EUnita | EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

SoS2LearnDBS — Source to Sea

Horizon Europe · EU Mission Ocean and Waters · Danube and Black Sea (FSTP cascade)

Call	1st Transition Agendas Open Call (Transition Agenda Call 1, TAg-1)
Call ID / round	OC-TAg1-SoS2LearnDBS-2026 · 1st TAg open call · Grant Agreement 101217667 · topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01
Status	OPEN — the online form has been open since 9 October 2026
Deadline	Friday 11 December 2026, 17:00 CET (Brussels time) = 18:00 Bucharest time
Analysis date	8 October 2026 (status updated 9 October 2026)
Prepared by	EUnita — EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy · Funding Strategy

This analysis separates verified official facts, EUnita's assessment, recommendations and unconfirmed items. Any corrigendum, updated FAQ or template revision issued by SoS2LearnDBS or INOVA+ prevails. EUnita does not guarantee eligibility, selection or funding.

1 Executive summary and EUnita strategic reading

The SoS2LearnDBS project (Horizon Europe, EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, Grant Agreement 101217667, coordinated by INOVA+) will fund up to 15 **Transition Agendas (TAgs)** in its 1st Transition Agendas Open Call. A TAg is a community-led, multi-year roadmap that sets out where a community wants to go on water and ecosystems, what has to change, and how the change will be financed. Funding is a **100% lump sum of €25,000–€100,000** per project in three tiers, from a **€1,125,000** budget, with no co-financing and a cap of €60,000 per organisation. The online form opened on 9 October 2026 and closes on **Friday 11 December 2026 at 17:00 CET Brussels time (18:00 in Bucharest)**. The full conditions and templates had been published on 7–8 October.

EUnita strategic reading

- **A planning grant, not a works grant.** Winners deliver a roadmap, KPIs, governance commitments and a follow-on funding pipeline. Equipment is limited to depreciation of items directly necessary for the TAg; vehicles, infrastructure and restoration equipment are excluded.
- **Romania is in play three times.** It is an eligible leader country and is assigned, as a country, to the Lower Danube, Danube Delta and Black Sea regions. The call aims at one to three awards in each of the five regions, so places are split by geography.
- **The gates are structural, not technical.** A consortium of 2–4 independent legal entities, a leader established no later than October 2024, a partner with a provable local-community link, and no link to the SoS2LearnDBS partners or to consortia selected in the earlier Community-Led (CLed) call.
- **The quality bar is unforgiving.** Nine criteria are scored 0–5 and each needs at least 3; comprehensive planning (EvC1) carries a weight of 1.5. A strong consortium with a weak adoption or follow-on-financing section is rejected.
- **Best fit:** municipalities, intercommunity and regional bodies, local NGOs and universities, with an SME or association as partner. **Poor fit:** single entities, commercial product development, works or equipment.
- **Watch-points:** the package was generated on 7–8 October 2026 and contains inconsistencies (project end date, subcontracting basis, payment timing); State-aid treatment of SMEs is not explained; the 22 and 28 October information sessions are still “tbc”.

Verified official facts	Unconfirmed items — Not confirmed in the available official sources
• Opening 9 Oct 2026; deadline 11 Dec 2026, 17:00 CET • €1,125,000; max. 15 TAgs; 1–3 per region • Tiers €25–50k / €50–75k / €75–100k; 100% lump sum • Consortium of 2–4; leader in a listed country (Romania included), established no later than Oct 2024 • Romania assigned to Lower Danube, Danube Delta, Black Sea • Nine criteria, threshold 3/5 each, EvC1 weight 1.5	• State-aid / de minimis treatment of SME sub-grants • Tier that applies at exactly €50,000 and €75,000 • County-level mapping of Romanian communities to regions • Exact cut-off day for the leader's establishment (“October 2024”) • Whether a registered Climate Pact pledge is required (documents mention the Mission Charter) • Declaration of Honour template; application-form fields; info-session registration

