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The Spatial Development of Interregional Co-operation in the Danube Space

annual report

2011

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Introduction

Annual Report 2011 of Donauregionen+ project describes activities realized under the project duing 2011. Aim of Annual Report is to briefly inform project partners and the wider public with the interim results of the project.

The year 2011 was in terms of the project focused on the continu;ation of work begun in 2009 and 2010. In accordance with the Action Plan, defined at the beginning of the project, works in 2011 were focused mainly on activities within the work package 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Project administration, which is part of the first work package 1, is an essential activity throughout the duration of the project.

Activities

List of activities realized in 2011, divided according to work packages:

More detailed informations on activities conducted in 2011 are described in further chapters of this document.

WP1	4 workshops have been realized
	Updating of Project terminology and methodology
	Elaboration of 12 Monthly partner reports
	Elaboration of 5th, and 6th Partner Report and Declaration of Validation
	Working meetings in all project countries
WP2	National conferences in all project countries
	Project web development
WP3	GIS data collection and GIS database development
	Project GIS Server development
WP5	Development of WP5 forms on project web portal
	Fulfillment of WP5 online forms
	Elaboration of sectoral strategies for the counties
WP6	WP6 guide update
	WP6 forms development
	Fulfillment of WP6 online forms
	Elaboration of crossdanube strategies
	Cross-Danube-Strategy (CDS) workshop realization
WP7	WP7 methodology development
	Preparation of the analysis and comparisons for ARGE subregions for each country
	Preparation of National Background reports
	Preparation of WP7 forms for the project web portal

Timeschedule

Work packages and Activities	2011												2012				
WP1 –Project Management and Coordination																	
1.1 Project Administration	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.2 Terminology																	
1.3 Planning Methods																	
1.4 Partnership Development																	
1.5 Workshops	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WP2 – Communication and Dissemination																	
2.1 Project WEB and Logo Development	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.2 Publicity	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.3 Public Events		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
WP3 – Project Data and GIS Development																	
3.1 DonauDatenKatalog	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
3.2 GIS Development	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
WP4 – Analysis Completion																	
4.1 Natural Conditions																	
4.2 Settlement Structure and Human Resources																	
4.3 Transport and Technical Infrastructure																	
4.4 Economy Structure																	
4.5 Comprehensive Evaluation and Typology of Regions																	
WP5 – Sector Strategies Development																	
5.1 Natural Conditions	■	■	■	■	■												
5.2 Settlement Structure and Human Resources	■	■	■	■	■												
5.3 Transport & Technical Infrastructure	■	■	■	■	■												
5.4 Economy Structure	■	■	■	■	■												
WP6 – Crossdanube Strategy Development																	
6.1 Development Strategy for Subregion ASH	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
6.2 Development Strategy for Subregion HCS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
6.3 Development Strategy for Subregion SRB	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								

Work packages and Activities	2011	2012
6.4 Development Strategy for Subregion RB		
6.5 Development Strategy for Subregion RMU		
WP7 – Comprehensive Strategy		
7.1 Analysis and Comparison		
7.2 Scenarios		
7.3 Conclusions and Recommendations		

WP1 – Project Management 2011

Project administration

All works regarding administration of the whole project, coordination of individual project partners, financial management and preparation of necessary project documentation are very important parts of project implementation. During the year 2011 each project partner had to prepare partner reports for the 5th and 6th project period. On the basis of these partner reports Lead Partner prepared and submitted 2 original Progress reports and Applications for Reimbursement and 4 corrective versions in this year.

In order to successfully coordinate and manage the implementation of the project activities, there is a need of meetings among project partners. There were realized 10 Controlling and Coordination Work Meetings between the Lead Partner and Project Partners throughout the year 2011.

In February there was held Lead Partner's seminar on 22nd February 2011 in Budapest. The goals were to present new implementation manual, discuss about the final part of the implementation period, comprising project closure and dissemination of results, as well as to inform about planning audit activities.

There was also need to sign two addendums to subsidy contract for the implementation of the project. Addendum No. 2 resulted from decision of monitoring committee from 27th May 2011 to changes in Article 2 of subsidy contract. Addendum No. 3 was made because of changes in budgets of project partners ERDF PP1, ERDF PP5 and ERDF PP7. It was related to budget changes between the partners made on 17th May 2011.

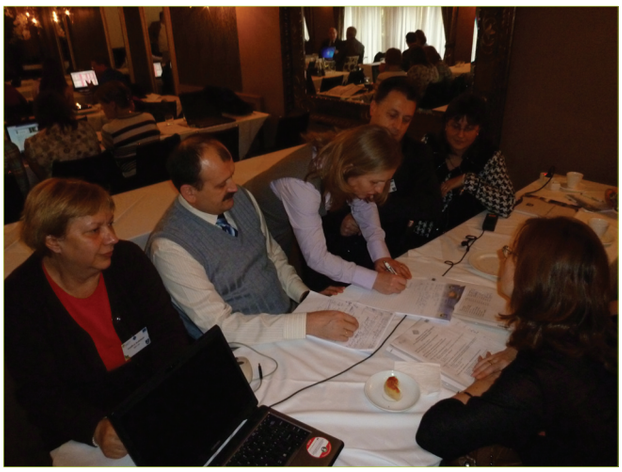
Realization of workshops also contributed for smoothly coordination of the project. Due to the fact that they're organized regularly every 3 months, the implementation of project activities could be more continuous.

Building partnership - Steering committee activities

The D+ Project Steering Committee (PSC) is responsible for the systematic control and decision making process of project activities and responsibilities of the project partners. It is composed of 9 members represented each participated country in the project, including Lead Partner. There were 4 PSC meetings in the year of 2011, specifically on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th workshop.

The 6th PSC meeting dealt mainly with questions regarding planned budget change among ERDF PP1, ERDF PP5 and ERDF PP7 and discussed the project modification request.

The 7th PSC was dedicated to information about project modification request and approved the all administrative and managing activities including the deadlines of these works.



On the 8th PSC meeting were deeply discussed budget changes among ERDF PP1, ERDF PP5 and ERDF PP7. The PSC also talked about the request of the JTS concerning the Spending Rate Analysis. On this meeting members also dealt with the preparation for budget reallocation between BL and WP. PSC noticed and asked project partners to have in mind and report their administrative and other planned changes.

On the 9th PSC meeting LP presented the proposed budget reallocation between BL and WP which affected 8 project partners – LP, ERDF PP1, ERDF PP2, ERDF PP4, ERDF PP7, ERDF PP8, ERDF PP9 and ERDF PP10. Consequently the PSC approved this budget reallocation.

Workshops - Summary of 2011

In the year 2011 there were realized 4 workshops of the project DONAUREGIONEN+, namely the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th.

The eight workshop of DONAUREGIONEN+ project aimed to present the current state of the various semi-finished Work Packages (WP), and also to ensure the meeting and discussion of project partners about the issues concerning the project implementation was held on 29th – 30th March 2011 in Chisinau. The organizer was 10% PP1. On the workshop several discussions dealt with modification of the next steps of the project. The main emphasis was given to the work and discussion in working groups instead of common work in the previous workshops. Partners were asked to deliver the missing date for WP4 – WP6. The new methodology for WP5 was discussed. The focus of this workshop was to discuss about the current status of the project, to solve the issues of each running workpackages as to discuss about the next work of each project partner. After presentation of current status in WPs, the main work was focused on working groups.

The ninth workshop of the project DONAUREGIONEN+ was aimed to present the current state of the various semi-finished Work Packages (WP), with an emphasis on project work within WP5 – Sectoral Strategy Development and WP6 – Cross-Danube Strategy Development. It was held on the 1st – 2nd June 2011 in Varna. The organizer was the ERDF PP8. This workshop was focused on problems with GIS data collection, mainly the accessibility model was discussed in details, than current state of WP5 and its scheme was discussed, regarding WP6 discussion was about primary data and online forms for CDR strategy elaboration, briefly were also presented the steps and timetable of work to develop an overall strategy for Danube region.

The tenth workshop of the DONAUREGIONEN+ project aimed to present the current state of the different Work Packages (WP), with an emphasis on project work within WP5 - Sectoral Strategy Development and WP6 – Cross-Danube Strategy Development. This workshop was organized by ERDF PP10 in Resita. The aim of the 10th workshop was to discuss about the current status of the project, to solve

the issues of each running work packages and to discuss about the next work of each project partner. Final documents within the WP4 – Analysis completion for each general scheme and online forms for WP5 and WP6 and timetable regarding works in WP7 were presented.

The eleventh workshop dealt with presentation of the current status of the different Work Packages (WP), with an emphasis on project work within WP5 -Sectoral Strategy Development and WP6 – Cross-Danube Strategy Development WP7- Comprehensive strategy. The workshop was organised by ERDF PP3 on 7th - 8th of December 2011 in Nitra, Slovakia. During the workshop was solved the administration problems – structure of the inputs from each partner for yearly report for 2011, project documents were presented, discussed and adopted, modifying the next process of the project, definition of the outputs. Regarding WP6 all partners were asked to finish all the parts of WP - analytical part at D+ portal (WebServer), SWOT at D+ portal (WebServer), to complete all measures as well as measure with Danube area effect/impact.

