any single criterion is 3. The overall threshold, applied to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. If a proposal scores less than 3 in any criterion or an overall score less than 10, the proposal is automatically rejected.

To ensure consistency, large discrepancies in scoring between evaluators (over 2 points per criterion) will trigger a discussion to reconcile scores. If no agreement is reached, a third expert may be invited. A single Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will then be produced.

The evaluation process involves an External Expert Evaluation Board, where each proposal is reviewed by a minimum of two external evaluators, and the resulting ranking and selection are subsequently reviewed and approved by the Selection Committee to ensure compliance with established rules.

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## 5.3 Step 3: Final Ranking and Selection

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Following the remote evaluation phase, all applications will be ranked in a single list based on their overall score. In the event of a tie in total scores, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in order:

The highest score in the Excellence Section. Gender balance among the personnel responsible for carrying out the activities.

This process results in a 'Ranking List'. Both selected and non-selected applicants will receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

Appeals: Within three (3) working days of receiving a rejection letter or an ESR of non-acceptance, an applicant may submit a request for an appeal. Appeals must focus on aspects concerning the evaluation of the application (e.g., admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure), not their technical merits. All requests must be sent to [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu).

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## 5.4 Step 4: Contract Preparation and Signature

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Selected applicants will be invited to the contracting phase, where administrative and financial details are verified. This phase also requires mandatory Know Your Customer (KYC) checks, including proof of residency and proof of ID from one or more members of the organisation(s). Required administrative documentation includes:

- Formal proof of the entity's legal existence and tax activity (A valid VAT is mandatory).
- Declaration of Honour (DoH), signed by the legal representative of the entity.
- Bank Account Information.

Once validated, the applicant will be invited to sign the Sub-Grant Agreement (Annex 4) between the SUNDANSE Consortium (represented by its Coordinator, UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI, and the treasurer, F6S EU Tech Innovation Network DAC) and the Lead Beneficiary. Deadlines for document submission will normally be concluded within two weeks, and failure to complete the negotiation in time will result in rejection.

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## 6 Promotion Campaign

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The promotion campaign for the SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call encompasses different activities to ensure proper dissemination of the funding opportunities across potential applicants.

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### 6.1 General Platform

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The SUNDANSE Open Call promotion utilizes several key channels for maximum reach:

- Official Webpage: <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>
- Official Application Form (F6S Platform): <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>.
- F6S Q&A/Discussion Board: The SUNDANSE Consortium will provide information to applicants via the F6S page so that all questions and answers are visible to all participants.
- Contact/Helpdesk: [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu).
- General Networks: The campaign utilizes the SUNDANSE project's website, consortium websites, and social media channels: [SUNDANSE LinkedIn](#), [SUNDANSE Facebook](#), and [F6S SUNDANSE page](#).

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### 6.2 Communication material and toolkit

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F6S developed the communication toolkit to support the promotion of the SUNDANSE Open Call. This toolkit serves as a cohesive strategy and provides all the necessary materials and guidelines for effective dissemination to all the consortium partners.

**Pre-Open Call Mini Communication Toolkit (June 2025):**

As part of the groundwork, an initial "mini" communication toolkit was delivered to partners in June 2025. This initial package included essential materials to prepare the ground:

- A flyer
- Social media visual.
- An email template for potential applicants.
- A template for social media posts.
- The setup of the Open Call promotion website page.



FIGURE 1: SNAPSHOT OF THE PRE-OPEN CALL MINI COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

**Full Communication Toolkit (December 2025):**

For the launch of the Open Call, F6S is providing the full version of the Open Call Communication Toolkit to the partners, including:

**Presentation:**

- The Open Call presentation was prepared for informational webinars.

**Email Templates:** Pre-drafted emails for communicating with different audiences, including:

- A template for potential applicants (Local/Regional Authorities).
- A template for NGOs and similar organizations, explicitly informing them that they are not eligible for funding but requesting their support in encouraging eligible Local/Regional Authorities to apply.

**Visuals:** A set of social media visuals has been included, specifically:

- One visual for Webinar 1.
- One visual for Webinar 2.
- One visual for the overall Open Call launch.



FIGURE 2: SUNDANSE OPEN CALL #1 PROMOTIONAL VISUAL

**Social Media Content:**

- A variety of pre-written social media posts that partners can use.

**Press Release & Newsletter:**

- A press release template and a dedicated newsletter launch will be implemented on the day of the Open Call launch.



The SUNDANSE Open Call was developed in adherence to European guidelines for managing cascade funding programs, ensuring transparency, fairness, confidentiality, and the absence of conflicts of interest.



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## 8 Annexes

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**sundanse**

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



**SUNDANSE – Open Call #1**

**Sediment Matters – The Danube Call**

**Annex 1 - Guide of Applicants**



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## 1. What is SUNDANSE?

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The [SUNDANSE project](#) (Sustainable Sediment solutions for the Danube - Black Sea system) is a 48-month-long initiative, with a budget of almost €9 million, that unites 20 partners from 10 countries (Romania, France, Belgium, Israel, Serbia, Estonia, Ukraine, Austria, Bulgaria, and Ireland) to address critical environmental challenges in the Danube River and Black Sea system, primarily focusing on disrupted sediment dynamics caused by climate change and human interventions. This Horizon Europe-funded project is a core component of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean & Waters" and the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse, with the main goal of developing and implementing smart, science-based, and ecosystem-friendly sediment management solutions to improve navigation, reduce flood risks, and protect biodiversity. The project's key objectives include creating a Sediment Management Handbook for the Danube River basin, developing and validating an advanced Sediment Prediction Tool using measurement and monitoring techniques, and testing innovative solutions in three use cases (Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria). To ensure scalability and broader impact, SUNDANSE will launch two Open Calls to distribute financial support of up to €100,000 each to at least three Associated Regions for the replication of successful management practices, ultimately producing an Action Plan and Roadmap to upscale these solutions across other EU river basins.

The project's overarching objective is to develop a Sediment Management Handbook for the Danube River – Black Sea system, including validated solutions applicable to a wide range of associated regions and other EU river basins. This is supported by specific goals to:

- Develop and validate a holistic Sediment Prediction Tool to accurately model sediment transport and assess the impact of intervention solutions on specific river conditions.
- Extend existing measurement and monitoring infrastructure by conducting an extensive series of campaigns, including using portable prototypes for the direct analysis of microplastics and toxicity, to improve data input for management frameworks.
- Test, pilot, and validate the effectiveness of holistic solutions—such as hydrotechnical works utilizing geotubes and solutions to reduce the impact of inland waterway transport (IWT) vessels on sediment—within the three designated use cases.
- Improve transnational and cross-sectorial cooperation among national authorities and other actors in sediment management by streamlining data, processes, and stakeholder feedback.
- Produce an Action Plan and Roadmap associated regions to scale up the demonstrated sustainable and effective solutions.



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## 2. What is the SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 offer?

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The SUNDANSE Open Call #1 for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) has a total budget of €300,000 to fund at least three projects.

The FSTP aims to:

- Engage local and/or regional authorities from at least 3 'associated regions' that are located in Member States/Associated countries, in the countries connected to the Danube river other than those that are part of the consortium.
- Showcase the feasibility, replicability, and scale-up of the SUNDANSE solutions.
- Replicate the SUNDANSE use cases in new regions and domains that can benefit from the developed technology.
- Fund activities aimed at flow monitoring, sediment quantity monitoring, sediment quality assessment, identification of river pollution sources, and actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations.

The maximum financial support for each associated region is €100,000 for the entire duration of the action, provided in the form of lump sum grants. SUNDANSE will ensure that the financial support provided to these third parties adheres to principles of transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest, and confidentiality.

The *Open Call* is the competitive process by which eligible applicant apply to have access to the SUNDANSE programme.

Applications to the Open Call will be accepted from 17 December 2025 until 18 February 2026, 5pm CET. After the selection is completed, selected applicants will be invited to sign the sub-grant agreement and enter the SUNDANSE Programme.

The SUNDANSE Programme is organised in stages of 2 to 4 months. Stage 1 from M1 to M2, Stage 2 from M3 to M6, Stage 3 from M7 to M9.

During these phases, beneficiaries will have the support of a mentor to monitor project progress and facilitate communication with technical partners.

The programme will select 3 applications, each replicating some of the activities performed in SUNDANSE uses cases defined in section 3.2 and further detailed in Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue, providing a maximum contribution of 100 000€, to be paid in form of lump sums at the end of each stage (17% + 58% + 25%).

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### 1.1.1.1 Relevant links and contacts

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- Project website: <https://sundanseproject.eu/>
- Open call application form: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>
- Contact us: [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu)

SUNDANSE – Sediments Matters – The Danube Call documents:

- Annex 1: Guide for Applicants
- Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue
- Annex 3: Technical Proposal
- Annex 4: Sub-Grant Agreement



- Annex 5: Declaration of Honor – Single entity

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## 3. Who can apply and how?

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### 3.1. Types of applicants

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- This Open Call is open exclusively to local and regional authorities from the regions associated with the SUNDANSE project. For the purpose of this Call, “local or regional authorities” are defined as legal entities, including bodies representing a regional or local authority (such as regional or local agencies, regional planning bodies, regional or local port authorities, and similar entities), whose role is significant and relevant for demonstrating the feasibility, replicability, and scalability of the solutions developed within the SUNDANSE project.
- Eligible applicants must be established in EU Member States/Associated countries in areas of the Danube other than those that are part of the project consortium.

Consortia applications are not accepted under this Call. Each applicant can submit a maximum of 1 application under this Open Call.

All applicants must have the legal and financial capacity to implement the proposed activities in accordance with the objectives of the SUNDANSE project and the terms of this Call for Proposals.

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#### 3.1.1. Eligible applicant

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Eligible applicants for the SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 are:

- Applicants must be local/regional authorities from associated regions located in EU Member States/Associated countries within the Danube areas other than those that are part of the project consortium.
- **SUNDANSE partners can NOT** be involved in the third party(ies) projects, neither their affiliates nor employees – including persons working under employment contract or contract or similar to an employment contract and board members.
- Relevant notes:
  - *Local or regional authorities from an associated region are understood as legal entities, including bodies representing a regional/local authority (such as regional/local agencies, regional planning bodies), whose role is significant and relevant for showcasing the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed in the project*
  - *A Local and Regional Authority Declaration will be requested during the application phase*
  - *A signed version of the Declaration of Honor during the contract preparation phase is requested.*

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#### 3.1.2. Eligible countries

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Eligible countries that may receive funding through this Open Call are legal entities from:

- Entities with a valid VAT, and a legal registration number.



- Eligible countries: Eligible are all regions within the countries around the Danube River, that are NOT located in the countries in which the SUNDANSE partners are based. Therefore, eligible regions are within the following countries: Germany, Slovakia, Moldova, Hungary and Croatia.

The SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 follows the rules applied by the EC for the R&D Programme Horizon Europe in terms of geographical coverage, eligibility, and exclusions, which take precedence.

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### 3.1.3. Multiple submissions

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- The SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 will accept a **maximum of 1 application** per applicant.
- In case an applicant submits more than 1 application, only the application submitted first (as registered in the system) will be considered.

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## 3.2. Types of projects

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The SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 aims to fund innovative projects that expand the deployment, testing and engagement of developed SUNDANSE solutions across new regions.

To be eligible, your project must specifically address at least one of the following core thematic areas related to sediment dynamics and river health:

- Flow monitoring
- Sediment quantity monitoring
- Sediment quality assessment (including the identification of pollution sources of the river(s))
- Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations

Applicants are also required to select some of the replicable activities presented in Table 1 and further detailed in **Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue**.

TABLE 1: REPLICATION ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDANSE - OPEN CALL #1

Activity Number	Replication Activity
A1	Baseline assessment of the target area
A2	Flow monitoring
A3	Mapping the target area
A4	Sediment quantity monitoring
A5	Granulometric characterization of suspended and/or benthic sediments
A6	Microplastic contamination assessment in suspended and/or benthic sediments
A7	Analysis of microorganic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, tire additives) in sediment samples
A8	Toxic metal contamination assessment in sediment samples (Pb, Cu, Cd, Zn, etc.)
A9	Toxicity evaluation of suspended sediment samples
A10	Numerical modelling of sediment transport dynamics
A11	Development of normative frameworks for real-time data utilization in pollution management
A12	Assessment of inland waterway transport impact on sediment dynamics



The SUNDANSE - Open Call #1 will look to ensure a balanced distribution of applications among activities.

### 3.3. Funding conditions

The total fixed lump sum grant for the entire project is capped at 100,000€. The following maximum percentage limits apply to the final 100,000€ grant amount,

Direct Costs:

- **Personnel Cost:** This cost covers the remuneration of staff directly working on the project. The total Personnel Cost may not exceed 65% of the maximum grant.
- **Mobility Cost:** This includes expenses related to travel and subsistence for project activities. The total Mobility Cost may not exceed 5.40% of the maximum grant.
- **Consumables/Depreciation Cost:** This covers costs for necessary materials, supplies, and equipment depreciation. The total Consumables/Depreciation Cost may not exceed 4.50% of the maximum grant.
- **Subcontracting Cost:** This covers essential work contracted out to external third parties. The total Subcontracting Cost may not exceed 4.50% of the maximum grant.

Indirect Costs (Overheads):

A flat rate of 25.00% must be applied to the calculated SubTotal. This 25% rate is the maximum allowable overhead rate.

### 3.4. Application process

The F6S platform will be the single entry point for all applications to the SUNDANSE - Open Call #1. Interested applicants should register at the SUNDANSE F6S page (<https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>). **Proposals submitted by any other means will NOT be evaluated.**

The relevant links and timings for the application process are provided in Table 2 but are subject to change.