2 Call at a glance

Programme / project	Horizon Europe — EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”; research and innovation action SoS2LearnDBS “Source to Sea” (GA 101217667); topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01; project runs 1 Sep 2025 – 31 Aug 2029
Call	1st Transition Agendas Open Call (TAg Call 1) — OC-TAg1-SoS2LearnDBS-2026
Instrument	Financial support to third parties (cascade): sub-grants under a Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) signed with the coordinator INOVA+; 100% lump sum
Status	**Open since 9 October 2026** (Call Conditions Table 2; Factsheet; project page calendar; confirmed on the call page and the INOVA+ Open Calls page on 9 October 2026)
Deadline	Friday 11 December 2026, 17:00 CET Brussels = 18:00 Bucharest. The submission system's timestamp is definitive.
Budget and awards	€1,125,000 in total; maximum 15 Transition Agendas; minimum 1 and maximum 3 per region (Upper Danube, Middle Danube, Lower Danube, Danube Delta, Black Sea). The consortium may leave funds unawarded or redistribute them between calls
Grant size	Tier 1 €25,000–€50,000 · Tier 2 €50,000–€75,000 · Tier 3 €75,000–€100,000 per project. Maximum €60,000 per organisation
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs; co-financing not mandatory; no-profit rule; 25% flat rate for indirect costs
Duration	4–12 months; execution from 15 May 2027; completion no later than 14 June 2028
Consortium	Mandatory: 2–4 independent legal entities; no single applicants; no natural persons
Leader	Established in Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, **Romania**, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Türkiye or Albania, and no later than October 2024 (two years of existence)
Partners	Any EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country; national or international consortia
Application	Online Application Form on https://opencalls.inova.business/open-calls, in English, with Technical Annex (max. 12 pages), Budget (Excel) and Proof of Legal Registration
Evaluation	Eligibility check, two independent reviewers, ranking, consensus meeting; nine criteria scored 0–5, threshold 3.0 each; results announced by 31 March 2027 (indicative)
Contact	sosdbs@inova.business (queries before 6 December 2026, a Sunday; later answers not guaranteed)

3 What is funded and what falls outside scope

What the call funds

The call funds the **development of a Transition Agenda**: “a community-led, multi-year roadmap that sets out where a community wants to go, what needs to change to get there, and how that change will be achieved and financed”. The Call Conditions stress that TAgs “are not individual projects but strategic and participatory planning instruments”. The funded project must:

- outline how specific results and impacts will be achieved and plan for a defined number of years, including ways to bring in financing;
- contribute to **at least one of the three Mission objectives** and at least one of its targets, and address **at least one of five Danube–Black Sea priority pillars**;
- serve as a basis for follow-up actions to be financed later by larger funds (EU structural funds, Interreg, LIFE, national, regional or municipal budgets).

Eligible activities named in the Call Conditions (non-exclusive) include co-designing blueprints, baseline assessments, stakeholder co-creation workshops, governance and RACI frameworks, testing monitoring

protocols or data platforms, and mapping regulatory risks. The Guidelines add policy briefs, regulatory gap analyses and formal Memoranda of Understanding with public bodies, structured as **at most four tasks**.

Mission objective (choose at least one, plus a target)	Danube–Black Sea priority pillar (choose at least one)
• **O1** Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity • **O2** Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters • **O3** Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular	• 1 Reduction of water-resource pollution (municipal, industrial, agricultural) • 2 Sustainable water quantity management and climate adaptation • 3 Restoration and protection of ecosystems and biodiversity • 4 Urban water management and protection of water sources • 5 Strengthening governance and cross-border cooperation

What falls outside scope

- **Physical deployment:** the call is “primarily planning and transition-oriented”, not “large-scale physical deployment”. Restoration works are for follow-up funding.
- **Equipment beyond depreciation:** general-purpose office equipment, infrastructure, vehicles and equipment intended for restoration or other measures identified in the TAg are not eligible (Call Conditions footnote 5).
- **Profit and double funding:** beneficiaries cannot make a profit; the same activities cannot be funded by other EU sources or by other open calls under HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-02-01.
- **Natural persons, single applicants and excluded entities** (section 4).

4 Eligibility and individual/consortium requirements

Applications that fail any eligibility criterion are ineligible and are not evaluated. The rules below are taken from Call Conditions §2 (pp. 9–11) unless stated otherwise.

Requirement	What the official documents say	Source
Consortium	At least 2 and at most 4 independent legal entities that are eligible under Horizon Europe rules. National or international. Individuals and single applicants are not eligible.	CC §2.1 II, §2.2.1
Leader	Established in one of the 20 listed countries (Romania included) and “established no later than October 2024 (minimum of 2 years of existence)”. The day is not stated.	CC §2.2.1
Partners	Established in any EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.	CC §2.2.1
Local link	At least one partner has an established link with the targeted local or regional community (operating locally or running local projects). Proof of Legal Registration of that partner is mandatory.	CC §2.1 I–II, §5.2
Eligible entity types	Regional and local authorities (municipalities, regional administrations, administrative bodies); NGOs, foundations and other civil society organisations; educational establishments and research-performing organisations; locally based SMEs “provided this does not conflict with State Aid rules”; professional associations, industry bodies, community groups; other Mission-community entities (ports, islands, coastal and riverine communities, fishing and aquaculture communities, LAGs, vessel operators, tourism representatives).	CC §2.2.2

