Dâmbovița
Apă Dulce

Call for Ideas
BRIEF
Dâmbovița 2035
– Call for Ideas to transform the urban course of the Dâmbovița River into a green-blue corridor

1. GENERAL

1.1 Premises of the Call for Ideas

The Association Ivan Patzaichin – Mila 23, Nod Makerspace, the Bucharest Architecture Annual, and the Romanian Order of Architects – Bucharest Branch, with the support of the Environmental Platform for Bucharest, initiated by the Bucharest Community Foundation and ING Romania, are launching the international Call for Ideas **"Dâmbovița 2035".** The Call aims to transforming the river from a merely obsolete road artery designed in the 1980s into a green-blue corridor.

The Call for Ideas is willing to unveil a projection into the future, towards a city that rediscovers its river as a living, ecological, and social infrastructure. According to this vision, Dâmbovița becomes a green-blue corridor connecting nature, the city, and people—a space where green mobility, biodiversity, the urban landscape, community life, and new ways of using the riverbanks come together.

Applicants are invited to propose sustainable urban design solutions to eliminate transit traffic, transforming the river into a coherent system that supports climate resilience, increases biodiversity and the quality of life, while transforming the riverbanks into public spaces and community activation areas.

Initiators and organisers of the competition:

The initiators of the Call for Ideas are entities active in the public, social, and professional spheres in Romania:

The Association Ivan Patzaichin – Mila 23 has extensive experience in protecting the cultural and natural diversity of water areas, promoting Romania's hydrographic heritage, and activating communities through ecological regeneration projects. In 2015, the organisation designed and implemented the first riverbank development of a section of Dâmbovița at the National Library area. It was the birth of the *Dâmbovița Smart River* project.

Nod Makerspace is a cultural and creative centre located on the banks of the Dâmbovița River in Timpuri Noi, in a converted 2,000-square-meter hall. The organisation's mission is to create a sustainable urban environment in which creative industries play an essential role through urban interventions, collaborative processes, communication campaigns, and events relevant to the community.

The Bucharest Architecture Annual is one of the most important architecture events in Central and Eastern Europe, aiming to promote contemporary architecture, design, urbanism, and professional activities specific to architects and addressed to the general public.

The Romanian Order of Architects - Bucharest Territorial Branch (OAR Bucharest) is a professional organisation whose mission is to improve the quality of architecture as a professional activity and a culture of public interest. Together with the mayors of Bucharest, it has organised various competitions for solutions for the development of important public spaces along the Dâmbovița River, such as Lacul Morii, together with the City Hall of Sector 6.

In 2022, OAR Bucharest and the Association Ivan Patzaichin–Mila 23, with the support of OAR National, organised the first international conference on the Dâmbovița River, bringing together the local administration of Bucharest, the national administration, civil society, and the administrative and professional community, with the aim of analysing the Dâmbovița River as a public space for the city. Following this event, the Bucharest Prefecture, OAR Bucharest, the Association Ivan Patzaichin-Mila23, with the support of the Bucharest City Hall, through ADZIMB, initiated the first major working group on Dâmbovița, G-DAM, in July 2022. This group brought together all the institutions, organisations, representatives of the public administration, of the civil society, and public services interested in Dâmbovița. It generated a series of common visions, which are now materialising through various actions and strategies.

Also, **the Association Ivan Patzaichin – Mila 23** and **Nod Makerspace** are relevant organisations that coordinate a multilayered ecosystem of partners and initiatives dedicated to the Dâmbovița River. Constantly concerned about the state of the Dâmbovița since 2013, they initiated the Dâmbovița Apă Dulce (DAD) manifesto program—a strategic and collaborative framework for revitalising the river and connecting it to the city life.

Together, they developed this participatory regeneration programme for the Dâmbovița River, which combines practical interventions—on the water and on the banks—with a long-term vision: transforming the river into an accessible, clean space that is appreciated by the residents of Bucharest.

Starting in 2024, the programme has expanded thanks to the support of the Environmental Platform for Bucharest, initiated by the Bucharest Community Foundation and ING Romania. It now brings together a diverse network of actors from civil society, environment, culture, administration, and research.

Through the DAD programme, the initiating organisations and partners have adopted a vision, a set of objectives, and actions for 2035 regarding the revitalisation of the river.

DAD vision for 2035:

- Dâmbovița creates a public space for recreation and relaxation, a green mobility infrastructure, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian paths, becoming a new urban landmark that contributes to the city's aesthetics and attractiveness.
- Dâmbovița becomes the city's green-blue corridor, a nature-based solution that cools Bucharest and prevents flooding by absorbing rainwater.

