



The Role of the Danube Region Strategy

Importance of the Macro-Regional Approach

*Workshop on the Danube Region Geothermal Concept
Budapest, 28th November, 2013*

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EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Sustainable Energy Priority Area

Danube region – a heterogeneous macro-region

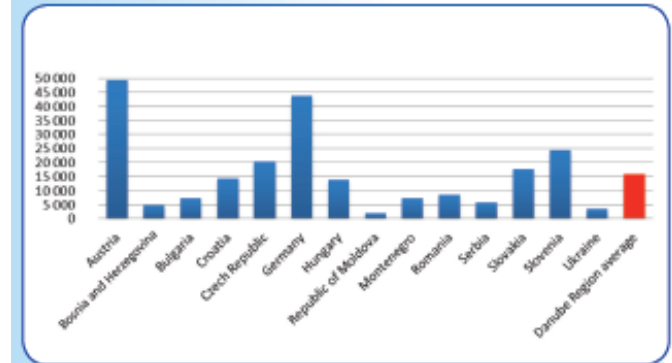
Key features:

- ▶ 9 EU + 5 non-EU countries;
- ▶ More than 100 million inhabitants;
- ▶ One-fifth of EU's total area;
- ▶ Significant regional disparities;
- ▶ A number of issues require working together across borders and national interests.



Source: www.danube-region.eu

GDP per capita in the Danube Region (PPP*, 2011) (USD)



*PPP: purchasing power parity

Source: PA2 compilation based on World Bank data



Connecting the Region through sustainable energy

- ▶ The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy of the European Union, endorsed by the European Council in June 2011;
- ▶ Driving force ⇒ the one-size-fits-all approach is not working in an EU of 28 Member States and 273 regions;
- ▶ The Strategy was jointly developed by the European Commission, the Danube Region countries and stakeholders in order to jointly address common challenges;
- ▶ The Strategy seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region;
- ▶ The strategy tackles these various topics in a structured way through 4 pillars and 11 priority areas.

THE FOUR PILLARS



11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

Cooperation is managed by the DRS countries

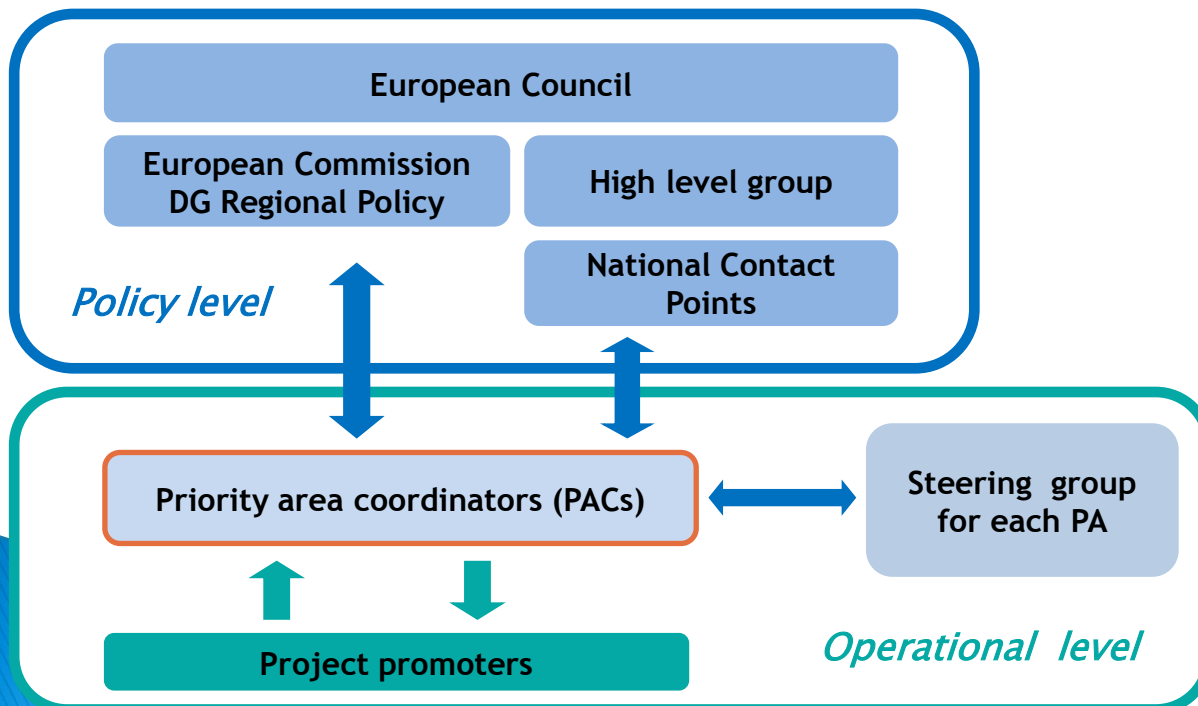
- **Priority Area 2 – Sustainable Energy (PA2)** is jointly coordinated by Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Priority Area	Countries in charge of coordination
P1 Mobility and intermodality	<u>Inland waterways:</u> Austria, Romania Rail, road and air: Slovenia, Serbia
P2 More sustainable energy	Hungary, Czech Republic
P3 Culture and tourism, people to people	Bulgaria, Romania
P4 Water Quality	Hungary, Slovakia
P5 Environmental risks	Hungary, Romania
P6 Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils	Germany (Bavaria), Croatia
P7 Knowledge society (research, education and ICT)	Slovakia, Serbia
P8 Competitiveness of enterprises	Germany (Baden-Württemberg), Croatia
P9 People and skills	Austria, Moldova
P10 Institutional capacity and cooperation	Austria (Vienna), Slovenia
P11 Security and organized crime	Germany, Bulgaria