Requirement	What the official documents say	Source
Excluded	SoS2LearnDBS beneficiaries (INOVA+, Steinbeis, ADRM, UNIZAG-FSB, GEOECOMAR, BOKU, DDNI, UB, PKS, IAD, VSC-DA, MUNBUD), their linked third parties and affiliated entities, and entities controlled by, controlling or under common control with them (more than 25% capital or voting rights, or decisive influence). Former links (e.g. spin-offs) excluded unless two years have passed since termination (reference date 1 November 2025).	CC §2.3
One award per organisation	An organisation may be in several proposals but can receive funding only once across the SoS2LearnDBS calls. Organisations in consortia selected under the CLed call cannot apply.	CC §2.2.1, Table 1, §5.3
Region	Project activities target and take place in one of five regions, defined as functional cooperation areas by country (below).	CC §2.1 III, fn. 7
Language and channel	English; online form only; other languages, channels or late submissions are not considered.	CC §2.1 I

Which Romanian communities count

The call does not use counties or NUTS regions. Footnote 7 of the Call Conditions assigns **whole countries** to five “functional cooperation areas rather than strict hydrological units”. Romania appears in three of them.

Region	Countries assigned (CC fn. 7)	Romania?
Upper Danube	Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia	No
Middle Danube	Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia	No
Lower Danube	Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova	**Yes**
Danube Delta	Romania, Ukraine	**Yes**
Black Sea	Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Türkiye, Ukraine (“subject to current geopolitical restrictions”)	**Yes**

- **Not confirmed in the available official sources:** a county or locality list, and whether a community far from the Danube corridor or the coast may choose a region. EUnita's stricter advice: choose the region by the community's real link to the Danube basin, the Delta or the Black Sea coast, and ask the organiser in writing if there is doubt.
- **EUnita reading (not official):** Romanian municipalities, county councils and intercommunity or regional bodies, local NGOs and foundations, Local Action Groups, universities, chambers and associations, and locally based SMEs all fit the listed entity types. The two Romanian project beneficiaries, INCDM GeoEcoMar and INCDD Delta Dunării (DDNI), cannot apply and their linked entities are excluded.
- **Large enterprises** are not named among the eligible types. Treat them as not eligible unless the organiser confirms otherwise.

5 Topics or strands

The call has **no separate thematic strands or budget lines**. Its structure is a combination of three Mission objectives (section 3), five priority pillars (section 3), five regions and three funding tiers. Applicants choose a primary objective and pillar in the form and Technical Annex; the Technical Annex asks for a primary objective (O1–O3) and a primary pillar.

Tier	Grant range	Intended scale (CC Table 1)	Joint-activity reserve	Payment pattern
1	€25,000–€50,000	More targeted small-scale TAgs for specific regional or thematic challenges	At least 10% of the project budget under travel and accommodation	2 instalments: 50% / 50%
2	€50,000–€75,000	Medium-scale TAgs, wider variety of stakeholders and activities	At least 5%	3 instalments: 35% / 20% / 45%
3	€75,000–€100,000	Larger-scale TAgs, more complex challenges, broader impact	At least 3%	3 instalments: 35% / 20% / 45%

- The ranges overlap at €50,000 and €75,000. **Not confirmed in the available official sources:** which tier applies at exactly those amounts. Footnote 9 says the applicant selects the tier; the Technical Annex tells applicants to justify the tier as proportional to scale (Tier 3 “exclusively for complex, large-scale regional transitions”).
- Selection is by ranking lists “organised by region and funding tier”, with 1–3 projects of any tier per region. How the minimum of one per region works if a region's best proposal ranks lower than proposals from other regions is not described.

6 Funding, budget, co-financing, payments and cash flow

Grants are a **100% fixed lump sum**: the EU contribution is paid “as a fixed amount without the need to report actual costs”, against completion of agreed activities and their quality. The budget template is nevertheless mandatory because evaluators judge whether the requested tier is proportional (EvC3). The SGA also warns that lump sums “insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible”, so records proving the work remain necessary.

