

## **Embedding in Slovakia**

Embedding the EUSDR in the ESI Funds is ensured through a number of measures. First of all, relevant EU regulations have been reflected in the Partnership Agreement and respective Operational Programmes in terms of EUSDR implementation. In practical terms it means that the Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes explicitly define the necessity for the programming document to contribute to the EUSDR implementation. Moreover, there are two OPs (Research and Innovations and Integrated Regional OP) which have included implementation of EUSDR into the assessment and selection criteria.

From the point of view of administrative support there are several administrative structures within the Slovak government which have to ensure implementation of the EUSDR in ESI Funds. The *Consultation Group for Danube Strategy* is a group of experts working as an advisory body of the National Coordinator for EUSDR serving for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the application content, orientation and objectives of the Slovak Republic in the Action Plan and individual priority areas of the EUSDR. The Consultation Group use in carrying out its tasks, knowledge and ideas of competent ministries, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and other stakeholders in the implementation of EUSDR

The Slovak Republic *Office of the Government* as the national authority for transnational cooperation programs has set up a *Joint National Commission* for transnational cooperation programmes and macro-regional strategies for the 2014-2020. The Commission plays an advisory and supportive role for Slovak members in the Monitoring Committees of transnational cooperation programmes. It is to support the participation of project partners from Slovakia in transnational cooperation projects, etc. It gives ideas for information and publishing activities. It evaluates synergies between the transnational programmes and EUSDR.

The *National Monitoring Committee* is another important body on the governmental level chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister, which is to ensure an overall coordination of implementation of the Partnership Agreements and operational programmes, including the ETC programmes. The *National Monitoring Committee* includes representatives of all ESIF programmes and the EUSDR National Coordinator. This allows for coordination of the EUSDR embedding in ESI Funds on a high political level.

Along with that, there is also a *Working Commission for Synergies among ESI Funds and other Community support instruments* which also includes a representative of the EUSDR National Coordinator. The Working Commission has a basic role to find synergies and complementarities among various operational programmes and other EU support instruments.