



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Instrumente Structurale
2014-2020



IDA ITI DD ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING ITI DANUBE DELTA MECHANISM

TULCEA
June 19, 2018



Project name: Technical assistance for assuring the ITI mechanism functioning from the Strategy perspective and of IDA ITI Danube Delta structure at an executive and partnership level

Eligible value: 2,061,529.76 EUR

Implementing period: 36 months (January, 01 2016-December, 31 2018)

PROJECT FINANCED THROUGH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPERATIONAL
PROGRAMME 2014-2020

ACTIVITIES AND SUB-ACTIVITIES DEDICATED TO ITI BENEFICIARIES

Activity 3. Help-desk for ESI funds beneficiaries from ITI territory

- Sub-activity 3.1. Help-desk for ESI funds beneficiaries from ITI territory

Activity 4. Support for developing projects portfolio and technical assistance for the beneficiaries

- Sub-activity 4.1. Developing the ITI projects portfolio and technical assistance for the strategic management at IDA ITI DD level

Activity 5. Strengthening project preparation, implementation and management capacities of key beneficiaries managing a portfolio of strategic projects with relevant impact on SIDD DD

- Sub-activity 5.1. Strengthening project preparation, implementation and management capacities of key beneficiaries managing a portfolio of strategic projects with relevant impact on SIDD DD

- ❑ Personnel employed by IDA ITI DD, which is strictly responsible for the implementation of the ITI Danube Delta mechanism, except administrative staff (financial, legal, human resources, etc.):
 - 1 ITI Coordinator
 - 9 Programme Experts
- ❑ The Programme Experts do joint teams (each expert deals with one or more Operational Programmes) as follows:



IDA ITI DD STRUCTURE

Responsible Expert	Programme	LIOP	ROP	RDNP	FMAOP	COP	ACOP	HCOP
D.S. (Coordinator)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
M.C.			X					X
R.B.		X	X		X			
B.M.		X	X					
L.I.			X			X	X	
G.M.								X
P.N.				X				
R.I.				X			X	
V.I.		X			X			
G.R.						X		

Number of projects submitted for the ITI Danube Delta mechanism: **1,139**

A3/3.1. HELP-DESK FOR ESI FUNDS BENEFICIARIES FROM ITI TERRITORY

- ☐ **Online promoting** through articles published on IDA ITI DD site, regarding:
 - Launched calls, guides in consultation, final guides, estimated schedule of program launches
 - Extending deadlines for submitting applications for funding
 - Modification of guides, relevant instructions
 - Work visits; working meetings; workshops; participations in various events, including the publication of the materials produced during these meetings
 - Legislative modifications to fund management, irregularities, acquisitions, any other program-related legislation
 - Section questions and answers
 - Clarifications on identified issues, MA responses
 - Invitation to consultations on certain priority axes, programmes / guides

- ☐ Creating a **database of private companies**, businesses that carry out economic activities in this territory, and can provide such consultancy services. All interested companies had access to join this database by filling out an application form in which they presented their work. Completed forms have been published on the www.itideltadunarii.com website. The list of consultancy firms posted on the IDA ITI Danube Delta website is not exhaustive and does not include all consultancy firms that have the competence to draw up and implement projects with European funding.

- ☐ Use of the **Intranet** - all local administrations in the ITI territory have access to this network, the project portfolios and all relevant Programme information

