







2nd EUSDR EMBEDDING WEEK

a review

Edition 2023

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

The 2nd **EUSDR Embedding Week 2023** – 12-16 June 2023 | every day 10.00 – 12.00 CET | 5 thematic Workshops – bringing together dedicated stakeholders from the EUSDR, EU and international institutions as well as from funding programmes / MAs.

The **EUSDR Embedding Week** was held this year for the second time to provide interested stakeholders with a concise and engaging platform for sharing online, multilevel, cross-thematic and cross-macro-regional ideas and experiences. The 2nd EUSDR Embedding Week took place from 12 to 16 June 2023 and addressed topics of cross Priority Area cooperation and the potential and challenges of embedding, bringing together at a virtual table speakers representing the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, the European Commission, TESIM, programmes, MAs, programming authorities and EUSDR NCs and PACs.

Following the series of sessions, we would like to provide you with information and follow-up material to the EUSDR Embedding Week, which was organised by the Danube Strategy Point together with the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency. We have published the final <u>agenda</u> and a <u>summary</u> of the event on the EUSDR website



A MORE CONNECTED DANUBE REGION

(12 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)

A more **connected**Danube Region



sustainable transport # alternative fuels # energy-efficiency

PO 2 PO 3

- 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 3:** a **more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility
- > Action PA 1a: Facilitate fleet modernisation
- > Action PA 1b: To ensure sustainable metropolitan transport systems and mobility
- Action PA 1b: To develop further Intelligent Traffic Systems by using environmental-friendly technologies, especially in urban regions
- > **Action PA 2:** To **promote decarbonisation and reduction of air pollutants in the transport sector,** regarding both public and freight transportation by developing the infrastructure for alternative fuels
- > **Action PA 2:** To **improve energy efficient, cost efficient and innovative low-carbon technologies,** including smart solutions while respecting the principle of technological neutrality

The EUSDR Embedding Week got off to a successful start with the first session on sustainable transport, alternative fuels and energy efficiency in the Danube Region.

Numbers

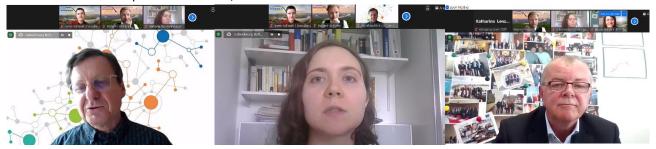
DAY 1 | 54 participants | 6 EUSDR stakeholder groups (EC/DG REGIO and EC/DG MOVE, EUSDR core stakeholders, funding institutions, regional/local authorities, transnational institutions, experts/consultants)



In the presentations, it became clear that the transport sector urgently needs investments to ensure its sustainability and that these topics require common strategic frameworks. It also became clear that the different and often individual challenges have to be addressed, primary/secondary resources have to be considered, large-scale has to be distinguished from rather small-scale infrastructure projects, streamlined regulation frameworks would be required and thus new financing models have to be found. This funding cannot come exclusively from the sector itself, but must be cross-sectoral and embedded in the EU's multi-level system, such as combining national grant schemes or the development of a European Greening Fund.

Our speakers invited, representatives of DG REGIO and DG MOVE of the European Commission, the Slovenian

EUSDR Presidency, EUSDR Priority Area 1a (Waterway mobility), Priority Area 1b (Rail-road-air mobility), Priority Area 2 (Sustainable energy), the JS of Interreg VI-B Central Europe and Alpine Space, the MA Interreg VI-A SI-HU, Pro Danube International and TESIM also discussed the better involvement of and funding for accession countries in the Danube Region. The EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, which allow Ukraine to export goods such as agricultural products and at the same time import goods for humanitarian aid or fuel, were highlighted. In addition, relevant studies, projects and agendas - at EU policy, EU funding and Priority Area level - were presented around the thematic focus, taking into account also possible impacts on the environment and biodiversity.



- EUSDR Embedding (process, tools etc.): https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 1a Waterway mobility: https://navigation.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 1b Rail, road, air mobility: https://transport.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 2 Sustainable energy: http://energy.danube-region.eu/
- EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes: https://transport.ec.europa.eu/ukraine/keeping-ukrainian-goods-moving_en
- EU-Ukraine Visibility Map: https://www.transporeon.com/en/company/press/transporeon-enhances-rail-transport-visibility-between-the-eu-and-ukraine

- Elisa COCCO, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Viktoria WEISSENBURGER, EUSDR Priority Area 1a Waterway mobility
- Franc ŽEPIČ, EUSDR Priority Area 1b Rail, road, air mobility
- Annamária NÁDOR, EUSDR Priority Area 2 Sustainable energy
- Jana HABJAN, Joint Secretariat, Interreg Alpine Space Programme
- Aleš MRKELA, Managing Authority, Interreg Slovenia-Hungary Programme
- Herfried LEITNER and Robert RAFAEL, Pro Danube International
- Tetiana PAIENTKO, TESIM



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

A smarter Danube Region in relation to educational activities in the thematic fields of water management and environmental protection in the Danube Region formed the focal points of the second day.

