



**EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Towards macro-regional S3

EUSDR PA7 Activities

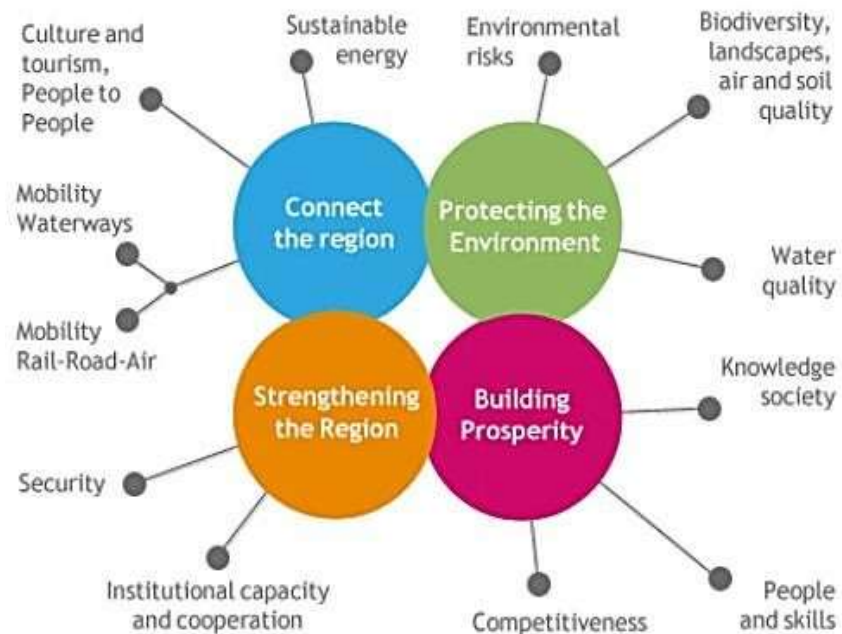
**Prof. Dr Viktor Nedović, PA7 co-PAC; Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
Dijana Štrbac, Institute „Mihajlo Pupin“, PAC Support**

**„Macro-Regional Innovation Week - At the crossroads of three European Macro-Regions:
Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine Regions“
Trieste, Italy, September 27, 2016.**

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- EUSDR aims to jointly address common challenges and utilize opportunities:
- ✓ 2nd oldest macro-regional strategy (after the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region), endorsed by the European Council in June 2011
- ✓ 14 countries, 5 of which non-EU

- EUSDR focuses on the region's challenges by means of 4 pillars and 11 priority areas (PA).



PA7 targets

1. To increase the effectiveness of investment in R&I through establishment of a funding coordination network aiming to initiate a minimum of two dedicated EUSDR activities each year (e.g. joint calls, joint strategic project proposals within a multilateral network);
2. To increase the number of EPO and PCT patent applications filed from the Danube Region by 20% by 2020.
3. To enhance regional research and innovation cooperation to reach 20% of academic mobility within the Danube Region by 2020.
4. To increase the annual output of co-publications in the region by 15 % by 2020.
5. **To develop RIS3 in all Danube countries (or their regions) by 2020.**

WG 1 Higher education and mobility (SRB)

- cooperation among universities and research institutions (Danube Rectors' Conference, Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference, the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS) and other)
- mobility in the Danube Region
- joint master and doctoral programmes

WG 2 Information and Communication Technologies (SL)

- provision and uptake of Information and Communication Technologies in the Danube Region

WG 3 DRRIF and Coordination of National Funds within the DR (AT)

- monitoring progress of DRIF
- coordination of funding sources

WG 4 Communication with JRC with special emphasize on RIS3 (SK)

- smart Specialisation Platform
- scientific support to EUSDR (4 nexuses: water, land & soil, air, bioenergy)

WG 5 Research and Innovation (RO)

- strengthen the capacities of research infrastructure

S3 development in the REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

- National context – where we are?
- Current activities
- Long term partnership with JRC

The area covered by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region stretches from the Black Forest (Germany) to the Black Sea (Romania-Ukraine-Moldova) and is home to 115 million inhabitants.

Member States →

S3-Yes

1. Germany
2. Austria
3. Hungary
4. Czech Republic
5. Slovak Republic
6. Slovenia
7. Bulgaria
8. Romania
9. Croatia

Associated Countries →

S3-No

10. Serbia
11. Bosnia and Herzegovina
12. Montenegro
13. Moldova
14. Ukraine

How does DR cooperation affect S3 strategies

- S3 is a new building block in Danube cooperation. As a horizontal theme it allows for synergies and better streamlining of funding.
- Training Workshop on Smart Specialisation for South East European countries, April 11-12 2013, Belgrade (in organisation of WBC-INCO.NET project)
 - R&I priorities in the DR identified by JRC IPTS in 2015, emerged from the analysis of priorities per regions (ICT – priority in 8 countries; 2) Health – priority in 8 countries; 3) Energy – priority in 6 countries; 4) Sustainable Innovation incl. Water issues); organisation of JRC Annual event in Ulm in October 2015 on the basis of these priorities.
- Events organised by Danube-INCO.NET project:
 - Danube S3 Workshop: “Gathering opportunities around RIS3 priorities”, Vienna, July 7, 2015.
 - S3 Workshop “S3 DESIGN LEARNING WORKSHOP”, Chisinau, Moldova on February 18-19, 2016.

Benefits from transnational cooperation in S3



- Knowledge transfer through cooperation in S3.
- Transnational learning has impact on competitiveness of lagging regions.
- Lessons learned from RIS3 workshops in the Danube Region:
 - It is important to have a shared vision for the future - dialogue about the future can support democratic decisions and positive developments.
 - RIS3 is especially relevant for small countries and it is in strong relation with economic development policy.
 - Not to choose too many and too broad priorities.
 - Crucial factors: stability of governance and capacity building, dedicating sufficient human resources.
 - RIS3 is a living document - do not be afraid to make mistakes and take risks.
 - RIS3 has to be grounded with funding (it might be small at the beginning, small investments can attract larger consortia).
 - Importance of building partnerships in early stage and create trust among stakeholders.

Potentials for transnational collaboration

- Joint teams of experts, exchange of experience
- Joint development/use of R&I infrastructures
- Priorities focused on cooperation
- Joint programming
- Innovation support services
- R&I as driver for economic cooperation;
- Cluster policy
- Access to finance
- (In)formal Peer review



Thank you for your attention!