



Presentation of the related activities in the context of the scientific support to the Danube Strategy

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About JRC support to MRS

The European Commission's science and knowledge service provides support to individual regions and to MRS in order to:

- boost smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation
- Contribute to the objectives of Europe 2020 strategy



→ JRC scientific support to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region: Gathering scientific expertise and data to help in support to EUSDR

Scientific support to the EUSDR

- Establish cooperation agreements with 10 Science Academies and the Danube Rectors Conference (of 54 Universities);
- Develop proposals for flagship clusters and horizontal activities which were approved at a high-level event in Bratislava in 2013;
- There are four thematic clusters:
 - The Danube Water Nexus;
 - The Danube Land and Soil Nexus;
 - The Danube Air Nexus;
 - The Danube Bio-energy Nexus;
- And three horizontal activities:
 - Danube Innovation Partnership (previous presentation)
 - Smart Specialisation for the Danube (organising the workshop)
 - The Danube Reference Data and Service Initiative (DRDSI)

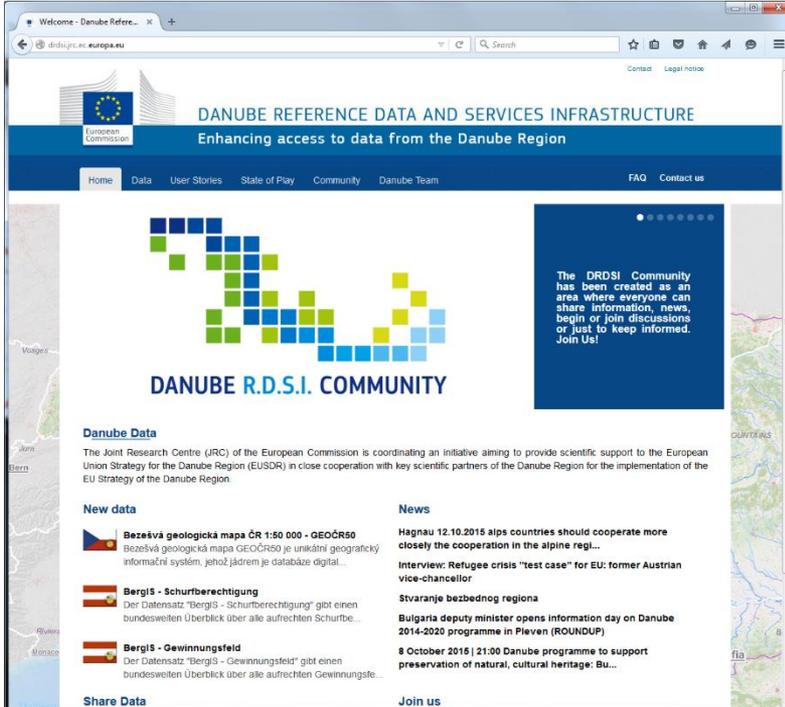


DRDSI in a nutshell

"[We] ... need to obtain a better overview of all research, initiatives and resources...[and] results on the Danube Region in a structured and harmonised data set [for] policy makers across the Danube Region... for the launch of large-scale projects in the future"

Source: *EUSDR Priority Area 7 Progress Report June 2012*

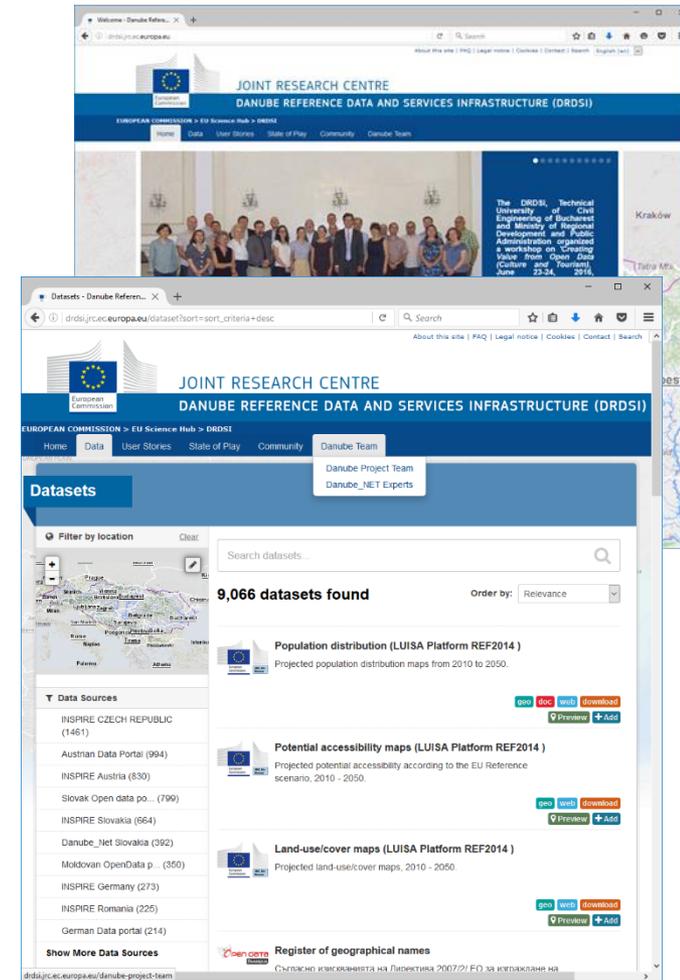
- **Common entry point** for details about data, projects, applications... for the whole Danube region
- **Data sources** from EC, national and international stakeholders
- **Openness and transparency** fostered through data sharing
- Testbed for **INSPIRE Directive implementation** (including pilots and apps)
- **Leverages** investments for data collection, harmonisation and access
- **Network of experts** (DANUBE_NET) from each Danube country for local promotion, content generation and stakeholder engagement