ORGANIZED EVENTS

- ✓ **June 21, 2017** – Working meeting: representatives of IDA ITI Danube Delta, MA RDNP, farm beneficiaries, local administrations representatives, associations, Local Action Groups, consultancy firms, etc. in order to inform the potential beneficiaries about the possibilities of accessing the measures under the RDNP 2014-2020
- ✓ **October 24-25, 2017** - Working Meeting on the financial management of projects funded by the ERDF and the ESF
- ✓ **October 31, 2017** - Workshop on the status of the projects submitted / under preparation within the ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **November 08, 2017** - Personalized meeting on the stage of submission of projects related to ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **January 31, 2018** - Workshop dedicated to funding opportunities through ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **February 02, 2018** - Personalized meeting on the stage of submission of projects related to ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **February 13, 2018** - Workshop for potential beneficiaries in the public environment devoted to funding opportunities through the ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **February 15, 2018** - Meeting on the Financing Opportunities and Specific Conditions for Accessing the Financial Allocations dedicated to the ITI Danube Delta Territory, through HCOP 2014-2020
- ✓ **February 20, 2018** - Individualized meeting dedicated to funding opportunities through ROP 2014-2020
- ✓ **February 22, 2018** - Workshop for potential beneficiaries in the private procurement area
- ✓ **April 19, 2018** - Individualized meeting dedicated to funding opportunities through LIOP 2014-2020
- ✓ **April 24, 2018** - Workshop dedicated to funding opportunities through the HCOP 2014-2020
- ✓ **April 26, 2018** - Meeting of IDA Advisory Committee ITI Danube Delta

☐ **Provide technical support to all types of beneficiaries** regarding:

- drafting project proposals,
- their stage of preparation and maturity,
- problems encountered in drawing up the documents accompanying applications for funding,
- drafting documents to obtain the ITI Endorsment
- the indicative period in which the Application Forms will be submitted, the rules of submission agreed with the Managing Authorities,
- estimation of the opening of funding sessions at national / ITI level
- field visits by IDA ITI experts to project implementation sites of public beneficiaries in the ITI Danube Delta territory. Here they have been analyzed and corrected from the perspective of the guidelines, identifying other possible projects. In view of this analysis, those who have requested endorsements have obtained them.

☐ **PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE ITI MECHANISM:**

- ✓ THE EMERGENCY COUNTY HOSPITAL TULCEA
- ✓ PUBLIC NAVAL TRANSPORT
- ✓ DDBRA PROJECTS
- ✓ TULCEA PORT
- ✓ ROMANIAN WATERS NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS
- ✓ TULCEA AIRPORT

✓ THE EMERGENCY COUNTY HOSPITAL TULCEA

- Analyzed documents:
 - ☐ Diagnostic analysis underlying the development of SIDDDD
 - ☐ National Health Strategy
 - ☐ Regional Health Plan of the South East Region
- A document on the need to finance the County Hospital serving the ITI Danube Delta has been developed.
- At the initiative of IDA ITI DD, the beneficiary has developed a plan that establishes the investment needs for the extension and modernization of the Hospital, fitting into the functional circuits according to the standards imposed by the Ministry of Health.
- A working group consisting of representatives of IDA ITI DD, Tulcea County Council, Emergency County Hospital Tulcea was established, where all the documents necessary for the realization of this investment are analyzed.
- IDA ITI DD has taken all necessary steps regarding the need to modify the Programme.

A4/4.1. SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING PROJECTS PORTFOLIO AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE BENEFICIARIES

