

Activity PA7 with JRC.

- **The most important achievement in the last year was participation of Moldova and Serbia in the S3 platform and the way towards a Smart Specialisation Strategy. Also Baden-Wuerttemberg recently joined the S3 Platform.**
- **The JRC Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure (DRDSI) evolved in the following directions in 2016: consolidation and enrichment of the DRDSI infrastructure; outreach activities to increase the visibility and value added of the DRDSI in the region and long-term sustainability of the DRDSI infrastructure. Within the last objective, the DANUBE_NET experts have put together their forces to submit an expression of interest to the first call for proposals of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). Their application, Open Danube: Capacity Building Towards Transnational Data Sharing, has been positively evaluated by the DTP Monitoring Committee, and invited to develop it into a full project proposal. It represents an important milestone and confirms the interest of the Danube community for a smooth hand-over of the JRC work to the Danube Region.**
- **The JRC hosted the winners of last years' "Young Danubius Award" at the JRC sites in Ispra and Seville. During the visit the young scientists from the Danube region found out more about the work at the JRC, discovered our laboratories, and got in touch with our**

scientific departments in the fields of their expertise. Several follow ups are ongoing.

- In June 2016, JRC aims to launch a "Collaborative Doctoral Studies" call. This call will be addressed to universities interested in a joint PhD programme that gives students the opportunity to do parts of their research at the JRC.

- During the Slovak Presidency in the 2nd half 2016, JRC will collaborate in several activities with relevance to the Danube macro-region.

Amongst the many activities, I would like to highlight the kick-off of the Science meets Regions concept during the EU Regional Summit in Bratislava (8-9 July 2016), and the EUSDR Annual Forum on 3-4 November: JRC contributions include a workshop on knowledge management and water.

- Other JRC Events:

4-5 July, Karlsruhe: How to build Smart Energy Regions (with a strong participation from the Danube Macro-Region)

1-3 September, JRC Ispra: Science and Policy interface summer school

26 September, Vienna: Science meets Parliament (together also with PA10)

11 October, Brussels: JRC Annual Lecture & launch of the Knowledge Centre for territorial policies