WP2 – Communication and dissemination

Publicity – Dissemination

The mainly publicity of D+ project is made through the project web portal, as well as by the individual web pages of each project partners, where they put relevant information about the implementation of DONAUREGIONEN+ project. In 2011 there was the printout of Project Annual Report 2010, which was used for several public events, inter alia on the SEE Annual Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria and Joint ETC conference in Katowice, in addition they were also distributed during national conferences by project partners.

Public events

In the year 2011 there were several public events organized. First of all there were held national conferences in all project partner countries, specifically on 23rd February in Hungary, on 31st March in Moldova, on 29th April in Romania, on 4th May in Croatia, on 10th May in Serbia, on 18th May in Slovakia, on 25th May in Ukraine and on 3rd June in Bulgaria. All these conferences had the same aim which was to present semi-results of the DONAUREGIONEN+ project relevant for country of the conference to various national experts, policymakers, practitioners as well as wide public.

The project was in year 2011 presented in two official events. The first was the SEE Annual conference 2011 on 12 May 2011 in Sofia, Bulgaria organized under patronage of the South-east Europe programme and the second was the Joint conference of Transnational Cooperation Programmes on 15-16 September 2011 in Katowice, Poland. These events gave the project opportunity to showcase its actual results and outcomes.

WP3 – Project data and GIS development

General Scheme	Slovakia	Hungary	Croatia	Serbia	Bulgaria	Romania	Moldova	Ukraine
Nature Conditions	100%	70%	70%	90%	90%	90%	70%	50%
Human Resources & Settlement Structure	100%	100%	95%	100%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Transport & Technical Infrastructure	100%	90%	80%	90%	80%	80%	60%	60%
Economy	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Activities realized during year 2011 within WP3 are continuation on works elaborated on year 2009 and 2010 – Project data and GIS development:

- Finalization of WP3 methodology with specific attention on the required GIS data structure,
- Collection of GIS data and GIS database creation,

- Further development of the project portal for support of WP5, WP6 and WP7,
- Development of GIS Server
- Primary data collection
- Preparation the templates for printouts of maps
- Time accessibility model development
- Metainformation system „DonauDatenKatalog“ development

General status description of data collection in form of table and relevant description:

DonauDatenKatalog

DonauDatenKatalog represents strategic information system focused on collection and storage of metadata about relevant information sources for planning activities in Danube space.

The Meta information system is object oriented and contains different information depending on object class:

- Datasets,
- Organizations,
- Persons,
- Services,
- Documents,
- Applications (software),
- Events.

During the year 2010 the official metadata built in previous project DONAUREGIONEN were obtained. After the metadata were analyzed the new database structure was proposed and tested during year 2011. The development of the new DonauDatenKatalog application was also started.

GIS Methodology

The elaboration of project Geographical Information System (GIS) is based on the following pillars:

- Orgware,
- Basic Applications,
- Database Structure,
- Software and Hardware.

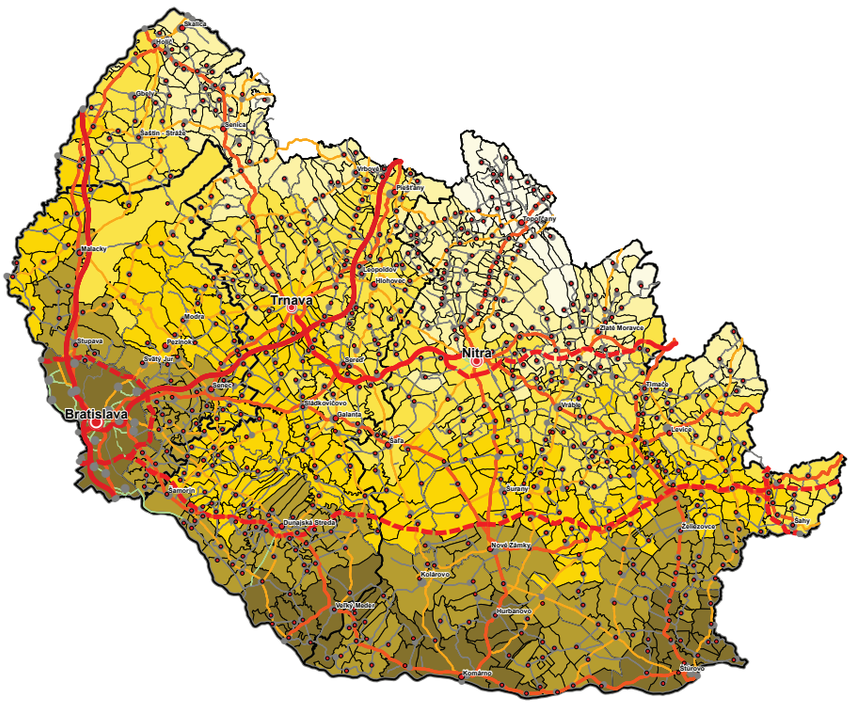
Orgware is represented especially by the non formal working group(s) for GIS development which was created during project workshops.

Basic applications based on each of four General Schemes were partially changes because of layers count and density of features. Actually they are focused on:

- Natural Conditions,
- Settlement Structure,
- Human Resources,
- Transport,
- Technical Infrastructure,
- Economy.

They are represented by the set of specific map projects for ArcGIS Desktop and web services and applications for ArcGIS Server to support the main General Scheme map outputs defined by methodology and data base structure.

Database structure was based on the available data from previous DONAUREGIONEN project and then more specified by working group and summarized in a methodology. The methodology described GIS datasets, layers and relevant attribute data for each General Scheme. Both of them can be considered to be finished but minor changes are expected during the next project progress mainly on work packages WP5, WP6 and WP7. The current version of methodology is available on http://dplus.infoprojekt.sk/WP1/Methodology/WP3GIS/32GISdevelopment.aspx.



Map of border crossing accessibility between Slovakia and Hungary

Time Accessibility Model represents the special data structure which was developed for modeling time and / or distance accessibility for different transport networks. It was developed especially for spatial delimitation of core areas of Cross Danube regions. It was verified on road network of relevant Slovak NUTS3 regions.

Practically all territorial and regional planning data from five former project partner countries Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania were updated. Also the data from three new partner countries Croatia, Moldova and Ukraine were completed and stored.

According the project geographical database structure the data are now stored in shapefile format in two-dimensional geographical coordinates (longitude, latitude), decimal degrees with fraction. Finally these data should be transferred into personal or file geodatabases. The spatial reference system is ETRS 1989 (WGS 1984) with ellipsoid GRS 1980. The output projection is ETRS 89 Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area in scale precision up to 1:200 000.

Software for GIS is based on ESRI world wide ArcGIS products. ArcGIS Desktop (ArcEditor and ArcView) is used especially for spatial data collection, elaboration, storage, update, querying, analysis and presentation mapping services. ArcGIS Server is used for creating, publishing and dissemination of DONAUREGIONEN+ project maps via internet WMS services. Both products are working under Microsoft Windows hardware platform on project server, personal computers and notebooks.

Project portal

The development of Project portal represents the special part of WP3 package activities. It was based as a common project environment for each project partner for different and specific purposes such as:

- Completion of text parts of the General Schemes,
- Final version of Report elaboration,
- Data (text and indicators) collection,
- Primary data collection,
- Creation of WP4 forms,
- Creation of WP5 forms,
- Creation of WP6 forms,

- Creation of WP7 forms (not finished yet),
- Dynamic map representation of data outputs,
- Linear Regression Calculation for indicators progress,
- Indicator progress calculation according scenario including with/without cross border impacts,
- Discuss forum,
- Project calendar.

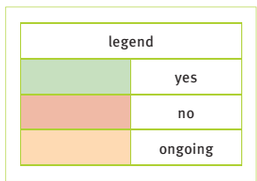
WP5 – Sectoral Strategies Development

Main objective of WP5 is to map all of existing strategic spatial development plans divided in the European, national, regional and local level in all NUTS3 regions of the project area.

During the year 2011 project partners were continuing the works started in 2010. The main task was to identify relevant developmentdocuments in every NUTS3 region. After the collecting these documents, specific data – strategic development objectives, priorities and key planned activities have been identified. Outgoing from the WP4 and the 4 general schemes logic these data were focused on the fields: natural conditions, settlement structure and human resources, transport and technical infrastructure, economy.

Main activities realized in 2011 within WP5 were as folows:

- Web portal support development
- WP5 guide of methodology elaboration
- Identification of measures and evaluation of their impact on the regions
- SWOT analyses for Danube regions elaboration
- On the basis of measures preparation of Danube regions Strategies



Status of WP5 works for 2011 is showed in following table:

	SWOT	Measures	Strategies	Web portal
Hungary				
Croatia				
Ukraine				
Serbia				
Slovakia				
Romania				
Bulgaria				
Moldavia				

Status of WP5 for 2011

Example of Sectoral Strategy for Moldavian Danube Area for Natural Conditions

The strategy was developed with the cooperation with key stakeholders on the level of regional policy, representatives of cities and municipalities in the area of interest. By processing of Strategy existing relevant planning documents, national, regional and local levels have been taken into account: (i) National Development Strategy of Moldova 2012-2020, (ii) National Spatial Plan (2008-2025), (iii) Development Strategy South Region (2008-2014), (iv) Energy Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2020, (v) The strategy for water supply and sewerage of localities in Moldova, (vi) National Strategy on employment policies of the 2007-2015, (vii) National Program „Moldovan Village“ (2005-2015), (viii) National Program „Wine Road in Moldova“ etc.