Political commitment needs to be translated into action

Governance of the Strategy

- ▶ **European Council** – Endorsed the Strategy & decides on main policy orientations;
- ▶ **European Commission** – Coordination, report on achievements and progress, organization of Annual Forums;
- ▶ **High level group for the Danube Region** – decides on revision of the action plan & on Strategy targets;
- ▶ **National Contact Points** – Coordinating national administrations, providing advice and information;
- ▶ **Priority Area Coordinators** (2 per Priority Area) – Coordination of daily work, report to the Commission on progress and difficulties;
- ▶ **Steering Groups** – Main decision making body consists of high-level officials from each country.



Major objectives of the Priority Area 2

Threefold approach

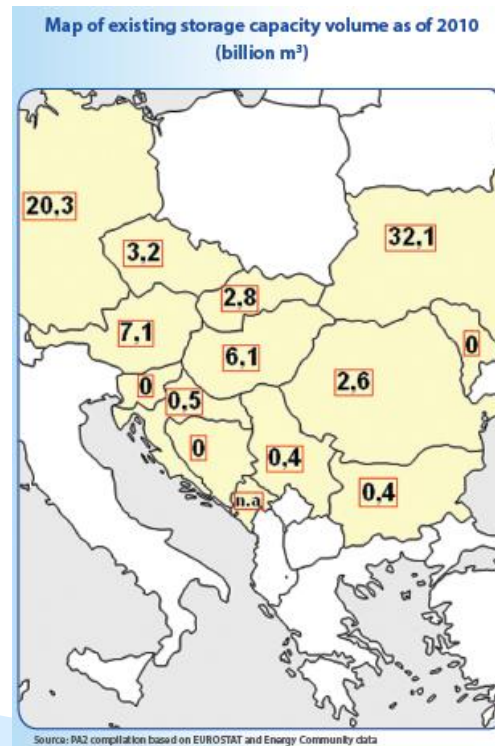
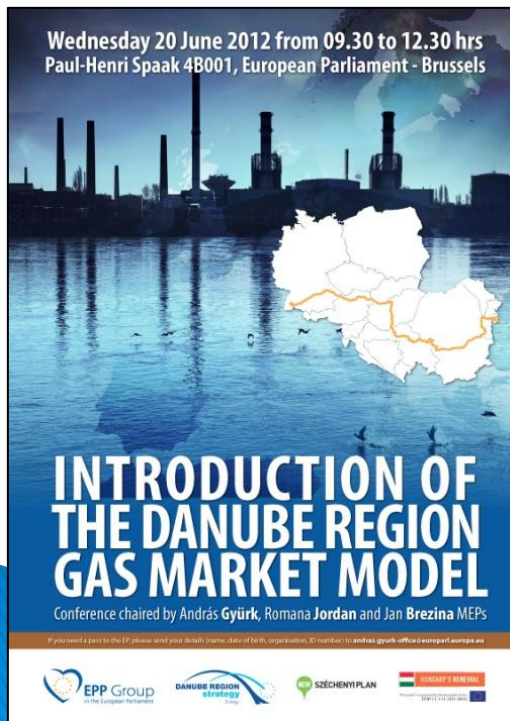
- ▶ I. Coordinating regional energy policies;
- ▶ II. Enhancing the energy market integration of non-EU countries;
- ▶ III. Facilitating cutting edge technology developments;

The achievement of these objectives will result in more jobs, more competitiveness and more investment in the whole Danube Region.

