



# Danube Programme 2021 - 2027

26. - 27. October 2021

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)



EUROPEAN UNION





**SPEAKER'S NAME: Imre Csalagovits**  
**POSITION: Head of MA**  
**ORGANISATION: Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS**



**Transnational cooperation programmes**  
**DANUBE area**

# TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

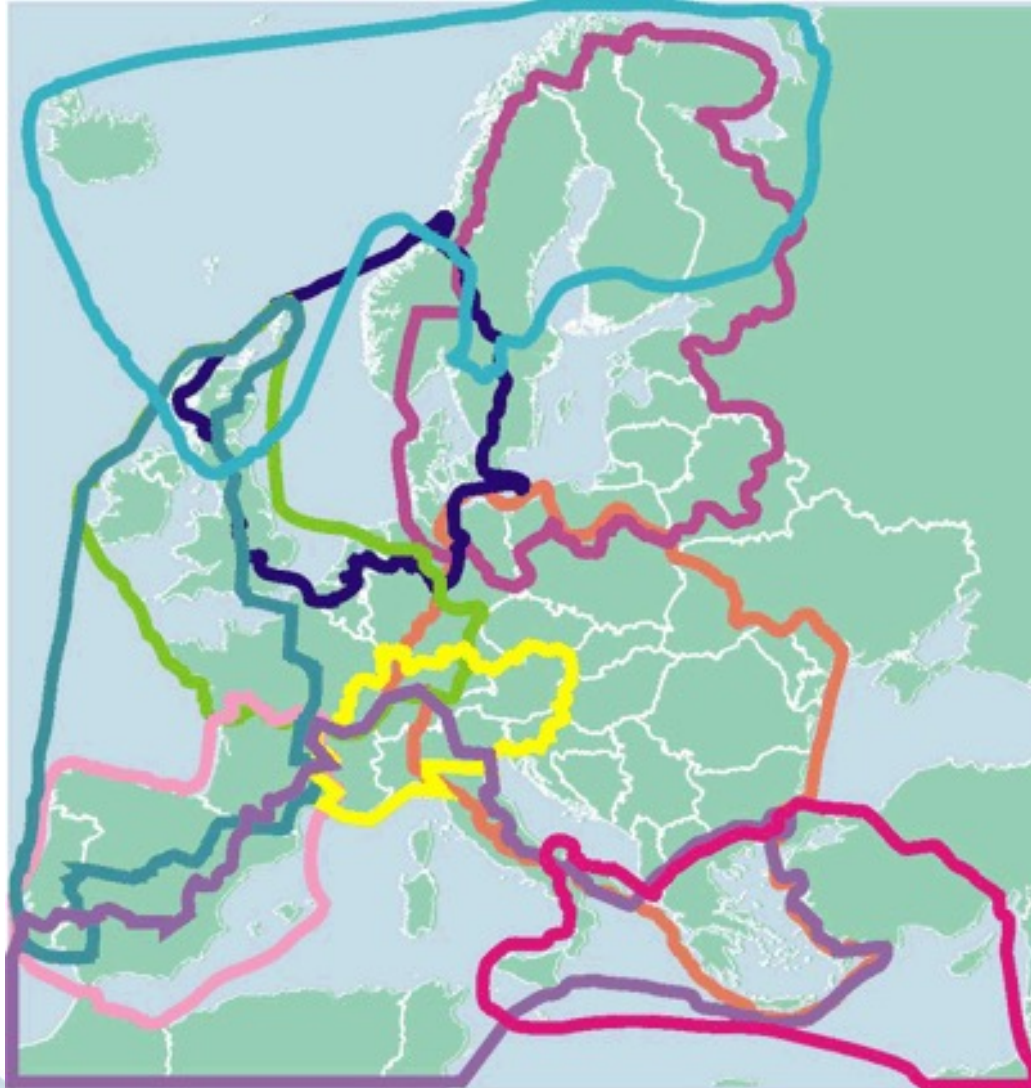
## KEY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **GEOGRAPHY** – SEARCHING FOR TERRITORIES FOR CO-OPERATION
2. **POLICY** – CHANGING SCOPE OF POLICIES – MACROREGIONAL – EUROPEAN – NATIONAL/REGIONAL
3. **INTEGRATION** – REGION OF CHANGES – ONGOING EU ENLARGEMENT PROCESS + INTEGRATION OF EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS

## TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMMES – 1996-2030 (35 YEARS!)

1. CADSES 1 (1996-2000)
2. CADSES 2 (2000-2006)
3. SOUTH EAST EUROPE (2007-2013)
4. DANUBE 1 (2014-2020)
5. **DANUBE 2 (2021-2027)**

**FUTURE OF TRANSNATIONAL CO-OPERATION BEYOND 2027 – ????**



# 1996-2000 INTERREG III B CADSES 1

# CADSES 1: spatial/territorial development

1. New **geography**: CHARPATHIAN, ADRIATIC, DANUBIAN, SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN SPACES
2. **Policy**: strong link to spatial development (ESDP), co-operation with ESPON and other Community Initiatives, very strong territorial focus (including sub-regions), (example: Carpatian projects)
3. Limited **integration** and formal participation: limited financial participation of Partner States: 5 specific and distinct funds (Austria, Germany, Italy, Greece and Hungary) – 5 full members only

No joint structure – virtual secretariat – strong co-ordination of the transnational project framework – transnational working groups



# 2000-2006 INTERREG III B CADSES 2

# CADSES 2

1. EUROPE WIDE DISCUSSION ON THE TRANSNATIONAL **GEOGRAPHY**
2. **INTEGRATION** IS DRIVEN BY ENLARGEMENT – MAIN POLITICAL STEPS WITHIN THE PERIOD, ACCESSION OF „NEW MEMBER STATES” – INTEGRATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (INCL. WESTERN BALCANS AND ESTERN NEIGHBOURS) STILL REMAIN PRACTICALLY AND TECHNICALLY UNSOLVED





# 2007-2013 EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (ECT) SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

# SOUTH EAST EUROPE: MAINSTREAMING INTERREG....

1. CHANGING **GEOGRAPHY**: FOCUS ON THE WESTERN BALKANS
2. CHANGING **POLICY FOCUS**: EMBEDDING EUROPEAN POLICIES linked to GLOBAL COMPETITION - HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES – GROWING OVERLAPS BETWEEN PROGRAMMES - TERRITORIAL SPECIFIC MEASURES BECOME SECONDARY
3. **INTEGRATION** FOCUS IS ON THE WESTERN BALKANS, FULLY INTEGRATED FINANCIAL SYSTEM DEVELOPED ENSURING THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE EXTERNAL COUNTRIES (1ST TIME)