✓ PUBLIC NAVAL TRANSPORT

- Initiation and organization of one-on-one meetings with Tulcea County Council representatives regarding: the elaboration by this institution of an integrated project to solve the accessibility problem in the Danube Delta, namely finding ways to finance and purchase the means of transport on water.
- There have been one-off meetings with the following entities:
 - The Transports Ministry, the Public Finance Ministry – ministerial meetings on the incidence of legislation where the applicant will be Tulcea County Council
 - RDPAM – meeting at ministerial level and representatives of the MA ROP regarding the possibility to modify the Programme
 - DDBRA – environmental impact meeting, vessel traffic regulations in the Danube Delta
 - RNA – meetings on rules on traffic rules on the Danube
 - Navrom – meetings on the analysis of the current transport situation in the Danube Delta
- Meeting with Jaspers representatives on naval public transport. At the IDA meeting ITI DD presented: the legislative inventory that regulates this issue, insisting that the current legislation allows the County Council to manage shipping; the routes that are also legally regulated, where transport is already taking place, do not affect the protected area of the Danube Delta; the need for such transport in view of its uniqueness on the territory of the Delta; the operation of passenger ships is exclusively subject to the regulations imposed by the Romanian Naval Authority.
- Concerning the approval of the MC ROP regarding the modifications for the priority axis 3, the public transport of the ship, the EC services have requested clarifications regarding the new intervention introduced for financing for the ITI Danube Delta. IDA ITI The Danube Delta sent its point of view to MA ROP. Thus, in all the documents on which the SIDDDD environmental assessment was based, the project on the realization / improvement of the public transport was treated, concluding that this intervention will have low negative environmental effects (but substantially positive towards the current situation) but also low positive effects from the point of view of the population and human health.

A4/4.1. SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING PROJECTS PORTFOLIO AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE BENEFICIARIES

✓ DDBRA PROJECTS

- Organizing meetings with experts from DDBRA, DDNCI, project managers during the reference period, where the stage of preparation of financing applications for DDBRA projects was analyzed
- IDA ITI DD experts participated in 4 meetings including requests for clarification from LIOP for the Review of the Management Plan and the DDBR Regulation and Hydraulic Modeling and Monitoring System in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.
- Analysis of reasons for rejection of projects
- IDA ITI DD contributed to facilitating communication between MA LIOP, Ministry of Environment, DDBRA, and partners; Following the complexity of the interventions established in the projects, ME decided to enter into partnership with DDBRA.

✓ TULCEA PORT

- Meetings with IB Transport, MA LIOP, Competition Council (comments on the state aid scheme)
- Establishment of a local working group consisting of Tulcea County Council, Tulcea City Hall, MDPA Galati, IDA ITI DD, Romanian Waters and Deltanav that led to the elaboration of a plan of measures for the development of Tulcea Port
- Programme Change on Indicators for Priority Axis 2
- Studying and discussing all the aspects presented in the State Aid Scheme, approved by MT Order no. 1532/2017 and presented in the Applicant's Guide: Improvement of Navigation Conditions, Development of Port Infrastructure and Intermodal / Multimodal Local Infrastructure (Public Beneficiaries)
- Organizing regular meetings with Tulcea County Council representatives and discuss the stage of preparation of the financing applications to be submitted for the modernization of the port infrastructure as a result of its takeover.

A4/4.1. SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING PROJECTS PORTFOLIO AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE BENEFICIARIES

✓ ROMANIAN WATERS NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

- ❑ RIANC – taking over the infrastructure of bridges that could not enter the projects
- ❑ Meeting at the Ministry of Waters and Forests at the level of Minister regarding the analysis of delays in submitting projects
- ❑ Permanent and point-based discussions on their projects on the National Flood Risk Management Plan
- ❑ Analysis of projects in the Dobrogea-Litoral catchment area

✓ TULCEA AIRPORT

- Participation in working meetings with the working group at the Airport
- Participation in meetings with IB Transport: analysis of eligible activities, state aid scheme



TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- ✓ ***Training the beneficiaries*** - Granting to the beneficiaries managing a portfolio of strategic projects with relevant impact on the SIDD (DD) and all local administrations within the ITI Delta territory, technical advice in the field of public procurement by organizing training courses in the field of PUBLIC PROCUREMENT in 22-24 and 27-29 November 2017, courses in which were discussed topics related to: analysis of applied legislation, elaboration of specialized documents, planning of public procurement, granting of specialized consultancy, negotiation in the awarding procedures, development and finalization award procedures, etc.
- ✓ ***January 31, 2018*** - WORKSHOP for potential beneficiaries in the private environment organized under the ROP 2014-2020, with the theme: "**Business and Financing Opportunities for SMEs**" applicable in the ITI Danube Delta. During the event, there were talks on two of the financing lines within the 2014-2020 Regional Operational Program through which the potential beneficiaries can develop their respective businesses: 2.1.B.ITI Investment Priority, and Investment Priority 2.2 where small and medium-sized enterprises in the urban area and medium-sized rural enterprises can submit projects.
- ✓ ***February 13, 2018*** - WORKSHOP for potential beneficiaries from the public environment - ROP 2014-2020, on the topic: "**Presentation of the relevant issues regarding the Priority Axis 10. Improving the Educational Infrastructure**". At this event, both the representatives of local administrations from the ITI Danube Delta territory and the representatives of the educational units were invited.
- ✓ ***February 22, 2018*** - WORKSHOP for potential private beneficiaries in the field of public procurement, in which were presented some aspects regarding the way the acquisitions under the budgets developed for the projects submitted to MySMIS were carried out in accordance with the legislation in force, rules of good practice, issues to be met in order to avoid conflicts of interest, frequent errors in procurement procedures carried out by private beneficiaries.



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DUTIES OF IDA ITI DD IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ITI EUROPEAN MECHANISM FOR DANUBE DELTA TERRITORY

DUTIES OF IDA ITI DD (1)

- ☐ Applies **the methodology of conformity notice issuance** for the proposed applications submitted by the potential beneficiaries of the funds dedicated to ITI DD mechanism.
- ☐ **Supports the preparation of the projects** as follows:
 - It carries through the capacities development and strengthening with the view of ITI mechanism implementation**, by guidance of the staff involved within LPA (municipalities and communes), organizing work groups;
 - It organizes reunions** coordinated by IDA ITI DD' experts, in the aim of presenting and explaining to the applicants the content and the eligibility criteria for ITI projects, according to the applicants' guides for each OP;
 - It offers support**, depending on the needs of each beneficiary, during the period of framing the project / submitted the grant application;
 - It offers to the beneficiaries assistance services** (information regarding the necessary documents, procedures for public bids, examples of good practices, etc.)
- ☐ **It accepts Local Development Strategies / Project fiches** from the part of public or private applicants, where appropriate, which are evaluated in accordance with the approved work procedures, in view of Conformity Notice issuance.
- ☐ **It organizes reunions** during the stage of framing the project, with the aim of ensuring the visibility of its activities, maintaining all the communication channels opened for promoting ITI European mechanism.

☐ **It supports the implementation of the projects** as follows:

- ✓ IDA ITI DD supports the applicants through the specialized consulting services in the field of public acquisitions;
- ✓ IDA ITI DD monitors the project implementation, submits the reports to the Secretariat of Functional Working Group, at every 3 months, and also to the general Assembly, at every 6 months, emphasizes the results, estimated delays, risks, etc. The monitoring procedure has been based on a working plan established with the beneficiaries, including here the initiating, proper implementation and completion of the works, according to the financial contracts signed by the beneficiaries and MA;
- ✓ IDA ITI makes notices and sent them to those representatives in charge with the legislation in the field of tourism, fishing, transportation, urbanism, agriculture, aquaculture, in terms of according the legal regulations in the above-mentioned fields with the specificities of Danube Delta territory; in the same time, it represents the communication and promoting vector of the Danube Delta's population needs;
- ✓ It supports the beneficiaries in the stage of correlation of the integrated projects implemented within partnerships, of those beneficiaries who implement projects financed through different programs, with the aim of avoiding the superposition of the funds and correlation of projects' implementation in a better manner;
- ✓ It supports the beneficiaries in what the administrative capacity development concerns, with the aim of an optimal implementation of the projects, through dedicated training sessions.

