Carpathian Partnership
Importance for the EU Danube Strategy Implementation
Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region
Bucharest, 30 April 2001

We, Heads of State and High Representatives of the States participating in the Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region:


Reaffirming the importance of the implementation of the political and legal commitments undertaken by the international community following those and subsequent conferences, especially at the Pan-European level;

Being aware that the 10-year review and evaluation of the Rio Declaration commitments and the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 will provide a momentous opportunity for further action to strengthen international co-operation towards coping with the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century;

Being convinced that renewed efforts are required toward that goal on the part of all Carpathian and Danubian countries in a spirit of regional solidarity;

Upholding the principle of common, yet differentiated responsibility, to manage the environment and natural resources so as to promote sustainable development to the benefit of present and future generations;

Acknowledging that the Carpathian region is a natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, a reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers and Europe’s largest area of virgin forest;

Acknowledging also the special economic and social importance of the Danube River and its tributaries as a major European river with multiple uses and functions, as well as its ecological significance and its value as a natural habitat for numerous wildlife species;

Recognizing that a worldwide scientific assessment of biodiversity by World Wide Fund for Nature identified the Carpathian Mountains and the Danube Delta as two of the world’s most important ecoregions with a representative selection of the world’s most outstanding and distinctive biological resources;

Being aware of the fact that efforts to protect, maintain, and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Carpathian Mountains and the Danube River Basin cannot be achieved by one country alone and require regional co-operation;

Emphasizing that cooperation on environment and sustainable development will assist the efforts towards stability and peace in the region;

Appreciating the efforts that have been undertaken at international, regional, national and local level to enhance co-operation and support for the maintenance and protection of the natural assets and resources;
agreed approach to
Transfrontier aspects of Sustainable Regional Socio-Economic & Spatial Development

http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/localdemocracy/ Areas_of_Work/Transfrontier_Cooperation/ SWOT_Central_Europe_Final.pdf
Overlapping of EU macroregional Danube & Baltic Strategies, Neighbourhood Facility and Carpathian Convention area

EUSBSR + EUSDR

Carpathian Convention

ENPI EaP + EU-Russia
EU Programs overlapping border between EUSBSR+EUSDPR and EaP + EU-RU
Neighbours Community Clustering for Eastern Partnership

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Subject matter and scope of European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) were proclaimed on 24 October 2006 and included inter alia: "Community assistance may be used for common benefit of Member States and partner countries and their regions, for the purpose of promoting cross-border and trans-regional cooperation" through different EU Programs and other tools. Any neighbouring State may proclaim partnership with EU from its capital through Government, President or Parliament. But no countries can be really integrated with European Community besides their population and territory. Therefore one of the main objectives for Civil Society Forum is to "compensate" poor subsidiarity in EaP target countries.

From such point of view the "Thematic Dimension" of ENPI serves as general benchmarks for the States and their transregional activity. At the same time transfrontier co-operation in cross-border, interregional and municipalities twinning forms becomes euro-integration landmark for territorial communities.

Main directions for collaboration

“increasing role of the Danube region in supporting actions and objectives with cross-border relevance; more efficient use of existing EU instruments and funds, as well as other existing resources and financial instruments; importance of strengthening the cooperation between all the Member States of the Danube Region and the non-EU Member States concerned; protection of the environment, preservation of water resources and risk management, reinforcing the socio-economic development and strengthening the institutional capacity in the region; to ensure that programs initiated and endorsed by the participating countries for sustaining the regional initiatives will be interconnected and will provide a coherent assessment of the project implementation and will seek for establishing an appropriate framework for the necessary technical assistance; strengthened cooperation with non-EU Member States of the region for a broader and coherent achievement and implementation of the European principles and values; better alignment of the structural and cohesion funds still available in the Danube region, as well as of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Cross Border Cooperation funds available for the programs developed in the third countries; establishing an appropriate cooperation between the Priority Area Coordinators and the European Commission, as well as with national, regional and local authorities Member States of the Danube Region and the non-EU Member States concerned

Council conclusions on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

3083rd GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 13 April 2011

cordiated approach, efficient and effective use of existing EU instruments and funds, as well as other existing resources and financial instruments; specific conditions of the different states concerned as identifies in the Strategy; further integration, economic, social and territorial cohesion, fostering cooperation with third countries in the Danube river basin; application of existing funds and financial instruments supporting the involvement of third countries participating in the implementation of the Strategy should be fully aligned with relevant external EU strategies and policies; inclusion and participation of third countries is crucial if the desired objectives of the strategy are to be achieved; National Contact Points and the Priority Area Coordinators, in close cooperation with the Commission and with due involvement of participating third countries: promote cross-sectoral approach of the Strategy on the basis of acquis communautaire relevant to Priority Areas of the Strategy; provide the Member States, regions concerned and participating third countries in the Strategy with a continuous assistance and guidance on good practices in cross-border, transnational and interregional coordination and implementation; Commission and other EU institutions as well as the Member States concerned to explore and identify ways of providing technical assistance within available financial resources to ease the start of implementation: facilitating the coordination of existing Eu funds and instruments and by simplifying the relevant rules of implementation to enable quick and effective project generation and implementation, with the potential support of financial instruments relevant for the realization and funding of the Strategy

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
Ukrainian initiative to spread EUSDR projects also for Dniester River Basin in Ukraine & RM
Consultation on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Partner States, their regions, geo-landscapes and habitats. This disparity can be perceived in social, economic and spatial conditions, mentalities/traditions, approaches and accessibility to resources, energy, education, mobility, information and other "creature comforts". Such “patchwise cohort” has, first of all, to find common fields of interests on the way to joint systemic solutions to prevent further face-off barriers for macro-regional Sustainable Development. A comprehensive Danube Strategy (EUSDR) establishment can be qualified by term “betweenness” as “a space of a place where differences and borders are redefining themselves” (G. Silbey).

