

# **State-of-play and lessons from existing and previous initiatives for coordination and cooperation in the Danube region**

Ulrike Kunze (DLR)

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  - WBC-INCO.NET: priority setting, research infrastructure database
  - SEE-ERA.NET PLUS: joint call
4. Ulm Follow up Working Group

# 1. Danube-INCO.NET: Structure

WP1 Project Management

**WP2 Policy Dialogue**

WP3 Tackling Societal Challenges: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in a Bio-based Economy

WP4 Analytical Evidence on Research and Innovation in the Danube Region

WP5 Promoting Innovative and Inclusive Danube Societies

**WP6 Scaling up Danube Funding Mechanisms**

WP7 Communication and Dissemination



# Danube-INCO.NET: Some objectives

- support the policy dialogue within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- enhance the bi-regional dialogue with a focus on the implementation of the Innovation Union (IU) and the European Research Area (ERA) Framework
- support the development of joint funding mechanisms existing or under preparation in close cooperation with concerned stakeholders



# Danube-INCO.NET: Some Tasks

- Coordination of funding:
  - a) establish a Funding Parties Platform (FPP) with relevant stakeholders (funding agencies, Ministries...) to possibly launch a pilot joint call
  - b) publish a call for the Danube countries in cooperation with the EUREKA programme
- based on this and other relevant initiatives: examine scaling up of coordinated funding mechanisms to develop a roadmap towards an Art. 185 TFEU programme for the Danube Region
- when/if the DRRIF (= **D**anube **R**egion **R**esearch and **I**nnovation **F**und) will be implemented under the EUSDR: support a DRRIF call secretariat





## 2. Activities under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)



- Priority Area 7 (PA7) of the Strategy: Knowledge Society, Science; flagship project: DRRIF
- PA7 DRRIF Working Group led by the Austrian Ministry for Research, Science and Economy: monitor the establishment of DRRIF and harmonise the developments
- DRRIF Feasibility Study contracted under PA7: analyse absorption capacities, examine possible DRRIF implementation, give recommendations



# Activities under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)



- JRC Scientific support:
  - 4 scientific Danube flagship clusters (Water Nexus, Land and Soil Nexus, Air Nexus, and Bioenergy Nexus);
  - 3 horizontal activities (the Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure, the Danube Innovation Partnership, Smart Specialisation for the Danube Region)
- presented at JRC High Level Meeting during Ministerial Panel (Vienna June 25, 2014)





# 3. Previous initiatives



**WBC-INCO.NET:** Coordination of research policies with the Western Balkan countries (FP7 project)

- Support to the regional policy dialogue: “WBC Steering Platform on research” meetings
- Priority Setting: regional research priorities identified and commonly agreed upon; ⇨ result of harmonisation of efforts by countries of a region
- Development of a database on research infrastructures and facilities in the Western Balkan countries (<http://wbc-inco.net/object/infrastructure>) for transnational use of research facilities





# Previous initiatives



## SEE-ERA.NET PLUS (South-East European Era-Net Plus)

- 17 institutions from 14 countries (FP7 project)
- implementation of a Joint Call for „Joint European Research Projects“(JERPS): 23 JERPS were funded
- call budget 3.5 Mio € topped up by budget from EC
- two call topics used: AgroFood and ICT  
= identified in WBC-INCO.NET as regional research priorities
- Joint Call Secretariat; National Contact Points
- lessons and best practice to be considered

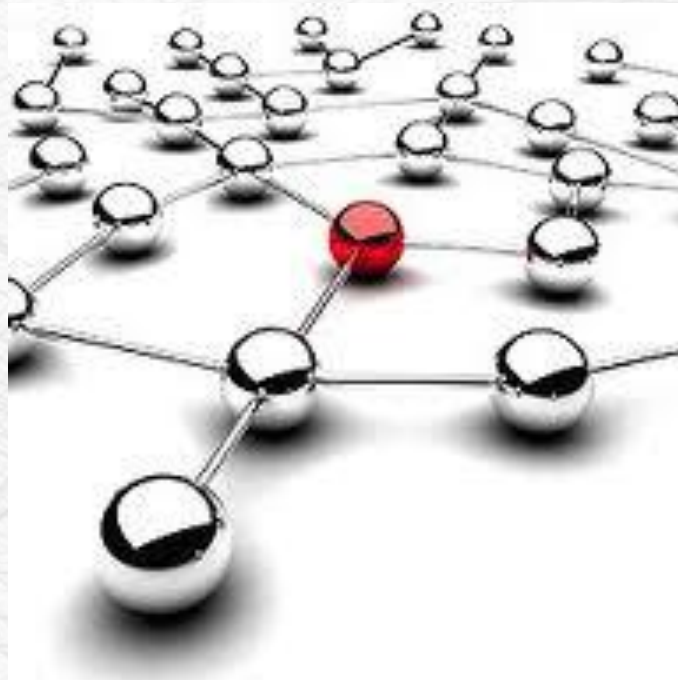


# 4. Ulm Follow up Working Group

- “Ulm Follow up Working Group” set up after the Ministerial Conference in July 2012 in Ulm/Germany; lead by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- BMBF Danube call planned for end of 2014: opening up of national/bilateral programmes
- Danube countries are invited to join and co-fund activities/researchers from their countries
- two earlier multilateral BMBF calls launched by BMBF (targeting Middle and Central East Europe and the Danube region) have already successfully supported transnational cooperation

# Conclusions/Challenges

- Several initiatives running in parallel in the Danube region for the coordination of funding  
⇒ Close cooperation and coordination necessary to avoid duplication of work ...





# Contact

## Dr. Ulrike Kunze

Project Management Agency  
c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR)

European and International Cooperation  
Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 2  
10178 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49 (0)30 / 67055 - 7981

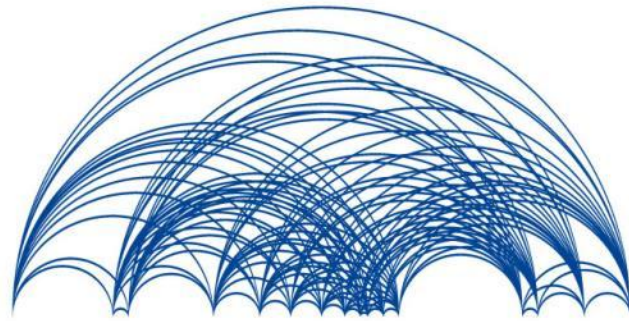
Fax: +49 (0)228 / 3821-1490

E-mail: [ulrike.kunze@dlr.de](mailto:ulrike.kunze@dlr.de)

[www.internationales-buero.de/en](http://www.internationales-buero.de/en)

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# **Danube-INCO.NET**

**Advancing Research and Innovation  
in the Danube Region**