

EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Revised PA7 targets

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- ✓ According to the 2010 Communication on EUSDR:
- “... **setting targets is essential, to focus and prioritise efforts.** These should be further developed with stakeholders, immediately following adoption of this Communication and finalised before the European Council in June 2011. Targets will apply to Member States; non Member States will be encouraged to strive towards them in the light of their specific circumstances. **The targets will be monitored closely in the context of Commission reporting.**” (in 2011 the process of defining applicable target has been finalised).
- PACs “... ensure implementation (e.g. by agreeing on planning, with targets, indicators and timetables...”.
- For reporting and evaluation purposes the PACs “... will **identify progress related to the improvements that actions and projects will deliver and to achievement of targets**, as well as provide information regularly on their work. Based on this, the Commission drafts reports, indicating progress of the Action Plan...”

- One of the lessons learned in the 2013 Commission's report: "**Targets**, milestones and roadmaps prioritise work, contribute to timely implementation and facilitate communication of the Strategy's potential. They **should be continuously reviewed and monitored.**" Furthermore, the Commission recommends that participating countries and regions "ensure there is more focus on results through paying further attention to appropriate targets and indicators, milestones and roadmaps".
- The current targets were drafted by the SGs, discussed by the Commission and relevant line-DGs as well as, where relevant, international organisations (ICPDR) and transmitted by the Commission to the High Level Group for its meeting of 21 November 2011.

Current PA7 targets



1. To invest 3% of GDP in Research and Development by 2020;
2. Broadband access for all EU citizens in the Region by 2013;
3. Increase the number of patents obtained in the Region by 50%;
4. Greater share of EU population age 30-34 with tertiary education – aiming towards 40% by 2020;
5. To reach 20% of academic mobility by 2020.

- During the PAC meetings of 21 March 2015 and 8 May 2015, the issue of relevance of correct targets was raised in relation to the selection criteria of the DTP, referring specifically to the EUSDR targets in the assessment of project proposals, with a view to give extra points to proposals which implement the EUSDR.
- At the "Floating Conference" (common NC & PAC Meeting on 24/25 June 2015) it was decided that all EUSDR PAs will assess the respective targets in view of proposing adaptation or revision. PA built on the structure of the existing targets, but at the same they should provide for realistic and feasible targets on which basis the needed monitoring and evaluation would be subsequently developed. Therefore, **targets were not only to be updated, but their use in terms of monitoring the implementation progress of the EUSDR needed to be also ensured.**

EC recommendations for updating PA7 targets

- no need to disconnect targets from Strategy Europe 2020
- the targets should "make sense" & to be more concrete
- make targets "usable" - they will be used by the DTP in order to assess project proposals
- have to be quantifiable and allow for measuring the progress
- not only for the benefit of the selection process within the DTP, but also for showing the added value of the EUSDR
- more concrete, useable, quantifiable, NOT just descriptive
- be aware of the difference between targets (quantified) and general objectives/actions (descriptive)

Updating PA7 targets

- November 2015 – email communication of PACs with SG members and EC regarding new PA7 targets.
- 10th PA7 SG meeting (December 9th 2015) – discussion on new PA7 targets with first proposals created
- On the basis of discussion and proposals made – email sent to SG members - given proposal with a request to send their comments, agreement or disagreement
- After receiving suggestions and **adopting targets by the SG members**, on December 18th final version of targets was sent to EC
- January 2016 – template for revision of targets/actions provided by DSP
- On May 23rd 2016, **NCs endorsed PA7 targets** (as well as targets of other PAs)

Revised PA7 targets

- **Preliminary Note:** The EU Strategy for the Danube Region has been established as a mechanism for the better coordination of activities in the Danube Region. It aims at a more effective spending of existing resources but in principle no extra funds have been made available. In this sense the work of Priority Area 7 “Knowledge Society” has to be understood as a contribution towards these targets which depends on national/regional and EU framework conditions in the education, research, development and innovation areas.
- 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 EUSDR activities each year (e.g. joint calls; joint strategic project proposals (within a multilateral framework)).**
 - 2) To increase the number of EPO and PCT patent applications filed from the Danube Region by 20% by 2020**
 - 3) To enhance regional research and education co-operation to reach 20% of academic mobility within the region by 2020.**
 - 4) To increase the annual output of co-publications in the region by 15 % by 2020**
 - 5) To develop RIS3 in all Danube countries (or their regions) by 2020.**

Priority Area: 7

Target number	Revision of EUSDR Targets		
	Current EUSDR Targets	Proposal for revised EUSDR Targets	Justification for the proposal for revised EUSDR Targets
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
I	To invest 3% of GDP in Research and Development by 2020	To increase the effectiveness of investment in R&I through establishment of a funding coordination network aiming to initiate a minimum of 2 dedicated EUSDR activities each year (e.g. joint calls; joint strategic project proposals (within a multilateral framework)).	The new target is much more realistic and in line with activities of PA7.
II	Broadband access for all EU citizens in the Region by 2013		PA7 SG members from the Working Group on ICT consider that there is no need to have a target related to ICT.
III	Increase the number of patents obtained in the Region by 50%	To increase the number of EPO and PCT patent applications filed from the Danube Region by 20% by 2020	EPO and PCT patents are those of higher value (more expensive, more effort). The time lag is not as long as for patents (EPO patents are published after 18 months)
IV	Greater share of EU population age 30-34 with tertiary education – aiming towards 40% by 2020		This target cannot be significantly influenced by the activities of PA7 so the SG members agreed to omit it.
V	To reach 20% of academic mobility by 2020	To enhance regional research and education co-operation to reach 20% of academic mobility within the region by 2020.	The wording of the target is more precise.
VI		To increase the annual output of co-publications in the region by 15 % by 2020	We consider this indicator is very relevant and should be included in new PA7 targets.
VII		To develop RIS3 in all Danube countries (or their regions) by 2020	New indicator, related to PA7 activities which the SG members consider as important for effectiveness of R&I in the Danube region.

What about PA7 Actions?

- Actions related to new PA7 targets:
- “To coordinate better national, regional and EU funds to stimulate excellence in research and development, in research areas specific for the Danube Region”.
- “To strengthen cooperation among universities and research facilities and to upgrade research and education outcomes by focusing on unique selling points”
- “To cooperate in implementing the flagship initiative “Innovation Union of the Europe 2020 Strategy” in the Danube Region countries” – mentioned Example of project - “To establish a peer-review mechanism of regional smart specialisation strategies”
- NO CHANGES PROPOSED IN THESE ACTIONS
- ***“NCs took note and agreed on EC's proposal to separate, for the time being, the two processes, leaving the door open for a more thorough revision of the Action Plan when needed, possibly as an outcome of the EC report on the implementation of macro-regional strategies due by end 2016 as well as the outcome of the monitoring lead by the DSP.”***

Thank you for your attention!