

**Interreg
Danube Region**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



Danube DNA

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

**on Cooperation in the frame of the Interreg Project
“Danube Digital transformation Network of Active SMEs
training and knowledge transfer centers”**



I. Background

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as MoU) contributes to the activities of the project “Danube Digital transformation Network of Active SMEs training and knowledge transfer centers” (Danube DNA) and creates a supporting ecosystem for the sustainable synchronized transnational digital transformation of SMEs towards Industry and Logistics 4.0, across the Danube Region, through establishment of the Danube DNA network – digital transformation network of active SMEs’ training and knowledge transfer centers. The Danube DNA network will be the nucleus of integrative smart specialization, skills development, cross-sectorial collaborations, SMEs transformation, and transition towards Industry and Logistics 4.0, through the transfer of knowledge, inter-regional capacity building, jointly developed solutions, and implementation of innovative and sustainable pilot actions.

II. Partners

Article 1

This MoU establishes the Danube DNA network - cooperation network between both the Project Partners and Associated Strategic Partner of the project “Danube Digital transformation Network of Active SMEs training and knowledge transfer centers” (Danube DNA), hereinafter referred to as “the Partners”:

- TUM International GmbH, Project Partner (DE)
- Munich Innovation Ecosystem (MUST), Associated Strategic Partner (DE)
- Institute of Technology and Business in Ceske Budejovice, Project Partner (CZ)
- College of Logistics, Associated Strategic Partner (CZ)
- CAMPUS 02 University of Applied Sciences, Project Partner (AT)
- Chamber of commerce Styria (COCS), Associated Strategic Partner (AT)
- SOVA Digital Inc., Project Partner (SK)
- Association of intelligent industry – Industry 4UM, Associated Strategic Partner (SK)

**Danube DNA**

- South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency, Project Partner (HU)
- CTRIA Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd., Associated Strategic Partner (HU)
- ICT Association of Hungary, Associated Strategic Partner (HU)
- Pomurje Technology Park, Project Partner (SI)
- Pomurje Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Associated Strategic Partner (SI)
- TERA TEHNOPOLIS Ltd., Project Partner (HR)
- Industrial park Nova Gradiška d.o.o. for development and investment, Associated Strategic Partner (HR)
- Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency, Project Partner (BA)
- Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Associated Strategic Partner (BA)
- Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Lead Project Partner (RS)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Associated Strategic Partner (RS)
- Science and Technology Park Novi Sad, Associated Strategic Partner (RS)
- Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Project Partner (ME)
- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Associated Strategic Partner (ME)
- IT&C Cluster “Lower Danube”, Project Partner (RO)
- Municipality of Galati, Associated Strategic Partner (RO)
- Foundation Cluster Information and Communication Technologies - ICT Cluster, Project Partner (BG)
- Ardino Municipality, Associated Strategic Partner (BG).

Article 2

The Partners intend to establish sustainable transnational cooperation based on the principles of transparency, and mutual respect, in the frame of the Danube DNA network - transnationally aligned “one-stop shops” along the Danube that will have the required knowledge, capacity, and ability to support the digital transformation of SMEs in their countries. Cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation of the Danube DNA network will create a sustainable innovation ecosystem for capacity building, skills development, knowledge transfer, new solutions development, and implementation, by considering the



specific territorial challenges and disparities, contributing to the general effort of closing the innovation gap and fostering the economic development across the Danube Region, as targeted in the EUSDR and addressed with the EUSDR Action Plan, under PA8 and PA7.

III. Scope and objectives of the MoU

Article 3

The main objective of the MoU is to create the Danube DNA network to formalize the Partner's joint intention and dedication to address the challenge of synchronized transnational digital transformation of SMEs towards industry and logistics 4.0, across the Danube Region.

Article 4

This MoU encourages the Partners to develop cooperative relationships, mutual respect, and align their efforts with the defined Project's specific objectives:

1. Establishment of the Danube DNA network and Danube DNA platform.
2. Digital transformation capacity building and joint solutions development.
3. Regionally synchronized SMEs digital transformation through the transnationally coordinated pilot actions.