Numbers

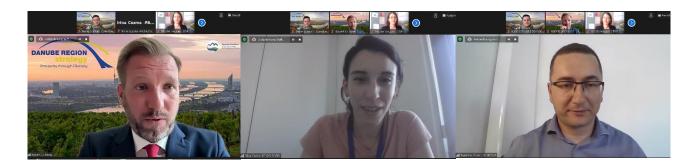
DAY 2 | 58 participants | 7 EUSDR stakeholder groups (EC/DG REGIO, EUSDR core stakeholders, funding institutions, regional/local authorities, transnational institutions, academia/think tanks, experts/consultants)



The presentations made clear that there is an innovation divide in Europe that needs to be addressed through targeted measures for innovation ecosystems, a deeper coordination and the development of S3 value chains. EUSDR PA 4 and PA 7 also tackle these issues as crosscutting topics in the overall Danube Region Strategy horizontally in the field of education and youth. This is implemented through planned collaborations in Actions of the EUSDR Action Plans and projects and initiatives included therein, such as joint studies, educational online activities, summer schools and online tools in the mentioned thematic fields.

Our speakers invited, representatives of EC/DG REGIO, the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, EUSDR Priority Area 4

(Water quality), Priority Area 7 (Knowledge society), the JS of Interreg VI-B Danube Region and Alpine Space Programme, Interact and TESIM also discussed the use of cascade funding for SMEs and transnational funding in the field of cross-sectoral cooperation — not only in the Danube Region, but also in other MRS, such as the Alpine Region. A comprehensive analysis of the themes and financed actions in the 2021-2027 funding framework paves the way for further discussions on which themes are eligible for funding in MRS in the future and what further steps should be taken to ensure targeted funding of MRS thematic priorities. In the end, it became clear that a stronger synchronisation in the implementation of the embedding process in concrete initiatives will be necessary.



- EUSDR Embedding (process, tools etc.): https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 4 Water quality: https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 7 Knowledge society: https://knowledgesociety.danube-region.eu/
- Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument: https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument en
- Regional Innovation Valleys European Innovation Ecosystems Call info: https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/Master%20PPT RIV2023 for%20website.pdf
- Interreg VI-B Danube Region Programme funding: https://www.interreg-danube.eu/dtp-archive/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027
- Interreg VI-B Alpine Space Programme next calls: https://www.alpine-space.eu/for-applicants/how-to-apply/
- Interact Cooperation Actions: https://www.cooperationactions.eu/
- European Commission Cohesion Open Data Platform: https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

- Elisa COCCO, DG REGIO, European Commission
- 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



A GREENER DANUBE REGION

(14 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)

A **greener**Danube Region



freshwater ecosystem: # risk management # restore biodiversity

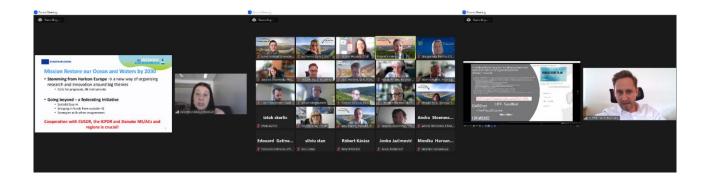
PO 2

- 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
- Action PA 4: Promote monitoring, prevention and reduction of water pollution 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)
- > Action PA 5: Provide sufficient support for development and execution of risk management plans for different hazards
- Action PA 5: enhance the capacities, extend the coverage of basin-wide or regional forecasting and warning systems, and develop rapid response procedures
- > 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

The session on the third day was dedicated to topics around a greener Danube Region with a focus on freshwater ecosystems, risk management and biodiversity restoration.

Numbers

DAY 3 | 56 participants | 8 EUSDR stakeholder groups (EC/DG REGIO, EUSDR core stakeholders, funding institutions, regional/local authorities, transnational institutions, private sector/businesses/SMEs, academia/think tanks, experts/consultants)



In the presentations it became clear that these topics are strongly cross-linked among the Priority Areas and build on long-standing cooperation activities, which will also be continued in the future, for example in the field of water risk management and biodiversity restoration in the Danube Region. In addition, there are new synergy opportunities in the area of the EU Mission in Horizon Europe (Restore our Ocean and Waters). Cooperation with the Danube Region, international organisations, EUSDR member states and institutions is particularly topical in this respect.

Our speakers invited, representing DG REGIO, DG MARE and CINEA of the European Commission, the Slovenian

EUSDR Presidency, the EUSDR Priority Area 4 (Water quality), Priority Area 5 (Environmental risks), Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils), the JS Interreg Central Europe Programme, Rosinak & Partner together with M&E Factory, EUSAIR Facility Point, Water Europe and TESIM also presented and discussed Embedding matchmaking exercises. Examples in the field of project submission and evaluation, analysis of embedding tools, embedding activities from other MRS and international organisations were presented, showing that implementation will now be crucial to generate actual added value for the Region.



- EUSDR Embedding (process, tools etc.): https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 4 Water quality: https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 5 Environmental risks: https://environmentalrisks.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils: http://nature.danube-region.eu/
- Horizon Europe EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters: <a href="https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters en opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters en
- LIFE Public Database: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search
- European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) open calls: <a href="https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals-en?f%5B0%5D=oe-call-proposals-funding-programme%3Ahttp%3A//publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/eu-programme/LIFE_2021&f%5B1%5D=oe_call_proposals_status%3Aupcoming
- 2023 Call info days (recordings): https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/eulife23-info-days-2023-04-25 en
- Interreg Central Europe approved projects: https://www.interreg-central.eu/project-gateway/
- EUSAIR TSG3 Quality of Environment: https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/about-eusair/pillars/3-environmental-quality/

- Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Magdalena Andreea STRACHINESCU OLTEANU. DG MARE. European Commission
- Malgorzata PIECHA and Edouard GATINEAU, LIFE Environment, CINEA, European Commission
- Andrea VRANOVSKÁ, EUSDR Priority Area 4 Water Quality
- László BALATONYI. EUSDR Priority Area 5 Environmental risks
- Florian BALLNUS, EUSDR Priority Area 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils
- Martin HUTTER, Managing Authority, Interreg Central Europe Programme
- Elisabeth STIX, Rosinak & Partner and Christine HAMZA, M&E Factory
- Iztok ŠKERLIČ, EUSAIR Facility Point
- Loïc CHARPENTIER, Water Europe
- Rosario SAPIENZA, TESIM



A MORE SECURE DANUBE REGION

(15 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)

A more **secure**Danube Region



human trafficking # security enhancement # regional networks

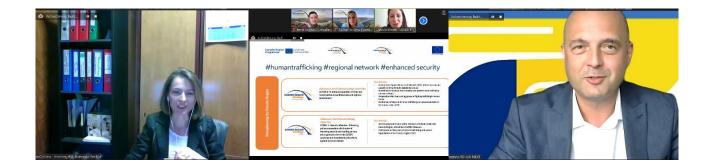
PO 5

- 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

The session on the fourth day focused on a more secure Danube Region, tackling the topic of human trafficking in relation to security enhancement and the building of regional networks.

Numbers

DAY 4 | 46 participants | 6 EUSDR stakeholder groups (EC/DG REGIO and EC/DG MOVE, EUSDR core stakeholders, funding institutions, regional/local authorities, transnational institutions, experts/consultants)



In the presentations it became clear that these complex issues, which will continue to challenge the entire Danube Region, concern more than just one Priority Area and are very much interconnected. Moreover, in order to address the challenges of human trafficking, many cross-sectoral factors need to be taken into account and multiple stakeholder groups need to cooperate, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges due to an advanced digital era. Funding programmes in the Danube Region can provide support, for example, in prevention measures, capacity building for the administration and law enforcement operations in border regions, which complements the jointly planned activities and initiatives of Priority Areas 10 and 11.

Our speakers invited, representing the EC/DG REGIO, the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, EUSDR Priority Area 10 (Institutional Capacity and Cooperation), also on behalf of EUSDR Priority Area 11 (Security), the MA Romania-Serbia Interreg IPA Programme, the JS Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme and TESIM addressed their further needs, such as a network of related projects, gaining data for missing links, and capitalisation of outcomes. In addition, several concrete examples of successfully implemented projects were showcased and future activity proposals were discussed, specifically on the crucial point of trust-building in this thematic field. The programmes present have also embedded the Danube Region Strategy at EUSDR Action level, which allows for targeted funding.



