



Joint Research Centre 'Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy'
Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure (RDSI) project

BACKGROUND:

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) launched an initiative for providing scientific support to the implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. The initiative focuses on four vertical priorities: environmental protection, irrigation and agricultural development, navigability, energy production. In addition, the JRC initiative also addressed one horizontal priority: the issue of European governance and the use of 'smart specialisation' approach to regional strategies.

The JRC initiative was launched in close cooperation with the National Science Academies of the countries of the Danube Region. At present, seven Academies of Science of the Danube region (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Bavaria) are participating in the initiative. The cooperation initiative is open to other Academies of Sciences as well as other scientific institutions and bodies of the Danube Region to join in, contribute and benefit from the common activities of the partnership.

THE DANUBE REFERENCE DATA AND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE (RDSI):

In order to facilitate evidence-based decision concerning the large scale projects which will be the key elements of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the partner Academies of Sciences of the Danube Region are planning to set up a Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure (Danube RDSI).

The Danube RDSI will allow policy-makers and other stakeholders to access comparable and harmonised scientific data on various issues (such as water and soil quality, population, landscapes...etc.) related to the Danube Region, thereby providing them with the sound knowledge base which is needed to discuss and implement common solutions. Thanks to its cross-cutting nature, the Danube RDSI will contribute to the holistic scientific approach which is needed to tackle the interrelated and interdependent challenges which the Danube Region is facing.

The Danube RDSI will be based on the existing 'Reference Data and Service Infrastructure' (RDSI) developed by the Joint Research Centre which is a standards based data and information infrastructure for scientists and policy makers aiming to support its stakeholders to find, access and exchange quality controlled data and services in support of traceable and trusted information and policies.