

Danube Region Strategy

PA7 Knowledge society



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Danube Region Strategy – priority areas

- The Danube Region Strategy addresses a wide range of issues divided among **4 pillars** and **12 priority areas**.
- **14 countries, 5 of them non-EU MS**
- Each priority area is managed by 2 countries as Priority Area Coordinators (PACs).



More information: <https://danube-region.eu/about/priority-areas/>

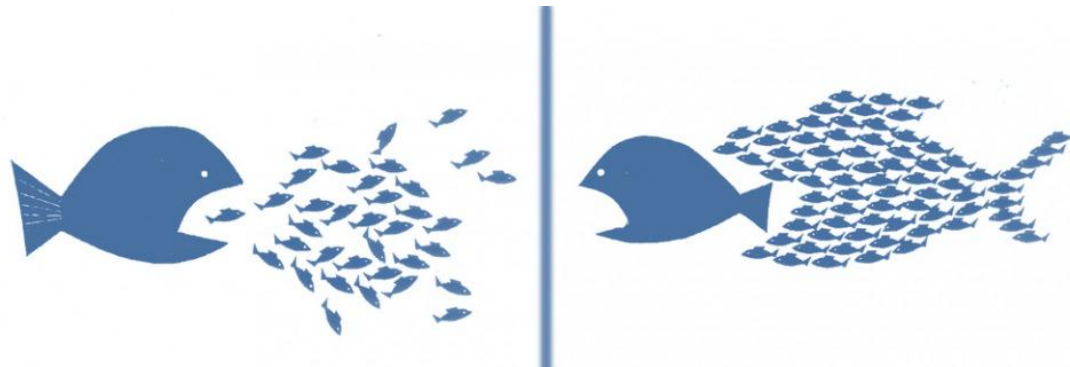


PA7 „Knowledge Society“ approach

towards the EUSDR Action Plan

PA7 supports development of the knowledge society via higher education, research and innovation

- **horizontal** character; **cross-cutting** priority area
- **higher education, research and innovation** are not only highly relevant issues per se, but they also form an **integral and essential part of other priorities**; from energy, water and environment, to culture and security



PA7 – Actions

To promote **coordination of national, regional and EU funds to stimulate excellence in R&D&I**, in research areas specific for Danube Region

To promote **participation of Danube countries in EU R&I Programmes**, in particular in Horizon Europe

To **strengthen cooperation among universities, research organisations and SMEs** in the Danube Region

To increase **awareness and visibility of science and innovation** in the region

To **support exchange of information and experience for the purpose of preparation of future strategic R&I documents** applicable in the new programming period

To promote **horizontal cooperation in S&T across all PAs and other MRSs**



PA7 – Working Groups

WG1: Danube Funding Coordination Network (DFCN) (Austria)

- to support joint R&D&I activities
- to coordinate and synchronise national, bilateral and regional efforts in order to foster multilateral collaboration

WG2: Higher Education and Mobility (Serbia)

- interaction with academic institutions, exchange of best practices
- cooperation with Danube Rectors' Conference

WG3: Smart Specialisation of the Danube Region (Serbia)

- data collection on RIS3 in Danube Region
- screening and identification of common priorities in different countries of the region

WG4: Danube Region in European Research Area (Slovakia)

- experience exchange, good practice sharing on the R&I activities in the region
- surveys regarding Horizon Europe participation + informative workshops
- policy recommendations



Ongoing and Next Activities

Analyses:

- Midterm evaluation of the participation of the Danube countries in Horizon Europe
- Challenges and Perspectives of Higher Education in the Danube Region
- RIS3 Development with a specific focus on strategies in non-EU countries in the Danube Region

Position Paper:

- [Reflection on the preparation of the 10th EU Framework Programme for research and innovation from the perspective of the Danube Region](#)

PA 7 Flagship Projects:

- HARMONMISSIONS
- POLICY ANSWERS
- MSTC



PA7 flagship project: MSTC

Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation in the Danube Region (MSTC)

- ✓ multilateral call supporting researchers' mobility
- ✓ every participating country supports its research team,
- ✓ outputs – joint publications or preparation of a transnational project,
- ✓ provide an opportunity for young/female researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers.

Participating countries: Austria; Czech Republic; Serbia; Slovakia; France (from 2019), Bulgaria (2022), Montenegro (2022)

- **pilot call:** launched in 2016; 55 applications, 19 projects funded
- **2nd call:** launched in 2019; 55 applications, 20 projects funded
- **3rd call:** launched in 2022, 58 applications, 24 projects funded
- **4th call :** launched in November 2024, 106 applications, evaluation is ongoing



PA7 Activities

Invitation to the on-line stream with a Danube Region Scientist – Hydrogeologist Dr Peter Malik
10 November 2023 | 14.00 – 15.00 CET |



Regular online streaming to promote Danube Region scientists to a wider public

PA7 in cooperation with PA4 organized two online streams **with a renowned Danube Region Scientists as short presentations and moderated discussions** with a hydrogeologists:

- [Dr Peter Malík](#) representing *Slovak State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur* and
- [Prof Helmut Habersack](#) from *BOKU, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna*.

Recorded versions available here: [Dr Malik](#) and [Prof Habersack](#)



Danubius Young Scientist Awards

Danubius Young Scientist Awards is a competition open to all scientific disciplines organised by BMBWF, IDM, DRC and JRC

138 applications in 2024 received – 14 award winners (1 per EUSDR country)

Deadline of the ongoing call: 9th May 2025

More information: <https://www.idm.at/en/activities/awards/danubius-young-scientist-award/>





For more information



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