

# 2<sup>nd</sup> EUSDR EMBEDDING WEEK

## *Possible Modes of Cooperation on EUSDR Embedding and Programmes' Implementation*

### When?

12 – 16 June 2023, every day at 10.00 – 12.00 CET

### How?

5 thematic Workshops bringing together the EUSDR and the funding programmes / MAs

### Why?

By design, macro-regional strategies (MRS) such as the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) do not have their own funding. Successful implementation of a Strategy therefore depends on the one hand directly on its **absorption and generation of EU, national, regional and other public and private funds**. On the other hand, MRS comprise a **variety of complex thematic policy fields**, which means that in the **implementation process**, it is vital to align and **streamline EUSDR priorities and to create synergies** with other instruments and funding sources in order to secure a sound implementation of the goals set.

The described process has been referred to as **embedding of MRS into EU funding**. In the EUSDR, the embedding process has been one of the top priorities of the EUSDR Presidencies and continues (now) with the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency (2023). In the embedding process, that can also be referred to as **funding of implementation, guidance documents** were prepared, notably by the Croatian, Slovakian and Ukrainian EUSDR Presidencies, as well as the incumbent Slovenian Presidency, together with the EUSDR Embedding tool prepared by the Danube Strategy Point (DSP)<sup>1</sup>. The **EUSDR priorities to be embedded in were streamlined** from 85 Actions of the EUSDR Action Plan to 36 *EUSDR shortlisted strategic topics to five thematic areas*, following EUSDR shortlisted strategic topics covered by national/Interreg programmes. Based on the five thematic areas prioritised for EUSDR embedding<sup>2</sup>, dedicated workshops were held in the newly established *EUSDR Embedding Week*<sup>3</sup> 2022.

With a focus on **complex and cross-cutting topics**, which will remain high on the agenda in the whole Danube Region, the concept of the EUSDR Embedding Weeks highlights the **importance of dialogue, exchange and coordination** when it comes to the need to **align funding across funding sources and creating synergies** between different macro-regional stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies. SWD(2022) 397 final; p. 8. [Online](#).

<sup>2</sup> EUSDR shortlisted strategic topics as elaborated and provided by the respective PAs. The topics can also be relevant for other PAs. Shortlisted strategic topics from PAs that are not represented in the prioritised thematic areas overview can still be included in the embedding process and could be taken up in following EUSDR Embedding Weeks.

<sup>3</sup> <https://danube-region.eu/eusdr-embedding-week-a-week-of-successful-matchmaking/>

## What?

Following the recommendations of the Guidance Paper for Embedding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) into EU Programmes - FROM PROGRAMMING TO IMPLEMENTATION<sup>4</sup>, the EUSDR Presidency together with the Danube Strategy Point organise the **2<sup>nd</sup> EUSDR Embedding Week** (12 - 16 June 2023) comprising of **five thematic meetings/workshops to look for concrete use of the embedding tools/activities to be implemented.**

POs / EUSDR		Specific Topics	POs	Date & Time
A more <b>connected</b> Danube Region		# sustainable transport # alternative fuels # energy-efficiency	PO 2 PO 3	12 June 2023 10.00 - 12.00 CET
A <b>smarter</b> Danube Region		# educational activity # water management # environmental protection	PO 2 PO 4	13 June 2023 10.00 - 12.00 CET
A <b>greener</b> Danube Region		# freshwater ecosystems # risk management # restore biodiversity	PO 2	14 June 2023 10.00 - 12.00 CET
A more <b>secure</b> Danube Region		# human trafficking # security enhancement # regional networks	PO 5	15 June 2023 10.00 - 12.00 CET
A more <b>social</b> Danube Region		# urban regeneration # local investments # sustainable jobs	PO 4	16 June 2023 10.00 - 12.00 CET

## Who?

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|--|--|
| • EUSDR National Coordinators          | as national experts and point of interest      |
| • EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators     | as Danube Region wide thematic experts         |
| • Managing and programming authorities | as representatives of funding institutions     |
| • Centrally managed programmes         | as EU wide funding sources                     |
| • TRIO Presidency                      | as the embedding driver on behalf of the EUSDR |
| • European Commission                  | as strategic adviser                           |
| • Danube Strategy Point                | as facilitator                                 |

