

## CONNECTING THE REGION

### smart and sustainable

Aiming to contribute to sustainable, inclusive and smart growth through measures implemented in the fields of transport, energy, culture and tourism, the EUSDR focuses on improving the overall connectivity in the region.

Joint efforts of the Danube Region's countries led to significant progress in regards to coordination of infrastructure works, operation of transport and energy systems, exchange of best practices on clean energy and promotion of Danube culture and tourism, to overcome the main bottlenecks identified in the region.



## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

### clean and green

The Danube basin is characterised by complex and yet fragile interrelated and interdependent ecosystems and habitats underpinning all human activities. Climate change, sustainable use of natural resources and the overall preservation of the quality of environment were identified as main challenges in the Danube Region.

To overcome the difficulties, the EUSDR proposes specific cooperation activities for restoring and maintaining water quality, preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil and managing environmental risks.

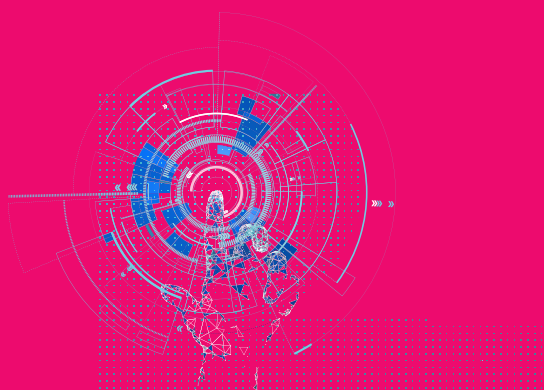


## BUILDING PROSPERITY

### smart, social and innovative

As part of the most heterogenous European macro-region, the EUSDR countries experience significant differences in regards to innovation, knowledge society, competitiveness, education, labour market and social inclusion.

Therefore, the thematic areas dedicated to prosperity building in the region aim at stimulating excellence in research and development, bringing together knowledge providers, boosting cooperation between innovation, science and business actors, improving business support, making use of the potential of the labour markets and fighting poverty.



## STRENGTHENING THE REGION

### effective, sound and safe

The Danube countries share the goal of improving the functioning of democratic institutions, central, regional and local public administrations and civil society to provide a safer and more secure environment for their citizens.

To reach these goals, joint actions were initiated aiming to ensure more transparent and effective political, civil and administrative structures, to improve the multi-level governance mechanisms, to facilitate the administrative cooperation of cross-border communities and to fight against corruption and organised crime.



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# EU Strategy for the Danube Region at a glance



## A Macro-Regional Strategy for the Development and Protection of the Danube Region

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) addresses common challenges faced by countries located in the Danube river basin, benefiting from strengthened cooperation for the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The EUSDR creates synergies and facilitates cooperation and networking of all stakeholders, aiming at using available resources efficiently.

The EUSDR is home to 115 million people in nine EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia) and five non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine) and stretches from the Black Forest to the Black Sea. The Strategy covers four major thematic fields: connectivity, environmental protection, building prosperity and security.



Photo credit: Danube Transnational Programme

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) – at a glance

Europe needed to enhance regional cooperation in identifying solutions to challenges that exceed national borders and are more complex in scope and impact than any region or country can manage alone. Hence, macro regional strategies (MRS) were designed as integrated cooperation frameworks to address these challenges and to foster economic, social and territorial cohesion across large geographical areas.

MRS ensure better coordination of policies, bringing together key-stakeholders from all governance levels, to actively participate and propose effective joint initiatives as appropriate responses to shared territorial challenges. By strengthened cooperation, exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer, MRS facilitate strategic coordinated and synergised approach to sustainable development of EU and non-EU countries.

MRS offer the opportunity for collaboration between stakeholders and available funding sources, in order to focus on shared priorities and development needs.

Currently, there are four EU macro regional strategies:

