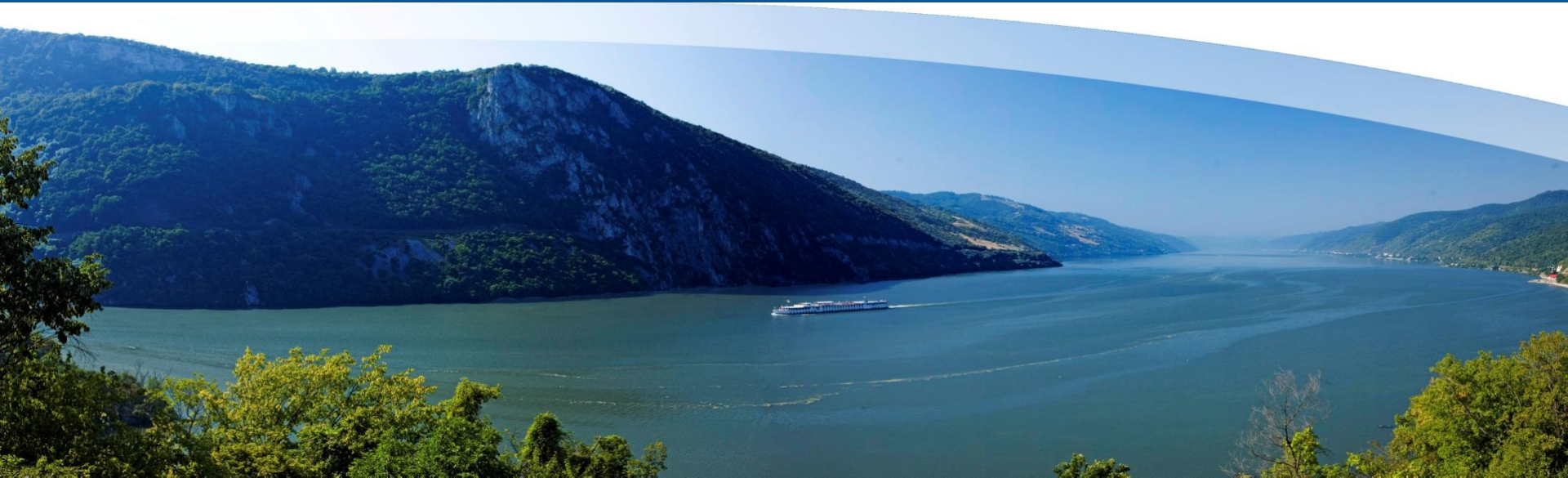




The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)



Content

- 1. What is a Macro-regional Strategy?*
- 2. The Danube Region*
- 3. How does the EUSDR work?*
- 4. Links with the Danube Transnational Programme*

What is a Macro-regional strategy?

Objective: organise cooperation between countries or territories by mobilising local and regional actors to align policies and funding and to identify common issues, solutions and actions.

Principles:

"3 Nos": No additional funding, No new structures, No new legislation
Better/more coordinated use of existing structures and instruments

Macro-regional strategy - definition

(Common Provisions Regulation, art. 2)

A "**macroregional strategy**" is an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council which may be supported by the ESIF among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to MS and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthen cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

