

# BARRIERS TO RESEARCH COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE REGION



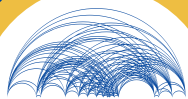
The Danube-INCO.NET study on cooperation barriers in the Danube Region identifies social, political and economic bottlenecks for cooperation in research and innovation and presents corresponding policy recommendations.

## **In a nutshell:**

The most significant barriers identified relate to the general lack of research capacities on national levels and to difficulties in the management of projects. Generally, the identified barriers are linked to:

- personal sphere
- administrative and bureaucratic procedures
- institutional support obstacles
- capacity on the country level
- perception of scientific excellence
- socio-cultural and political aspects
- project management

Not surprisingly, the perception of barriers is higher among women as well as junior researchers while there is a statistically significant difference in the perception of barriers between groups of countries in the Danube Region (DR). Respondents from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia have a significantly higher perception to encounter barriers compared to others, e.g. those from Germany. There are fewer project leaders and respondents have considerably less experience in international RTDI project implementation in the enlargement countries of the Danube Region.



**Danube-INCO.NET**  
Advancing Research and Innovation  
in the Danube Region



## SOFTENING THE PERCEPTION OF BARRIERS IN 10 MOVES

The Danube-INCO.NET study recommends a number of measures to be implemented on various levels and by different stakeholders to eventually achieve an efficient cooperation among the Danube Region countries:

1. Increase promotion of S&T cooperation within the Danube Region.
2. Strengthen political stability in the Danube Region.
3. Provide greater financial and logistical support for the preparation of project proposals.
4. Establish a bonus system for successful applicants to valorise participation in international projects.
5. Align national strategies within the Danube Region while harmonising national RTDI priorities with regional and EU programs for non-EU countries.
6. Change political and legal frameworks and solve the problem of management at the universities in enlargement countries and EU MSs and regions located at the downstream of the Danube.
7. Standardise procedures of project submission and monitoring speed-up evaluation procedures and shorten the time to contracts.
8. Secure pre- and on time payments, reduce delays.
9. Develop more programs for young researchers and their involvement in projects as well as for small collaborative research projects.
10. Strengthen capacities and competences in project management, increase know-how on project implementation at R&I institutions in the Danube Region.

The Danube-INCO.NET study on cooperation barriers is available on the project portal at:  
<http://danube-inco.net/object/document/15392>

