The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
Content

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What is a Macro-regional strategy?

**Objective:** organise cooperation between countries or territories by mobilising local and regional actors to align policies and funding and to identify common issues, solutions and actions.

**Principles:**
"3 Nos": No additional funding, No new structures, No new legislation
Better/more coordinated use of existing structures and instruments
Macro-regional strategy - definition

(Common Provisions Regulation, art. 2)

A "macroregional strategy" is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council which may be supported by the ESIF among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to MS and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthen cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.
A new reality on European cooperation

- A bottom up approach based on local, regional and national needs

- An appropriate framework for sectorial EU policies (transport, energy, innovation, environment...)

- More ESIF programmes engaging into MRS

- A way of promoting multi-level governance ("soft networks" against "hard administration"?)

- A new element to take account of when addressing challenges over borders (internal and external).
There are now four European Union (EU) macro-regional strategies (MRS):

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR; 2009)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR; 2010)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR; 2014)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP; 2016)
The EUSDR Region (not just the river!)

14 countries:

**9 EU Member States:** Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czeck Republic, Hungary, Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Romania, Slovenia

**5 non-MS:** Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine
What is the EUSDR about?

- **Some of the key issues identified (1):**
  - **Mobility:** movement of people and goods, corridors across Europe
  - **Energy:** secure sources, diversification, especially renewable, reduction in emissions, efficiency
  - **Water:** quality (pollution, ecosystems) and quantity (navigation, risk prevention and management)
  - **Biodiversity:** precious natural heritage as a source of well-being and prosperity
What is the EUSDR about?

- **Some of the key issues identified (2):**
  - **Socio-economic development:** jobs, welfare, framework for creativity and investments, IT potential
  - **Education and capacity:** schools and universities, training, modern administration, inclusion of all citizens
  - **Culture and identity:** rich cultural heritage, tourism potential
  - **Security:** personal security and protection, fight against organised crime, corruption
The strategy addresses these various topics through

4 pillars

11 priority areas,

and of course actions and projects

THE FOUR PILLARS

11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

Actions

Projects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Countries in charge of coordination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>**P1</td>
<td>Mobility and intermodality**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rail, road and air: Slovenia, Serbia</td>
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<td>**P2</td>
<td>More sustainable energy**</td>
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<td>**P3</td>
<td>Culture and tourism, people to people**</td>
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<td>**P4</td>
<td>Water Quality**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P5</td>
<td>Environmental risks**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P6</td>
<td>Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P7</td>
<td>Knowledge society (research, education and ICT)**</td>
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<td>**P8</td>
<td>Competitiveness of enterprises**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P9</td>
<td>People and skills**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P10</td>
<td>Institutional capacity and cooperation**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**P11</td>
<td>Security and organised crime**</td>
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The governance model of the EUSDR

Policy level
- European Council
- European Commission DG Regional Policy
- High level group
- National Coordinators
- Priority area coordinators (PACs)
- Steering group for each PA
- Danube Strategy Point*

Operational level
- Project promoters
- Possible financing sources
  - Cohesion Fund, Structural Funds (Obj. 1-2-3 programmes)
  - IPA ENPI
  - Sectoral EU and national funding (environment, education, etc)
  - International Financing institutions
  - Private banks, Donors
How is the strategy being implemented?

Political support (Ministerial declarations)

Identification of projects and of financing opportunities

Cross-sector and integrated approach
Examples of results
What about third countries?

- Possibility for third countries to participate in macroregional strategies

- *Where possible, better alignment with ETC regulation (similar rules)*

- *Close and constant cooperation between services*
DTP and EUSDR

The Danube Interreg Transnational Programme supports the EUSDR in many respects:

- Support to Priority Area Coordinators
- Support to Danube Strategy Point (still to be decided)
- Seed Money Facility (topic of today's event)
DTP Seed Money Facility for EUSDR

Very important support tool to allow for the preparation of strategic projects

Builds on past experience (START programme) but puts more emphasis on the targeted financial sources for the implementation phase
Upcoming (but registrations already closed)

6th Annual Forum: "A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region, Budapest, 18-19 October 2017

http://www.danube-forum-budapest.eu/danube-forum-budapest

(Joint Annual Forum of EUSDR and Annual Event of DTP)
Thank you for your attention!

For more information visit:

[www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)