TABLE 2: APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Phase	Description	Timeline
<b>Application</b>	Fill in and submit application including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form on F6S: <a href="https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply">https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply</a></li> </ul>	Launch date: 18/12/2025 Submission deadline: 18/02/2026 (17h00 CET)
<b>Eligibility &amp; Technical check</b>	SUNDANSE Consortium performs internal checks the eligibility criteria of the applications	19/02/2026 to 27/02/2026
<b>Application evaluation</b>	An evaluation board reviews the received applications, scoring them based on the evaluation criteria. The evaluators rank the applications and a ranking list is established. The Selection Committee will decide the list of finalists and the Reserve List.	02/03/2026 to 25/03/2026
<b>Announcement of the results</b>	All applicants receive a written letter about approval or rejection of their project. The	31/03/2026



successful projects start the onboarding phase in the SUNDANSE Programme.

The submission date for applications is final. All other dates, including those of the programme, may be subject to change.

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### 3.5. Other application requirements and considerations

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- **Submission:** Applications must be submitted via <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>. Any other submission method will not be accepted.
- **Complete application:** All mandatory questions must be answered and all requested documents must be uploaded. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- **Accept terms:** Applicants must agree to the application's terms and conditions.
- **English language:** All applications and programme communication must be in English.
- **Document format:** Unless otherwise agreed, all documents in all phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without printing restrictions.
- **Deadline:**
  - Failure to submit the application by the submission deadline, regardless of cause (e.g., network issues, multiple browsers or windows), is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. It is recommended to apply well before the deadline.
  - Resubmissions are possible provided the call deadline has not passed, but are only guaranteed if requested at least 2 business days before the deadline via [support@f6s.com](mailto:support@f6s.com).
  - The deadline may be extended only in case of unforeseen F6S platform technical issues. All applicants will be notified of the new deadline.
- **Review future documents:** Applicants are encouraged to get familiar with the documents that will be required in the contracting phase (see Section 5 - Contracting Phase)
- **Notifications:** Applicants are encouraged to enable F6S notifications for the programme in their profile settings to ensure communications regarding their application are received.
- **Applicants list:** A full list of applicants containing their basic information will be created for statistical and transparency purposes, and shared with the European Commission.

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## 4. How will applications be evaluated and selected?

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The SUNDANSE Remote evaluation and selection stage will follow a three-phase process:

- (1) Admissibility and eligibility check
- (2) Remote expert evaluation
- (3) Ranking and selection of applicants.

The process is represented in Figure 1.

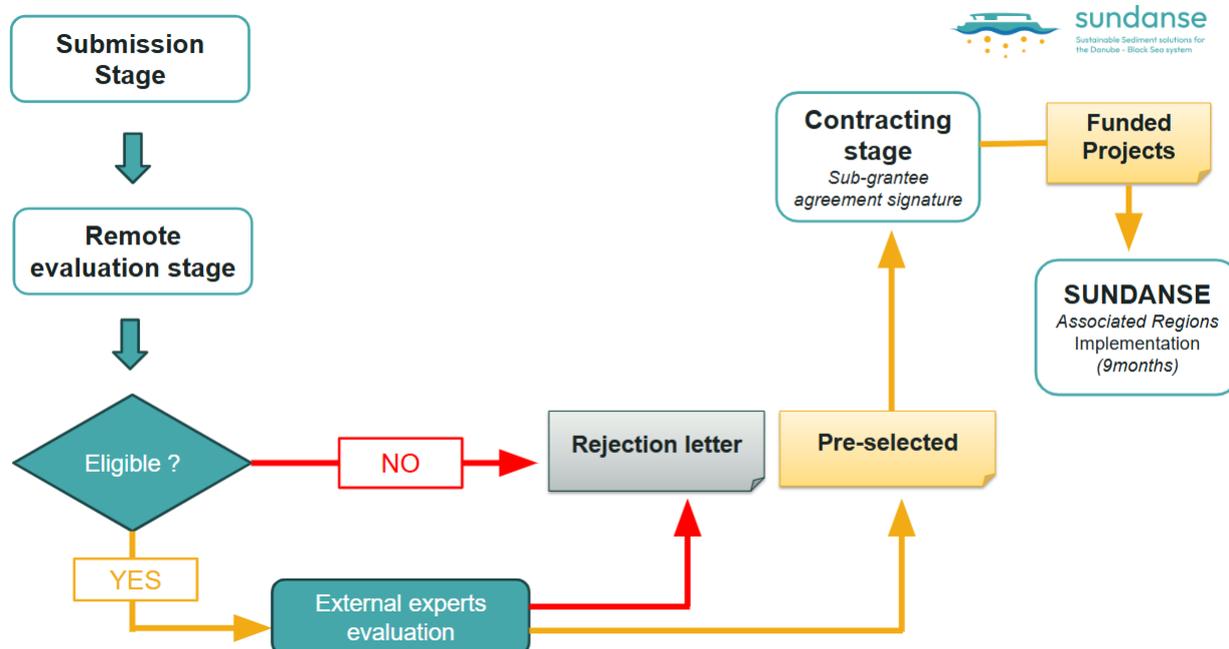


FIGURE 1: SUNDANSE EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

SUNDANSE reserves the right to request at any moment of the process additional information and/or documentation to clarify any doubts regarding the eligibility of the applicant and/or the application.

#### 4.1. Eligibility check

An initial eligibility verification will be done to filter out and eliminate non-eligible applications. An application is only considered eligible if it meets **all the eligibility criteria and requirements** listed in Section 3.

The eligibility check enables the establishment of a shortlist of applications to be evaluated in the next step of the evaluation process.

Applications marked as non-eligible (for not meeting one or more of the eligibility criteria) will receive a rejection letter with justification.

#### 4.2. Expert evaluation

The expert evaluation board is a collective body composed of individual members with relevant experience in the SUNDANSE domains, having signed and duly agreed in advance a written commitment of confidentiality and absence of any conflicts of interest that might influence the impartial and objective analysis and evaluation of all submitted proposals.

Proposals passing the admissibility and eligibility check will move on to the external remote evaluation phase. The external evaluation will be done remotely by expert evaluators. Evaluators will be selected from a pool of experts that will be established through a call for expressions of interest. The experts will be evaluated and selected based on their knowledge of the SUNDANSE challenges and topics and general experience in the evaluation of proposals (e.g., Horizon 2020, HE, FSTP programmes).



The evaluators will perform evaluations on an individual basis, not as representatives of their employer, their country, or any other entity. They are required to be independent, impartial, and objective. All evaluators are required to sign a contract, which includes a declaration of confidentiality and the absence of conflicts of interest. Evaluators will also be bound by strict confidentiality regarding the evaluation process and during the evaluation process. At least two external evaluators will evaluate each proposal and will be distributed across the proposals based on their expertise and, whenever possible, country of origin.

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#### 4.2.1. Evaluation criteria & scoring

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Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of two experts from the expert evaluation board. The applications will be distributed considering their expertise. Table 3 indicates the SUNDANSE Open Call evaluation criteria.

TABLE 3: SUNDANSE OPEN CALL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria Name	Description
<b>1. Excellence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambition.</b> The applicants have to demonstrate to what extent the proposed third party(ies) project contribute to the project scope and have a European dimension. They must demonstrate how they will contribute to the uptake of the SUNDANSE innovative solutions, facilitating different activities that could help reuse, demonstration and replication of the SUNDANSE outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Problem description and motivation:</b> applicants should provide description of the problem or the necessity of a certain region to apply one or more solutions proposed by SUNDANSE.</li> <li>• <b>Soundness of the approach and credibility</b> of the proposed methodology.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental and social impact:</b> The applicants have to demonstrate the project contribution towards environmental, socio-economic impacts to contribute to sustainable development, Green Deal and other European policies</li> </ul>
<b>3. Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approach:</b> The applicants have to demonstrate their planned approach and strategy to implement the project and demonstrate capacity, to achieve their aims. The attractiveness and replicability of the project will be prioritized.</li> <li>• <b>Resources.</b> Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned in order to get the objectives/deliverables proposed.</li> </ul>

The evaluators will follow the 3 evaluation criteria listed in Table 3.

The independent experts will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (decimal point scores may be given): Table 4 defines how individual criteria will be scored.

Each evaluator will produce an Individual Evaluation Report. The threshold for individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applied to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. The final score will be



calculated as an average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluators. If a proposal scores less than 3 in any criterion or an overall score less than 10, the proposal is automatically rejected. Each evaluator will record their individual assessment of each proposal using an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). A single Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be then prepared by the Evaluation Panel, representing opinions and scores on which the evaluators assessing the application agree.

After the individual scoring by the independent evaluators, the Selection Committee will:

- Check for large differences (over 2 points per criterion) between evaluators.
- If differences exist, evaluators meet to discuss and agree on scores.
- If an agreement isn't reached, another expert will be invited to provide a third assessment.

TABLE 4: SUNDANSE OPEN CALL SCORING RATIONAL

SCORE	RATIONAL
<b>0 = FAIL</b>	The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
<b>1 = VERY POOR</b>	The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.
<b>2 = POOR</b>	There are serious inherent weaknesses.
<b>3 = GOOD</b>	While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.
<b>4 = VERY GOOD</b>	The application addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.
<b>5 = EXCELLENT</b>	The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

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#### 4.2.2. Ranking & selection

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Following the Remote expert evaluation, all applications will be ranked in a single list based on their overall score, which is calculated from the average scores given by the evaluators (summary of criterion 1 to 3). If multiple applications have the same overall score, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in this order:

1. The highest score in the Excellence Section.
2. Gender balance among the personnel responsible for carrying out the activities

As a result of the Independent Evaluation, a 'Ranking List' will be produced.

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#### 4.3. Appeals

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Within three (3) working days of receiving (1) a rejection letter informing the application as non-eligible or (2) an ESR of non-acceptance, an applicant may submit a request for an appeal if they believe the results of the eligibility checks have not been correctly applied, or if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their application has been evaluated.

All requests for appeal must be sent to the SUNDANSE team to [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu) and must:

- Focus on aspects concerning the evaluation of the application (e.g. admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure, etc), not their merits.
- Clearly describe the complaint.
- Be received within the time limit (3 working days) from the reception of a rejection letter considering the application as non-eligible or the ESR information letter delivered.
- Sent by the entities' legal representative that has also submitted the application.

Note that the evaluation is carried out by highly qualified experts. SUNDANSE will neither question nor interfere with their original evaluation. Mere repetitions of the content of the application or disagreements with the result or reasoning of the technical evaluation will not be considered.



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## 5. What happens after selection?

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Selected applicants will be invited to the contracting phase, where administrative and financial details and documents are verified and validated.

Furthermore, to carry out mandatory Know Your Customer (KYC) checks, proof of residency and proof of ID from one or more members of the organisation is required.

The steps of this phase are:

1. Inclusion of comments (if any) provided in the Evaluation Summary Report as part of the sub-grant agreement (contract).
2. Validation of the entities based on the provision of the following documentation (available at <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>):
  - Formal proof of the entity's legal existence and tax activity.
  - Declaration of Honour signed by the legal representative of the entity.
  - Bank Account Information
3. Signing of the sub-grant agreement (Annex 4) between SUNDANSE Consortium represented by its Coordinator (UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI), the treasurer (F6S EU Tech Innovation Network DAC) and the Lead Beneficiary.

Additional considerations:

- A valid VAT is mandatory.
- The sub-grant agreement (contract) is final and cannot be altered.
- Electronic digital signatures are required for signed documents (unless otherwise agreed).
- Deadlines for document submission will be provided and will normally be concluded within two weeks.
- Failure to complete the negotiation in time will result in rejection.



## 6. What is the SUNDANSE – The Danube Call Programme and its requirements?

### 6.1. Programme phases

The SUNDANSE Danube Call programme has a total duration of 9 months and is divided into three stages.

#### 6.1.1. Stage 1 – Project Definition (2months)

Beneficiaries (local or regional authorities from associated regions) will define their project and prepare an Individual Mentoring Plan and Project Specification, outlining planned activities, milestones, and expected outputs for the following stages. This document will be annexed to the Subgrant Agreement and must include a publishable summary of results obtained at this stage.

Means of verification: Submission of Report #1 containing the Individual Mentoring Plan (IMP) Project Specification which must include the detailed plan for the implementation and evaluation, milestones and means of verification refining all the measurable outcomes defined in the applicant's proposal.

#### 6.1.2. Stage 2 – Project Implementation (4months)

Beneficiaries will carry out the activities defined in their proposal and Report #1.

At the end of this stage, beneficiaries must deliver the Report #2 on Project Implementation, including a summary of results obtained and the revision of the plan for the evaluation phase.

#### 6.1.3. Stage 3 – Project evaluation (3months)

Beneficiaries will carry out the activities defined in their proposal and Report #2.

At the end of the project, beneficiaries must deliver the Report #3 with the following mandatory outputs:

1. Stakeholder Engagement Outputs
2. Regional Action Plan & Roadmap
3. Evaluation of resources usage and impact of the project

TABLE 5: SUNDANSE FSTP PROGRAMME STAGES AND PAYMENTS

	Stage duration (months)	Mandatory deliverables	Fixed Lump Sum
<b>Stage 1: “Project Definition”</b>	2	Report #1: Individual Mentoring Plan project specifications (IMP) <sup>1</sup>	Up to 17 000 EUR
<b>Stage 2 “Project Implementation”</b>	4	Report #2: Project implementation	Up to 58 000 EUR



<b>Stage 3 “ Project evaluation”</b>	3	<b>Report #3 :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Engagement Outputs</li> <li>• Regional Action Plan &amp; Roadmap</li> <li>• Evaluation of resources usage and impact of the project</li> </ul>	Up to 25 000 EUR
<b>TOTAL</b>	9 months		Up to 100 000 EUR

<sup>1</sup>The **Individual Mentoring Plan [IMP]** is the document that establishes the individual budget, KPIs, Deliverables and a schedule that will be taken into account when evaluating the Grantees' performance at the Milestones Review.

