

*EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION*

# EUSDR strategic projects

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- To contribute to stronger and clearer strategic focus to the EUSDR PA's activities;
- To further encourage joint cooperation between Danube states/regions - introducing more strategic focus;
- To establish strategic ground for projects/processes to be considered in 2015/2016 revision process (EUSDR targets, actions, milestones, roadmaps);
- To strengthen and improve communication on the strategic focus and efforts of the EUSDR;
- Could serve as pilot examples for possible strategic support for embedding projects in funding programs/sources.

➤ Scope :

- In terms of structure:

- 1) Single project, contributing to a PA or PAs;
- 2) Group of projects, contributing to a PA or PAs;
- 3) Process (e.g. network, new cooperation mechanism, etc.), contributing to a PA/PAs.

- In terms of readiness:

- 1) Preparatory projects
- 2) Investment projects

➤ CRITERIA:

- 1) it clearly contributes to a EUSDR Targets;
- 2) it clearly and substantially supports a EUSDR Action;
- 3) it has evident and high macro- regional dimension (at least 3 Danube countries/regions);
- 4) it is approved/supported widely by the Danube countries;
- 5) it is realistic in terms of objectives, activities, timeframe and results;
- 6) it has clear financial plan, clearly linked to SP activities, timeframe, deliverables.

## Main actors and tasks:

### I EUSDR PAs (PACs and SG Members )

- identify potential strategic processes/projects;
- prepare an EUSDR Strategic Project Data Sheet for each of the processes/projects identified;
- submit the identified projects in the required format (SP Data Sheets) & by the agreed deadline.

### II Danube Strategy Point (DSP)

- carries out the screening process against the set criteria;
- provides feedback, comments to the relevant PAs;
- ensures coordination with the EC/DG REGIO throughout the selection process;
- provides the NCs with the final outcome of the screening process, and
- proposes the projects to be considered for final validation & approval.

### III EUSDR National Coordinators (NCs)

- endorse the outcome of the selection process;
- decide on granting the EUSDR Strategic Project/Process label.

# Discussion on EUSDR SP during 11<sup>th</sup> SG meeting

## ➤ **Comment from SG members:**

- the relationship of this concept towards current flagship projects,
- the added value of the concept has not been clear for PA7 and still remains vague,
- who actually decides at the end whether the projects are strategic.

## ➤ **Comments from DSP :**

- there is no obligation to use this tool; these projects will raise the visibility by getting together the tangible results of work of experts, contribute to the common targets or to renewal of the action plan, nonetheless the labelled project will get additional points by evaluation in DTP programme,
- it is up to the PAs to decide which projects will be submitted for strategic projects labelling,
- if some flagship project can fulfil all strategic project criteria, it can apply and become EUSDR strategic project.

# Survey by email – proposals from SG members

- Danube Funding Coordination Network should be on the list of EUSDR strategic projects (as a “process contributing to the priority area”)
- Project Excellence-in-ReSTI (submitted to the DTP first call, invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, contributes to the establishment of support centers for R&I stakeholders).
- Project ResInfra@DR (also submitted to the DTP first call, invited to the second stage, contributes to improving the cooperation of research infrastructures).
- Coordination of S3 development and implementation, exchange and training on this topic.
- Danube-INCO.NET could be / should be labelled as a strategic project and if this could lend it some "power" in the argument to be "continued" or for a potential follow-up call.

# Questions for discussion

## ➤ Strategic projects vs Flagship projects

- *Will current PA7 flagship projects be invited to apply for strategic projects?*
- *How to decide if certain project will be offered “PA7 flagship” or “EUSDR strategic project” label?*
- *Is there a need for revising PA7 document “Criteria for label of flagship projects”?*

## ➤ Next steps of PA7

- *How to search for “EUSDR strategic projects” (proposals of SG members, project databases, cooperation with DTP,...)?*
- *Will projects be chosen on the basis of their contribution to PA7 targets/actions/milestones?*
- *How much projects PA7 will propose for “strategic project” label and in which period?*
- *Deadline for identifying the first “strategic project(s)” that will be proposed by PA7?*

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**Thank you for your attention!**