I. Coordinating regional energy policies – Gas

Danube Region Gas Market Model & Gas Storage Analysis

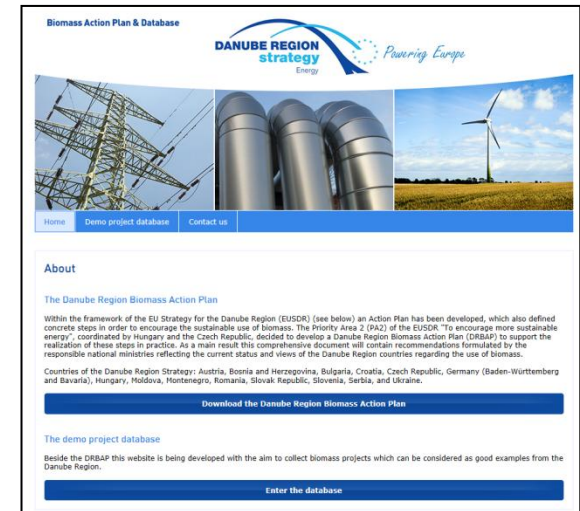
- ▶ First of its kind model and analysis;
- ▶ Joint declarations;
- ▶ Results presented in Brussels as well;
- ▶ Better and more focused use of funds in 2014–2020 – CEF;
- ▶ Joint preventive Action Plan to the Region as a next step.



I. Coordinating regional energy policies –Renewables

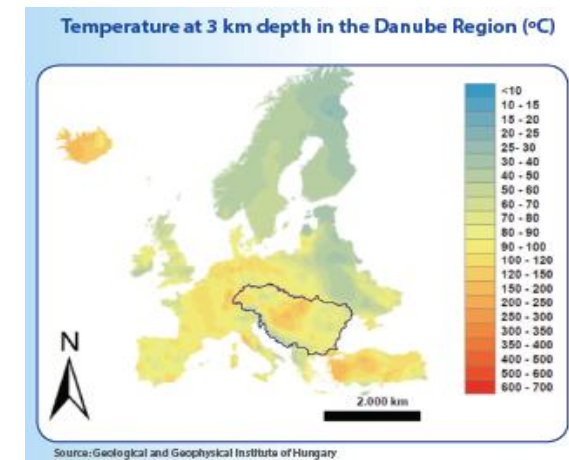
► Danube Region Biomass Action Plan

- Comprehensive analysis on the biomass potential, legal framework and regulatory environment of biomass utilization;
- Demo project website (www.danubebiomass.eu) with the aim to collect biomass projects which are considered as best practices.



► Danube Region Geothermal Concept

- Providing systematic and harmonized information about the geothermal potential and the non-technical barriers;
- Data will be organized into a geothermal information platform.
- Workshop for finalizing the concept and establishing a project consortium – Budapest, 28 November 2013



II. Energy market integration of non-EU countries

- ▶ Training Program in the Republic of Moldova
- ▶ Support for implementing the EU energy acquis – e.g. provisions of the 3rd energy package;
- ▶ 4 Workshops in Chisinau:
 - February 2013
 - March 2013
 - May 2013
 - July 2013
- ▶ On-the-spot assistance to Moldova on the practical implementation of the EU's energy law;
- ▶ 2nd phase will be launched in 2014.



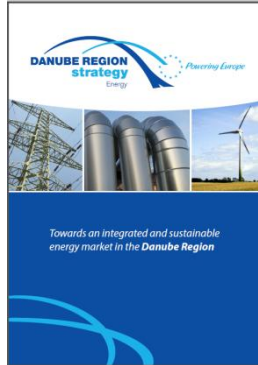
III. Facilitating cutting edge technology developments

► Danube Region Smart Grid Concept

- To facilitate a common understanding on electricity smart grids;
- Assisting the countries of the Danube Region to take the first steps towards the development of smart grid policies and action plans;
- Discovering the bottlenecks of smart grid developments in the Danube Region;
- Eliminating infrastructural barriers, fostering the integration of the increased renewable supply into the grid and decreasing the ratio of non-payment;
- Regional Workshop on Smart Grid Deployment in the Danube Region – Brussels, 18 November 2013;
- Assessment report – will be ready by the end of 2013.



For more information please visit:
<http://danube-energy.eu/>



Thank you for your attention!

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