



Sharing Expertise

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region

ResPotNet Annual Forum 2010

18 November 2010 | Vienna



INTERACT is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) | European Territorial Cooperation



Why?

What?

How?

Timetable



Why?

- European Council invited the Commission to develop a strategy for the area around the Danube on 19 June 2009 to be presented before the end of 2010
- 2010: definition of the main pillars, types of actions envisaged, identification of projects and actions and coordination of existing initiatives
- 5 preparatory conferences and public consultation process from February to June 2010 - wide consultation process at the root



3 main conditions - *3 NOs*

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





Why?

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



What?

Some of the key issues identified:

- **Mobility**: movement of people and goods, corridors across Europe
- **Energy**: secure sources, diversification, especially renewables, 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?

- **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



Integrated 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



Strategy is described in two documents:

- 1) Communication from the European Commission to the other EU Institutions
- 2) an accompanying Action Plan

... structured into 4 pillars, and 11 priorities



A. Connecting the Danube Region

Key problems/potential identified:

- Navigability (waterway, 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 renewables potential
- Tourism potential - many common features, need for joint promotion and product development (brand)
- Identity - recognised, needs clearer formulation, work on reconciliation and tolerance



B. Protecting the environment in the Danube Region

Key problems/potential 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



C. Building Prosperity in the Danube Region

Key problems/potential 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)



D. Strengthening the Danube Region

Key problems/potential 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



Common features of R&D and Innovation

- Research, technology and innovation investments and the quality of research infrastructure are heavily polarised in the Danube Region
- Diffusion mechanisms, targeted support for research infrastructure and more organised networks of research institutions should therefore be promoted in the macro region
- multilateral cooperation structures between universities and research institutes are missing
- cooperation intensity of university institutes, companies and the public sector needs to be enhanced and research infrastructure needs to be modernised



Proposed actions (Action Plan July 2010):

- To coordinate better national, regional and EU funds to stimulate excellence in research and development in focused research areas specific for the Danube Region
- To strengthen the capacities of research infrastructure and research policies at national and regional levels
- To develop a Danube Region research and science area with unique selling points in order to increase the attractiveness of the Danube Region as a research and science spot
- To increase market relevant innovation through establishing "living labs" in the Danube Region



Examples of projects (Action Plan July 2010):

- *“To establish a Danube research fund promoting excellence in research in the Danube Region”*
- *“To strengthen university cooperation through a Danube Region Education, Research and Innovation Platform”*
- *“To promote innovation and business' success in new markets”*



How? Implementing : who does what ?

Governance : 3 levels

1. National Contact Points

- Coordinate national administrations
- Provide advice and especially information

2. Priority Area Coordinators

- Volunteers from national or regional level
- Encourage and coordinate project leaders & partners
- Report to Commission on progress and difficulties

3. Project leaders

- Leading role
- Volunteers to find others (with help of NCPs)
- Seeks out funding opportunities
- Reports on progress, difficulties and blockages



Who pays ?

- Existing Structural and Cohesion Funds, IPA for Western Balkans
- ETC [cross-border, transnational]
- IFI
- Donors
- Other relevant instruments, e.g. 7th FP for RTD, LIFE+
- Post 2013 - ?



Timetable

- September to December - finalisation and internal consultations (Commission services + partner countries)
- 8 December - adoption + publicity
- First half of 2011 endorsement by Hungarian Presidency



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INTERREG Agenda

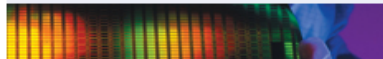
◀ November 2010 ▶

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	01	02	03	04	05

Wednesday 10 November Overview

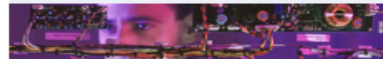
Financial management in Eur...
 10.11.2010 | La Valetta
 The seminar is targeted at new finance staff wi...

More About



- Programme Management
- Project Management
- Financial Management
- Knowledge Management and Capitalisation
- Evaluation
- IPA CBC
- EGTC
- DG Regio Mailings
- Regulatory Changes and Simplification

News



- South Baltic Cross-border Cooper...
South Baltic Cross-border Cooper...
- Celebrating 20 Years of Cooperat...
The Belgian Presidency of the Co...

Macro-Regions



Macro-Regional Strategies in the EU
 In this section you will find useful information on European Macro-Regional Strategies and related INTERACT support

Events



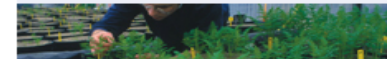
- Public Procurement in ETC Progra...**
Brussel, Belgium; venu...
An intensive one day workshop on...
- Inform Network Event**
Funchal, Madeira
The Inform Network will hold its...

ENPI CBC



- 3rd INTERACT ENPI Annual Confere...**
More than 30 countries will meet...
- Joint Technical Secretariat Bran...**
Poland-Belarus-Ukraine ENPI CBC ...

Territorial Cooperation



European Territorial Cooperation...
 "More growth and jobs for all regions and cities of the European Union." This is the message which is at the heart of the programming period 2007-2013 for Cohesion Policy and its instruments. Europ...

KEEP



Knowledge and Expertise in Europ...
 INTERACT is developing an exciting new tool which will provide more comprehensive information on European Territorial Cooperation than ever before.



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