## Where?

All events take place online via Zoom. The links for the individual workshops can be found below under each workshop section. **Registration for all speakers and participants:** <https://danube-region.eu/danube-events/eusdr-embedding-week-2/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Guidance-Paper\\_EUSDR-embedding-process\\_04.2023\\_final.pdf](https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Guidance-Paper_EUSDR-embedding-process_04.2023_final.pdf)

<b>A MORE CONNECTED DANUBE REGION</b> <b>(12 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)</b>			
<b>A more connected Danube Region</b>		# sustainable transport # alternative fuels # energy-efficiency	PO 2 PO 3
<p>☞ <b>PO 2: a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe</b> by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;</p> <p>☞ <b>PO 3: a more connected Europe</b> by enhancing mobility</p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 1a: Facilitate fleet modernisation</b></p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 1b: To ensure sustainable metropolitan transport systems and mobility</b></p> <p>☞ <b>Action PA 1b: To develop further Intelligent Traffic Systems</b> by using environmental-friendly technologies, especially in urban regions</p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 2: To promote decarbonisation and reduction of air pollutants in the transport sector</b>, regarding both public and freight transportation by developing the infrastructure for alternative fuels</p> <p>☞ <b>Action PA 2: To improve energy efficient, cost efficient and innovative low-carbon technologies</b>, including smart solutions while respecting the principle of technological neutrality</p>			
<p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elisa COCCO, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>• Petra ČESEN ČATAR, Slovenian EUSDR Presidency</li> </ul> <p><b>Key note speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alain BARON, DG MOVE, European Commission</li> <li>• Viktoria WEISSENBURGER, EUSDR Priority Area 1a Waterway mobility</li> <li>• Franc ŽEPIČ, EUSDR Priority Area 1b Rail, road, air mobility</li> <li>• Annamária NÁDOR, EUSDR Priority Area 2 Sustainable energy</li> <li>• Winfried RITT, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Central Europe Programme</li> <li>• Jana HABJAN, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Alpine Space Programme</li> <li>• Aleš MRKELA, Managing Authority, Interreg Slovenia-Hungary Programme</li> <li>• Herfried LEITNER and Robert RAFAEL, Pro Danube International</li> <li>• Tetiana PAIENTKO, TESIM</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection and open discussion on possible modes of cooperation</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> Robert LICHTNER, Danube Strategy Point</p>			
<p><b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88158597558">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88158597558</a>                      Meeting ID: 881 5859 7558</p>			

## A SMARTER DANUBE REGION (13 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)

A smarter Danube  
Region



# educational activity  
# water management  
# environmental protection

PO 2  
PO 4

👉 **PO 2: a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe** by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

👉 **PO 4: a more social and inclusive Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

👉 **Action PA 4: Promote measures to adapt to climate change impacts in relation to water quality and quantity**

👉 **Action PA 4: Enhance cooperation, increase and exchange knowledge and secure financing to water quality measures in the Danube Region**

👉 **Action PA 7: To increase awareness and visibility of science and innovation in the Danube Region**

👉 **Action PA 7: To promote horizontal cooperation in science and technology across all PAs and other MRS**

### Opening remarks:

- Elisa COCCO, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Aleš ROVŠNIK, Slovenian EUSDR Presidency

### Key note speakers:

- Tomislav PINTER, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Zsuzsanna KOCSIS-KUPPER, EUSDR Priority Area 4 Water quality  
Tomáš TABIŠ, EUSDR Priority Area 7 Knowledge society
- Gusztáv CSOMOR, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Danube Region Programme
- Matteo DECOSTANZI, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Alpine Space Programme
- Ilze CIGANSKA, INTERACT
- Rosario SAPIENZA, TESIM