- Dâmbovița connects natural habitats and protects urban biodiversity, improves air and water quality, with an impact on the quality of urban life.
- Dâmbovița is a vibrant ecosystem and a creative resource for the development of Bucharest. Its banks have the highest concentration of universities, research centres, institutions, organisations, and innovative companies in Romania—a unique human resource that can be mobilised for large-scale collaborative actions.
- By 2035, the river – from its source to its confluence with the Argeș – the green-blue corridor will expand as a vital resource for a resilient and innovative region, encouraging sustainable behavioural changes and healthy economic development.

DAD objectives by 2035:

- Developing a **collaborative master plan** that redefines human interaction with the river, based on the "Dâmbovița 2035" Call for Ideas.
- Creating innovative solutions for **the use of the water surface and banks** – recreational areas with rowing or electric boats, green and ecological spaces, urban beaches and, in the long term, the possibility of swimming in the Dâmbovița, with monitoring and interventions along the entire course of the river.
- Increasing **the green space** along the river by **100 hectares** by eliminating transit traffic and gradually reducing the roadway, for the benefit of green mobility.
- **Increasing biodiversity** on the water and on the banks – through nature-based solutions, nesting areas and the reactivation of fish and birds habitats, as well as by reducing the surface of the concrete embankments.
- **Integration of the metropolitan Dâmbovița into a** continuous **green-blue corridor**, from source to mouth, with a positive impact on the quality of life in riverside areas.

1.2 Purpose and objectives of the call

The international Call for Ideas **"Dâmbovița 2035"** aims to develop visual-creative hypotheses that would restore the river and the urban space around it, aiming to become a green-blue corridor – an accessible and attractive space for community or *leisure* activities, transforming the Dâmbovița from a merely traffic route that separates the city into a green mobility infrastructure - bike and pedestrian paths, providing biodiversity and urban landscape, community life, and new functions for the riverbanks. The river can become a factor in cooling and adapting to climate change, contributing to an improved quality of life in the city through more green space, which generates cleaner air and lower temperatures during heat waves.

The aim of the call is to encourage multidisciplinary teams of professionals and enthusiasts from fields such as architecture, urban planning, environmental and hydraulic engineering, landscaping, and visual arts to propose innovative solutions for the redevelopment of the Dâmbovița riverbanks in relation to the city, increasing connectivity between the banks and enhancing the spaces and buildings close to the river.

The Call invites creative proposals for the development and transformation of six key areas along the Dâmbovița River. The aim of these interventions is to create urban cohesion between areas currently separated by the river, so that the inhabitants of Bucharest can rediscover the integrative role of the river in the city's structure.

Beyond the technical aspect, the Call is also an inspirational invitation: to see the river as a living resource, a shared space that connects communities, neighbourhoods, and generations. The ideas can change Bucharest residents' perception of the river, provide innovative models for using water and riverbanks to the fore, and become benchmarks for good practice at European level in regenerating the green-blue urban spaces.

Main objectives:

The solutions will be developed in accordance with reference photos and a site plan provided by the Organisers for each of the six areas and must meet the following objectives:

- Each participant/team must propose feasible solutions for transforming at least one of the six key areas along the river.
- Identify creative and unified urban design solutions for the river and its banks in accordance with the specificities of the selected areas, in order to enhance the quality of public spaces.
- Provide nature-based solutions for stormwater management and riverbank restoration. Integrate ecological and sustainability principles, with an emphasis on the role of the Dâmbovița River in biodiversity, clean air, and climate comfort.
- Promote accessibility between the two banks of the river and the inclusive use of public spaces, so that they are open to all categories of residents.

Areas of intervention:

Applicants will select at least one of the six areas along the Dâmbovița River, presented here downstream, following the river flow: Chiajna – Lacul Morii, Pod Ciurel, CET Grozăvești – Grădina Botanică, Timpuri noi, Delta Văcărești, Vitan – Popești Leordeni.

The study areas are described in section *3.2.2 Components and spatial requirements*.

Expected results:

The Call for Ideas aims to generate visual proposals that highlight **the potential of the river to become, by 2035, a green-blue infrastructure integrated into urban life**.

Applicants are expected to produce:

- **One proposal** including at least one of the six key areas along the Dâmbovița River;
- **A set of expressive images** that clearly and convincingly communicate how the proposed solution could look and function in Bucharest, both for the general public and for decision-makers.
- **An explanation of the proposed scenario for space functions**, solutions for eliminating transit traffic via alternative routes, types of activities and functions, and target users.
- **Highlighting creative solutions for activating public space**, community involvement, and nature-based solutions, integrating sustainability principles, increasing climate resilience, and connecting with biodiversity and the urban landscape.

