



PA2 START Selection Process

Szilárd Árvay & Vladimír Bláha

START Danube Region Project Fund – 1st Call

Main Features

- ▶ Objectives of START
 - Kick-start project development in the Danube Region and facilitate the financing of transnational projects
 - Help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop and implement their project ideas
- ▶ Pilot initiative: adaptations may be brought during implementation
- ▶ Seed money: beneficiaries receive a large pre-financing at the beginning of the project implementation
- ▶ Involvement of PACs in governance of START
- ▶ Total budget: 900.000€ – 95% EU, 5% City of Vienna
- ▶ EU/START allocation: between €10.000 and €40.000
- ▶ 90% of project costs can be reimbursed
- ▶ At least two partners from two countries, maximum six partners
- ▶ Duration of the call: 8 weeks (18th of July to 17th of September 2014)

START selection procedure

1. Project applications are submitted to PA10
2. Formal Check by Implementing Body (EuroVienna – IB)
3. Pre-selection by the PA-s of projects submitted to the Priority Area concerned
 - „Each PA is free to organise this process as they deem appropriate. It is expected that PACs with the involvement of their Steering Group conduct a sound and documented pre-selection of project proposals which are best expected to contribute to the Action Plan of the Priority Area.”
4. PAC-s forward the ranking list of all pre-assessed projects to the IB
5. Plausibility check and final selection conducted by the START “Management Unit” composed by PAC10 Vienna and the Implementing Body
6. Possibility for PAC-s to comment on the final decision of PAC 10

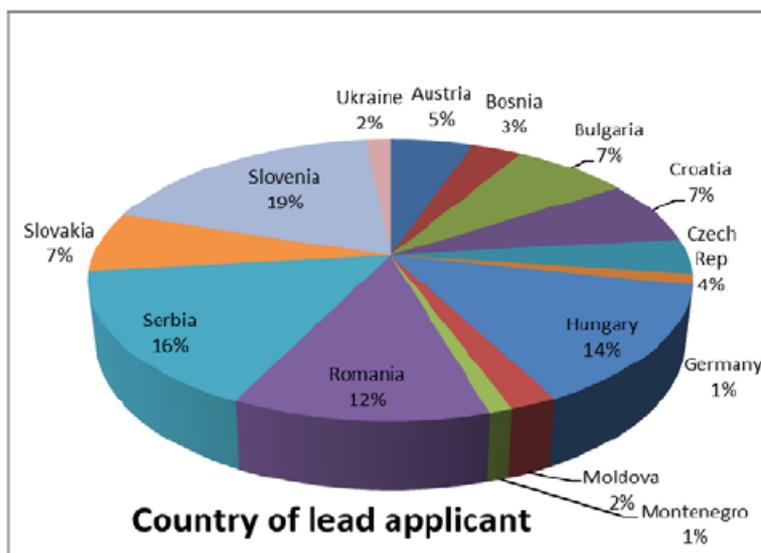
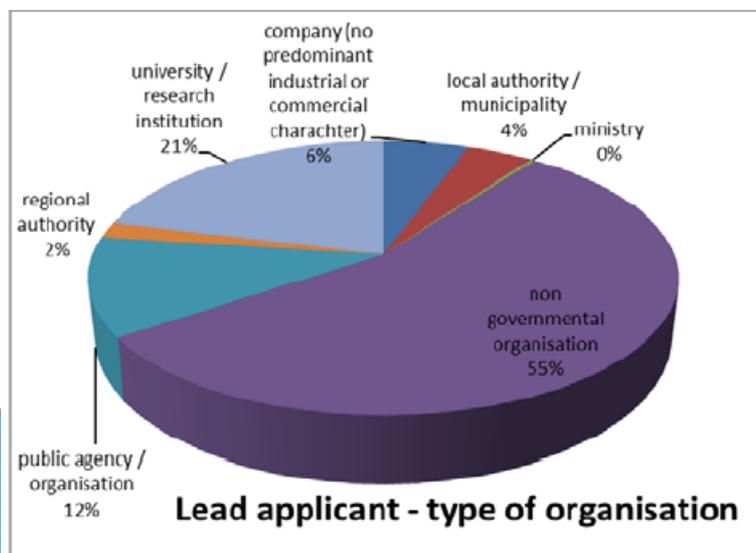
Results of the START project application

Facts and figures

- ▶ Duration of the call: 8 weeks (18th of July to 17th of September 2014)
- ▶ Registrations in the online application tool: 1005
- ▶ Applications formally submitted through the online application tool by the deadline: 871
- ▶ Applications that passed the formal check: 651 (74,7%)
- ▶ Applications that did not pass the formal check: 220 (25,3%)

Overview of applications (after the formal check)

- ▶ Average project budget (total expenditure): 43.700€
- ▶ Average requested START grant (maximum 40.000€): 35.700€
- ▶ Average % of START funding (maximum 90%): 82%



Summary of the formal check

- ▶ The formal check was aimed at excluding project applications that do not fulfil the basic eligibility criteria. Applications not fulfilling one or more criteria were considered ineligible (Knockout criteria). Eligible application forms (see “4.4 Available documentation”) were forwarded to the PACs for pre-selection.

OVERVIEW OF RESULTS BY PRIORITY AREA

PA	Formally submitted	KO	%age of KO	For pre-selection by PAC and SG
1A	10	2	20,0%	8
1B	11	3	27,3%	8
2	58	13	22,4%	45
3	207	54	26,1%	153
4	40	8	20,0%	32
5	57	18	31,6%	39
6	63	17	27,0%	46
7	81	17	21,0%	64
8	76	17	22,4%	59
9	128	34	26,6%	94
10	127	35	27,6%	92
11	13	2	15,4%	11
Total		220	23,9%	651



START projects pre-selection process schedule

- ▶ Duration: 3rd October to 18th November
- ▶ Each Priority Area is free to organise the selection process as they deem appropriate, with involvement of the Steering Group
- ▶ Pre-selection: ranking list (top 4 and top 15)
- ▶ Summary of overall pre-selection procedure (results/comments)
- ▶ Submission to IB: 18th November

Pre-selection approach proposed by PA10

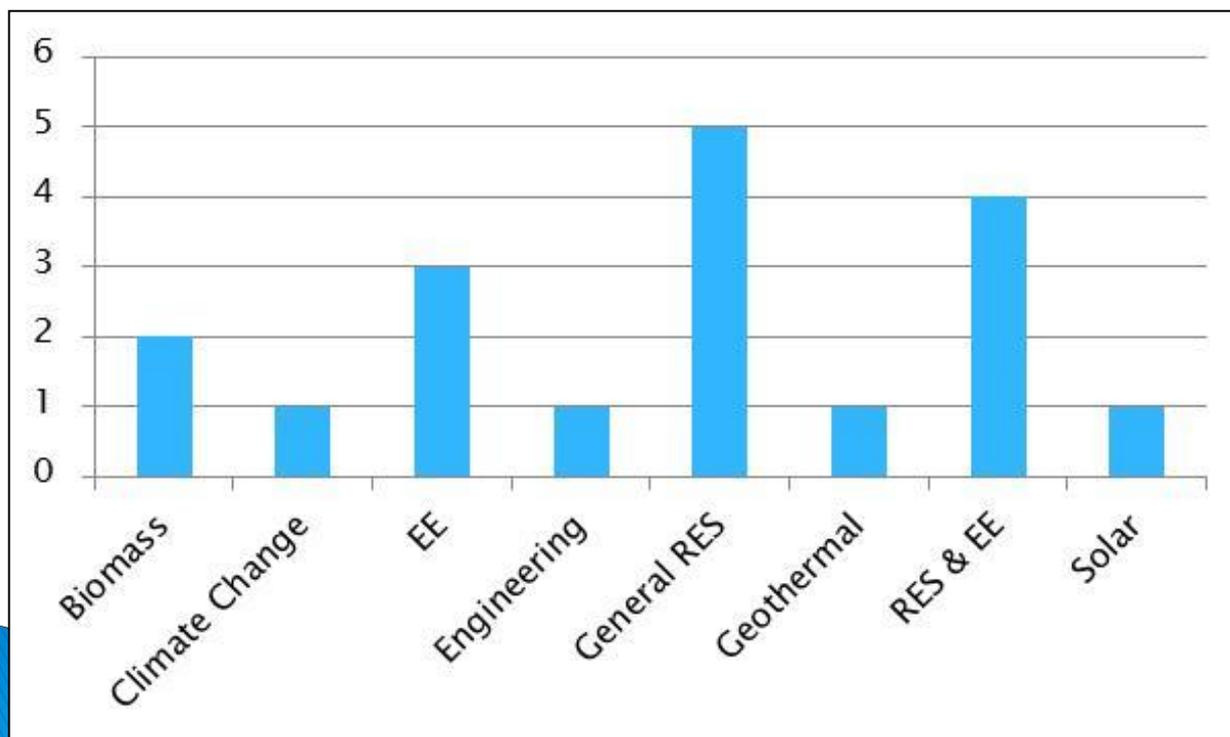
- ▶ STEP 1: Preliminary screening of applications by PACs
- ▶ STEP 2: Consultation of the SC: transmission of the PAC recommendations through a written procedure or discussion at the Steering Group meeting.
- ▶ STEP 3: Summary by the PACs, establishment of a list of recommended applications and documentation of the results.
 - If PACs wish to apply a scoring system to review each application, they are of course free to do so.
 - However, especially for PACs having a large number of applications, we propose as alternative to receive two lists per PA: **BEST OF 15, and therein, BEST OF 4.**
- ▶ STEP 4: transmission of results and documentation to the IB, using the pre-selection grid.

Selection criteria advised by PA10

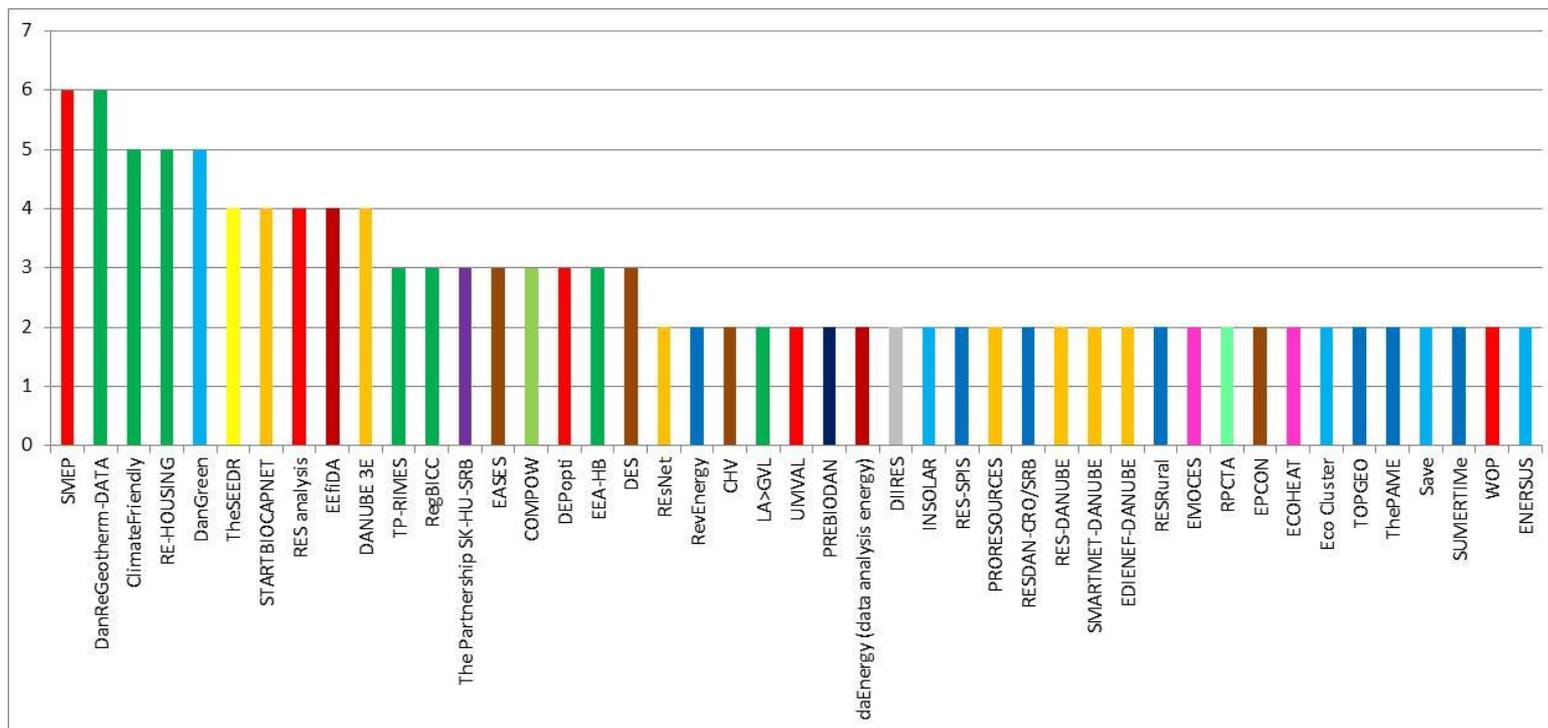
- ▶ **Applicant and project partners**
 - Is the partnership relevant for the purpose of the project?
- ▶ **Relevance of the project**
 - Is the project of public interest?
 - Is the project relevant for the EUSDR and in particular for the PA addressed (contribution of the project to the PA´s Action Plan)?
 - If START funding is requested to finance a specific part of a larger project: is the overall project relevant for the EUSDR?
 - Is the requested EU grant adequate/justified to reach the project objectives and implement project activities?
- ▶ **Macro-regional dimension or impact of the project**
 - Are the project activities taking place in the Danube Region?
 - Are expected project results of relevance for the Danube Region?
- ▶ **Professional experience of the applicant/partnership, which can be assessed through the quality of the application form**
 - Is the application clear (language, style), and concise?
 - Is the planned project well described, realistic and feasible?
 - Is there a consistency between planned project objectives, activities and budget?

PA2 facts and figures

- ▶ 58 project applications were submitted.
- ▶ 45 project applications passed the formal check.
- ▶ 18 project applications had more than two DRS countries involved (i. e. at least three countries from the Danube Region).
- ▶ These 18 applications were analysed in detail.



PA2 facts and figures



- AT
- BG
- BA
- CZ
- DE
- HU
- HR
- MD
- ME
- RO
- RS
- SI
- SK
- UA

All projects	AT	BG	BA	CZ	DE	HU	HR	MD	ME	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA
45	2	4	2	5	1	7	7	1	1	7	5	1	1	1
18	1	2		3		6	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1

Selection criteria used by PA2

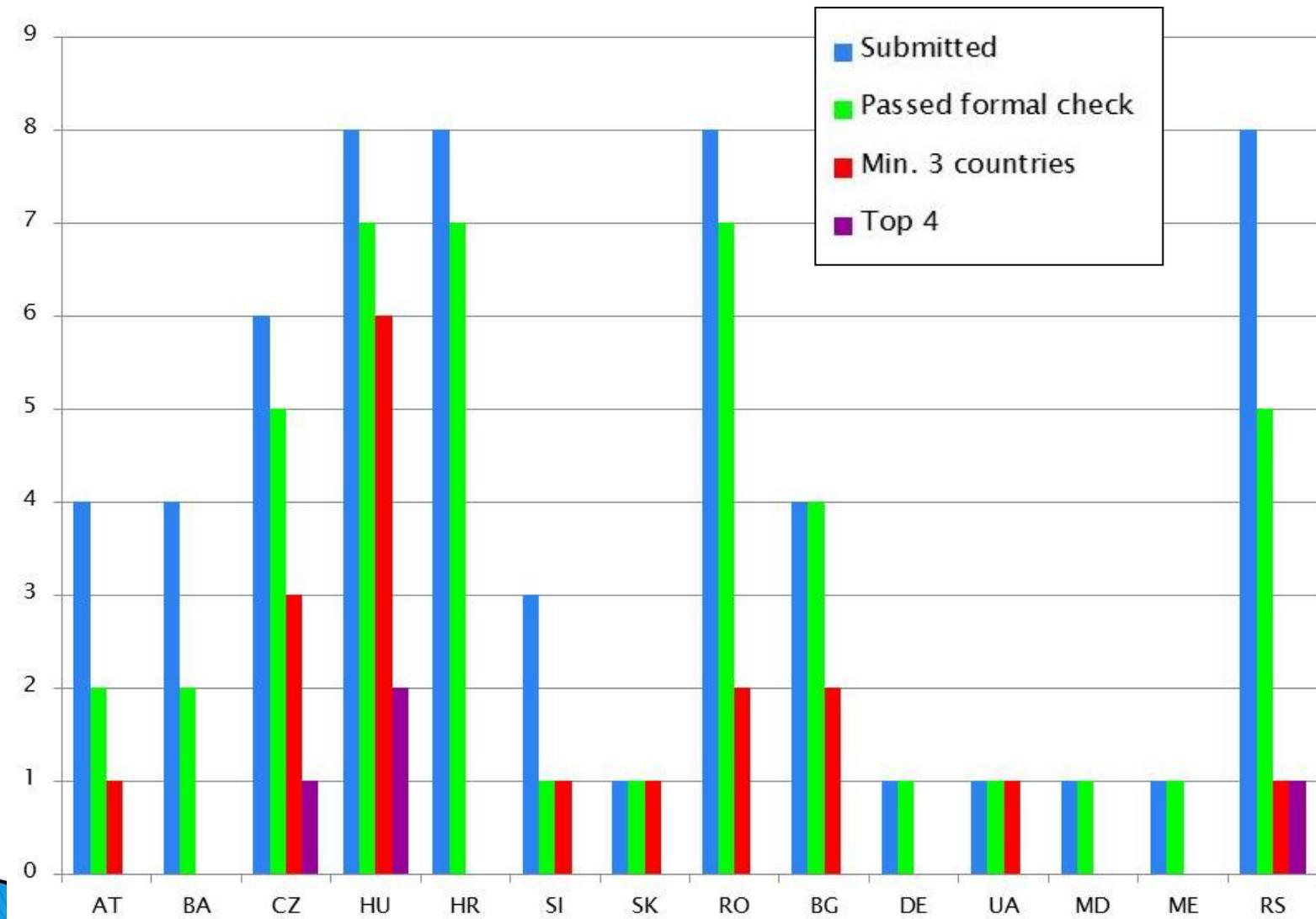
Scoring considerations:

- ▶ Partnership relevant for purpose of Project
 - Alignment between the aim of the project and the mix of consortium members
 - The share of external services in the budget (significant ext. services – pship less relevant for project)
- ▶ Relevance of Project for PA2
 - Is the project or the planned area of work already known/discussed by the Steering Group?
 - Are the project objectives (field of work and deliverables) relevant for PA2?
- ▶ Grant adequate for project objectives
 - Is it possible to carry out the listed actions from the project budget?
- ▶ Macroregional relevance of the START project
 - Number of countries from the Danube Region involved in the consortium
- ▶ Macroregional relevance of the entire project
 - Number of countries from the Danube Region influenced by the project activities
- ▶ Professional experience with the application
 - Content and format of the application, including language clarity and logical outline
 - Does the lead partner have an English language webpage?
 - Text in the 'justification of lead partner' section

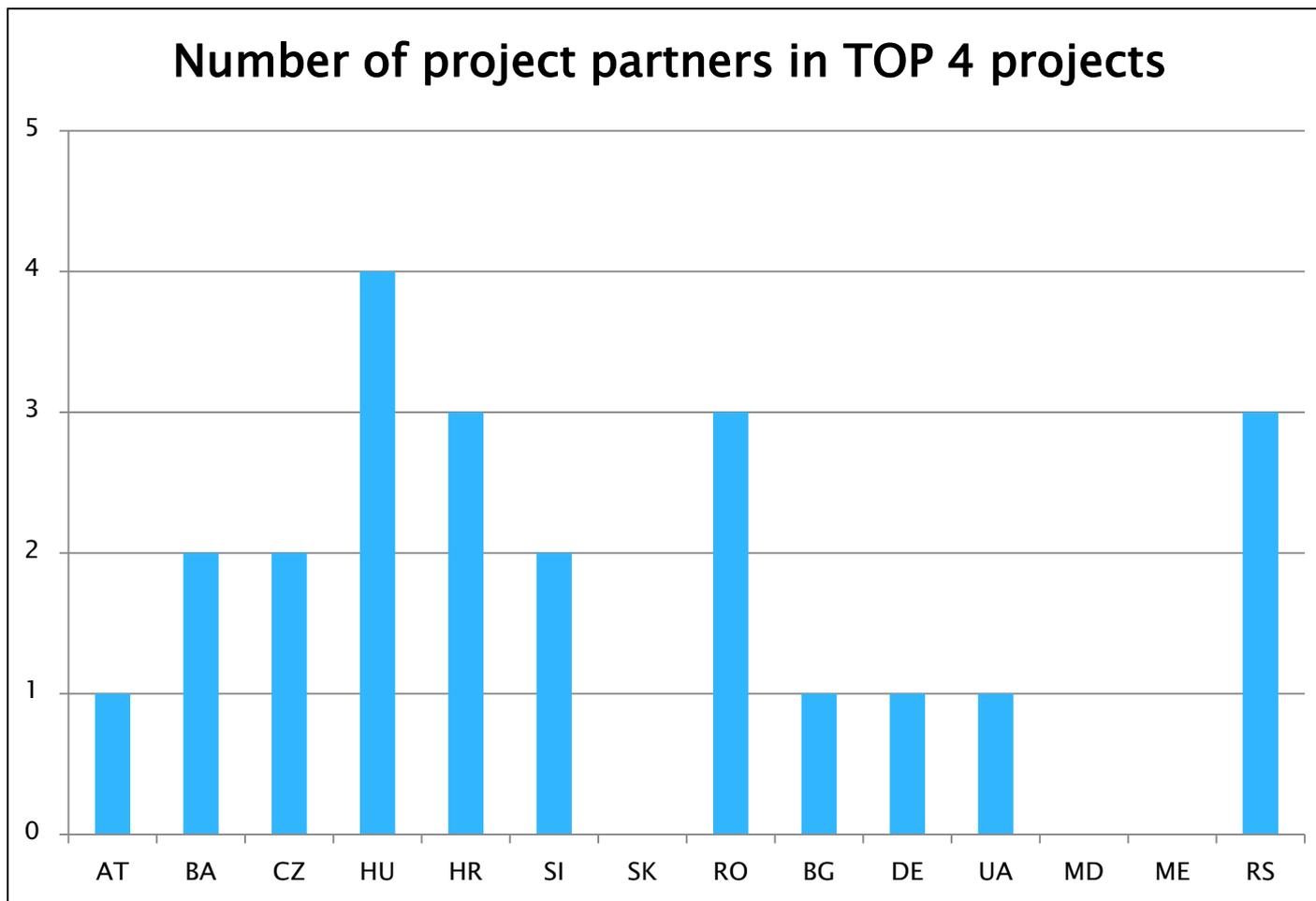
PA2 results –TOP 4 projects

- 1. DanReGeotherm–DATA – Data support for the enhanced use of deep geothermal energy in the Danube Region (Geothermal)**
 - *6 countries: HU–BA–HR–CZ–RO–RS*
 - *Lead partner: Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary*
 - *Main objectives: As data access and data policy of the overall DanReGeotherm project is a key factor in the successful project performance, information on data delivery and acquisition in the partner countries will be examined in detail.*
- 2. SMEP – Sustainable municipal energy policy (RES & EE)**
 - *6 countries: CZ–SI–HR–AT–HU–RS*
 - *Lead partner: PORSENNA NGO*
 - *Main objectives: to identify the current state of energy planning and use of strategic energy plans in municipalities.*
- 3. DanGreen – Danube Green 4 Blue: Sustainability in Planning & Design (General RES)**
 - *5 countries: RS–RO–BA–BG–UA*
 - *Lead partner: Environment Improvement Centre (EIC)*
 - *Main objectives: addressing energy use in the Danube region, Climate Change mitigation through reduction in GHG emissions, and the challenge of environmental awareness among young professionals and students in Architecture, Urban Planning, and Design in the Danube region and EU in general.*
- 4. RE–HOUSING – Introducing innovative RES technologies in the context of outdated HOUSING ESTATES in deprived urban areas [exploiting the potentials of waste water heat (EE)]**
 - *5 countries: HU–HR–SI–RO–DE*
 - *Lead partner: 18th District Urban Management Nonprofit Company Ltd.*
 - *Main objectives: to develop a sound project concept on waste water heat pump technology with a strong and extended partnership including cities with more advanced experience with implementing such investment programmes as well as the financing institutions themselves.*

PA2 results – projects according to lead partner



Countries involved in the TOP4 projects



Next steps according to PA10

- ▶ 19th November to mid-December: Plausibility check and clarifications
- ▶ Until Christmas: Information of applicants regarding the results of the selection
- ▶ January 2015: Preparation of subsidy contracts
- ▶ From February 2015: Conclusion of subsidy contracts. In order to spread out the workload, the subsidy contracts can be first signed with beneficiaries of projects which plan to start early.

Thank you for your attention!