Cost category (CC Table 1)	Rule
Personnel	Staff working on the project, based on expected effort and real salary costs (budget template: person-months × average monthly rate)
Travel, accommodation, subsistence	Project-related travel; a minimum share (10% / 5% / 3% by tier) must be reserved for joint activities with the SoS2LearnDBS consortium
Equipment	Depreciation only, for equipment necessary and directly linked to developing the TAg; office equipment, infrastructure, vehicles and restoration equipment excluded
Other goods, works, services	Consumables, dissemination materials, printing, translations, monitoring equipment, educational materials and similar
Subcontracting	Tasks the beneficiaries cannot carry out themselves. Call Conditions: at most 30% of the total requested grant. Budget template: error if above 30% of **each partner's** own total budget — the stricter reading is used
Indirect costs	Flat rate of 25% of direct costs (Horizon Europe rules). In the budget template the base is categories 1–4; subcontracting is excluded
Per-organisation cap	€60,000. Stated for Tiers 2 and 3 in Table 1, without tier qualifier in §2.1 IV; the template flags any partner total above €60,000 **including** indirect costs. At the cap, a partner that subcontracts nothing can book at most €48,000 of direct costs (EUnita arithmetic: €60,000 / 1.25)

Payments and cash flow

Tier	Instalments	Trigger (CC Table 1; SGA Art. 5.2)
Tier 1	50% + 50%	50% pre-financing within 30 days of SGA entry into force and valid financial identification forms; 50% after submission and approval of the Final Report, the TAg roadmap and verified KPI achievements
Tiers 2 and 3	35% + 20% + 45%	35% pre-financing as above; 20% within 30 days of approval of the mid-term report; 45% after approval of the final report, roadmap and verified KPIs

Illustration (EUnita arithmetic)	Pre-financing	Mid-term	Final
Tier 3, €100,000	€35,000	€20,000	€45,000
Tier 2, €75,000	€26,250	€15,000	€33,750
Tier 1, €50,000	€25,000	—	€25,000

- The splits are called “indicative” and may be tailored to project duration, requested budget and the financial viability of the selected consortium. Payments are “subject to tax and other reductions according to the laws of all involved countries”.
- **Timing is inconsistent:** SGA Art. 5.2 gives 30 days for pre-financing and the mid-term payment, while Art. 3.1 says payments are managed “within a maximum of 90 days after validation”. Plan cash flow on the longer period.
- The consortium leader receives the money and must redistribute it to partners “without unjustified delay”; partners should settle internal advance arrangements in a consortium agreement.
- **Financial capacity check** at contracting: profit-and-loss account and balance sheet for the last two years (or equivalent), normally for all beneficiaries except public bodies, international organisations, and individual grants “lower than 60.000 EUR”. Stricter reading: a partner requesting exactly €60,000 is checked.
- **Average value:** if all 15 awards are made, €1,125,000 / 15 = €75,000 per project on average (EUnita arithmetic), so Tier 3 awards must be balanced by smaller ones.

7 Calendar

Date	Milestone	Status / source
Fri 9 October 2026	Call opening; online form on https://opencalls.inova.business/open-calls	Official (CC Table 2); opened on 9 October 2026
Thu 22 and Wed 28 October 2026	Information sessions (online and face-to-face)	“tbc”; no registration link yet
TBC	Matchmaking / networking opportunity	“[TBC]” on the call page
Before Sun 6 December 2026	Last date for queries to sosdbs@inova.business	Indicative (CC §5.4; Factsheet)
Fri 11 December 2026, 17:00 CET (18:00 Bucharest)	**Submission deadline**; last version submitted before the deadline is evaluated	Official
14 December 2026 – 30 March 2027	Eligibility check, independent evaluation, ranking, consensus meeting	Planned
31 March 2027	Applicants informed of results; selected and reserve lists	Indicative
3 working days after notification	Redress request window (legal representative who submitted)	CC §6.5

Date	Milestone	Status / source
About 4 weeks after selection	SGA preparation; documents requested with deadlines; failure to deliver = rejection and reserve list	CC §6.6
By 14 May 2027	Sub-Grant Agreement signature	Planned
From 15 May 2027	Project start; execution window ends 14 June 2028 at the latest (maximum 12 months)	Planned; see section 13
Within 1 month of start	Baseline Data Sheet (template supplied by SoS2LearnDBS)	CC §4; SGA Art. 18
Mid-point of project	Mid-term Progress Report	CC §4
At project end (months 4–12)	Final Report and TAg roadmap deliverable	CC §4; SGA Art. 18
6 months after agenda development; 12–15 months after completion	Finalised strategic roadmap; follow-up survey	CC §4; SGA Art. 18

8 Application process, content limits and required documents

Applicants register on the INOVA+ Open Calls platform, activate the account through the confirmation e-mail, complete the online form, upload the documents and submit. The form can be saved and edited until closure; if more than one application is submitted, the **last one before the deadline** is evaluated. A confirmation e-mail is the only proof of submission. The organiser advises against edits in the last 48 hours. The online form opened on 9 October 2026; its fields were not reviewed for this analysis.

Application package

- **Online Application Form** (English). The Mission objective is selected in the form (Guidelines §4).
- **Technical Annex** on the official Word template, converted to **one PDF of at most 10 MB**; at most **12 pages** in Sections 1–4; Calibri or Arial, at least 11 pt, single spacing, margins of at least 15 mm; optional annexes of at most 5 extra pages (e.g. letters of support).
- **Budget** on the official Excel template: Global sheet plus one sheet per partner (P1–P4); the project title must match the Technical Annex.
- **Proof of Legal Registration** of the partner with the local link — no template; must show date and place of establishment, legal status and purpose or mission; official English translation if needed.

Technical Annex section	Limit	Evaluated under
1.1 Executive summary and core challenge · 1.2 TAg concept and beyond state of the art · 1.3 Co-creation and social inclusion	2,500 · 3,000 · 2,000 characters	EvC1 Comprehensive planning; EvC4 Advanced state of the art
2.1 SMART objectives (4–5) and KPI tables · 2.2 Social innovation and Traditional Ecological Knowledge · 2.3 Sustainability, policy uptake, Mission Charter and Climate Pact · 2.4 Communication and policy advocacy	2,500 + tables · 2,000 · 2,500 · 2,000 characters	EvC5–EvC9 (the template names EvC5–EvC8 only)
3.1 Consortium competence and local link (team table) · 3.2 Work plan (max. 4 tasks) and deliverables/milestones · 3.3 Risks (2–3) · 3.4 Budget justification	2,500 + table · tables · matrix · 1,500 characters	EvC2 Feasibility; EvC3 Commitment to implementation
4 Ethics, security and regulatory compliance	1,500 characters	Compliance

KPI framework (mandatory). Four types, each with baseline, target, unit, verification method or data source, monitoring frequency and responsible organisation: (i) Common/Long-Term Impact linked to the chosen Mission objective and target; (ii) Regional Impact linked to the chosen pillar; (iii) Governance/Roadmap Delivery (e.g. signed MoUs, endorsements, steering committee, follow-on funding applications); (iv) Performance (e.g. stakeholders engaged, water-literacy workshops, gender and youth inclusion). The agreed KPIs are written into the SGA and “serve as a mandatory condition for validating milestones and approving final grant payments”.

Needed only at contracting (not at application): Declaration of Honour (template “Available soon”); proof of legal existence with VAT; EC identification form (Private or Public Law Body — the generic EC forms are on the European Commission's legal-entity page listed in section 15); SME status proof (PIC on the EC Participant Portal, or the SME Declaration plus status information form); financial capacity documents.

9 Evaluation and selection

Four steps: (1) eligibility verification; (2) individual assessment by two reviewers, one from the SoS2LearnDBS partners and one external expert, with at least one reviewer from a region different from the leader's where possible; (3) ranking; (4) consensus meeting (consensus, or two-thirds majority) producing a selected list and a reserve list. No interviews or pitches are described.

Code	Criterion	What the Call Conditions ask for (summary)	Weight
EvC1	Comprehensive planning	Integrated, cross-sectoral approach aligned with a Mission objective and a regional pillar; actionable roadmap concept with clear co-design pathways	**1.5**
EvC2	Feasibility	Technical expertise, operational capacity and management experience: key staff, track record over the last 3 years, operational link to the community	1.0
EvC3	Commitment to implementation	Realistic objectives, work plan, timeline and resources; mandatory deliverables; complementarity and risk mitigation; proportional tier and budget	1.0
EvC4	Advanced state of the art	Innovative governance models, policy adaptation and regulatory solutions beyond current practice; social, governance and nature-based innovation	1.0
EvC5	Dissemination, communication and exploitation	Communication strategy and audience mapping; policy advocacy strategy; concrete pathways to follow-up co-financing	1.0
EvC6	Social innovation and societal impact	Water literacy and public engagement; gender balance, youth and vulnerable groups; Traditional Ecological Knowledge with free, prior and informed consent	1.0
EvC7	Commitment to a Climate Pact Pledge	Specific, measurable climate-resilience actions; clear commitment to endorse the EU Mission Charter	1.0
EvC8	Quality of the proposed outcomes	Clear, credible, measurable outcomes; KPIs in the four mandatory categories	1.0
EvC9	Sustainability and scaling potential	Credible strategy beyond the grant; institutional adoption pathways (council or basin-authority endorsement); cross-regional replicability	1.0