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#### 6.1.4. Participation in Events

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During the programme, selected grantees are encouraged to participate in relevant events (e.g., workshops, video calls, webinars, online training, virtual conferences) organized or supported by the SUNDANSE project. This will allow beneficiaries to stay closely involved with the project, share experiences, and build capacity to implement innovative SUNDANSE solutions in their associated regions.

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#### 6.2. SUNDANSE Danube Call third parties programme evaluation

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Selected grantees will define, at the beginning of the support programme together with their allocated mentors, their Individual Mentoring Plan (IMP). The IMP will include project deliverables, milestones, and, if applicable, KPIs, as well as a detailed budget and allocation of resources.

The grantees' performance will be evaluated at Milestone Reviews, which are conducted at the completion of each stage (whenever a payment is due). Mentors evaluate performance according to the following criteria:

- **Deliverables' Quality** – scored by Mentors based on the deliverables defined in the IMP.
- **Technical Performance Indicators** – scored by Technical Mentors based on KPIs in the IMP.
- **Deadline Compliance** – scored by Mentors.

Each criterion is scored from 0 to 10. The final score is calculated with the following weights:

- Deliverables' Quality: 30%
- Technical Performance Indicators: 60%
- Deadline Compliance: 10%

Based on the final score:

- **Beneficiaries over threshold** (7 points) will successfully receive the next payment and become eligible to continue in the programme.



- **Beneficiaries under threshold** will be proposed by the Mentors as candidates to leave the programme. If confirmed by the Selection Committee, they will not receive payment for the next stage(s) and must exit the programme.

The beneficiaries which haven't reached the threshold will be proposed, by the 'Mentors', as candidates to leave the Program. And, if this decision is finally ratified by the 'Selection Committee', they will have to leave the Program and won't receive the payment for the next stage(s). The 'Selection Committee' will review and validate the 'Mentors' proposal, putting special attention to the 'under threshold' cases, if any, by taking into consideration all possible objective reasons for underperformance (i.e. external factors which might have influenced the beneficiaries' performance). The 'Selection Committee' will take the final decision, approve the payments, and ensure the provision of adequate, transparent information to such beneficiaries on the reasons of their exclusion, while organizing a redress option for complaints that disagree with the decision.

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## 6.3. Programme review

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### 6.3.1. Review summary

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Each project will go through 3 reporting periods, each one highlighting the end of a stage.

TABLE 6: SUNDANSE - REVIEW AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Stage	Item	Description
Stage 1	Requirement	Submission and approval of Report #1
	Result	Payment of 17% of the maximum grant amount.
	Timeline	M3 or up to 1 month after the approval of Report #1
Stage 2	Requirement	Submission and approval of Report #2
	Result	Payment of 58% of the maximum grant amount.
	Timeline	M7 or up to 1 month after the approval of Report #2
Stage 3	Requirement	Submission and approval of Report #3
	Result	Payment of 25% of the maximum grant amount.
	Timeline	M10 or up to 1 month after the approval of Report #3

Reports must be submitted 10 working days before the end of each reporting period. During the reporting period, representatives of the beneficiary should be ready to present their work and answer questions. After each successful reporting period and within 5 working days, the beneficiary should send the relevant payment request document.

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## 7. What else is important to know?

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### 7.1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

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Solutions developed and results achieved by the third parties belong to the third parties. Applicants will remain the sole owners of their respective IPRs and retain the IPR for their solutions.

Regarding the evaluation and the review processes, each evaluator will sign an Agreement including confidentiality clauses before receiving access to the applications database to protect the applicants' intellectual property and sensitive non-disclosed information.

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## 7.2. On conflicts of interest

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Applicants must not have any actual and/or potential conflict of interest with the SUNDANSE selection process and during the project implementation. All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

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## 7.3. Ethical issues

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SUNDANSE complies with the fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the “European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”.

- All applicants must submit a self-assessment ethics questionnaire, available in the Proposal Template
- If the applicant confirms the existence of potential ethical issues, they must contact the SUNDANSE Helpdesk for guidance, as required.
- The SUNDANSE will verify the declaration's consistency with the application contents and may contact applicants to resolve any ethical issues.
- Applications that fail to properly address ethical issues or inadequately deal with privacy aspects will be rejected.

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## 7.4. Data protection

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In order to process and evaluate applications, and manage project implementation, the SUNDANSE consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data.

- F6S Network Ireland Limited, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy [here](#).
- A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.
- The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).
- Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer to <https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy> to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.
- Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on SharePoint managed by the project coordinator UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI (UDJG).
- Note that the SUNDANSE consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the SUNDANSE project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until their conclusion.



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## 7.5. Confidentiality

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Confidentiality obligations:

Selected applicants are required to maintain confidential any project data, documents, invoices and other materials (in any form) during the implementation of the activities and for 5 years after project completion.

- This confidentiality period can be extended by agreement with the EC and the SUNDANSE consortium.
- Information shared during the project, whether written or spoken, is only considered confidential if the SUNDANSE agrees and confirms it in writing within 15 days.
- Confidential information must only be used for project implementation, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Any information shared during the application stage will be treated as confidential.

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## 7.6. Promotion of the action and ensuring visibility of the EU funding

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The beneficiary must promote the project, the SUNDANSE project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC, including on the official third party website. The SUNDANSE Communication team will guide and support these communication activities to selected beneficiaries.

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## 7.7. Checks and reviews

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The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for a check and review activity to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.



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## 8. Relevant links and contacts

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The SUNDANSE Consortium will provide information to the applicants via the F6S page, so that all information (questions and answers) are visible to all participants.

- Project website: <https://sundanseproject.eu/>
- Open call application form: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse/apply>
- Contact us: [info@sundanseproject.eu](mailto:info@sundanseproject.eu)
- Online Q&A/ discussion board: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-open-call-1/discuss>
- F6S platform support team: [support@f6s.com](mailto:support@f6s.com)  
(For issues with the submission, resubmission, access to the platform, etc.)



## 9. Relevant Open Call definitions

TABLE 7: ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

Acronym	Explanation/ Definition
AWU	Annual Work Unit
EC	European Commission
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
IMP	Individual Mentoring Plan
KYC	Know Your Customer

TABLE 8: TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Applicant	The legal entity that intend to submit or that submitted an application to the Open Call.
Application Eligibility Criteria	Criteria used to assess if an application can be considered for the open call. Possible values (Yes/No).
Application Eligible or Non-Eligible	Application that is or is not compliant with eligibility criteria.
Application Timestamp	Timestamp of the final submission of an application. If the application is reopened and resubmitted the last date will be considered.
Bank Account Information	Form where the beneficiary provides information of the bank account to which payments will be made during the project implementation.
Beneficiary or 3rd Party	An entity that submitted an application to the open call that was accepted to be funded, and have signed, or are in the process of signing, a sub-grant agreement.
Contract Deadline	Date and time until when the selected entities need to provide contractual information.
Declaration of Honour (DoH)	Declaration where the applicant/ beneficiary declares they accept all conditions of the open call, acceleration process & programme. One DoH is required for each applicant/ beneficiary.
External Evaluator	Expert hired by the consortium to assist in the evaluation of the Open Call. External evaluators cannot have conflicts of interest and are bound by a confidentiality agreement.
F6S Application Form	Application form available in F6S Platform.
F6S Platform	Platform provided by F6S.
FSTP	Financial support to third parties. Payments made to entities that are not members of the consortium.
FSTP – Lump Sum	Payment made to the third party based on the achievement of a milestone.



Term	Definition
Internal evaluation committee	Group of appropriately qualified persons of the consortium partners that are assigned the responsibility of performing evaluations or reviews at any stage of the open call implementation or programme.
Local & Regional Authority	Local or regional authorities from an associated region are understood as legal entities, including bodies representing a regional/local authority (such as regional/local agencies, regional planning bodies), whose role is significant and relevant for showcasing the feasibility, replicability and scalability of the solutions developed in the project
Mentor	Person from the consortium that works closely with the beneficiary to foster communication with the consortium and assess progress of the project. The mentor may be part of an evaluation committee.
Open Call	Competitive process to access a Programme.
Open Call and Programme deadlines	The project has planned the programme carefully, but unexpected things can happen. The application deadline is fixed, and will only change if something unforeseen occurs. Other dates, including of the programme, are flexible and may be adjusted as needed, and communicated to all applicants.
Open Call close date	Date and time when applications close.
Open Call selection prioritisation	Rules used to order applications.
Proof of Bank Account Information	The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a specific form signed by the entity, individuals, and the bank owners. The holder of the account will be the entity/ individual.
Proof of Legal Existence	Company/ organisation register, official journal or other official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
Proof of Local and Regional authorities status	Proof of the Local and Regional authorities status condition is required at the application stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the applicant has been fully validated as a Local and regional authority on the Beneficiary Register of the EC Participant Portal, the PIC number must be provided.</li> <li>• Provision of the signed (with a valid e-signature) <b>Local and Regional Authority Declaration</b></li> </ul>
Reserve List	Eligible applications that were not selected for funding which can be invited in case selected applications do not provide contractual data.
Schedule for payments to Beneficiaries	All payments to beneficiaries are dependent on the successful review of deliverables/ reports at the end of each stage, and reception by the consortium of the corresponding payment request. All payments will be made with undue delay preferably no later than 30 calendar days after the reception of the financial statement.
Score, Expert	Unless otherwise stated, experts will rank each criterion with marks between 0 and 5. Half point scores are not given. Score values will indicate the following assessments:



Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0: Fail. The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.</li> <li>● 1: Very poor. The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.</li> <li>● 2: Poor. There are serious inherent weaknesses.</li> <li>● 3: Good. While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.</li> <li>● 4: Very Good. The application addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.</li> <li>● 5: Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.</li> </ul>
Score, Per Committee	<p>When the evaluation is made by a committee, the average score of each criterion is rounded to the nearest point or half point (1, 1.5, 2, ..., 4, 4.5, 5), before computing the overall score.</p> <p>Overall score is the sum of the scores of each criterion multiplied by the respective weight, rounded to the nearest integer value.</p>
Selected application	Application that was selected to participate in the Open Call Implementation.
Sub-grant Agreement	Signed between the Project Consortium, represented by its Coordinator and the beneficiary. The sub-grant agreement will also include the comments (if any) of the application's ESR to the work plan.



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## **SUNDANSE Open Call #1 – The Danube Call**

### **Annex 2 – Replication Activities Catalogue**

## CATALOGUE OF REPLICATION ACTIVITIES, TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES

Your proposal for this Open Call must be directly focused on the deployment, testing, and engagement of the developed SUNDANSE solutions within a new region.

To be eligible, your project must specifically address at least one of the following core thematic areas related to sediment dynamics and river health:

- Flow monitoring
- Sediment quantity monitoring
- Sediment quality assessment (including the identification of pollution sources of the river(s))
- Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations

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### 1. CORE ACTIVITIES (MANDATORY FOR ALL APPLICANTS)

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Every funded project **must implement** the following activities:

- Stakeholder engagement and environmental awareness campaigns – engage local stakeholders to discuss results and co-design future measures.
  - Each project should organise at least one workshop (online or on-site) or multi-actor meeting. Awareness campaigns on sediment management challenges and solutions should also be conducted.
  - Activities include facilitation, dissemination, and collection of stakeholder feedback for future measures. SUNDANSE will provide templates, materials, and facilitation guidance. Participation lists and reports must be included as deliverables.
- Strategic action plan and implementation roadmap – prepare a regional plan for replication and scaling of sediment solutions.
  - Development of a strategic document outlining actions for sustainable sediment management and potential scaling of SUNDANSE solutions. The roadmap includes priorities, responsible institutions, indicative budgets, and timelines.
  - Applicants must prepare a Regional Action Plan. The document summarises the findings from proposed activities and outlines proposed next steps for implementation.
- Replication activities (Table 1) – each project is required to replicate at least one activity from the list provided in Table 1. Applicants may choose the activity or combination of activities that best fit their context and objectives, within the available €100,000 budget. While not all listed activities are expected to be replicated, projects are encouraged to implement as many as feasible within their proposed plan and resources.

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### 2. SERVICES PROVIDED BY SUNDANSE

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Applicants **may also benefit from project services**, depending on their proposed activity (the mentoring will be up to 8h per month per funded Associated region):

- Consultancy on methods for laboratory analysis of sediment samples to test for the presence of contaminants, microplastics, organic micropollutants, and toxic metals.
- Guidance on sampling and preservation methods.

- Guidance for Data harmonisation & QA/QC – ensuring results meet FAIR standards.
- Guidance for Modelling – consortium experts assist with simulation runs or setup a modelling plan strategy.
- Stakeholder engagement support – facilitation guidelines, templates for workshops.
- Policy & governance guidance – frameworks for regulatory analysis and roadmap preparation.

### 3. EXPECTED OUTPUTS & DELIVERABLES

Each project **must deliver**:

- Stakeholder engagement outputs (workshop report, participant lists, outcomes).
- Regional Action Plan & Roadmap (aligned with SUNDANSE framework).
- Within the replication activities a project chooses (see Table 1), it is **expected to propose measurable outcomes** which should be indicated in the technical proposal and project plan.

### 4. DATA SHARING OPTIONS

Applicants **must indicate willingness to share project data**:

- Yes - Open - dataset openly accessible via SUNDANSE Data Network.
- Yes - Restricted - dataset catalogued but access subject to conditions.

### 5. REPLICATION

The Open Call invites new regions to replicate the project’s pilot activities. Selected applicants will test and adapt to specific sediment monitoring, management, and/or prediction solutions to their regional context. Technical proposals must specify which aspects will be addressed and explain how the proposed activities will contribute to demonstrating the transferability of project results and developing best practices for sustainable sediment management.

