

Boosting Innovation Policies with Clusters along the Danube  
27-28 June 2013, Linz, Austria

**Results of Workshop C**  
**“Transnational Programmes in the Context of the Danube Region”**

**Programming:**

1. Simplify public procurement rules (not a tender for every catering, every...)
2. Allow travel outside the programme area, when there are workshops there that are related to the project, so if those are to the benefit for the region
3. Norwegian Fund Approach: first look at strengths/impact of project before look into the specifics of administration (such as: are all the relevant signatures there, all the blanks in the excel sheets filled in) => essentially this means a two- or more-stage application process, based first on a short concept note, then full proposal, then administration (which should be possibly assisted by management authority or other bodies)
4. Preparatory phase of projects:
  - a. Structured consultation process including relevant stakeholders to define project content
  - b. Possibility of pre-financing
  - c. Preparatory phase for the partnership building
  - d. Allow systemic feedback of potential project partners before fixing project rules
5. Harmonization of programme rules (between CE Programme and Danube Programme, but potentially also other EU programmes – like rules for calculating personnel costs)

**Content:**

1. Partnership rules:
  - a. Rules for non-performing partners
  - b. Training for project management skills to be included in the project as a capacity building measure

- c. Mandatory support by a “management board” for projects that get in trouble with project management
  - d. Especially lead partners need proven project management skills
  - e. There should be deadlines fixed in the programmes for completion of work packages etc., especially if lead partners are weak (those deadlines should be reopened under certain circumstances)
  - f. Well-selected stakeholders are important: therefore a longer preparation phase is needed and track-records should be checked
2. Cross-border innovation voucher
  3. Support of mobility between SMEs and SMEs and R&D (Mobility of technicians to learn to use the most modern machines/devices)
  4. Use of new research devices (paid from structural funds) shared between researchers from different countries
  5. Flexibility in terms of content (project develops over time), budget
  6. Enable new types of networks, not only clusters
  7. Strategic projects need for flexibility in the search for partners, one possibility to have constitutive workshops among potential partners before eventually choosing the partners
  8. Synergies:
    - a. Avoid duplication between different Danube activities
    - b. Integrate European Region Danube-Vltava
  9. Consortia size:
    - a. 5-7 partners maximum
    - b. Link several projects on one theme, then compare results, have exchanges
  10. Follow-up of projects: projects often only produce results at the very end of the implementation phase (such as pilot projects): then no more time/money to disseminate project results

## Reporting:

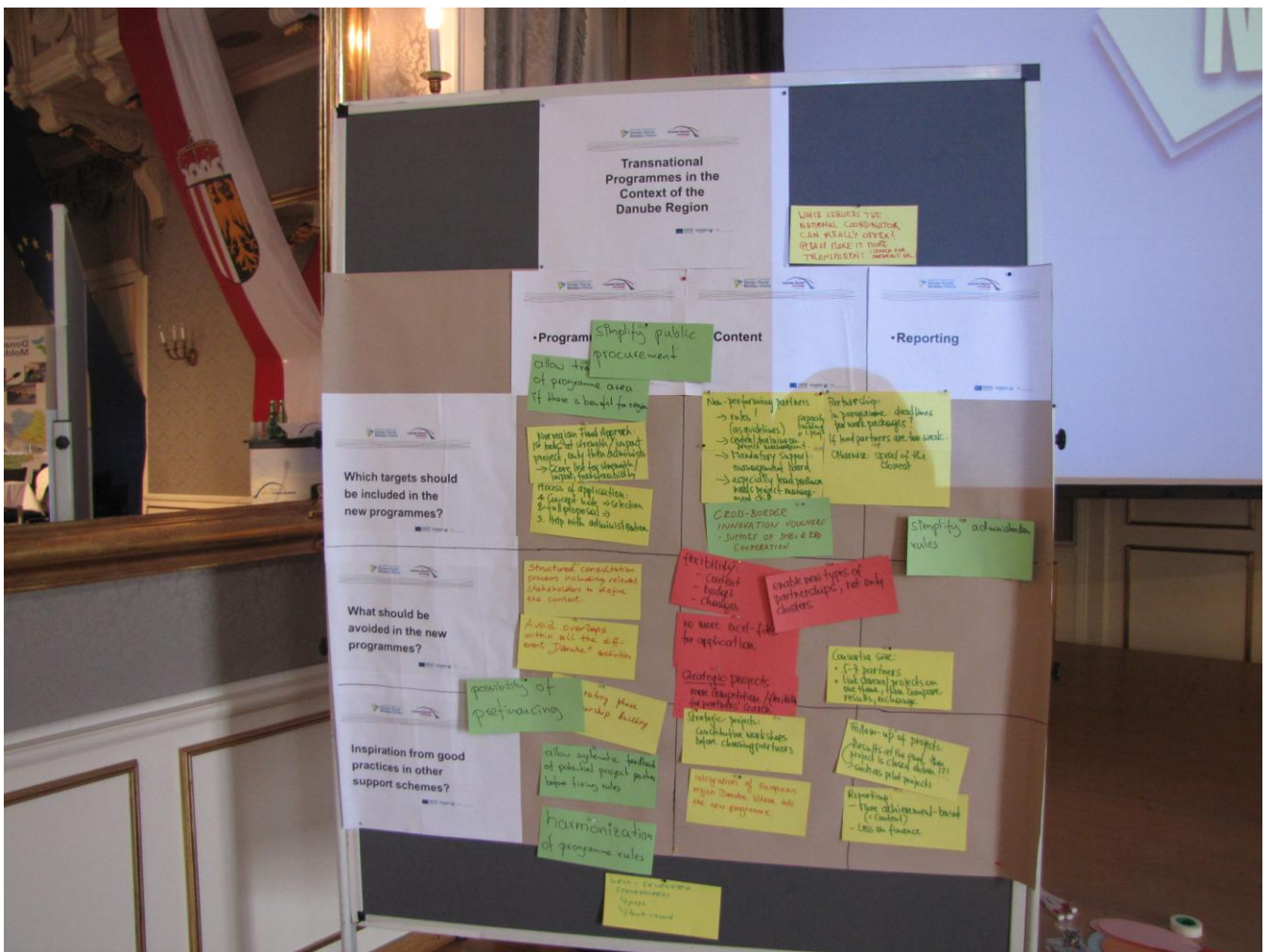
1. More achievement-based, less finance
2. Simplify administration rules

For further information please contact:

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**General Question:**

**What kind of services can the National Coordinators offer? (Search for partners, etc.?!?) Please make this information more transparent.**



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