The proposed solutions must be **concise, expressive, and convincing**, demonstrating how the river can contribute to **improving the quality of life in the capital** by creating attractive, accessible, and sustainable public spaces.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE AREAS

2.1 Alignment with the context of the Dâmbovița

The Dâmbovița River flows through Bucharest for 22 kilometres, passing through neighbourhoods and urban areas that are very different in terms of structure, function, and identity. Due to this diversity, it is impossible to apply uniform solutions, but treat each section according to its specific urban typology.

The **"Dâmbovița 2035"** Call for Ideas includes six representative areas with particular features related to the available space, the existing functions around the water, and the relationship between the banks and the neighbourhood. These areas offer both challenges and distinct opportunities for intervention, which will highlight the river's potential in very diverse urban contexts.

2.2 Spatial potential

Dâmbovița is a unique green-blue infrastructure: it crosses Bucharest from one edge to the other and has the potential to generate beneficial effects on a metropolitan scale. The river provides a continuous water surface, which is very effective in **cooling and ventilating the city** during heat waves. In this sense, the Dâmbovița River can become one of the most important solutions for increasing the capital's climate resilience.

One of the key objectives of the call is **to increase the amount of green space** along the river. To this end, the solutions should provide expansion of the green areas and activate the space along the river, to make the green-blue corridor accessible and attractive to residents and visitors.

Another strategic element is **development of pedestrian and bicycle connections**. A continuous infrastructure of bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths is needed along the river, complemented by new pedestrian bridges to facilitate crossing between banks and connect riverside areas.

The surface covered by roadways should be **reduced** in favour of public pedestrian spaces, keeping only what is strictly necessary for the proper functioning of road connections. One strategic direction is cutting transit traffic so that the banks are freed up for people and converted into quality spaces.

Moreover, the land adjacent to Dâmbovița—public or private—must be coherently integrated into this green-blue corridor. The river connection between the river and Văcărești Natural Park, or integration of office areas and university campuses (e.g., Sema Parc, Politehnică, Grozăvești) are examples showing that interventions should not be limited to sidewalk-road-riverbank interrelation,

but aim to broader urban connections between the river and the city, in order to enhance the social, ecological, and economic benefits.

3. BRIEF OF THE CALL FOR IDEAS

The Brief of the competition is: **design concepts for six selected study areas of the Dâmbovița River**, as part of a public initiative to raise awareness in Bucharest and nationally about the potential of the river to become once again a natural and urban space relevant for the city and its communities.

Each team or participant will choose one or more of the six areas and develop an urban development concept for each, summarised and displayed through images accessible also to the general public.

The Brief of the call covers two components:

- **Study area** – the general context of the river and the analysis of the urban, functional, and ecological characteristics of the selected segment.
- **The implementation area** – the area defined for the specific development proposal.

