

# Opening-up bilateral activities in the Danube Region

## Current status

- Austria has bilateral agreements with 10 of the 13 partner countries in the Danube Region
- In addition many countries in the Danube Region also have bilateral agreements with each other
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region calls for a better coordination / joint strategic use of resources.
- One possibility of better coordinating funding sources is to open up the current bilateral agreements towards multilateral cooperation in the Danube Region

## Concept of opening-up

- No replacement of existing bilateral schemes but a possibility for researchers to co-operate more extensively in the region
- Multi-lateral scheme would allow for the same cost-categories to be financed (mobility in our case)
- Devote a part of the budget already available for bilateral co-operation or make available new funds for a multilateral co-operation – (min. 3 partners from 3 countries)
- Could create a “Virtual common pot” for promoting mobility and stimulating research cooperation

## Procedure and next steps

- **Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Serbia are prepared to start such an initiative in 2016 , Croatia has expressed its interest and **we still welcome countries to join in.****
- Pilot call envisaged for 2016.  
Assess the interest of the research community; test the robustness of the implementation structures
- Keep the application and selection process as simple and as transparent as possible; Preparatory Workshop is foreseen for the first half of 2016 to work out the details for the call.
- One extra meeting for jointly selecting proposals