



# EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

*6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable  
Development of the Carpathians*



***EUSDR is connecting people to improve quality of life through sustainable development in the Danube Region.***



# INTRODUCTION & STATE OF PLAY

Cooperation of Carpathian Convention with the Strategy for the Danube Region (2020 celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) is based on the Memoranda of Cooperation with EUSDR Priority Areas, almost ½ of EUSDR Priority Areas (Pas) showing the already excellent and close ties:

- EUSDR PA 1b "Mobility I Rail-Road-Air"
- EUSDR PA 02 "Sustainable Energy"
- EUSDR PA 04 "Water Quality"
- EUSDR PA 05 "Environmental Risks"
- EUSDR PA 06 "Biodiversity & Landscapes"

# 1. ACTION PLAN REVISION & EMBEDDING

## REVISED ACTION PLAN



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Alignment to 5 Policy Objectives:

1. Counteracting Climate Change
2. Stimulating Sustainable Development
3. Establishing and enforcing Knowledge Society, stimulating the Economy and fight Poverty
4. Improving Mobility and Connectivity
5. Enhancing Democracy, sound Administration and strong Involvement of Civil Society and Youth

Horizontal Frames:

1. Digitalisation
2. migration and demographic change
3. climate change and sustainable development

- 10 Years after EUSDR creation
- SWD(2020) 59 final
- Actions in Strategic context (policy context, geopolitical context)
- Streamlining, focus, new challenges (40% from 137 actions to 85)

# 1a. GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT IN THE ACTION PLAN

The Danube Region is a key to consolidate the latest enlargement and to integrate countries with considerable dissimilarities. The new Action Plan is to contribute to this **greater picture**. Moreover, the Danube Region is located in a prominent geopolitical area: the Black Sea is a gateway to Central Asia, Russia and China as well as to Turkey and the Middle East.

Overall, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region has a crucial role in the deepening of EU integration, collaborating with candidate countries, and enhancing cooperation with non-EU neighbours. Actions in the EUSDR shall consider the whole Danube Region including rural and mountain areas.

With regard to the numerous regional or sectoral initiatives beyond the existing EU strategies and programmes, coordination is needed to identify synergies and complementarities and to avoid duplications: **3 MRS Cooperation, Danube Commission, ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River), the Carpathian Convention, Alpine Convention, Black Sea Synergy, Western Balkans, Three Seas Initiative.**

## 2. EMBEDDING OF EUSDR IN EU FUNDS

Macro-regional strategies such as the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) do not have their own dedicated budget (3 NO's). This makes their implementation depend on the mobilisation of funds from other relevant sources (EU, national, regional, private, etc.) and on a well-coordinated use of available funding instruments at different levels.

Broad political consensus shows that a stronger embedding of macro-regional actions into ESI, IPA and NDICI Funds is needed to allow a more effective implementation and to allow MRS to reach the next level (that is e.g. going beyond Interreg-related activities, capitalising on the potentials of cooperation and attaining more visible results). Now, in view of the upcoming programming period 2021-2027, there is a unique opportunity to apply this political commitment and to better interlink the EUSDR with funding programmes and to leverage synergy potential.

