

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region



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1

State-of-play of the EUSDR

2

Added-value Report & Council Conclusions

3

2nd Annual Forum for the EUSDR

1

State-of-play

Calendar of the EUSDR



Nov. 2012

1st Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy

April 2013

First Report on the Implementation of the Danube Strategy

June 2013

Report on the added value of macro-regional strategies

Oct 2013

Council Conclusions adopted by the General Affairs Council

Oct 2013

2nd Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy



State of play (1/2)

- **The first Progress Report on the Danube Strategy (April 2013)**, highlights a number of new projects and how the Strategy is giving momentum to existing initiatives.
- The report suggest the Danube governments to '**move a gear up**' and calls on to **follow up** on the political commitments by making the Strategy a priority across all relevant policy areas.
- It urges the 9 MS involved to **incorporate the Strategy into their plans** for the next generation of programmes under **Regional policy for 2014-2020**.

State of play (2/2)

- It is important to ensure **funding for implementation** of EUSDR projects in the next funding period 2014-2020.
- Therefore we need to **embed Danube Strategy in Partnership Agreements and ESIF, Operational Programmes** of Danubian Countries.
- Future Danube Transnational Programme.

2

Added-value Report & and Council Conclusions

Report on the Added Value of the MRS

(June 13)



PURPOSE

Clarify concept of MRS

Evaluate Added Value

Provide recommendations

Recommendations

Realising the full potential

- ✓ All participants must recognise MRS as horizontal responsibility, embedding the approach in all decisions
- ✓ Operational problems inside administrations should be tackled with appropriate staff and resources.
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation

Reinforcement of multi-

Leadership

- ✓ Stronger leadership, reinforcing ownership in the regions

Council Conclusions (Oct. 13)

Concept Added Value



Evolution MRS: Priority should be given to coherence and strategic relevance for the MRS.

MRS have proved added value

Provides criteria to use MRS and recommends adapt best practises

Implementation



Align financial resources with MR strategies and engage private sector

Monitoring and evaluation: realistic indicators and targets.

Ownership and Governance



Political ownership

Inclusive process

Need of multilevel governance and mobilisation of partners

Cooperation



Encourage MS utilize unused synergies between TC and MRS

Strengthen Best Practices MR

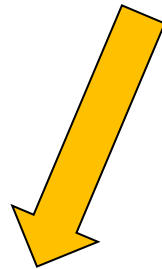
Capitalizations of results and synergies among projects

3

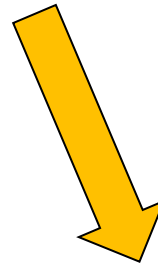
2nd Annual Forum for the EUSDR

The 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSDR, jointly organised by the COM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, took place in Bucharest (Romania) on 28-29 October.

With the title "*Danube Region - stronger together, stronger in the world*", the forum encouraged a debate on:



How the Strategy is helping to tackle joint challenges



How this is having an influence in striving competitiveness





European
Commission





European
Commission



Structure of the Event

3

Plenary sessions

4

**Parallel thematic
workshops**



Numerous Side Events

Three Plenary sessions

Actors reflecting on the state of play and future outlook:

- 1) **Stronger in the world:** The Danube Strategy as driver for growth, jobs and global impact.
- 2) **Stronger together:** The Danube Strategy balancing economy and ecology.
- 3) **Financing the Danube Strategy.**



Four parallel thematic workshops

Interactive exchange of experiences and opinions

- 1) **'Connected Danube Region':** (transport - including inland navigation and energy)
- 2) **'Green Danube Region':** (water quality, environmental risks, and biodiversity)
- 3) **'Smart and inclusive Danube Region'** (education, research, competitiveness, people and skills)
- 4) **'Effective, attractive and safe Danube Region'** (institutional capacity, security)



Numerous Side Events

Several events will take place in parallel with the Annual Forum,

- The 3rd Danube Financing Dialogue
- The Workshop on Danube Innovation Partnership
- Back-to-back meetings
 - ✓ **Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs**
 - ✓ **Meeting of the Ministers of Regional Development**
 - ✓ **Meeting of the NCPs and PACs**



