

Public Participation and Multi-level Governance within the Danube Region Strategy

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Countries Participation

14 countries

9 EU-members

5 non members

>110 Mio. inhabitants

EU STRATEGY FOR
THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)
www.danube-region.eu



Pillars and Priority Areas



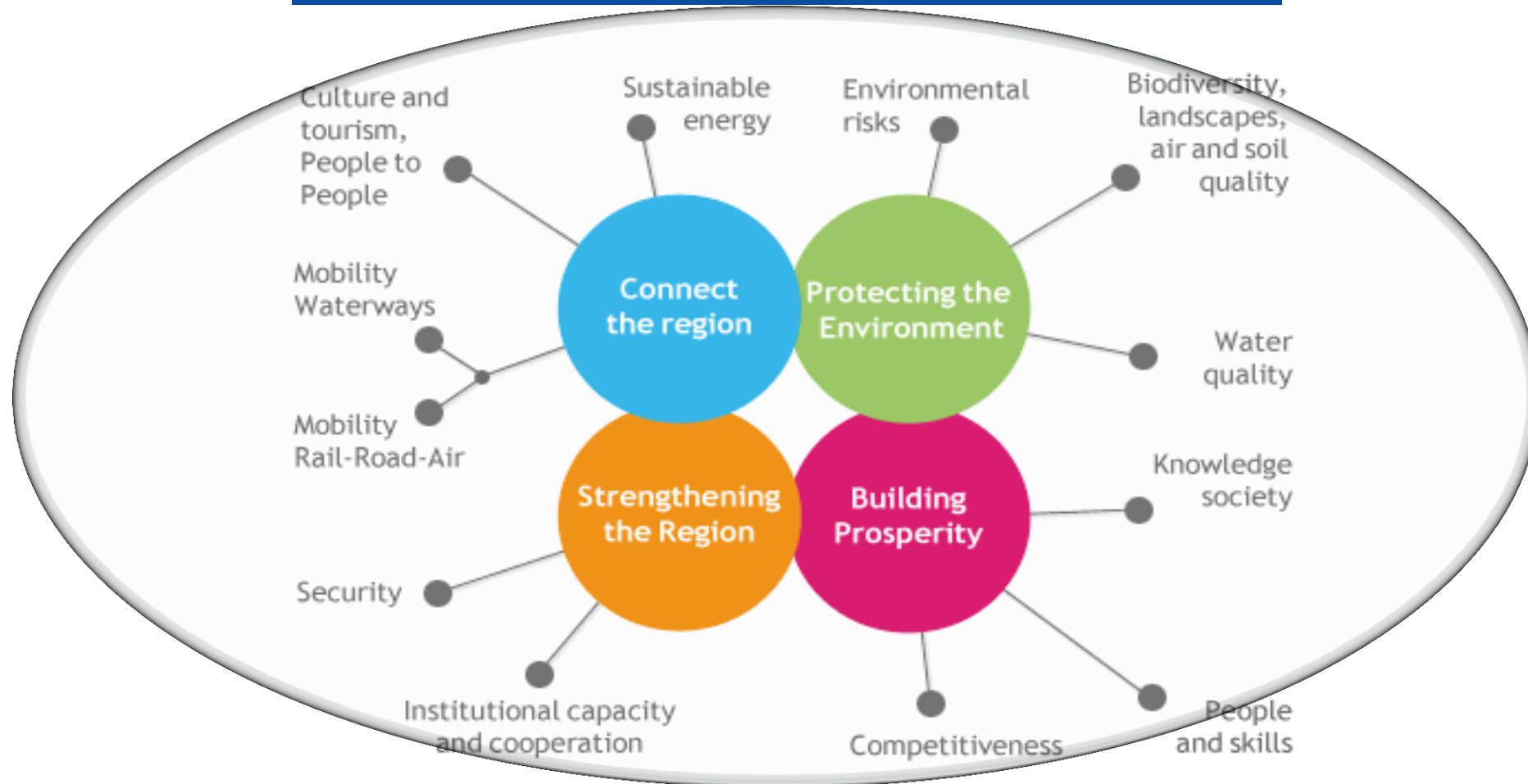
Priority Area 10 is part of Pillar 4 „Strengthening the Region“



