

# State of play of EUSDR and Danube Transnational Programme

5th Steering Group Meeting PA 1a  
17/18 April 2013, Linz, Austria  
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# Overview

## 1. State of play: Implementation of the Danube Strategy

- First Annual implementation report published last week
- Alignment of funding: Meetings in Bucharest and Stuttgart
- What next?

## 2. Danube Transnational 2014-2020 programme



## Commissioner Hahn at Press Conference, 9/4/13:

*We have made a very good start! The Danube Strategy is already showing that by working together, we can have a far greater impact than if we try to tackle problems in isolation.*

*Now we need to step up a gear!*

*I would like to see the priorities of the Danube Strategy in our **next generation of Regional funds** programming and firmly embedded in the national, regional and local priorities in every one of the countries involved. The Strategy should be informing every relevant policy area with politically stable, adequately financed structure to support it.*

# Achievements

- Danube Strategy started as ambitious idea and is taking concrete forms across 14 countries
- Promotion of concrete transnational projects & new impulse to action in the Region
- Development of a wide-ranging cooperation platform addressing the joint identified challenges
- Generation of clear political commitment
- Support of coordination of different national and EU policies and funds → aims at more coherence and better results

## Recommendations

- To strengthen internal implementation structures
- To ensure sustainable leadership and strategic planning for the Strategy → continuity & sustainability
- To monitor continuously the implementation of all PAs with a view to concentrating on specific challenges/focus
- **Report calls on EU Member States to incorporate EUSDR into the new generation of programmes 2014-2020**

## How to pay for all of this?

- **Financing the Strategy is a key issue!!**
- No new funding: most efficient use of ESI Funds 2014-2020 as EU's main investment tool
- MFF is still in negotiation → EC highly recommends that MS should take into account EUSDR in next generation of programmes
- Happening NOW:16/17 April 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting
- Bucharest Meeting is on today: discussions with Partnership Agreement responsables & EUSDR NCPs

## What does that mean in practice?

- **Devoting a significant part of the programmes to the aims of the Danube Strategy**
- **Tackling missing transport links which are obstacles to growth and prosperity for business**
- Promoting research and innovation between neighbouring countries
- Supporting small business and encouraging entrepreneurialism to create jobs

## What next?

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 16/17 April | Bucharest Meeting  |
| 29/30 April | Meeting of PACs in Sofia, Bulgaria                                   |
| 21 May      | Meeting in between PACs and Danube Task Force in Ljubljana, Slovenia |
| 21 June     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Stuttgart, Germany                        |
| 28/29 Oct.  | Annual Forum in Bucharest, Romania                                   |

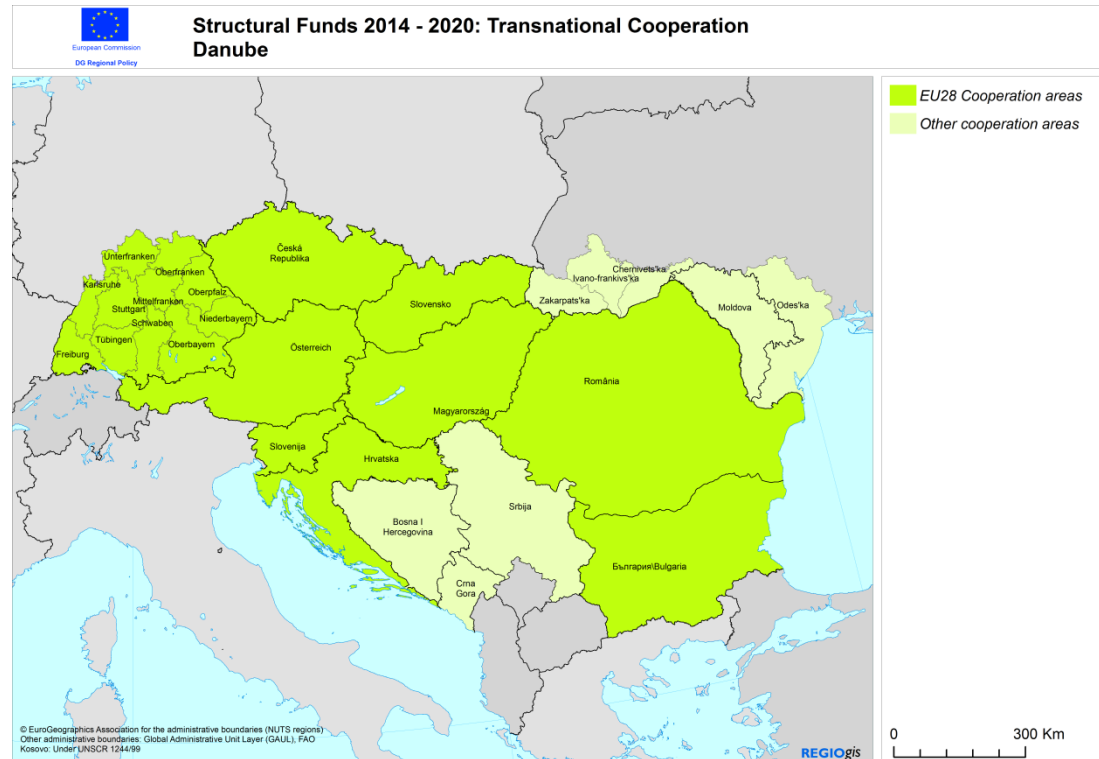


## 2. Danube Transnational 2014- 2020 Programme



# Programme Area

Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (Bavaria and Baden Wuerttemberg), Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine (Zakarpats'ka, Ivano-frankivs'ka, Chernivets'ka)



# Programme content

Thematic concentration (Article 5 of ETC Reg) –5 (instead of 4) priorities OR a concentration of 80% of the programme resources on 4 thematic priorities ?

Content of the programme (Article 7(2) of ETC Reg) – reference to “strategically important projects” identified by the strategies

Development and implementation of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies (within the thematic objective of enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration) - How to use this?

# State of play

2 meetings of the Programming Task Force have taken place:

- Parallel implementation of 3 procedures:
  1. Preparation of Operational Programme
  2. Setting up of managing structures: 2 different options, decision should be taken by June 2013
  3. Institutional development: preparation of an EGTC
- TF accepted Budapest as location for the proposed integrated management structure
- Hungary has mandate to steer programming process

# Programme management

Is EGTC an option?

Advantages:

- Excellent tool for the integrated management of the Programme
- Direct involvement of more/all partner countries
- Pilot cooperation project for the Danube Strategy



Less attractive:

- Procedures
- Time required
- Political implications

## Next steps

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 18 April 2013 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Task Force in Belgrade<br>Discussion on thematic objectives |
| 21 May 2013   | Joint PAC/TF meeting in Ljubljana  |
| January 2014  | Submission of Operational Programme to EC for approval                                 |
| End 2014      | Publication of first call possible   |



# ANY QUESTIONS???



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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