# 2014-2020 EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (ECT) DANUBE T. PROGRAMME

# DANUBE PROGRAMME 2014-2020:

1. CHANGING **GEOGRAPHY**: FOCUS ON THE DANUBE REGION  
(DANUBE CATCHMENT AREA – **ENVIRONMENT AND NAVIGATION**)
2. **POLICY FOCUS**: EMBEDDING EUROPEAN POLICIES + SUPPORT TO  
THE EUSDR GOVERNANCE
3. **INTEGRATION** FOCUS IS STILL ON THE EXTERNAL COUNTRIES (BUT  
LESS DEFINED)



**2021-2027  
EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION (ECT)  
DANUBE PROGRAMME II**

# DANUBE PROGRAMME 2021-2027:

- 1. GEOGRAPHY:** FOCUS ON THE DANUBE REGION (NO CHANGE)
- 2. POLICY FOCUS:** VERY DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES – CHANGES ON THE POLICY OBJECTIVES, CLOSER TO THE REGION – MORE SOCIAL MEASURES AND TOPICS
- 3. INTEGRATION** FOCUS IS STILL ON THE EXTERNAL COUNTRIES (BUT LESS DEFINED) + FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

# CONCLUSIONS

1. **REGIONAL SPECIFIC NEEDS** ARE CONSIDERED AT THE 1ST PLACE – AVOIDING OVERLAPS WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES
2. MORE FOCUS ON **SOCIAL ISSUES**
3. FAST REACTION TO **COVID19 PANDEMIC**: CHANGING CONDITIONS...
4. **TERRITORIAL ASPECTS** ARE TO BE REINFORCED AGAIN –LONG LASTING INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND NETWORKS
5. **ENVIRONMENT** – NEW AREAS OF CO-OPERATION (STRONG CONSIDERATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR)
6. **CLOSER TO THE CITIZENS** – CLOSER TO THE STAKEHOLDERS – CLOSER TO THE REGIONS – CLOSER TO THE PARTNER STATES
7. ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE **EXTERNAL COUNTRIES**
8. CO-OPERATION WITH **OTHER TERRITORIES** (OUTSIDE OF THE SPACE) ON SPECIFIC THEMATIC FIELDS (FUNCTIONAL)



**SPEAKER'S NAME:** Katalin Kovacs-Kasza  
**POSITION:** Coordinator innovation topic  
**ORGANISATION:** Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS



# Funding possibilities – innovation



SO1.1 Enhancing innovation and technology transfer in Danube region

SO1.2 Development of skills for advancing smart specialisation strategies, industrial transformation and transition towards industry 4.0, including cross-sectorial collaborations

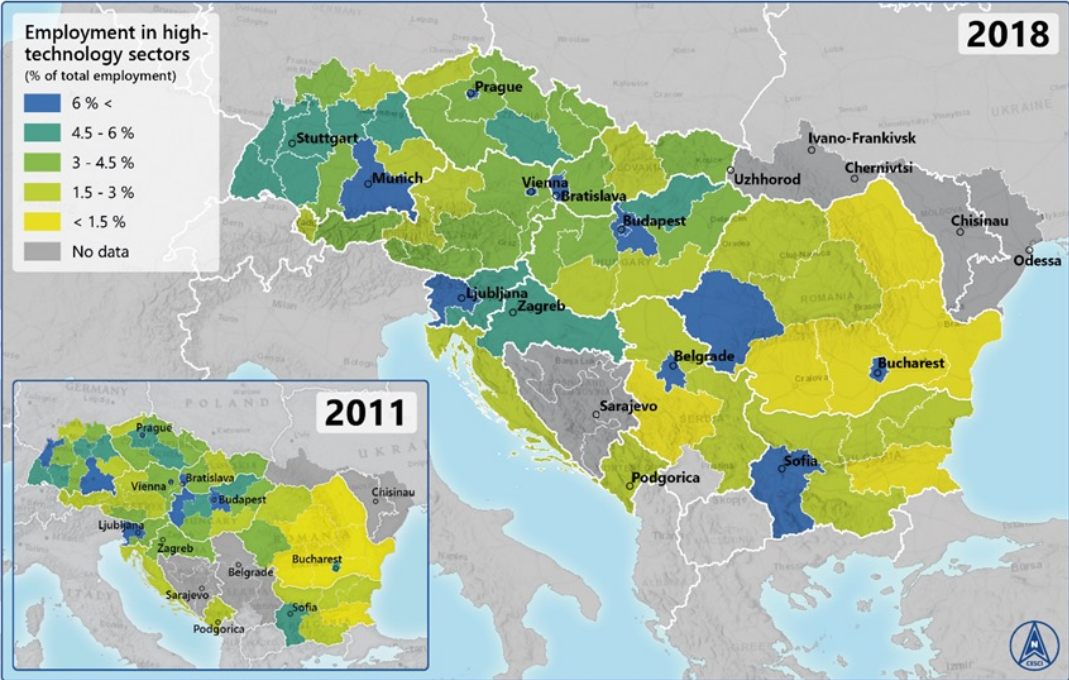


A smarter  
Danube Region

# SO1.1 Enhancing innovation and technology transfer in Danube region



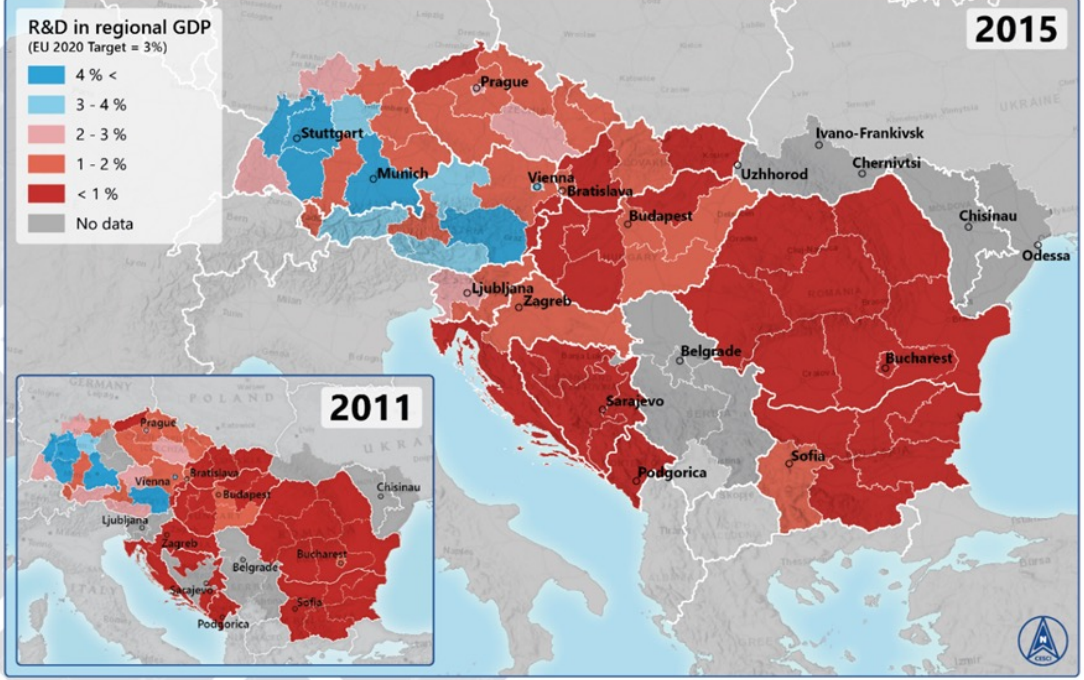
Spatial distribution of **employment in high-technology sectors** in the Danube Region



