The ways forward to support the Danube wide innovation activities
Danube Region is worth getting attention...

- **Area covering 1/5 of EU territory** - 9 Member states, 5 Non EU-MS (Accession and Neighborhood countries) – 69 NUTS 2 regions - 114 million inhabitants

- **A region of contradictions with disproportionate level of economic development** with two German Länder representing half of the entire DR GDP and EU members shares in the DR GDP representing almost 90%

- **Existent economic and innovation potential** but some pitfalls to overcome:
  - countries not reaching adequate levels in R&D spending (average 1.4% GDP – EU 27 is 2.7% GDP)
  - Underdeveloped entrepreneurial culture, brain drain, low salaries, inadequate infrastructures, etc.
What is going on in policy?

- **European Research Area** – status of “association” to Horizon 2020, involvement in ERA advisory bodies, programme committees, etc., available Policy Support Facility, specific “widening” activities

- **Enlargement** process – negotiating *EU acquis* ‘chapter 25’, using IPA II funds, regional cooperation among “Western Balkan countries”, e.g. development of “South East Europe 2020” strategy under coordination of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) (which includes focus on R&I) and European Neighbourhood Policy

- **Macro-regional strategies**, e.g. EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Adriatic-Ionian, etc. including both MS and non-MS; transnational cooperation (Interreg), Policy Learning Platforms etc.
Advancing International Cooperation in Research and Innovation

- **Strategic high level FP7 Coordination and Support** action covering the whole DR through 19 partners
- **Support the EUSDR** and its priority areas PA7 Knowledge Society and Pa8 Competitiveness
- Project duration: January 2014 – June 2017 (2 mio €)
Main results contributing to R&I support in the Danube Region

Better analytical evidence about the R&I sector
- Co-publication and co-patenting analysis among countries in the Danube Region
- Study on cooperation barriers in the Danube Region
- Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions and good practices including recommendations for synergies
- Analysis of research and innovation projects in the region and transferability of results
- Baseline study and concept for policy mix peer review and Policy Mix Peer Review Reports

Better cooperation as to the societal challenges of Energy and Bioeconomy
- Report on available funds for promoting energy efficiency in the Danube Region
- Improve networking and coordination of stakeholders
- Two pilot actions funded as capable to generate tangible results in support to the implementation of the EUSDR
  - Towards a Danube bioeconomy RTI strategy for appropriate regional added value chains (PA-bioeconomy RTI strategy)
  - Building a Bioeconomy Research and Advocacy Network in the DR (DANUBIONET)
Main results contributing to R&I support

Improved innovation potential of Danube Societies and stakeholders

- Innovation policy targeted through support of smart specialisation strategies and peer review. The Matchmaking and Information Exchange Report (IPTS/JRC) informs on tools advancing collaboration in RIS3 process and to explore possible R&I cooperation and matchmaking opportunities in DR. Based on data for 13 countries /4 regions the analysis reveals 4 fields of cooperation (KETs, ICT, sustainable innovation and health). Upcoming: Report "The S3 role in the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policies; workshop “Science for S3: Combining old and new approaches for monitoring and evaluating innovation policies” (Vienna, 24-25 November)

- Danube-INCO.NET addresses innovation & technology transfer (I&TT) and outlined a scheme for creating and implementing technology transfer centres in the Danube region - the so-called Danube Transfer Centres (DTCs). A methodology of how to develop a DTC network in the entire area of the EUSDR were delivered

Better coordinated national regional and multinational funding


- Danube-INCO.NET contributed to the discussions on the DR Research and Innovation Fund Creation and based on Feasibility Study a Danube Funding Coordination Network was launched with PA7 end of May 2016 to be a sustainable structure for joint funding actions based on existing programmes and instruments

- WTZ Danube Region Call launched (open to Austria, Czech R., Serbia and Slovakia) till 30/09

- Upcoming Joint Workshop with Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe “Enhancing co-creation in JPI Urban Europe through widening Member
www.danube-inco.net
Informing – Networking - Supporting

• A recognized knowledge exchange hub on R&I in the Danube Region
• Bi-weekly Newsletter with 13.500 subscribers, social media accounts, News Alerts on Energy and Bioeconomy
Danube-INCO.NET Calls Database

What programmes are available?

- National and bilateral programmes
- Horizon 2020
- COST
- EUREKA
- EU structural funds (primarily ERDF followed by ESF)
- Interreg (transnational and cross-border)
- Instrument for Pre-accession II
- European Neighbourhood Instrument
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation schemes
- Grants through Central European Initiative and other multinational cooperation fora (Visegrad 4, etc.)
- Erasmus+, CEEPUS, etc.
- Etc.
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Thank you for your attention!