EU Strategy for the Danube Region
What is it? Why to deal with it?

Elke Dall
Centre for Social Innovation
wbc-inco.net
Co-ordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries
Experience gathered

- Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan countries
- SEE-ERA.NET (PLUS) -> 2004-2014
- SEE-SCIENCE.EU -> 2006-2008
- WBC-INCO.NET -> 2008-2014
- Danube-INCO.NET -> 2014-2016
- Projects at the Centre for Social Innovation supported by Austrian BMWFW, etc.
Recent publication (2014)

Part I: Moving towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan region

- Coordination of Research Policies with Western Balkan Countries – 6 Years of European and Regional Dialogue
- The Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan: History and Outlook
- From Animosity to ‘Happy Family’ through Science – Some Insights from the WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference
- Technology Upgrading and RTD Challenges in Western Balkan Region: Issues and Policy Options
- How Efforts on Research and Innovation Contribute to Economic Development and Integration into the European Union
- Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation
- South East European 2020 Strategy and Relevance of the Smart Growth Pillar
- The EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Opportunities for some Western Balkan countries
- Democracy Challenges in Western Balkans
Regional coverage

Danube Region
- 100 mio people
- DE (parts), AT, CZ, SK, HU, SI, HR, BG, RO, BA, SR, ME, MD, UA (parts), rather open

Western Balkan countries
- 18 mio people
- AL, BA, MK, ME, SR, KS, clearly defined
Drivers of strategies and support

**Danube Region**
- Regional policy
- Cohesion objective
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- Some policy fields only
- Projects in many different programmes, different geographical configurations
- Upper and lower Danube

**Western Balkan region**
- Enlargement policy
- Support to adopt *aquis*
- South East Europe 2020 Strategy
- All policy fields addressed
- Projects mainly supported through IPA, national funds and aid programmes
- EU-MS <-> WBC
Focus on Research and Innovation

Danube Region
- Very diverse, goal of GERD as 3% of GDP
- Record level of 5.1% in Baden Württemberg, mainly from the business enterprise sector, most industrialized region in the EU

Western Balkan region
- Serbia and Montenegro spend on GERD around 1% of GDP (and Croatia) while the rest of regions spend very marginally (0.2% of GDP)
Focus on Research and Innovation

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% GDP) – Trend Growing vs Fluctuating

*GERD - gross domestic expenditure on R&D
Sources: Eurostat, Erawatch
Structure of EUSDR

- 4 Pillars and 11 Priority Areas (presented in Dec. 2010, endorsed June 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connecting the Region</th>
<th>Protecting the Environment</th>
<th>Building Prosperity</th>
<th>Strengthening the Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobility and multimodality</td>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality</td>
<td>Institutional capacity and cooperation</td>
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<td>Sustainable energy</td>
<td>Environmental risks</td>
<td>Knowledge society</td>
<td>Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture and tourism, People to People</td>
<td></td>
<td>Competitive-ness</td>
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<td>People and skills</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Priority Area coordinators
- Working groups (& coordinators)
- Projects and Actions (flagships, labeled projects, projects of specific funds)
The governance model of the EUSDR

Policy level:
- European Council
- European Commission DG Regional Policy
- High level group
- National Contact Points
- Steering group for each PA
- Priority area coordinators (PACs)
- Project promoters

Operational level:

Possible financing sources:
- Cohesion Fund, Structural Funds (Obj. 1-2-3 programmes)
- IPA ENPI
- Sectoral EU and national funding (environment, education, etc)
- International Financing institutions
- Private banks, Donors

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Operational level:
## Coordination of PAs

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<th>Countries in charge of coordination</th>
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<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>Mobility and intermodality</td>
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<td>P2</td>
<td>More sustainable energy</td>
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<td>P3</td>
<td>Culture and tourism, people to people</td>
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<td>P5</td>
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<td>and soils</td>
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<tr>
<td>P7</td>
<td>Knowledge society (research, education and</td>
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<td>ICT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P8</td>
<td>Competitiveness of enterprises</td>
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<td>P9</td>
<td>People and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P10</td>
<td>Institutional capacity and cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>P11</td>
<td>Security and organised crime</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EUSDR implementation

“The 3 NO and the 3 YES”

3 main conditions – 3 NO
- No new legislation
- No new institution
- No new money

... and 3 YES (General Affairs Council 13.04.2011)
- Better alignment of funding
- More efficient coordination of instruments
- New ideas
State-of-play in governance and implementation

- PAs working differently and PACs are more or less active
- Management of change is often unclear
- Finding “project promoters” <> many projects taking place with or without the EUSDR
- Financial issues still to be solved (e.g. funding for PACs and projects) – European Territorial Cooperation “Danube Transnational Programme”
- Highly oversubscribed support programmes
- Some specific projects running, many actors mobilized, few good practices of coordination of funds / stakeholders
PA7 Knowledge Society

POLICIES AND MECHANISMS TO BE PROMOTED

- Diffusion mechanisms and targeted support for research infrastructure
- Networking of centers of excellence and complementary partnerships
- Smart specialization of and within the region
- **Brain-circulation**
PA7 Knowledge Society

- WG 1: Higher education and mobility
- WG 2: Information and Communication Technologies
- **WG 3: DRRIF and Coordination of National Funds within the Danube Region**
- WG 4: Communication with Joint Research Centre with special emphasize on RIS3
- WG 5: Research and Innovation
Good practice in networking:
DREAM project
Good practice in networking:

