



## **DANUBE STRATEGY**

On 8 December 2010, the European Commission endorsed and published the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, consisting of a **Communication** and an **Action Plan**. Debated and agreed on at Community level, the documents define the core of regional cooperation in the Danube area. They were developed by the riparian states that, alongside the European Commission, assessed the real needs of the Danube region and proposed a document agreed upon both politically and technically. Therefore the Danube Strategy is a project of the European Union, which third states of the region have also been invited to join.

The four priority axes of the Strategy are:

- connectivity (intermodal transportation, culture and tourism, energy networks),
- environment protection (management of water resources, biodiversity protection, and risk management),
- building prosperity in the Danube region (education, research, competitiveness) and
- improved governance (institutional capacity and internal security).

It also proposes a number of time-limited targets for focus efforts, including:

- develop efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020;
- implement the Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the EU Floods Directive – and include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021;
- reduce nutrients to restore eco-systems of the Black Sea to 1960 levels by 2020;
- bring broadband fast-speed internet access to all EU citizens in the region by 2013;
- invest 3% of GDP in Research and Development by 2020;

One of the first tasks of the Priority Area Coordinators will be to agree and refine these targets with the countries most involved in each area of work.

To achieve the targets, the strategy lists a series of actions which will also make an important contribution to achieving the broader Europe 2020 goals for sustainable and smart growth.

**The appointed Priority Area Coordinator countries are listed in table below.**

## EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

### Coordination of Priority Areas

Priority Area	Countries
1) To improve mobility and intermodality <sup>1</sup>	<u>Inland waterways</u> <b>Austria</b> <b>Romania</b> <u>Rail, road and air</u> <b>Slovenia</b> <b>Serbia</b> <b>(Interest: Ukraine)</b>
2) To encourage more sustainable energy	<b>Hungary</b> <b>Czech Republic</b>
3) To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts	<b>Bulgaria</b> <b>Romania</b>
4) To restore and maintain the quality of waters	<b>Hungary</b> <b>Slovakia</b>
5) To manage environmental risks	<b>Hungary</b> <b>Romania</b>
6) To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils	<b>Germany</b> (Bavaria) <b>Croatia</b>
7) To develop the knowledge society (research, education and ICT)	<b>Slovakia</b> <b>Serbia</b>
8) To support the competitiveness of enterprises	<b>Germany</b> (Baden-Württemberg) <b>Croatia</b>
9) To invest in people and skills	<b>Austria</b> <b>Moldova</b>
10) To step up institutional capacity and cooperation	<b>Austria</b> (Vienna) <b>Slovenia</b>
11) To work together to tackle security and organised crime	<b>Germany</b> <b>Bulgaria</b>

Throughout 2010, in all the riparian states conferences, seminars and roundtables were devoted to promoting the new regional concept. The outcome of these consultations is the European Commission's Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the related Action

Plan. The latter includes a detailed analysis of the current situation and proposes action lines illustrated by types of projects to be implemented on the short/medium or long term.

In the first half of 2011, in keeping with the calendar of the EU's Hungarian Presidency, the Strategy is to be submitted for approval to the Council on 18 April and to be adopted at the European Council on 24 June. The European Commission will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, which is to be updated periodically, depending on economic developments and social trends in the region.

Romania's contribution to developing the strategy is a result of cooperation between the following government institutions: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Ministry of the Environment and Forests, Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Business Environment, Ministry of Public Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of the Administration and Interior, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, and the Department for European Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides interinstitutional coordination, as well as external representation of Romania in connection with this aspect.

Beginning in July 2011 the relevant central authorities will ensure sectoral coordination for the Danube Strategy priority areas, at a macro-regional level and with partners from the riparian states.

Concurrently, in keeping with the bottom-up approach (Strategy governance from the bottom to the top of the administrative pyramid), all stakeholders can contribute to actions under the Danube Strategy, participating in public events and in relevant debates.

Major **benefits** for Romania from the Danube Strategy:

- Improved quality of life, based on higher competitiveness and attractiveness of settlements on the Danube;
- Economic advantages derived from business partnerships and cooperation between the public and the private sector;
- Holding of annual economic forums;
- Investment attracted to such strategic fields as transport, environment and energy infrastructure.

## Downloads:

- Commission communication about strategy on the Danube region  
[http://ria.org.ro/ria/images/danube/com2010\\_715\\_danube\\_en.pdf](http://ria.org.ro/ria/images/danube/com2010_715_danube_en.pdf)
- Commission working document - Action plan for the Danube region  
[http://ria.org.ro/ria/images/danube/drs\\_action\\_plan\\_-\\_08\\_12\\_2010.pdf](http://ria.org.ro/ria/images/danube/drs_action_plan_-_08_12_2010.pdf)

## Useful links

[ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/danube/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm)  
[www.mae.ro](http://www.mae.ro)

This guide is provided by RIA, member of the PLATINA project.



### About PLATINA

The NAIADES action plan is a Commission initiative to enhance the use of inland navigation as part of intermodal freight solutions, in order to create a sustainable, competitive and environmentally friendly European wide transport network.

This objective was embraced by the inland navigation sector, who, together with the Commission have created PLATINA, an FP7 project consisting of 23 partners from nine different countries, in order to accelerate the achievement of the NAIADES aims. This multi-disciplinary knowledge network will allow PLATINA to create the momentum necessary to achieve the NAIADES objectives. - For more info – [www.naiades.info/platina](http://www.naiades.info/platina)

### Disclaimer

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