Global objective: Natural environment preserved

Specific objective 1: Improving water quality

Priority 1.1: Water management

Hydrological network in the south is mainly formed by the Danube,which flows to its afluientul - Prut River and other rivers that fall into the Black Sea. In MDA, a few natural lakes are protected anddiversified system of canals used for agricultural purposes(irrigation, fish). The hydrographic network is complemented by aseries of anthropic lakes, which use complex. Territories adjacent to aquatic areas serve local recreation and tourism.

Specific objective 2: Waste reduction

Priority 2.1: Waste management

Moldova on the Danube between the confluence with the Prut River near an Giurgiulesti of area about 1 km. The purpose of this priority is to create an effective system of waste management that will be collected, stored, processed with methods for all types and forms of waste, and ensuring security technology. Improving separate collection of solid waste will lead to increased waste recovery. Necessary activities are designed to increase the rate of separate collection and efficiently recovery of waste localities. Achieving separation of waste strategies limits set by national / regional and European standards will improve the current state of the environment, including energy recovery from waste.

List of measures: (i) ensuring the implementation of waste management regulations in accordance with national strategies, (ii) reorganization of the collection, storage and primary processing of waste, (iii) improve technologies separate waste collection of any kind, (iv) security technology and recultivation of landfills, (v) measures to fertilize the soil in affected areas, (vi) recycling and recovery of waste, including for energy, (vii) exploitation and recycling plastics, (viii) use of inert waste stored in landfills in the construction industry.

Specific objective 3: Protection of natural resources

Priority 3.1: Reduction of air pollution

Sources of air pollution in the region of MDA are located mainly inlarge and medium cities (Cahul, Comrat). The proposed measuresrelate to better optimize traffic and reduce air pollution stationary sources. Air pollution has important externalities in the region. Pollutants in the air spread from neighboring regions and on larger areas. Any important factor of air pollution in MDA is the transport. It is difficult to determine MDA interconnection with other regions to monitor the extent to which pollutants affect other neighboring regions here.

List of measures: (i) restoring the air quality monitoring system of technological processes of pollutant; (ii) implementation of fuel quality control techniques; (iii) use of urban electric transport widely and electrification of railways; (iv) provide businesses with powerful means of purification; (v) upgrading and moving equipment to use natural gas boiler rooms; (vi) implementation of performing technologies; (vii) limiting the time of import cars made operational.

Priority 3.2: Protection of land resources

Creditworthiness of average soil of the Republic is quite high and is estimated at about 65 degrees per hectare. Thus the average reliability exceeds more than half of agricultural land. However, over a quarter of land have maximum reliability, greater than 80 degrees / ha and only 10% have a reliability of less than 40 degrees per hectare. For this reason, we can say that our soil, despite the massive erosion and other destructive forms have a very high productive potential, which is to be used efficiently and sustainably. The priority is to increase protection of land resources by creating appropriate legislative requirements, which provide increased efficiency of actions soil fertilization. Eliminate negative impacts on soil, and promote conditions for sustainable protection of long-term soil fertility in the region.

List of measures: (i) reducing the land area subject to erosion, (ii) limiting deforestation and increase forest cover, (iii) crop rotation agricultural land improvement, (iv) reduction measures land fragmentation, (v) normally used chemicals for agricultural purposes, (vi)effective use of agro-technical methods to reduce soil erosion.

Priority 3.3: Management of protected natural areas

In this area created especially a microclimate, leading to the development and preservation of unique ecosystems Moldova and South-east. Beautiful landscape of the Danube Delta at the mouth of the Prut River has led the authorities to declare large portions of meadow in the south of Moldova as areas for nature protection. Although many forest areas are protected by national legislation, none of the sites in this region are not part of Natura 2000.However, the summary

the four districts are covered under 10% of forest, protected areas and the number is 34, the largest being: lower Prut scientific reserve, Ramsar Convention Site „Lower Prut Lakes“, Natural Reserves of medicinal herbs in town Cahul etc .“Lower Prut“ is a protected scientific reserve, where a portion of the south meadow is managed by the national environment for better preservation.

List of measures: (i) improving the structure of natural areas protected by state and local government, (ii) improving the management of reserve, (iii) reducing natural areas affected by anthropogenic factors and natural hazards (floods, erosion), (iv) limiting deforestation and increase forest cover, (v) measures to improve the flora and fauna rare in MDA.

Example of Sectoral Strategy for Belgrade region for Natural Conditions

Global objective: Environmental protection

Specific objective 1: Improvement and environmental protection

One of the most important questions regarding the state of environment in the City of Belgrade is the existence of the areas of extremely polluted environment and significant environmental impacts. The most polluted are the downtown area, mining basins, highway corridors, airport area, industrial zones etc. Those zones are characterized by high concentration of pollutants (above emission level) in the air, water, soil, noise pollution, endangered nature, habitats and health.

Priority 1.1: Air quality improvement and reduction of the emission of polluting matters in the areas of the extremely polluted environment

Almost the half of the total emission of SO2, Nox and PM in Serbia is emitted on the territory of the City of Belgrade.

Air quality in the City of Belgrade is among the most unfavorable in Serbia. The main reasons for that are concentrations of SO2, Nox, CO, PAH emitted from the thermo power plants and industry in Kolubara and Kostolac lignite basin, intensity of traffic that produce high concentrations of Nox, SO2, ground-level ozone, Pb, PM, CO etc, high concentration of PM due to the emissions from the individual boilers and households during the heating season, inadequate storage and disposal of by-products (fly ash from thermal power plants and tailing in open pit mines). Air pollution from the individual sources is the result of outdated technologies, lack of purification plants of smoke gases, low energy efficiency in the industrial and energy sectors, and poor quality of fuel for heating. The causes of air pollution from mobile sources are the poor quality of motor fuel (leaded gasoline), use of old vehicles and poorly maintained vehicles without catalytic converter, as well as inadequate technical standards for vehicles.

Priority 1.2: Water quality improvement

Waters in Belgrade are threatened by discharging of untreated municipal and industrial wastewater into the recipient (aquifer), leaching from agricultural land and landfills, by waste water from the city area with undeveloped sewage system, by river navigation and by operating power plants. Due to untreated wastewater discharging into the water flows none of them meets the required quality class. In addition, uncontrolled discharging of wastewater pollutes the soil and threatens the quality of undergroundwater, which is especially dangerous in water source protection zones.

Waters of Belgrade can be used in a natural state for swimming and recreation, water sports, breeding of some species of fish (cyprinids), or if modern methods of treatment are utilized, can be used to supply the settlements with drinking water and in the food industry. However, the problem arises because of undeveloped sewage (fecal and rain) and spontenously construction of septic tanks in suburbs and informal/illegal settlements. Industrial facilities located in urban areas discharge wastewater into the city sewer systems, often without pretreatment while larger industrial facilities, usually located outside the settlements, on the river banks or in their immediate vicinity, discharge their waste water directly into waterflows without any pretreatment. At the same time, significantly reduced amount of available water decreasing the possibility of dilution and self-cleaning capacity of recipients.

Danube as an international river with its tributaries pass administrative border of several counties bringing and delivering pollution of water flow from the sources of water pollution in the upper stream associated with the pollution from the territory of this county and spreading into the other parts of the territory. By implementation of proposed measures, the water quality could be improved in the future.

Specific objective 2: Waste management

Sustainable system for waste management is the necessity regarding the pollution reduction and quality environment. Resolving of this issue requires an integrative approach at all levels and all elements of the process – starting with the amount of generated waste, through the waste threaments and final deposit.

Priority 2.1: Waste management

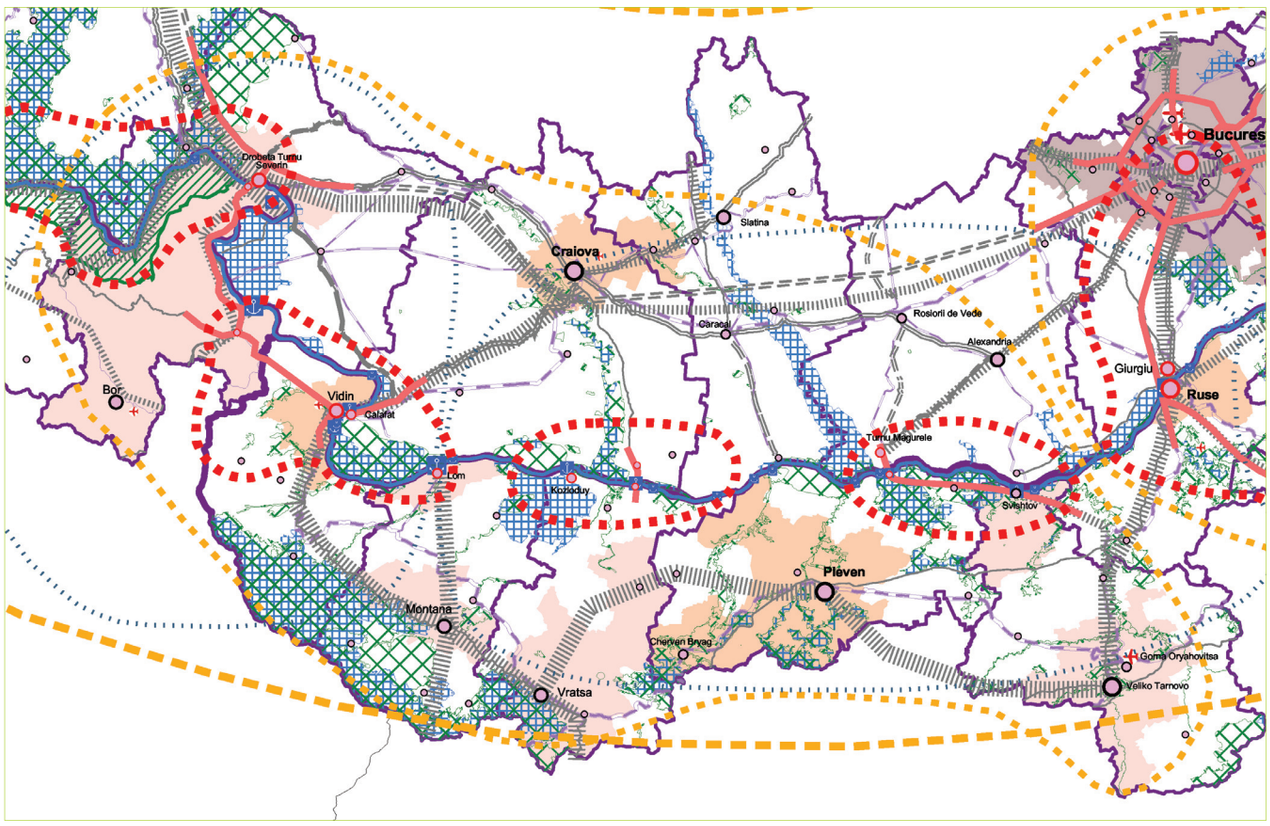
Inadequate waste management is one of the most serious problems.

About 2/3 of communal waste is being gathered in an organized way, and that is only in urban areas. Waste disposal doesn`t fulfill basic standards, so it represents potential danger for water contamination, soil and air pollution, as well as the risk for the health of the people. A great number of "wild" dumps are reported (by the public roads, in water flows, as well as in valuable natural or protected areas).

Waste disposal doesn`t fulfill basic standards, so it represents potential danger for water contamination, soil and air pollution, as well as the risk for the health of the people.

WP 6 Cross – Danube Strategy Development

Objective of the workpackage is to elaborate development Strategies for 19 Cross-Danube regions along Danube from Slovakia to Ukraine.



Picture 1 Example of CDRs core areas (in Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria area) – red circles

For successful fulfillment the objective following activities were realized during 2011:

1. According to the plan set at the beginning of the project, so called Cross-Danube workshops were organized in 2011. Purpose of the CDS workshop is to discuss the objectives, inputs, outputs and methodology of the project, as well as setting up next tasks needed for the Strategies elaboration. Key point of Strategies preparation is to focus on the local specifications and utilize the development potential of individual regions. Several such Cross-Danube workshops were organized in 2011:

- February 2011, Budapest, Hungary
- March 2011, Chisinau, Moldavia
- May 2011, Trnava, Slovakia
- May 2011, Varna, Bulgaria
- November 2011, Esztergom, Hungary
- November 2011, Vidin, Bulgaria
- November 2011, Svishtov, Bulgaria
- November 2011, Rousse, Bulgaria
- November 2011, Mehedinti, Romania
- December 2011, Silistra, Bulgaria
- December 2011, Nitra, Slovakia

2. 2nd CDR Workshop between Slovak and Hungarian partners in Budapest, Hungary (see photos on the right)
3. According the methodology WP6 Guide was updated and uploaded on the project portal by responsible project partner (ERDF PP1 –Institute of spatial planning, Bratislava, Slovakia).
4. Time accessibility model (TAM) has been created. TAM will serve for delimitation of Cross-Danube region core area. Core area represents area with the strongest relations within CDR. Collection of GIS data is task of WP3.
5. Web portal support development– online forms for Cross-Danube regions Analyses, SWOT analyses and Strategies have been elaborated. These forms serve to data fulfillment through the internet. Forms
6. Online forms have been prepared and uploaded on the portal. The forms are functional for Analyses, SWOT analyses and Strategies of individual CDRs elaboration. Strategies should reflect main local specifications with focus on the regional development.

Example of Cross-Danube region Bechet - Orjahovo

Analytical description

The cross Danube region of Bechet-Orjahovo belongs to the RBB Subregion, its balance area consisting of Dolj and Olt Counties in Romania and Vratsa District in Bulgaria. Its self area has 3 LAU2 municipalities in Bulgaria (Kozloduy, Mizia, Oryahovo) and 16 in Romania, out of which two urban settlements: Bechet and Dabuleni. In 2010, in the balance area of CDR13 live almost 1,350,000 inhabitants, out of which 86% in the Romanian part, which covers 78% of the whole CDR balance area. In the self area, which is 12% of the balance area, the Romanian part is 59%.

CDR13 is mainly a plain region. The landscape is dominated by the Romanian Plain and a part of the South-Dobrudzha Bulgarian plain. The Bulgarian part of CDR13 includes also a mountainous part, including karst formations, caves and canyons. There are also hills in its Northern side of the Romanian part. The Danube flows between the two countries for a distance of 200 km. Apart from the Danube River, the main rivers of the CDR include Ogosta, Skat, Iskar, Jiu and Olt rivers.

The predominant land use in the CDR is agricultural (grains), agricultural land occupying more than 70% of the CDR, out of which farmland represents more than 80%. Forests have a higher share in the Bulgarian part (18.5% compared with 11.2%). There are 72 protected areas on the territory of the CDR, out of which 49 are located in the Romanian part (but which cover only about 1% from the Romanian part of CDR), and 27 Natura 2000 sites, most of them located in the Romanian part (i.e. 21 protected areas covering 14% from the Romanian CDR).

Since the industrial installations situated in urban centers in Bulgaria (Vratsa and Mezdra cities) have ceased operation, the air pollution diminished in this area in recent years. The main polluters on the territory of the self area are situated near the towns of Kozloduy and Oryahovo. On the territory of Kozloduy municipality operates the only Nuclear Power Plant in Bulgaria. The main air pollution sources in the Romanian part are thermal power stations, domestic activities (heating), car traffic, ash pits and construction works. Due to the lack of forests to absorb part of existing pollutants, the wind is dispersing sand covering the soil (the area is affected by desertification) towards inhabited areas.

In the Bulgarian part of CDR the main pollution sources of the rivers include municipal sewerage systems, significant releases of pollutants being registered in 2010, especially in Vratsa city. In the self area, the towns of Kozloduy and Oryahovo, as well as Kozloduy NPP discharge the sewage directly into the Danube. In the Romanian part, major pollution sources are DOLJCHIM Craiova Chemical Factory and RAACT Craiova in Jiu catchment area, as well as Slatina industrial platform in Olt catchment area (in the balance area).

Since water resources are unevenly distributed across the CDR, water management works have been built: barrier lakes, watercourses deviations, dams and regulations, as well as banks protection works on the Danube River. Flooding caused by the Danube River is a serious hazard, as it was in 2006 in the town of Oryahovo and the parallel Romanian settlement of Bechet, with material damages.

At the end of 2010 all non-conform landfills on the Bulgarian territory have been closed, only 2 regional landfills being still in operation. Kozloduy NPP operates an own landfill for production waste. Municipal waste is removed by disposal in 10 stockpiles in the Romanian part, out of which only 1 is ecological. Industrial waste is disposed in dumps that have to be closed and replaced with new ecological landfills.

As for renewable sources, according to available data, in Vratsa district there are hydro power plants and small-scale hydro power plants. The area situated in the northern part of the Danube can use solar energy: photovoltaic parks (Bechet town etc.) have been built. Wind energy potential is rather low. Farm biomass is used in rural areas.

The demographic situation of CDR13 is characterized by a continuous reduction of population through natural growth, external and internal migration. Population ageing, low fertility rate and high mortality are characteristic to this region. Population decreased more in Olt county (particularly in urban areas) than in Dolj county, where mortality is higher. In 2008, Vratsa district had a lower vitality index reported at 1,000 inhabitants (68.97) than Olt and Dolj counties in Romania (about 85).

A positive aspect of Dolj county is the existence of a polyvalent university center (in Craiova municipality). In the Bulgarian part are located two branches of universities in Veliko Tarnovo and Sofia. The share of university students per 1,000 inhabitants is the highest in Dolj county (53) compared with Olt and Vratsa (1.6 and 1.0).

The Bulgarian region where CDR13 is located is notorious as the worst performing in Bulgaria with respect to unemployment and labor market. Within the 3 NUTS3 belonging to CDR13, Vratsa district has the lowest share of persons employed in tertiary sector and the higher unemployment rate.

The self area of CDR13 is a peripheral border region with vast agricultural areas. Here, the most important settlements are Kozloduy (the largest city in self area, along the Danube), Mizia, Oryahovo municipalities, Bechet and Dabuleni towns. The border-crossing of Oryahovo-Bechet and the ferry terminal are of regional importance. The urban agglomerations of Vratsa and Craiova are located in the balance area of CDR13.

The current state of infrastructure and the lack of joint initiatives is a big obstacle to cross-border cooperation.

The Southern part of Romania and the Northern part of Bulgaria are characterized by the dependence on subsistence agriculture and a lack of infrastructure that isolates a large part of the territory, which is especially isolated from the West-East European road and railroad axes. Due to the lack of adequate port infrastructures, the Danube River was a natural barrier to the development of the territory, and the construction of Calafat-Vidin Bridge opens new opportunities for the whole cross-border area. In this context, Dolj County, more urbanized and better equipped with infrastructure, including educational infrastructure, and hosting the most important university in the South-Eastern part of Romania, is acting as a pole of development at regional level, including the Bulgarian neighbouring regions.

CDR13 is served by pan-European transport corridors IV and VII, TEN-T and European roads; it has a high density of railways, but no highways. The self area of CDR has only national and local road infrastructure and has no railroad transport. The cross-Danube transit is carried out only by the regular ferry connection for cars and trucks Oryahovo--Bechet. Despite a very limited activity of river transport and the poor technical condition, the port has a high operating capacity (ports in the CDR are: Oryahovo, Kozloduy, Calafat, Bechet, Corabia and Cetate). The only airport in the CDR (Craiova airport) could represent an impetus for economic development.

The share of dwellings connected to natural gas is much lower in Vratsa district (1.8%) than in the Romanian part (49% in Dolj county), but the share of dwellings connected to wastewater treatment (72.5% compared with 6.2% in Dolj and 37% in Olt counties) is much higher.

If in the Romanian part of CDR (Dolj and Olt counties) the industry is developed and representative, in Vratsa district the economic development is shared between industrial and service sectors. 50% from the Romanian self area is declared as Less Favored Area for agricultural activities, since aridity is manifested by prolonged excessive dryness of the soil, leading to poor agricultural production. Yet, more than 40% of employment in 2007 was in primary sector. The Romanian area has a special wine-growing potential (Samburesti, Segarcea etc.). The Romanian part of CDR has a higher GDP than the Bulgarian part (38.6 and 29.0 compared with 25.6).

In CDR13 there are various tourist landmarks giving opportunities for the development of all types of tourism: eco-tourism, trips, sports and leisure activities, enhancing the value of natural landscapes and cultural monuments in the area. Protected areas, underground springs, cultural and religious monuments could be promoted as tourism attractions. However, the number of accommodations is limited. The promotion of the already existing tourist services could be significantly improved as well.

Strategy

General Scheme: Natural Conditions

Global objective: Improving the quality of natural environment

SO 1: Protection of nature and landscapes

P 1.1: Sustainable agricultural land use and forest management

M: Protection of the quality of agricultural land and soils; promotion of sustainable agriculture; discontinuation of deforestation; reforestation; accommodating ecosystems to economic functions of the forest

P1.2: Preserving biodiversity

M: Effective management of protected areas; raising public awareness; Cross-border cooperation; increasing the interconnection of protected territories; reintroduction of plant and animal species; etc.

SO2: Improving the quality of Environment

P2.1: Improving air quality

M: Improving air quality in settlements; reduction of air pollution from agriculture; reduction of cross-boundary air pollution; development of clean industries and technologies: support for clean industrial production

P2.2: Water management

M: Municipal wastewater treatment; treatment of industrial wastewater; improving the condition of the Danube River; improving the condition of surface water bodies; improving the condition of groundwater bodies

P2.3: Soil protection

M: Development non-intensive sustainable agricultural practices; selection of crops and varieties adequate to soil and climate condition; protection of soils from contamination from agricultural practices and industrial activities

P2.4: Waste management

M: Construction of adequate infrastructure for management of MSW; introduction of systems of centralized waste collection; effective management of construction, hazardous, biodegradable and of specific types of waste etc.

SO3: Risk management

P3.1: Management of natural and accidental risks

M: Effective management of risks of industrial accidents, floods and other natural disasters

SO4: Development of renewable energy sources (RES)

P4.1: Utilizing the RES potential of the CDR

M: Identification of the potential of different types of RES; coordination of a regional plan for RES development; cross-boundary cooperation with regard to RES.

General Scheme: Settlement Structure and Human Resources

Global objective: Development of human potential and social welfare

SO 5: Improvement of the demographic situation

P5.1: Improved public health system and quality of life

M: Improvement of public health through preventive care

P 5.2: Improving the quality of life for disadvantaged groups

M: Construction of rental housing for families and people with social problems; developing a network of alternative services for children with disabilities; etc.

SO 6: Improving the educational structure

P 6.1: Improving the pre-schooling and schooling systems

M: Securing financing for schools; improving the qualification of teachers; development of human resources working in education; inclusion of vulnerable social groups into the educational system etc.

SO 7: Improving the connectivity of the settlements within the self area of CDR13

P 7.1: Strengthening cross-border connections

M: Improving transport links between Oryahovo and Bechet; integration of the labour markets from both sides of the border; development and expansion of activities of ports; improvement of transport infrastructure etc.

General Scheme: Transport and Technical Infrastructure

Global objective: Increased accessibility and connectivity

S.O 8: Improved transport infrastructure

P 8.1. Road infrastructure - reconstruction and modernization

M: Building of the Calafat-Vidin bridge; construction of a bridge over the Danube at Oryahovo-Bechet; bypass roads Kozloduy and Mizia; modernization of national, county, communal and cross-border roads; etc.

P 8.2. Railway transport

M: Rehabilitation and modernization of railroad infrastructure and stations; development of facilities of intermodal transport in Calafat port; modernization of the railway line Vidin-Sofia etc.

P 8.3. Water transport

M: Calafat and Bechet ports modernization and expansion; improvement of conditions for the Danube navigation; expansion of „Ferry complex - Oryahovo“ – construction of passenger terminal and expansion of ro-ro ramp etc.

P 8.4. Airport infrastructure

M: Craiova International Airport modernization; modernization of European, county and communal roads.

SO 9: Development of electric and thermal networks, use of alternative energy resources

P 9.1. Electricity transport and distribution

M: Efficient exploitation, extension and modernization of the electricity transmission and distribution system; implementing investment programs; Developing electric power transport infrastructure in cross border area etc.

P 9.2. Heat transport and distribution

M: Development and expansion of heat production and distribution system; using alternative heating sources (e.g. individual heating system, solar energy and biomass) etc.

Specific Objective 10: Development and extension of gas supply

P 10.1. Gas infrastructure

M: Expansion of gas distribution infrastructure to rural areas; rehabilitation of the national system of gas transport; promotion of NABUCCO pipeline; construction of a gas-pipeline Chiren– Oryahovo; providing a gas supply system to the town of Oryahovo

SO 11: Telecommunication and postal services development

P 11.1. Extension of postal and telecommunications services

M: Promotion of the access to broadband and related services and their development in disadvantaged areas; modernization and development of postal and telecommunications services; complete digitization of networks etc.

SO 12: Extension and development of water supply and sewerage networks

P 12.1. Modernization of water and wastewater infrastructure

M: Carrying out works on water courses (regulation, bank protection etc.); interconnection of the water systems in cross border regions; replacement of water pipelines; development of integrated systems of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; construction of new sewerage systems

General Scheme: Economy

GO: A dynamic and diversified economy

SO 13: Competitive economy

P 13.1: Business infrastructure: attracting investments

M: Promoting the identity of the region Dolj-Olt-Pleven-Vidin-Montana; identifying possible locations for the development of business incubators; identifying new business opportunities with local specific etc.

P 13.2: Promoting innovation and support for SMEs

M: Support for establishing and developing start-up SMEs; marketing and clustering in support to the distribution of innovative products; rehabilitation and re-use of unused polluted industrial sites etc.

P 13.3: Development and diversification of rural economy

M: Support to farmers and entrepreneurs in rural areas; promoting the establishment of agricultural producers groups; investments in micro-enterprises; modernization of agricultural holdings; training of farmers;

P 13.4: Tourism development and promotion

M: Rehabilitation of tourist and cultural sites; inclusion of new resources in tourist circuit: tourist villages, sport, hunting and fishing, transit travel; development of tourism infrastructure, of rural tourism and agro-tourism, of entertainment tourism (Aqua Park, Spa Center etc.), of educational tourism, wine tasting tourism etc.

Example of Cross-Danube Region Negotin – Vidin – Calafat – Lom

Analytical description

GS Natural Conditions

Bulgarian part of the CDR

Bulgarian part of the CDR is located in Northwestern Bulgaria, which is part of the South-Dobrudzha plain. The territory borders Romania along the right bank of Danube River and by land it borders the Negotin municipality in Serbia. The CDR includes territories from two Bulgarian Districts – Vidin and Montana.

Romanian part of the CDR

Romanian part of the CDR is situated in the South-Western part of Romania. Its area consists in 2 counties (Dolj and Mehedinti) belonging to the Romanian Region of Development – South-West Oltenia region.

In the Danube River within the CDR flow several smaller rivers from Serbian and Bulgarian territory – the border river Timok, as well as Archar and Vidbol on the territory of Vidin District, and Ogosta, Tsibritsa and Lom on the territory of Montana District. On the territory of Vidin District is the Rabishko lake, which is the biggest natural inland lake in Bulgaria. Ogosta dam is the most significant artificial lake on the territory of Montana District.

The Danube goes to the Southern part of the Romanian CDR as natural border with Serbia and Bulgaria. Also Jiu river crosses the CDR from North to South on 140 km, in Dolj county and Motru river in the Northern part of Mehedinti county. In Mehedinti county also, due to the specific lithology, the Danube changes its direction, forming several islets: Ada Kaleh (sunk under the waters of the lake Iron Gates I), Golu, Simian, Corbului and Ostrovu Mare. The main secondary rivers are in Dolj county Amaradia (34 km on its territory), Desnatui (84 km), Teslui (73 km) and in Mehedinti county rivers like Cerna, Topolnita, Cosustea, Blahnita and Drincea. In Dolj county, the main lakes are Bistret (with a total area of 1867 ha and a volume of 28 million m3) and Isalnita accumulation lake (180 ha and 1.4 million m3). In Mehedinti county, important lakes and ponds are Bistret, Fantana Banului, Maglavit, Golenti, Ciuperceni Lakes. The quality of Jiu river is affected by the economic activities.

The CDR has an important technical and economical potential due to the hydro lakes and hydroelectric power plants of the Danube at Iron Gates I and II, situated respectively downstream of Gura Vaii locality and at Ostrovu Mare.

On the territory of the CDR there are significant deposits of gypsum in Vidin District, as well as a non-utilized lignite coal deposit in the Lom basin in Montana District.

GS Settlement Structure and Human Resources

Bulgarian part of the CDR

Bulgaria, Self area: By 2011 the population of the the twelve municipalities from the self-area of CDR 12 is 129 208, which is 53% of the total population of both districts. Total population in the balance area is 115 409 people - 47% of the total population of both districts.

Romanian part of the CDR

In 2008 the Romanian part of CDR had 1007278 inhabitants, and a density of 81.2 inhabitants/km2, less than regional and national averages (101.5 and 90.2). The population density decreased in 2010 compared with 2001 from 100.1 inh/km2 to 94.7 in Dolj county and from 65 to 59 in Mehedinti county. In 2004 were declared new towns and communes. Thus in 2010 in the CDR were 5 municipalities, 7 cities and 165 communes with 722 villages.

Self area: In the area of 1809 km2 were living in 2008 almost 118 th. inhabitants, meaning a population density of 65.2 inhabitants/km2, a density lower than the national or regional values. Population in Calafat and Bailesti municipalities represent almost 33% from total population in self area. 8 communes from 21 have small densities, between 35 and 50 inhabitants/km2, most of them (15) having densities between 50 and 60 inhabitants/km2. Bailesti and Calafat municipalities have more than 100 inhabitants per km2 (123 in Bailesti and 133.6 in Calafat).

Serbian part of CDR:

In 2008, the Borska oblast had 134,375 inhabitants and the lowest population density in the Serbian part of the DONAUREGIONEN+ area (38.3 inhabitants/km2). This region consists of 4 municipalities (NUTS4 / LAU1 units) and 90 settlements (NUTS5 / LAU2 units). According to statistics, following six settlements are considered to be urban: Bor, Brza Palanka, Kladovo, Donji Milanovac, Majdanpek and Negotin. The biggest centre is Bor with 37,018 inhabitants in 2008.

GS Transport and Technical Infrastructure

Bulgarian part of CDR:

TDR 12 is serviced by two Pan European transport corridors: PETC ? 7- River Danube; PETC ? 4 -Drezden/Nyurnberg - Prague-Viena/Bratislava- Györ - Budapest-Arad -Konstantsa/Krayova - Sofia-Solun/Plovdiv- Istanbul hosts international flows between Romania, Bulgaria and Greece. CDR 12 has well-developed port infrastructure, but the land needs serious completion and modernization. CDR is served by PETC, TEN-T axis and roads of E-categorization, but the quality of the road network is not good. The construction of the first class road network is low, CDR 12 is predominantly served

by a regional road network. Connectivity to the road networks of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Romania / by the ferry Vidin/Kalafat / provides direct cross-border contacts. Both ports in the self-area are served by railway transport, but the parameters of the main railway line does not meet the requirements for a component of PETC. Completion of the combined bridge Vidin / Calafat and modernization of road and railway infrastructure will enable PETC ? 4 and TEN-T axes to perform their functions.

Romanian part of CDR:

The CDR is traversed by 2 pan-European corridors: Multimodal corridor no. IV (Berlin-Nürnberg-Praga-Budapesta-Bucuresti-Constanta-Salonic-Istanbul) and Corridor VII (the Danube). Mehedinbi county is situated on important road, railroad and naval arteries, at the intersection of the most important commercial ways towards Central and South-East Europe, towards Orient. By its crossborder location, riparian to Danube river, by its 2 crossing border points at Gura Vaii and Ostrovu Mare, Mehedinbi county is crossed by road and naval ways by major ways. The paneuropean road E70, the Bucharest-Timisoara railroad and the fluvial traffic by the Danube Iron Gates determine intense intern transport and tourism flows throughout the county and the Drobeta Turnu Severin municipality.

Serbian part of CDR:

There is one E-road passing through Borska oblast. However, there is no railroad of international importance in this region. The sole waterway in Borska oblast is the Danube. There is one port of international importance - port „Prahovo". Bor Airport is situated near the town of Bor and it is the only airport in the region. Terminal infrastructure for multimodal transport is only partially developed at Prahovo port. The Economic Association „Hydro Power Plants / Iron Gate", plc has four subsidiaries, two of them being situated in Borska oblast.

GS Economy

Bulgarian part of CDR

The long lasting economic decline, the location and the natural characteristics of TDR 12 presuppose the leading role of the products of services, agriculture and the processing industry. The regional economy can boast of some activities in the area of services: shipping services, construction, vehicle repair, etc. The varied relief and the adjacent Danube River allow for the implementation of different types of tourism – holiday, sports and seasonal tourism, while the presence of mineral springs (in the region of Varshets Municipality) is a prerequisite for spa and recreational tourism. The existing conditions by themselves, however, are not a sufficient factor and require for concentration and mobilization of purposeful initiatives, efforts, human and financial resources which are not currently available.

The workforce suffers from the negative processes of ageing and decreasing the education level, where the local dynamic of these processes even exceeds the national tendencies. All of the above together with the lack of significant minefields and big functioning enterprises is a prerequisite for the weak economical development of the region which has occupied one of the last places in regard to GDP and level of employment in the last years within the country and the EU. The economic opportunities related to the proximity of the Danube River and the possibilities for cross-border economic relations have not been effectively used so far.

Romanian part of CDR

For Dolj county is characteristic the low productivity of agriculture, though 39.5% from employment in 2007 was in primary sector. The agriculture provides most jobs and counts as major part of county's gross domestic product.

The economic potential of Mehedinti county is represented by the following activities: agriculture, forestry, pisciculture, industry and tourism / balneal tourism. After 1990, the county had a severe economic decline, due to the slow rhythm of restructuring and privatization programs. The low productivity of agriculture is characteristic for Mehedinti county, though 43.7% from employment in 2007 was in primary sector. Specialized industries are pulp, paper and paper products, ship building. The geographical location of Calafat municipality favoured its social and economic development.

In self area of Romanian part of CDR are 4 local administrative units declared in the National Program of Rural Development 2007-2013 as Less Favored Areas – ZDS: Deprived area of specific natural conditions (Gogosu commune in Mehedinti county, Calafat municipality, Ciupercenii Noi and Desa communes in Dolj county). They have vast sandy areas, quickly leading to the occurrence of drought and thus affecting yields. Aridity is manifested by prolonged excessive drying of the soil. This semi-arid area can support the development of agricultural activities, but with a lower level of agricultural production. But these areas are Level of economic development particularly important because their herbaceous vegetation sclerophyllous, of steppe type.

Strategy description

General Scheme: Settlement Infrastructure and Human Resources

Global objective: Adapting to demographic change and tackling spatial inequality

Ageing and decline of population is a major issue for the whole region, but especially for the Bulgarian part of it. Adapting to the stable decrease of the gross number of residents together with social cohesion within the region and between the region and richer parts of the countries would slow down the strong trend of depopulation.

Specific objective 1: Adaptation to the peripheral character and the demographic decline within the region

There is only one important urban core within the region – Craiova, which, however, is not situated within the region self area. Even if it is at an intersection between two European transport corridors – N 7 and N 9, the core is peripheral, border area for all the three countries. This peripheral character is identified as one of the major reasons for the demographic decline within the region.

Priority 1.1: Development of activities, suitable for the limited human resources

The limited human resources, available within the region are major prerequisite for development strategy, based on the use of these resources. Any optimistic projections for stabilization of the population or even growth are unrealistic.

The actions, needed to be undertaken should address the limited human resources. The proposed activities should require a limited number of highly qualified professionals and should mainly focus on the efficient use of the natural and cultural resources available within the region.

The suggested activities are focused on possible economic activities for the population of the region. They will affect the tourist and agriculture sectors, and if successful, they will promote higher living standards.

Priority 1.2: Interventions in the built environment

The available disused building stock becomes a major challenge for the future spatial structure of the region. Many of the available buildings and infrastructures are inappropriate for future uses. However, some number of them could be easily redeveloped for innovative and alternative uses.

The possible measures could be weather destruction of disused building stock, or change of the use of it

The suggested measures are related to the built environment, but also to the natural conditions within the region, proposing some initiatives for reestablishment of natural areas on brounfield sites.

Priority 1.3: Making the self area of the CDR an integrated core of activities, overcoming the barriers between the three countries

The peripheral character of the region could be tackled only by integration of the available resources from the three countries within the region.

Different measures aiming at improved connections between countries should be undertaken. The actions could be focused on the physical connectivity within the region and between the region and the rest of the three countries, but also on the development of partnerships and join initiatives within CDR.

This priority is strongly related to GS Infrastructure in first place. It is also connected to the economic activity of the region in the way that stronger cooperation would result in better economic performance.

Priority 1.4: Securing adequate spatial and strategic planning frame for the development of the whole territory of the CDR

The integrated urban development policy requires fair recognition of the interests of all members of the society. It is applied in a process of coordination of sectoral, spatial and temporal aspects of the main areas of urban policy. It is also an essential prerequisite for the implementation of the EU strategy for sustainable development „Europe 2020".

Important prerequisite for efficient and sustainable use of the resources is the compact structure of settlements. The compact structure could be achieved only with the development of adequate spatial planning documents.

The development of adequate strategic and spatial planning documents is required for the region in order to attract investors. It is a prerequisite for more predictable and secure environment for their investments, securing in this way future economic growth for the region.

Specific objective 2: Sustainable development of human resources

Because of the ageing of the population and its overall reduction, human resources in CDR 12 become a major issue. Their sustainable development in a form of higher educational levels and higher professional qualification is one of the crucial challenges for the future of the region.

Priority 2.1: Improving the pre-schooling and schooling system

The relatively low educational level of residents (especially in the Bulgarian part of the region) is caused to some extend by the poor schooling conditions.

Schooling and pre-schooling systems need to be improved in some of their aspects, ensuring good start for the young citizens in their life. Improved schooling system would also result in better opportunities for residents in their professional carrier, but also in continuing their education at a university level.

The suggested measures are strongly connected to the future economic development of the region. Better educated residents means higher added value for the region and higher productivity rates.

Priority 2.2: Improving access to higher education

There is noticeable difference, regarding higher education, between the performance of Bulgarian and Romanian parts of the region. In larger terms, in Craiova it is concentrated considerable number of educational institutions, while in Vidin and Montana districts there are no higher educational institutions. At the same time, there is a stable trend of increase of the number of students in Dolj county, which reveals the higher interest of the population in higher education.

The priority aims to result in higher number of citizens with higher education within the region.

Higher educational level and especially university education could add considerable value to the economic activity within the region. It would results in higher added value, produced by the highly qualified citizens, but it would also develop stronger economic activity in one of the priority areas for the EU as a whole – education. The region would also benefit from the development of supplementary services around the university scholastic activity – research, trade, entertainment.

Priority 2.3: Increasing skills and workforce adaptability

Justification of the priority comes from the SWOT analysis, showing the following arising problems:

- The rapid growth of inactive population.
- Low income and increased number of persons affected by poverty.

Dolj county is facing numerous social problems. Due to economic and social factors important segments of the population is likely to be pushed to the margins of society. Activity rate of labor force decreased in Dolj county and economic dependency ratio has increased dramatically both among men and among women. In Dolj a significant part of people employed in agriculture, practice subsistence agriculture, mainly geared to their own consumption, having a relatively small number of agricultural units oriented to income.

This priority belongs to the General Schemes Human resources and Economic infrastructure in relation to increasing the possibilities offered to older people to be back into employment through actions directed and financed by the European Union, promoting the re-qualification activities to facilitate entry and mobility in the labor market. By appropriate interventions supported by the European Social Fund, development of services will also provide opportunities for creating new jobs.

Specific objective 3: Improvement of the built environment of the settlements

The objective aims at integrated interventions in the fields of spatial planning and architecture, needed for improved public spaces and living standards. Implementation of spatially targeted actions and strategies for the whole region.

Priority 3.1: Improvement of living conditions

The region has the higher rate of dwelling per 1000 inhabitants within the whole Danube region from Bratislava to Odessa. However, many of these dwellings are disused and aldo many of them, even used, are in very bad conditions, so they do not offer even basic facilities.

Improvement of housing would result in better living conditions and could probably stimulate people stay in the region and not leave it. The actions are targeted mainly in interventions in built environment.

This priority is strongly related to GS Infrastructure, as it suggests improvements in the infrastructures (public works) in residential areas.

Priority 3.2: Interventions in industrial and logistic areas

Disused industrial areas could be found in many parts of the region. At the same time, its competitive advantage is that two European transport corridors intersect in the core of the CDR, which is not properly exploited.

Using the major competitive advantage of the region and offering better conditions for establishing industries and logistic centres can create serous amount of jobs within the region.

The priority is strongly related to the economic development of the region, as it aims at higher level of economic activity and higher rates of employment.

WP7 – Comprehensive strategy

Objectives and tasks for 2011

Activities realized in 2011 within WP7 – Comprehensive strategy:

- Updated WP7 methodology elaboration
- National Background reports elaboration
- Web portal support development
- Structure of the Scenarios preparation

Works done in 2011

Works on WP7 has started on 1st July 2010. In the year 2011 Comprehensive strategy guide (part A - Analysis and comparison and part B - National scenarios) have been completed.

Main goal of WP7 - Comprehensive strategy is to find conditions and ways for territorial cohesion of Donauregionen states, as one of the preconditions for overall cohesion. Basically, the main aim of the project will be to express conditions and ways of territorial cohesion for narrowed area oriented on region adjacent to the Danube River that is subject of previous work packages solution.

The role of WP7 is to define the conditions and ways of Donauregion countries territorial cohesion. The WP7 scenarios objective we propose as follows: „Donauregion as the Development Axis within the European Space“.

Transformation of Donauregion (D+region as its core area) into development axis of European importance requires a common strategy of participating countries.

The success of common strategy will be derived from cooperation quality of participating Danube regions, as well as from involvement and support of those endogenous and exogenous resources of ARGE Donau subregions and Cross Danube regions which contribute to their spatial integration, respectively their territorial cohesion.

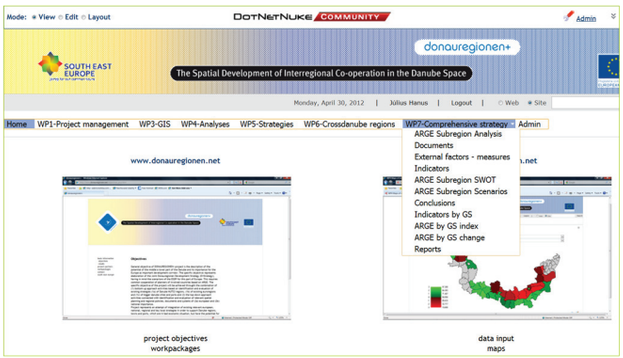
The scenarios defined in the project application can be expressed as follows:

- promotion of conservation and restoration of the endogenous sources focusing on the internal cohesion (pessimistic scenario)
- promotion of the endogenous sources with external support focusing on the subregional cohesion (optimistic scenario)
- promotion of the endogenous areas sources focusing on the crossdanube regional cohesion (realistic scenario)

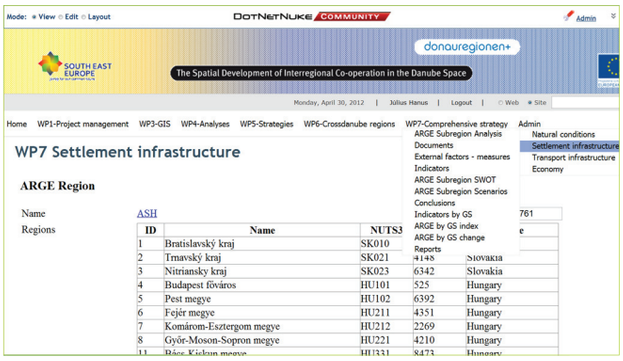
The basis for the scenarios is the results of the WP5, supported with the information from the WP-s 4 and 6.

The time frame of the evaluated indicators in the WP5 and WP6 is from seven to ten years. It means the year 2017-2020. But in the scenarios it is necessary to show the development trends in the longer time frame – in the next 20 – 25 years. It depends on the long time cycles of the activities, which influenced the development of the territorial cohesion. Therefore the scenarios have to go over the time expressed in the WP5 and probably in the official country documents targeting the investigated region as well.

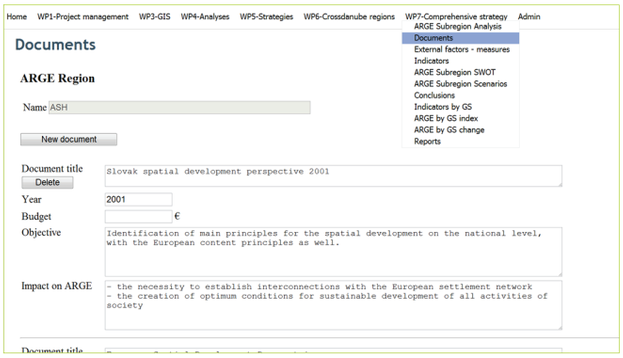
Examples of WP7 forms:



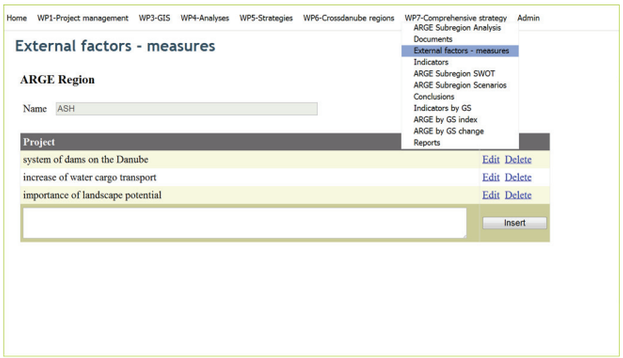
As for each workpackage, also WP7 is supported by project web portal. For this purpose following online forms were elaborated in the year 2011:



ARGE Subregion analysis – the form, where the analytical part of each ARGE Subregion is described within all General schemes. Structure of the analysis follow the structure in WP4 forms;

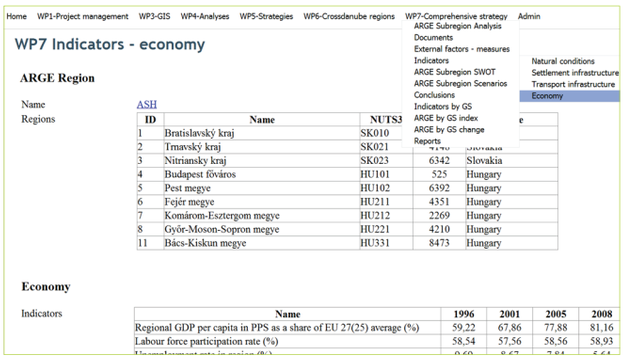


Documents – the form, where relevant national, transnational and European level regional and spatial development documents are identified. These documents reflect trends and tendencies within wider European space;

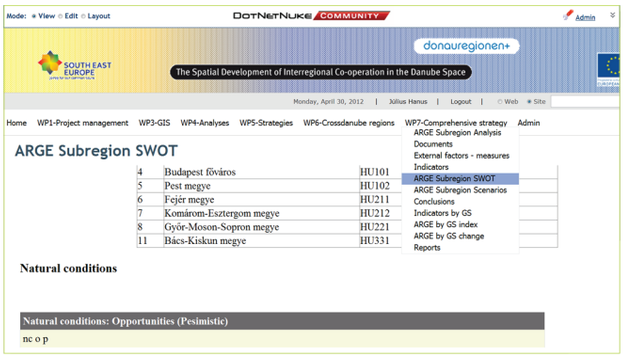


External factors – measures – the form, where along Danube measures, taken from upper level documents, are listed. Measures identified here have influence on more regions together;

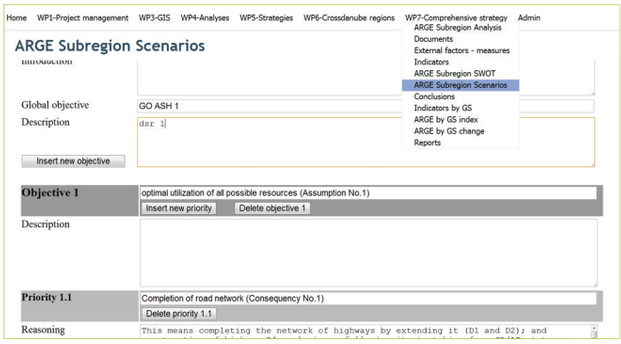
Indicators - the form, where the calculation of the ARGE Subregions values are calculated from the WP4 and WP5 values of individual Danube regions.



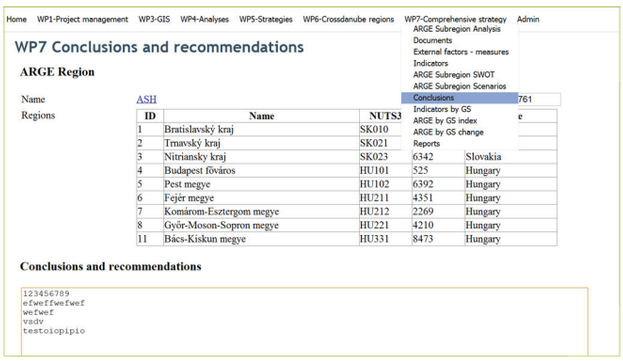
ARGE Subregion SWOT – the form, where SWOT analysis for each ARGE Subregion is defined. SWOT analysis characterize disparities and development factors of the Subregion;



ARGE Subregion Scenarios – the form, where three Scenarios (pessimistic, realistic and optimistic), for each ARGE Subregion are elaborated. Scenarios are based on key assumptions of the future territory development. Projected scenarios for development of individual Danube subregions are derived from ideas rooted in national development scenarios of individual states (i.e. state development trends), as well as from scenarios/development trends of regions that comprise each respective Donau subregion;



Conclusions – the form, where (a) the brief summarization of results and description of prior project activities, (b) suggestions for improvement of territorial cohesion in Danube subregions based on the results from analyses and (c) formulation of policy options, that express basic principles and goals supporting territorial cohesion of Danube subregions are stated.



WP7: COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY - Methodology development

WP objective and tasks for 2011 - Tasks according the project and workshops specifications

WP7 is the final WP od the D+ project. It is based on the integration of two approaches:

1. Bottom-up, erasing from the WP 5, Wp7 in fact represents the integration of the strategies of the Danube regions (it represent NUTS3 regions in all participated countries except Moldavia and Ukraine) mapped in WP5;
2. Top-down, based on the national background reports, which were proposed and approved by all project partners, during the years 2009 and 2010;

The project partners have decided the comprehensive strategies will be done at the level of ARGE DONAU Sub-regions, because the works done in WP4 and WP5 proves a big verities of Danube regions and it looks more reasonable to integrate the Danube regions strategies on the basis of existing trans-regional relations.

It was also agreed by the project partners the summarizing information about the whole D+ region will be put in D+ conclusions and recommendations.

The fact of some delays in WP5 and WP7 connecting with the completion of the Danube regions strategies and elaboration of the National background reports caused, that elaboration of comprehensive strategies has been moved mainly to the 2012.

Very important part of WP7 was the development of the relevant D+ WEB Server apps. This was one of the main challenges of Wp7 in 2011.

WP work done - Summary description of the situation

D+ WEB Server WP7 apps

During 2011 the works on development of WP7 apps on D+ WEB Server has started.

There were several versions of the specific forms, as the understanding of the comprehensive strategy has been clarified. There were discussions of the basic attitude to the WP7 comprehensive strategy. At the very beginning of the D+ project we came to the mutual agreement, the comprehensive strategies will be done at the Arge Donau Sub-region level. Above mentioned combination of top down and bottom up approach gave us the basic frame of future solution.

While the top down approach were based on identification of existing documents and measures on the national and international levels, the bottom up one came up from the outputs of WP4 and WP5. Following picture indicated the set of D+WEB Server apps, elaborated within WP7.

As concerns the 1st activity of WP7 – analytical one, following set of forms (separately for each general scheme) has been prepared basically as a result of bottom up approach:

From the top-down approach following forms have been developed and put on the D+6WEB Server as concerns the identification and description of relevant documents and measures (so call along Danube measures – what means measures valid in the danube regions of specific ARGE DOANU sub region), which are understood as external factors:

Bottom up approach is based on the outputs of WP5 and the next form is giving the information of the indicators aggregated within the ARGE Sub-region

As a part of Wp7 activity scenarios the SWOT form is documenting the integration of bottom-up and top-down approach, where there are still discussions whether each scenario should come up from specific SWT (as concerns the opportunities and threads) or not.

The last form of the comprehensive strategy WP7 activity is ARGE Sub-regions scenario with following structure proposal, identification of ARGE Sub-region, Pillars, Global objective, Objective, Priorities and Measures. It is under discussion, if it is reasonable to include into the specific scenarios the measures as well.

The last WP7 activity conclusions and recommendations will consist of two parts. The 1st – conclusions will summarize the basic info's about whole ARGE region. The 2nd part will specify the further steps in the process of putting the original program of AD WG SP in practice.

Conclusions

There is a summary of 2011 activities and identification of the main activities, reps. objectives for the final year of the project In attached table.

	Summary of 2011	task for 2012
WP1	We are still developing the project terminology and detailed project methodology 4 workshops has been performed	Finalize the project methodology and terminology Organize 3 workshops Close the project
WP2	Annual report 2010 was completed, printed and disseminated Project WEB portal was periodically updated 8 National info-days has been organized including their publicity support.	Elaborate the report of 2011 Elaborate the final report and Brochure Prepare the supported documents for exhibition as the publicity for final conference including Finalize the project WEB portal Elaborate the D+ DVD
WP3	D+WEB Server – development of support for WP5, WP6 and WP7 has been done D+ GIS Server – further development of the D+ GIS Structure, revising the data from PPs Development of D+ meta-information system	Finalize the D+WEB server and D+GIS Server Finalize the D+ meta-information system
WP4	Completion of WP4	
WP5	Danube regions Strategies elaboration	Completion of WP5
WP6	Cross Danube regions analysis completion Cross Danube regions Strategies elaboration	Completion of WP6
WP7	ARGE Sub-regions analysis completion ARGE Sub-regions Strategies elaboration	Finalization of ARGE Sub-regions analysis Finalization of ARGE Sub-regions strategies Completion of WP6 Elaboration of D+ Conclusions and Recommendations

Table of contents

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