



THE 11TH ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

EMBEDDING EUSDR INTO EU PROGRAMMES

EXPERIENCES IN SERBIA



19-20 OCTOBER 2022

PLENARY SESSION

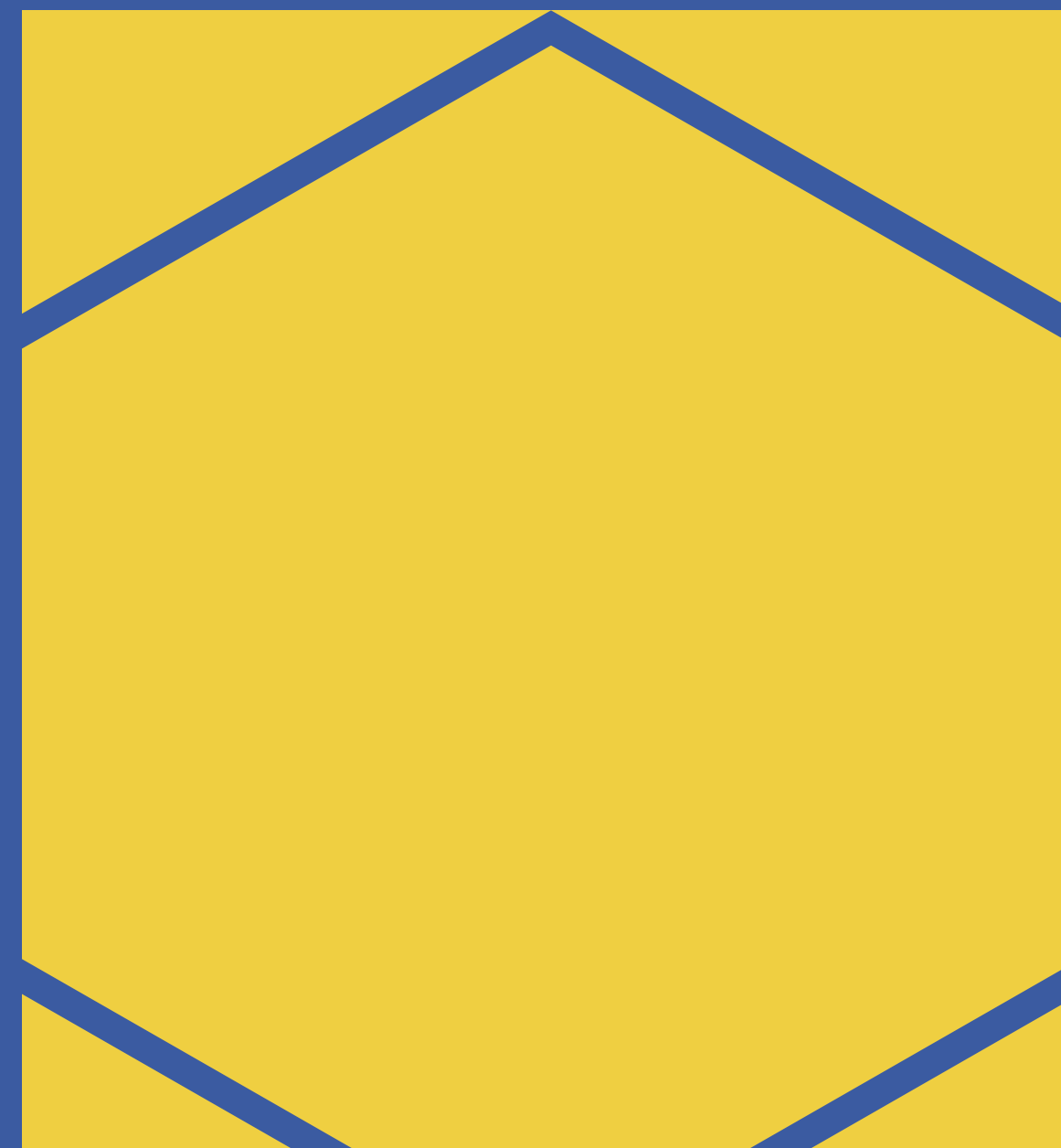
**NEW CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE DANUBE REGION**

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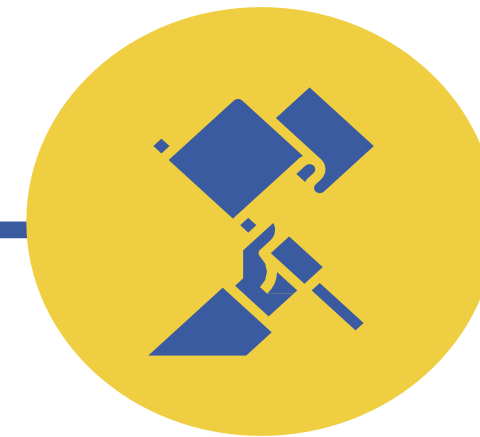
Republic of Serbia



Ministry of European Integration



- ❖ **National coordination of macro-regional strategies**



- ❖ **Coordinating, programming and monitoring of IPA funds at national and regional level** - National IPA Coordinator's technical secretariat - with Sector Working Groups, i.e. line ministries and relevant institutions
- ❖ **Programming and monitoring of Interreg Programmes**

Strategic approach to Planning Priorities – alignment with EUSDR

references to MRS

Partnership for Development-Priorities for International Assistance for the period up to 2025 – Government working document

- ❖ **IPA III Programming Framework** - EC overarching strategic document
- ❖ **IPA III Strategic response** COHERENCE OF SECTORAL STRATEGIES WITH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STRATEGIES
prepared by each IPA country - short description of actions/operational programme within thematic windows; proposed priorities in line with national sectoral and horizontal policies and strategies, EU enlargement policy and sectoral strategies, regional and global strategies including MRS
- ❖ **Interreg programmes** - 7 cross-border programmes with neighbouring countries and 2 transnational programmes
- ❖ **IPARD programme** - rural development

5 IPA windows –cover EUSDR Priority Areas and most Priority Actions

IPA Window 1- Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy

IPA Window 2 – Good governance, EU acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communications

EUSDR PA 10 and 11

- **Institutional Capacity and Cooperation - PA 10**
improve institutional capacities in order to provide high-quality public services, foster cooperation between state and non-state actors, create enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable development of civil society
- **Security - PA 11**
Improving systems of border control



5 IPA windows –cover EUSDR Priority Areas and most Priority Actions

IPA Window 3 – Sustainable connectivity and green agenda EUSDR PA 1a, 1b, 2,4,5,6

● **Transport – PA 1**

elimination of problematic sectors for navigation on the Danube, modernisation of rail infrastructure, road and inland waterways safety projects, intermodal terminal, ITS

● **Energy –PA 2**

renewable energy sources, energy market integration, decarbonisation and clean energy, just transition, digitalisation and smart grids, and energy security, energy efficiency, capacity building of the energy agency to align with the package clean energy for all Europeans

● **Environment – PA 4,5,6 - water quality, biodiversity, environmental risks**

investments in nature based solutions, green infrastructure, rehabilitation of natural habitats in line with the Green Agenda, protection of biodiversity, natural habitats, environmental risks, water quality, air quality monitoring system, improving chapter 27 implementation, water supply systems, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, reduction of harmful gas emissions, flood risk management plan, 2nd River basin management plan 2027-2033



5 IPA windows – cover EUSDR Priority Areas and most Priority Actions

IPA Window 4 - Competitiveness and inclusive growth
EUSDR PA 3, 7, 8, 9

● **Culture and Tourism - PA 3**

green tourism, cultural heritage protection, support for Serbia's Lower Danube area's tourism offer

● **Knowledge society, Competitiveness and people and skills - PA 7, 8, 9**

smart specialization strategy- strengthen SME and R&D, financial products, capacity building, business infrastructure (WB Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility), social integration, education, housing, employment and health, needs of young people

● **IPA Window 5 – territorial and cross-border cooperation**



Regional approach to Planning and Programming

Topics tackled regionally – Transport, energy, environment, water management...
Innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism

- ❖ The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
- ❖ Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans
- ❖ Agenda for Research, Innovation Youth, Skills, Culture and Sports
- ❖ Western Balkans Investment Framework
- ❖ WB Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility
- ❖ Economic and Investment Plan - launch long-term economic recovery and foster regional economic integration which will encourage stronger connections within the region and with the European Union

Regional approach to planning priorities

*The Green Agenda will be an opportunity to revisit the overall transport strategies and to promote a greener and more sustainable transport network. Serbia is committed to the following **initiatives**:*

- supporting the implementation of the regional action plan for rail reforms,*
- defining rail freight corridors and an overall strategy to increase rail capacity and develop more environmentally friendly transport modes,*
- ensuring implementation of EU technical standards in all transport modes, in particular the European Railway Traffic Management System,*
- supporting the implementation of the regional action plan for transport facilitation, including border-crossing points, aiming at resource-efficient transport operations,*
- supporting the implementation of the road safety action plan and the road action plan, including ITS, road maintenance and resilience,*
- supporting the implementation of regional waterborne and multimodal action plan,*
- planning and implementing sustainable mobility solutions, including alternative fuels infrastructure, charging stations.*

(excerpt from IPA III Strategic Response, July 2022)

Regional approach to Planning Priorities

Danube Strategy - niche

- ❖ Functional area
- ❖ EU and non-EU countries equal footing– cohesion and enlargement policies
- ❖ Multi-level governance
- ❖ Develop key solutions, new methodologies, practices or networks for new forms of cooperation

Challenges, Next steps and Conclusions

- ❖ References in strategic documents - basis for embedding - Actions at national level contribute to the Danube Strategy priorities
- ❖ Cooperation welcome. How to implement? Aspects of coordination and financing of transnational activities
- ❖ Challenges: How to include cooperation elements in the national level actions with no flexibility for funding outside the territory (like in EU MS)? Scope for joint calls limited. Some grant schemes exist – Science fund, Innovation fund, development of tourism offer (extra points)
- ❖ EUD Serbia *<MRS need to identify concrete actions with clear deliverables and sensitize all stakeholders around them. Vague initiatives such as increase cooperation in area are not sufficient>*

Challenges, Next steps and Conclusions

Next steps:

- ❖ Work closely with the Commission and Delegations - DG REGIO role in promoting cooperation, DG NEAR strategic role in programming IPA
- ❖ Meetings of Steering group members (with Priority Area Coordinators) and national programming authorities/line ministries and the EU delegation to discuss further what can be envisaged as joint actions for financing
- ❖ Managing and programming authorities network to create ownership and understanding of the macro-regional added value
- ❖ Map out actions in countries and look for synergies. Design concrete measures for knowledge exchange and joint approaches

Challenges, Next steps and Conclusions

- ❖ Transnational programmes – cooperation for policy improvements, Synergy of national programmes with capitalization process
- ❖ CBC programmes– good practice – Hungary-Serbia – EUSDR ad-hoc observer in Monitoring Committee
- ❖ Increase coordination with regional initiatives

Cooperation is crucial- synergies, capitalisation and coordination to Increase impact of interventions

More funds, more complex challenges



THANK YOU!

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