



EU Strategy for the Danube Region

A new challenge and new opportunities

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Integrated approach

§ Priority areas 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:

- ü Right to live in a clean and preserved environment
- ü Right to have good living standards wherever they are
- ü Right to be in security

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



Danube Region Strategy – environment

Key problems identified:

- § **Poor water quality** (3 main sources of pollution: nutrients, organic, hazardous substances)
- § **Pressure on biodiversity** (hydromorphological alterations, economic development, transport, energy, etc. possibly resulting in loss of habitats)
- § **High risks** – mainly floods, but also potential accidents



Priority Area – Water quality

Key actions highlighted by contributors:

- § **Concrete implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan** (and its Joint Programme of Measures) – full support to ICPDR
- § Strong commitment to **data collection and analysis**
- § Reduce **phosphates** in detergents
- § **Best Practice** promotion among “polluters” (agri, construction ind, transport, etc.)
- § Further work on **sub-basins** (RBMP) – Tisza, Sava, Delta, etc
- § Promotion of **water abstraction measures - water use competition needs to be addressed (drinking water, agriculture, industry, etc)**
- § Creation of **buffer strips** and promotion of **alternative water treatment techniques**, especially in rural areas



Priority Area – Water quality

Illustrative projects submitted by contributors:

- § Third Joint Danube Survey (2013)
- § Danube GIS Database
- § Sava River Basin Management Plan (by 12/2011)
- § Tisza River Basin Management Plan (by 2011)
- § Review of agricultural practices in terms of fertilisers, manure management and irrigation



Priority Area: Biodiversity

Key actions highlighted by contributors:

- § Strengthen effective management of **protected areas**
- § Develop **green infrastructure** and **re-connect habitats** (e.g. wetlands)
- § Protection and restoration of **most valuable eco-systems** – water ecosystems but also forest and mountain ecosystems
- § Reduce **continuity interruption** on Danube river (e.g. fish passes)
- § **Endangered species** protection and restoration
- § **Soil protection** via ELSA
- § Raise awareness and **educate**



Priority Area: Biodiversity

Illustrative projects proposed:

- § Complete Lower Danube Corridor
- § Implement VASICA
- § Alpine-Carpathian Corridor
- § Network of protected areas and natural parks, via Danube Parks and Carpathian Parks
- § Feasibility Study for fish pass at Iron Gates Dams
- § Strengthen Danube-Drava-Mura Biosphere Reserve
- § Identify and Protect Old Growth Forests
- § Research and training Centre in the Danube Delta



Danube Region Strategy – risks

Key problems identified:

§ Natural risks: floods, droughts

§ Man-made risks: accidental pollution



Danube Region Strategy – risk

Key Actions proposed:

- § **Complete flood maps** in all basins (as per Directive)
- § **Spatial Planning and land use** to be considered in the framework of flood threats and climate change
- § Restoration of **floodplains and wetlands** as the most effective way to respond to flood risk
- § Further develop **early warning systems** and **joint response mechanisms** – for floods and accidental pollution
- § Update **mapping** of potential industrial accident risk spots and contaminated sites



Danube Region Strategy – risk

Illustrative projects proposed:

- § Danube Floodrisk Project (SEE – 2012) – entire Danube mapping
- § LABEL project (CE – 2012) – risk management strategy addressing conflicting interests in Elbe river basin (model)
- § Establish Flood Protection and Disaster Management Center (regions and cities)
- § CC-WaterS project (SEE – 2012) – drinking water
- § Develop a single Danube Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (ICPDR)
- § Water pollution contingency management plan for the Sava



Danube Region Strategy

Common over-riding features:

- § Only through international cooperation can we expect to make progress on many issues (water, air, pollution or floods know no borders)
- § Comprehensive political agreements should be achieved through the strategy and followed by concrete actions and projects implemented together
- § Funding is an important question – we need to look at the options



The next steps

- § **June 2010** - drafting
- § **July 2010** - bilateral negotiations with Danube countries
- § **September 2010** – final draft and internal Commission procedures
- § **December 2010** - adoption by the College of Commissioners
- § **2011** - Council endorsement under HU Presidency



Thank you for your kind attention

See http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm

This is for all of us to contribute to...





Discussion during the workshop

Do you agree with these actions?

Have we missed some?