

Danube river - new challenges for Romania

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Main characteristics in Romania

- out of the 10 Danube riparian countries, Romania has the largest surface – 30%, meaning 1076 km length
- Danube Delta is the second largest wetland in Europe.
- The greater part of the Danube Delta lies in Romania (Tulcea county), while its northern part, on the left bank of the Chilia arm, is situated in Ukraine (Odessa Oblast). The approximate surface is 4152 km², of which 3446 km² are in Romania. If the lagoons of **Razim-Sinoe** (1015 km² of which 865 km² water surface; situated in the south, but attached to the Danube Delta from geological and ecological perspectives, as well as being the combined territory of the World Heritage Site) are to be added, the considered area of the Danube Delta grows to 5165 km².



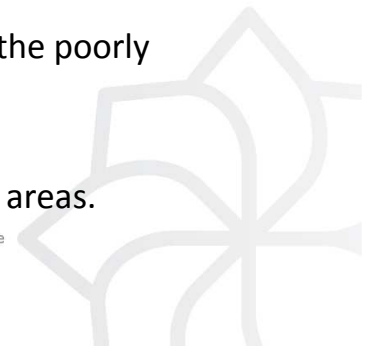
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Brief analysis of the situation in the main sectors

TRANSPORT:

- Large ships navigation on the Danube river is limited due to depth and width of the channels.
- Lack of investments in management and services along the river reduce the potential of the water ways, losing traffic in favor of other transport means.
- Lack of bridges and ferries (there is only a main road and a main railway) for the transit of auto vehicles creates a natural barrier for accessibility and mobility.
- Lack of security and high risk of accident determined by the poorly developed road infrastructure system.
- Lack of links with the EU highways.
- ICT infrastructure is poorly developed, especially in rural areas.

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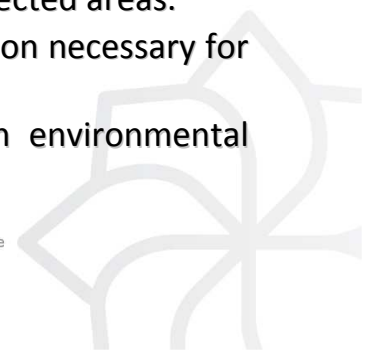


Brief analysis of the situation in the main sectors

ENVIRONMENT

- Frequent floods caused by the river.
- Fragile and vulnerable environment due to undeveloped infrastructure (water, sewage, treatment plants, waste management, ICT).
- River pollution due to agricultural and industrial exploitation causes serious damages to biodiversity.
- Limited number of plans for the management of protected areas.
- Lack of cross-sectorial communication and coordination necessary for the management of natural assets and environment.
- Lack of common, integrated projects developed in environmental field.

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Brief analysis of the situation in the main sectors

Economic Development:

- Lack of economic development of the region, characterised by low level of GDP, incomes, investment and transport infrastructure.
- Small number of SMEs, lack of businesses specialised in export, low level of modern technologies and ICT exploitation.
- Low development of local business infrastructure.
- Competitive and technological discrepancies comparing to national economies and EU.
- Uncompetitive agriculture and industry on EU market due to lack of productivity, lack of investments in modern technologies and farming machines.
- Slow reactions to national and international market and economic restructures.
- Limited experience in cooperation projects

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Brief analysis of the situation in the main sectors

Human Resources:

- High rate of migration of qualified work force, due to lack of vacancies.
- High rate of unemployment in rural areas, mainly women and poorly educated persons. Most of the job vacancies require a low level of education. Few job opportunities for university graduates.
- Low level of education facilities, with low connection between academic and business environment.
- Lack of development strategies in labor market sector (ex. Monitoring, institutional cooperation).
- Low level of cooperation in the social services and health sector.

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Brief analysis of the situation in the main sectors

TOURISM:

- Tourism and services infrastructure undeveloped.
- Absence of coherent programmes and politics for the development of tourism.
- Lack of integrated packages for tourism information and attractive facilities for tourists.

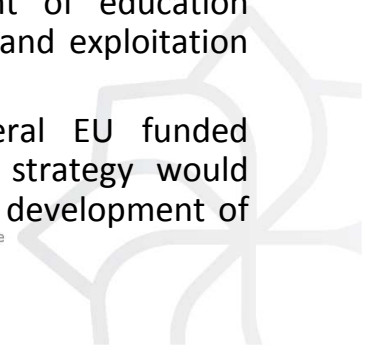
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Challenges

- Given the situation it is necessary to start perceiving the Danube River as a development corridor.
- Preparation of integrated projects, starting from cooperation projects that prepare large infrastructure investments to be financed through national programmes.
- Although the development strategies for economic and social development has begun, a specific attention should be given to correlation with EU and other national policies.
- Stimulate competitiveness through the development of education system, business infrastructure, tourism infrastructure and exploitation of modern technologies.
- Although, in Romania, Danube is eligible in several EU funded programmes, the existence of a single integrated strategy would definitely mobilize more authorities and stimulate the development of integrated cooperation projects.

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Thank you

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