source: ESRI database, Eurostat  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives



Spatial distribution of **R&D in GDP (%)** in the Danube Region



source: ESRI database, Eurostat, data submitted by the members  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives



## SO1.1

# Enhancing innovation and technology transfer in Danube region



## FOCUS

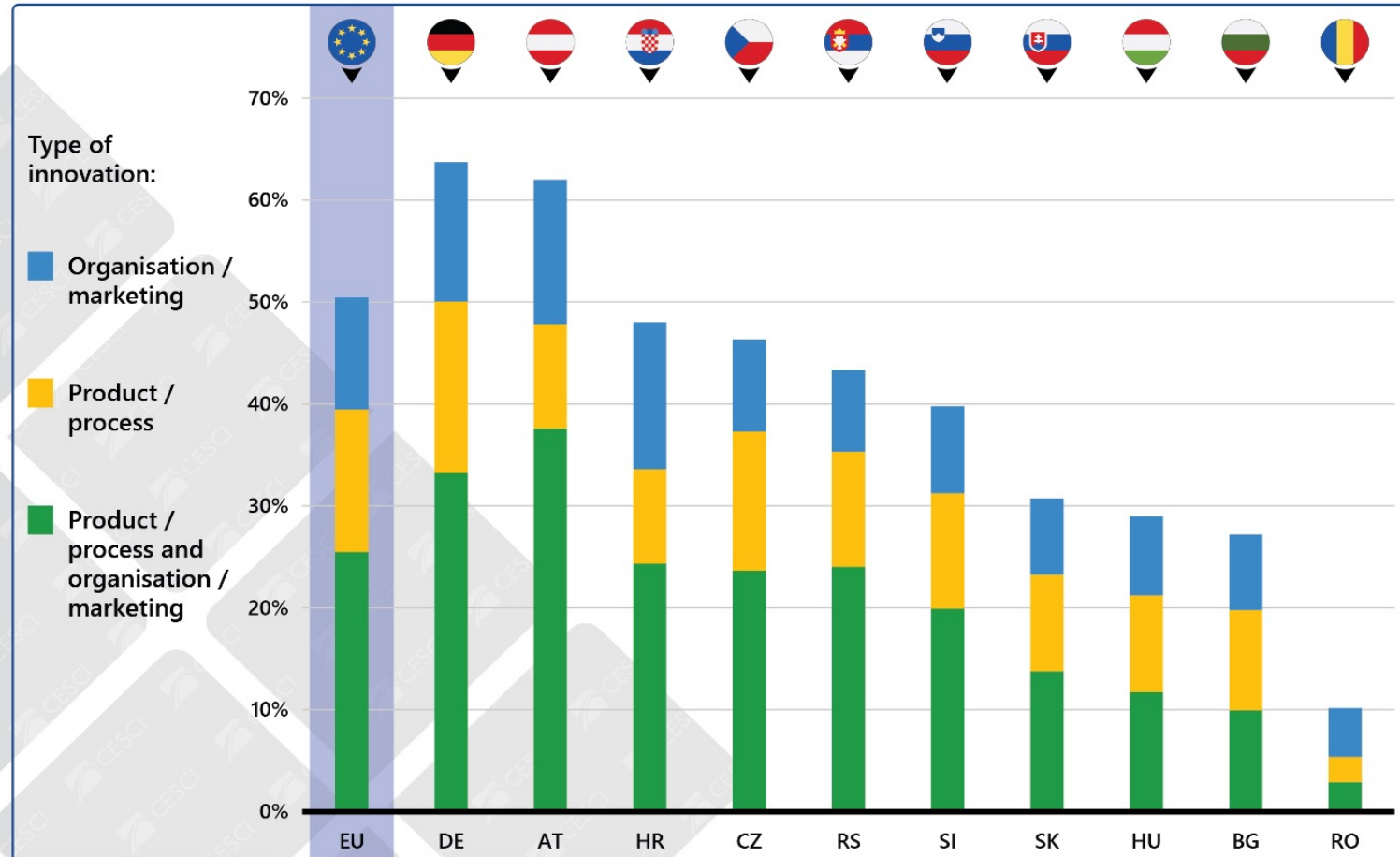
- RDI related transnational policies and processes
- Uptake of innovation and advanced technologies
- Capacity building among thematic value chains
- Technology transfer and uptake from and towards SMEs
- Circular economy policies and processes
- Smart, sustainable and green transport technologies and networks
- E-mobility solutions
- Integration of smart cities' and regions' solutions

## SO1.2

Development of skills for advancing smart specialisation strategies, industrial transformation and transition towards industry 4.0, including cross-sectorial collaborations



Proportion of **innovative enterprises** of all enterprises in the Danube Region, 2016



source: Eurostat, flags: Freepic  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

In case of Germany data represents the whole country not just the regions affected by the Danube Region. In case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine data is missing.