3.1 Study area

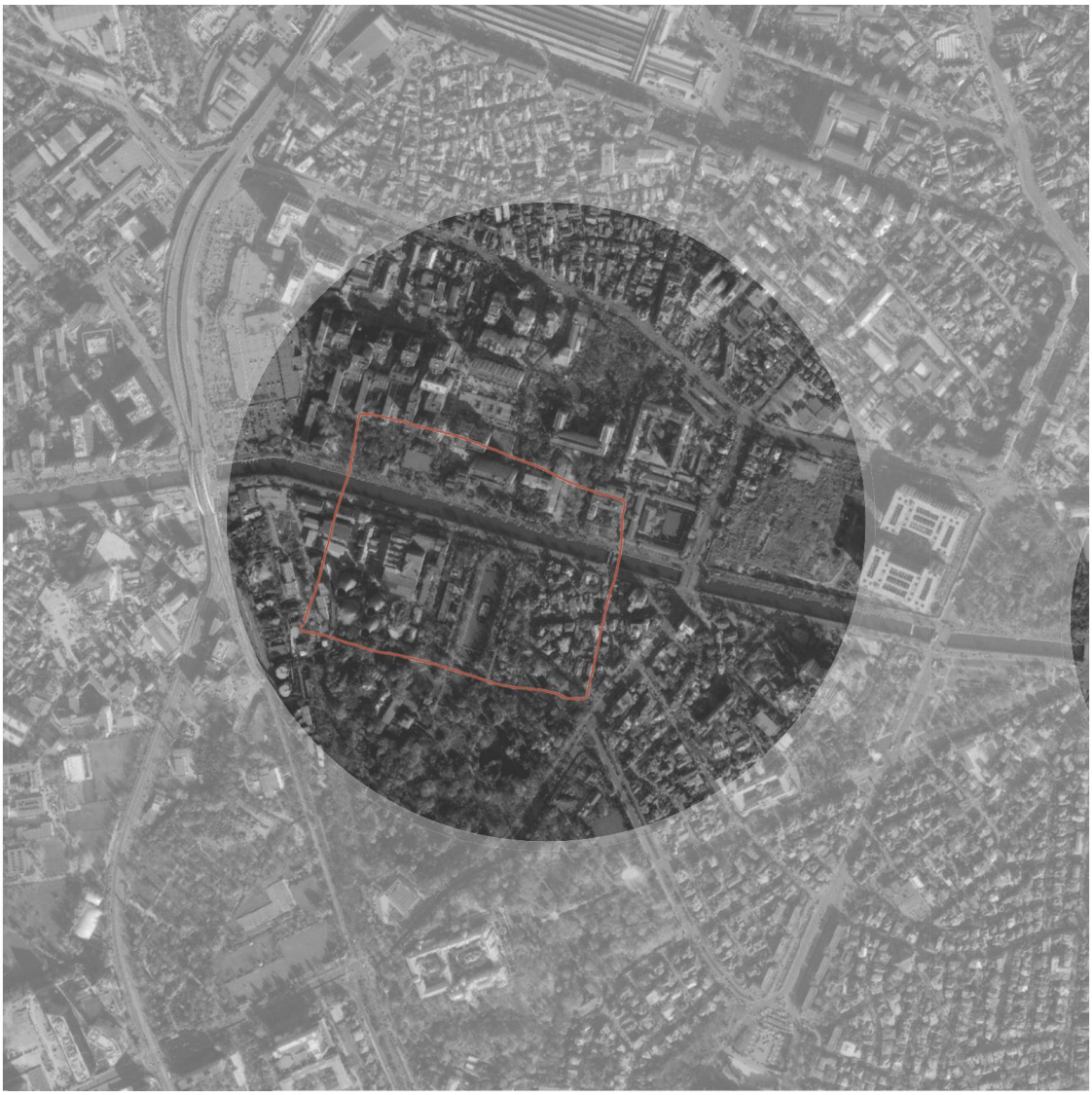
The six selected study areas represent strategic points along the river in Bucharest. The interventions proposed should allow not only the transformation of the riverbanks but also of the entire urban fabric in their vicinity, generating new connections between neighbourhoods, green spaces, and communities.

The six targeted areas:

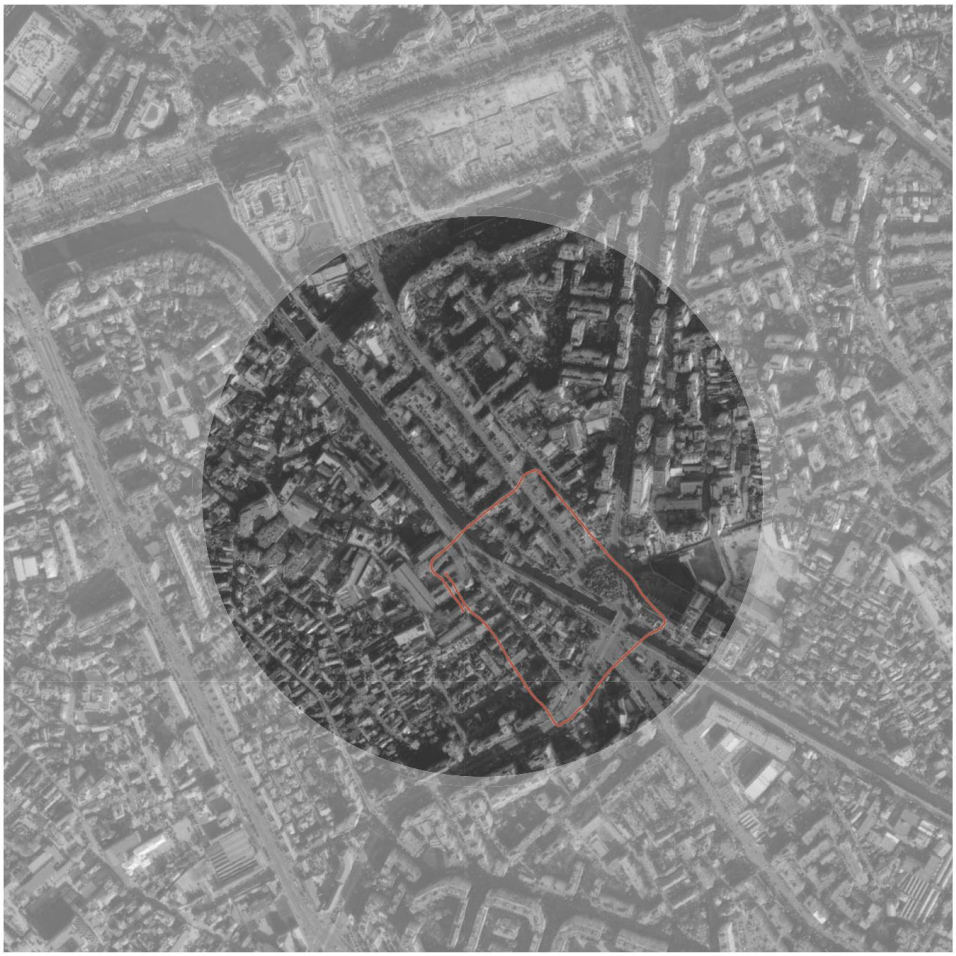
- **Area 1: Chiajna – Lacul Morii** – the western edge, where Dâmbovița enters Bucharest, connecting the river with city's largest lake

