

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region



The EU Strategy for the Danube Region - EUSDR

- The Region
- Why a macro-regional strategy?
- What is it about?
- How does it work?
 - Governance
 - Financing



Why a macro-regional strategy?

- A number of issues in the Danube Region require working together, across borders and national interests
- Political commitment needs to be translated into action
- Actions need to be coordinated and carried out together

What is the Strategy about?

Some of the key issues identified (1):

- **Mobility:** movement of people and goods, corridors across Europe
- **Energy:** secure sources, diversification, especially renewable, reduction in emissions, efficiency
- **Water:** quality (pollution, ecosystems) and quantity (navigation, risk prevention and management)
- **Biodiversity:** precious natural heritage as a source of well-being and prosperity

What is the Strategy about?

Some of the key issues identified (2):

- **Socio-economic development:** jobs, welfare, framework for creativity and investments, IT potential
- **Education and capacity:** schools and universities, training, modern administration, inclusion of all citizens
- **Culture and identity:** rich cultural heritage, tourism potential
- **Safety:** personal safety and protection, fight against organised crime, corruption

How is the Strategy being implemented?

“The 3 NO and the 3 YES”

3 main conditions - 3 NO

- No new legislation
- No new institution
- No new money

... and 3 YES (general affairs Council 13.04.2011)

- Better alignment of funding
- More efficient coordination of instruments
- New ideas

How is the strategy being implemented?

“The cross-sectoral approach”

Priority areas have to be considered with other policy fields:

environment ⇔ navigability ⇔ economic development ⇔ labour
⇔ market mobility ⇔ human resource ⇔ development ⇔ soft
⇔ security issues ⇔ institutional development ⇔ etc.

3 underlying principles:

- ✓ Right to live in a clean and preserved environment
- ✓ Right to have good living standards
- ✓ Right to live in security

The adoption process

- 1) Communication from the European Commission
- 2) Accompanying Action Plan

... Presented by the Commission on 8 December 2010

... Validated by EU Council - General affairs on 13 April 2011

... Endorsed by Heads of States on 24 June 2011



The strategy addresses these various topics through
4 pillars
11 priority areas,
and of course actions and projects



11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator



Pillar A. Connecting the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

- Navigability (waterways, ports, ships, crews)
- Road and railways (missing links, quality)
- Multimodality - lack of coherence but great potential
- Energy security - not enough diversification, fragmented, missing links
- Energy efficiency - improve performance, unused renewable potential
- Tourism potential - many common features, need for joint promotion and product development (brand)
- Identity - recognised, needs clearer formulation, work on reconciliation and tolerance

Pillar B. Protecting the environment in the Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

- Water quality : 3 main sources of pollution: nutrients, organic, hazardous substances; too many interruptions
- Fantastic biodiversity to be preserved but growing pressure to be addressed (hydromorphological alterations, economic development, transport, energy, etc. possibly resulting in loss of habitats)
- High risks - mainly floods, but also potential accidents

Pillar C. Building Prosperity in the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

- Different innovation systems, fragmented R&D, limited mobility of researchers, uneven ICT coverage, but many universities to build upon
- Different competitiveness frameworks for enterprises, gaps in Single Market. Much potential in closer links, trading traditions
- Uneven performance in education and training (gaps in meeting labour market needs, disparities), reduced highly skilled employment
- On-going discrimination and poverty (social exclusion)

Pillar D. Strengthening the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

- Uneven capacity across the region, uneven public administration performance, civil society not recognised/involved everywhere in the same way – but great motivation from existing actors
- Areas prone to corruption and organised crime (smuggling, laundering, etc.)
- Illegal migration and human trafficking

Priority Area	Countries in charge of coordination
P1 Mobility and intermodality	<u>Inland waterways:</u> Austria, Romania <u>Rail, road and air:</u> Slovenia, Serbia
P2 More sustainable energy	Hungary, Czech Republic
P3 Culture and tourism, people to people	Bulgaria, Romania
P4 Water Quality	Hungary, Slovakia
P5 Environmental risks	Hungary, Romania
P6 Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils	Germany (Bavaria), Croatia
P7 Knowledge society (research, education and ICT)	Slovakia, Serbia
P8 Competitiveness of enterprises	Germany (Baden-Württemberg), Croatia
P9 People and skills	Austria, Moldova
P10 Institutional capacity and cooperation	Austria (Vienna), Slovenia
P11 Security and organised crime	Germany, Bulgaria

EUSDR Governance at policy level

1. European Council

- Called for a macro-regional Strategy, to be prepared by European Commission
- Endorsed the Strategy
- Decides on main policy orientations

2. High level group for the Danube Region

- Discusses and decides e.g. on revision of the action plan, on Strategy targets

3. European Commission

- Coordinates and facilitates the process
- Reports on achievements and progress of the Strategy
- Organizes annual forum of the Strategy

4. National Contact Points

- Coordinate national administrations
- Provide advice and especially information

