



EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is the second EU macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011.

The Strategy brings together **14 countries** along the Danube river, and covers an area which is home to **112 million people**, or one-fifth of the EU's population.

9 EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Hungary, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Romania.

5 non-EU countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine (Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy and Zakarpatya).

The Strategy focuses on four pillars, and within each pillar, concrete cooperation actions specify priority areas:

CONNECTING THE REGION:

- Improve mobility and transport connections
- Encourage more sustainable energy
- Promote culture and tourism

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Restore and maintain water quality
- Manage environmental risks
- Preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the air and soil quality

BUILDING PROSPERITY:

- Develop the Knowledge Society
- Support the competitiveness of enterprises
- Invest in people and skills

STRENGTHENING THE REGION:

- Step up institutional capacity and cooperation
- Work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime



THE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

Six years of implementation of the EUSDR has shown that the Strategy is bearing fruit. Thanks to the Strategy, several new important macro-regional projects have either started or been further developed (e.g. in the fields of navigability and climate change). By bringing together different stakeholders from different levels, the EUSDR has contributed to an improved culture of cooperation and helped to develop a multi-cultural dialogue. It has also helped to strengthen coordination and develop synergies between policies and institutions at the national level, and supported intensified thematic cooperation with the non-EU countries, and between existing international organisations in the region.

SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Coordinated risk management through projects like **SEERISK** is significantly reducing the risk of damage by floods;
- Bottlenecks in the Danube's navigability are being removed and security of its navigation improved through projects such as **FAIRWAY** and **DARIF – Danube River Forum**;
- Cultural dialogue and the active participation of young people in civil society in the Danube region are being encouraged by projects like **Empowering Young People – Connecting Europe**.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Danube (2860 km) is the world's most international river, crossing through 10 countries and extending into 19 countries, and the biggest share of the Danube river's basin belongs to Romania (approx. 29%).
- The Danube Delta is the largest European natural wetland and reed bed, and also home to the largest colony of pelicans outside Africa (2500 breeding pairs of pelicans arrive every spring in the Danube Delta).¹
- The Danube region includes the most successful but also some of the poorest regions in the EU, the wealthiest region's GDP per capita in 2015 being around six times higher than that of the poorest. The gap is even bigger if compared with non-EU countries.²

1) Source: WWF Global, UNESCO

2) Source: Eurostat:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/themes-in-the-spotlight/regional-gdp>

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.danube-region.eu/>

Danube Region Strategy: Success Stories:

<http://europa.eu/!JM9Nm>



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