- **Area 2: Ciurel Bridge** – a spectacular piece of infrastructure, underutilised for road traffic, surrounded by hydrotechnical works

- **Zone 3: CET Grozăvești – Botanical Garden** – an area between the city's industrial infrastructure and university district, with many research and education centres, close to one of the most valuable green spaces in Bucharest



- **Zone 4: Timpuri Noi** – an urban and creative hub undergoing transformation, at the intersection of cultural, residential, and business functions



- **Zone 5: Văcărești Natural Park** – the area connecting Dâmbovița and capital's most important urban natural park

- **Area 6: Vitan – Popești-Leordeni** – The eastern edge of metropolitan Dâmbovița, where the river leaves the city and connects with the territories of Ilfov

3.2 Implementation area

For each selected study area, there are **implementation areas**, detailed in the annexes to this Call. They constitute the tangible support for the proposed interventions and are visually represented by materials provided by the organisers (photographs, reference charts).

Applicants are invited to develop creative transformation proposals for these areas, using the materials provided and adding their own renderings and sketches.

Each implementation area includes two essential components:

- **Reference components** – contextual elements (functionalities, urban connections, neighbourhoods, cultural or natural landmarks) that must be considered.
- **Spatial components** – surfaces, routes, banks, and directly targeted public spaces, which constitute the intervention framework of each applicant.

3.2.1 Reference components

The targeted spaces contain **reference components** to which the applications must relate. These elements define the urban and natural context and can be reinterpreted, preserved, or transformed, depending on the proposed concept. The reference components are:

a. The traffic system and urban mobility

- In certain areas, it is possible to completely cut car traffic, while in other areas, reducing the number of lanes in order to gain more green space near the water and identify traffic diversion routes on nearby roads.
- Solutions consider integrated mobility close to the water surface: bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths, crossing areas, connections between banks and along the river.

b. The water basin and surface

- Projects must comply with the water transfer gauge and ensure that the drainage volume is maintained in the existing hydraulic profile. Proposals for reprofiling the basin and adopting nature-based solutions are permitted, provided that the hydrological transit capacity is maintained. Details: 3.*4.1 Intervention principles: hydraulic safety and ecological compatibility*.

c. Current green space

- The main goal is to expand and enhance the adjacent green areas and existing trees in the Dâmbovița corridor.

d. Street furniture

- Existing furniture (e.g., fences, pontoons, wrought iron elements) can be reinterpreted as "memory of the place," but there is no obligation to preserve it.
- Applicants may propose new solutions for urban furniture, pavilions, or other architectural features, integrated into a unified concept.

e. Lighting system

- The existing public lighting has no heritage value and can be completely replaced.
- Innovative and sustainable solutions are encouraged: smart lighting, renewable sources, eco-friendly technologies that can integrate, for example, combined systems for lighting and irrigating green spaces.

f. Historical elements and existing pontoons

- During the 1980s, the systematization of the Dâmbovița River included pontoons and leisure structures, of which a few vestiges remain.
- Applicants have complete freedom: they can ignore these elements or use them symbolically, as a memory of the place, if they are relevant to the proposed concept.
- Pedestrian bridges or restoring the historical ones may be proposed.

g. Nature-based solutions

- Integration of green-blue solutions is recommended, such as floating islands or plant filters which can contribute to improving water quality and increasing biodiversity, natural banks combined with mixed grey/green solutions.
- Nature-based solutions for stormwater management in areas adjacent to the river.

3.2.2 Components and spatial requirements

Dâmbovița should not be treated evenly from one end to the other, but adapted to its surroundings and the larger structure of the city. Each section has specific characteristics, and the proposals must create harmonious connections between water, green spaces, and adjacent communities. The solutions must address urban planning, traffic, green spaces, and street furniture, providing a clear and functional image of the entire section.