A new reality on European cooperation

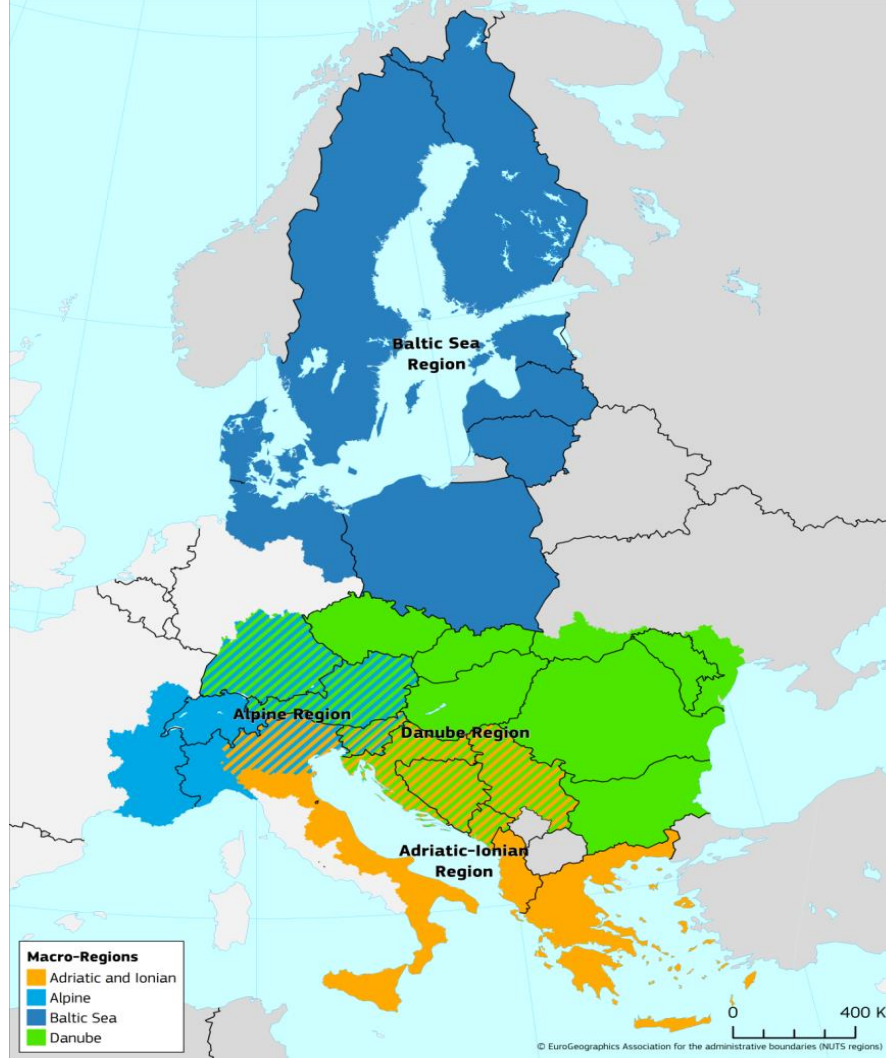
- *A bottom up approach based on local, regional and national needs*
- *An appropriate framework for sectorial EU policies (transport, energy, innovation, environment...)*
- *More ESIF programmes engaging into MRS*
- *A way of promoting multi-level governance ("soft networks" against "hard administration"?)*
- *A new element to take account of when addressing challenges over borders (internal and external).*

There are now four European Union (EU) macro-regional strategies (MRS):

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR; 2009)**
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR; 2010)**
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR; 2014)**
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP; 2016)**



Macro-Regions:
Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube



The EUSDR Region (not just the river!)

14 countries:

9 EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Romania, Slovenia

5 non-MS: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine

EU Strategy for the Danube Region



© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries (NUTS regions)

What is the EUSDR about?

- **Some of the key issues identified (1):**

Mobility: movement of people and goods, corridors across Europe

Energy: secure sources, diversification, especially renewable, reduction in emissions, efficiency

Water: quality (pollution, ecosystems) and quantity (navigation, risk prevention and management)

Biodiversity: precious natural heritage as a source of well-being and prosperity

What is the EUSDR about?

Some of the key issues identified (2):

Socio-economic development: jobs, welfare, framework for creativity and investments, IT potential

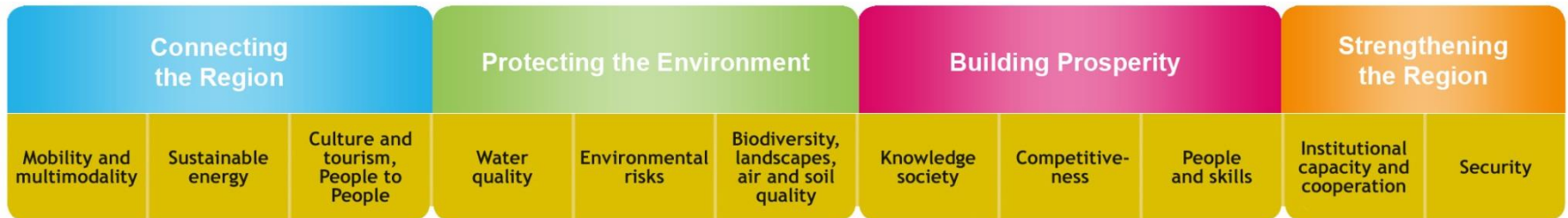
Education and capacity: schools and universities, training, modern administration, inclusion of all citizens

Culture and identity: rich cultural heritage, tourism potential

Security: personal security and protection, fight against organised crime, corruption

*The strategy addresses these various topics through
4 pillars
11 priority areas,
and of course actions and projects*

THE FOUR PILLARS



11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

Actions

Projects

Priority Area

Countries in charge of coordination

P1 | Mobility and intermodality

*Inland waterways: Austria, Romania
Rail, road and air: Slovenia, Serbia*

P2 | More sustainable energy

Hungary, Czech Republic

P3 | Culture and tourism, people to people

Bulgaria, Romania

P4 | Water Quality

Hungary, Slovakia

P5 | Environmental risks

Hungary, Romania

P6 | Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils

Germany (Bavaria), Croatia

P7 | Knowledge society (research, education and ICT)

Slovakia, Serbia

P8 | Competitiveness of enterprises

Germany (Baden-Württemberg), Croatia

P9 | People and skills

Austria, Moldova

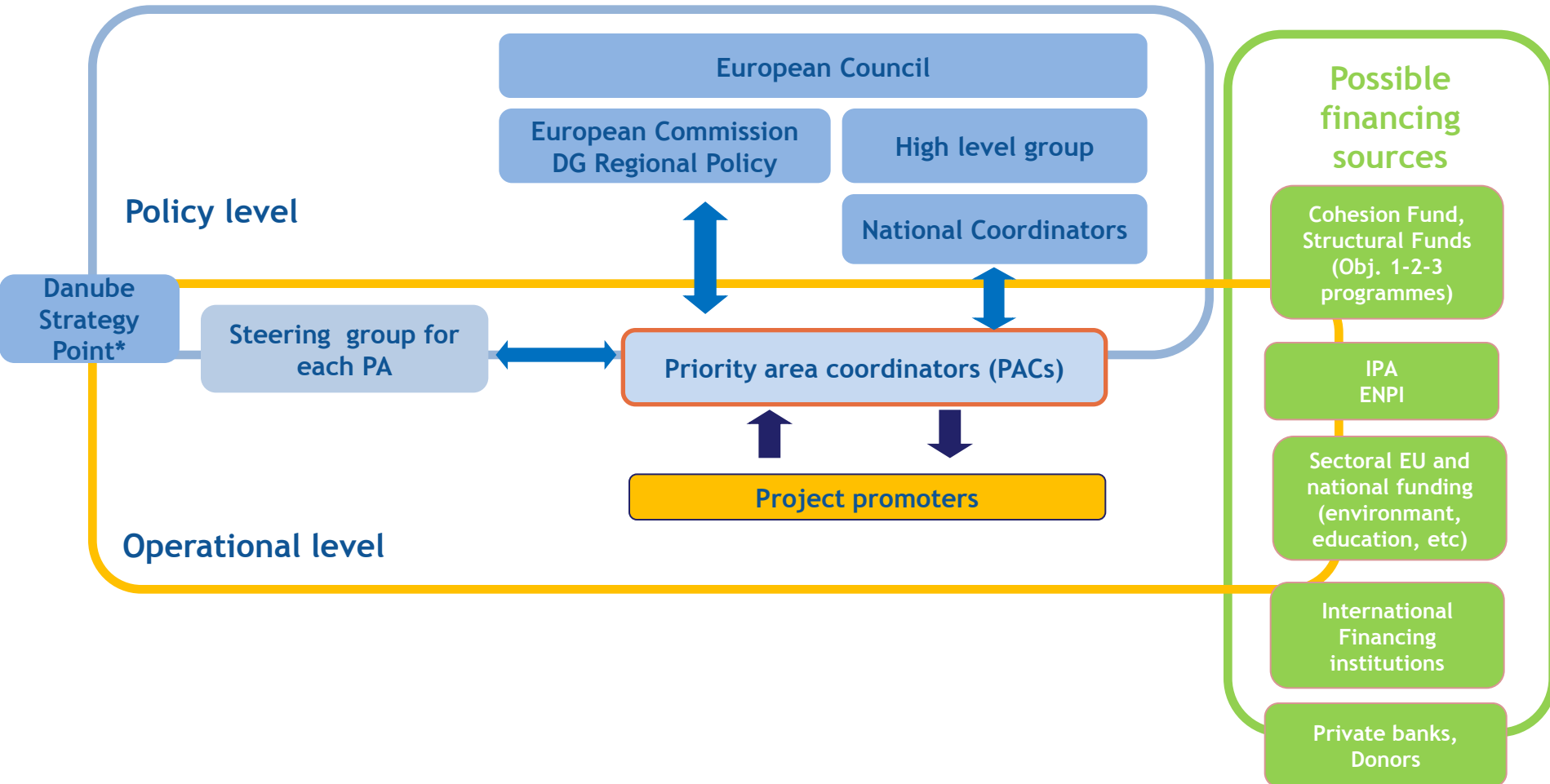
P10 | Institutional capacity and cooperation

Austria (Vienna), Slovenia

P11 | Security and organised crime

Germany, Bulgaria

The governance model of the EUSDR



How is the strategy being implemented?

Political support (Ministerial declarations)

Identification of projects and of financing opportunities

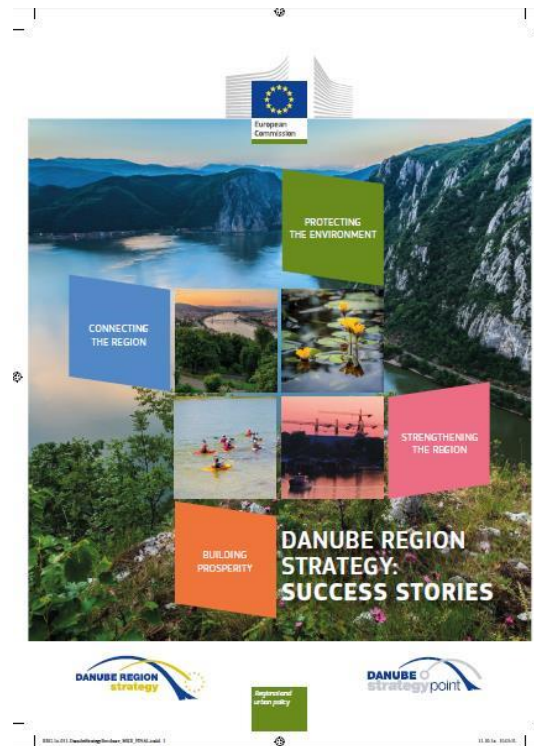
Cross-sector and integrated approach



European
Commission

Examples of results

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/danube/library/#5



What about third countries?

- Possibility for third countries to participate in macroregional strategies
- Where possible, better alignment with ETC regulation (similar rules)*
- Close and constant cooperation between services*

DTP and EUSDR

The Danube Interreg Transnational Programme supports the EUSDR in many respects:

- Support to Priority Area Coordinators
- Support to Danube Strategy Point (still to be decided)
- Seed Money Facility (topic of today's event)

DTP Seed Money Facility for EUSDR

Very important support tool to allow for the preparation of strategic projects

Builds on past experience (START programme) but puts more emphasis on the targeted financial sources for the implementation phase

Upcoming (but registrations already closed)

6th Annual Forum: "A secure, connected and prospering Danube Region, Budapest, 18-19 October 2017

<http://www.danube-forum-budapest.eu/danube-forum-budapest>

(Joint Annual Forum of EUSDR and Annual Event of DTP)

Thank you for your attention !



For more information visit:

www.danube-region.eu

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm