



# Priority Area 7 - Knowledge Society Overview, Actions, Perspectives

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Ministry of Education,  
Science, Research and Sport  
of the Slovak Republic



# What is it about?

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## Priority Area 7

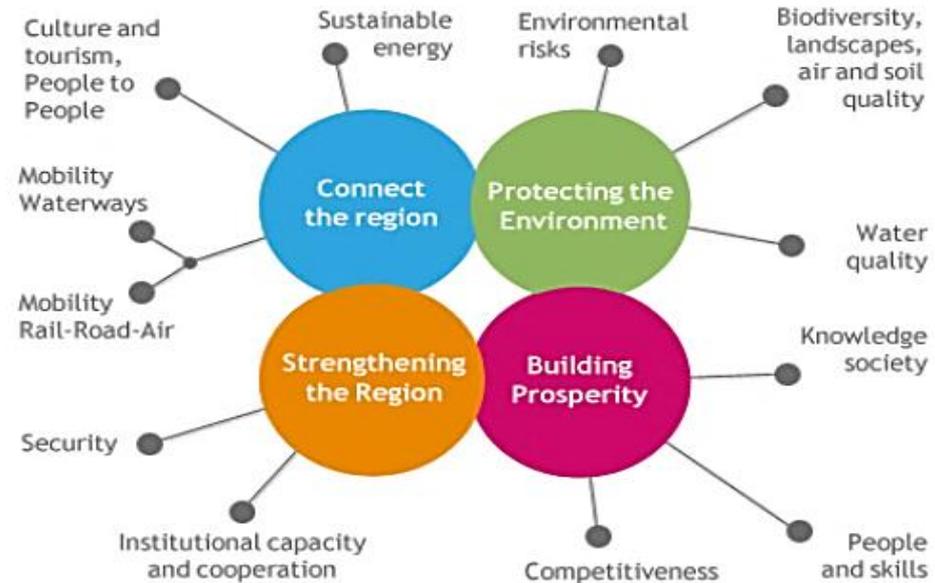
- ▶ Main targets
- ▶ Working groups
- ▶ Flagship projects
- ▶ Outcomes of DRRIF feasibility study
- ▶ Future activities, calls, networking, ...

# EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- EUSDR aims to jointly address common challenges and utilize opportunities:
  - ✓ 2nd oldest macroregional strategy (after the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region), endorsed by the European Council in June 2011
  - ✓ **14 countries, 5 of which non-EU**



- **EUSDR focuses on the region's challenges by means of 4 pillars and 11 priority areas (PA).**



Each PA is managed by two coordinators from various countries of the DR.

**Slovakia co-coordinates two priority areas:**

- **PA 4 Water quality (with Hungary)**
- **PA 7 Knowledge society (with Serbia)**

# Updated PA 7 targets



**realistic – attainable – suitable for measuring the progress**

1. To increase the effectiveness of investment in R&I through establishment of **a funding coordination network** aiming to initiate a minimum of 2 dedicated EUDSR activities each year
2. To increase the **number of co-publications in the region by 15 % by 2020.**
3. To develop **RIS3 in all** Danube countries (or their regions)**by 2020.**
4. To reach **20% of academic mobility** within the region by 2020.
5. To increase the **number of EPO and PCT patent applications** from the Danube Region **by 20% by 2020.**

# PA 7 - working groups

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## **WG 1 Higher education and mobility (SRB)**

- cooperation among universities and research institutions (Danube Rectors' Conference, Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference, the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS) and others.)
- mobility in the Danube Region
- joint master and doctoral programmes

## **WG 2 Information and Communication Technologies (SL)**

- provision and uptake of Information and Communication Technologies in the Danube Region

## **WG 3 Danube Funding Coordination Network (AT)**

- monitoring progress of DRIFF
- coordination of funding sources

## **WG 4 Communication with JRC with special emphasize on RIS3 (SK)**

- smart Specialisation Platform
- scientific support to EUSDR (4 nexuses: water, land & soil, air, bioenergy)

