

Danube-INCO.NET

**Advancing Research and Innovation
in the Danube Region**

**D2.9 Mapping of relevant stakeholders
describing activities, positions, and good
practices including recommendations for
synergies**

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List of Abbreviations

BACSEE	Business Advisory Council for Southeast Europe and Eurasia
BICs	Business Innovation Centres
BMBF	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
BSTDB	Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
CASEE	ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CBM	Cluster in Biomedicine
CE	Central Europe
CEE	Central Eastern Europe
CEEPUS	Central European Exchange Program for University Studies
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEI UniNet	Central European Initiative University Network
CLDR Romania	Platform of Local Communities along the Danube River in Romania
CoDCR	Council of Danube Cities and Regions
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
Danube-INCO.NET	Danube Region INCO-NET
DanuClus	Danube Cluster Network
DCCA	Danube Chambers of Commerce Association
DoW	Description of Work
DR	Danube Region
DRC	Danube Rectors' Conference
DREAM	Danube River REsearch And Management
DRIFF	Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund
DTC	Danube Transfer Center
DU	Danube Universities
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECA	European Cluster Alliance
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
ETF	Exchange-Traded Fund Exchange-Traded Fund
Eurochambers	Association of the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry
EU13	group of Member States of the European Union gained accession since 2004
EURADA	European Association of Development Agencies
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
EUSDR PACs	EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area Coordinators
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme
HDF	Hellenic Development Fund
H2020	Horizon2020
ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical Physics ABDUS SALAM
IAD	International Association for Danube Research
ICBSS	International Centre for Black Sea Studies
ICGEB	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDM	Institute for the Danube and Central Europe
JRC	Joint Research Centre
NGO	non-governmental organization

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PA	Priority Area
PABSEC	Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PIDIN	Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation
R&D	research and development
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCISD	Regional Center for Information and Scientific Development
RI	research and innovation
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SEE	Southeast Europe
SEECCEL	South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
SEECF	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEEIC	Southeast Europe Investment Committee
SISSA	International School for Advanced Studies
SG	Steering Group
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SP	Steering Platform
TEN-T Networks	Trans-European Transport Networks
UN ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
V4	Visegrad 4 Cooperation, Visegrad Group
WB EDIF	Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility
WBCs	Western Balkan Countries
VEF	Vienna Economic Forum
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise
WP	Work Package
YCDN	Young Citizens Danube Network

1 Executive Summary

The project Danube.INCO-NET aims, among others, to support RI policy dialogue mainly in the EUSDR Priority Area Steering Groups and to exchange information on existing stakeholders in the field of RI in the Region. In line with this, the main goal of the report “Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies” is, through the analysis of RI related stakeholders, programmes and initiatives, to identify possible synergies and transferable good practices. The results of this analytical work shall support the better exploitation of existing initiatives and programmes, an enhanced dialogue among stakeholders, as well as more targeted actions in the field of RI and education to support the implementation of the related actions of EUSDR.

The present report examined 40 stakeholders (including initiatives and programmes) among others: networks (e.g. [DRC](#), [CASEE](#), [CEI UniNet](#)), associations (e.g. [EURADA](#)), organizations of an intergovernmental feature (e.g. [CEI](#), [SEECF](#)), international organizations (e.g. [BSEC](#), [Visegrad Group](#)), EU programmes and initiatives (e.g. SEE, [Danube Transnational](#)) as well as other relevant international actors (e.g. [UNESCO](#), [Eurochambers](#)). These stakeholders were considered of utmost importance mainly from the view of research, innovation and the relevant fields of education (i.e. higher education) or from the view of important experience in regional cooperation among the almost hundred actors present in the Danube Region. Data gathering was conducted through desk research, questionnaires and (online, telephone or personal) interviews. The aim was to devote special attention to the outcomes of their recent activities, good practices to be transferred to other programmes or initiatives, and their future priorities in order to define synergies and formulate policy recommendations.

The findings of the investigation on stakeholders can be summarized through the following points:

Policy dialogue and priority setting

- 1) A few initiatives proved to be successful in influencing decision-making at national or EU-level (EURADA, VEF), whereas several initiatives have already made important efforts to be more involved in the implementation of the Strategy (CoDCR, DanuClus, Ulm Follow-up Group, CLDR Romania).
- 2) Most of the initiatives share common targets such as strengthening research, education and innovation, among which innovation is the most important. It is also crucial that many, e.g. CEI, SEEIC, Eurochambers have already harmonized their action plans or strategies with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In numerous cases, this stands for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region as well.
- 3) The [Ulm Follow-up Group](#) targeting the cooperation in research, education and innovation in the Danube Region has a pivotal role in establishing, with the contribution of PA7 and PA8 the regional research and innovation fund, namely the DRRIF.

Topics covered by selected stakeholders

- 1) It is interesting to note that an important majority (78%) of stakeholders under investigation targets innovation as one of their main activities, whereas research and education are almost of equal importance: representing targeted fields of 50-60% of the initiatives.

Main features of activities or programmes carried out by stakeholders

- 1) Half of stakeholders under investigation provide funding for programmes covering different types of activities such as research and development, innovation, mobility-career development, networking and joint use of R&D facilities/laboratories.
- 2) Overlaps exist to a certain extent in the field of exchange programmes and networking. Regarding their scope, target audience and publication of calls, efforts for coordination or harmonization are ostensibly missing.
- 3) There is a strong will to support businesses, especially SMEs (through providing training, advice or creating an adequate environment for them) in most of the initiatives.
- 4) Networking is of utmost importance from the policy level through the research community to the civil sphere. There is an important number of initiatives providing platform and/or funding for networking events.
- 5) Based on the self-assessment of examined stakeholders it is noted that stakeholders under investigation are aware of the merit of synergies but there is no proof for joint actions.
- 6) Highlights of common future priorities include (a) generating joint projects – including H2020, educational cooperation, etc. -; (b) capacity building; (c) promoting SMEs, business development and entrepreneurship; (d) focus on intercultural society, cultural heritage, culture; (e) facilitating tourism, trade and investment
- 7) The suggested transferable good practices include in particular strong networking activities, elaboration of joint proposals, implementation of joint projects and sharing of infrastructures.