DUTIES OF IDA ITI DD (3)

- ❑ **IDA ITI DD makes proposals to the Management Authorities**, as the case, regarding the re-allocation of the indicative amounts foreseen at the program level for ITI territory, between the axis / investments priorities / measures of the respective program, according with the identified needs but also based on the Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy for DD (SIDD DD) implementation results, with respect to the established rules at each program level.
- ❑ **Evaluation and selection of the projects are realized at the level of each Management Authority** or by the subordinated structures of each MA – Intermediary Entity / Regional Compartment / Agency, etc., taking into account the fact that the design of management and control systems for operational programs has been an essential condition for reimbursement of the expenses within European funds projects, by the European Commission, and this fact assumes the evaluation at the level of responsible entities by the Audit Authority.



DUTIES OF IDA ITI DD (4)

- ☐ The organizing of IDA ITI DD at local level constitutes a benefit.
- ☐ Maintaining the link between local and central administration.
- ☐ The proactive role of the experts' team in informing the applicants regarding the benefits of implementing projects with non-reimbursable financing for the whole community.
- ☐ The determination of the decisional actors from local administration to apply for funds.
- ☐ The availability of ADI ITI DD's experts in the step of project preparation.
- ☐ Monitoring of Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development of DD (SIDD DD) implementation through the *action plan*.

☐ **STEPS OF GIVING SUPPORT**

STEP 1

- Editing the Strategy: consideration and identification of the projects which could have been framed into the Strategy's Pylons and in accord with the conditions stipulated in drafts of the operational programs. Allocation for ITI area was not a global one for the whole territory, with specific and general conditions for all mechanism, but it was shared by programs, complying to the rules established within the programs and solicitants' guides.

STEP 2 - ongoing

- Editing the solicitants' guides: putting in accord the projects of SIDD DD portfolio with the conditions stipulated in guides. All the guides for opened sessions had the same conditions applicable for both to national and to specific territory of ITI DD. Formulation and transmission of proposals with the view of modification some conditions, in order to respond to the specific needs of the area. Some proposals were accepted, some others were rejected. For some of the requests, there was necessary to modify the program (for example: LIOP, ROP).

DUTIES OF IDA ITI DD (5)

STEP 3 – ongoing

- Preparation and submission of the projects: analysis of the projects from the Strategy's framing perspective, compulsory condition for financing a project through ITI; analysis of the documents elaborated / issued for the submission of the applications by IDA ITI DD's experts, at the moment of organizing the field visits (a support offered in writing the financing applications; a support during the evaluation of the applications – answers to clarification requests).

STEP 4 – ongoing

- Monitoring the projects in implementation and post-implementation: realizing the implementation plan of the project / projects, with information regarding the output results – activities, periods – calendar of activities after signing the financing contract, costs (budget) – project's budget and the graph of reimbursement after signing the contract, measures undertaken, where appropriate, in the view of ending the project efficiently; following the process of reaching the monitoring indicators for SIDD DD objectives on priority sectors, established through SIDD DD at the project's level.

☐ **OVERVIEW**

- The analysis of the needs and proposals of re-allocation within the programs;
 - The comparative analysis between the programs, as some simplifying conditions are not applicable (for example: ROP / LIOP – technical project requested at the submission of financial application for *biodiversity field*);
 - Mismatching of the programs and inside each program in what the calls calendar consists, with the aim of offering a logical order of interventions sequence (for example: COP – telemedicine and e-education cannot be undertaken in those localities where the broad band does not exist; LIOP / RDNP – the projects for water supplying and sewerage, with the projects for local roads financed by RDNP; ROP / HCOP – projects for education and social infrastructure).
- ☐ Taking into account the limited competences of IDA ITI DD, as a support measure, it analyses and notices where there exist overlaps which could stop the projects' implementation.

☐ **IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS IN MECHANISM' S FUNCTIONING** :

- Fragmentation of the allocation between programs (an efficient solution could have been offered by framing some specific rules for ITI territory in EC Regulations).
- Increasing the IDA ITI DD duties through the involvement into identification / evaluation / contracting the projects .

Thank you for your attention!

IDA ITI DANUBE DELTA

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