1. Chiajna – Lacul Morii

The area is characterised by spontaneous vegetation and high biodiversity, with the potential to develop a distinct natural space, including a polder area. The solutions should propose a new relationship between the watercourse and the polder area (floodplain that can be developed as a park or protected natural area).

2. Ciurel Bridge

A bold intervention is proposed by removing traffic from the ramp on the right (looking from Politehnica towards the lake) and moving it to two lanes on the ramp on the left (on the Semănătoarea side). The bridge can be reconfigured as a public space or for temporary or permanent functions (museum, student hub, suspended garden, etc.), using only green mobility solutions—an opportunity to connect the Polytechnic campus with Lacul Morii, creating a green pedestrian route and a space for collaboration between academic research and nature-based urban solutions.

3. CET Grozăvești – Botanical Garden

The process of re-engineering CET Grozăvești frees up approximately 50% of the land, allowing the Botanical Garden to expand towards the former industrial platform and the river. This area can become a green and educational hub, connecting the natural space with academic life and university research.

4. Timpuri Noi

Timpuri Noi has been transformed into a technological hub along the Dâmbovița River, with the presence of Nod Makerspace and several creative and innovative businesses. The applications should expand the green space near the water by reducing the roadway to only two lanes and eliminating transit traffic. The proposal should transform this area into an extended public space, integrated with the riverbanks and the existing technological and educational activities.

5. Văcărești Delta

The aim is to create a direct connection between the Văcărești Delta and the river, to create a wetland system that also provides solutions for floodwater management, while remaining an important source of biodiversity for the city.

6. Vitan – Popești Leordeni

This peripheral area offers optimal conditions for an ecological corridor, using green infrastructure and water filtration, which can connect the urban area to the natural area outside the city.

3.3 Approach principles

Applicants are encouraged, through the Brief of the Call for Ideas, to advance creative solutions that meet the following general requirements, without being exhaustive:

- The proposals must highlight an intervention concept that brings more green space near the river, while reducing car traffic.
- Connect the green spaces adjacent to the green-blue corridor to create a sustainable urban ecosystem.
- They must take into account the specificity of each area and the identity we wish to consolidate; proposals must be in line with the character of the area near the intervention point.
- Proposals will consider the concepts of inclusion and spatial accessibility.
- Interventions that respect nature, heritage, and the city are encouraged, but they must propose new, contemporary, and, where relevant, experimental directions.

3.4 General conditions and restrictions

The following are not permitted:

- Abandoning the weir that ensures the difference in level between Lacul Morii and the area where the Dâmbovița River exits Bucharest, at Popești-Leordeni.
- Modification of the existing route of the Dâmbovița River.

3.4.1 Principles of intervention: hydraulic safety and ecological compatibility

In an urban watercourse, any intervention on the morphology and flow regime must preserve the balance between hydraulic efficiency, environmental protection, and operational safety. The technical principles below were formulated in collaboration with specialists from the INSTITUTE FOR THE DESIGN OF WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AQUAPROIECT S.A., based on the operating regime of the Dâmbovița River. Solutions for modifying the riverbed (resolving the banks between the water surface and dry land) are permitted, taking into account the following coordinates:

The hydraulic behaviour of Dâmbovița in the urban area depends on the balance between four main factors: the flow slope, the roughness of the walls and bottom, the drainage section area and the wetted perimeter. An increase in slope or a reduction in hydraulic resistance (through smooth finishes, e.g., polished concrete) leads to faster flow, but also to a decrease in sedimentation capacity and a risk of local erosion. Conversely, a rougher surface or vegetation inserts reduce speed, promotes oxygenation, but increase head losses and can cause accumulation.

Therefore, modifying the geometry of the Dâmbovița basin—whether by widening, deepening, or reshaping the walls—simultaneously influences the drainage area and the irrigated perimeter, and thus also the hydraulic efficiency. In an urban area, these changes must be calibrated so that the speed remains sufficient to avoid deposits and odours, but does not exceed the safety limits for embankments and adjacent structures (e.g., does not cause erosion). The essential condition is that each architectural modification must maintain a stable flow regime, compatible with both minimum ecological flows and maximum flood transit flows.

3.4.2 General principles

Changes to the river channel are only permitted if they do not reduce the crossing capacity at flood flow; nature-based solutions that increase roughness require an increase in the crossing area for flows between 40–80 m^3/sec, and interventions will lead exclusively to widening or deepening, with the profile being adjustable, but preferably within the current channel dimensions. We recommend at least maintaining or widening the current profile, not reducing it.

3.4.3 Reference flows and dimensioning

• Normal flow: 4–8 m^3/s

• Flood flow: 40 m³/s up to approx. 80 m³/s (verification flow)

Any intervention must allow these flows to drain, with a safety margin for silting, sediment deposits, and hydrological variations. It is mandatory to ensure continuity of drainage, without narrowings or obstacles that could generate risks.

Any floating systems (platforms, pontoons, walkways, or technical equipment) must be designed and anchored in a fail-safe manner, with redundant solutions, so that they can withstand maximum flows and level variations without the risk of accidentally detaching or blocking the flow. Anchors must allow for safe and controlled operation in the event of a flood, and floating elements must be able to be quickly dismantled or relocated so as not to affect hydraulic works and operational safety.

3.4.4 Municipal networks and storm water

Any intersection with existing infrastructure shall be addressed by compatible solutions (diversion, protection, connection). Stormwater collected from impervious surfaces shall be managed by retention or primary treatment so as not to degrade the quality of the river water.

4. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Applicants will create an account on the entryform.ro platform, where the dedicated online form is available. The necessary information will be filled in on this platform and the materials required for registration will be uploaded.

The following information must be included in the registration form:
- details of the applicant, either individually or as the leader of a partnership;
- information on authorship – main author(s), co-authors, collaborators, or consultants by specialty, if applicable (note: authorship of the project represents a form of professional recognition and moral rights of the author, without legal implications between those mentioned);
- details of the names and legal status of the authors, co-authors, and collaborators, if applicable;
- agreement or disagreement regarding the disclosure of the identity of the author/team when exhibiting or publishing the project.

4.1. For each selected study area, applicants will upload three files (A2 format, .pdf, 300 DPI):

1) Main rendering, created from the same perspective and positioning according to the reference photo provided by the organisers; The first board will also include the title of the proposal, in both languages.

2) and 3) Sheets chosen by the applicants, which must include:

- a section of the river covering both banks, up to the intervention limit, at the scale chosen by the applicants

- a site plan, at the scale chosen by the applicants

- bilingual curatorial text (Fira Sans font, 12pt)

Sheets 2) and 3) may include additional sketches or images.

The images in the annex, showing the intervention areas, are provided for localization purposes. For use as a working reference of satellite data in preparing the site plan sheet, it is recommended to use Google Satellite available in GIS-compatible software (e.g., the open-source QGIS – https://qgis.org/download/), which allows processing at the desired scale and, if necessary, export/import to/from AutoCAD-compatible formats.

4.2. Written proposal
The written proposal will include **two parts** and will be submitted digitally, as follows:
a) Curatorial text (minimum 500 words, bilingual, Romanian/English – distinct .docx files for each language)

- Detailed description of the concept, the general vision, and the project title.
- Applicants will explain the proposed scenario for space functions: type of hosted activities, suggested functions, who will use the space and means to involve the community, proposed nature-based solutions.
- Applicants will highlight the creative solutions to:
    - Provide as much green space by water as possible available,
    - resolve the connectivity of green spaces and biodiversity in view of creating green-blue corridor characteristics
    - activate the public space,
    - integrate the sustainability principles and solutions for climate resilience.
- The text will be published on the official website of the Call.

b) Project credits (to be filled in the application form):

- Name of the author(s);
- Project team or architecture/design office/company (if applicable);
- Relevant collaborators.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposed solutions will be evaluated based on clear criteria, each with a score between 0 and the maximum value specified in the criteria details. The maximum total score is 10 points. The weightings of the criteria are detailed below:

A1. Originality, creativity, and consistency of the concept – maximum 4 points

Aspects to be assessed:

- Potential to develop a contemporary, innovative, and bold concept that expresses both the intentions of the Call for Ideas and the applicant's vision;
- Coherence of the visual-aesthetic relationships within the proposed design, adapted to the existing context;
- Quality and balance between the concept novelty and the use of existing spaces and equipment;
- Potential to generate an identity image for the specific study area, according to the proposed concept;

- Potential to expand the area near the water for green space and green mobility.

A2. Aesthetic quality of the proposed images – maximum 3 points

Aspects to be scored:

- Quality and expressiveness of the renderings and illustrations presented;
- Presentation style of the images, allowing for a clear understanding of the proposal;
- Images able to effectively communicate the concept to the general public.

A3. Inclusion and sustainability – maximum 3 points

Aspects to be assessed:

- Creative solutions to make the transformed spaces accessible;
- Development of a sustainable concept, integrating environmental and social responsibility criteria in the chosen area.

The final score for each proposal is calculated by adding up the scores obtained for each criterion:
A= $\mathbf{A_1}$+ $\mathbf{A_2}$+ $\mathbf{A_3}$, where:

- $\mathbf{A_1}$ – Originality, creativity, and consistency of the concept (max. 4 points)
- $\mathbf{A_2}$ – Aesthetic quality of the proposed images (max. 3 points)
- $\mathbf{A_3}$ – Inclusion and sustainability (max. 3 points)

Maximum possible score: 10 points

The final score will reflect the overall evaluation of the proposal, taking into account both the innovation and coherence of the concept, as well as the visual quality and social and environmental impact.

