



# Socio-Economic, Human and Institutional Development

*Eva Nussmueller, REGIO/E1*

*Mamaia, 10 June 2010*



## Outline

### EU Strategy for the Danube Region

#### Socioeconomic development

Innovation, competitiveness, Single Market, Tourism, etc.

#### Human development

Education, labour market, disadvantaged communities, etc.

#### Institutional capacity

Good governance, institution building, security, cities and regions, etc

#### Action Plan

Transport & Energy

Environment

#### Communication



Consultation Process

Member States

Directorates General

Regions, Cities

Experts

Stakeholders

Public



## Knowledge and Innovation

- Different regional innovation systems in the Danube Region
- Links between knowledge providers and applicants
- Potential: High density of universities, research institutes

➡ Diffusion mechanisms

➡ Targeted support for research infrastructure

➡ Networks of research institutions

➡ *Action: Coordinate efficiently national and regional funds to establish a **Danube Region Research Fund***

➡ *Action: Establish a **Danube Region Education, Research and Innovation Platform** to deepen cooperation between knowledge providers*



# Competitiveness and the Single Market

- Different levels of competitiveness and different framework conditions for enterprises
  - Implementation gaps in the Single Market
- ➔ Improve framework conditions for doing business better
- ➔ Identify implementation gaps in the Single Market
- ➔ *Action: Cooperate stronger in a **Danube Region Business Support Network** to strengthen the skills of SME for cooperation and trade.*
- ➔ *Action: Identify **areas of competence** in the Danube Region and foster cooperation and exchange of knowledge in the “triple helix”.*
- ➔ *Action: Raise the efficiency of **training and qualification schemes** in Danube countries*



# Tourism and Danube Culture

- Tourism: richness of touristic highlights in the Region
  - Tourism: interlinks with other sectors -> demands a holistic approach
  - Danube culture: diverse; but common interests
- 
- ➡ Use the critical mass of touristic highlights in the Region to create joint tourism products and promotional strategies
  - ➡ Link with mobility, environment, knowledge, human development activities
  - ➡ Joint cultural events to promote inclusiveness, openness, mutual respect
- 
- ➡ *Action: Cooperation of national and regional tourism agencies to develop a common Danube **tourism trademark**, a **quality label** for Danube tourism and joint tourism **projects***
  - ➡ *Action: Joint **communication and information platform** on scholarship programmes for cultural exchanges for different target groups*



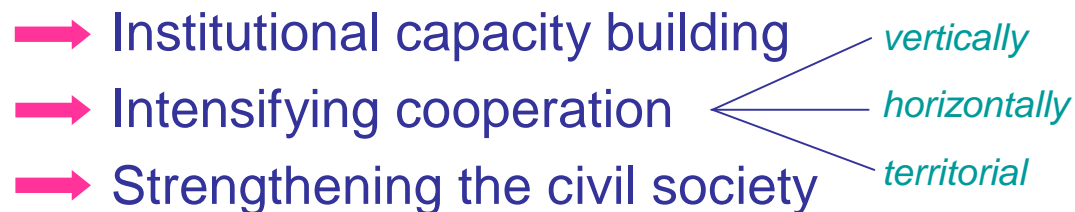
# To Make Full Use of the Region's Human Capital

- Declining population
  - Potential: young population, in relation to EU 27
  - Mobility: implementation gaps in the free movement of people
- 
- ➡ Reinforcing EU policy on mutual recognition of qualifications
  - ➡ Need to develop joint strategies on migration flows
  - ➡ Greater integration of countries in the Western Balkans
- 
- ➡ *Action: Develop joint Danube Region **labour market statistics***
  - ➡ *Action: Establish an **education and training reform initiative** for the Danube Region*



### To improve institutional capacity

- Varying degrees of decentralisation
- Differences in political bargaining power and institutional capacity
- Institutional fragmentation and relatively weak civil society



- Action: Joint platform to strengthen the **civil society** in the region;  
**Regular forum of exchange**; joint **tailored action plans**
- Action: Guidelines and best practices on **spatial planning**
- Action: **Cooperation between cities** on urban technologies and  
integration and migration policies



# Security

- Precondition for investments and long term development: rule of law, good governance, effective institutions, responsible use of political power, respect human rights
  - Countries within and outside the Schengen area
- 
- ➔ Cooperation of police and law enforcement institutions
  - ➔ Secure the independence of judiciary
  - ➔ Cooperation in the fight against organised crime and corruption
  - ➔ Cooperate to improve the situation for disadvantaged communities
- 
- ➔ *Action: **Information days, training** seminars for juridical authorities*
  - ➔ *Action: Danube Region **Public Administration School***





## Disadvantaged Communities

- Discrimination, social exclusion and spatial segregation
  - 80% of the Roma population in the Danube Region
  - Lack of resources and experience of local public administration to address the issues in a holistic way
- ➔ Need for coordination of policies within the countries or between communities with similar challenges
- ➔ Need to deploy an integrated approach
- ➔ *Action: Comprehensive **studies to collect comparable data***
- ➔ *Action: Strengthen and support **local communities** in addressing the environmental dangers for Roma settlements*



*Thank you for your inputs and  
your attention!*