This betweenness overcoming opportunity was formulated by EU Commissioner O. Rehn: “Borders are restrictive. Borders limit our minds, chain actions, and reduce our influence. Frontiers are myths. Frontiers free our minds, stimulate action, and increase our influence. Frontiers are such no substantive and functional – even mental – than geographic”. From such point of view successful start up of EUSDR embodiment should be conform to the principle proclaimed by the EUC same day of the ENPI: “Community assistance may be used for common benefit of Member States and partner countries and their regions, for the purpose of promoting cross-border and transregional initiatives through different EU Programs and other tools.

Further development of this EU approach was formulated in the ENPI Danube Regional Program Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013: “seems that the most successful projects have been those which from the outset have benefited from a sustained high level political support provided through a national institutional framework. By contrast, projects that have been implemented through a step-by-step approach, i.e. as a result of demand from individual partner countries, rather than in an undefined political multi-lateral framework, have tended to remain isolated, even when successful, and in general have not succeeded in fostering a genuine regional spin-off.”

The “natural” challenge of Climate Change in Danube area should receive “anthropogenic” answer through Sustainable Development mechanisms. Using experience of “Industrial Metabolism Refinement” in Rhine basin we can act “implementing our climate and energy package showing how tackling climate change is a dynamic element in a strategy for growing jobs and boosting energy security under the Europe 2020 approach”, how it was proxyed by President Barroso to EU Heads of State and Government after Copenhagen.

Water is the general common Resource in Danube basin. It’s evident that EUSDR will concern those activities, which are realised immediately along the riparian space, e.g. navigation, or hydro-technical processes in the river basin (irrigation, regulation, power投产 and mining water pumping, river beds regulation, dredging, sand/gravel mining, the river banks etc.).

In parallel should be revised all other so-called anthropogenic activities impacting river basin both on more or less constant value and through natural disaster risk generation (probable accidents). For instance in the industrial sphere they are: production, mining and ore-dressing, chemical, forestry-wood-cellulose, all kinds of food, construction materials, electronic and machine building sectors etc. And especial attention will be paid to hazardous materials, waters pollutants and potentially danger manufactures.

But the most general topic of EU concerns Clean Water Sources in Alps and Carpathians. Under Climate Change this pendant problem very soon will become more then obvious.

Taking into account actual Alpine and Carpathian Conventions – their last years collaboration should become a “Common Generator” for further EUSDR project’s topics. It means utilisation of common and individual achievements and agreements of these Conventions for Sustainable Development of Transport, Energy, Water, Forests, Agriculture and other sectors. As well as both Conventions also foresee intercultural and interethnic reciprocal actions aimed to augment common heritage.

The European Cluster Memorandum

THE CONCEPT OF CLUSTERS AND THEIR POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON COMPETITIVENESS: INNOVATION, GROWTH AND STATISTICAL RESULTS LESSONS LEARNED

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

THE EUROPEAN UNION

Promoting European Innovation through Clusters

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ECOCOUNTDOWN Transregional Alpine-Carpathian interaction in Danube basin. Centro EuroCarpathian Project.
EU Tools

Thematic Synergy

SEE Thematic Capitalisation

There is a wealth of knowledge generated by the 122 transnational partnerships supported by the South East Europe Programme. But while creating synergies between projects and capitalising on results of previous initiatives has been an underlying principle for all approved projects, the approach to do this has not been streamlined so far. In order to respond to this challenge and to a demand from our beneficiaries, the SEE Programme developed a capitalisation strategy that puts projects at the heart of the process. We aim to strengthen the links between projects working on similar topics ("Thematic Poles"), to enable projects to exploit and consolidate one another’s achievements, and create a higher leverage effect. This will enhance the visibility and impact of both projects and Programme. A reinforced and more structured approach to valorise the SEE knowledge base will allow, moreover, to derive invaluable inputs and recommendations in view of the upcoming programming period.

Which are the objective:

- To valorise and further build upon the knowledge resulting from projects working in a thematic field;
- To fill knowledge-gaps by linking actors with complementary thematic specialization, experiences, methodological approaches or geographical scope;

Action points: Thematic aspects

- enhanced multilateral and bilateral dialogue with ENP partners in key sectors
- consideration of additional multilateral agreements in energy and transport and strengthening of existing ones
- work for the extension of the EU transport and energy networks to neighbouring countries, as well as interoperability
- participation of neighbours in relevant Community agencies and programs

Brussels, 4 December 2006