The EU Strategy for the Danube Region
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1. State-of-play of the EUSDR
2. Added-value Report & and Council Conclusions
3. 2nd Annual Forum for the EUSDR
State-of-play
Calendar of the EUSDR

- **Nov. 2012**: 1st Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy
- **June 2013**: Report on the added value of macro-regional strategies
- **Oct 2013**: Council Conclusions adopted by the General Affairs Council
- **Oct 2013**: 2nd Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy
State of play (1/2)

- The first Progress Report on the Danube Strategy (April 2013), highlights a number of new projects and how the Strategy is giving momentum to existing initiatives.

- The report suggest the Danube governments to 'move a gear up' and calls on to follow up on the political commitments by making the Strategy a priority across all relevant policy areas.

- It urges the 9 MS involved to incorporate the Strategy into their plans for the next generation of programmes under Regional policy for 2014-2020.
State of play (2/2)

- It is important to ensure funding for implementation of EUSDR projects in the next funding period 2014-2020.

- Therefore we need to embed Danube Strategy in Partnership Agreements and ESIF, Operational Programmes of Danubian Countries.

- Future Danube Transnational Programme.
Added-value Report & and Council Conclusions
Report on the Added Value of the MRS (June 13)

**PURPOSE**

- Clarify *concept of MRS*
- Evaluate *Added Value*
- Provide *recommendations*

**Added Value**

- Improved value for money
- Develop new projects and give momentum to existing ones
- Greater integration and coordination
- Increase social, economic and territorial cohesion
- Reinforcement of multi-level governance
- Improved policy development
- Improved cooperation with neighbours countries

**Recommendations**

**Realising the full potential**

- All participants must recognise MRS as horizontal responsibility, embedding the approach in all decisions
- Operational problems inside administrations should be tackled with appropriate staff and resources.
- Monitoring and evaluation

**Leadership**

- Stronger leadership, reinforcing ownership in the regions
Council Conclusions (Oct. 13)

**Concept Added Value**
- Evolution MRS: Priority should be given to coherence and strategic relevance for the MRS.
- MRS have proved added value
- Provides criteria to use MRS and recommends adapt best practices

**Ownership and Governance**
- Political ownership
- Inclusive process
- Need of multilevel governance and mobilisation of partners

**Implementation**
- Align financial resources with MR strategies and engage private sector
- Monitoring and evaluation: realistic indicators and targets.

**Cooperation**
- Encourage MS utilize unused synergies between TC and MRS
- Strengthen Best Practices MR
- Capitalizations of results and synergies among projects
2nd Annual Forum for the EUSDR
The 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSDR, jointly organised by the COM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, took place in Bucharest (Romania) on 28-29 October.

With the title "Danube Region - stronger together, stronger in the world", the forum encouraged a debate on:

- How the Strategy is helping to tackle joint challenges
- How this is having an influence in striving competitiveness

1st Report on the implementation of the Strategy (April 2013)
Structure of the Event

3 Plenary sessions

4 Parallel thematic workshops

Numerous Side Events
Three Plenary sessions
Actors reflecting on the state of play and future outlook:

1) **Stronger in the world**: The Danube Strategy as driver for growth, jobs and global impact.

2) **Stronger together**: The Danube Strategy balancing economy and ecology.

3) **Financing the Danube Strategy**.
Four parallel thematic workshops

Interactive exchange of experiences and opinions

1) ‘Connected Danube Region’: (transport - including inland navigation and energy)

2) ‘Green Danube Region’: (water quality, environmental risks, and biodiversity)

3) ‘Smart and inclusive Danube Region’ (education, research, competitiveness, people and skills)

4) ‘Effective, attractive and safe Danube Region” (institutional capacity, security)
Numerous Side Events

Several events will take place in parallel with the Annual Forum,
- The 3rd Danube Financing Dialogue
- The Workshop on Danube Innovation Partnership
- Back-to-back meetings
  - Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs
  - Meeting of the Ministers of Regional Development
  - Meeting of the NCPs and PACs
Outcomes (1/2)

- **High level political attention**, more than 1000 participants, and substantial media coverage.
- Ministers of Foreign Affairs reconfirmed **political importance, geopolitical aspect of neighbours' integration, Danube coordination** within countries, and the importance of **embedding the Danube perspective** in policy and funding for 2014-2020.
- The latter was reaffirmed in the meeting of the Ministers of Regional Development and was one of the main message in all the discussions in the Annual Forum.
- Much has already happened, but the **process needs to speed up**, building on existing frameworks.
Outcomes (2/2)

- A "Connected Danube Region" means we must lose national and gain EU perspective (plan well, plan long-term).
- A "Green Danube Region" means lining up heavyweight policy and money for the green agenda (act together on big items: floods, hazards)
- A "Smart Danube Region" is a Danube Europe "Europe 2020". Skills surplus/shortages and mobile people mean we must act together.
- An "Effective, Attractive and Safe Danube Region" means involving all levels, bringing the Danube initiative to the people, being open. People are safer, as agencies are gear up together.
- Discussion was kicked-off on governance / ownership debate requested by the Council Conclusions of GAC in October.
What's next?

Oct, Bucharest

"Communicating on Governance and Leadership"

Input PACs/ NCPs

June, Vienna
Thank you for your attention!

For more information visit:
www.danube-region.eu