Cooperation and Capacity-building are the keys to better Living Conditions in the Danube Region

- Public management practices
- Cooperative structures catching the needs of citizens
- political and/or administrative reforms to build a smart, sustainable and inclusive Danube Region
- Involvement of civil society
- Strengthening governance through inclusion of stakeholders
- Unfold urban and regional potentials
- Foster territorial, social and economic cohesion

PA 10 is a horizontal task



| Priority Area 10 - Targets | | Actions |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| | | according to EUSDR Action Plan 12/2010 |
| 1 | Improve ... government effectiveness, regulatory quality and control of corruption | To combat institutional capacity and public service related problems in the Danube Region. |
| 2 | ...involve the national, regional and local authorities and Civil Society Organisations | To improve the trust of citizens and stakeholders in political authorities. |
| | | To establish a Danube Civil Society Forum. |
| 3 | The <i>Urban Platform Danube Region</i> helps to generate ... cooperation on all levels ... furthering the aim of better spending | To build metropolitan regions in the Danube Region. |
| | | To improve the trust of citizens and stakeholders in political authorities |
| | | To facilitate the administrative cooperation of communities living in border regions |
| | | To ensure sufficient information flow and exchange at all levels. |
| 4 | Increase the average absorption rate of EU funds in the Danube Region in comparison to 2007-2013 period | To review bottlenecks relating to the low absorption rate of EU funds and to ensure better coordination of funding. |
| | | To support the development of local financial products for business and community development |
| | | To examine the feasibility of Danube Investment framework. |

Involving Stakeholders – Active in thematic platforms

- **Local Actors platform**
Civil Society Forum, Participation Days...
- **Urban Platform Danube Region**
Committee of Danube Cities and Regions, ARGE Donauländer
- **Capacity Development Platform**
- **Danube Innovative Financial Platform**

PA10 approach to Local Actors involvement:

- Principles of **subsidiarity**, **transparency** and **participation**
- Policies should take place *where people live*
- Measures should be tailor-made (place-based approach)
- **Multi-level Governance**

Civil Society involvement is important

- Expertise for policy- & project-development
- Transparency, participation, legitimacy
- Strengthening democratic structures
- Institutional memory & capacity/governance
- Establishing a „macro-regional public sphere“

D-LAP: Danube Local Actors Platform

- **Framework for exchange and cooperation** between Local Actors of the Danube Region
- Provides an **interface for structured consultations** between Local Actors, European, national and regional institutions
- **Local Actors are:** local and regional authorities, social partners, academia, NGO's and policy- and project-promoters
- Founded 2014, **more than hundred participants** from all 14 EUSDR member countries

Targets of the D-LAP

- Organize the **information flow** throughout the Danube Strategy
- Encourage the development of **participative governance and place based strategies** at the local, regional, national and macro-regional level
- Identify **issues** where **particular attention to civil society** development and involvement in the Danube Region is needed
- Identify **synergies** and build on **best practices** of existing projects
- Promote **new projects and initiatives** that could be mutually developed by the existing CSOs in the Danube Region
- Further the development and implementation of **funding adapted to the needs of Civil Society and Local Actors**

D-LAP sets “Participation” of Civil Society and Local Actors on the Agenda of the Danube Strategy

- Encourage countries to held “**National Participation Days**”
- Organize the “**Danube Participation Day**” (in parallel to the Annual Forum of the EUSDR)
- Encouraged the founding of “**Danube Civil Society Forum**”
- Organize specific thematic stakeholder meetings “**Participation Partnership Meetings**”
- Prepare a **bi-annual report** on the situation of participation in the member countries of the EUSDR
- Draft and negotiate “**The Agenda for Participation in EU- Macro-Regional Strategies and the Partnerships for Participation**”

EUSDR Danube Participation Day

3rd Participation Day of the EU Danube Strategy

- “Working towards sustainable development: Civil Society, Local Actors and EU Strategies”
- 2-3 November 2016, Bratislava (SK)
- **Agenda:** www.danubestrategy.eu/pd3/program-0



4th Participation Day

- 17-18 November 2017, Budapest (H)



Thank you for your attention!

Priority Area 10 | Institutional Capacity and Cooperation

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