TABLE 1: REPLICATION ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

Reference	Replication Activity name	Replication description	Use Case
A1	Baseline assessment of the target area	A documentation can be prepared regarding the data, methods, and procedures used locally that are not included in public databases, such as sediment measurements, erosion observations, and the potential impact of agricultural activities (e.g., aerial imagery), etc. The review will ensure a harmonized baseline knowledge, creating comparability with the original case and enabling informed decision-making in replication areas.	All
A2	Flow monitoring	This activity involves the hydrological monitoring of flow regimes, discharge, and/or velocity. It can be replicated in any partner region with flowing waters by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE to measure the monitored parameters. Such replication will ensure the generation	All

Reference	Replication Activity name	Replication description	Use Case
		of comparable datasets across sites, facilitating regional and EU-wide assessments.	
<b>A3</b>	Mapping the target area	Remote sensing, GIS tools, and open-access datasets can be used to fully replicate this activity. By applying harmonized geospatial standards and performing comparative analyses of land use, hydrology, and pollution drivers across regions, the transferability of results can be greatly enhanced.	All
<b>A4</b>	Sediment quantity monitoring	This activity can be replicated using consistent sampling protocols (e.g., depth-integrated samplers, turbidity sensors), ensuring strong cross-site comparability. It provides essential input for assessing sediment balance in associated regions by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE to measure the monitored parameters.	All
<b>A5</b>	Granulometric characterization of suspended and/or benthic sediments	Laboratory sieves, laser diffraction, and/or frequency methods can be used for particle size distribution analysis by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE for monitoring the same parameters. Replication of this activity guarantees consistent data across the targeted regions, supporting sediment transport modelling and ecological risk assessments.	All
<b>A6</b>	Microplastic contamination assessment in suspended and/or benthic sediments	This activity can be replicated following the extraction and identification techniques and protocols used in the project (e.g., density separation, $\mu$ FT-IR spectroscopy analysis, etc.) by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE for monitoring the same parameters. Obtained results can provide important information about pollution profiles of the targeted region and ensure a cross-regional benchmarking.	All
<b>A7</b>	Analysis of microorganic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, tire additives) in sediment samples	Replication relies on established analytical protocols developed during the project using the GC-MS technique and methods by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE for monitoring the same parameters. This approach will allow determination of the contaminant profiles for the targeted region, highlighting local pollution pressures and transferability of mitigation measures.	All
<b>A8</b>	Toxic metal contamination assessment in sediment samples (Pb, Cu, Cd, Zn, etc.)	This activity is reproducible by using standard digestion and ICP-MS and/or XRF techniques by applying methodologies and procedures similar to those used in SUNDANSE for monitoring the same parameters. The results obtained will ensure cross-site comparability and will enable regional mapping of metal pollution hotspots and support risk-based management.	ALL
<b>A9</b>	Toxicity evaluation of suspended sediment samples	This replication activity enables a harmonized evaluation of ecotoxicological risks across diverse ecosystems. The use of standardized bioassays (e.g., luminescent bacteria, benthic invertebrates) ensures that SUNDANSE-related activities in associated regions are reproducible and comparable, following methodologies and procedures similar to those applied in SUNDANSE for monitoring the same parameters.	ALL

Reference	Replication Activity name	Replication description	Use Case
<b>A10</b>	Numerical modelling of sediment transport dynamics	Hydrodynamic and sediment transport models can be developed to assess erosion-sedimentation patterns and morphological changes on critical sites for navigation along the river from the targeted region using open-source software package such as open TELEMAC. The replication activity yields the development of a similar sediment transport model such as the ones developed within the project. These models should be applied to test the effectiveness of sediment management solutions.	All
<b>A11</b>	Development of normative frameworks for real-time data utilization in pollution management	Replication of the activity involves designing governance models and digital tools for data collection, sharing, and decision support with local and regional stakeholders and decision-makers. Standardization across regions enhances interoperability, ensuring that real-time data supports effective transboundary pollution management.	All
<b>A12</b>	Assessment of inland waterway transport impact on sediment dynamics	Hydro morphological surveys and AIS traffic data integration are replicable methodologies that can be used for targeted regions. This will highlight trade-offs between navigation, ecology, and sediment management.	Romania



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## SUNDANSE Open Call #1

### Annex 2 – Proposal Technical Template

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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# SUNDANSE – Proposal Technical Template

## Open Call “Sediment Matters – The Danube Call”

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### Proposal Template Instructions

**Read carefully before preparing your proposal:**

**Please delete this page when submitting the proposal.** Delete the guidance/ information text in yellow in each section and any footnotes.

Please use this template to prepare your proposal. It has been organised to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are measurable with respect to the evaluation criteria. Sections 1 to 5 of this template each correspond to an evaluation criterion (**see Guide for Applicants for details**).

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. Applicants using another template/ document structure will be automatically disqualified. Only those proposals that successfully address all the required aspects included in the template will have the opportunity to be funded.

On the cover page, please include the following:

Title and acronym of your proposal

Full legal name of the applicant organization and country

The page limit for the proposal (Sections 1-5) is **12 pages (i.e., this limit excludes the cover, instructions, and summary of the project pages)**. Consider the limits indicated below the title of each section (in yellow) as guidance to keep within the 11-page limit. Tables, figures, pictures, and maps are allowed and must be included within this page limit. The minimum font size allowed is 11 points (note: tables can use font size 10 points). The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should not be changed from their current setting. Paragraph spacing should be a minimum 0pt before/ after, and 1pt line spacing. Calibri must be used as the font style (or Arial, if Calibri is incompatible with your system) and black as the font colour to facilitate readability. Each **section presents a recommended page limit, so that the proposal is concise and focused, please comply with it. The proposal must be uploaded in .PDF format.**

**Please delete this page when submitting the proposal. Delete the guidance/ information text in yellow in each section and any footnotes.**



## 1 Cover Page – Basic Information

Proposal Information	
<b>Acronym</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Proposal topic(s) addressed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment quantity monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment quality assessment (including the identification of pollution sources of the river(s)) <input type="checkbox"/> Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations
<b>Replication Activities related to your project (presented in Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>A1:</b> Baseline assessment of the target area <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A2:</b> Flow monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A3:</b> Mapping the target area <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A4:</b> Sediment quantity monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A5:</b> Granulometric characterization of suspended and/or benthic sediments <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A6:</b> Microplastic contamination assessment in suspended and/or benthic sediments <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A7:</b> Analysis of microorganic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, tire additives) in sediment samples <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A8:</b> Toxic metal contamination assessment in sediment samples (Pb, Cu, Cd, Zn, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A9:</b> Toxicity evaluation of suspended sediment samples <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A10:</b> Numerical modelling of sediment transport dynamics



	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A11:</b> Development of normative frameworks for real-time data utilization in pollution management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A12:</b> Assessment of inland waterway transport impact on sediment dynamics</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Entity name (Full legal name)	Country

**NOTE:** Sections 3, 4, 5 have the same weight in the evaluation process. Each has a weight of 1/3 in the total evaluation.



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## 2 Project's description

---

**(Maximum length: 1 to 3 pages)**

---

### 2.1 Project overview

---

*Provide a concise summary of your project, including its goal, main objectives, target outcomes, and the problem or need it addresses. Explain the overall purpose and expected impact.*

---

### 2.2 Technical description of the project

---

*Describe the technical approach, methods, and technologies that will be used in your project. Include details about key activities, tools, processes, and any innovative aspects.*

---

### 2.3 How is the project complying with the core activities of SUNDANSE

---

*Explain how your project aligns with and contributes to the core objectives and activities of SUNDANSE. Highlight the synergies, added value, and relevance to the programme's goals.*

---

### 2.4 Replication to be performed in the project

---

*Indicate which replication activity or model your project will implement based on the provided topics and Activities (Annex 2 – Replication Activities Catalogue). Describe how and where replication will occur and the expected outcomes of this process.*

---

## 3 EXCELLENCE

---

**(Maximum length: 1 to 3 pages)**

*Applicants must demonstrate the ambition, relevance, and soundness of their proposed project by addressing:*

---

### 3.1 Ambition:

---

*How does your project contribute to the scope of the SUNDANSE Open Call, show a European dimension and contribute to restoring our Ocean & Waters by 2030? How will it foster the take-up of SUNDANSE solutions through reuse, demonstration, or replication?*



---

### 3.2 Problem description and motivation:

---

*What problem or regional need justifies applying one or more SUNDANSE solutions?*

---

### 3.3 Approach and methodology:

---

*What methodology will you apply, and why is it credible and feasible for achieving your objectives?*

*Clearly state your objectives and show how they align with the goals of SUNDANSE, linking regional needs with the proposed solutions and expected outcomes.*

---

## 4 IMPACT

---

**(Maximum length: 1 to 3 pages)**

*Applicants must demonstrate the expected impact of their project by addressing:*

---

### 4.1 Environmental and social impact:

---

*How will your project contribute to environmental, social, and economic sustainability?*

---

### 4.2 EU relevance

---

*How does it align with the European Green Deal, the Mission Ocean & Waters goals, Water Framework Directive (WFD), and other relevant European policies?*

*Clearly describe the positive changes your project will generate and how these contribute to long-term sustainable development.*

---

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

---

**(Maximum length: 1 to 3 pages)**

*Applicants must demonstrate the quality and feasibility of their implementation plan by addressing:*



---

## 5.1 Approach:

---

*What strategy will you follow to implement the project and ensure objectives are achieved? How does your project demonstrate capacity, attractiveness, and potential for replication?*

---

## 5.2 Resources:

---

*What resources (human, technical, financial) will be allocated, and how will they ensure the quality and effectiveness of the proposed activities and deliverables?  
Provide a clear and realistic plan that shows how your project will be successfully carried out.*

---

## 5.3 WORK PLAN

---

*Describe the activities that will take place in your proposal by breaking down your work-to-work packages and tasks and provide timing of the different activities and components. This section should answer the question "how are we going to implement the proposal to reach the replication objectives?".*

*Please fill in Table 1 with the phases, activities, deliverables, and KPIs/milestones.*

TABLE 1: PROPOSAL DELIVERBABLES & KPIS.

Deliverable/Report No	Activities Description	Milestone/KPIs description	Means of Verification	Deadline (per phase)

*\*add lines as required*

Please consult the SUNDANSE Open Call Guidelines for Applicants and verify the evaluation process per each phase and which milestones/KPIs you need to deliver.

Please fill in Table 2 with the risks that may affect your work-plan and compromise the sub-project (pilot) execution.

---

## 5.4 Potential Risks and mitigation actions

---



*In this section, applicants should identify potential technical, financial, or operational risks that could affect the successful implementation of the project and describe the measures or strategies they will put in place to mitigate or manage these risks.*

TABLE 2: SUB-PROJECT (PILOT) RISKS AND MITIGATION ACTIONS.

Description of risk (Indicate the level of likelihood <sup>1</sup> , and severity <sup>2</sup> : low/medium/high)		Proposed risk mitigation measures

*\*add lines as required*



## 5.5 BUDGET

Please present the budget for your sub-project (pilot), detailing the budget per applicant, and for the whole sub-project (pilot).

Please fill in Table 3 accordingly.

TABLE 3: ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Partner	Total Person Months Cost (A) <sup>3</sup>	Total Other Direct Cost (B) <sup>4</sup>	Total project budget (C) <sup>6</sup>
Partner 1 name			

<sup>1</sup>The likelihood is the estimated probability that the risk will materialize even after taking account of the mitigation measures put in place. Level of likelihood to occur: Low/Medium/High.

<sup>2</sup>The severity is the relative seriousness of the risk and the significance of its effect. Level of severity: Low/Medium/High.

<sup>3</sup> [1] A should be consistent with the person months provided in Table 3.

<sup>4</sup> [2] B should be consistent with the Total Other Direct Costs in Table 3.

<sup>6</sup> [4] Total project budget (C) = A + B. TOTAL costs of the project must not exceed 100.000 EUR.

Please present the budget for your sub-project (pilot) per project phase and Project cost ( Detailed in the Guidelines of Applicants)

Please fill in Table 4 accordingly.

TABLE 4: TABLE 3: ESTIMATED COST PER PROJECT PHASE AND PROJECT COSTS

Project costs	Project Definition	Project Implementation	Project Evaluation
Fixed Lump Sum (100%)	17,000.00€	58,000.00€	25,000.00€
Personnel Cost (Up to 65%)			
Mobility Cost (Up to 5.5%)			
Consumable/Depreciation Cost (Up to 4.50%)			
Subcontracting Cost (Up to 4.50%)			



<b>Overhead (25%)</b>			
-----------------------	--	--	--

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## 5.6 Team (As part of Excellence criteria)

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**NOTE: MAXIMUM 2 pages**

*Please provide a short summary of the relevant experience of each team member. Describe how the members complement one another and cover the expertise to match the sub-project's objectives. In what way does each of them contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.*

*Explain the capacity of the sub-project (pilot) team or sub-project (pilot) consortia team based on proven experience to deliver the proposed solution and to commercialize it. Show how the partners will have access to critical infrastructure needed to carry out the project activities.*

*In case of a consortium application, please provide a brief description of each organization and highlight the cross-sectoral dimension of the Consortium.*

*Please fill in Table 5 with the key people assigned to implement the sub-project (pilot).*

TABLE 5 5: TEAM'S EXPERTISE OF THE PROJECT

<b>Name of person</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>LinkedIn (or similar) &amp; Key Expertise Area or short CV</b>
<b>Person 1</b>			
<b>Person 2</b>			
<b>Person 3</b>			
<i>Add as many rows as needed</i>			



---

## 6 Permits

---

### OUTSIDE PAGE LIMIT

*In this section, applicants should provide information about the permits required to carry out their project activities in the proposed area. They should indicate whether any environmental, construction, or operational permits are needed, specify which ones have already been obtained, and detail their current status. If permits are still pending, applicants must provide an estimation of the time needed to secure them, considering that the project must be implemented within nine months.*

---

## 7 ETHICS and SECURITY

---

**NOTE: PLEASE FILL OUT THE ETHICS/ SECURITY ANNEX ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.**

### NO PAGE LIMIT

This table should be completed as an essential part of your proposal. Please go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering 'Yes' or 'No'. If you answer 'Yes' to any of the questions,

- Provide additional information on that ethics issue in the Ethics Self-Assessment section.

