



EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Identified targets on the basis of the EUSDR Action Plan¹

¹ Revision of targets is planned for 2016

PA1A - 'To improve mobility and multimodality/ inland waterways'

Highlighted target for PA1a: To increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010.

- Action: "To modernise the Danube fleet in order to improve environmental and economic performance".
- Action: "To promote sustainable freight transport in the Danube Region"

Target: To solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 2015.

- Action: "To complete the implementation of TEN-T Priority Project 18 on time and in an environmentally sustainable way".
- Action: "To invest in waterway infrastructure of Danube and its tributaries and develop the interconnections".
- Action: "To coordinate national transport policies in the field of navigation in the Danube basin".
- Action: "To support Danube Commission in finalising the process of reviewing the Belgrade Convention".
- Action: "To improve comprehensive waterway management of the Danube and its tributaries".

Target: Develop efficient multimodal terminals at river ports along the Danube and its navigable tributaries to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.

- Action: "To develop ports in the Danube river basin into multimodal logistics centres".

Target: Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2015.

- Action: "To implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS)".

Target: Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonise education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.

- Action: "To invest in education and jobs in the Danube navigation sector"

PA1B - 'To improve mobility and multimodality/ road, rail and air links'

Highlighted target for PA1b: Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports and dry ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.

- Action: "To develop further nodal planning for multimodality".
- Action: "To develop further Intelligent Traffic Systems by using environmental-friendly technologies, especially in urban regions".

Target: Improved travel times for competitive railway passenger connections between major cities.

- Action: "To bring to completion the TEN-T (rail and road) Priority Projects crossing the Danube Region, overcoming the difficulties and the bottlenecks including environmental, economic and political, particularly in the cross-border sections".

Target: Implementation of the 4 Rail Freight Corridors crossing the Danube Region as planned within 3 or 5 years and possible inclusion of a new corridor with added value of linking together the EU and non-EU member states' railway systems.

- Action: "To implement the Rail Freight Corridors forming part of the European rail network for competitive freight".
- Action: "To improve the regional/ local cross-border infrastructure and the access to rural areas".

Actions without corresponding targets:

- Action: "To enhance cooperation between air traffic stakeholders in order to prepare a plan to implement shorter plane routes".
- Action: "To ensure sustainable metropolitan transport systems and mobility".

PA2 - 'To encourage more sustainable energy'

Highlighted target for PA2: Achievement of national targets based on the Europe 2020 climate and energy targets.

- Action: "To develop gas storage capacities".
- Action: "To cooperate to implement the Regional network integration and the New Europe Transmission System (NETS) in line with the feasibility study".
- Action: "To extend the use of biomass (e.g. wood, waste), solar energy, geothermal, hydropower and wind power"
- Action: "To reinforce the Carpathian Convention to share best practices on using biomass for energy purposes".
- Action: "To explore the possibility to have an increased energy production originating from local renewable energy sources to increase the energy autonomy".
- Action: "To promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in buildings and heating systems including by renovating district heating and combined heat and power facilities as required by Energy Performance of the Buildings Directive and Renewable Energy Directive".
- Action: "To facilitate networking and cooperation between national authorities in order to promote awareness and increase the use of renewable energies"
- Action: "To provide local authorities, businesses and citizens in the Danube Region consultative support with issues relating to mitigation of climate change and energy efficiency".

Target: Remove existing bottlenecks in energy transport in countries of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in order to allow reverse flow of gas by 2015.

- Action: "To enforce regional cooperation with a view to develop and implement the North-South gas interconnection projects".

Target: Strengthen cooperation of the Energy Community countries with international financial institutions to upgrade the EC countries' energy infrastructure and energy markets by 2015.

- Action: "To ensure that actions are coherent with the general approach of the Energy Community and explore synergies between the Energy Community and the Danube Strategy processes".
- Action: "To tap possible cooperation opportunities with the Energy Community".
- Action: "To encourage the Energy Community members/ observers in adopting and implementing the Renewable Energy Directive".

Target: Elaborate further the overarching European energy policy goals based on the Energy 2020 goals 'a strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy' with special attention to the energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond and to work towards the completion of the energy internal market; the non-Member States are aspiring to achieving these goals.

- Action: “To develop a joint position of the region regarding the changes which could be introduced in the framework of the TEN-E Policy review and the modalities of the new Energy Security and Infrastructure Instrument, especially regarding the energy infrastructure gaps”.
- Action: “To implement the National Renewable Energy Action Plans and to prepare a Danube Region Renewable Energy Action Plan”.
- Action: “To build a working relationship with the Central Eastern European Forum for Electricity Market Integration; this could be enlarged to neighbouring countries”.
- Action: “To develop a comprehensive action plan for the sustainable development of the hydropower generation potential of the Danube River and its tributaries (e.g. Sava, Tisza and Mura Rivers)”.
- Action: “To develop and set up pre planning mechanism for the allocation of suitable areas for new hydro power projects”.

PA3 - 'To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts'

Highlighted target for PA3: Develop a Danube Brand for the entire Danube Region based on already existing work by 2015.

- Action: "To develop the Danube region as a European brand"
- Action: "To establish the Danube Region as important European tourist destination"
- Action: "To improve planning and infrastructure for tourism".
- Action: "To support the improvement of the quality of tourism products"
- Action: "To promote wellness tourism in the Region".
- Action: "To promote short-stay weekend tourism and recreation, as well as longer stays".

Target: Support the implementation of a harmonised monitoring system, dedicated to tourism, able to provide complete and comparable statistical data in all the 14 states part of the EUSDR.

- Action: "To collect existing data on cultural activities and establishing a comprehensive data base giving an overview of cultural activities in the Danube Region".

Target: Develop new and support existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region.

- Action: "To build on cultural diversity as strength of the Danube Region".

Target: Develop green tourist products along the Danube Region.

- Action: "To promote sustainable tourism"
- Action: "To further develop and intensify Activity Tourism".

Target: To create a 'Blue Book' on Danube cultural identity.

- Action: "To enhance cooperation and contacts between people of different origins, to encourage creativity, and provide a driving force for cultural innovation and economic development, based on heritage, traditions and tourism".

Target: Ensure the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage and natural values by developing relevant clusters, and networks of museums, interpretation and visitors centres within the Danube Region.

- Action: "To further enhance interconnection and cooperation in education and scientific and research activities for tourism"

Target: Promoting exchange and networking in the field of contemporary arts in the Danube Region.

- Action: "To promote cultural exchange and exchange in the arts".

PA4 - 'To restore and maintain the quality of waters'

Highlighted target for PA4: Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s by 2020.

- Action: "To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution".
- Action: "To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents".
- Action: "To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits"
- Action: "To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region"
- Action: "To promote measures to limit water abstraction"
- Action: "To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea"

Target: Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

- Action: "To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan"
- Action: "To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR"
- Action: "To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements".
- Action: "To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region"
- Action: "To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply".

Target: Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015.

- Action: "To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure".

Target: Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species.

- Action: "To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin".

Target: Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins.

- Action: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”.

PA5 - 'To manage environmental risks'

Highlighted target for PA5: To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts based on the 2013 update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation, in the Danube River Basin Management Plan to be adopted by 2015.

- Action: "Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research".
- Action: "To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods".

Target: Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the Floods Directive - to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change.

- Action: "To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin
- Action: "To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including "green infrastructure")".
- Action: "To extend the coverage of the European Floods Alert System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning systems"
- Action: "To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets"

Target: Update of the accidental risk spots inventory at the Danube River Basin level by 2013.

- Action: "To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances"
- Action: "To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution

PA6 - 'To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils'

Highlighted target for PA6: By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, including degraded soils.

- Action: "To develop green infrastructure in order to connect different bio-geographic regions and habitats".
- Action: "To ensure appropriate treatment of solid waste".
- Action: "To create standardised and compatible information on land cover on transnational basis".
- Action: "To raise awareness about soil protection".
- Action: "To contribute to the 2050 EU vision and 2020 EU target for biodiversity".
- Action: "To prepare and implement transnational spatial planning and development policies for functional geographical areas (river basins, mountain ranges etc.)".

Target: To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement, adapted to the special needs of the Danube Region by 2020.

- Action: "To manage Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas effectively
- Action: "To protect and restore most valuable ecosystems and endangered animal species".
- Action: "To decrease the input of pesticides into the environment of the Danube Region"
- Action: "To decrease air pollutants"
- Action: "To raise awareness of the general public, by acknowledging and promoting the potentials of natural assets as drivers of sustainable regional development".
- Action: "To educate children and young people".
- Action: "To build capacities of local authorities in the environment-related matters".

Target: Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020.

- Action: "To explore together the appropriateness of reviewing the Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube".

Target: By 2020, Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species.

- Action: "To reduce the spread of invasive alien species (IAS)".

PA7 - 'To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies'

Highlighted target for PA7: To invest 3% of GDP in Research and Development by 2020.

- Action: To cooperate in implementing the flagship initiative "Innovation Union" of the Europe 2020 Strategy" in the Danube Region countries
- Action: To coordinate better national, regional and EU funds to stimulate excellence in research and development, in research areas specific for the Danube Region.

Target: Broadband access for all EU citizens in the Region by 2013.

- Action: To develop and implement strategies to improve the provision and uptake of Information and Communication Technologies in the Danube Region.
- Action: To draw up internet strategies.
- Action: To use e-content and e-services to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public and private services.
- Action: To stimulate the emergence of innovative ideas for products and services and their wide validation in the field of the Information Society, using the concept of Living Labs.

Target: Increase the number of patents obtained in the Region by 50%.