IV. Responsibilities

Article 5

Partners will achieve specific goals by jointly engaging in the following 7 steps:

1. Create a network of transnationally aligned "one-stop shops" along the Danube that will have the required knowledge, capacity, and ability to support the digital transformation of SMEs in their countries.
2. Create the supporting Danube DNA platform to ensure communication, cooperation, knowledge, and solutions sharing between all interested parties



Danube DNA

along the entire comprehensive region. The platform will be a supportive IT tool for the implementation of the causes of the Danube DNA network.

3. Create the Transnational Guidelines for the smart specialization to ensure cross-border and cross-sectoral alignment of national smart specialization strategies along the entire Danube Region and identify digital solutions and tools that should be developed and implemented in SMEs along the entire Danube region in order to support and enhance the digital transformation of SMEs towards Industry 4.0.
4. Raise knowledge and awareness about the possibilities and benefits of the digitalization of SMEs.
5. Develop joint solutions that are needed and can be implemented in the SMEs along the entire region, and make them available at the Danube DNA platform, to all stakeholders in the region, even after the project is finalized.
6. Organize the Digital Transformation Expo Event to facilitate cross-border cooperation and horizontal and vertical integration of the SMEs along the Danube Region. Furthermore, to promote and communicate the outputs and results of the Project across the extended Danube Region.
7. To invite and encourage the responsible policymaking authorities (local, regional and/or national stakeholders) to integrate and implement the measures and recommendations made in the Project.

V. Promotion of the MoU

Article 6

The Partners agree to actively promote the main and specific objectives of the MoU, as well as results of their joint activities to their respective network through their communication channels and tools. The Partners endeavor to promote the guidelines, the developed solutions and all the other results of the Danube DNA network to SMEs along the Danube Region, through their respective websites, social media, and relevant newsletters.



VI. Date of effect and duration

Article 7

The MoU will take effect upon the date of signing. It is established for a period of 30 months, and it will remain effective until June 30th, 2026. At the due date, the Partners will review the implementation of the MoU. Unless otherwise stated by the Partners, it may be extended by tacit agreement.

VII. Revision and termination

Article 8

This MoU may be changed by amendment by mutual agreement between Partners. Either Partner may terminate this MoU by providing written notice to the other Partners if there is a material breach of the MoU by the other Partner, or for any other reason agreed upon in writing by both Partners. The Partner can withdraw from the MoU with one month's notice. Any change to the MoU will be regulated in writing, with the consent of all Partners, as an Annex to this MoU. These potential changes to the MoU will not influence the Project realization.

VIII. Correspondence

Article 9

Any notification related to this MoU must be duly made to the respective coordinate of the signatory Partners listed below.



IX. No binding agreement

Article 10

The present MoU has symbolic character. It is a statement of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Partners and does not create any legal or financial obligations under national or international law.

X. Execution

Article 11

Signed on February 21st, 2024, in Novi Sad, in one original document in English. Each Partner receives a copy of the undersigned text.

By signing below, the Partners acknowledge that they have read and understood this MoU and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.