For more information on each of the ethics issues and how to address them, including detailed legal references, see the guidelines 'How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment'.

---

### 7.1 Ethics Issues

---

1. HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS AND HUMAN EMBRYOS		
<b>Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?	YES/NO
	Are they previously established cells lines?	YES/NO
	Are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?	YES/NO
<b>Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Will the activity lead to their destruction?	YES/NO



<b>2. HUMANS</b>		
<b>Does this activity involve human participants?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Are they volunteers for nonmedical studies (e.g. social or human sciences research)?	YES/NO
	Are they healthy volunteers for medical studies?	YES/NO
	Are they patients for medical studies?	YES/NO
	Are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?	YES/NO
	Are they children/minors?	YES/NO
	Are the other persons unable to give informed consent?	YES/NO
<b>Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioral treatments, etc.) on the study participants?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Does it involve invasive techniques?	YES/NO
	Does it involve collection of biological samples?	YES/NO
<b>Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Is it a clinical trial?	YES/NO
	Is it a low-intervention clinical trial?	YES/NO
<b>3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES (not covered by section 1)</b>		
<b>Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Are they human embryonic or fetal cells or tissues?	YES/NO
	Are they available commercially?	YES/NO
	Are they obtained within this project?	YES/NO
	Are they obtained from another project, laboratory, or institution?	YES/NO
	Are they obtained from a biobank?	YES/NO
<b>4. PERSONAL DATA</b>		



<b>Does this activity involve processing of personal data?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g.: sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical beliefs)?	YES/NO
	<b>If YES:</b> Does it involve processing of genetic, biometric or health data?	YES/NO
	Does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as, surveillance, geolocation tracking etc.)?	YES/NO
<b>Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?</b>		YES/NO
<b>Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify the type of personal data and countries involved:	
<b>Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	
<b>Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?</b>		YES/NO
<b>5. ANIMALS</b>		
<b>Does this activity involve animals?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Are they vertebrates?	YES/NO
	Are they non-human primates (NHP)?	YES/NO
	Are they genetically modified?	YES/NO
	Are they cloned farm animals?	YES/NO
	Are they endangered species?	YES/NO
<b>6. NON-EU COUNTRIES</b>		
<b>Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify the countries:	



<b>In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify the countries:	
<b>Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4.</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify material and countries involved:	
<b>Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.</b>		YES/NO
<b>If YES:</b>	Specify material and countries involved:	
<b>Does this activity involve <u>low and/or lower-middle income countries</u>? (if yes, detail the benefit-sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)</b>		YES/NO
<b>Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?</b>		
<b>7. ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, and SAFETY</b>		
<b>Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?</b>		YES/NO
<b>Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?</b>		YES/NO
<b>Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?</b>		YES/NO
<b>8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE</b>		
<b>Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence based systems? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).</b>		YES/NO
<b>9. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES</b>		
<b>Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?</b>		YES/NO
<b>Please specify:</b>		

If you have entered any issues in the ethics issue table, you must perform an ethics self-assessment in accordance with the guidelines "How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment" and complete the sections below.

---

## 7.2 Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact

---

Explain in detail the identified issues in relation to:

- objectives of the activities (e.g. study of vulnerable populations, etc.)
- methodology (e.g. clinical trials, involvement of children, protection of personal data, etc.)
- the potential impact of the activities (e.g. environmental damage, stigmatization of particular social groups, political or financial adverse consequences, misuse, etc.)

---

## 7.3 Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

---

Describe how the issue(s) identified in the ethics issues table above will be addressed in order to adhere to the ethical principles and what will be done to ensure that the activities are compliant with the EU/national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks are to be carried out. It is reminded that for activities performed in a non-EU country, they should also be allowed in at least one EU Member State.

### Security Issues

Please go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering YES or NO.

If you answer YES to any of the questions:

- provide additional information on this security issue in the Security self-assessment section below.

For more information on potential security issues and how to address them, see the guidance *How to handle security-sensitive projects* and the programme-specific guidelines *Classification of information in Horizon Europe projects*.

1. EU classified information (EUCI)		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorized disclosure (EUCI)?		YES/NO
If YES:	Is the activity going to use classified information as background information?	YES/NO
	Is the activity going to generate EU classified foreground information as results?	YES/NO



Does this activity involve participants from non-EU countries which need to have access to EUCI?		YES/NO
If YES:	Do the non-EU countries concerned have a security of information agreement with the EU?	YES/NO
<b>2. MISUSE</b>		
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?		YES/NO
If YES:	Does the activity provide knowledge, materials and technologies that could be channelled into crime and/or terrorism?	YES/NO
	Could the activity result in the development of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) weapons and the means for their delivery?	YES/NO
<b>3. OTHER SECURITY ISSUES</b>		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions?		YES/NO
If yes, please specify:		
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration?		YES/NO
If yes, please specify:		

#### Security Self Assessment

*If you have answered YES to one or more of the questions indicated above, describe the measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them. For more information, see the guidelines Classification of information in Horizon Europe projects, Classification of information in Digital Europe projects, Classification of information in EDF projects.*



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



Template

## SUNDANSE – Open Call #1

### Annex 4 - Sub-Grant Agreement

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PART OF THE  
**EU MISSIONS**  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

Co-funded by  
the European Union





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## 1 Contracting parties

---

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is between the following parties:

*On the one part,*

\_\_\_\_\_, [Organisation name] established in  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Full official address], VAT number  
\_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Name of legal representative],  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Position in organisation], Coordinator of the SUNDANSE project;

*Hereinafter referred to as the "Coordinator",*

\_\_\_\_\_, [Organisation name] established in  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Full official address], VAT number  
\_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Name of legal representative],  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Position in organisation], Treasurer of the SUNDANSE project;

*Hereinafter referred to as the "Treasurer",*

**and, on the other part, individual/Local and Regional Authority**

\_\_\_\_\_, [Organisation name/ individual name]  
established in \_\_\_\_\_, [Full official address], VAT  
number \_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by  
\_\_\_\_\_, [Name of legal representative],

Hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary";

**Hereinafter, all parties above are collectively referred to as the "Contracting Parties"**

The Contracting Parties **HAVE AGREED** to the following terms and conditions including those in the following Annexes, which form an integral part of this sub-grant agreement.

---

## 2 General provision

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The grant is awarded to **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%**, selected in the framework of the SUNDANSE Sediments Matters - The Danube Call.

The agreement sets out the terms and conditions for paying the grant to the Beneficiary and rights and responsibilities of the Beneficiary implementing the awarded project.

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## 3 Article 1 - Entry into force and termination of the agreement

### 3.1 1.1. Entry into force

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1. This Agreement enters into force on the day of its signature by the last Contracting Party.

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### **3.2 1.2. Agreement termination**

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1. This Agreement will automatically terminate at the date mentioned in Article 1.3.
2. Either Contracting Party can terminate the Agreement by written notice.
3. Termination has no effect on the provisions that normally continue to apply after the end of the Programme and duration of the Agreement.
4. The Coordinator will be entitled to terminate the Agreement by written notice with immediate effect if the Beneficiary does not fulfil their obligations. In this case, the provisions of Article 3 shall prevail.
5. In case of termination by the Beneficiary, no additional payments will be made beyond the last concluded 'Stage', regardless of subsequent work carried out.
6. In case pre-financing has been made and there is termination by the Beneficiary, no additional payments will be made beyond the last concluded 'Stage'. Any subsequent work carried out before termination will be evaluated on an individual basis. The coordinator may request the refund of the pre-financing amount.
7. In case the Programme is divided into phases and the Beneficiary is not selected to enter the subsequent phase, the agreement shall be automatically terminated and no additional payments shall be made.

### **1.3. Duration and starting date of awarded the project**

1. The effective starting date of the awarded %Sub-grant ProjectAcronym% is xxx (full date).
2. The end date of the awarded %Sub-grant ProjectAcronym% is xxx (full date).
3. The %Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%, will be implemented for nine months.
4. The implementation of the awarded project shall start on the date given above, even if the agreement has been signed at a later date.
5. The Beneficiary will have access to limited information until the Agreement is signed.

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### **3.3 Article 2 - Conflict of Interest**

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1. The Beneficiary shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any risk of conflict of interest relating with economic interests, political or national affinities, personal or any other interests liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of this project.
2. In case the Beneficiary is involved in a conflict of interest or in a risk of conflict of interest, the Beneficiary must formally notify this situation to the Coordinator without delay and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

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## **4 Article 3 - Breach of contractual obligations**

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1. If the Beneficiary breaches any of the contractual obligations under this Agreement, the agreement may be terminated with immediate effect. In case of Force Majeure, the provisions of Article 8 shall prevail.
2. In the event of breach of the contractual obligations by the Beneficiary, the Coordinator reserves the right to withhold the payments, not to fulfil the payments to the Beneficiaries and the right to claim a refund of any already paid funds.
3. The Coordinator will give written notice requiring that such a breach be remedied within 30 consecutive days. In case the Beneficiary has not introduced remedies addressing the notice, the Coordinator may decide to terminate the Agreement unilaterally. In case the Beneficiary introduces remedies that are approved by the Coordinator, the implementation must continue following the original timeline.

---

## **5 Article 4 – Project implementation and financial provisions**

### **5.1 Maximum financial contribution**

1. The maximum financial contribution to be granted to the Beneficiary of the project is €100,000 (One hundred thousand euros) and will be paid in the form of a lump sum.

---

### **5.2 Distribution of the financial contribution**

1. The financial contribution will be paid in instalments after the Beneficiary have fulfilled the necessary requirements of each Stage of the project as stated in Articles 4.3 and 4.4.
2. The Coordinator reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Beneficiary does not fulfil its obligations and considers the payment conditions for each stage.
3. Payments will be made in EUR. Banking and transaction costs related to the handling of any financial resources will be covered by the Beneficiary.
4. Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the notification that the work associated with a particular Stage has been approved. Any specific limitation delaying payments will be made known in advance.
5. The Beneficiary is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this Agreement.
6. Any additional conditions for payment may be specified in the Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants.
7. A Know Your Customer (KYC) check must be carried out before any payment. If the KYC check determines that additional information is required, the payment period mentioned in 'Article 4 - Project implementation and financial provisions' is reset until all additional information is received.

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### **5.3 Project implementation**

1. The Beneficiary will implement the awarded project in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants.

2. The awarded project must submit the required reports corresponding to each Stage within the dates specified in Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants.
3. A review of submitted reports will be held with the Beneficiary by the last calendar day of the end month of the Stage. The objective of the review is to present the implemented Stage and provide answers to questions from the mentors/coaches and/or SUNDANSE consortium.
4. If at any of the project stages the quality of work demonstrated and/or reported does not correspond to what has been agreed, the SUNDANSE Coordinator may agree to a resubmission of a report and respective reassessment. If significant improvements are not delivered after the reassessment and the sub-project is therefore considered to be in breach of their contractual obligations. Such breach will lead to measures described in Article 3.

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## 5.4 Payments schedule

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1. The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant stages of the awarded project. The grant will be paid in instalments according to Table 1.

Table 1. Tentative payment schedule for SUNDANSE funding programme

Stage/Phase	Requirements	Amount (%)

2. The payments will be disbursed once the work related to a specific stage has received positive assessment, based on the report submitted and respective review according to the Article 4.3.
3. The payments will be made to the Beneficiary no later than 30 calendar days, subject to the duly completed submission of a Payment Request Form and Declaration of Honour.
4. If the bank account details provided in the Payment Request Form are different from those submitted in the Bank Account Information form, a new form must be submitted accompanied by proof of ownership of the bank account with the name of the Beneficiary (bank account statement or similar document).
5. If by law the Beneficiary is required to send an invoice, it must include the following information:

F6S                      EU                      Tech                      Innovation                      Network                      DAC  
 77                      Lower                      Camden                      St.,                      D02                      XE80,                      Dublin,                      Ireland  
 VAT number: IE 4237109IH (DAC)

---

## 5.5 4.5 Records keeping

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1. The Beneficiary must keep for a period of five (5) years after the termination of the **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%** project, records and other supporting documentation which proves the proper implementation of the awarded project.

2. The Beneficiary shall make the supporting documentation available upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations.
3. If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement, the Beneficiary must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.
4. The Beneficiary must keep the original documents. Digital and digitised documents are considered originals if they are duly recognised as such and/or admissible under the applicable national law. The **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%** project may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

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## **5.6 4.6 Double funding**

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1. The Beneficiary acknowledges the fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget.
2. The Beneficiary undertakes all the work performed under the **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%** project will be done exclusively in the scope of this Agreement, not being supported or funded by any other EU budget. The Beneficiary will use the budget to cover activities only related to the awarded **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%** project.

---

## **6 Article 5 - Liability**

### **6.1 5.1 Liability of the Beneficiary**

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1. The Beneficiary is fully responsible for the proper implementation of **%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%** and in compliance with this Agreement.
2. Except in case of force majeure (Article 8), the Beneficiary must compensate the Coordinator for any damage they sustain because of the implementation of the obligations of the Beneficiaries under this Agreement or because the obligations were not implemented in full compliance with this Agreement.
3. The SUNDANSE consortium or consortium partner cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the Beneficiary or to third parties as a consequence of implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.
4. The SUNDANSE consortium or consortium partner cannot be held liable for any damage caused by the Beneficiary or third parties involved in project implementation, as a consequence of implementation of the Agreement.
5. The Beneficiary shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its act(s) within the framework of this Agreement do not infringe third parties' rights.
6. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties. For this purpose, the Beneficiary shall indemnify and hold the Coordinator any SUNDANSE consortium partner harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages which the Coordinator, any SUNDANSE consortium partner or the European Commission (EC) as a result thereof would incur or suffer or must pay to the EC or any third parties.