- EUSDR Embedding (process, tools etc.): https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation: https://capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 11 Security: https://security.danube-region.eu/
- European Parliamentary Research Service video on EU Action against serious crime (human trafficking 00:02:26): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFQD8_kqFOk
- EUSDR Network of ESF Managing Authorities (EUSDR PAs 9 and 10): https://capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/partnerships-danube-strategy-institutional-capacity/esf-network-danube-region/
- Romania-Serbia Interreg Programme: https://www.romania-serbia.net/
- EC Country report on the Republic of Serbia (2022): https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/serbia-report-2022 en
- Serbia financial assistance under IPA: https://neighbourhood-enlargement-ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance/serbia-financial-assistance-under-ipa_en
- Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme: https://ro-ua.net/en/home-2021-2027
- Interreg VI-A RO-UA NEXT video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t4AWsaPnYQ&t=105s
- TESIM Virtual Exhibition: https://tesim-enicbc.eu/tag/virtual-exhibition/

- Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, 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
- Albert SORROSAL, TESIM



A MORE SOCIAL DANUBE REGION

(16 June 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 CET, online)

A more **social** Danube Region



urban regeneration # local investments # sustainable jobs

PO 4

- PO 4: a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
- 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
- Action PA 3: Promote and encourage the development of the cultural activities and creative sectors
- 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
- > Action PA 9: Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion for All
- > Action PA 9: Inclusive Education, Equity, Common Values and Sustainable Development

The EUSDR Embedding Week concluded with a discussion on a more social Danube Region, focusing on urban regeneration, local investments and sustainable jobs.

Numbers

DAY 5 | 52 participants | 6 EUSDR stakeholder groups (EC/DG REGIO, EUSDR core stakeholders, funding institutions, regional/local authorities, transnational institutions, experts/consultants)



In the presentations, it became clear that these topics, which have gained increased relevance at the European level following the introduction of the European Green Deal (EGD), are now also increasingly implemented in the EUSDR Action Plan by the Priority Areas. By these means, new ways of promoting project development, various participation platforms and promising examples of future initiatives were highlighted.

Our speakers invited, representing DG/REGIO, the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, URBACT IV, EUSDR Priority Area 3 (Tourism and culture) and Priority Area 9 (People and skills), the JS Interreg Central Europe Programme and Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme as well as TESIM shared experiences, challenges and opportunities in funding and implementing urban regeneration in

Policy Objective 4. It became clear that sufficient funding is available, but that cross-sectoral and cross-MRS networks should be deepened in order to fully exploit the potential.

In summary, a very positive and promising conclusion was drawn: The MRS in general, but also the EUSDR in the narrower sense and the Actions of the EUSDR Action Plan in detail are already taken into account in many funding programmes, so that the basis is laid for funding concrete proposals and initiatives of the Priority Areas. Funding programmes and institutions, on the other hand, were able to gain insights into the working methods and thematic activities of the EUSDR Priority Areas and thus get to know new potential beneficiaries – embedding works!



- EUSDR Embedding (process, tools etc.): https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 3 Tourism and culture: https://cultureandtourism.danube-region.eu/
- EUSDR Priority Area (PA) 9 People and skills: http://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/
- New European Bauhaus (NEB) JRC website: <a href="https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en_buthaus.europa.e
- Event NEB in Regions and Cities, 21 and 22 June 2023, in Brussels: https://prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/
- NEB Friends: https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-friends en
 4 https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-friends en
- NEB Partners: https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/official-partners_en
- URBACT events: https://urbact.eu/events
- URBACT Online Courses: https://moodle.urbact.eu/
- Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme: https://ro-ua.net/en/home-2021-2027
- TESIM projects & stories: https://tesim-enicbc.eu/stories/

- Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Tatiana COELHO DE OLIVEIRA, New European Bauhaus, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mihaela FLOREA, URBACT IV
- Irina COZMA, EUSDR Priority Area 3 Tourism and culture
- Ludmila PAVLOV, EUSDR Priority Area 9 People and skills



DSP Office Vienna

City of Vienna / EU-Funding Agency Tel: +43 (0) 1 89 08 088 2603

Kirchberggasse 33/9

1070 Vienna

Austria

DSP Office Bucharest

Ministry of Development, Public Works and

Administration

Tel: +4 (0) 372 111 356

14 Libertatii Blv. sector 5

050706 Bucharest

Romania

office@eusdr-dsp.eu www.danube-region.eu

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https://www.instagram.com/danube_strategy

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