EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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II. Science and Research – What role?
III. Science and Research in the Danube – present and future?
IV. Some food for thought.

I. Danube Strategy – What is it (about)?

- EUSDR = joint undertaking + political determination and will to work together;
- An international cooperation process for identifying macro-regional priorities;
- A comprehensive programme for joint and coordinated action for the benefit of the Danube macro-region;
- A framework for more efficient use of national and EU/International financial resources for development.

I. Danube Strategy – Where do we stand?

- Several key milestones:
  - Communication and Action Plan adopted on December 8th, 2010, by EC;
  - Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) announced on the 03rd of February 2011 (for Science and Research: RS (Mr. Veskovic) + SK;
  - Endorsement by the Council of the EU expected on the 24th of June 2011, under the Hungarian EU Presidency.
- Implementation structure – being defined!

I. Danube Strategy – What's in it for you?

- Cooperation between Universities and Research Institutions;
- Cooperation between Universities, Research Institutions and the Private Sector;
- Cooperation between the Universities, Research Institutions and the public and the civil sectors

Joint and coordinated action bringing together education, labour market, innovation and research for competitiveness.

II. Role of Science and Research

"A society based on knowledge needs competitive research and education infrastructure, innovation supporting and facilitating institutions, and high performing information and communication technologies"

EUSDR, p. 58

II. Role of Science and Research

- Primary priority – III. Building Prosperity in the Danube Region i.e.:
  - To develop Knowledge society through research, education and information technologies,
  - To support the competitiveness of enterprises,
  - To invest in people and skills.
- Yet, important role also in other priority areas of the Strategy (environment, transport, capacity building)

II. Role of Science and Research

POTENTIAL AREAS OF INTEREST:

- **Connectivity** – multi-modality, container transport, IRIS, Bridges, SESAR, EDITS, modernisation of rail and IWT, coordinated and interconnected traffic a/o;
- **Energy** – Renewable energy sources: hydro-power, biomass, energy efficiency;
- **Environment** – water and waste water, soil and air pollution, greenways and bicycle tourism, GIS systems a/o;
- **Risk Management** – floods and disaster management, early warning systems etc.

WITHOUT THE SCIENTIFIC AND THECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE MANY GOOD IDEAS HAVE NO APPLICATION IN REAL LIFE

II. Role of Science and Research

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CAN CONTRIBUTE WITH EFFECTIVE SOLLUTIONS IN ALMOST ALL THE *DANUBE STRATEGY* AREAS OF ACTION – THREORY SHOULD MEET PRACTICE AND SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS SHOULD FIND THEIR APPLICATION IN REAL LIFE

THE DANUBE STRATEGY IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN

III. Science and Research in the Danube

SOME ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

- European Research Area – Research Framework Programme;
- Education and Training – Life-long learning (ERASMUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS, TEMPUS etc.);
- Bologna Process;
- EU Guidelines for Innovation Union, Universities and Research Institutions;
- Various networks of cooperation (e.g. SEE-ERA net), etc.

III. Science and Research in the Danube

"*To stimulate excellence in research and development, cooperation between knowledge providers, companies and the public sector should be enhanced and incentives for stronger cooperation developed. ... Existing bilateral agreements should be used and improved through multilateral coordination.*"

EUSDR, p. 59

INTEGRATION IS NECESSARY!

III. Science and Research in the Danube - Future focus

- **Long-term –Danube Research Area**
  - Integration of education policies;
  - Streamlining of curriculas and their adjustment to labour market needs and interests;
  - Targeted education and research;
- **Mid-term**
  - Joint research and innovation projects with private/public sector;
  - Integration of the economics of research (How much does it cost?);
- **Short-term**
  - Bankable science and research projects;
  - Cross-border cooperation and integration;
  - Pragmatic, well developed and necessary proposals, instead of research just for the sake of research.

IV. Some food for thought

- Bridge the gap – take initiative and imagine a different way of working together;
- Talk to the private sector and define what they need;
- Develop and encourage projects that go beyond the current established frameworks;
- Engage your neighbour – create an opportunity for joint undertakings and successes;
- Integrate, rather than proliferate – make use of what is already there.

If 90% of all your research and activities make it into real life than you have really made a difference.

IV. Some food for thought

SOME IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL PROJECTS:

- "To design and implement a research and development programme (including SMEs) for innovative, sustainable insulation material and other measures to improve energy performance in buildings";
- "To improve sustainable mobility through traffic and interconnectivity of train, bus and shipping in the Danube countries";
- Stimulating the usage of Renewable Energy Sources (Romania / Bulgaria);
- INNO GATE 21 (Romania)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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