7. In addition, should the EC have a right of recovery against the SUNDANSE consortium regarding any or all the financial support granted under this Agreement, the Beneficiaries shall repay the sums in question in the terms and on the date specified by the Coordinator.
8. The Beneficiary's aggregate liability towards the other Contracting Party and the SUNDANSE consortium partners collectively shall be limited to the Beneficiary's/# maximum financial contribution as identified in Article 4.1.

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## 6.2 5.2 Exclusions of liability

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1. To the extent acceptable under applicable law, in no event shall the Coordinator or other SUNDANSE consortium partners be liable to the Beneficiary for loss or damage caused by the Coordinator or the SUNDANSE consortium partners, their employees, agents and subcontractors in connection with this Agreement for any of the following, however caused or arising, on any theory of liability, and even if the Coordinator and/or any other SUNDANSE consortium partner were informed or aware of the possibility thereof:
  - Loss of profits, revenue, income, interest, savings, shelf-space, production, and business.
  - Opportunities; lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings.
  - Loss of or damage to reputation or to data.
  - Costs of recall of products.
  - Any type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential loss or damage.
2. In respect of any information or materials from the SUNDANSE consortium made available to the Beneficiary under this Agreement, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given, or implied as to the sufficiency, error-free performance, or fitness for purpose, nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties. Therefore, in particular, but without limiting the foregoing:
  - The Beneficiary shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and the consequences of such use, and
  - Neither the Coordinator, the EC nor the other SUNDANSE consortium partners shall be liable vis-à-vis the Beneficiary in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from the Beneficiary's use of the information and material.
  - The exclusions and limitations stated in this Article and any other clause of this Agreement that has as its object or effect the exclusion or limitation of liability, shall not apply in respect of any: fraud; death, injury to natural persons or damage to real or immovable property caused by the negligence or wilful act, wilful misconduct, wilful breach; or otherwise in so far as mandatory applicable law overrides such exclusions and limitations.

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## 7 Article 6 - Confidentiality

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1. The Parties shall protect confidential information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the sub-granted project. The information identified as confidential should be provided in writing.
2. Specific rules and responsibilities regarding the use of confidential information shall be established in writing in a separate agreement, if needed.
3. The SUNDANSE Coordinator may disclose confidential Information to the EC and/or the other SUNDANSE consortium partners if:
  - This is necessary to implement the GA or safeguard the EU's financial interests.
  - The recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
4. The Beneficiary agrees and acknowledge that the EC shall be entitled to disclose confidential Information to its staff, other EU institutions and bodies or third parties, if:
  - This is necessary to implement the GA or safeguard the EU's financial interests.
  - The recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
5. During the project implementation and for five (5) years following the ending of the SUNDANSE on **%ProjectEndDate%**, the Beneficiary can not use any confidential information except as defined in this Agreement. The Parties will implement suitable measures to ensure confidentiality. The Parties will take the appropriate measures to guarantee the confidentiality of the information provided.

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## **8 Article 7 - Intellectual property rights**

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1. The Beneficiary acknowledge(s) that all technologies, infrastructure and similar of the SUNDANSE consortium partners are proprietary and owned by the respective partner or applicable third party.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall transfer to the Beneficiary (or other partners it represents) any licence or other rights for the use of the tools, modules and similar that are property of a SUNDANSE partner, unless a specific agreement is established.
3. The results developed during the sub-granted project shall be exclusively the property of the Beneficiary. This does not exclude the possibility for specific agreements to be made between the Beneficiary and one or more of the partners of SUNDANSE consortium.

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## **9 Article 8 - Force Majeure**

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1. "Force Majeure" means any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Agreement, which was not attributable to error or negligence on their part, and which proves to be inevitable despite the exercising of all due diligence.
2. Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as Force Majeure.

3. The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to Force Majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.
4. No Contracting Party shall be in breach of its obligations and tasks if such a breach is caused by Force Majeure. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Party of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Beneficiary is not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within thirty calendar (30) days after such notification, the SUNDANSE Coordinator will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Agreement.

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## 10 Article 9 - Information and communication

### 10.1 9.1 Information and communication towards the EC

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1. Throughout the duration of the sub-project, the Beneficiary must promote the project and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), as well as participate in the SUNDANSE promotion activities, in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.
2. The communication, dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European emblem, SUNDANSE logo and include following disclaimer:

*"The [sub-project acronym] project has received funding from EC through the SUNDANSE (Grant Agreement no. 101156533)."*

*"(Co-)Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."*

3. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos without first obtaining approval. This does not, however, give the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.
4. The Coordinator, the SUNDANSE consortium, and/or the EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information: personal data, including the Beneficiaries' name, contact details, location, and project related information, for communication, publication and reporting purposes. This may also include, but is not limited to: using summaries, public deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audiovisual content/material provided by the Beneficiary (including in electronic form).
5. The Beneficiary shall make all efforts to ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publications have been obtained and that the publication of the information does not infringe any rights of third parties.
6. Upon a duly supported request by the Coordinator on behalf of the Beneficiary, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if the disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

---

## 10.2 9.2 Information and communication among the Contracting Parties

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1. The contact details of the Beneficiary for notices and communication under this Agreement are:

<b>Name of contact person</b>	
<b>Organisation name</b>	
<b>Role in the organisation</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Telephone/ mobile phone</b>	

2. Any notice to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing, including e-mail communication, to the addresses and recipients listed above.
3. Any change of persons or contact details shall be notified immediately to the SUNDANSE Coordinator. The address list shall be made accessible to all parties concerned.
4. The Beneficiary must immediately communicate any changes in the control of the organisation, including any replacement or removal of legal representatives identified in the initial F6S-required KYC check. An updated KYC form along with proof of ID and residence must be provided to reflect the changes. Any pending payments may be suspended until the KYC is cleared.
5. Any communication will be conducted in English as the only official language of this Agreement.

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## 11 Article 10 – Checks, reviews, investigation, audits

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1. The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for checks, investigation, reviews and/or audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.
2. There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since the Beneficiary has no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.
3. The Beneficiary shall make available all information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, to verify the compliance with sub-grant agreement.

4. To carry out checks, reviews, investigation, audits, the Beneficiary shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Beneficiary's offices, to its computer data, and to all the information needed to carry out those checks. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot during an audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.
5. Based on the findings made during the check, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the Beneficiary concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.
6. Based on the conclusions of the check, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.
7. The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

---

## **12 Article 11 – Data protection**

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1. The Contracting Parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.
2. Each Contracting Party shall each be considered a separate and independent data controller, as defined in the GDPR, to every other Contracting Party. The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specific purposes and adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed. Where it might be designated by a relevant Supervisory Authority or through agreement between Contracting Parties that the SUNDANSE Coordinator and any other SUNDANSE consortium partners are appointed as data processors, parties shall enter into appropriate data processing agreements as required by the GDPR.
3. The Beneficiary acknowledges that the SUNDANSE Coordinator and any other SUNDANSE consortium partners, if appointed as data processors, are not responsible for the Beneficiaries' compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to the Beneficiary. Each of the Contracting Parties, in their respective roles as data controllers, will be responsible for their own compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to them as data controller.

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## **13 Article 12 - Miscellaneous**

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1. Should any provision of this Agreement be or become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement. In such a case, the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to request that a valid, legal, enforceable, and practicable replacement provision be negotiated which fulfils the purpose of the original provision.



2. The Beneficiary shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Coordinator or any other SUNDANSE consortium partner, and nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Contracting Parties or between the Beneficiary and any SUNDANSE consortium partner.
3. No rights or obligations of the Beneficiary arising from this Agreement may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, and no obligations of the Beneficiary may be subcontracted, without the Coordinator's prior formal written approval; and such approval shall not exempt the Beneficiary from any of its obligations hereunder.
4. Although (with exception to the Coordinator) the SUNDANSE consortium partners and their affiliated entities are not Contracting Parties to this Agreement, they are intended by the Contracting Parties to be third party beneficiaries under this Agreement and accordingly shall be entitled to enforce the terms of this Agreement against the Beneficiary and (without limitation) shall be entitled to the benefit from, and to enforce any exclusion of limitation of liability of the SUNDANSE consortium partners contained in this Agreement and any indemnity in favour of the SUNDANSE consortium partners contained in this Agreement.
5. Amendments and modifications to the text of this Agreement require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties.
6. This Agreement is drawn up in English language which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, and processes relative thereto.

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## **14 Article 13 - Ethics**

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1. The Beneficiary must implement the project line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

---

## **15 Article 14 - Applicable Law**

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1. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Ireland.

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## **16 Article 15 - Settlement of disputes**

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1. If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the **International Chamber of Commerce** by three (3) arbitrators in Ireland.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the Contracting Parties right to seek injunctive relief or to enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.



**AS WITNESS:**

The Contracting Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives the day and year written below:

<p>For <b>COORDINATOR ORGANISATION</b> (<i>SUNDANSE</i> Coordinator)</p> <p><b>Name of representative, as on first page</b></p> <p>Position</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>	<p>For <b>TREASURER ORGANISATION</b> (<i>SUNDANSE</i> Treasurer)</p> <p><b>Name of representative, as on first page</b></p> <p>Position</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>
<p>For <b>Lead Partner name</b> (<i>%Sub-grant ProjectAcronym%</i> Lead Beneficiary)</p> <p><b>Name of representative, as on first page</b></p> <p>Position</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>	



## 18 COMPLEMENTARY ANNEXES

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- Annex 1: Guide for Applicants
- Annex 2: Replication Activities Catalogue
- Annex 3: Technical Proposal
- Annex 4: Sub-Grant Agreement
- Annex 5: Declaration of Honor – Single entity

Template



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## SUNDANSE – Open Call #1

### Annex 5 - Declaration of Honour

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RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

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## 1 APPLICANT DECLARATION OF HONOUR

---

Project title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project acronym: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ [Company/ organisation name]  
established in \_\_\_\_\_, [Official address], VAT number<sup>1</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the proposal and  
present Declaration of Honour by \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of legal  
representative].

By signing this document, I declare that:

1. I have the power of legally binding the above-mentioned organisation upon submitting this proposal.
2. Neither the above-mentioned company/ organisation nor any linked company/ organisation or any individual member of the proposal team has submitted any other proposal under the SUNDANSE -Sediments Matters – The Danube Call. In case the above-mentioned company/ organisation or any individual member of the team has submitted more than one proposal to this open call, all associated proposals will be automatically excluded from the evaluation process.
3. I and the above company/ organisation that I legally represent are fully aware and duly accept all SUNDANSE rules and conditions as expressed in the respective open call documents and Annexes and will respect any evaluation decision and proposal selection.
4. All provided information in this declaration is true and legally binding.
5. I give the consent and permission to the SUNDANSE coordinator to use the attached information to contact me for any issue associated with the associated proposal.

---

<sup>1</sup> VAT is mandatory during the contract preparation. Failure to provide a valid VAT of the specific SME will result in automatic rejection of the proposal.



**Company/ organisation contact information:**

<b>Title (Mr., Ms., Dr.)</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Full address</b>	
<b>Country</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>	
<b>Telephone/ Mobile phone</b>	
<b>Signature/ Date</b>	

Template

### 3 Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and 4 absence of conflict of interest

By signing this declaration of honour, I declare that all provided information below is true and legally binding both for me and for the company/ organisation that I legally represent:

1. I declare that the mentioned company/ organisation is not in one of the following situations:
  - a. Is bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
  - b. It or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.
  - c. Has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations.
  - d. Is not in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed, to be proved by the deliverance of official documents issued by the local authorities, according to the local applicable rules.
  - e. It or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests.
  - f. Is subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement procedure or failing to supply this information or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget.
2. I declare that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned company/ organisation are not in the situations referred to in (a) to (f) above.
3. I declare that:
  - a. Neither any person nor I that I know is subject to an SUNDANSE project conflict of interest.
  - b. Neither any person or I that I know participates, controls, submits, or is associated in any way with more than one proposal to the SUNDANSE -Sediments Matters – The Danube Call.



- c. I have not made false declarations in supplying the information required by participation in the open calls of the SUNDANSE project or does not fail to supply this information.
- d. I am not in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in the abovementioned points (a) to (f).
- e. I am aware and fully accept all SUNDANSE conditions and rules as expressed in the open call documents and Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4 and Annex 5.
4. I certify that the company/ organisation that I represent:

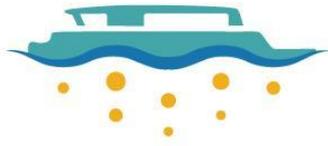
Is committed to participate in the abovementioned project.

Has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the above-mentioned project and to provide any counterpart funding necessary.

Has or will have the necessary resources as and when needed to carry out its involvement in the above-mentioned project.

