

Our Mission

Tasks

Each of the 11 Priority Areas of the EU Danube Region Strategy are managed by two coordinators. The Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health is the coordinator for Priority Area 6 together with Croatia (Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection).

With the support of an international Steering Group, the Priority Area Coordinators facilitate implementation of the Strategy in the respective Priority Area through regional incentives and enhancement of networking between the relevant parties/stakeholders. Activities can be reflected in local, regional and transnational projects.

Service offer

The coordinators of the Priority Areas see themselves as service points for all parties interested in the respective thematic areas. The range of services offered covers, among others:

- To network project managers and establish links with appropriate financial instruments.
- To support the search for further suitable project partners throughout the Danube region.
- To label appropriate projects as having implementation relevance for the Danube Region Strategy ("labelling") and to draw up a "Letter of Recommendation" to be presented for funding programmes.
- To connect appropriate projects on politico-strategic level and also with other Priority Areas. Together with joint public relations activities, this will facilitate greater visibility and impact of the projects.

Our Contacts

If you wish to include your project in this context of the EU Danube Region Strategy, please contact either of the coordinators directly.

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Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Umwelt und Gesundheit



European Strategy for the Danube Region

Priority Area 6:
Preserving biodiversity,
landscapes and the
quality of air and soils

Background and services offered



www.umwelt.bayern.de
www.danube-region.eu

The EU Danube Region Strategy

Background

The Danube Region is facing considerable challenges: environmental hazards (water pollution, flooding, climate change), road and rail transport bottlenecks, inadequate energy supply routes, unbalanced socio-economical development, insufficient coordination in education, research and innovation as well as shortcomings in terms of safety. All this calls for better coordination and cooperation among the countries and regions along the Danube.

In June 2011, the European Council therefore adopted the "Strategy of the European Union for the Danube Region".

As a macroregional development strategy, the Danube Region Strategy encompasses the whole catchment area of the River Danube with eight EU Member States and six other European states.

By improving coordination among the countries and regions and between concrete projects in the thematic fields referred to above, the Strategy is making a contribution towards ensuring a better future for this region.

The Environment Pillar

Priority Areas and Cooperations

The targets of the Danube Region Strategy are summarised in four "pillars":

1. *Connecting the Danube Region*
2. *Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region*
3. *Building Prosperity in the Danube Region*
4. *Strengthening the Danube Region*

Each pillar has several priority areas, in which measures are defined in concrete terms and clarified by means of project examples.

The Environment Pillar (2.) sets out three priority areas (PAs):

- PA4: To restore and maintain the quality of waters*
- PA5: Management of environmental risks*
- PA6: Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils*

Priority Area 6 is coordinated by Bavaria and Croatia.



Priority Area 6

Targets and Measures

Priority Area 6 pursues the following **objectives**:

Joint measures to **improve the ecological condition of habitats** and the **living conditions** for all species falling under European nature conservation law will help to preserve the **high level of biodiversity** in the Danube Region (e.g. management of Natura 2000 sites).

The **preservation of ecosystems** and **restoration** of at least 15% of **ecosystems** and **soils already in a state of deterioration** by the year 2020 is to be guaranteed by developing **green corridors** to **network ecosystems** and habitats.

Activities to **reduce** the spread of **invasive alien species** will prevent the balance of different and highly sensitive ecosystems in the Danube Region from being upset on a permanent basis.

As cross-sectoral goals, **public relations measures** will be taken to increase **sensitisation** and raise awareness of the targets of the Danube Region Strategy.

Example:

Within the scope of the Danube Region Strategy, viable populations of Danube sturgeon species are now to be secured on a lasting basis by the year 2020.