Initiatives Targeting Cross-sectoral Dialogue

- 1) Linkages among the academia – industry – governmental sectors are rather scarce and weak; there are only a few successful actors (e.g. [Steinbeis Danube Center](#)) devoted to the enhancement of this kind of cooperation.

The outcomes of the analysis gave evidence that following the identification of synergies and best practices there is a significant need in defining recommendations for their enhanced exploitation and possible harmonization of programmes, priorities, and other supporting initiatives. Therefore detailed proposals were made relating to the following issues:

- 1) **Reinforced policy dialogue among regional stakeholders to exploit synergies and achieve mutual goals.** It is recommended to harmonize the priorities, action plans and strategies of stakeholders on the one hand; on the other hand it is also crucial to exploit different funding opportunities to increase the volume and impact of these programmes.
- 2) **Enhanced involvement of stakeholders under investigation in the implementation of EUSDR.** It is advised to tighten linkages among the regional stakeholders and EU actors. However it is also deemed significant that stakeholders at EU and international levels shall reflect the priorities of EUSDR in their action plans and programmes. As regards the implementation of the Danube Strategy at national level, it is suggested to set up a coordination mechanism among the members of the different Priority Areas.
- 3) **Extending joint programmes to connect and exploit their potentials of the Region.** Though it seems that stakeholders are satisfied with the visibility of their initiatives, to achieve a critical mass it is suggested to enhance joint programmes, as well as extend existing programmes to other forms of cooperation (i.e. joint use of research infrastructure, knowledge and know-how transfer, joint proposals to Horizon 2020, etc.)

- 4) **Practical support to the RI community.** Researchers and innovators in the Region would need more structured information on the various programmes available on the one hand; on the other hand their administrative burdens shall be decreased. Opportunities for networking shall be further promoted.
- 5) **Strengthened dialogue among the academia – industry – government.** Stakeholders are invited to develop joint research – innovation – education programmes to ensure the dialogue and the exchange of know-how among the various sectors. Further linkages among these sectors shall be tightened further, whereas the involvement of the civil sphere in certain actions could be further strengthened in line with the approach of quadruple helix.

To ensure that the report is disseminated in a highly efficient way, a dissemination roadmap was elaborated. The dissemination of the report results will be a multiple-level activity including the organization of back-to-back events to present the findings and improve the study, cross project dissemination, circulation through direct mailing and newsletter, online appearance on websites, as well as social media appearance.

2 Introduction

Danube-INCO.NET is an FP7 funded coordination and support action for the official EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of research and innovation (RI). Whereas the EUSDR addresses a wide variety of Priority Areas (PAs) (ranging from PA 1A „Mobility/Waterways“ to PA 11 „Security“), Danube-INCO.NET focuses mainly on two of them: PA 7 „Knowledge Society“ and PA 8 „Competitiveness“. The project supports the policy dialogue, creates networks, elaborates analyses and recommendations, and foster R&I activities in the Region.

Regarding the support of policy dialogue in the field of RI, through Work Package 2 “Policy Coordination” the project is directly involved in high level meetings as well as the meetings of PA7 and PA8 aiming to facilitate the exchange of information and an enhanced policy dialogue. This activity is accomplished by various means such as the cross-fertilization of the various priority areas, the support for the implementation of the Innovation Union and European Research Area in enlargement and ENP countries, but also, under Task 2.2 “Policy Framework Coordination” the mapping of relevant stakeholders in the Danube Region (DR) to find complementarities, identify transferable good practices and formulate policy recommendations.

Several stakeholders relevant for research, innovation and the respective part of education (mainly higher education) exist in the Danube Region: one part of them started operating much before the adoption of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region whereas the other part of them rooted in the Strategy and started the operation afterwards. Both can be relevant from the point of view of the RI, as well as education related priorities of the Strategy, which are covered mainly by the Priority Area 7 for Knowledge Society, PA 8 for Competitiveness and PA9 for People & Skills.

These stakeholders do vary in other terms, such as their organizational status, character, target groups, targeted topics, etc. Nevertheless, the majority of the regional, transnational and international organizations/initiatives focusing on the Danube Region seek the reinforcement of cooperation and/or some kind of dialogue in the targeted fields. However, dialogue among these stakeholders cannot be considered well-established even if their targeted fields or groups are identical.

2.1 Objectives and the structure of the report

Therefore it has been deemed necessary to map existing stakeholders, including initiatives, international or regional organizations, networks, programmes, fora, etc. in the Danube Region and to identify their main objectives and future priorities. This analytical exercise shall enable us to grip synergies or overlaps, unnecessary duplications among the existing programmes, priorities and activities and define recommendations on their better and more targeted use.

To do so, first, the report will provide a compact overview on stakeholders under investigation. Their general objectives, future priorities will be presented, as well as the main outcomes of the recent years, including possibly transferable practices. Second, the assessment of these aspects will be given making a ground for the policy recommendations.

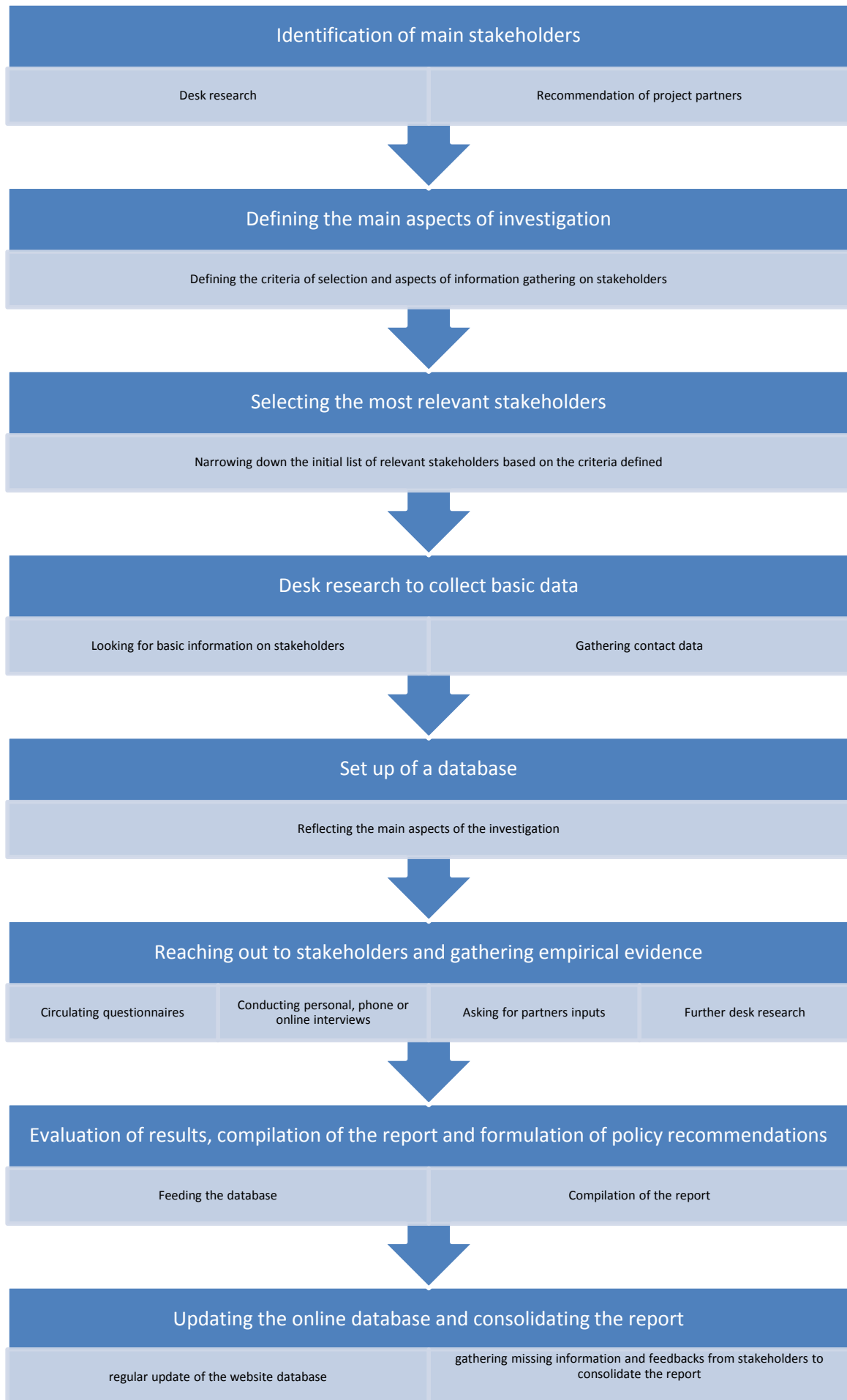
The study at hand shall be useful for regional, national and EU stakeholders by (1) giving an overview of the most relevant programmes/initiatives, (2) providing brief evaluation of the relevant activities and (3) formulating policy recommendations for their more desirable use with regard to the EUSDR.

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

Additionally, certain parts of the report, such as the introduction of stakeholders can be relevant to the research community in DR as well who are seeking for cooperation opportunities.

2.2 Methodology

The elaboration of the report was implemented through the following steps:



(1) Identification of the main stakeholders in the field of RI in the Danube Region

As mentioned before, an important number of stakeholders are active in the Danube Region, including the fields of research and innovation. However, they are quite diverse with regard to their objectives, geographical scope, scientific field (if any), and running programmes/projects, etc. Therefore the first step was to investigate stakeholders having any relevance for research, innovation and education. It is important to highlight that stakeholders involved in research and innovation were analysed in the first place, but those relevant in the field of education, especially higher education are also mentioned due to the significant relations of this sector to RI. Last but not least, some regional actors bearing important tracks in regional cooperation were also examined to a certain extent looking for transferable good practices. The identification of stakeholders was executed through desk research and partners' recommendations which resulted in a table including almost 90 actors.¹ This list was planned to be further narrowed down (step 3), after thorough examination of the identification of the initial population (step 2).

(2) Defining the main aspects of the investigation

The main aspects of the investigation on stakeholders had to be laid down in advance to narrow down the list of stakeholders to be reviewed. Bearing in mind the character of the report, namely the fact that it shall formulate policy recommendations, the following aspects were defined which had to be answered:

- character of the initiative/stakeholder
- main objective of the initiative/stakeholder
- recent achievements
- future targets
- type of programmes funded (if any)
- good practices
- relation to other stakeholders

(3) Selecting the most relevant stakeholders from the point of view of research, innovation and education

Though almost 90 stakeholders were identified in the first step,² many of them were only marginally related to research and innovation. Consequently stakeholders gathered in the initial database were prioritized according to their relevance to RI, education and/or having important experience in regional cooperation. As a result, 40 stakeholders were considered important for the elaboration of the report and the policy recommendations (from now on referred as stakeholders under investigation or selected stakeholders). It must be indicated that out of these forty stakeholders, five have strictly European or international character (i.e. UNESCO, EURADA, Eurochambers, etc.) and do not have any special focus on the region or the countries covered by the Danube Strategy; however, it was considered important to check whether they respond by any means to the priorities of the Strategy or if they have such plans for the near future.

As a result, the composition of selected stakeholders is as follows: most stakeholders (37.5%) are networks, followed by EU related bodies (16%) and international organizations (12.5%). Category

¹ See [Annex I](#) for the full list of stakeholders.

² The full list of stakeholders and arguments for their selection are in [Annex I](#).

“Other”, which represents quite a significant ratio (15%), contains the following types: forums, conferences and intergovernmental/regional cooperation.