- **Scale 0–5** (0 fail, 1 poor, 2 fair, 3 good, 4 very good, 5 excellent); no half points; each criterion is the average of the reviewers. **Below 3.0 on any criterion means automatic rejection.**
- **Ranking score** is the weighted sum. EUnita arithmetic: maximum 47.5 (5 × (1.5 + 8)); the lowest score that can pass every threshold is 28.5 (3 × 9.5).
- **Tie-breaks in order:** highest EvC1; then EvC2; then EvC5; then international consortium; then women in key roles (e.g. coordination).
- **Redress:** within three working days, only on the eligibility check or the evaluation process; not on the reviewers' technical judgement; a re-evaluation score is final and may be lower.

- **Competition context:** the project reports 91 applications for its earlier CLed call. No figure exists for this call, so no success rate can be inferred.

10 Implementation and material legal/compliance obligations

Topic	Obligation (Call Conditions §4, §7; SGA model)
Contract	SGA between INOVA+ (for the SoS2LearnDBS consortium) and all consortium beneficiaries; grant equals the requested amount and tier; the coordinator coordinates delivery, reporting and redistribution of payments. Belgian law applies subsidiarily; Brussels courts.
Reporting	Baseline Data Sheet within 1 month; Mid-Term Progress Report; Final Report with the TAg roadmap, final KPI values, stakeholder outcomes, capacity building, lessons learned and photo/video/social-media evidence; finalised roadmap within 6 months after agenda development; follow-up survey 12–15 months after completion. Reports are assessed on relevance, feasibility and effectiveness by two reviewers.
Support received	Dedicated mentoring, helpdesk and check-ins, planning tools, Policy Integration Clinics (governance, regulation, financing pathways, MoUs), KPI feedback, peer learning, access to the Mission Implementation Platform and communication support.
Mission Charter and visibility	The beneficiary commits to formally endorse the EU Mission Charter during execution. All materials must carry the EU emblem, the project logo and the funding statement “This activity has received funding from the European Union, via the SoS2LearnDBS project, under Horizon Europe grant agreement No 101217667.”
Ethics and data	Voluntary participation with written informed consent; safeguarding for minors and vulnerable groups; GDPR; consistency with EU ethics in non-EU countries; Traditional Ecological Knowledge only under free, prior and informed consent; Do No Significant Harm.
IP and results	Ownership of data and results stays with the party generating them unless agreed otherwise; the contractor may use non-sensitive information and materials for communication.
Records, audits, recovery	Records kept for five years after final payment (SGA Art. 19; Call Conditions refer to 3–5 years); audits by the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors and EPPO; recovery of funds if misused; payment suspension and termination for breach, false declarations or unresolved conflict of interest.
Confidentiality	Five years under the SGA; the Call Conditions say four years. Stricter reading: five.
Flexibility	Selected projects must accept adjustments requested by SoS2LearnDBS before and during signature to align with project goals and Mission developments.
Insurance and taxes	Parties insure travel and brought-in equipment; the beneficiary is responsible for tax and legal obligations attached to the grant.

11 Strong-fit and poor-fit applicant profiles

Strong fit

- A municipality, intercommunity or regional body with a real water, drinking-water, flood, drought or pollution issue and an existing stakeholder network.
- A local NGO, LAG or community association with a documented operational link to the community and three years of track record.
- A university or research body (outside the excluded institutes) that brings baseline data and KPI method.
- A locally based SME as technical partner, once State aid is clarified.
- A consortium with a council or authority ready to endorse the roadmap, and a follow-on funding idea (Interreg, LIFE, structural or municipal funds).

- A leader established by October 2024 with the administrative capacity to coordinate the work and redistribute funds.

Poor fit

- A single entity, or a consortium whose members are not independent; a leader established after October 2024.
- Organisations that need money for works, equipment, vehicles or restoration.
- Commercial product development or businesses seeking revenue (no-profit rule); large enterprises (not named as eligible).
- SoS2LearnDBS partners, linked entities, or members of consortia selected under the CLed call.
- Consortia without a partner that can prove a local-community link.
- Teams that cannot write 12 dense pages against nine scored criteria before the 11 December 2026 deadline.

12 Possible strategic directions

These are generic design options, not real projects. Each must still choose one Mission objective, one pillar, one region and one tier.