## **WG 5 Research and Innovation (RO)**

- strengthen the capacities of research infrastructure



# PA7 - Flagship Projects

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1. **DRRIF** - Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund
2. **DREAM** - Danube River REsearch And Management - from Basic Research to Knowledge Society
3. **INT-VET** - Introduction of Elements of Vocational Education and Training in the Slovak Republic
4. **Danube: Future** - A sustainable future for the Danube River Basin as a challenge for the interdisciplinary humanities
5. **DANUBIUS** - Danube International Centre for Advanced Studies for River-Delta-Sea Systems
6. **HINO** - Health Impact of Nanotechnology
7. **DO-IT** - Danube Open Innovative Technologies

# Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund

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## **Primary objective:**

- ▶ mobilizing and distributing funding to support of research and innovation activities in the countries of the Danube Region

## **Feasibility study:**

### Part 1:

- mapping, analyzing information on absorption capacities of research and development in the Danube Region
- potential cooperation of DRRIF with existing grant schemes
- identification potential thematic fields

### Part 2:

- proposal of the DRRIF potential forms

# DRRIF part 1 : conclusions

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- **very disproportionate gross domestic expenditures in R&D between DR countries**
- **room for improvement in cooperation between countries**
- **need for improvement of drawing on available EU structural funds**
- **dominant position of one country in the region**

## **Vertical thematic areas:**

- ▶ Automotive industry and transportation
- ▶ ICT
- ▶ Materials, engineering and manufacturing
- ▶ Environment

## **Horizontal thematic areas:**

- ▶ Supporting innovative activities of SMEs
- ▶ Building partnerships between the scientists, public and private sector
- ▶ Supporting submitting applications for funding from various sources
- ▶ Promoting and raising awareness regarding EU programmes
- ▶ Increase the participation of students and young scientists in R&I projects
- ▶ Support of human capital development

# DRIFF – SWOT analysis of the Danube region

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## Strengths

- **significant activity** in terms of R&D support in the Danube region
- majority of countries have **R&D as their priority** and expenditure are growing

## Weaknesses

- insufficient R&D human capital – caused by “**brain drain**”
- low number of **patents and scientific publications**
- low **triple helix cooperation**
- insufficiently developed **R&D infrastructure**

## Threats

- **location of private innovation** activities in countries with more developed infrastructure and labour market
- **frequent changes** in R&D governance

## Opportunities

- **identified priority areas** - ICT, new materials, renewable energy resources, shared by multiple countries:
- relatively high number of **university graduates**

# DRRIF part 2 : potential forms

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## DRRIF as a fund

- ▶ **to obtain financial resources** from European, national and private sources
- ▶ **to finance projects in accordance with its selected vertical and horizontal thematic areas**
- ❖ **the least feasible option**, due to limited funds of the countries, and lack of political will