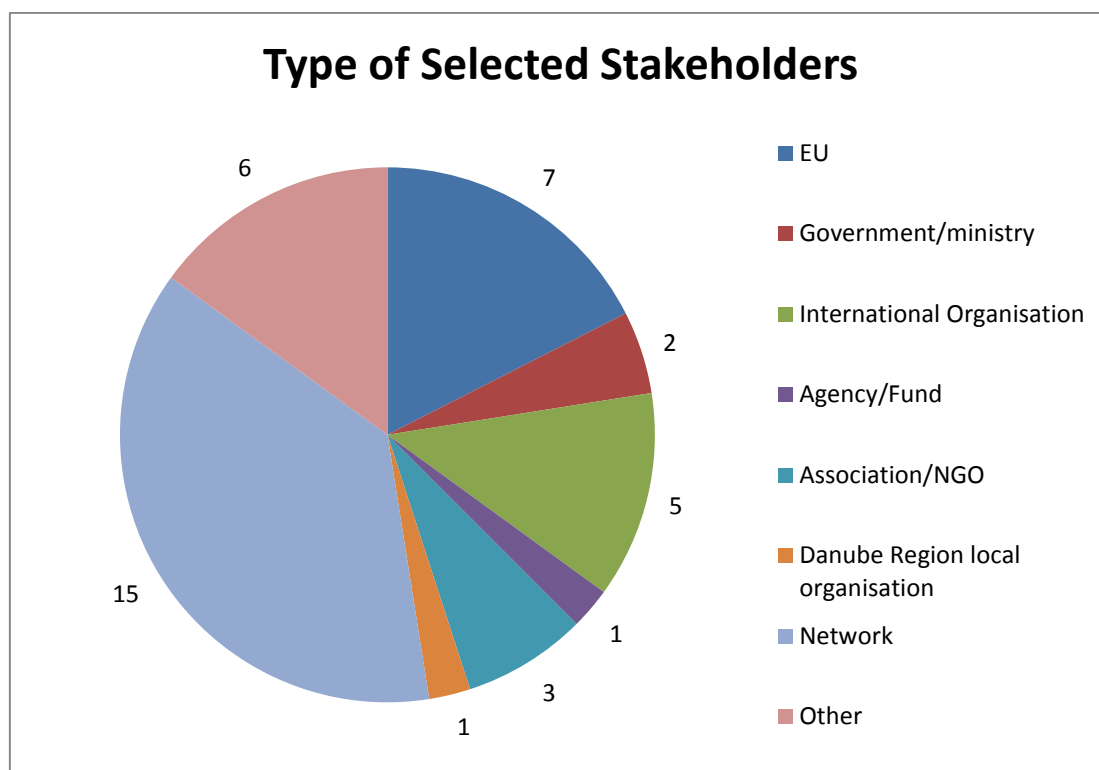


Figure 1: Type of Selected Stakeholders

As regards the geographical scope of the stakeholders under investigation, most of them have regional scope (27 representing 70 %) and just around 10% (ranging from 7.5 % to 12.5 %) can be considered as transnational, European or international. Regarding the regional scope, the region in question is either the Danube Region or a region which is linked to it. Out of the 27, 14 focus literally on the Danube Region.

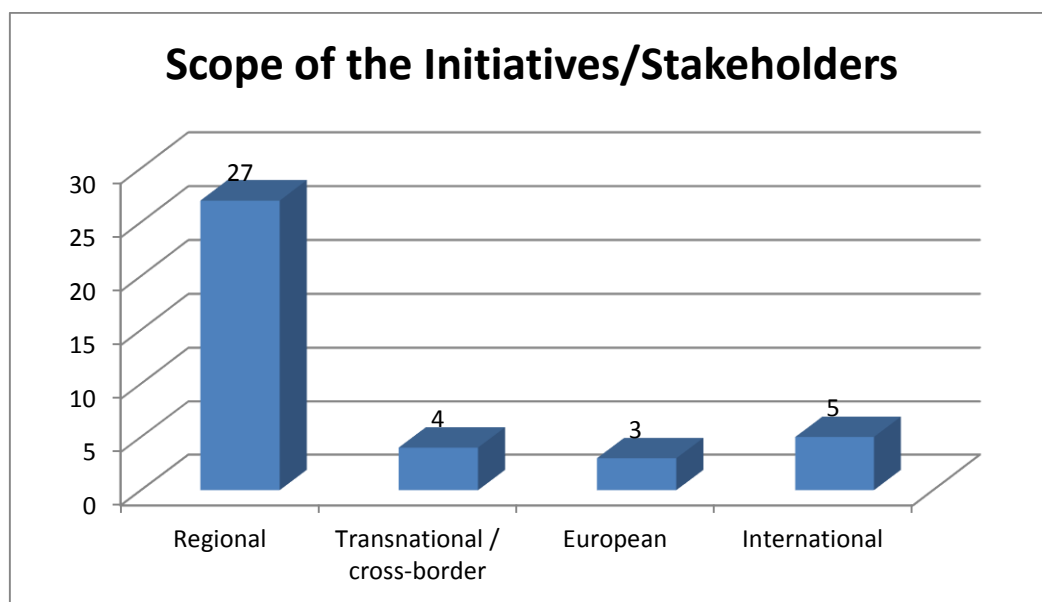


Figure 2: Geographical Scope of the Initiatives

As it will be described below, the first list is open to any improvement during the consolidation phase of the report thus can be complemented by other relevant stakeholders complying with the criteria set in the report.

(4) Desk research to collect basic data on stakeholders

Important part of data gathering, especially in case of basic information, was carried out through desk research. This step included mainly online search and the use of existing databases (i.e. WBC-Inco.Net database, Danube-region.eu database, studies elaborated by EUSDR Priority Area Steering Groups, etc.); but in case of lack of adequate data (i.e. lack of website, lack of updated website, lack of previous analysis from the relevant aspects), other studies or programme documents were studied.³ Also, contact details of stakeholders were gathered through this step. The preliminary data was in line with the entries of the project website in order to feed into the online database described below. Entries consisting of this data have been continuously uploaded into the online database (available at http://danube-inco.net/cooperation_and_networking/organisations).

(5) Set up of a database on stakeholders under investigation

The findings of the desk research were transferred into a database reflecting the main aspects of the report.⁴ However, data accumulated through the desk research was considered inadequate for the compilation of the report since the quantity and quality of available data on the selected stakeholders was entirely haphazard.

(6) Reaching out to stakeholders and gathering empirical evidence

In order to gain the missing information, first of all, a questionnaire was elaborated highlighting the main aspects of the database. The questionnaire was circulated among selected stakeholders.⁵

³ List of literature and other sources are listed in section [8 'Bibliography'](#).

⁴ The exact skeleton of the database is based on the aspects of the inquiry. See [Annex II](#) – List of Questions for the Investigation.

⁵ The full list of stakeholders and arguments for their selection are in [Annex I](#).

Nevertheless, it turned out soon that this method for data collection could not be successfully applied in case of the target group at hand despite efforts for follow-up (e-mail, phone calls). Only four questionnaires were completed during a one-month period.

Therefore it was decided to adjust the working method to the specificities of the selected stakeholders. Targeted stakeholders can be reached mainly in person (or via phone), through their own networks. Since contact details are hardly available on the websites, we relied on our and the project partners' network to get in touch with these stakeholders. In case of lack of direct contact it proved to be almost impossible to reach the right person and collect answers to our inquiries. Additionally, targeted stakeholders were not expected to provide general information on their initiative or programme and were in certain cases reluctant to share strategic or budgetary issues, therefore they were subject to very focused and targeted inquiries meaning that the interviews had to focus on questions of key importance, namely (1) main outcomes of previous years, (2) future plans, (3) possible transferable good practices, and (4) self-evaluation of their initiative/programme. As a result, missing information was collected through telephone, online or personal interviews. This increased the number of respondents significantly. Altogether, 11 telephone interviews were conducted,⁶ whereas in case of 13 stakeholders, one of the project partners being member/having close relations to the stakeholder provided the necessary information.

Method	No. of cases	Stakeholders
Questionnaire completed	4	CASEE, CLDR, IAD, RCC
Phone/personal interviews	11	EURADA, CEEPUS, CoDCR, DCCA, DRC, DU, DanuClus, Ministerial Commission for EUSDR of Hungary, UNESCO, VEF, YCDN
Information provided by project partner	13	BSEC, CEI, CEI Network of Focal Points on S&T, CEI UniNet, EEN, Salzburg Forum, WBC SP, Steinbeis Danube Centre, Ulm Follow-up Group, Visegrad Found, etc.
Sole desk research	12	Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation, Danube Alliance, Danube Area Interregional Group at the CoR, Danubiz, Eurochambers, ECA, SECI, SEECF, SEEIC, Visegrad Group, etc.

(7) Evaluation of results, compilation of the report and formulation of policy recommendations

The processing of the report was based on the database which consisted of the results of the desk research, the questionnaire, the interviews, and any additional information provided by partners or the targeted stakeholders. The aggregated version of this database is included in Annex IV including the following information, in line with the main aspects of the investigation, on stakeholders:

- type of stakeholders,
- main goals, objectives,
- geographical coverage,
- targeted field(s),
- scientific areas targeted,

⁶ List of interviews can be found in [Annex III](#).

- main outcomes,
- good practices to be transferred,
- activities funded, if any.

The introduction of stakeholders was elaborated with regard to the following aspects:

- focus on the relation of the initiative to RI and education
- not repeat information available in previous reports⁷
- highlight good practices – i.e. any kind of activities of the stakeholders under investigation which work well and thus would be worth transferring and applying them to other initiatives. This could include: communication with the target groups/audience, dissemination of information and achievements, ways of attracting funds, building of networks, creation of platforms/fora, etc. (in blue boxes)
- information (if available) on funding instrument (in grey boxes).

(8) Update of the database and consolidation of the report

The website database is foreseen to be updated regularly during the project lifetime with the following aims: first, completing missing information and second, enlarging the group of stakeholders analysed. After receiving feedbacks collected through the dissemination of the report (for further information see section [“Dissemination Roadmap”](#)) it is envisaged to consolidate and finalize the paper in the last year of the project.

2.3 Definitions

The report refers mainly to **stakeholders and initiatives** as the subject of the analysis. When referring to targeted stakeholders we mean: policy makers, programme owners, organisations, initiatives, institutions, scientific councils, etc. who can be the subjects of this report. In other words stakeholders are those that can affect or are affected by RI aspects of EUSDR at regional and/or transnational levels.

Further on, stakeholders under investigation cover generally broader geographic areas. **Regional** refers to programmes/initiatives covering a large geographic region, i.e. Central or Southeast Europe, Danube Region, etc. Compared to this, **transnational** refers to programmes/initiatives crossing or transcending national borders; its members do not necessarily come from neighbouring countries (e.g. Platform of Local Communities along the Danube River in Romania, [CLDR Romania](#)).

2.4 Limitations

The authors of the paper, as well as other project partners contributing to the elaboration of the report did their utmost to provide an overview on relevant stakeholders. We are convinced that with the current report this objective was achieved to a large extent. However, we must take into account some limitations to the process:

- only stakeholders considered as of utmost importance (40 out of 90) became subject of the analysis

⁷For instance, Müller, B., Klee, G., Hunya, G. (2014): *Socio-economic Assessment of the Danube Region: State of the Region, Challenges and Strategy Development*. Available at <http://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/gutachten/DanubeRegionFinalReportPartI2014.pdf> (downloaded on 27.08.2014). The study gives a detailed overview on the economic and social situation of the Danube Region, including the introduction of stakeholders relevant from the view of competition, economic growth and development.

- despite the significant attempts done aiming to gather all the relevant information on the selected stakeholders, some gaps remained
- some answers remained uncompleted even in case of completed questionnaires, interviews, mainly due to the fact that it was not applicable in case of the stakeholder at hand;
- the current version of the report will be updated by the end of the project based on additional information gathered through dissemination events and further inputs from stakeholders.

The recommendations presented in this paper shall not be regarded as unchangeable and obligatory propositions for the relevant stakeholders; it shall rather serve as a basis for discussion.

3 Introducing stakeholders, related programmes and activities with a special focus on their relevance to R&I activities within Danube Region

The present report examined 40 stakeholders (including initiatives and programmes) among others: networks (e.g. [DRC](#), [CASEE](#), [CEI UniNet](#)), associations (e.g. [EURADA](#)), organizations of an intergovernmental nature (e.g. [CEI](#), [SEECF](#)), international organizations (e.g. [BSEC](#), [Visegrad Group](#)), EU programmes and initiatives (e.g. SEE, [Danube Transnational ETCs](#)) as well as other relevant international organizations (e.g. [UNESCO](#), [Eurochambers](#)). These stakeholders were considered of utmost importance either from the point of view of research, innovation and the relevant fields of education (i.e. higher education) or from the view of important experience in regional cooperation among the almost hundred actors present of the Danube Region. Stakeholders are presented based on their character and geographical coverage according to the following table:

	Stakeholders based in the DR	Regional and/or transnational stakeholders	Stakeholders at EU level	Stakeholders at international level	Total
Networks	8	3	2	-	13
Organizations with status of international organization	1	4	-	-	5
Organizations with intergovernmental feature	-	5	-	-	5
Associations/NGOs	1	-	-	3	4
Agencies/funds/programmes	-	3	3	1	7
Other	4	2	-	-	6
Total	14	17	5	4	40

Table 1: Alignment criteria of presented stakeholders

3.1 Stakeholders based in the Danube Region

3.1.1 Networks

Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC)

The Danube Rectors' Conference is a strong and active network of almost 70 universities in the Danube Region founded in 1983 in Vienna. Their aim is to improve higher education in teaching and research, and to support their member universities by establishing sustainable contacts. The founding countries Austria, Germany and Hungary have been joined by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Prestigious annual conferences (e.g. in 2014 on Digital culture - the synergy between higher education and ICT), summer schools, Working Groups on Higher Education Management and International Relations are also organised and maintained by the initiative. DRC has close ties with many regional and European stakeholders, such as the Danube Academies Conference, Adriatic Rectors Conference, European Commission, European University Association, Baltic Rectors Conference, [Visegrad Fund](#), Central European Exchange Program for University Studies ([CEEPUS](#)), and the ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe ([CASEE](#)).

The establishment of a well-functioning network supporting knowledge transfer can be mentioned as the main achievement of the initiative. Another important outcome of the initiative which can be considered as a good practice is that in 2013 DRC achieved a legal entity enabling smoother

participation of its members in various projects through the network: in project proposals DRC becomes the partner, whereas the relevant partner universities implement respective activities. Also, projects supported by DRC are of high quality which serves as a guarantee at various fora.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14448>

Danube Universities (DU)

This regional network was established in 2005 aiming to build a network of partner universities and strengthening existing cooperation through student exchange, teacher exchange and staff exchange, building up of a competence network, using each other's know how and laboratory facilities, achieving synergy between science and industry through stronger cooperation between universities and industrial companies. University of Novi Sad (SRB), University of Óbuda (HU), Széchenyi István University (HU), Slovak University of Technology Bratislava (SK), University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien (AT), and Ulm University of Applied Sciences (DE) are the members of the initiative as it is presented on the map below (Figure 3). Research, education and innovation are considered to be important targeted fields of Danube Universities. There is a special focus on the following scientific areas: ICT, energy, environment and climate change.

Common education projects (e.g. summer academies) and intensive cooperation in the network are considered to be the main outcomes of the initiative from 2007 to 2013. Study visits, intensive exchange of know-how, and mutual use of laboratory facilities can be regarded as transferable practices.

DU counts on regional (Baden-Württemberg), national and EU funding sources for supporting multilateral programmes; for example R&D projects and networking events (workshops, conferences), summer academies, and lecture series. Forasmuch as DU is committed to build up a research network along the Danube, DU is open to any interested participants; there is a possibility to join the thematic working groups on e-mobility, smart grids, photovoltaics, energy meteorology and energy efficiency and solar heat.

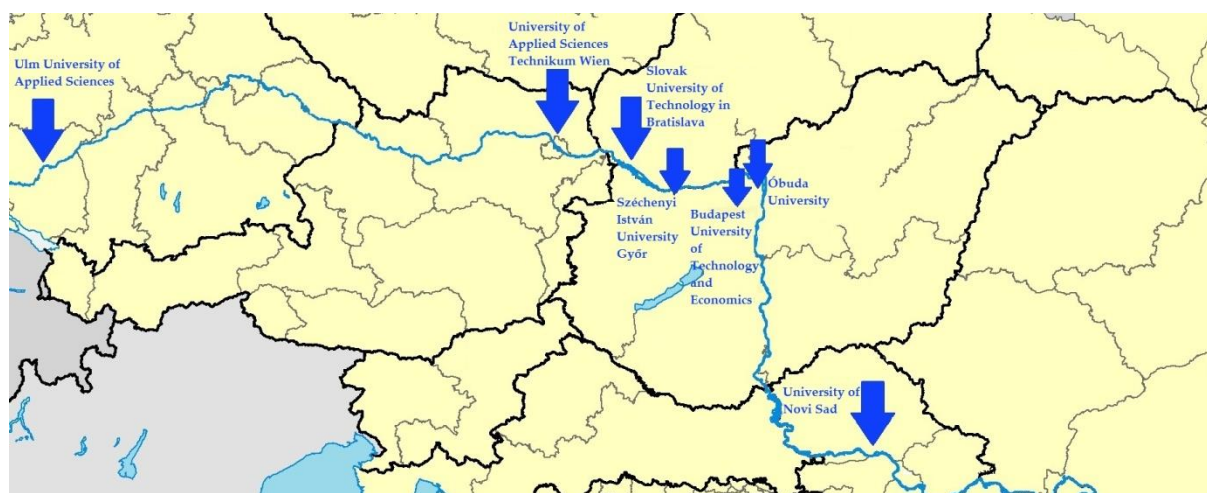


Figure 3: Members of Danube Universities (edited by RCISD)

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13228>

Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)

CoDCR was established in 2003 and reinforced following the launch of the [Ulm Process](#). Through connecting city and regional councils in the DR, the Council of the Danube Cities and Regions seeks the respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, the principles of market economy, social and environmental sustainable development, the principles of ethnic and gender equality as well as the principle of regional balance. It has a special focus on culture and tourism as well. CoDCR is active in the field of competitiveness and RI with a special focus on the Digital Agenda, and in education as well considering these sectors as of utmost important contributing to the growth of the Danube Region.

So far CoDCR organized various activities, such as information campaigns (Rivershow: Democracy and Citizens), cultural events (in Novi Sad, Galati or Ukrainian cities), building up the Danube Cultural Alliance and forming the European Danube Youth Alliance (organizing youth camps and summer schools). Additionally, a good example of cluster cooperation is the Danube Media Network project (DaMe Network) aiming to assist the ideas and plans of the Danube Strategy and the values of the entire Danube Region.

In the upcoming years they strive for extending cooperation in the frame of the “Urban Platform Danube Region” established under the auspices of PA10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation”. Additionally, the main challenge will be to build up a kind of Danube Cities (or City) Union, to create a strong lobbying entity which could represent the interests of the members at the European Commission, PA Coordinators and national governments (currently it is not operating, it is under organization).

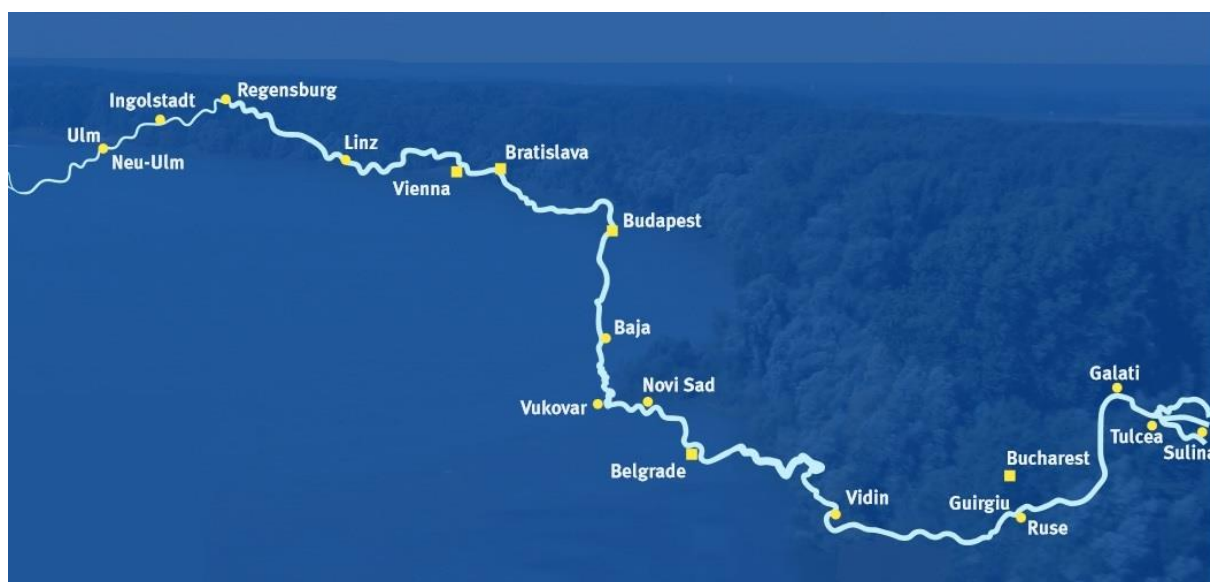


Figure 4: Member cities of CoDCR (source: www.danubecities.eu)

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13223>

CLDR Romania - Platform of Local Communities along the Danube River in Romania, coordinated by EUROLINK - House of Europe

CLDR Romania is a transnational network established in 2013 representing the national structure of the EUSDR Competitiveness & Training Centres for the accession and implementation of the social and

economic Danubian projects in the Region. Their target countries are Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Austria. The targeted scientific areas are the following: ICT, biotechnology, food, agriculture, environment, climate change, social sciences and humanities.

The main outcomes of the initiative between 2007 and 2013 were:

- Establishment of the Action Group “Black Sea Danube Integrated Development” within the EUSDR Consultative Council in Romania to coordinate project development and policy implementation in the two regions,
- Organising four edition of the Innovation Forum, on the occasion of the European Maritime Day in Romania and under the aegis of the European Commission; launching the award “Black Sea - Danubian Social & Economic Innovator”,
- Developing a post-graduate series of training sessions and online courses focused on Danubian studies and EUSDR implementation,
- Creation of a network of Special Ambassadors of the Danube Region, including remarkable persons from Austria, Germany, and Romania to support policy dialogue related to the priorities of EUSDR.

Continuing their work, the main target areas in 2014-2020 will be complemented by cultural heritage and tourism.

CLDR Romania is in close cooperation with the Urban Platform Danube Region (based in Vienna), the Council of Danube Cities and Regions ([CoDCR](#)), the Romanian Academy of Sciences, City Hall Vienna, Budapest City Hall, Ministry of European Affairs - Baden Württemberg, VCE as well as EUSDR PAC 11 (Bulgaria).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14446>

Danube Alliance

Danube Alliance is an informal, demand-driven and results-oriented forum for regional cooperation in the Danube Region. They bring together people who are active in a variety of different sectors: transport, energy, tourism and culture, environment, biodiversity, quality of waters, research, education and ICT, competitiveness, institutional capacity and cooperation, security. As a forum for regional cooperation with a multi-stakeholder approach – government ministries, European Commission, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academic and financial institutions, local and regional networks, etc. -, the main aim of the Danube Alliance is to take part in the coordination of the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13224>

Danubiz

Danubiz was founded in 2013 on the principles of innovation and subsidiarity. Danubiz is actively promoting regional sustainable development in the Danube area by providing market information relevant for SMEs, supporting international market access via trade shows, organizing and promoting sector specific trade events of the Danube Region, motivating cross-border networking and co-working, building up international cooperation, value-chains, providing entrepreneurial training, connecting the education sector with business, providing consulting and financial services to do

international business. Education, business and consulting belong to their main profile. The network is open for new partners and stakeholders who are able and willing to bring forth expertise and service for sustainable SME development in the Danube Region. Danubiz is in close cooperation with the Ulm Follow-up Group

In 2012, a Ministerial Conference was held in Ulm followed by regular meetings resulting in the establishment of the Ulm Follow-up Group. The Communiqué endorsed in 2012 emphasizes the intensification of cooperation in research, education and innovation of the Danube countries. The provision of a fund was planned to support research projects in DR, however, the measure has not been implemented yet. The main purpose of the initiative aims to open up national programmes for multilateral activities.

Close cooperation with the EUSDR is sought by integrating representatives of the PA 7 and 8 of the EUSDR in the Working Group established on the follow-up of the Ministerial Conference. Currently, the Working Group discusses the planned call funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the Danube Region to be published at the beginning of 2015; other Danube countries are invited to co-fund this activity. The Group cooperates with several stakeholders in the Region, such as the Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRRIF) Working Group, EUSDR PA7 & 8, the EU Commission (DG REGIO) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14453>
[Steinbeis Danube Center](#).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14412>

Danube Cluster Network (DanuClus)

The cooperation initiative called DanuClus was established in 2013, during the strategic-political meeting of the PA8 Working Group “Clusters of Excellence”, held in Visegrad, Hungary. The objective of the initiative is to link clusters, cluster managers, cluster experts and cluster policy-makers from the Danube Region, to prepare clusters in this geographic area for the new EU funding period of 2014-2020. In practice, DanuClus collects and elaborates project ideas for clusters and supports their implementation.