Direction	Objective / pillar	Typical consortium logic
Local water-governance and cross-sector coordination roadmap	O1–O2 / Pillar 5	Municipality or intercommunity body as leader, NGO for co-creation, university for baseline; target: steering committee, MoUs, council endorsement
Urban water and drinking-water source protection roadmap	O2 / Pillar 4	Municipal or inter-municipal leader with a water-service or research partner; target: urban plan with an integrated water component, follow-on investment file
Wetland, floodplain and riparian restoration investment roadmap	O1 / Pillar 3	Environmental NGO or protected-area body with a local authority; target: restoration pipeline prepared for LIFE or Interreg
Nutrient and agricultural pollution reduction roadmap	O2 / Pillar 1	Farmers' association or cooperative with a university and a local authority; target: pollution-source mapping and policy briefs
Drought, flood and climate-adaptation roadmap	O1–O2 / Pillar 2	Local authority with research partner; target: nature-based and green-infrastructure investment priorities
Circular blue-economy roadmap for tourism, fishing, aquaculture or ports	O3 / Pillars 1 or 3	LAG, chamber or association with an SME partner; target: sector commitments and a financing pathway

- **Tier choice** follows scale: Tier 1 for a focused local problem with a small partnership; Tier 2–3 only with a wide stakeholder base, several partners and a regional ambition. Stay clearly inside one range.
- **International consortium** adds a tie-break advantage and cross-regional replicability, but increases coordination and the number of documents at contracting.
- **Partner budgets** must each stay under €60,000 including indirect costs; with only two partners, a €100,000 project needs each partner's share to lie between €40,000 and €60,000 (EUnita arithmetic).

13 Key risks and mitigations

Risk	Why it matters	Mitigation
Hard threshold on every criterion	A score below 3 on any one of nine criteria rejects the proposal; EvC1 is also the first tie-break	Draft to the grid section by section; independent mock review before submission; spend extra effort on adoption and follow-on funding

Risk	Why it matters	Mitigation
Consortium and local-link gates	2–4 independent entities; leader by Oct 2024; local-link proof; exclusions (project partners, CLed-selected consortia)	Screen partners first against the exclusion list and the leader-age rule; secure signed commitment from the community partner early
Short window	63 days from opening; information sessions still “tbc”; queries until 6 Dec (a Sunday)	Fix the consortium by early November; send one consolidated query; submit well before the final 48 hours
Inconsistent project end date	Execution ends 14 June 2028 but maximum duration is 12 months from 15 May 2027 (about 13 months apart)	Plan 12 months at most and finish activity well before 14 June 2028; ask the organiser
Payment timing and back-loaded cash	Final 45–50% only after report, roadmap and KPI approval; 30 vs 90 days in the SGA	Budget internal cash cover for the last project quarter; agree redistribution rules in a consortium agreement
Budget rule traps	€60,000 per partner including indirect costs; 30% subcontracting checked per partner in the template; travel reserve by tier; equipment limited to depreciation	Build partner sheets first; test formulas; keep Tier boundaries clear
SME State-aid uncertainty	SMEs eligible “provided this does not conflict with State Aid rules” but no mechanism is described	Keep SMEs as minority partners with modest shares until the organiser answers in writing
Region mapping	Country-level assignment only; no county list; Romania not assigned to Upper or Middle Danube	Choose region by genuine Danube/Delta/Black Sea link; record the justification in the Technical Annex
Charter and Climate Pact wording	EvC7 is labelled “Climate Pact Pledge” but the text and the SGA require the Mission Charter endorsement	Commit to the Charter in the proposal and describe pledge-type climate actions; ask whether a registered pledge is expected
Fresh, unsettled package	Documents generated 7–8 October 2026; hidden CLed references in the budget template; “Tier B” typo; Declaration of Honour missing	Re-download the documents regularly; follow the FAQ; any corrigendum prevails

14 Explained EUnita opportunity score

The score below is EUnita's own assessment of the opportunity for an eligible applicant. It is not an official evaluation score and not a probability of winning or being funded. Gates are applied first; they were assessed on 8 October 2026.

Gate	Result	Evidence
G1	Pass	Online form open since 9 October 2026 (CC Table 2; Factsheet; call page)
G2	Pass	Call Conditions, Guidelines, Technical Annex, Budget template, Factsheet and SGA model published and read in full
G3	Pass with flags	Romania eligible; open points (SME State aid, tier boundaries, leader cut-off day, county mapping) do not block public-body, NGO or university-led consortia
G4	Pass	Deadline 11 December 2026, 17:00 CET
G5	Pass	Deadline 11 December 2026, more than four weeks away; consortium building is the bottleneck