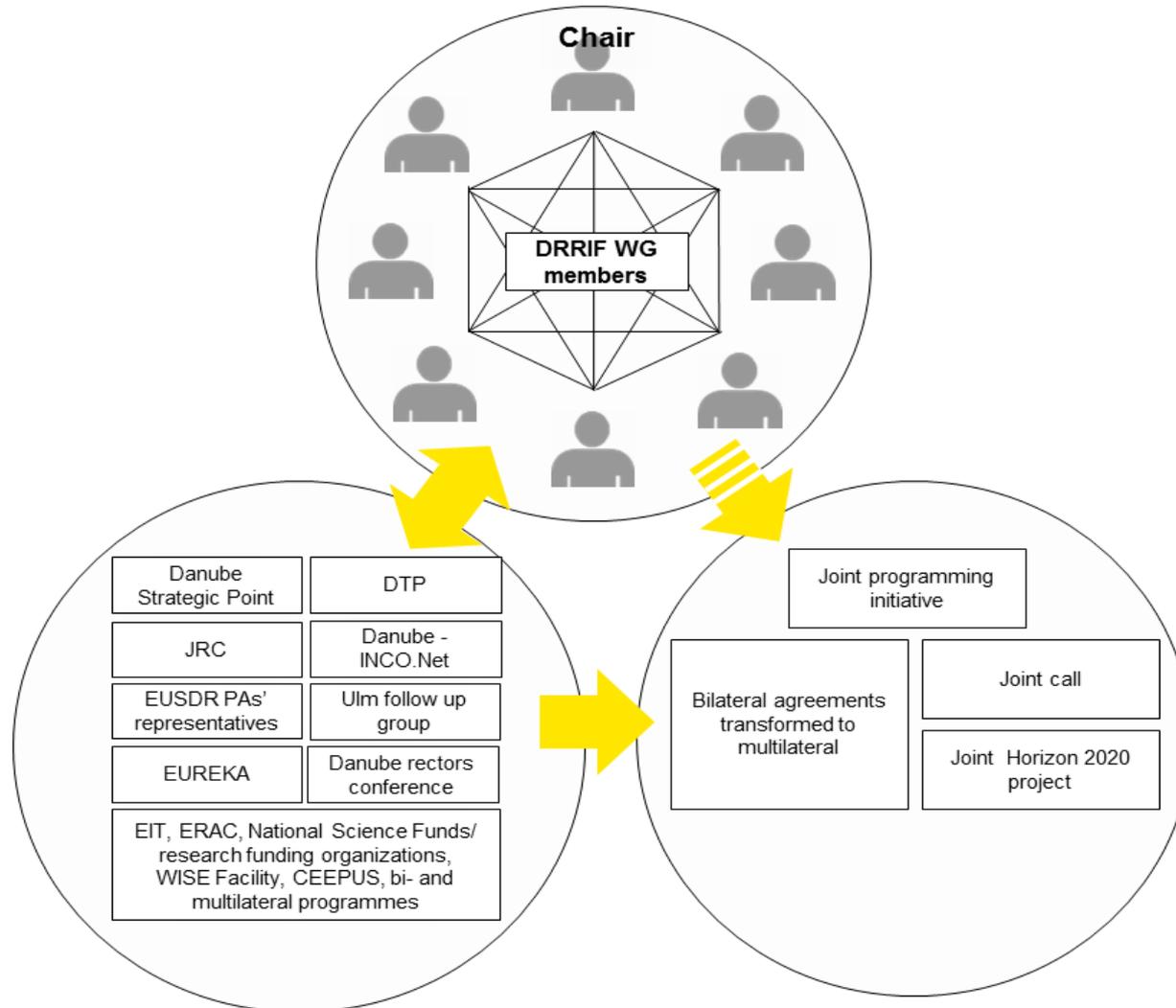
## DRRIF as a funding network

- ▶ **to identify existing national, bilateral and regional sources, calls or programs**
- ▶ **to network funding and research performing institutions** active in R&I
- ❖ **the most feasible form**

## DRRIF as a support center

- ▶ **to support establishment of new successful partnerships**
- ▶ **to interlink the existing funding and research institutions**
- ▶ the support center will not directly finance any R&D projects
- ▶ **possible future form**

# DRRIF as a funding network



# PA7 activities related to the better coordination of funding sources

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## **EUREKA E!DI Call**



- The specific **EUREKA!** Danube Region multilateral call was opened for cross-border co-operative projects
- Overall 80 projects have been submitted
- 8 submitted project proposals with Slovak participants

## **Opening up bilateral activities towards multilateral cooperation**

### Examples:

- ▶ German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF):
  - 2 Danube Specific Calls for networking projects between German partners and partners from the EUSDR
  - 2013 - 67 proposals; 31 projects funded
  - 2015 - 63 project submissions; evaluation in progress
- ▶ Austria:
  - Opening up of the existing bilateral agreements in the Danube Region - Pilot Call with interested countries planned in 2016

## **COST – targeted networking**

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- ▶ Bratislava, 25 May, 2016

# PA7 Slovakia - key activities in 2016

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## Activity I - Governance

- ▶ Facilitation, coordination and effective **implementation of PA7 activities**

## Activity II – Supporting common R&I projects

- ▶ Development of **ongoing R&I projects**
- ▶ Initiation of **new transnational projects** in the Danube region

## Activity III – Funding network

- ▶ Political, technical and administrative preparation for the establishment of a **well operating Funding network** aiming at better **coordination of available financial resources**

## Activity IV – Stronger cooperation among triple helix institutions

- ▶ Promotion of joint projects and initiatives that involve **strong cooperation of education and research institutions with industry** within the Danube region countries

# Thank you for your attention!

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## For more information visit:

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- <https://www.vedatechnika.sk/SK/Stranky/Dunajska-strategia.aspx>
- <http://www.danube-region.eu/>