



# **EUSDR - General State of play**

**6th Steering Group Meeting PA 1a  
Budapest, 21 November 2013**

***Presentation by Anja Krabatsch, DG REGIO***



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## When? Calendar

**2009**

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

**2011**

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

**2014**

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian  
Region should be presented

**Future?**

Other regions: Alpine, Atlantic

# 1

## EUSDR Timetable

**June 2009**

European Council invites the EC to develop strategy around the Danube, to be presented by the end of 2010

**2010**

Wide consultation process

**Dec. 2010**

EC presents AP and Communication

**Feb. 2011**

Designation of PACs

**April 2011**

Adoption by the General Affairs Council

**June 2011**

Endorsement by the Heads of State at the European Council – start of the implementation phase

**Nov. 2012**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy

**April 2013**

First Progress Report on the Danube Strategy

**1 July 2013**

Report on the added value of macro-regional strategies

**22 Oct 2013**

Council Conclusions adopted by the General Affairs  
Council

**28/29 Oct  
2013**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy

## State of play (1/2)

- **The first Progress Report on the Danube Strategy (April 2013)**, highlights a number of new projects and how the Strategy is giving momentum to existing initiatives.
- The report suggest the Danube governments to **'move a gear up'** and calls on to **follow up** on the political commitments by making the Strategy a priority across all relevant policy areas.
- It urges the 9 MS involved to incorporate the Strategy into their plans for the next generation of programmes under Regional policy for 2014-2020.

## State of play (2/2)

- It is important to ensure funding for implementation of EUSDR projects in the next funding period 2014-2020
- Therefore we need to embed Danube Strategy in Partnership Agreements and ESIF Operational Programmes of Danubian Countries
- Future Danube Transnational Programme: under preparation, Programming Committee under Hungarian lead, JTS in Budapest



# 2nd Annual Forum 2013

## 28/29 Oct, Bucharest

This year's Forum was dedicated to 'Danube Region: stronger together, stronger in the world'

Reflections on how the Strategy is helping to tackle joint challenges (**'Stronger together'**) and how this is helping to strive competitiveness (**'stronger in the world'**)

Side events: meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Regional Development Affairs of the Danube countries to ensure political backing



**Johannes Hahn**  
Member of the European Commission in  
charge of Regional Policy

STRONGER  
TOGETHER,  
STRONGER  
IN THE WORLD





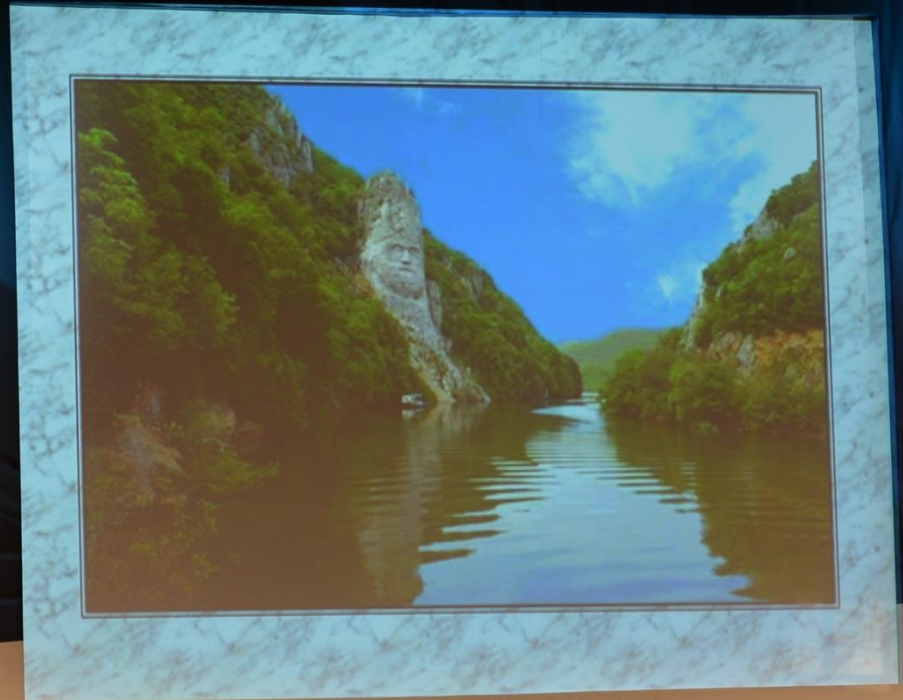


European  
Commission



# 2ND ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA 28-29 OCTOBER 2013



# Report on added value: WHY?

## General Affairs Council Conclusions, 13 April 2011:

*‘clarify the concept of macro-regional strategies, to evaluate their value added and submit the outcomes to the Council and the European Parliament by June 2013’.*

- The **report on added value of macro-regional strategies** (June 2013) shows that there is a clear added value in implementing macro-regional strategies, for example:
  - ✓ Better coherence of EU policies, improved policy development.
  - ✓ Improving existing cooperation mechanisms and strengthened cooperation between participating countries and with neighbouring non-EU countries.

- Help to develop new transnational projects and give momentum to existing ones.

**Flagship projects alone number over 100 in the Baltic Sea region, while over 400 projects worth € 49 bn overall are being considered by the EUSDR, of which 150 are already in implementation.**

- Give an impetus to use money in more efficient way and pool resources.



# Council Conclusions Oct 2013

- The Council Conclusions following this report were adopted by the General Affairs Council on 22 October 2013, one week before the Annual Forum.
- Content is about the way ahead and the future of macroregional strategies, focus on governance aspects



# Lessons learnt



## The implementation of the EUSBSR and the EUSDR shows that:



Political commitment is of key importance and varies from country, institutions and level.



All policies and programmes (European, national, regional or local) as well as private sources etc., should be mobilised.



Macro-regional strategies still are a challenge to the administrations concerned.



**How to realise all the potential?**

Recognition of  
macro-regional  
strategies as  
horizontal  
responsibility of  
governments  
concerned

Strengthening of  
Leadership and  
ownership of  
MS/regions  
concerned

EC will continue to  
play a key role;  
however, its support  
should be better  
balanced by  
effective leadership  
within MS/regions

Monitoring and  
evaluation of the  
approach should be  
based on realistic  
indicators and targets as  
well as an overview of  
priority area activities,  
etc.

Inclusion of the  
approach in the new  
generation of  
Regulations, especially  
in Partnership  
Agreements and  
Operational  
Programmes;

# Future perspective: Danube

- 3rd Annual Forum will take place in Vienna on 26/27 June 2014
- discussions will focus on improving the governance of the macroregional strategies and report by the end of next year
- Reflection process on commitment
- *"Commitment means active participation, following up the agreed targets and translating common strategic objectives into action. It means the active involvement of all members of the strategy, and of all parts of their governments."*
- Above all it means travelling as drivers not as passengers. The Commission can help you maintain the vehicle – but you have to be at the front of the bus steering."
- (Commissioner Hahn in his opening speech at the 2nd Annual Forum 28 Oct 13, Bucharest)

# Future perspectives: Danube

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*(Commissioner Hahn in his opening speech at the  
2nd Annual Forum, 28 Oct 13, Bucharest)*

# Thank you for your attention !



**For more information visit:**

[www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)

[www.ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/danube/index\\_en.cfm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm)