JRC Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy

Macro-regional development and SDI: EU Danube strategy

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EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR) | www.danube-region.eu
The Danube Region

The area covered by stretches from the Black Forest to the Black Sea and is home to 115 million inhabitants.
Why a macro-regional strategy?

A number of issues in the Danube Region require working together, across borders and national interests

Political commitment needs to be translated into action

Actions need to be coordinated and carried out together

In 2009, the European Council formally asked the European Commission to prepare an EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). “... The Danube needs a specific strategy comparable to the strategy we are developing for the Baltic Sea Region. A one-size-fits all approach doesn't work in an EU of 27 Member States and 271 regions. We need a targeted policy for the Danube that meets its ecological, transport and socio-economic needs,” said Commissioner Hübner on the open day in October 2008.
What is the Strategy about?

Some of the key issues identified (1):

**Mobility:** movement of people and goods, corridors across Europe

**Energy:** secure sources, diversification, especially renewable, reduction in emissions, efficiency

**Water:** quality (pollution, ecosystems) and quantity (navigation, risk prevention and management)

**Biodiversity:** precious natural heritage as a source of well-being and prosperity
What is the Strategy about?

Some of the key issues identified (2):

**Socio-economic development:** jobs, welfare, framework for creativity and investments, IT potential

**Education and capacity:** schools and universities, training, modern administration, inclusion of all citizens

**Culture and identity:** rich cultural heritage, tourism potential

**Safety:** personal safety and protection, fight against organised crime, corruption
How will the Strategy be implemented?
“The 3 NO and the 3 YES”

3 main conditions - 3 NO
No new legislation
No new institution
No new money

... and 3 YES (general affairs Council 13.04.2011)
Better alignment of funding
More efficient coordination of instruments
New ideas
The strategy addresses these various topics through 4 pillars, 11 priority areas, and of course actions and projects.

**THE FOUR PILLARS**

- **Connecting the Region**
  - Mobility and multimodality
  - Sustainable energy
  - Culture and tourism, People to People

- **Protecting the Environment**
  - Water quality
  - Environmental risks
  - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality

- **Building Prosperity**
  - Knowledge society
  - Competitiveness
  - People and skills

- **Strengthening the Region**
  - Institutional capacity and cooperation
  - Security

**11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator**

**Actions**

**Projects**
Pillar A. Connecting the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

Navigability (waterways, ports, ships, crews)
Road and railways (missing links, quality)
Multimodality - lack of coherence but great potential
Energy security - not enough diversification, fragmented, missing links
Energy efficiency - improve performance, unused renewable potential
Tourism potential - many common features, need for joint promotion and product development (brand)
Identity - recognised, needs clearer formulation, work on reconciliation and tolerance
Pillar B. Protecting the environment in the Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

**Water quality**: 3 main sources of pollution: nutrients, organic, hazardous substances; too many interruptions

Fantastic **biodiversity** to be preserved but growing pressure to be addressed (hydromorphological alterations, economic development, transport, energy, etc. possibly resulting in loss of habitats)

**High risks** - mainly floods, but also potential accidents
Pillar C. Building Prosperity in the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

Different innovation systems, fragmented R&D, limited mobility of researchers, uneven ICT coverage, but many universities to build upon
Different competitiveness frameworks for enterprises, gaps in Single Market. Much potential in closer links, trading traditions
Uneven performance in education and training (gaps in meeting labour market needs, disparities), reduced highly skilled employment
On-going discrimination and poverty (social exclusion)
Pillar D. Strengthening the Danube Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

Uneven capacity across the region, uneven public administration performance, civil society not recognised/involved everywhere in the same way - but great motivation from existing actors
Areas prone to corruption and organised crime (smuggling, laundering, etc.)
Illegal migration and human trafficking
Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy
High-level event co-organised by the European Commission and the Government of the Slovak Republic
16 May 2013, Bratislava, Slovakia

Pilot Project
Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure
The Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI) Project

- Access to comparable and harmonised data across the Region
- Aligned to Priority areas of Danube strategy
- Shared governance
- Reflecting actual needs of Danube region users
- Maximise investments made by MS in INSPIRE
Main challenges 1/3

• The Danube Region is
  • connected by the river
  • divided by the languages
  • carrying cultures, customs, identities etc.

• Language Technologies can
  • bridge the language boundaries in the Region
  • provide better EU inclusion for regional languages
  • contribute to the citizens’ security
  • enable economy based/targeted on/to multilinguality

What are Language Technologies

- Resources (digital dictionaries and corpora)
- Tools (programs that process language resources)
- Products (products of processing language resources or tools to process them)
Main challenges 2/2

- **Heterogeneity** (no EU legislation)
  - Member States
  - Accession Countries
  - Neighbourhood Countries

- Agree on **data sharing** (incl. licensing) conditions in a voluntary approach

- **Establish governance** (Official PoC for each Danube Country) – no legal framework

- Identify relevant stakeholders and build a connected community
Main challenges 3/3

- **Refine requirements** (identification of priorities)
- **Adjust the vision/ambition** to the right balance between user needs, contributions and feasibility
- Turn proposed contributions into concrete projects

**THE FOUR PILLARS**

11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

**Actions**

**Projects**
Do you see similarities about sub-national SDI collaboration?

Thank for your attention