## SO1.2

# Development of skills for advancing smart specialisation strategies, industrial transformation and transition towards industry 4.0, including cross-sectorial collaborations



## FOCUS

- Skills development for and of joint advancement of smart specialisation strategies and policies – less advanced regions
- Skills development and cross sectoral collaborations of smart and traditional type of industries – industrial transformation and transition
- Skills development for deliverinig products and services with transnational impact

# Funding possibilities – environment

- SO2.1 Promoting renewable energy
- SO2.2 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster management
- SO2.3 Improving water and sediment quality
- SO2.4. Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions



A greener, low-carbon  
Danube Region

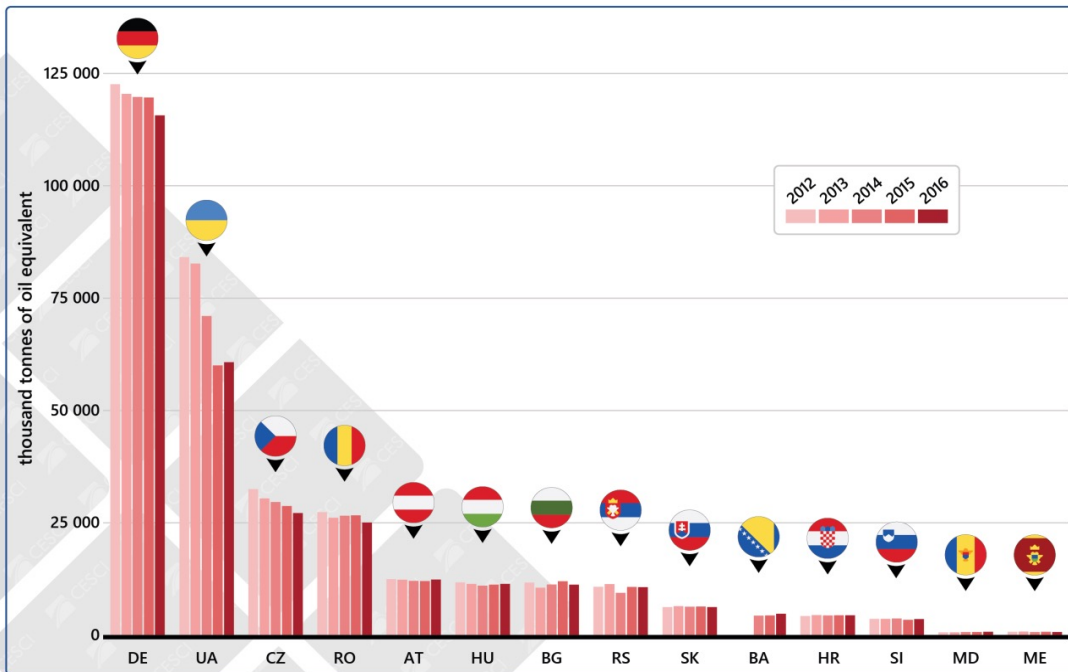


**SPEAKER'S NAME: Horst Schindler**  
**POSITION: coordinator energy and transport topics**  
**ORGANISATION: Danube Transnational Programme MA/ JS**

# SO2.1 Support greening the energy and transport sectors in the Danube Region by enhancing the integration of renewable energy sources



Territorial differences in **total primary energy production** in the Danube Region, 2012 - 2016

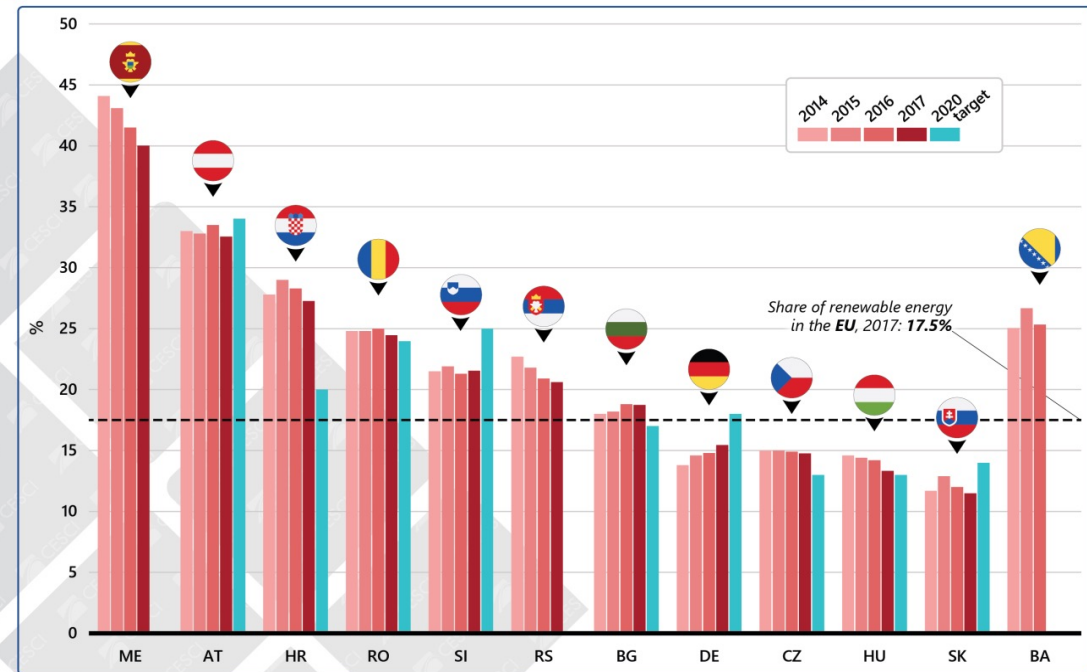


source: Eurostat, flags: Freepic  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

In case of Germany and Ukraine data represents the whole country not just the regions affected by the Danube Region.



Share of **renewable energy** in gross final energy consumption in the Danube Region, 2014 - 2017



source: Eurostat, data submitted by the members  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

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## SO2.1

# Support greening the energy and transport sectors in the Danube Region by enhancing the integration of renewable energy sources



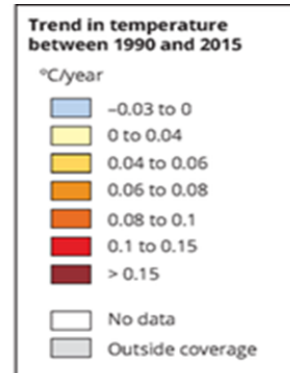
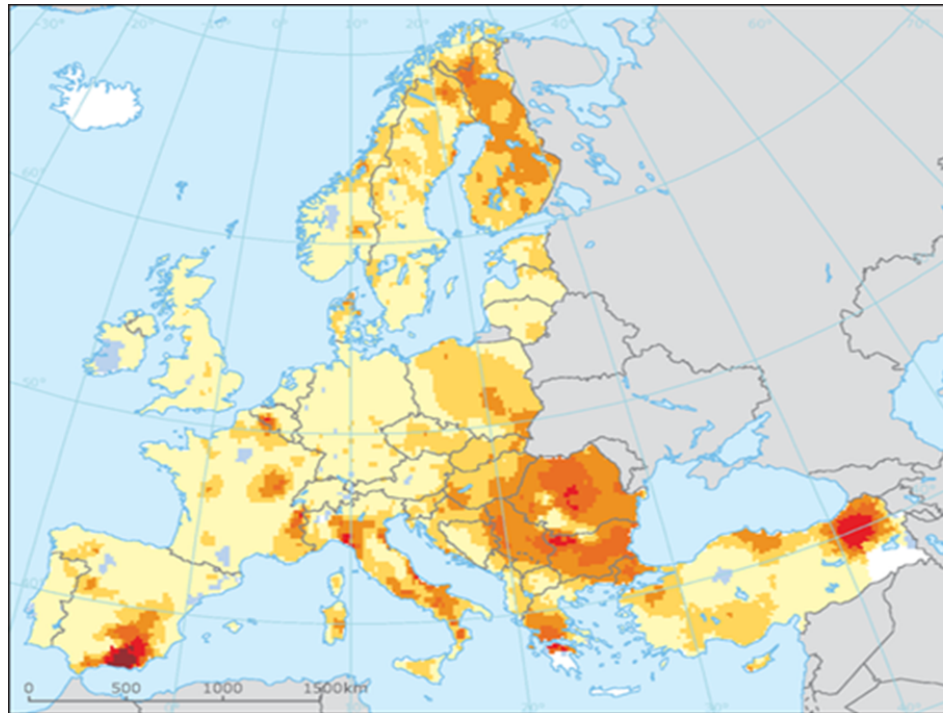
## FOCUS

- Increasing the share of renewable energy in the Danube Region
- Decreasing carbon intensity in the power and transport sectors

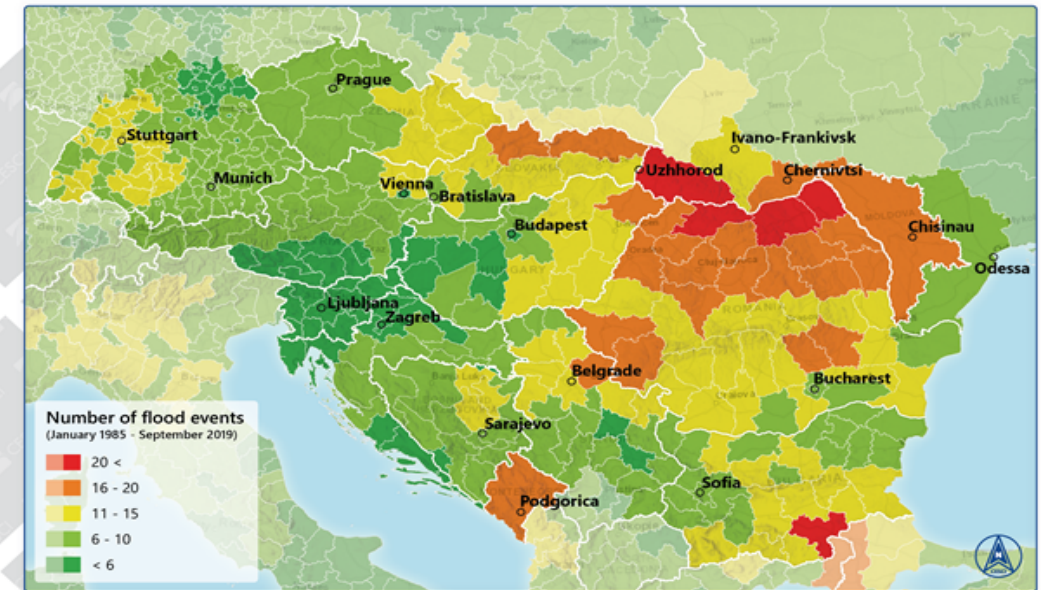


**SPEAKER'S NAME: Gusztáv Csomor**  
**POSITION: Coordinator environment topics**  
**ORGANISATION: Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS**

## SO2.2 Promoting climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks (taking into account ecosystem-based approaches)



Spatial distribution of **large floods** in the Danube Region



source: ESRI database, Global Active Archive of Large Flood Events (Dartmouth Flood Observatory)  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

## SO2.2

# Promoting climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks



## FOCUS

- Danube Region scale Climate Change forecasting and vulnerability assessment to support policy making and awareness raising
- Coordinated disaster prevention, preparedness and response activities on environmental risks (floods, droughts, or accidental pollution of rivers, wildfires, heat waves)
- Preparedness and adaptive capacity of society, economy and nature to cope with impacts of CC and establish climate services to foster resilience

SO2.3 Promoting integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance



### Chemical status of the rivers in the Danube River Basin, 2015



source: ESRI database, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives



## SO2.3

# Promoting integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance



## FOCUS

- Capacities for prevention and mitigation of water pollution or for restoration of good quality of transnational water bodies
- Harmonising management practises between water management and other key sectors to improve quality and quantity of water and sediment in transnational river systems, taking into consideration potential impacts of CC
- Transnational coordination of water supply management, especially in relation to basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies

## SO2.4 Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region



### Ecological regions in the Danube Region



source: ESRI database, EEA  
© Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

0 75 150 300 450 600 Km

## SO2.4

# Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region



## FOCUS

- Ecological connectivity between habitats, nature protection areas along transnationally relevant ecological corridors of DR
- Transnational conservation and restoration measures for endangered umbrella species
- Strengthening networks of cooperation in relation to ecological regions and among protected areas
- Coordinated measures within ecological regions ensuring resilience and adaptation to CC to reduce its impacts on biodiversity





**SPEAKER'S NAME:** Stephen Halligan  
**POSITION:** Coordinator social issues and culture  
topics  
**ORGANISATION:** Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS

# Funding possibilities – social issues



SO3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets

SO3.2 Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning

SO3.3 Socio-economic development through heritage, culture and tourism

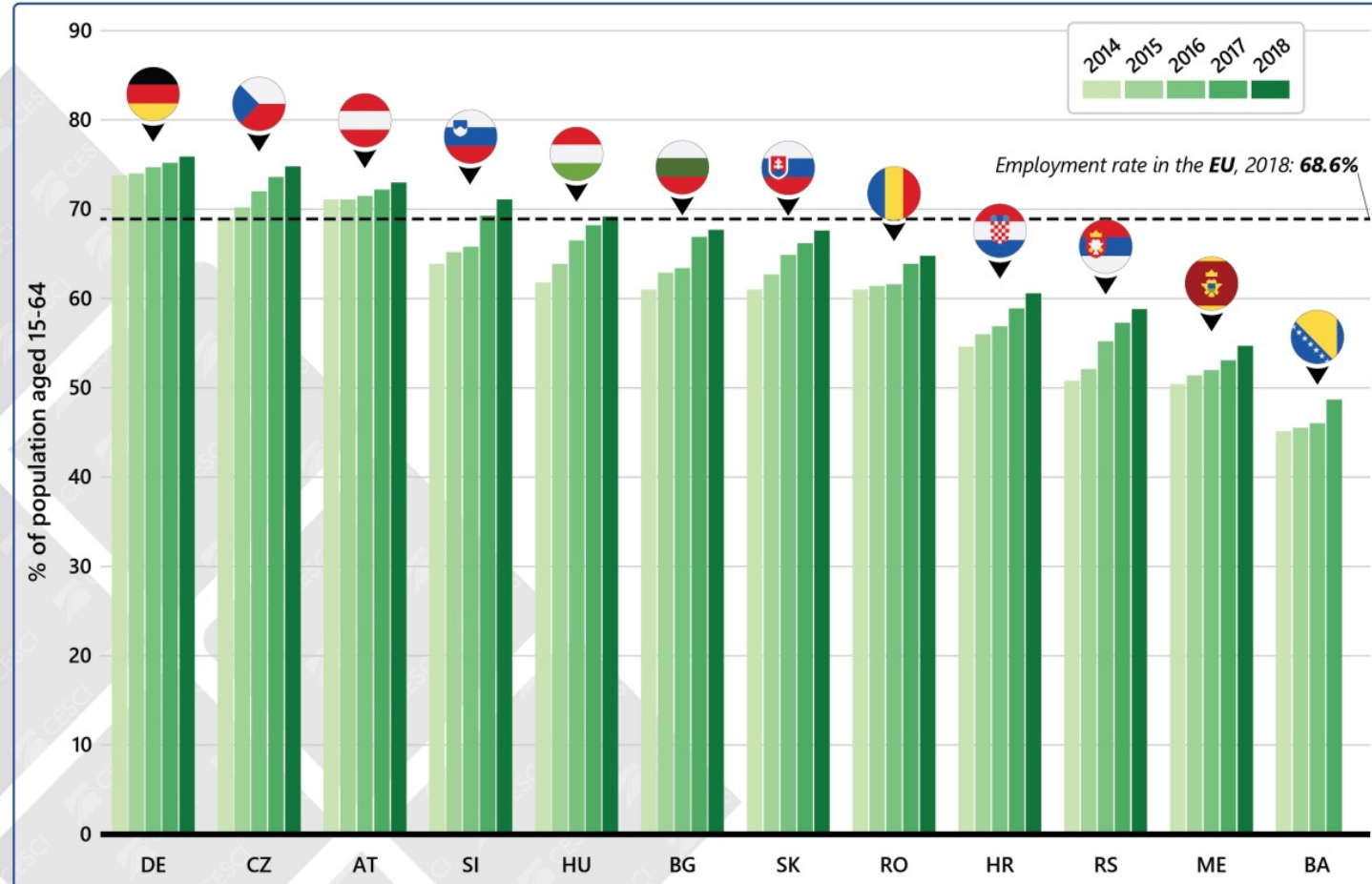


**A more social  
Danube Region**

# SO3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets



## Territorial differences in **employment rate** in the Danube Region, 2014 - 2018



source: Eurostat, data submitted by the members  
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## SO3.1

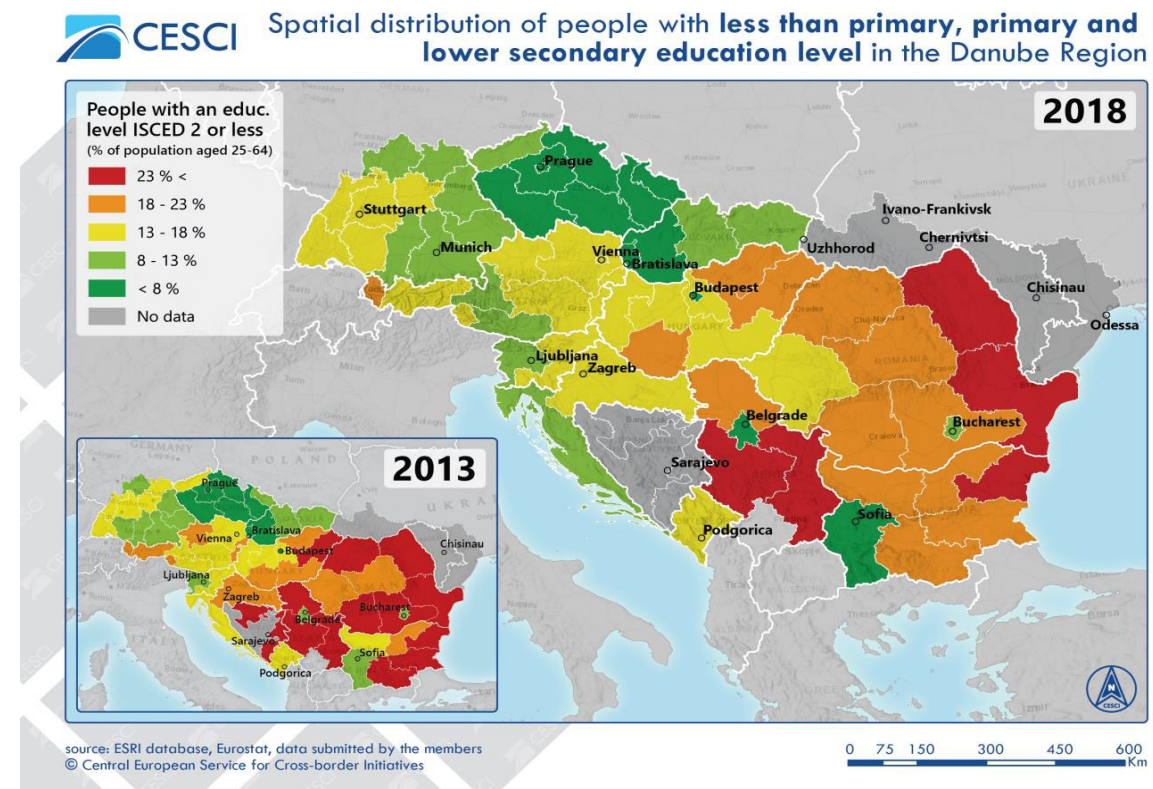
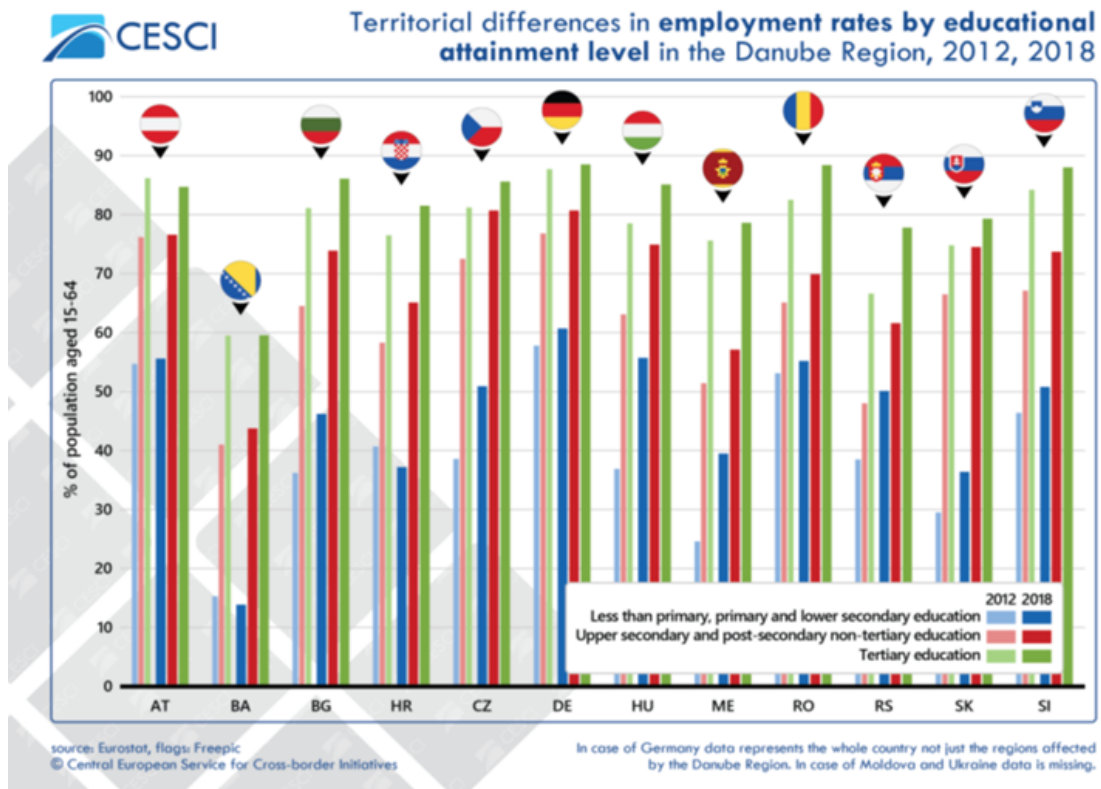
# Accessible, inclusive and effective labour markets



## FOCUS

- The integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market, with special attention on regions that display high proportions of disadvantaged
- Retaining skilled labour and developing a more sustainable migration of educated people
- Capacity building for employment support bodies (information and data systems; coordination; training e.g. in social economy)

# SO3.2 Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning



## S03.2

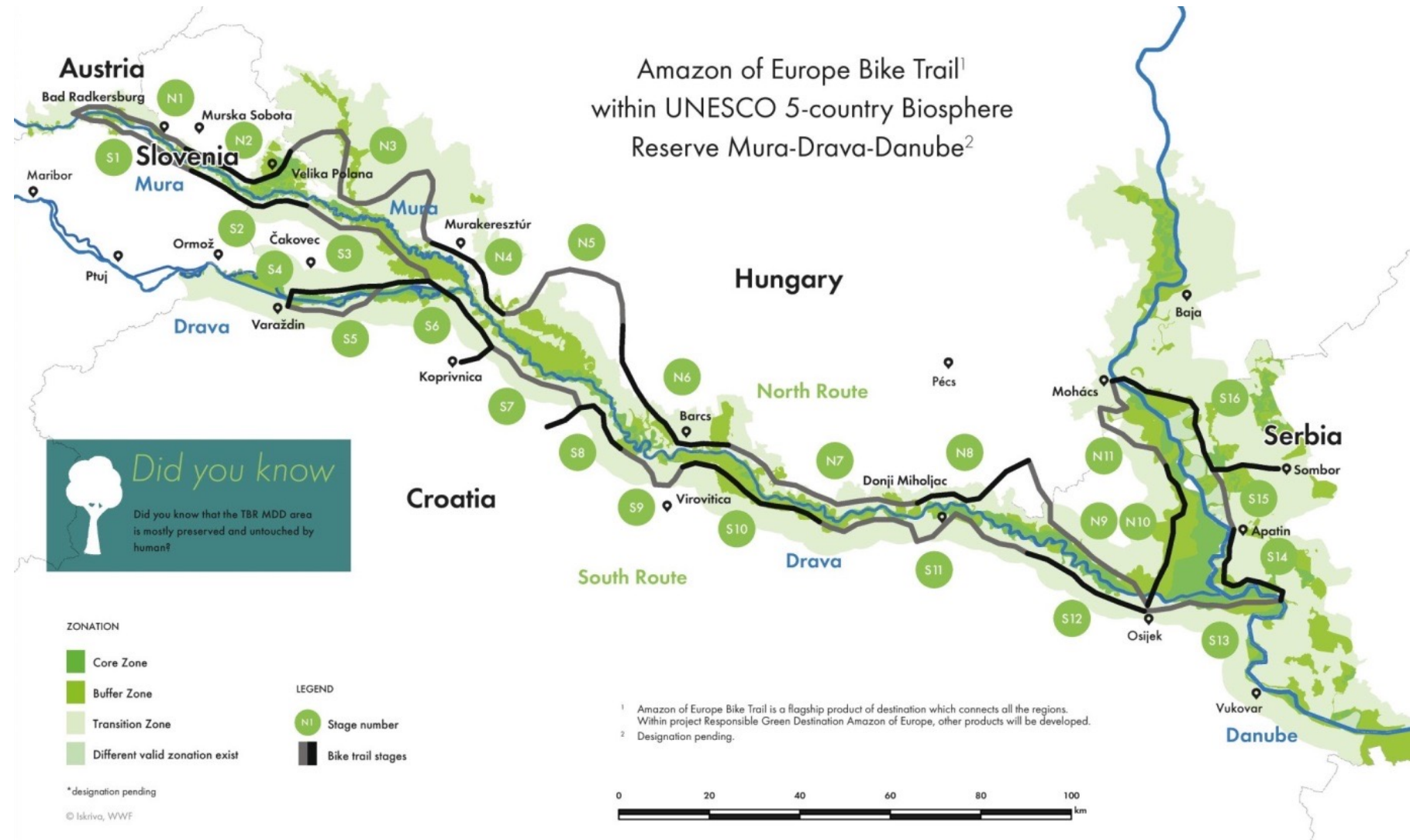
# Accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning



## FOCUS

- Developing innovative educational models, programs, practical tools and materials for disadvantaged learners, including early school leavers
- Maximising the use of existing knowledge and experience to develop best practices in inclusive education policy and advancing education and policy reform
- Innovative approaches to encourage and improve inclusive vocational education and training and life long learning

# SO3.3 Socio-economic development through heritage, culture and tourism



## SO3.3

# Socio-economic development through heritage, culture and tourism



## FOCUS

- Valorisation of local cultural and natural heritage for the development of sustainable tourism products and tourism services in order to increase regional added value and employment
- Improvement of accessibility of cultural and natural heritage for all, amongst others youth and vulnerable groups in order to promote social inclusion
- Promoting community led natural and cultural heritage management and associated nature based and cultural tourism in rural areas and small cities





**SPEAKER'S NAME:** Johannes Gabriel  
**POSITION:** Coordinator governance topic  
**ORGANISATION:** Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS

# Funding possibilities – governance



SO4.1 Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro- regional governance

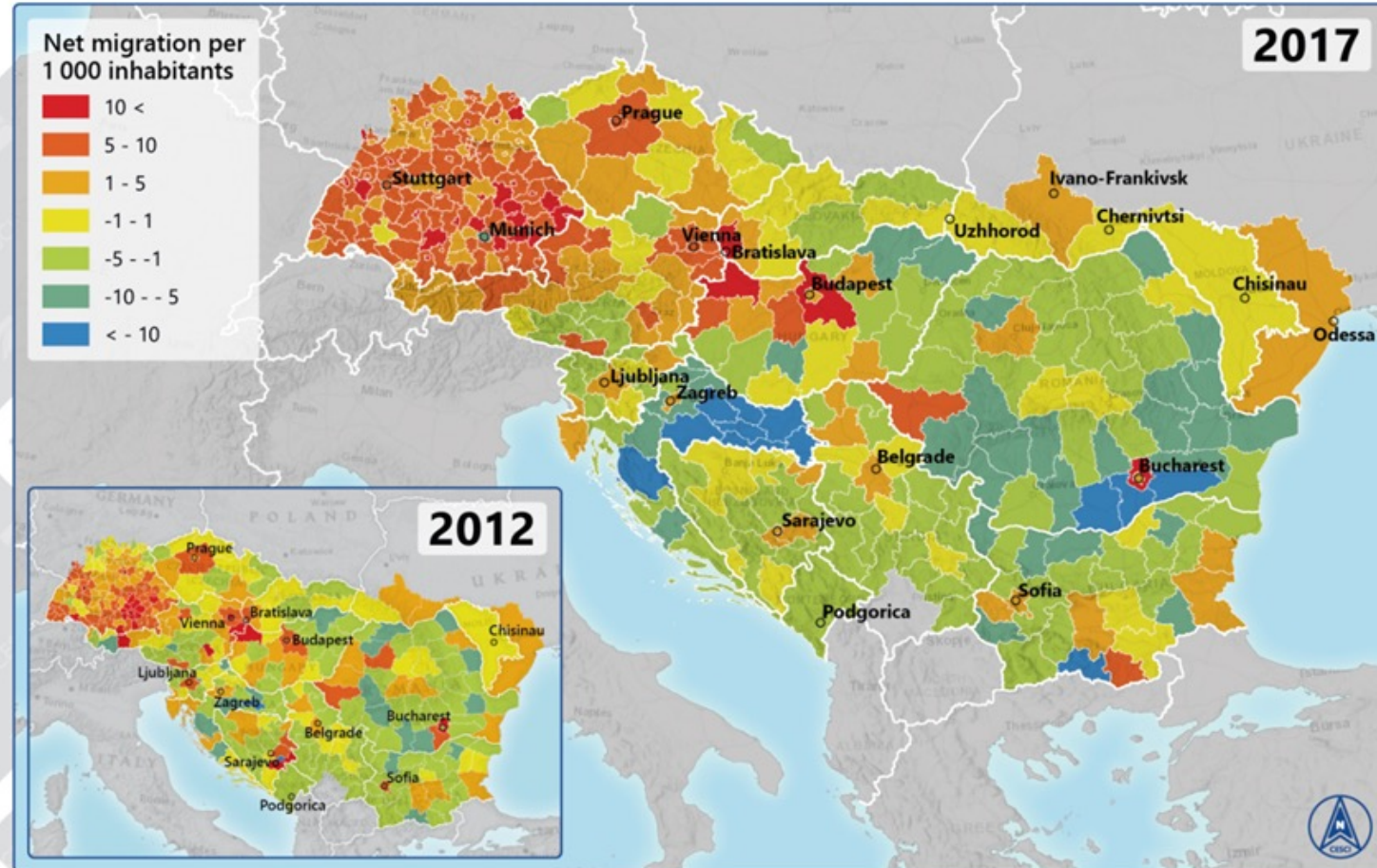


**A better  
cooperation governance  
in Danube Region**

SO4.1 Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance



Spatial distribution of net migration in the Danube Region



## SO4.1

# Increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance



## FOCUS

- Cross-sectoral, multi-level governance solutions for tackling major territorial challenges
- Bottom-up perspective, strong involvement of local actors expected
- Strengthening inter-institutional relations along functional areas
- Embedding transnational initiatives into existing territorial frameworks (Territorial Agenda 2030, New Leipzig Charter)
- Horizontal elements: public services of general interest and digitalization

# Support to the EUSDR governance

- Direct support for Priority Areas  
Coordinators / PAC
- Danube Strategy Point / DSP
- Seed Money / Small Project funding  
facility

Specific funding schemes in terms of (restricted) eligibility of applicants and activities, thematic/financial scope of projects and their duration





**SPEAKER'S NAME: Simona Ene**  
**POSITION: Head of JS**  
**ORGANISATION: Danube Transnational  
Programme MA/ JS**

# Summary and conclusions

- Fully programmed along the EUSDR objectives
- Tackles existing and emerging challenges of the Region
- No large scale infrastructure financing, but lay the ground for future investments
- First call – spring 2022



A smarter  
Danube Region



A greener, low-carbon  
Danube Region



A more social  
Danube Region



A better  
cooperation governance  
in Danube Region