6. JUDGING

The proposals submitted will be evaluated by an international jury composed of professionals from fields relevant to the call for ideas. Jury members:

- **Peter Bishop**, Urbanist and Urban Design Specialist, Partner at Bishop & Williams Ltd and Professor of Urban Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture (University College London, UK).

- **Victor Dijkshoorn**, Landscape Architect, Founder of VIC Landscapes, one of the most prestigious landscape design companies in the Netherlands.

- **Rémy David** – Development & Projects, Head of the Loire Mission, Heritage & Landscape, Coordination & Transformation, Deputy GM, Factory of the Solidary & Ecological City, City of Nantes & Nantes Métropole

- **Dr. Arch. Tiberiu Constantin Florescu**, President of the Romanian Urban Planners Registrar and coordinator of Bucharest General Urban Plan.

- **Dr. Eng. Cătălin Popescu**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Hydrotechnical Engineering, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest.

- **Prof. Dr. habil. Arch. Bogdan Andrei Fezi**, University Professor at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism, Vice-President of the Bucharest Territorial Branch of the Order of Architects in Romania.

- **Arch. Ioana Alexe** – Architect and Graphic Designer, Editor-in-Chief of Arhitectura, the publication of the Union of Romanian Architects

7. AWARDS

Applicants of the winning proposals will be rewarded with prizes of €3,000 each. The winning images will be included in an outdoor campaign, displayed after the competition, in the very areas targeted by the proposals.

The jury will award one prize for each study area.

The entries submitted by the applicants who are not awarded prizes will also be presented in a dedicated exhibition, physical or digital, and included in the communication and public awareness campaign associated with the Call.

8. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Applicants may be professionals, based in Romania or abroad, working in architecture, urban planning, landscaping, environmental and hydraulic engineering, urban and environmental design, individual architecture offices, associations of firms, non-governmental organisations, civic groups, interdisciplinary teams, or other creatives from cultural and artistic fields who can demonstrate compliance with the evaluation criteria.

For associations, the team leader will register the project and officially represent the team in relation to the Organisers.

9. CALENDAR

Date	Event
21 October	Official launch of the Call for Ideas at OAR Bucharest. Publication of documentation and opening of the registration call.
21–26 October	Promotion of the competition and registration for site visits.
21–31 October	Q&A sessions – answers provided by email and published in the FAQ section on the competition website.
25 October, 15:00	Site Visit #1 – guided tour of the competition areas (banks, water surface, infrastructure).

	Registration: https://forms.gle/gyPtxArKn55fz4ox5
26 October, 15:00	Site Visit #2 – guided tour of the competition areas. Registration: https://forms.gle/uVTZYJJ9KC8y3eUD7
20 November	Verification by the Technical Committee, anonymisation
20-23 November	Evaluation by the international Jury.
24–26 November	**Announcement of the winners** and public presentation of their projects. Exhibition within the Bucharest Architecture Annual.
December 2025–February 2026	Outdoor and online campaign to promote the selected ideas.

10. REGULATIONS

The "Dâmbovița 2035" Call for Ideas is conducted in accordance with the attached regulations, which describe the participation conditions, evaluation criteria, and stages of the process. The complete regulations can be accessed and downloaded here: anuala.ro/Dâmbovița2035.

11. PROJECT INFORMATION

The international Call for Ideas **"Dâmbovița 2035"** is part of the **Dâmbovița Apă Dulce (DAD)** framework programme — a collective, long-term initiative that aims to transforming the river into a green-blue corridor essential for Bucharest.

DAD aims to reconnect the city with its river, transforming Dâmbovița from a strictly technical infrastructure into a lively, accessible, and sustainable public space that contributes to urban cooling, increased biodiversity, and improved quality of life. The programme integrates pilot interventions, applied research, community activations, and planning tools, demonstrating that the river can become a collaborative and adaptable urban infrastructure—a place where nature, technology, and public life meet.

The **Dâmbovița 2035** Call for Ideas explores the river future via visionary and pragmatic proposals, inviting applicants to imagine scenarios for 2035 Dâmbovița — a green-blue axis that connects communities, ecosystems, and urban spaces.

The project is run by **the Association Ivan Patzaichin – Mila 23** and **Nod Makerspace**, with the support **of the Environmental Platform for Bucharest**, an initiative of **the Bucharest Community Foundation** and **ING Romania**, and in partnership with **the Order of Architects of Romania – Bucharest Branch** and **the Bucharest Architecture Annual**.