Danube DNA

Country: GERMANY		
1.	TUM International GmbH	
	TUM International GmbH, a 100% subsidiary of the Technical University of Munich (TUM), occupies a unique niche at the intersection of academia and industry. As a leading innovation ecosystem designer and orchestrator, TUM International provides its expertise, among others, in smart specialization strategies and gap analyses to facilitate regional and industrial development. This approach is grounded in collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, aiming to contribute to sustainable innovation and growth on an international scale. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
2.	Munich Innovation Ecosystem (MUST)	
	Munich Innovation Ecosystem is a unifying umbrella for innovative startups, talents, corporates, sciences, academia, and the public sector in Munich and beyond that are joining forces to lead Munich and the world toward a sustainable, resilient, and fair future. As part of a global network of talent, startups, companies, academia, government, and the public, they are working together in one of the world's most livable cities on tech-based, impact-driven innovation. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Country: CZECH REPUBLIC		
3.	Institute of Technology and Business in Ceske Budejovice	
	Established in 2006, the Institute of Technology and Business in České Budějovice (VŠTE) with more than 300 employees is a non-profit public HEI. VŠTE endeavors to achieve maximal cooperation with regional business entities and institutions. VŠTE's priorities include applied research, the implementation of innovative technologies and knowledge transfer into areas that are current and crucial regarding the Danube region's needs. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
4.	College of Logistics	
	College of Logistics (VSLG) is a private college focused on logistics, production processes and the application of new technologies in transport management and product identification. VSLG is also engaged in researching solutions for smart cities and knowledge systems. In 2020, VSLG became a member of the United College Prague (UCP) educational group, the fastest growing educational group in higher education in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.  Vysoká škola logistiky ČLEN SKUPINY UCP	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: AUSTRIA		
5.	CAMPUS 02 University of Applied Sciences	
	CAMPUS 02 University of Applied Sciences (UAS) provides a dynamic blend of technical and business degree programs tailored to meet the global demands of today's ever-evolving professional landscape. Their focus is also on research development and on supporting companies in the field of digitalization and thus also on supporting companies in their digital transformation.  FACHHOCHSCHULE DER WIRTSCHAFT	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
6.	Chamber of commerce Styria (COCS)	
	The Chamber of commerce Styria is a local organization of businesses and companies in Graz with the intention to further develop in accordance with the interests of local companies and businesses in Austria. Many businesses are international operating companies with offices in Austria. Members of a Chamber of commerce are usually international and local operating companies, such as property developers, tourism companies, airlines, manufacturing companies, import and export businesses, IT and electronics manufacturers etc. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Country: SLOVAKIA		
7.	SOVA Digital Inc.	
	For 32 years, SOVA Digital has been bringing innovative solutions to the market that help Slovak manufacturing companies maintain competitiveness, increase productivity, and develop at the pace of increasing market demands and global technological trends. It provides clients with complex solutions for digitization and optimization of production processes in the Industry 4.0 concept. It has thousands of successful projects and hundreds of satisfied clients. SOVA DIGITAL Digital Transformation of Industry Companies   	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
8.	Association of intelligent industry – Industry 4UM	
	Industry4UM is an initiative of industry representatives under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic whose main ambition is to be an independent, expert, opinion-making authority in the field of company transformations, to bring industries together for common goals in the field of Industry 4.0, and to provide companies with more information and increased expertise on Industry 4.0, digital transformation, and innovations enhancement. Industry4^{UM} 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Country: HUNGARY		
9.	South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (STRIA)	
	STRIA is a regional innovation agency, set up in 2008 with state aid, focused on a range of innovation and competitiveness-related topics. STRIA's strategic vision is based on the regional smart specialization strategy that enhances the synchronized transnational digital transformation of SMEs towards industry and logistics 4.0. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
10.	CTRIA Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd.	
	CTRIA was founded in 2005 as a consortium of 8 nonprofit regional innovation bridging organizations and HEI. They mostly write and win tenders, manage innovative projects, implement, and popularize them, do business consulting, encourage innovation, shape knowledge and deal with technology transfer, training and mentoring on a nonprofit basis. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
11.	ICT Association of Hungary	
	IVSZ is a professional-industrial alliance and serves as a common platform for IT, telecommunication and electronic industries. Their key competences are fostering employment, providing support for the development of economy, enabling enterprises to expand their markets, and fostering innovation. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: SLOVENIA		
12.	Pomurje Technology Park	
	Pomurje Technology Park (PTP) is an intermediary business supporting organization, certified Digital Innovation Hub for Smart manufacturing; a member of national Start-up Slovenia Ecosystem with its own RD unit registered at the National Research Agency. PTP is a community with 200+ members (SMEs), strong international connections and huge EU program experience. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
13.	Pomurje Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
	Pomurje Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PGZ) has been a key support institution for the economy for ten years in the region, as the only one that connects three quarters of the economic power of the entire region. They represent the interests of the regional economy, advise, inform, connect and educate. They also offer business services, promote technical education and exercise public powers. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: CROATIA		
14.	TERA TEHNOPOLIS Ltd. TERA TEHNOPOLIS Ltd. was registered in 2002, as a limited liability company for supporting new technologies, innovations, and entrepreneurship, as a result of cooperation between Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, the city of Osijek and Osijek-Baranja County. Their activities aim to connect science and economy and secure the infrastructural, financial, and consulting support for innovative and technologically based projects. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
	Industrial park Nova Gradiška d.o.o. for development and investment 15. Industrial park Nova Gradiška (IPNG) is a business-technology incubator whose long tradition started with a focus on the metal and wood processing industry. IPNG provides advisory support to its tenants and clients and conducts various educational and informative workshops. It also implements various EU projects which focus on the development of innovative technologies to help enhance SMEs business and improve the business environment. 	



Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		
16.	Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency	
	The Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency (SERDA) is a non-profit limited liability company governed by public law. SERDA promotes development and entrepreneurship, provides services based on knowledge, innovative creative approach. SERDA is highly experienced in initialization and implementation of different projects and activities through all phases of development, testing and realization, and it has an outstanding curriculum in EU projects. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
17.	Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina	
	Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FTCBH) has a 110-year long tradition of existence, continual work, and legal succession. The FTCBH mission is to create network platforms for their members, represent their interests before the authorities of BiH as well as before relevant associations abroad. The FTCBH is a modern, professional institution that represents and promotes economic interests in the country and abroad. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Country: SERBIA		
18.	Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad	
	The Faculty of Technical Sciences (FTS) is the largest faculty in the Republic of Serbia with 85 study programs in the field of engineering. The FTS is a multidisciplinary institution involved in the planning and implementation of a wide range of national strategies, among others in areas such as smart specialization. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
19.	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia	
	The CCIS is an independent, non-governmental business/expert interest association of legal entities and individuals who are engaged in registered economic activity. CCIS is implementing activities to raise awareness of the importance of different tools in the functioning of SMEs, as well as in preparing these companies for internationalization. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
20.	Science and Technology Park Novi Sad	
	The main role of the STP Novi Sad is to attract innovative technology and development companies, create conditions for the development of the knowledge-based economy, accelerate the export of value-added products and services and thus strengthen the competitive position of the economy of the Republic of Serbia. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: MONTENEGRO		
21.	Chamber of Economy of Montenegro	
	The Chamber of Economy of Montenegro is business association with rich tradition, independent, professional, creative, inventive and above all authoritative, represents interests of all businessmen for the economic and overall development of the state of Montenegro. They encourages economic activities based on a free and open market, freedom of entrepreneurship and competition, the independence of economic entities and their responsibility for assumed obligations in legal transactions.  PRIVREDNA KOMORA CRNE GORE	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
22.	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation	
	The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation performs administrative tasks related, among other things, to the creation, establishment, and development of the educational system as well as the organization of the work of educational institutions. Also, this Ministry harmonizes domestic regulations with the legal acquis of the European Union in the field of science, research, and innovation.  Ministarstvo prosvjete, nauke i inovacija	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: ROMANIA		
23.	IT&C Cluster "Lower Danube"	
	The ICT industry cluster "Lower Danube IT&C Cluster" Galati was established in 2015 as a non-governmental, non-profit, and public utility organization. The association has a relevant membership including, among the companies active in ITC sector, public authorities, and private bodies. Promoting the use of technologies as a key to SMEs competitiveness and resilience is one of their main objectives. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
24.	Municipality of Galati	
	The Municipality of Galati has been collaborating with all interested stakeholders for a long time to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Galati region and to improve regional traditional industrial manufacturing companies. The Municipality of Galati actively supports all initiatives in the knowledge transfer and SMEs' digital transformation promotion. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____



Danube DNA

Country: BULGARIA		
Foundation Cluster Information and Communication Technologies-ICT Cluster		
25.	ICT Cluster was created in 2005 by representatives of the Bulgarian ICT business. It has 10 members which includes more than 280 ICT SME from different segments. ICT Cluster has long experience working in the field of digital transformation. They have implemented a number of projects related to technology development and adoption in different industrial domains. Promoting the use of technologies as a key to SMEs competitiveness and resilience is its main task. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____
Ardino Municipality		
26.	The Ardino Municipality has been cooperating with technology providers for a long time to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Ardino region and cooperate on the improvement of regional traditional industrial manufacturing companies. The Ardino Municipality was a partner in several projects aimed at the development of entrepreneurship using digital technologies. 	Name of representative: _____ Signature: _____