### EMBEDDING

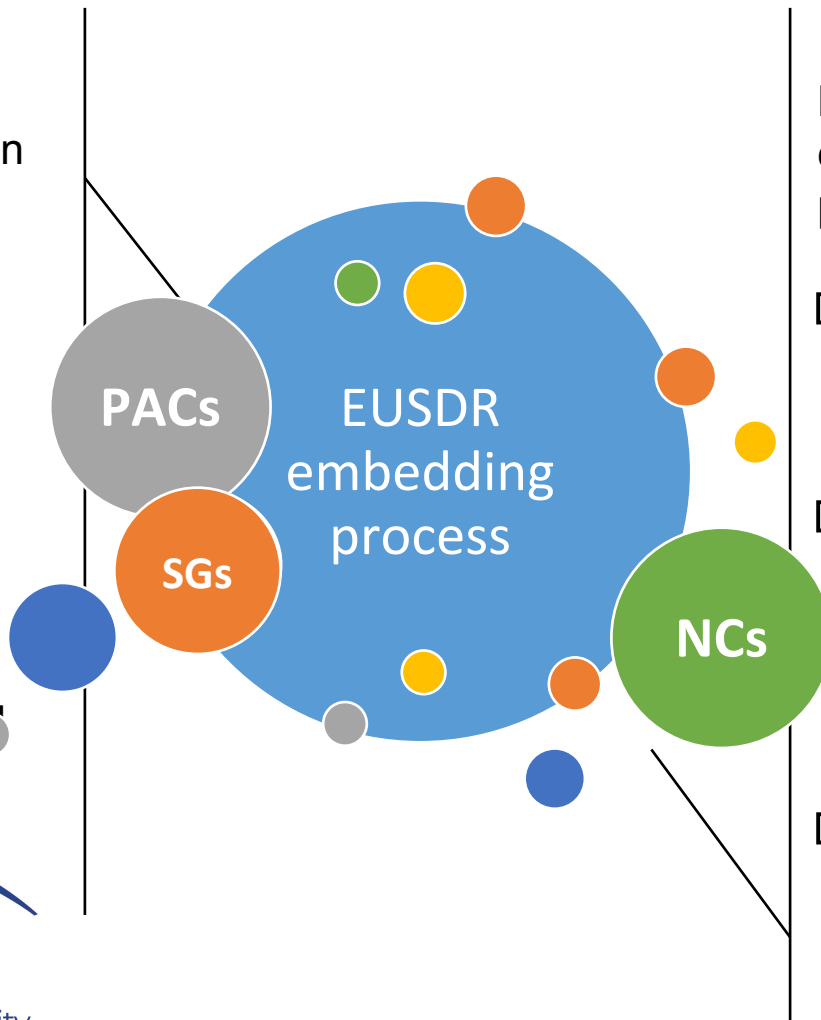


- Strategic process – Programming 2021-2027
- Definition of Strategic topics
- Embedding into national/regional operational programmes
- Focus: ESIF (ERDF, ESF, CF) / IPA III / NDICI funds

## 2a. EMBEDDING OF EUSDR IN EU FUNDS

**PACs** play a key role in identifying and thematically and contextually designing the strategic topics.

- PAs agreed on concise **strategic topics**, in order to allow a targeted embedding
- submitted so-called **shortlist**



**NCs** are key actors for the embedding process in each participating country

- **coordinate with the authorities** responsible for the ESI, IPA III and NDICI funds
- **screened the suggested shortlist** for feasibility and suitability for embedding on the national level in **consultation with MAs**
- **Endorsement of the shortlist**

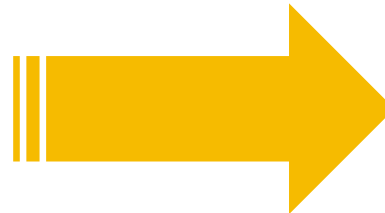


## 2b. EMBEDDING OF EUSDR IN EU FUNDS

### Shortlist

Endorsement of  
shortlist of  
strategic topics  
by 5<sup>th</sup> October

10/2020



[www.danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027](http://www.danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027)

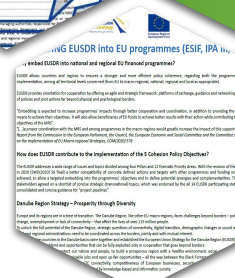
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Guidance  
Paper

Embedding  
Tool

Sources  
document

MA Leaflet





## 3. THE WAY FORWARD

- 01.11.2020 – 31.10.2021 Slovak Presidency of EUSDR
- 2022 Ukraine (tbc), 2023 Slovenia, 2024 Austria
- Slovak EUSDR Presidency Priorities:
  - Embedding of EUSDR into EU-Funding 2021-2027
  - Political: Political commitment, Focus on non-EU-states, further development of Governance structures and management:
    - Institutional Cooperation of Stakeholders involved in Implementation
    - Cooperation among EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators
  - Thematic:
    - Climate Change and the Protection of Biodiversity
    - Digitization and Innovation Ecosystems

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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**QUESTIONS?**

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