- Action: To strengthen the capacities of research infrastructure.
- Action: To strengthen cooperation among universities and research facilities and to upgrade research and education outcomes by focusing on unique selling points.

PA8 - 'To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development'

Highlighted target for PA 8: Establishing a cluster network for the EUSDR (identification of the founded institutions in this connection, as well as the existing networks) by 2013.

- Action: To foster cooperation and exchange of knowledge between SMEs, academia and the public sector in areas of competence in the Danube Region.
- Action: To eliminate cross border barriers and bottlenecks to people and business - Seamless Europe for a liveable Danube Region.

Target: Improvement of the vocational training, subject to participation by the private sector (a dual system of practice and theory) through pilot projects (identifying the potential institutions, as well as the partners and projects).

- Action: To support enterprises through high performing training and qualification schemes.

Target: Improvement of the technological transfer through establishing measures like consulting services by chambers and other institutions or organizations, typically in cooperation with the Priority Area Coordinator from Priority Area 7 "knowledge society".

- Action: To improve business support to strengthen the capacities of SMEs for cooperation and trade.
- Action: To prioritise the effective implementation of measures provided for under the Small Business Act for Europe.
- Action: To improve framework conditions for SMEs in areas where competitive infrastructure is missing.

Target: Better use of environmental technologies, like for example: sewage treatment, refuse disposal, generation of energy from renewable resources, etc., first of all, through determination of the regional decision-makers concerning submission of the applications.

- Action: To improve the competitiveness of rural areas and in particular of the agricultural sector.

PA9 - 'To invest in people and skills'

Highlighted target for PA9: Contribution to the 'Education and Training 2020' strategic framework and its four strategic objectives.

- Action: To support the mobility of workers, researchers and students through implementing the European Qualification Framework.

Target: Contribution to the achievement of EU 2020 targets, in particular with regard to smart and inclusive growth

- Action: To jointly analyse implementation gaps in life long learning (LLL) policies and exchange best practices in implementation.

Target: Efficient cooperation between relevant actors through involvement and extension of existing regional cooperation networks and initiatives.

- Action: To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies.

Target: To foster creative partnerships at the interface of education, training and culture.

- Action: To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments

Target: Contribution to the improvement of labour markets and social inclusion in the region.

- Action: To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalised communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities.
- Action: To implement the actions undertaken in the Roma Decade and to establish further actions to be implemented.

Target: Contribution to higher synergies of education systems and labour market demands on all levels.

- Action: To improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges.

Target: Establishment and implementation of a small project funding mechanism.

- Action: To support creativity and entrepreneurship.

PA10 - 'To step up institutional capacity and cooperation'

Highlighted target for PA10: Maximum 4 weeks for business start-up permissions by 2015.

- Action: "To combat institutional capacity and public service related problems in the Danube region"

Target: Establishing benchmarks for e-government and reducing excessive bureaucracy by 2012.

- Action: "To ensure sufficient information flow and exchange at all levels"
- Action: "To facilitate the administrative cooperation of communities living in border regions"

! Actions which do not correspond to a proposed target

- Action: "To improve the trust of citizens and stakeholders in political authorities"
- Action: "To establish a Danube Civil Society Forum"
- Action: "To build Metropolitan Regions in the Danube Region"
- Action: "To review bottlenecks relating to the low absorption rate of EU funds and to ensure better coordination of funding"
- Action: "To support the development of local financial products for business and community development"
- Action: "To examine the feasibility of a Danube Investment Framework"

PA11 - 'To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime'

Highlighted target for PA11: Efficient exchange of information between relevant law enforcement actors by 2015 with the aim of improving security and tackling serious and organised crime in the 14 countries.

- Action: "To improve target collection and share key criminal information; to draw a picture of the most significant threats in the countries involved; to produce a Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) for the Danube Area".
- Action: "To strengthen the cooperation of Europol with Southeast European Co-operative Initiative – Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (hereinafter: SECI/ SELEC)"

Target: Effective co-operation between relevant law enforcement actors by 2015.

- Action: "To develop further well-functioning border-management systems
- Action: "To intensify the prosecution of Internet crime (cybercrime)"
- Action: "To explore possibilities to extend the current pilot project on exchanges of advanced customs information in the Region".
- Action: "To explore possibilities to extend the current pilot project on exchanges of advanced customs information in the Region".
- Action: "To address the topic of better managing migration issues in the Danube Region".
- Action: "To continue demining in the mine-suspected areas of the Danube area"
- Action: "To establish standardised operational procedures for joint activities in case of transboundary technical-technological water traffic accidents".

Target: Promoting the rule of law. - Assistance for participating countries by deepening and promoting the idea of the rule of law and strengthening and developing further democratic structures. Promoting (legal) certainty for the people by fighting against corruption.

- Action: "To support the Danube states in the administrative cooperation and improvement of qualifications of law enforcement, judicial authorities and other services".
- Action: "To improve food security