Dimension	Score	Max	Reason
Funding value relative to applicant effort	14	20	€25–100k lump sum, no co-financing, 35–50% upfront; but 12-page annex, KPI framework, two reports and follow-up duties; average only €75,000
Eligible applicant pool and accessibility	15	20	Broad entity types and Romania eligible in three regions; limited by mandatory consortium, leader age, local-link proof, one award per organisation and exclusions

Dimension	Score	Max	Reason
Scope clarity and credible applicant fit	11	15	Clear objectives, pillars, KPIs and template; abstract concept, no model TAg, placeholder FAQ, demanding adoption and financing tests
Time available for preparation	11	15	Deadline 11 December 2026; sessions 22 and 28 Oct still tbc on 8 October; partners and local endorsements take time
Funding mechanics and implementation feasibility	11	15	Lump sum and flat indirect rate are simple; KPI-linked back-loaded payments, date and timing inconsistencies, five-year records, mandatory travel reserve
Total	**62**	**85**	

- **Applicant attractiveness: medium-high.** Attractive to community-rooted public bodies, NGOs and universities that want a funded, mentored planning process; unattractive for single entities, commercial projects or anyone expecting equipment or works.
- **Difficult conditions flagged:** mandatory consortium; leader established by October 2024; local-link proof; small awards against heavy work plan (Tier 1); €60,000 cap including indirect costs; per-partner 30% subcontracting; unspecified SME State aid; travel reserve; back-loaded payments; Mission Charter endorsement; nine thresholds; 15 awards in five regions.

15 Official sources

All documents were read on 8 October 2026.

- Call page: https://sos2learndbs.eu/funding-calls/transition-agenda-call-1/
- Call Conditions (OC-TAg1-SoS2LearnDBS-2026): https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/SOS2LearnDBS_TAg_Call-conditions_pub1-1.pdf
- Guidelines for developing a Transition Agenda: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/SoS2LearnDBS_TAg-Guidelines-for-developing-TAg_pub1.pdf
- Technical Annex template: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/SoS2LearnDBS_TAg1_Technical-Annex-template_pub1.docx
- Budget template: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Sos2LearnDBS_TAg1_budget-template_pub1.xlsx
- Factsheet: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Factsheet_Call_TAg-1.pdf
- Sub-Grant Agreement model: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/FP_SOS2LearnDBS_TAg_SGA-template_pub1.pdf
- SME Declaration: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/FP_SOS2LearnDBS_TAg__SME_Declaration_pub1.pdf
- Financial Viability Check: https://sos2learndbs.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/FP_SoS2LearnDBS_Financial-Viability-Check.xls
- Application platform: https://opencalls.inova.business/open-calls
- European Commission legal-entity forms: https://commission.europa.eu/publications/business-partners-legal-entities-and-bank-accounts_en
- CORDIS record of GA 101217667: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101217667
- Earlier CLed call page (context only): https://sos2learndbs.eu/funding-calls/sos2learn-cled-call/

16 Final EUnita verdict

Strand	Verdict	Reason
Public-body, NGO or university-led consortium with local community link (Romania)	**Go**, with a firm consortium by early November	Best match to the scope, entity types and scoring grid; lowest eligibility uncertainty
SME-led or SME-heavy consortium	**Conditional**	Eligible only if State aid is not a problem; the documents do not say. Ask the organiser before committing a large budget share
Tier 1 (€25–50k) versus Tier 2–3 (€50–100k)	Tier 1: **selective**; Tier 2–3: **go if the partnership is broad**	Same annex, KPI and reporting burden at every tier; Tier 1 pays 50/50 and needs a 10% travel reserve; Tiers 2–3 need a wider stakeholder base
Single entity, commercial or works-oriented project	**Do not pursue**	Consortium mandatory; planning-only scope; no-profit rule; works and equipment excluded

Relation to the earlier instrument: the closed SoS2LearnDBS Community-Led (CLed) call (€200,000–€1,000,000 projects, consortia of 3–7, 18–30 months, deadline 30 March 2026) is a different call; this Transition Agenda call funds €25,000–€100,000 planning grants for consortia of 2–4 over 4–12 months, and members of consortia selected under CLed cannot apply to it.

17 How EUnita can help

- **Screening and consortium design:** testing your community and partners against the exclusions, the leader-age rule, the local-link evidence and the region and tier choice.
- **Technical Annex drafting:** writing the 12 pages to the nine scored criteria, including the four-category KPI framework, work plan, risk matrix and adoption pathway.
- **Budget and compliance:** partner sheets within the €60,000 and 30% rules, the travel reserve, a consortium agreement and the contracting documents.
- **Organiser clarification:** one consolidated written query on the open points listed in this analysis.

18 Contact

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