



## EUSDR PA7 Newsletter – Wrapping Up the Year 2022 and Wishing You a Peaceful, Healthy and Prosperous 2023!

Dear readers,

At the beginning of the new year, please have a look together with us at the main activities, events and initiatives, which allowed us to continue cooperation with various stakeholders and to accomplish the tasks, which are summarized in our second Newsletter.

We hope you will find it an interesting reading and we are also looking forward to further collaboration and exchanges in 2023.

On behalf of both PA7 coordination teams, we would like to wish you a prosperous New Year!

### PA7 HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

#### **PA7 Report on RIS3**

[Policy report on analysis of PA7 actions - monitoring, evaluation & recommendations related to RIS3](#) in the Danube region countries is based on detailed exploration of the RIS3 processes in the region. It summarizes results of 1) the desk research on S3 priorities in the Danube region and 2) PA7 survey on RIS3 in the Danube region launched in second half of 2021.

The results show that there are various possibilities for improvement of RIS3 processes in the Danube region, both in EU and non-EU countries. Therefore, the report contains also main recommendations for RIS3 policy makers drawn up on the results of the PA7 survey.

#### **PA7 Analysis on Re-Evaluation of the Knowledge Society (2010-2020)**

[The Analysis of the Evaluation of the Knowledge Society Development in the Danube Region for the period 2010 – 2020](#) is a continuation of the analysis that covered the development of the knowledge society in the Danube region between 2010-2018 (carried out in 2018) and it brings the continuation and revision of the previous study (carried out in 2018) **assessing the current state and progress**



made in the area of knowledge society in the Danube Region countries, as well as defining recommendations for improving the situation in the region.

### Promotion of Danube region among researchers and innovators – second online stream | 26 May 2022

The PA7 continues with public online streaming with the main aim to promote renowned Danube Region researchers, scientists, innovators, and their topics of interest in the appealing form to a wider public.

The second event organized in May 2022 as a moderated online discussion with the **Head of the Slovak Space Office at the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency, Mr. Michal Brichta**. Participants had the possibility to learn about the European Space Agency (ESA), current status of Slovakia in the ESA, why is exploring space so important for the future of our countries, and much more.

The online stream is available at the [following link](#).

### PA7 cooperation with three approved flagship projects and strategic projects

To promote the visibility of achievements in the EUSDR, strategic initiatives were selected as “**Danube Strategy Flagships**” across all Priority Areas. For PA7 three initiatives were chosen: **Danube Tech Valley**, **Western Balkans R&I Information Hub (powered by POLICY ANSWERS)** and **Multilateral S&T Danube Call**.

For more information, please [check here](#).

### PA7 issues its first mini storybook

PA7 prepared [a mini storybook](#) based on the inputs collected by both coordination teams and PA7 partners. The storybook presents the journey of PA7, informing about the projects, people, activities, and mentioning the main policy outcomes. The storybook shall help and contribute to identity-strengthening of the PA7.



## PA7 Steering group meetings in 2022 | 22 June and 6 December 2022 | Hybrid

The **23<sup>rd</sup> PA7 Steering group meeting** was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 with the main aim to introduce and nominate Danube Flagship Projects by PA7. Similarly, the information on the results of the PA7 on RIS3 Analysis in the Danube Region was presented and discussed with SG members. The past and ongoing activities of the revitalized PA7 working groups were presented by their leaders and the information about plans of the Slovak EUSDR Presidency, ENRICH Network and the DRP were presented. More information about Danube Flagships is available [here](#).

On 6 December, 2022, PA7 organized the **24<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting**. First time after two years it was organized in a hybrid format and the main focus of the meeting was the introduction of PA7 future plans (2023-2028), continuation of the revitalized working groups, exploring activities of the Slovenian and also upcoming Austrian EUSDR Presidencies, DSP news, introduction of the activities and cooperation possibilities of PA7 flagship projects and results of the Analysis of the knowledge society in the Danube region.

All related documents and presentations are available [here](#).

## Danube Region Multilateral Scientific Call

In accordance with the **Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region** signed on 14th July 2016 the third edition of public call for submitting applications for joint projects supporting cooperation between organizations in the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of France.

The Call is open between **9 November 2022 and 16 January 2023**. For more information, please check for example [here](#).



## EUSDR NEWS

### **Danube Youth Council | 18 March 2022**

The Danube Youth Council (DYC) has been officially established as of October 2022 and is composed of **28 members**, 2 members from each of the 14 Danube Region countries. The DYC shall provide a platform for institutional involvement of young people in all [EUSDR bodies](#) to make ideas and viewpoints of young people heard and considered on a political level.

For more information, please visit [DYC](#).

### **EUSDR Policy Evaluation/Impact Published | May 2022**

The **Policy/Impact Evaluation of EUSDR instruments, tools and activities for measuring the impact in the Danube Region** was finalised and can be found [here](#).

The EUSDR Impact Evaluation answers **nine questions structured along four themes: (A) implementation, (B) impact, (C) communication and (D) effects of COVID-19 pandemic**. The evaluation builds on the complex intervention logic of the EUSDR and its recent alignments, namely the revised EUSDR Action Plan 2020. The theory-based evaluation focuses on changes envisaged by the Strategy and looks to identify and assess the processes behind the changes.

### **Danubius Awards 2023 Ceremony | 10 November 2022 | Maribor**

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) honored the excellent scientists of the Danube Region for their commitment to their scientific work during the official award ceremony which took place on November 10, 2022 in Maribor.

The scope of the Danubius Awards has always been to give visibility and recognition to the scientists' community of the Danube Region. In the framework of the EUSDR they represent a chance to highlight the potential of the region in the area of sciences and research. You can find more information about the Danubius Awards 2022 Ceremony on the [IDM website](#).



## Opening event of the Slovenian Presidency of the EUSDR | 1-2 December 2022

With the Opening event held on 1 December 2022 at Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia began its year of the Presidency of the EUSDR. The Opening event continued with an informal discussion among EUSDR National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators, focusing on **empowering for involvement, strengthening the ownership of countries in the EUSDR and unlocking the potential of macroregional cooperation for non-EU countries while maintaining full solidarity with Ukraine**. One of the thematic priorities of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency is “**Towards the knowledge society and professions of the future**”.

The Slovenian EUSDR Presidency can be reached [here](#).

## The EC Report on the Implementation of MRS | December 2022

The European Commission released its [report](#) on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies (2022).

Fragments from the **main conclusions**:

- As MRS contribution to the green, digital and social transitions is important, all are accelerating their delivery on these topics.
- The MRS should also increase their efforts to support new activities in fields where cooperation at macro-regional level provides an added value, exploring synergies with sea-basin strategies, and where the MRS could open for solutions that are difficult to achieve in more formalised contexts, such as energy.
- The fact that Ukraine took over the presidency of the EUSDR in 2021 triggers new activities and contributes to the deepening of cooperation in the [#Danuberegion](#)



## SEASON GREETINGS

We thank you all for your support, advices, valuable recommendations and contributions throughout the year and look forward to the upcoming opportunities and challenges in 2023!



happy new year  
2023

## OUTLOOK 2023

16-17 March	PAC Meeting
15-16 May	NC+PAC Meeting
17-18 May	EUSDR Presidency conference “Knowledge-driven society”
September	NC+PAC Meeting
23 October	Danube Participation Day
24-25 October	12th EUSDR Annual Forum
28-29 November	Danube Region Transport Days

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