EUSDR Governance at implementation level

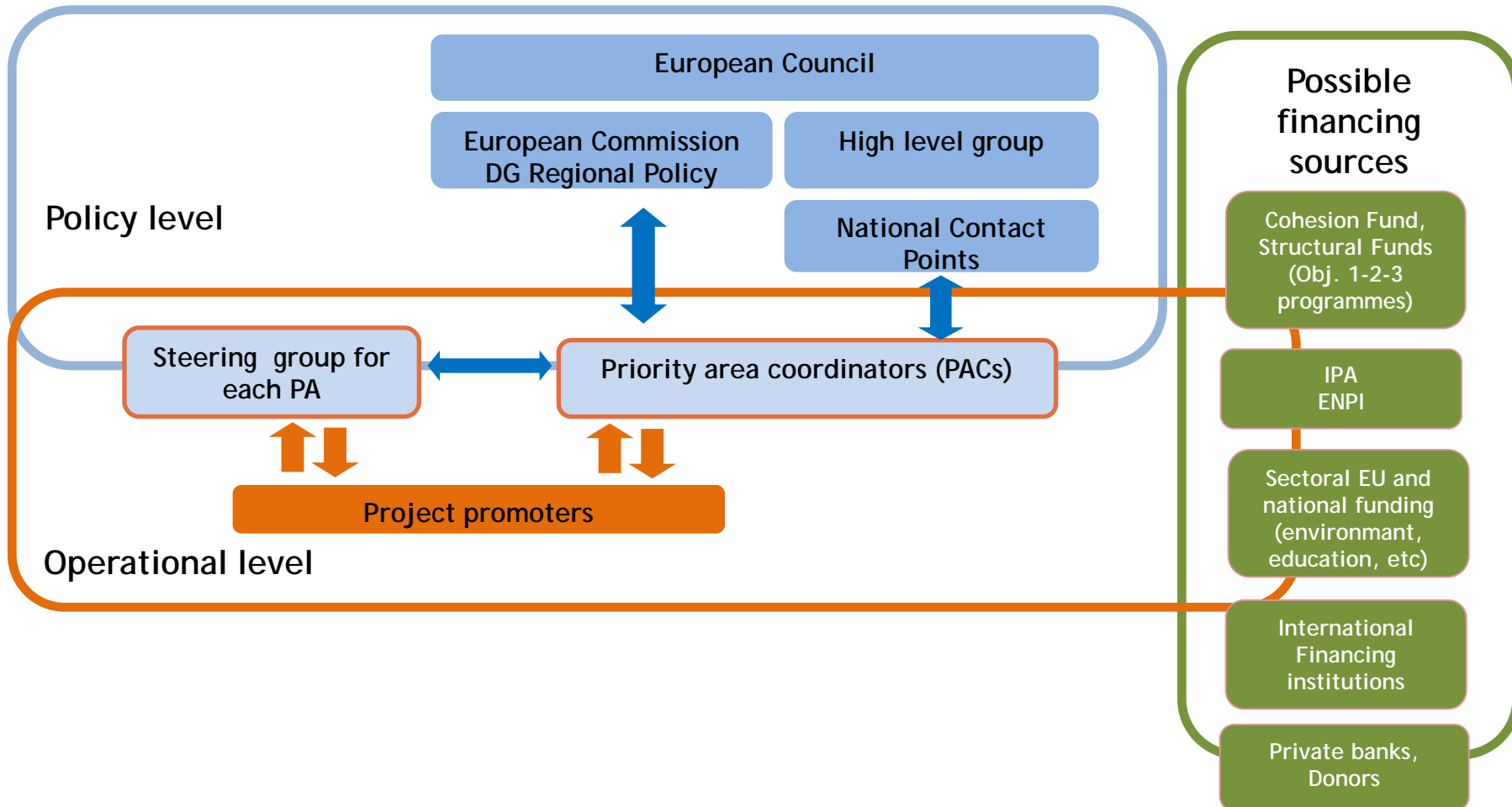
1. Priority Area Coordinators (2 per Priority Area)

- Encourage and coordinate project leaders & partners
- Report to Commission on progress and difficulties
- Supported by a Steering Group with representatives of all participating countries

2. Project leaders

- Leading role
- Volunteer to find partners (with help of NCPs)
- Seek out funding opportunities
- Report on progress, difficulties and results

The governance model of the EUSDR



How can projects and actions be financed?

- Existing Structural and Cohesion Funds, IPA for Western Balkans, ENPI
- ETC [cross-border, transnational, interregional]
- Sectoral programmes e.g. FP7, LIFE+, Leader+
- International Financing Institutions (e.g. EIB, EBRD)
- Private banks
- Donors (e.g. private foundations)
- Other relevant instruments

- Post 2013 - ?

INTERACT supports the EUSDR

INTERACT support is based on its expertise:

- “soft/growth-oriented” governance models
- managing cooperation networks
- communication in a cooperation context
- neutral support to Member States and EU Commission
- Labgroup (think tank/support structure) set up by INTERACT and EU Commission
- Communication and information on the Strategy (www.danube-region.eu, newsletters, maps, visual identity, etc)
- INTERACT promotes and involves Territorial Cooperation in the EUSDR

and...

... INTERACT builds the bridge between

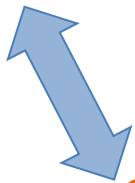
European Commission

PACs
&
their steering groups



Structural funds
IPA/ENPI
IFIs/Banks

Danube Region
Strategy Labgroup



Projects & Actions



Visit www.danube-region.eu



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