The screenshot shows the website for the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI). The page features a blue header with the European Commission logo and the text "DANUBE REFERENCE DATA AND SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE Enhancing access to data from the Danube Region". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Data, User Stories, State of Play, Community, Danube Team, FAQ, and Contact us. The main content area includes a large graphic of a map with colored squares representing data points, and the text "DANUBE R.D.S.I. COMMUNITY". A sidebar on the right contains a call to action: "The DRDSI Community has been created as an area where everyone can share information, news, begin or join discussions or just to keep informed. Join Us!". The main content area also includes sections for "Danube Data" and "New data" with various news items and links.

Where we are?

- **Metadata** for over 9000 datasets from projects, pilots, EC institutions, international organisations, INSPIRE national nodes, Danube_NET experts, ...
- **State-of-play** of data infrastructures in the 14 Danube countries
- **Tools and source code shared** to ensure collaboration and reuse of results
- **Pilots** to help fill identified gaps and offer lessons
- Stakeholders share **their stories**, showcasing research and projects across the Danube Region
- Results disseminated through workshops, training and our collaboration platform



The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the DRDSI website. The top screenshot shows the homepage with the title 'JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE DANUBE REFERENCE DATA AND SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE (DRDSI)'. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Datasets' page, which displays a search bar, a map of the Danube region, and a list of datasets. The search results show 9,066 datasets found. The list includes:

- INSPIRE CZECH REPUBLIC (1461)
- Austrian Data Portal (994)
- INSPIRE Austria (830)
- Slovak Open data po... (799)
- INSPIRE Slovakia (664)
- Danube_Net Slovakia (392)
- Moldovan OpenData p... (350)
- INSPIRE Germany (273)
- INSPIRE Romania (225)
- German Data portal (214)

Other featured datasets include 'Population distribution (LUIA Platform REF2014)', 'Potential accessibility maps (LUIA Platform REF2014)', and 'Land-use/cover maps (LUIA Platform REF2014)'. The website also features a 'Data Sources' section and a 'Register of geographical names'.

Where should efforts be concentrated?

- Promote OpenData policies and knowledge sharing in both Member States (Digital Single Market) and non Member States
- Break silos' culture by offering increased visibility by engaging stakeholders, raising awareness about data policies
- Be reactive to user demands (collaboration platform, added-value products)
- Ensure the long-term sustainability and identify the best governance model (funding through DTP or Connecting Europe Facility; interactions with Priority Areas, handover to the region)
- Pursue education and training, engaging with regional actors (Danube Rectors' Conference, Danube Strategy Research Network)
- Balance efforts between EU and non-EU countries, by supporting pilots, capacity building, etc.

Why data are crucial for supporting macro regional strategies?

Lessons learned from the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure

- **Need for a common entry point.** Data coming from INSPIRE, and other sources, should be quickly gathered as baseline information (ex-Ante/ex-Post/monitoring of strategy implementation)
- **Contributes to openness and transparency through data sharing.** This should include evaluating the need for (open) data policies and the adoption and reuse of INSPIRE that can support a range of Strategies' objectives.
- Sharing data is not only a **legal obligation or a means to support policy implementation/evaluation...** but also a valuable resource for regions. Sharing it in standardised ways can lead to **value-added products**, including citizen participation in policy and value-added tourism applications

Strategic recommendations

- Data are crucial for macro regional strategies
 - Policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation
 - At all levels (macro, regional and local)
 - For all stakeholders
- Best use of investments and targeting resources require facts and data
- Countries face similar challenges- experience should be shared further
- ... and common solutions developed to address them to continue collaboration
- Seed investments create sustainable and transferable results
- Data should be:
 - Considered as a reusable asset
 - Made available at the right level of governance
 - Easily found and accessed to maximise its potential

Operational recommendations

- Consider Open Source for reusable solutions
- Include data/knowledge-sharing in your operational programmes
- Give preference to incremental technical developments and 'learn by doing' (together)
- Explore how ESIF project data could be shared and reused in other contexts/sectors
- Identify gaps early and fill them through capacity building that also provide lessons for others

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