Development of the Knowledge Society through Research, Education and Information Technologies

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THE DANUBE REGION
EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

• Smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth

• Research and innovation are at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy.
HORIZON 2020

• Grand challenges:
  – Food
  – Energy
  – Water
  – Climate change
  – Healthy and active aging
  – Innovation
HORIZON 2020

- Building a European Knowledge Based Economy by bringing together science, industry and other stakeholders, to exploit new and emerging research opportunities that address social, environmental and economic challenges.
- Triple helix–quadruple helix
Grand challenges in the Danube region

• environmental threats (*water pollution, floods, climate change*)
• untapped shipping potential and lack of road and rail transport connections
• insufficient *energy connection*
• uneven *socio-economic development*
• uncoordinated education, research and innovation systems
This pillar focuses on innovation, information society, competitiveness of enterprises, education, labour market and marginalised communities.
Targets as challenges and opportunities

- Developing regions downstream can benefit from the leading - indeed world-class - innovative regions upstream.
POLICIES AND MECHANISMS TO BE PROMOTED

- Networking of centers of excellence and complementary partnerships
- Diffusion mechanisms and targeted support for research infrastructure
- Smart specialization
- Brain–circulation
ROAD MAP

• Milestone: **Identify the centres of excellence and potentials for smart specialization in the Danube Region**

• Milestone: **Establish a peer-review mechanism of regional smart specialization strategies and support writing S3**

• Milestone: **Identify competitive research infrastructure in the Danube Region**

• Milestone: **Agree on regional innovation system and target scientific areas with the most potential in the region**
ROAD MAP

• **Milestone:** Identify national, regional and EU funds for research and innovation

• **Milestone:** Call for tender to find partner organization for establishment of the Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRIFF)

• **Milestone:** Feasibility study for the establishment of the Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund
They agreed to take the following specific steps:

- .........

- To strengthen and adjust their research systems where needed and to facilitate and support interaction between the various instruments at national, regional and EU levels.
Aiming to contribute to the implementation of the European Union’s Danube Strategy, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) has supported the development of the concept of “smart specialisation”, defined as an entrepreneurial process of discovery, identifying where a region can benefit from specializing in a particular area of science and technology.
• To consider – as an immediate measure – the legal, administrative and financial pre-conditions for the setting-up of a Danube Research, Innovation and Networking Fund with contributions by national and EU sources with the aim of allocating at least 5 million euros from each side.
Conference of the Ministers of the Danube Countries
Ulm, 8 - 9 July 2012

• **Research cooperation in the field of renewable energy such as**
  - Geothermal energy in the Pannonian Basin, which includes Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Austria
  - Renewable energy for mobility
  - Smart grids
  - Energy-efficient cities and regional planning
  - Biomass: combination of material and energy recovery

• **Environmentally and socially compatible development of the energy system seems particularly suited for joint cooperation in the Danube region.**
To continue the dialogue started today, the Steering Group of Priority Area 7 of the Strategy for the Danube Region will be invited to develop concrete proposals to implement these recommendations, in collaboration with the Steering Groups of other Priority Areas, for example that on sustainable energy.
Smart specializations

• Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisations (RIS 3) PA7+PA8

• Smart Specialisation - A regional policy instrument for enhancing competitiveness and cooperation in the Danube region 24. May 2012, Stuttgart
Smart specializations

How to initiate a self-assessment for smart specialisation

• What: Concentrating knowledge resources for economic specialisation
• Why: Learning lessons from the past
• Who: Putting entrepreneurial knowledge to work
• How: Setting in motion regional change
• Where: A role for every region
• Identification of priorities
Smart specializations

- Clusters and smart specialisation
- Innovation friendly business environments for SMEs
- Research infrastructures, centres of competence and science parks
- Universities
- Digital Agenda for Europe
- Key enabling technologies
- Cultural and creative industries
- Internationalisation
- Financial engineering instruments
- Innovative public procurement
- Green growth
- Social innovation
THE DANUBE REGION

Registered by JRC IPTS for smart specialisation strategy

ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA
• Jihomoravský kraj

DEUTSCHLAND
• Freistaat Sachsen
  • Weser-Ems

ÖSTERREICH
• Niederösterreich
• Oberösterreich

ROMÂNIA
• Vest
“FROM WORDS TO ACTIONS”

‘GRANTS FOR AN ACTION’

• In order to promote policies mentioned we shall strive:
  
  • “To support preparation and adoption of regional S3
    
    • “To promote innovation and business' success in new markets”
    
    • “To establish a Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund promoting excellence in research in the Danube Region”
EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE IN NETWORKING

NETWORK OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

√ Insisting on connecting the centers of excellence with the emphasis on *complementarity* - binding the Upper and Lower Danube.
Higher education and research should create hope, from which society’s desire for growth and prosperity will emerge.
Thank you for your attention!

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