### Discussion:

- Reflection and open discussion on possible modes of cooperation

**Moderation:** Robert LICHTNER, Danube Strategy Point

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89016198727>

Meeting ID: 890 1619 8727

<b>A GREENER DANUBE REGION</b> (14 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)			
A greener Danube Region		# freshwater ecosystems # risk management # restore biodiversity	PO 2
<p>☞ <b>PO 2: a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe</b> by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 4: Promote monitoring, prevention and reduction of water pollution</b> deriving from hazardous and emerging substances (EU priority substances and watch list candidates as well as Danube basin specific pollutants candidates and others e.g. micro plastics-plastics, pharmaceuticals, PFOS)</p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 5: Provide sufficient support for development and execution of risk management plans</b> for different hazards</p> <p>☞ <b>Action PA 5: enhance the capacities, extend the coverage of basin-wide or regional forecasting and warning systems, and develop rapid response procedures</b></p>			
<p>☞ <b>Action PA 6: Identify locations with obsolete pesticide and similar chemical remains and prepare a remediation plan and a risk management plan in the case of environmental accidents</b></p>			
<p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>• Aleš ROVŠNIK, Slovenian EUSDR Presidency</li> </ul> <p><b>Key note speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magdalena Andreea STRACHINESCU OLTEANU, DG MARE, European Commission</li> <li>• Malgorzata PIECHA and Edouard GATINEAU, LIFE Environment, CINEA, European Commission</li> <li>• Andrea VRANOVSKA, EUSDR Priority Area 4 Water Quality</li> <li>• László BALATONYI, EUSDR Priority Area 5 Environmental risks</li> <li>• Florian BALLNUS, EUSDR Priority Area 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils</li> <li>• Martin HUTTER, Managing Authority, Interreg Central Europe Programme</li> <li>• Elisabeth STIX, Rosinak &amp; Partner and Christine HAMZA, M&amp;E Factory</li> <li>• Iztok ŠKERLIČ, EUSAIR Facility Point</li> <li>• Loïc CHARPENTIER, Water Europe</li> <li>• Rosario SAPIENZA, TESIM</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection and open discussion on possible modes of cooperation</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> Robert LICHTNER, Danube Strategy Point</p>			
<p><b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84013040718">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84013040718</a>                      Meeting ID: 840 1304 0718</p>			

## A MORE SECURE DANUBE REGION (15 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online )

A more **secure**  
Danube Region



# human trafficking  
# security enhancement  
# regional network

PO 5

👉 **PO 5: a Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives

👉 **Action PA 10: To enhance capacities of cities and municipalities** to facilitate local and regional development

👉 **Action PA 11: Enhancing police cooperation** with the aim of improving security and tackling serious and organised crime in the EUSDR countries and strengthening the efforts against terrorism threats

### Opening remarks:

- Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Aleš ROVŠNIK, Slovenian EUSDR Presidency

### Key note speakers:

- N.N., European Commission
- Claudia SINGER, EUSDR Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation, and on behalf of EUSDR Priority Area 11 Security
- Oana CRISTEA, Managing Authority, Romania-Serbia Interreg IPA Programme
- Cezar GROZAVU, Joint Secretariat, Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme
- Aleš MRKELA, Managing Authority, Interreg Slovenia-Hungary Programme
- N.N., TESIM

### Discussion:

- Reflection and open discussion on possible modes of cooperation

**Moderation:** Katharina LENZ, Danube Strategy Point

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81340213183>

Meeting ID: 813 4021 3183

<b>A MORE SOCIAL DANUBE REGION</b> <b>(16 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)</b>			
<p>A more social Danube Region</p>		<p># urban regeneration # local investments # sustainable jobs</p>	<p>PO 4</p>
<p>👉 <b>PO 4: a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights</b></p>			
<p>👉 <b>Action PA 3: Invest in sustainable quality products, services, innovative forms and infrastructure in the fields of tourism and culture, promote skills, education and creating jobs in the related areas</b></p>			
<p>👉 <b>Action PA 3: Promote and encourage the development of the cultural activities and creative sectors</b></p>			
<p>👉 <b>Action PA 8: To foster cooperation and exchange of knowledge between SMEs, academia, the public sector and civil society in areas of competence in the Danube Region</b></p>			
<p>👉 <b>Action PA 9: Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion for All</b></p>			
<p>👉 <b>Action PA 9: Inclusive Education, Equity, Common Values and Sustainable Development</b></p>			
<p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>• Aleš ROVŠNIK, Slovenian EUSDR Presidency</li> </ul> <p><b>Key note speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tatiana COELHO DE OLIVEIRA, New European Bauhaus, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>• Irina COZMA, EUSDR Priority Area 3 Tourism and culture</li> <li>• Anna GHERGANOVA, EUSDR Priority Area 9 People and skills</li> <li>• Mihaela FLOREA, URBACT IV</li> <li>• Chiara CASARELLA and Anna SIROCCO, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Central Europe Programme</li> <li>• Cezar GROZAVU, Joint Secretariat, Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme</li> <li>• N.N., TESIM</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection and open discussion on possible modes of cooperation</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderation:</b> Robert LICHTNER, Danube Strategy Point</p>			
<p><b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84340391841">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84340391841</a>                      Meeting ID: 843 4039 1841</p>			