ICA CASEE

The “ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe”, in short CASEE, is a network of Central and South Eastern European Higher Education Institutions relating to the Life Science disciplines (agriculture, food, biotechnology, natural resources, rural development and the environment).
Danube-INCO.NET

• **Coordination and Support Action** for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation
• **Project start:** January 1, 2014
• **Project duration:** 36 months
• Received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration (**FP7**) under grant agreement no 609497
• EC funding: approx. 2 mio€
19 partners ...
... from 14 countries
Key activities

• Supporting policy dialogue – EUSDR, ERA
• Pilot activities in selected societal challenges (renewable energy / energy efficiency / bioeconomy)
• Analytical evidence (projects, stakeholders, publications, patents, survey on barriers, policy mix peer review etc.)
• Pilot activities supporting innovativeness (smart specialisation, technology transfer, project labelling)
• Scaling up funding mechanisms (DRRIF, other programmes)
• Communication and dissemination (website, newsletter, social media)
Sharing information

Creating a Platform – www.danube-inco.net – and a newsletter which improve the information exchange on Research and Innovation in the Danube Region

Includes all WBC!
Sharing information

• News - 3637 (+130)
• Events - 2013 (+272)
• Calls - 630 (+188)
• Documents - 1322 (+119)
• Organisations - 2117 (+590)
• Projects - 270 (+54)
• Glossary - 125

*as of 03/12/2014

Includes all WBC!
Mapping of organisations

- Creating a database of organizations active in the regions, mapping stakeholders and projects

- Research and innovation actors and projects
- Additionally focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy for the bioeconomy
Mapping of stakeholders

• The specific mapping of stakeholders relating to research and innovation aims to:
  – find complementarities
  – identify transferable good practices
  – formulate policy recommendations
  – support strategic decisions
Stakeholders under investigation

In the Danube Region

- Danube Rectors Conference (DRC)
- Danube Universities (DU)
- Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)
- CLDR Romania
- Danube Alliance
- Danubiz
- Danube Cluster Networks (DanuClus)
- Young Danube Citizens Network (YDCN)
- International Association for Danube Region (IAD)
- Danube Chambers of Commerce Association (DCCA)
- Ulm Follow-up Group
- Steinbeis Danube Center
- Ministerial Commissioner for EUSDR of Hungary
- Danube Area Interregional Group at the Council of Regions

European Union

- Central Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
- Southeast Europe → Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme
- European Clusters Alliance
- Entreprise Europe Network

Regional and/or transnational

- Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation
- CEI Network of Focal Points on Science and Technology
- CEI University Network (CEI UniNet)
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- CASEE
- Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)
- Central European Initiative (CEI)
- South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)
- Visegrad 4 Cooperation (V4)
- Visegrad Fund
- Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)
- Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE) Facility
- Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)
- Salzburg Forum
- Southeast Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC)

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Association of the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambers)
- Association of Regional Development Agencies (EURADA)
(Some examples for) good practices

- **important number of programmes** funded in the field of mobility, academic programmes, summer schools, joint use of research infrastructure, etc. (CEEPUS, CEI, DRC, BSEC, Danube Universities)

- establishment of a **legal entity** facilitating the participation of the members in proposals (DRC, DCCA)

- setting-up a **platform for RTDI stakeholders** to enhance dialogue (SP WBC, Ulm-Follow up)

- organization of **campaigns for target groups** (CoDCR, Danube-Black Sea Regional Network)

- increasing **cross-border cooperation** (ECA, DRC, Visegrad Fund, BSEC, etc.)
Additional findings

- **Funding source of initiatives**
  - 46% are funded at national level

- **Programmes funded by stakeholders**
  - 20 out of 40 provide funding for different programmes

- **Type of activities funded**
  - Networking and mobility are the most frequent activities funded
Networking and linking CoE

- Explore options using the ERIC model
- Explore options using the KIC model
- Explore options using the ETPs
- Support project generation (e.g. labelling, information exchange, etc.)
- Support EUSDR working groups

- Support development and coordination of funding programmes
Increasing funding possibilities

Sharing the information about calls for proposals and other funding opportunities and working on the scaling up of Danube Funding Mechanisms (creating a funding partners platform, etc.) and supporting the “labelling” process for EUSDR projects.
EUREKA! Danube Initiative
German initiatives - BMBF calls

- Ulm Follow-up Group
- Currently open „International Cooperation in Education and Research – The Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region (CESEER)“
- BMBF upcoming call to start R&D networks (Funding phase 1: Establishment and development of the network; Funding phase 2: Initiation of specific R&D projects) to be launched in spring 2015 (funding for DE partners – cofunding under discussion)
Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRRIF)

- Priority Area 7 Flagship project
- Feasibility Study carried out by EY; possibilities of implementation under discussion
- Working group DRRIF
- Any fresh money?
Transnational Cooperation

15 Programmes
2 bn €
Thematic concentration (mostly in Innovation, Low carbon economy and Environment)
Projects need to be cofinanced
Further international cooperation needs and possibilities ...

- H2020 entry ticket and co-financing (if needed)
- ERA-NET COFUNDs
- Bilateral programmes in and beyond the region
- WISE, Western Balkan Investment Funds, etc.
- And more ...
KEEP CALM AND GO TO HOGWARTS
KEEP CALM AND NEVER GIVE UP
Elke Dall
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Thank you for your attention!