



Univerza v Mariboru

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION



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EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION - TERRITORIAL COVERAGE (REGIONS)

The countries mainly concerned will be those covered by the Danube Cooperation Process: Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria), Austria, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (the regions along the Danube). Eight are Member States of the EU and six are not.





TOPICS COVERED

The Strategy will be both integrated (ie. it will cover several policy areas making the links between them) and focused (ie. it will concentrate on the main issues which concern the entire macro-region).

Its content will be discussed with the countries concerned, relevant stakeholders within the region (including regions, municipalities, international organisations, financial institutions, the socio-economic partners and civil society) and the relevant services in the Commission. The other institutions of the EU will be closely involved.

At this stage, it is envisaged to have 3 'pillars':

- to improve connectivity and communication systems (covering in particular transport, energy issues and the information society);
- to preserve the environment and prevent against natural risks;
- and to reinforce the potential for socio-economical development.



TIMING AND STAKEHOLDERS

TIMING

- During the first half of 2010, the Commission will consult the relevant stakeholders mentioned above. Thereby it will take stock of the actions / projects which would be useful to implement in the coming months / years. After this consultation, the Commission will propose an Action Plan and a governance system to be formally adopted in December 2010 in the form of a Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

STAKEHOLDERS (indicative list)

- ICPDR (International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River): <http://www.icpdr.org/>
- Danube Commission (navigability) : <http://www.danubecommission.org/>
- DCP (Danube Cooperation Process) : www.danubecooperation.org
- International Association for Danube Research : <http://www.iad.gs/>
- Danube Tourism Commission : <http://www.danube-river.org>
- European Danube Academy : <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/en/index.php>
- ARGE Donau – working community of Danube regions : <http://www.argedonau.at/neu/portal.html>
- PIDIN (under Regional Cooperation Council) : <http://www.secinet.info/initiatives/pidin/pidin>
- WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme : <http://www.panda.org/dcpo>
- DABLAS (Danube Black Sea Task Force) : <http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/dablas.htm>
- Danube Area interregional Group at the Committee of the Regions : <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PresentationTemplate.aspx?view=folder&id=86e7f290-d7b8-4a3c-a549-36191441227d&sm=86e7f290-d7b8-4a3c-a549-36191441227d>



FINANCING:

- **How much money is involved?**

The Strategy would focus on coordinating and strengthening the use of existing financing instruments. A considerable amount of funding is already targeted to this region via numerous EU programmes. There are also other funding sources available, e.g. via international financing institutions (e.g. EIB), national, regional and local authorities.

- **EU Structural Funds**

EUSDR resources should be derived from national funds, regional funds and EU funds, including [EU Structural Funds](#) for the [funding period 2007-2013](#), issued by the European Commission to EU Member States and (potential) candidate countries and their Regions for development: European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)) and Instrument for pre accession ([IPA](#)).

EUSDR could also benefit from the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument ([ENPI](#)).

- **International Financial Institution (IFIs)**

EUSDR could also be financed through credit: for example, via the EIB or EBDR.



EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION ULM CONFERENCE - CONCLUSIONS

Presidency Conclusions – Brussels, 18/19 June 2009 :

After months of discussions and negotiations, the European Council has formally asked the European Commission to prepare a Danube Strategy. Here is the wording from the Council Conclusions of 19 June 2009 (art. 34) :

"Sustainable development should also be pursued through an integrated approach to the specific challenges facing particular regions. The European Council accordingly calls for work to be taken forward rapidly on the Commission's communication on the Baltic Sea region with a view to adopting a Strategy on the Baltic Sea Region at its meeting in October 2009. It also invites the Commission to present an EU strategy for the Danube region before the end of 2010."



Events and Conferences

- **1/2 February 2010 : Conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Ulm**
- **25/26 February 2010 : Conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Budapest**



SOURCES:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/documents/council_conclusions.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/documents_en.htm

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/253a2b63#/253a2b63/1>