<b>Full name:</b> _____	<b>Signature and stamp (if applicable)</b>  
<b>Done at (place) _____, on the _____ (day) _____ (month) _____ (year)</b>	

Template



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## SUNDANSE Open Call #1

### Annex 6 - Application Form

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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## SECTION 1: Proposal Public Information

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**1. Proposal Title \***

**2. Proposal Acronym\***

**3. Project summary\***

*Maximum of 500 characters*

*500 characters*

**4. Proposal topic(s) addressed (Tick-box, multiple choice) \***

- Flow monitoring
- Sediment quantity monitoring
- Sediment quality assessment (including the identification of pollution sources of the river(s))
- Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations



**5. Activity related to your replication (Tick-box, multiple choice) \***

- A1:** Baseline assessment of the target area
- A2:** Flow monitoring
- A3:** Mapping the target area
- A4:** Sediment quantity monitoring
- A5:** Granulometric characterization of suspended and/or benthic sediments
- A6:** Microplastic contamination assessment in suspended and/or benthic sediments
- A7:** Analysis of microorganic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, tire additives) in sediment samples
- A8:** Toxic metal contamination assessment in sediment samples (Pb, Cu, Cd, Zn, etc.)
- A9:** Toxicity evaluation of suspended sediment samples
- A10:** Numerical modelling of sediment transport dynamics
- A11:** Development of normative frameworks for real-time data utilization in pollution management
- A12:** Assessment of inland waterway transport impact on sediment dynamics

---

## 1.1 SECTION 2: Applicants Legal Data

---

*Note: Only Local and Regional Authorities based on eligible regions are eligible under SUNDANSE - Open Call. For further information, consult Section 3 of the Guidelines for Applicants at <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>*

---

### 1.1.1 Partner 1 - Coordinator

---

**6. P1. Legal Name\***

*Please provide your legal entity name*

**7. P1. Address \***

*Street, Postcode and City*

**8. Type of Local and Regional Authorities\***

**9. Legal Registration Number\***

**10. VAT Number\***

*Format of the VAT number is <CountryCode><National VAT Number>. Example: If your company is registered in Ireland with VAT 123XPT the correct value for this field is: IE123XPT. For extra guidance, please check: [ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/vies/faqvies.do](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/faqvies.do)*



**11. P1. Country \***

*(Drop Down list) [Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia]*

**12. P1. Region \***

*(Drop Down list)*

13. Website (If applicable)

14. Name of the contact person\*

*The person identified here will be the main contact with the Open Call Manager*

15. Role in the organization\*

16. Email of the contact person\*

---

## **1.2 SECTION 3. Annexes**

---

**17. Proposal Technical annex (Max file size 30MB)**

*Download the Technical annex template available at <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>, fill in with the text editor of your choice in English language, export to PDF format without restrictions for printing, and upload below.*

*Choose a file*

**18. Upload Applicant 1 Official document as proof of Local or Regional authority (with official certified signature)\***

---

## **1.3 SECTION 4: Requirements to join the programme**

---

**19. Ability to receive European Union support \***

The organization(s):

1. Have not had convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, unethical or illegal business practices.
2. Have not been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures

3. Is(are) not under liquidation or is(are) not an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18.
4. Is(are) not excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of either national or EU authority

The company(s) do(es) not fall in point 1 to 4

**20. . Conflict of interest \***

Beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest.

To the best of our knowledge, there is no conflict of interest

**21. How did you hear about this programme? \***

- Referral
- Social Media
- News and Media
- F6S
- Events
- Other

**22. If Other: Indicate**

**23. Acceptance of the SUNDANSE Open Call conditions \***

Click here to visualise the SUNDANSE Open Call Guidelines for Applicants:  
<https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/> \*

- I have reviewed and accept all the conditions of SUNDANSE Open Call Guidelines for Applicants

**24. .I CONFIRM that all information provided in this proposal, including in the attached documents and annexes, is true and correct. \***

- I CONFIRM



25. I ACCEPT that the information provided and submitted in this proposal can be shared by F6S with the project consortium for the purposes of managing the programme. \*

- I ACCEPT



# sundanse

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube - Black Sea system



## SUNDANSE OPEN CALL #1 COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

### THE DANUBE CALL

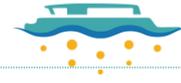
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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## INTRODUCTION:

Dear,

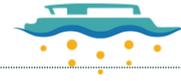
The purpose of the **SUNDANSE Open Call Communication Kit** is to equip you with **ready-to-use communication templates**, ensuring consistency in the messaging and maximising the outreach when promoting the SUNDANSE Open Call #1 across networks.

This toolkit is designed to be easily used and/or customised with minimal effort. It comprises a collection of email templates designed for effective communication, along with illustrative examples of social media posts and visuals, press release template, and a newsletter blurb template.

If you have any additional questions, we remain at your disposal:

- [oriane@f6s.com](mailto:oriane@f6s.com)
- [anja@f6s.com](mailto:anja@f6s.com)

Thank you for your commitment to SUNDANSE!



---

## COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

---

### 1.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

---

- **Call launch:** Wednesday, 17 December 2025 | 12 PM CET (Brussels time)
- **Call deadline:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 | 5 PM CET (Brussels time)
- **Online Application Form:** <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-open-call-1/apply>
- **Target group:** Local and/or Regional Authorities
- **Project website:** <https://sundanseproject.eu/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sundanse/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/sundanseproject/>
- **1st Informative Webinar:** Thursday, 15 January 2026 | 11 AM CET – 12:30 PM CET
  - Registration page: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-the-danube-call-webinar-1/>
- **2nd Informative Webinar:** Thursday, 5 February 2026 | 11 AM CET – 12:30 PM CET
  - Registration page: <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-the-danube-call-webinar-2/>
- **Eligible countries:** Germany, Slovakia, Moldova, Hungary, Croatia

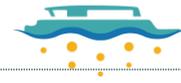
**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Countries that are part of the SUNDANSE consortium (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine) **CAN NOT** participate.

### 1.2. GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION

---

A kind reminder of a few crucial guidelines for effective dissemination, to be achieved either by you personally or by the communication department in your organisation, please make sure to share this information with them. To begin, please don't forget to **follow SUNDANSE's social media accounts** ([LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)) and contribute by **actively liking, sharing, and reposting our posts**, as this immediately helps us reach a wider audience. Furthermore, we ask that you **leverage your official channels by sharing posts** (content available below) through your company's social media accounts promoting the SUNDANSE Open Call and directing people to the website (<https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>). We also encourage you to **publish the Open Call Press Release** on your website and/or share it via your newsletter and other relevant channels - translating the release is perfectly acceptable if needed for local impact. Finally, to truly maximise reach, all partners should post information referring to the Call through your **personal LinkedIn/Twitter profiles** using this toolkit and **always tagging SUNDANSE** (@SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundanse Project on Facebook).

**PLEASE NOTE: Utilising our collective networks is a criterion to reach the most relevant local/regional contacts.**



---

## EMAIL TEMPLATES

---

---

### 2.1. TARGETING LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

---

SUBJECT:

💰 **Secure up to €100,000 for River Sediment solutions in your region - Apply to the SUNDANSE Open Call**

Dear **[Recipient Name]**,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is **[Your Name]** and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the **SUNDANSE project**, an EU-funded initiative dedicated to advancing sustainable sediment management and river ecosystems health, particularly across the Danube region.

We are excited to announce the launch of the **SUNDANSE's Danube Open Call**, inviting **local and regional authorities** from **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia** to develop innovative sedimentation solutions inspired by our demonstration sites.

#### Key details of the Open Call:

- **Call launch:** Thursday, 17 December 2025
- **Call deadline:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 | 5 PM CET (Brussels time)
- **Info Webinar:** Thursday, 15 January 2026 | 11 AM CET – 12:30 PM CET
- **Funding:** Up to €100,000

#### Why should you apply?

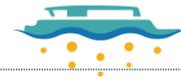
- **To build sustainable practices within your region!**
- **To get access to sustainable sediment solutions!**
- **To collaborate with diverse stakeholders and experts in the field!**
- **To get grants up to €100,000!**

#### Info-Webinar details:

On **15 January, from 11 AM CET**, SUNDANSE will hold an **Info-Webinar on the Application for the Open Call**. The webinar aims to provide valuable insights, clarify any questions you may have, and offer guidance on creating a successful Open Call application. If you'd like to attend the webinar, please register [🔗 HERE](#).

We look forward to receiving your application!

Best of luck,



---

## 2.2. TARGETING NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

---

SUBJECT:

📣 **Funding Alert: Up to €100,000 available for River Sediment solutions via SUNDANSE Open Call**

Dear [Recipient Name],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name] and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the **SUNDANSE project**, an EU-funded initiative dedicated to advancing sustainable sediment management and river ecosystems health, particularly across the Danube region.

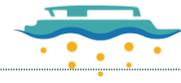
The **SUNDANSE project** is launching its first **Danube Open Call**, providing local and regional authorities in **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia** with funding of **up to €100,000** to implement innovative sustainable sediment solutions.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**NGOs are not directly eligible for the SUNDANSE's Danube Open Call application.** However, this is an opportunity for your organisation to encourage local and regional authorities in your geographical area and help rivers stay healthy.

Thank you in advance for helping us ensure this SUNDANSE's Open Call reaches those who can make the biggest impact!

Cheers,



## 2.3. TARGETING MEDIA

---

SUBJECT:

📣 **MEDIA ALERT: EU-Funded project offers €300k grants to Local Authorities for River Health**

Dear [Recipient Name],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name] and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the **EU-funded project SUNDANSE**, regarding a major new funding initiative focused on the Danube river ecosystem management.

The SUNDANSE project is launching the [Danube Open Call](#), inviting **local and regional authorities** from **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia** to develop innovative sedimentation solutions. This initiative represents a **total investment of €300,000**, funding 3 proposals up to €100,000 each.

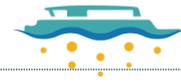
This news is highly relevant to your coverage of [Insert Relevant Coverage Area, e.g., Environmental Policy, EU Funding, Water Management in the Danube Region] as it highlights concrete, EU-backed action being taken by local and regional governments to tackle river challenges like pollution and sediment flow alterations.

**I have attached the full press release, which details the scope of the funding, the eligible activities, and quotes from the Project Coordinator.**

We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this opportunity with your audience.

Thank you in advance for your interest!

Best regards,



---

## 2.4. TARGETING OTHER NETWORKS

---

SUBJECT:

📣 **Funding Alert: €100,000 available for River Sediment solutions via SUNDANSE Open Call**

Dear **[Recipient Name]**,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is **[Your Name]** and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the **SUNDANSE project**, an EU-funded initiative dedicated to advancing sustainable sediment management and river ecosystems health, particularly across the Danube region.

We are excited to announce the launch of the **SUNDANSE's Danube Open Call**, inviting **local and regional authorities** from **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia** to develop innovative sedimentation solutions.

### Key details of the Open Call:

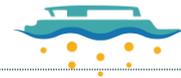
- **Call launch:** Thursday, 17 December 2025
- **Call deadline:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026 | 5 PM CET (Brussels time)
- **Funding:** Up to €100,000 per proposed project
- **Info Webinar:** Thursday, 15 January 2026 | 11 AM CET – 12:30 PM CET | [REGISTER](#)

By funding these innovative projects and promoting collaboration, we believe we can make a significant impact on the sustainability of our rivers and surrounding communities.

**We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this major funding opportunity with your audience and relevant contacts, particularly local and regional authorities in the aforementioned countries.**

Thank you in advance for helping us ensure this SUNDANSE's Open Call reaches those who can make the biggest impact!

All the best,



## SOCIAL MEDIA: LINKEDIN & FACEBOOK

All visuals are available [HERE](#).

### 3.1. LAUNCH DAY

💰 **RIVER FUNDING ALERT: UP TO €100,000 GRANTS ARE NOW LIVE!** 💰  
Local and Regional Authorities, this is your chance to drive real environmental change!

We are excited to announce the official launch of the **The Danube Call**, organised by **[Tag @SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundanse Project on Facebook]**.

💰 **Financial Support:** Up to **€100,000** available per innovative project.

🎯 **Target Regions:** Open to local & regional **#authorities** in **#Croatia #Germany #Hungary #Moldova #Slovakia**

💡 **The Mission:** Propose data-driven, sustainable solutions to enhance river **#sedimentation** and water quality.

Don't let this significant opportunity flow away!

Tap the link to learn more and download the application guidelines:

👉 <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>

**#SUNDANSE #OpenCall #EUFunding #RiverManagement #WaterSolutions #DanubeRiver**

**Who: LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

**Topic: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT**

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:  
THE DANUBE CALL**

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET**  
[www.sundanseproject.eu](http://www.sundanseproject.eu)

**€  
100K  
EUROS**

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**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

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[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)

## 3.2. GENERAL PROMOTION

OPTION 1:

  **FUNDING ALERT FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**  
The [Tag @SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundanse Project on Facebook] project #OpenCall is now LIVE, offering local and regional #authorities the power to revitalise their waterways! 💧

Secure up to **€100,000** per proposal to implement sustainable sediment solutions in your country and eventually region.

📍 Eligible countries: #Croatia #Germany #Hungary #Moldova #Slovakia

This is your chance to drive positive change in your community. Don't miss this opportunity!

Tap the link to learn more and download the application guidelines:

🔗 <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>

#SUNDANSE #EUFunding #RiverManagement #WaterSolutions #DanubeRiver



**THE DANUBE CALL:**  
OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES



**UP TO €100,000  
FUNDING**

TOPIC: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET**  
[www.sundanseproject.eu](http://www.sundanseproject.eu)

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[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)

OPTION 2

**FUNDING AVAILABLE: INNOVATE FOR HEALTHY RIVERS**

The [Tag @SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundanse Project on Facebook] project is seeking proposals for #sustainable solutions related to #sediment dynamics and river protection. 💧

📣 Local & regional #authorities in #Croatia #Germany #Hungary #Moldova and #Slovakia: Propose your solution and qualify for up to €100,000 in funding! 💰

This is your chance to drive positive change in your community. Don't miss it!

#OpenCall details → <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>



**sundanse**  
OPEN CALL #1

**THE DANUBE CALL:  
OFFERING UP TO  
€100,000 IN FUNDING**

Topic: **SEDIMENT  
MANAGEMENT**

**OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL &  
REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET**  
[www.sundanseproject.eu](http://www.sundanseproject.eu)

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[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)

### OPTION 3

#### 💰 🏠 **FUNDING ALERT FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Are you located in #Croatia #Germany #Hungary #Moldova or #Slovakia? You are eligible to apply for up to **€100,000** to fund innovative projects for #river sedimentation!

[Tag @SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundance Project on Facebook] has launched **The Danube Call**, #OpenCall targeting local and regional #authorities ready to tackle river challenges head-on. 💧

💡 The Mission: Propose data-driven, sustainable solutions to enhance river #sedimentation and water quality.

This is a direct investment in your community's environmental future. Don't miss it!

Tap the link to learn more and download the application guidelines:

👉 <https://sundanceproject.eu/sundance-open-call-1/>

#SUNDANSE #EUFunding #RiverManagement #WaterSolutions #DanubeRiver



The graphic features the Sundance logo and 'OPEN CALL #1' in the top left. A central map of Europe highlights Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, and Croatia. A yellow box in the top right reads 'OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES'. Large text on the right says 'Apply for up to €100,000 in funding to enhance the river sedimentation in your country'. A yellow banner at the bottom states 'APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET' and 'www.sundanceproject.eu'. The bottom left corner includes 'PART OF THE EU MISSIONS RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS' and the bottom right corner includes 'Co-funded by the European Union' with the EU flag.

[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)

### 3.3. INFORMATIVE WEBINAR

#### HOW TO SECURE FUNDING UP TO €100,000 !?

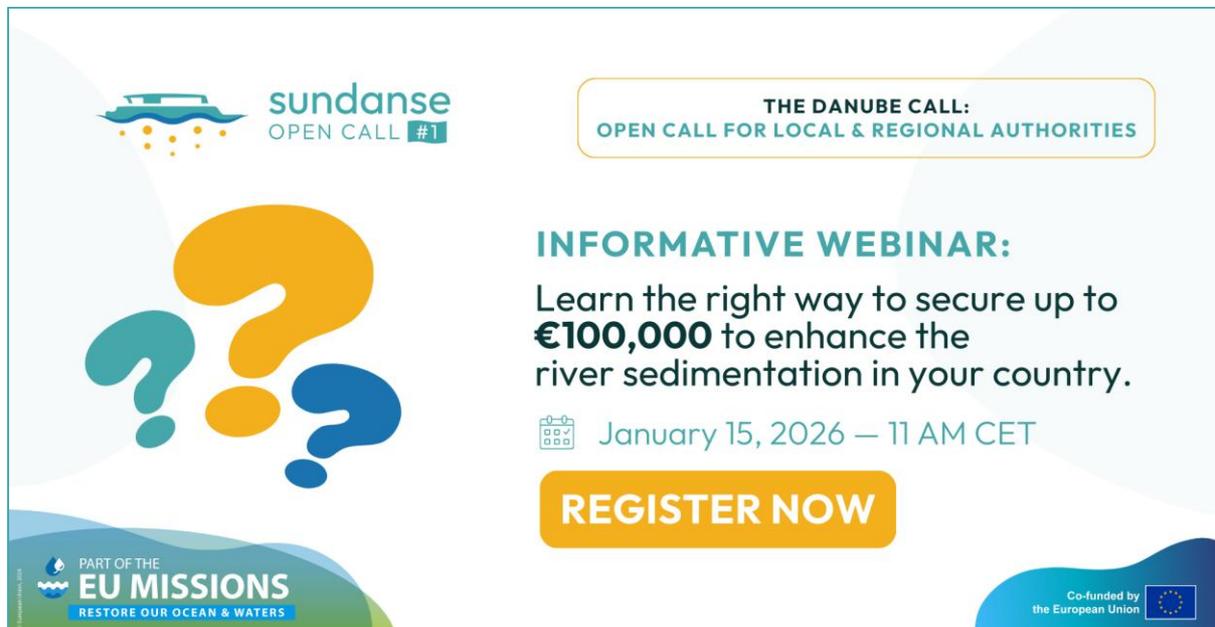
[Tag @SUNDANSE on LinkedIn / @Sundanse Project on Facebook] project invites all interested parties to join its Q&A #InfoWebinar on  15 January 2026, from 11 AM CET to 12:30 PM CET.

 This webinar will provide further insights into **The Danube Call**, including eligibility criteria, application process, and tips for a successful submission.

 Don't miss the opportunity to get all your questions answered and learn how to maximize your chances of securing funding for your innovative solution.

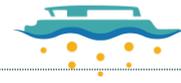
Save your seat  <https://www.f6s.com/sundanse-the-danube-call-webinar-1/>

#SUNDANSE #EUFunding #RiverManagement #WaterSolutions #DanubeRiver #Webinar #QA



The graphic is a promotional banner for an informative webinar. It features the Sundanse logo at the top left, which includes a stylized river and the text 'sundanse OPEN CALL #1'. In the center, there are three large, colorful question marks (one orange, two blue). To the right, a white rounded rectangle contains the text 'THE DANUBE CALL: OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES'. Below this, the text 'INFORMATIVE WEBINAR:' is followed by 'Learn the right way to secure up to €100,000 to enhance the river sedimentation in your country.' and 'January 15, 2026 – 11 AM CET' with a calendar icon. A prominent orange button with white text says 'REGISTER NOW'. At the bottom left, it says 'PART OF THE EU MISSIONS RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS'. At the bottom right, it says 'Co-funded by the European Union' with the EU flag logo.

[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)



## NEWSLETTER

PARAGRAPH TO INCLUDE IN THE INSTITUTIONAL NEWSLETTER:

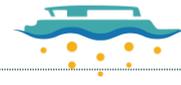
### **SECURE UP TO €100,000: Apply for the SUNDANSE Open Call**

A significant funding opportunity is now available through SUNDANSE's **“Danube Call” for Associated Regions**. SUNDANSE is an EU-funded initiative dedicated to enhancing river ecosystem health through sustainable sediment management. The **“Danube Call”** is exclusively open to **Local and Regional Authorities** in **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia**, offering financial grants of up to **€100,000** per proposal to implement innovative solutions. If your region is ready to tackle critical sedimentation and flow challenges, this opportunity provides the resources and capacity-building needed to make a lasting environmental impact.

Find eligibility details, the application guidelines, and apply today on the SUNDANSE website: <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>.

The banner is a promotional graphic for the SUNDANSE Open Call #1. It features a light blue and green color scheme. At the top left is the SUNDANSE logo with the text 'sundanse OPEN CALL #1'. To the right, a yellow-bordered box contains the text 'THE DANUBE CALL: OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES'. The central focus is the text 'UP TO €100,000 FUNDING' in large, bold, dark green letters. Below this, it says 'TOPIC: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT' in a smaller, teal font. A yellow button at the bottom center contains the text 'APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET' and the website 'www.sundanseproject.eu'. On the left side, there is a circular inset image of a river with green trees. At the bottom left, it says 'PART OF THE EU MISSIONS RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS'. At the bottom right, it says 'Co-funded by the European Union' with the European Union flag logo.

[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)



**sundance**

Sustainable Sediment solutions for  
the Danube – Black Sea system

## PRESS RELEASE

Available for download [HERE](#).

 **sundance**  
OPEN CALL #1

**THE DANUBE CALL:  
OFFERING UP TO  
€100,000 IN FUNDING**

 Topic: **SEDIMENT  
MANAGEMENT**

**OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL &  
REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET**  
[www.sundanceproject.eu](http://www.sundanceproject.eu)

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RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

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the European Union 

[VISUAL ATTACHMENT](#)

## EU-Funded project 'SUNDANSE' launches €300,000 Open Call to drive Sustainable River Restoration

***"The Danube Call" is now accepting applications for sustainable sediment management solutions.***

**Europe [December, 2025]** - The SUNDANSE project, an EU initiative focused on strengthening river ecosystem health, today announced the official launch of its **Open Call for Associated Regions**. **"The Danube Call"** represents a significant total investment of up to **€300,000**, offering local and regional authorities substantial grants to implement vital sustainable sediment and water quality solutions.

The Open Call is now actively seeking proposals from local and regional governments in **Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia**. The initiative aims to fund three high-impact projects, with grants of **up to €100,000 per proposal**, enabling regions to tackle critical environmental challenges directly.

SUNDANSE's **"The Danube Call"** aims to fund innovative projects that expand the deployment, testing and engagement of developed SUNDANSE solutions across new regions. To be eligible, the proposed solution must specifically address at least one of the following core thematic areas related to sediment dynamics and river health:

- Flow monitoring
- Sediment quantity monitoring
- Sediment quality assessment (including the identification of pollution sources of the river(s))
- Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations

*"The launch of the **"The Danube Call"** is a pivotal moment for SUNDANSE, transforming our research into actionable results on the ground",* says said Lucian Georgescu, Project Director of REXDAN, Professor at "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati and Project Coordinator for SUNDANSE. *"This €300,000 investment empowers local and regional authorities, who are on the front lines of water management, to secure the tools and resources necessary to enhance biodiversity, ensure water security, and improve natural flood protection."*

Innovative solutions selected for funding will gain invaluable capacity through direct knowledge transfer from SUNDANSE demonstrator sites, helping them scale proven, cutting-edge solutions and foster long-term environmental sustainability.

Local and regional authorities interested in securing this funding are encouraged to review the detailed application guidelines and submit their proposals.

**Call to Action:** The SUNDANSE Open Call is open until February 18, 2026, 5 PM CET. Full eligibility criteria, application guidelines, and submission details are available at: <https://sundanseproject.eu/sundanse-open-call-1/>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Website: [www.sundanseproject.eu](http://www.sundanseproject.eu)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/sundanse/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sundanse/)

## MEDIA CONTACT

Lucian Georgescu, SUNDANSE Project Coordinator

Email: [info@sundanse.eu](mailto:info@sundanse.eu)

**About SUNDANSE Project:** The SUNDANSE (Innovative sediment management framework for a SUsTainNable DANube black SEa system) project is a multi-national, multi-stakeholder initiative funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme. It aims to develop and demonstrate a new framework for sediment management to improve the environmental resilience of the Danube River and Black Sea system.



# Sustainable Sediment Solutions for the Danube-Black Sea System

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IN SEDIMENTATION INNOVATION

48 MONTHS

€9M BUDGET

19 PARTNERS

3 USE CASES

SUNDANSE's overall objective is to develop innovative and sustainable sediment solutions for the Danube River - Black Sea system. The project aims to create a Sediment Management Handbook, develop and validate a Sediment Prediction Tool, and engage key Stakeholders in Europe. Moreover, SUNDANSE will test and validate holistic sediment management solutions in Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria, aiming to restore sediment balance, quality, and flow.

## 3 Use Cases



### Bulgaria

Sediment and flow management in the Danube River from Ruse to Tutrakan



### Romania

Sediment management and navigation challenges in the Danube River from Corabia to Turnu Magurele



### Serbia

Impact of sediment management solutions downstream of the Srpski Itebej Lock



sundanse  
OPEN CALL #1

Apply for up to €100,000 in funding to enhance the Danube River sedimentation in your country!

The SUNDANSE initiative **launched "The Danube Call"** designed to establish productive and long-term partnerships with carefully selected **Local and/or Regional authorities** within at least **3 Associated Regions\***. The ultimate **Open Call goal** is to offer selected Associated Regions an ongoing scientific and technical assistance in adopting SUNDANSE's established sedimentation methodologies within their own distinct geographical and operational contexts.

\* Associated regions are understood as "areas with similar ecosystems (e.g., neighbouring regions and/or regions in a different river basin and/or less-developed regions, to build capacity to implement the innovative solutions) and abiotic, biotic and socio-economic conditions to at least one demonstrator site of SUNDANSE."



# Benefits



Get grants up to € 100.000\*\* per Associated Region



Get guidance of the SUNDANSE team of experts



Get access to SUNDANSE sustainable sediment solutions

\*\* Only actual costs incurred by the recipients when implementing the supported activities will be reimbursed. This includes Personnel Costs, Purchase Costs (Travel and Subsistence, Equipment, Other goods, works and services) as well as Indirect Costs.

# Topics

**1.**   
Flow monitoring

**2.**   
Sediment quantity monitoring

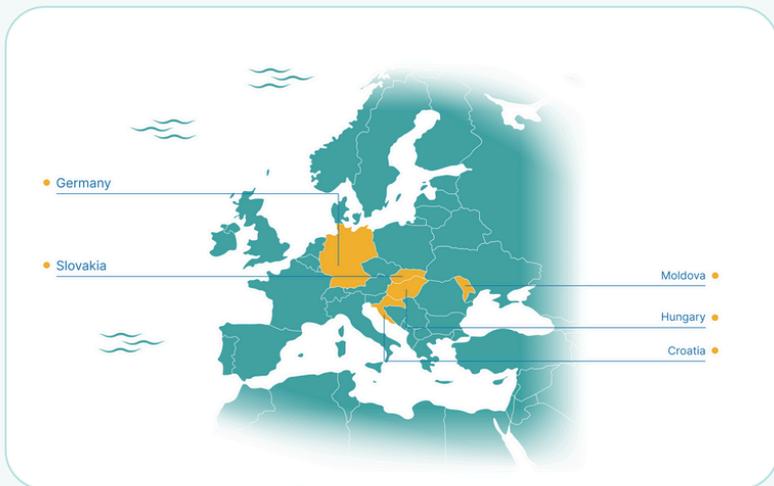
**3.**   
Sediment quality assessment and identification of pollution sources of the river(s)

**4.**   
Actions to improve awareness raising on sediment flow alterations

# Eligibility Criteria



IMPORTANT NOTE: Countries that are part of the SUNDANSE consortium (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine) can not participate.



# APPLY BY FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 5 PM CET

Secure up to €100,000 grants and innovate for healthy rivers.

**APPLY VIA**  
[www.sundanseproject.eu](http://www.sundanseproject.eu)



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