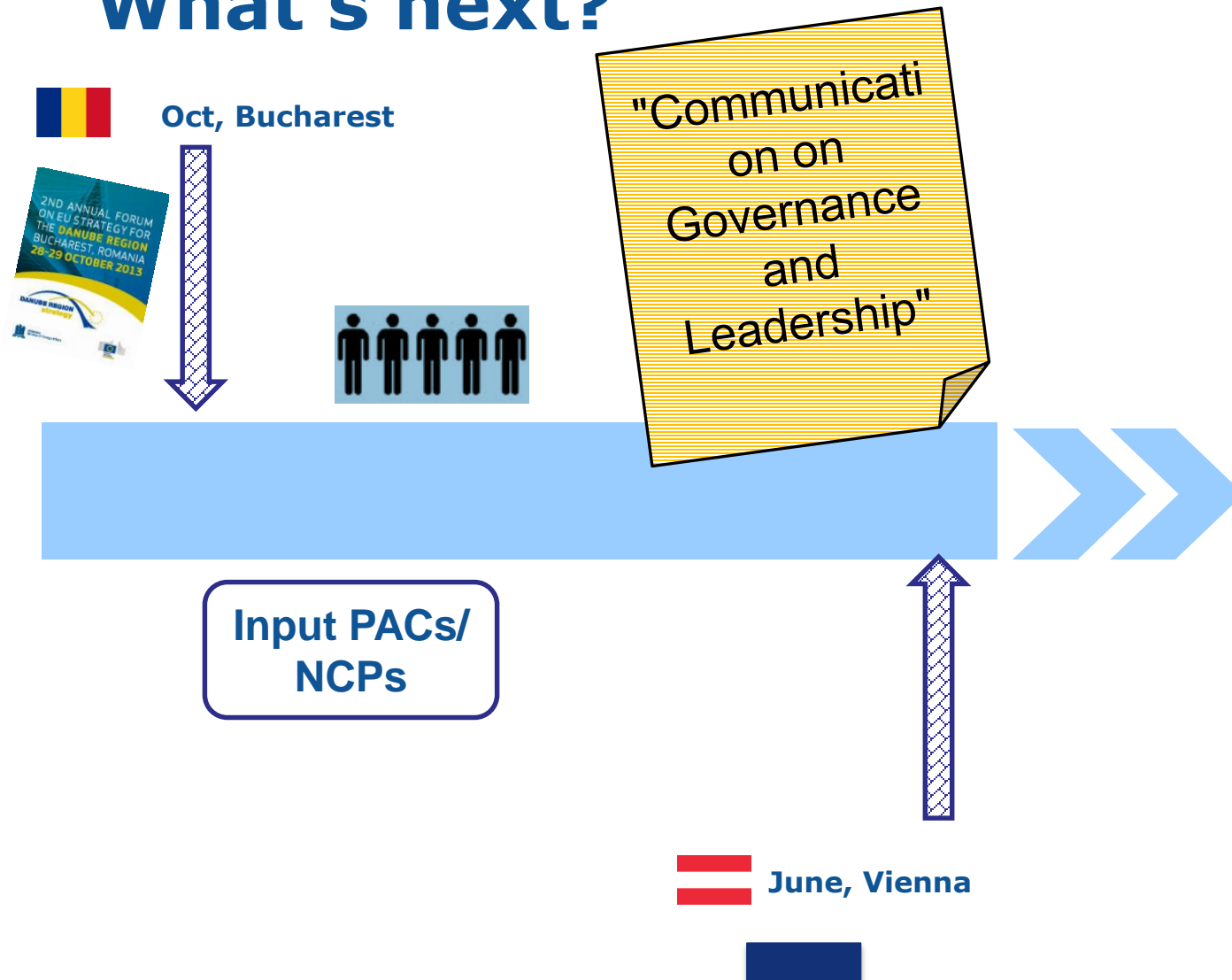
Outcomes (1/2)

- **High level political attention**, more than 1000 participants, and substantial media coverage.
- Ministers of Foreign Affairs reconfirmed **political importance, geopolitical aspect of neighbours' integration, Danube coordination** within countries, and the importance of **embedding the Danube perspective** in policy and funding for 2014-2020.
- The latter was reaffirmed in the meeting of the Ministers of Regional Development and was one of the main message in all the discussions in the Annual Forum.
- Much has already happened, but the **process needs to speed up**, building on existing frameworks.

Outcomes (2/2)

- A "**Connected Danube Region**" means we must lose national and gain EU perspective (plan well, plan long-term).
- A "**Green Danube Region**" means lining up heavyweight policy and money for the green agenda (act together on big items: floods, hazards)
- A "**Smart Danube Region**" is a Danube Europe "Europe 2020". Skills surplus/shortages and mobile people mean we must act together.
- An "**Effective, Attractive and Safe Danube Region**" means involving all levels, bringing the Danube initiative to the people, being open. People are safer, as agencies are gear up together.
- Discussion was kicked-off on **governance / ownership** debate requested by the Council Conclusions of GAC in October.

What's next?



Thank you for your attention !



For more information visit:

www.danube-region.eu

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm