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WP6 – CROSSDAUBE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

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Cross Danube Region Galati-Braila

Identification of the area of CDR

-It belongs to the ARGE Subregion RMU

-ARGE Subregion RMU is situated on the territory of Romania, Moldavia and Ukraine, including the Danube Delta. Most important centers of the region are Galati, Braila and Tulcea cities. According to previous results on the DR project, this area is economically stagnating. In the RMU subregion can be found two crossborder regions.

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Delimitation of CDR area according to time accessibility – not yet done by the experts

Delimitation of CDR area: In our proposal, the CDR belongs to the contact area between 3 Romanian counties: Galati, Braila and Tulcea, belonging to the RMU subregion.

CDR Galati-Braila:

- Is dominated by the urban agglomeration area Galati-Braila, with influence much over the limits of the CDR.
- Has 50 local administrative units, out of which 5 are urban localities: 1 in Galati, 2 in Braila, 2 in Tulcea counties. The most important are Galati and Braila municipalities.

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General information about CDR

- These territories are traditionally influenced by the Danube river. Galati-Braila area, with its 2 ports that were once the most important Romanian ports until the end of the XIX-th century, has a complex development potential, not enough valorized after the 2nd world war period.
- The events that followed represented a regression factor in the development of these ports and implicitly of their territorial role, as fluvial and maritime ports.
- The revitalization of the European Transport Corridor no.VII represents a chance for the development of this area.

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The spatial context

limit of CDR
Galati-Braila urban agglomeration

European corridor no.IV
European corridor no.IX
European corridor no.VII

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2. Analytical description of current situation of CDRs within the four general schemes

- Natural Conditions**
 - In Galati-Braila CDR are declared protected areas the following categories:
 - Biosphere Reserve Danube Delta, partial in the CDR
 - National Park Muntii Macinului (Macinului Mountains), 11321 hectares, totally included in the CDR
 - Natural Park Bala Bica a Braila (Braila Small Pound), partial in the CDR
 - Natural Park Lunca Jozsa a Prutului, partial in the CDR
 - Natural reserves and monuments:
 - Sand dunes from Hanu Conachi (199 hectares), Galati county
 - Garboavele Forest (230 hectares), Galati county
 - The fossil place Titchina Barboi (1 hectare), Galati county
 - Prut islet (82 hectares), Galati county
 - Potocova Pound (49 hectares), Galati county
 - Talabacra Pound (159 hectares), Galati county
 - Valea Fagilor Forest (154 hectares), part of the National Park Macinului Mountains
 - Dealul Bujorului fossil place (8 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Niculitel forest (11 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Traian Lake (326 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Machisii Cernei – Iaba (1861 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Chevant – Priopcea (568 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Consaul Mountain (328 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Sarica Hill (220 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Cocos Monastery (4.6 hectares), Tulcea county
 - Natura 2000 sites:
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA):
 - Danube Delta and the Complex Razim-Siret
 - Macin – Niculitel
 - Old Danube – Macin Branch
 - Babing Forest
 - The Meadow of Low Siret
 - The Meadow of Prut – Vladesti – Frumuska
 - Blaxeni
 - Small Pond of Braila
 - Ianca – Popu – Sarat
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - Danube Delta
 - Macinului Mountains
 - Macin Branch
 - North of Dobrogea Plateau
 - Low Meadow of Prut
 - Garboavele Forest
 - Sand dunes from Hanul Conachi
 - Small Pound of Braila

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2. Analytical description of current situation of CDRs within the four general schemes

- **Settlement structure and human resources**

The CDR has 5 urban localities and 49 communes.
The actual settlement network is composed by:

- 2 municipalities:
 - Galati: the residence of Galati county, belonging to the category of big towns, with 291608 inhabitants in 2008
 - Braila: the residence of Braila county, also belonging to the category of big cities, with 212981 inhabitants in 2008
- 2 cities belonging to the category of average size:
 - Ianca (Braila county) – 11196 inhabitants in 2008
 - Macin (Tulcea county) – 10924 inhabitants
- 1 town considered of small size:
 - Isaccea (Tulcea county) – 5337 inhabitants in 2008
- From 49 communes, 47 have less than 10000 inhabitants. Only 2 communes from Galati county (Liesti and Pechea) have more than 10000 inhabitants.
- Most communes (38) have less than 5000 inhabitants and belong to Tulcea and Braila counties.
- The spatial distribution of the settlement network is inadequate to a balance setting, due to the peripheral emplacement of the 2 county residences Galati and Braila. Most urban localities belong to the Danube couloir, from which their historical development is linked to.

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2. Analytical description of current situation of CDRs within the four general schemes

Classification of the settlement network

- According to Law no.351/2001 for the approval of the National Spatial Plan Section IV – The Settlements Network, in Galati-Braila Cross-Danube Region are identified:
 - localities of rank I: municipalities county residence of national importance or with regional pole and potential influence at European level. The two rank I urban localities in the area are Galati and Braila, both situated on a transport network of European interest (the Danube, corridor VII):
 - Galati municipality:
 - Its development is due to its geographic position that conditioned its specific functions: custom point, manufacturing centre, exchange center.
 - Nowadays has 291608 inhabitants and has complex socio-economical functions, is the most important urban center of the area, with regional influence because of its complex function of industrial, commercial, tourist, university center.
 - Since many years local initiatives tried to shape Galati metropolitan area. The urban agglomeration Galati-Braila (14 localities from Galati county, together with 7 from Braila and 3 from Tulcea counties) is proposed to form Cantemir metropolitan area.
 - Braila municipality:
 - Is an old settlement, knowing periods of prosperity and of decline, having as main function the trade.
 - Its radial urban structure (semi-ring shaped) was projected by the 1898 town plan, by Dufour engineer.
 - Its importance is due to its port transport function, but also industrial and cultural.

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Classification of the settlement network

- localities of IIIrd rank: Ianca, Macin, Isaccea urban localities
 - Ianca city was declared city in 1989.
 - Macin is a city-port situated on the right side of the Old Danube branch, that despite to its advantageous geographical position, its port, custom, commerce and administrative functions didn't achieve their maximum potential. Nowadays it has a mixed function of local importance, with a regressive development.
 - Isaccea is a city-port situated on the place of the old citadel of Noviodunum, with important military role between the XVI and XIX centuries. Nowadays it has an industrial-agricultural profile, with a regressive development.

Disfunctions

- the concentration of the population in Galati and Braila municipalities, as well as their peripheral localization
- gap in the system of relations between localities, due to the lack of bridges (ex. Galati and Braila municipalities with localities from Tulcea county)

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Population density in the CDR Galati-Braila

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Population ageing in the CDR Galati-Braila

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2. Analytical description of current situation of CDRs within the four general schemes

- **Transport infrastructure**

Road network

- In the area there are 7 national roads, out of which 2 are European (E87 and E584). There are also county and communal roads (secondary roads).
- The length of public roads in the area is of approx. 1246 km, with a density of approx.38% (more than at national level: 33 km/100 km2).
- From total public roads, 38% are national roads, 51% are county roads and 11% communal roads.
- The national roads are mostly modernized and have a good technical state. The local roads (county and communal) are modernized only in a low percentage, having an unsatisfactory technical state, couldn't ensure a good traffic.

Railway network

- The CDR area has a railway network of 70 km length, out of which 38 km (54.3%) are electrified, 12 km (17.1%) are lines with one way and 58 km (82.9%) lines with 2 ways.
- The territory of CDR is crossed by the following sectors of railroads:
 - 700: Bucuresti-Urziceni-Braila-Galati - electrified double railway on the sector Ianca-Braila-Galati
 - 704: Marasesti-Tecuci-Barboi-Galati - electrified double railway on the sector Barboi-Galati and non-electrified double railway on the sector Tecuci-Barboi
 - 703: Galati-Barlad - simple, non-electrified railway on the sector Galati-Barlad

Air transport

- In the CDR area there is a local airport in Galati, with small airplanes and helicopters, used for passengers and goods, for agriculture works or as aviation trainings. The closest airport is in Tulcea.

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Transport infrastructure

River transport network

- The river Danube is crossing the CDR from South to east, being fluvial and maritime navigable on the sector Braila-Galati-Tulcea, the main trans-European naval artery (corridor 7). On the Danube's bank, inside the municipalities Galati and Braila, developed important areas, their activities being commercial, provision, industrial (engineering works, repairing, maintenance naval works).
- In order to have a link with Dobrogea there are 3 ferry points at:
 - Braila/ Simerdan, for passengers and cars towards Macin locality in Tulcea county
 - Galati/ Tiglina, for passengers and cars towards I.C.Bratiuanu locality in Tulcea county
 - Galati/ fluvial station, for passengers towards Grindu locality in Tulcea county.

Free zones

- In the CDR area there are 2 free zones:
 - Braila free zone (80 hectares) having 4 perimeters situated in strategic areas in Braila municipality. Here can be combined all transport types: maritime, fluvial, rail and road.
 - Galati free zone (135 hectares), on the left side of the Danube, having a modern infrastructure. It contains specific port equipments, rail lines (connected to the national railroad network and with the rail network from R. of Moldavia) and highways allowing the access of cars.
- Both free zones have an industrial park.

Border crossing points

- On the CDR are 2 control and crossing border points:
 - Galati (Romania) / Giurgiulesti (Moldova): international traffic of passengers and goods
 - Galati (Romania) / Reni (Ukraine): international railway traffic of goods

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Transport infrastructure

Dysfunctionalities

- Road network:**
 - The CDR area is not crossed by a trans-European road transport corridor.
 - The traffic over the Danube is difficult, due to the lack of a bridge both in Braila and Galati.
 - The direct link between local and national roads or with commune centers must be improved.
- Railway network:**
 - The CDR area is not crossed by a trans-European railroad transport corridor
 - In Tulcea part of the CDR there is no railroad line
- Air network:**
 - The CDR area has no airport
- Water network:**
 - Is insufficient to achieve the link between Galati, Braila and Tulca parts of counties.
- Border crossing points:**
 - Their endowments are not according to international standards

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2. Analytical description of current situation of CDRs within the four general schemes

Technical infrastructure

Water management:

- Surface water: the CDR is situated in hydrographic basin of Prut, Siret and Danube rivers.

Water management works:

- Barrier lakes – ensure the water for population, industry, irrigations, pisciculture and as protection against the floods (list)
- Water adductions - ensure the water transport into the water supply system of localities (list)
- Dams and regulations – necessary to protect against the floods (list)

Water supply

- In 2009, from 54 local administrative units belonging to the CDR, 49 had centralized (state) water supply, the others being supplied from phreatic layer, in wells.
- As a general aspect, in the CDR Galati-Braila, the total simple length of the drinking water system was of 2200 km, out of which 1143 km in urban localities.

Sewage system and wastewater treatment

- In 2009, from 54 local administrative units, only 15 had sewage systems.
- At the level of the CDR, the total length of the sewage network was in 2004 of 848.2 km, out of which 808.8 km in urban areas.
- Wastewater treatment had only 3 localities: Isaccea (Tulcea county) and Ianca (Braila county) towns and Movila Miresii (Braila county). All 5 urban localities in the CDR and only 5 rural localities have sewage systems.

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Technical infrastructure

Dysfunctions

- The main dysfunction is connected to the wastewater treatment in Braila, Galati and Macin localities. Here, the eviction of wastewater is directly into the Danube, affecting the quality of the river.
- A major problem is represented by the bad quality of wastewater treatment stations, affecting the environment.
- Also, the lack of sewage systems in the localities having state water supply systems is a problem, as well as lack of both systems in most localities of the area.

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3. Identification of relevant CDR stakeholders

<p>Braila county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braila City Hall Braila County Council Braila Prefecture The South-East Agency for Regional Development Braila Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development The House for Health Insurance of Braila county Braila Employment Agency Braila Center for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises 	<p>Tulcea county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tulcea City Hall Tulcea Prefecture Tulcea County Council Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development County Center for Resources and Educational Assistance Autonomous Directorate "The Administration of Sulina Free Zone"
<p>Galati county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galati City Hall Galati Prefecture Galati County Council Galati Chamber of Commerce The House for Health Insurance of Galati county The University "Dunarea de Jos" Galati ("Lower Danube") 	

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4. Identification of relevant CDR documents

<p>Tulcea county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 Local Agenda – Local Plan of Sustainable Development of Tulcea county Local Strategy of Sustainable Development in Tulcea Municipality Environmental Action Plan for Tulcea county, 2008 Strategic plan for the development of a sustainable tourism in Danube Delta Sustainable tourism in the Biosphere Reserve Danube Delta. Development of the potential for a sustainable tourism in a wetland Natura 2000. Case study, Danube Delta. The strategy for the socio-economic development of Isaccea city 2006-2013 	<p>Braila county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy for the development of Braila County 2008-2013 The Strategy for the development of Braila Municipality 2008-2013 Environmental local action plan for Braila county Zonal Spatial Plan – Braila Periurban
<p>Galati county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy for the development of Galati County Environmental local action plan for Galati county 21 Local Agenda – The Local Plan of Sustainable Development for Galati county 	

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