Improve connectivity and communication systems

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Integrated approach

- Priority area have to be considered with other policy fields:

  environment D navigability D economic development D labour market D mobility D human resource development D soft security issues D institutional development D etc..

- 3 underlying principles: It is important to…

  - … live in a clean and preserved environment;

  - … have good living standards wherever they are;

  - … be in security.

- For implementation, it is important that there is a broad consultation of bodies in charge of other policy fields.

Transport connectivity – 1) ISSUES

- Mobility and accessibility in the Danube Region:
  In some parts of the Danube Region
  - Navigability
  - Ports
  - Boats (including the crews)
  - Roads and railways improvements
- The EU provides:
  - TEN-T and transport corridors
  - NAIADES
  - Structural Funds
- Problems:
  - Lack of cooperation => lack of coordination
  - Need for investments
  - Lack of integrated approach

Transport connectivity – 2) ACTIONS
Possible actions - not finalised yet

- Implement agreed TEN-T and transport corridors
- Set-up a joint platform to coordinate transport issues
- Agree on a comprehensive waterway masterplan
- Improve navigability: infrastructure, wrecks,…
- Develop strategic ports (modern, intermodal, etc.)
- Implement River Information Services
- Invest in jobs and qualifications for navigation
- Modernise railways and improve connections
- Make cities and villages more bicycle friendly

Energy connectivity – 1) ISSUES

- Energy in the Danube Region:
  In some parts of the Danube Region
  - Markets are fragmented
  - Some infrastructures are missing
  - Energy efficiency could be improved
  - There is an unused potential for renewable energies
- The EU provides:
  - TEN-E
  - European Recovery Plan
  - Structural Funds
- Problems:
  - Lack of cooperation => lack of coordination
  - Need for investments

Energy connectivity – 2) ACTIONS

Possible actions - not finalised yet

- Build interconnectors (Implement TEN-E and EEPR)
- Coordinate long-term energy policies and investments
- Build Southern Corridor (various options possible)
- Promote the Western Balkans Gas Ring
- Develop storage capacities – regional approach
- Harness Danube's hydropower potential
- Implement the Coordinated Auction Office
- Increase energy autonomy
- Share best practices in energy efficiency and renewables

Communication – 1) ISSUES

- Information Society in the Danube Region:

  In some parts of the Danube Region

  – Lack of access to computers

  – Lack of access to internet connections (especially broadband)

  – Lack of access to e-content

- The EU provides:

  – Digital Agenda

  – Structural Funds & FP7

- Problems:

  – Need for investments

  – Need fot joint projects

  – Need for exchanges of experiences

Communication – 2) ACTIONS

Possible actions - not finalised yet

- Improve broadband coverage (esp. in rural areas)
- Use civil engineering work to install broadband
- Facilitate access to computers
- Increase the use of Structural Funds
- Promote ICT in rural areas and SMEs
- Facilitate telemedecine
- Develop joint e-education content
- Test innovative ideas through the Living labs
- Increase the use of e-signatures

Discussion during the workshop

Do you agree with these actions?

Have we missed some?