



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

SEE EoI/A/246/4.2/X

**WP1
Transnational project
management and coordination**

**WP 7 - Comprehensive strategy
Methodology**

Work package WP7 – Comprehensive strategy – methodological processing approach

Preface:

The text mentioned below represents the first proposal of WP7 methodological processing for resolving of the assigned task. It is more detailed expression of the approach and way of the task processing, goals of which are defined in the project application. It is an objective of this document to prepare basic framework for discussion among all involved project partners, based on which the final approach will be set and the extent of WP7 processing.

Background of WP7 processing – Comprehensive strategy

Text of project application, in its WP7 designated part, states the following:

„Elaboration of the Joint Development Strategy of Danube Regions (D+Strategy). It will encompass the identification and evaluation of relevant European documents, specifically the ESDP and its development scenarios, national spatial development strategies and concepts and other relevant documents. On this base, as well as based on the inputs from WP5 and WP6, the D+strategy scenarios will be elaborated. These scenarios will serve for drawing of conclusion(s) and recommendation(s) of the project regarding the planning documents of the project territory at relevant local, regional, national and European planning tools.”

Danube River, by opening the borders and by EU enlargement, has not become only one of the most important European transportation axis (multimodal corridor VII) but also it provides for the whole Europe with a possibility to perceive the unique Donauregion with its strong economic, cultural and human potential.

Cultural diversity of states and countries, which are joined by the Danube River, is the common intellectual wealth of unified Europe.

The main objective of the Donauregionen+ task is to point out, how it would be possible, based on the cooperation of involved states, to jointly utilize the potential that the Donauregion provides for the benefit of their common development and the development of the whole Europe.

Based on the conclusions of Donau conference that took place in Baden-Württemberg, it has been made clear that the infrastructure building is to be seen as a precondition for further development of Donauregion. This priority is shared interconnecting priority of Donauregion states cooperation. At the same time, it shall be desirable to highlight also other interconnected developing factors coming out from richness and diversity of Donauregion area.

In the joint Donauregion strategy, the attention will therefore be focused on development of this area, as well as on cultural-historic, landscape-forming and settlement area, coming out from its economic and human potential.

Main goal of WP7 - Comprehensive strategy is to find conditions and ways for territorial cohesion of Donauregion 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.

WP7 is divided into three activities:

7.1 – Analysis and comparison

7.2 – Scenarios

7.3 – Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 – Analysis and comparison

Text of project application, in its WP7 designated part, states the following:

„Analysis and comparison of Crossdanube development strategy with key European and relevant national spatial development policies, documents, concepts and strategies.“

The Donauregion area is characterized by common transportation issues, environmental problems, natural and cultural heritage, and tourism and economic potential as well. The Danube waterway leads to international co-operation, which, in some form, already exists in this area. The CEE co-operation within the Donauregionen convention, however, represents a more comprehensive and mutually supporting framework for their intensification and further development.

Donauregion area within the European space will/can play an important role as a new development axis. This should be connected to the global development of each of the participating countries.

As a consequence of previous development, when the Danube River was a border line, it is an area with insufficiently developed crossborder regions and low level of spatial cohesion.

Analysis and comparison should be done in the spirit of **„Donauregion within the European Space“**.

The steps of the analysis and comparisons are:

1. Brief SWOT analysis
(this means purpose SWOT analysis based on basis of SWOT analyses and information from previous WP-s, oriented on expression of endogenous and exogenous potential resources for development of individual NUTS III. regions)
2. Definition of indicators characterizing the social-economic situation of the whole Donauregionen Area
(defining and evaluating regions according to the WP4 and WP5 outputs)
3. The analysis and the evaluation of the national regional policies and spatial plans of the countries
(the outputs integration of the WP5 and evaluation of their goals from the viewpoint of creation crossborder and transborder settlement structures, as a base for territorial cohesion)
4. Donauregion and the European and national development policies
 - 4.1. Review the adaptation of the ESDP in the area
 - 4.2. Review the ESPON-project in the area
 - 4.3. Review the other relevant projects in the area(mapping of all relevant project's outputs dealing with the questions of Donauregion areas development with the aim of gaining applicable information)

for strategy creation from the point of view of European and transborder analysis and development concepts)

5. Analysis of several transnational initiatives (analysis of existing crossborder and transborder initiatives of individual states, regions or other subjects that may have influence on the creation of mutual strategy of territorial cohesion)

Inputs

Inputs for activity 7.1 processing are mainly:

- SWOT analyses from previous WP-s
- Partial and final outputs from WP4 and WP5
- partial outputs from WP6
- national and regional policies of regional and spatial development
- Project ESPON results from the period till 2007 and also the available outputs from the new period
- analysis and project outputs dealing with Donauregion in broader or narrower connections, as for instance VISION PLANET, PlaNet CeNSE, Carpathian project, etc.
- crossborder character projects dealing with partial areas of Donauregion.

Outputs

Outputs of this activity should be:

- evaluation of different developing aims of Donauregion area (expressed briefly by the text and in graphical schemes, oriented on specified sub-regions and transborder regions)
- record of endogenous and exogenous resources and developing potentials
- record of potential stakeholders that have possibilities and interest on region development and on the creation of crossborder territorial cohesion
- evaluation of strategic development possibilities outputs arising from the basis of analyses provided in WP5 and WP6.

7.2 – Scenarios

Text of project application, in its WP7 designated part, states the following:

„Scenarios, analogical to the ESDP development scenarios, will be elaborated. It means 3 scenarios (optimistic, pessimistic and realistic ones).“

As it has been mentioned in introduction, the role of WP7 is to find the conditions and ways of Donauregion states territorial cohesion. In a way of simplification, it is possible to express the goals of creating the scenarios in this activity as **„Donauregion as the Development Axis within the European Space“**.

The creation of Donauregion as a development axis supposes a creation of a common strategy of participated countries. The common strategy should include whole by-project-specified Donauregion area as well as the strategies of individual subregions.

Common strategy will be derived from a level of cooperation among the individual regions, and from degree of involvement and support of endogenous and exogenous resources of individual subregions and crossborder units to the creation of territorial cohesion.

Common strategy of Donauregion, as the development axis, will be derived from strategic goals analysis, and within them anticipated conditions of crossborder co-operation.

Strategic goals, that will create the basis for individual scenarios, can be expressed as follows:

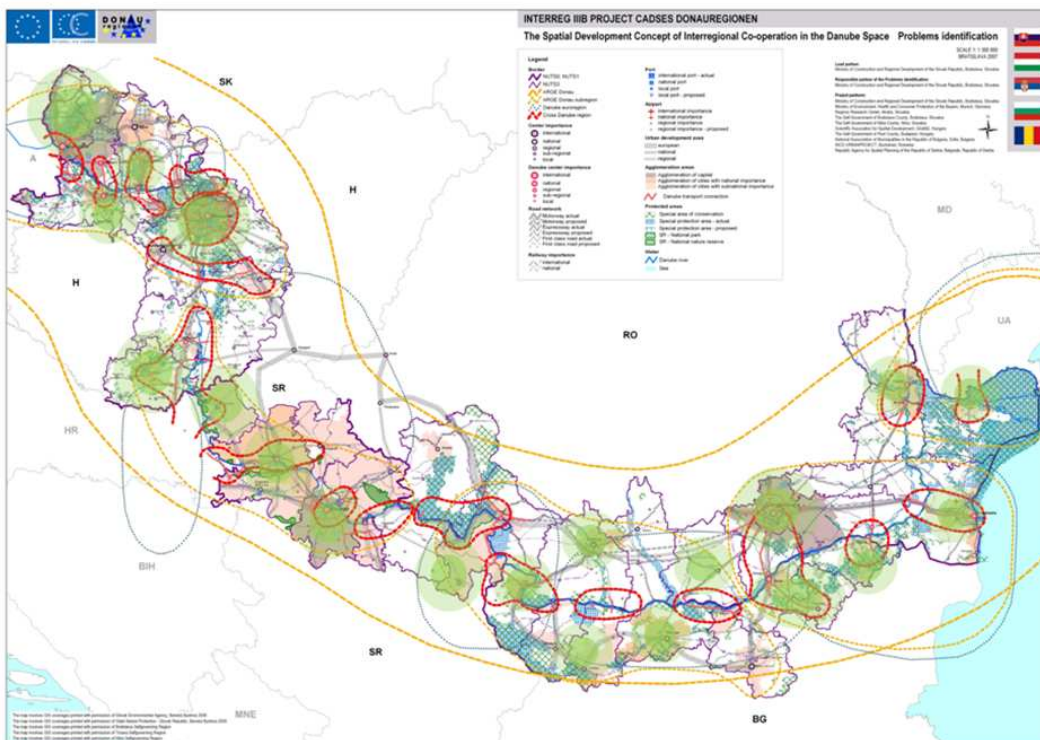
- a) promotion of conservation and restoration of the endogenous sources focusing on the internal cohesion (pessimistic scenario)
- b) promotion of the endogenous sources with external support focusing on the subregional cohesion (optimistic scenario)
- c) promotion of the endogenous areas sources focusing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

7.2.1 –Pessimistic scenario

The cornerstone of this scenario is promotion of conservation and restoration of the endogenous sources focusing on the internal cohesion

In this scenario, the impacts prioritizing renewal of inside resources and forces will be monitored, mainly then for the own inner development of concrete national regional unit, with minimal connection to national concepts and practically with no effort for crossborder cohesion whatsoever. The scenario will express the policy development oriented on stabilizing the region by means of own resources and powers. This policy will be derived from a premise of minimal possible partnership of outside resources and powers, either intrastate or international, for the benefit of concrete region development.

From spatial planning point of view, it is reasonable to assume, that along the Donau River the system of individual regional units with either minimal or no crossborder cohesions will be created. It is represented graphically on the picture.

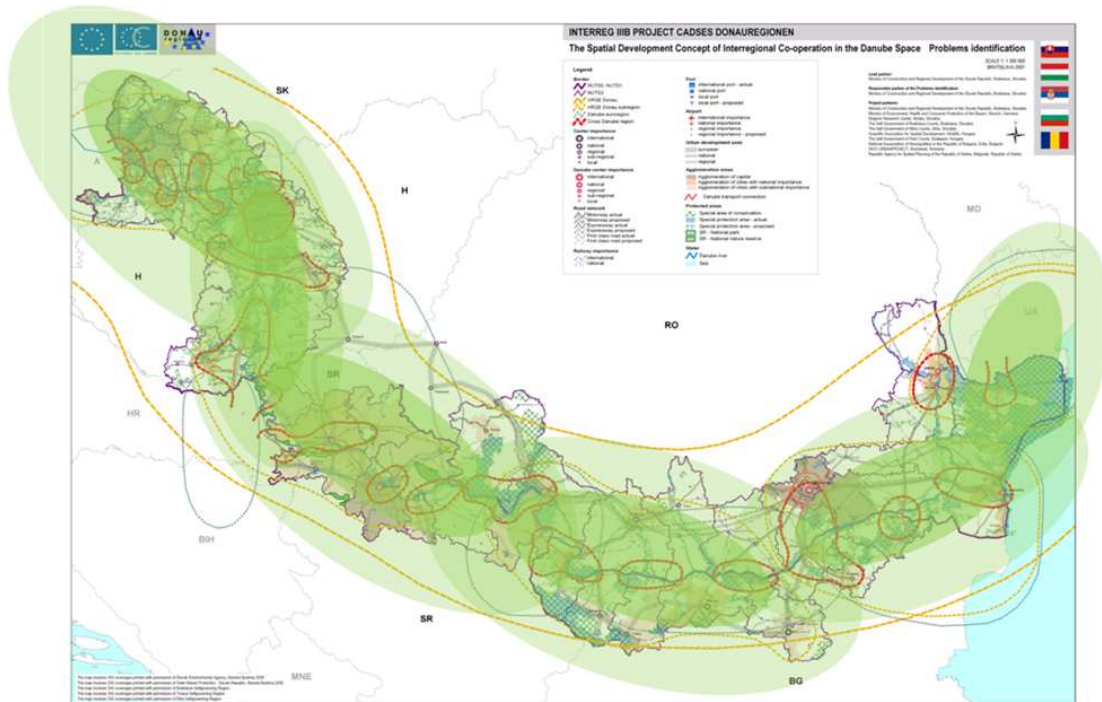


7.2.2. – Optimistic scenario

The essence of this scenario is promotion of the endogenous sources with external support focusing on the subregional cohesion.

The optimistic scenario will be characterized by appropriate connection of internal and external resources with an objective of creating the best and quickest cohesion on crossborder and transborder level. It will be the creation of utmost accommodating development policy for the sake of transborder cohesion, by which conditions will be established for territorial cohesion within the frame of larger territorial units exceeding areas of NUTS III regions. It is reasonable to assume that this policy will not only be based on appropriate economic conditions of whole states but also on full openness and trust within the scope of international relations of individual states and regions.

From spatial planning point of view, it is reasonable to assume that under this scenario, there will be an important territorial cohesion on the level of individual subregions, which were selected in Donauregion project. The territorial cohesion of these subregions will be overlapped, and practically, creation of certain homogeneous areas along the Danube River can be assumed. It is represented graphically on the next picture.



7.2.3 – Realistic scenario

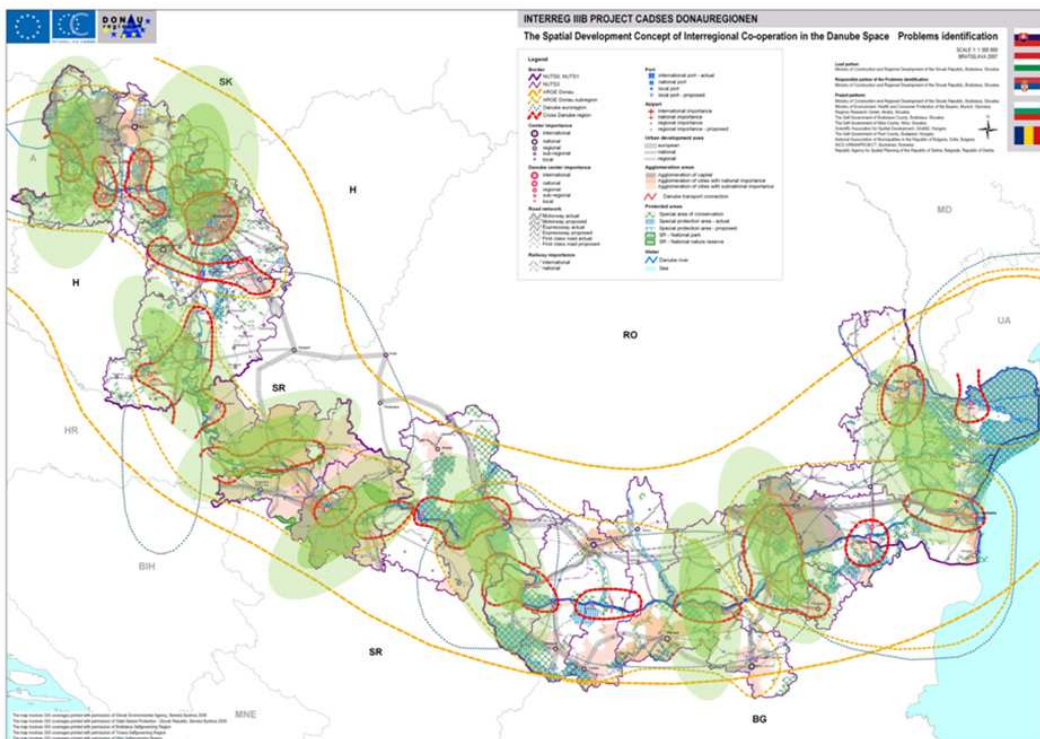
The essence of this scenario is promotion of the endogenous areas sources focusing on the crossdanube regional cohesion.

This scenario, pointed out as a realistic, assumes mobilization of all internal powers with support of external conditions with aim to create crossborder cohesion of individual regional units with direction to support the cohesion on sub-regional level. It is possible to assume that the most realistic precondition of territorial cohesion development in Donauregion area will be gradual convergence of individual mutually-connected border regions. Development policy in this scenario is therefore assumed to be based mainly on crossborder region cooperation with the aim to find common advantages of cooperation, in mutual strengthening of regions in their competition with other regions. To carry out this policy, they will be utilizing both own endogenous

resources and powers as well as exogenous resources for the benefit of their mutual development in both national and international conditions.

By gradual development of crossborder territorial cohesion, more compatible regional units will be created, oriented on possible potential utilization of Donauregion area and Danube River themselves. This policy will be possibly carried out individually in different regional units. Crossborder development will be different with passage of time. The main idea of this policy should be to direction toward gradual creation of, on one hand settlement, culturally and citizenly heterogeneous area, yet on the other diverse and attractive Donauregion development axis, within framework of the European area.

It is graphically expressed as depict on the picture.



Inputs for activities from 7.2.1 to 7.2.3

- results of activity 7.1
- results and partial results WP5 and WP6

Outputs from activities 7.2.1 - 7.2.3

- description of scenarios, each scenario will be explained individually by:
 - problem definition
 - main challenges
 - (necessary) inputs of cooperation areas
 - contribution of D+ project
- the promotions in the three strategic goals of each scenario will be characterized by:
 - spatial factors
 - transport factors
 - socio-economical factors
 - environmental factors

- the implications of these factors will be explained as well.

7.3 – Conclusions and recommendations

Text of project application, in its WP7 designated part, states the following:

„Conclusions and recommendations of the project towards the planning documents of the project territory at relevant local, regional, national and European planning tools“.

Activity 7.3 is oriented on overall results evolution of previous WP7 activities. The main tasks of this activity are the preparation of the synthetic document „Comprehensive Strategies in the Donauregionen Area“, and to indicate several policy options for following actions.

Inputs

- results from activities from 7.2.1 to 7.2.3

Outputs expressed in the synthetic document „Comprehensive Strategies in the Donauregionen Area“

- brief summarization of results and description of previous activities (7.1 and 7.2)
- suggestions for improvement of territorial cohesion in Donauregionen area based on the results from scenario analyses
- policy options, which will be expressing basic principles and goals supporting territorial cohesion of Donauregionen area.

Coordination recommendations and policy options in frame of the D+strategy will contain:

1. spatial coordination and policy options (heading towards the transnational polycentric network and human activities)
2. transport coordination and policy options (TEN-T and other transnational transport networks supporting territorial cohesion of Donauregionen area)
3. environmental coordination and policy options (natural protection and activities contributing to considerate utilization of natural and cultural potential for the benefit of fulfilling the mutual development strategy)
4. socio-economical coordination and policy options (transborder social and economical networks).

Institutional and organizational security of WP7

Institutional and organizational securing of WP7 processing – Comprehensive strategy is derived from the following background:

- the strategy will be based on the outcomes from the WP6 and WP7
- the strategy will be prepared on the basis of the top down and bottom up information and data
- top down information and data comes out of the relevant European and national projects, strategies and conceptions
- bottom up information and data comes out of the relevant subregional and crossdanube regional level prepared in the WP6.

From the organizational point of view the work will be provided by:

- Responsible coordinator WP7
- working team
- narrowed working team – task force

Responsible coordinator for the WP7 is ERDF PP1, which will:

- be the coordinator of the WP7
- be head of the working group and the task force
- to initiate preparation and put together the methodology of WP7
- to initiate the meetings and sessions of working group and task force
- to prepare common draft texts and final text of „Comprehensive Strategies in the Donauregionen Area”

Working group will consist from one representative of each participating partners. The tasks of the working group are:

- to prepare and guarantee the national, subregional and crossdanube regional data and background information
- to prepare national background study of the three development scenarios according the common methodology
- to ensure the feedbacks to the prepared draft texts and final draft text

Task force will consist from one representative of each country (SR, HU, CRO, SRB, RO, BG, MO, UA). The tasks of the task force are:

- to be the main initiator in the respective country for the preparation of the relevant data and information, and for the country background study as well
- to prepare methodology together with lead partner of WP7
- to ensure the parts/sections of analysis and comparisons according the accepted methodology
- to prepare relevant parts of texts for the drafts and final version of „Comprehensive Strategies in the Donauregionen Area”
- to coordinate the co-operation with the WP6, and to ensure the outcomes from the WP6 to the WP7

General time frame for the WP7 according the application form is

1st July 2010 – 31st December 2012

The time schedule of the working steps will be prepared after the common discussion on the methodology and upon its agreement with the partners, and with interface on the WP4, WP5, WP6 and its partial outcomes.