The main outcome of the initiative in the past year was to create an expanded network which is successively growing. Their last meeting was attended by 60 members though the initiative cannot secure funding for its members.

As regards the upcoming period, DanuClus aims to enhance joint strategic and transnational cooperation in the near future. DanuClus cooperates with stakeholders playing a relevant role in the Danube Region, as well as the Black Sea Region. They cooperate with national cluster associations, ministries responsible for cluster policy, and they are working together with Steinbeis Innovation GmbH.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14405>

Young Citizens Danube Network (YCDN)

The Young Citizens Danube Network is a network of students from the entire Danube Region. It was established in 2010 at Andrásy Gyula University, Budapest, with the following motto: United in

Diversity, along the Danube, in Europe. The main priority of the network was to create a representation group for the interests of young people in the Danube Region. The aim and mission of YCDN is to incite civic activism and participation among young people in the Danube Region, by developing and conducting small-scale, bottom-up projects together with international partner organizations and initiatives. YCDN will contribute to developing a course of postgraduate studies (Master of Danube Studies) which is the initiative of Ulm-based European Danube Academy. Their aim is to instruct young researchers to realise development projects in the Danube Area.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13241>

3.1.2 Associations with the status of international organization

International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

The main objective of IAD is cooperation and networking in scientific research in the Danube Region, promoting and coordinating activities in the fields of limnology, water management, water protection and sustainable development. In 1998, IAD obtained observer status in the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Their delegates participate in various Expert Groups and develop tools and measures to protect the Danube River and to reach a sustainable river basin management as the ultimate goal of the Water Framework Directive (EU-WFD).

As a representative of the scientific community, IAD also actively supports the implementation of the EUSDR as a step towards sustainable development in the DR. Environment and climate change are important targeted fields of the network. As regards the main outcomes of the recent years, (1) exchange of knowledge between member countries and institutions, (2) research cooperation with partner institutions, (3) support provided for young students can be mentioned. Their target areas in the period of 2014-2020 are summarized in the Sturgeon Action Plan 2020 Danube Invasive Alien Species Network Learning Region. They cooperate with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation (PIDIN), and the Institute for the Danube and Central Europe (IDM).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13234>

3.1.3 Associations/NGOs

Danube Chambers of Commerce Association (DCCA)

DCCA aims to harmonize the activity of the chambers of commerce along the Danube Region. Its mission is enhancing economic-financial cooperation, as well as strengthening the cohesion between the entrepreneurs and enterprises operating in different countries. Innovation, education, finance and economy are the main targeted sectors of the association.

According to the strategy of DCCA, participation in the development of the priorities of the Danube Strategy, information circulation, initiatives, integration and cohesion, matters on environment, trade, tourism and promoting advocacy of interests are the main objectives of the initiative.

Good practices of DCCA which could be transferred to other regional stakeholders are as follows:

- elaboration of joint proposals with other chambers of commerce from the region;

- becoming a well-established network of chambers of trade and industry capable of preparing joint proposals;
- having already addressed calls under Southeast Europe ETC, Start Danube Programme and planning to prepare projects for calls under Horizon 2020, COSME, Danube ETC.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Budapest, whose president is currently the president of DCCA, is deeply involved in PA8 WG for cooperation of economic entities where they also represent the interests of the DCCA.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13226>

3.1.4 Other types of initiatives/stakeholders

Ulm Follow-up Group

In 2012, a Ministerial Conference was held in Ulm followed by regular meetings resulting in the establishment of the Ulm Follow-up Group. The Communiqué endorsed in 2012 emphasizes the intensification of cooperation in research, education and innovation of the Danube countries. The provision of a fund was planned to support research projects in DR, however, the measure has not been implemented yet. The main purpose of the initiative aims to open up national programmes for multilateral activities.

Close cooperation with the EUSDR is sought by integrating representatives of the PA 7 and 8 of the EUSDR in the Working Group established on the follow-up of the Ministerial Conference. Currently, the Working Group discusses the planned call funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the Danube Region to be published at the beginning of 2015; other Danube countries are invited to co-fund this activity. The Group cooperates with several stakeholders in the Region, such as the Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRRIF) Working Group, EUSDR PA7 & 8, the EU Commission (DG REGIO) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14453>

Steinbeis Danube Center

Steinbeis-Danube-Center takes an advocating role in the complex process of development and implementation of the Danube Strategy. Steinbeis Danube Center focuses on research, innovation and education as special targeted fields. They cooperate with the Steering Group of PA8, the Romanian Advisory Board of Danube Strategy, and Executive Board in [the Council of Danube Cities and Regions](#), and the [Danube Alliance](#).

In the frame of WG Innovation and Technology Transfer of PA8, Steinbeis Danube Center launched the Danubian Initiative for Innovation and Technology Transfer. The so-called Danube Technology Transfer Centres (DTCs) located at various universities along the Danube will coordinate activities aiming to reinforce the link between the academia and the industry, with special regard to the involvement of SMEs in technology transfer activities. The transnational network of these centres will facilitate the involvement of international experts at any stage on the one hand; on the other hand they will be the regional hosts for common projects in the field of innovation and technology transfer. Nine steps identified by Steinbeis during the pilot phase of setting up DTCs helps to overcome usual barriers to technology transfer and difficulties in sustainability of such services. These steps include preliminary

analyses, elaboration of a business plan and the management structure of the DTC, as well as its growth strategy; last but not least, training of DTC staff is regarded also a key element. So far the establishment of DTCs is in progress in Romania, Serbia and Slovakia as the pilot phase of the initiatives launched in 2012-2013. In the frame of Danube-INCO.NET at least three additional DTCs will be set up, most probably in Vukovar (CR), in Novi Sad (RS) and in Ruse (BG).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14449>

Ministerial Commissioner for the EU Danube Strategy of Hungary

Since 2010 the Governmental Commissioner, currently the Ministerial Commissioner for the EUSDR (1) coordinates the work of delegates from national ministries to the PA SGs, (2) represents Hungarian interests at regional meetings, and (3) aims to move forward the implementation of EUSDR. These objectives in practice are to produce as many programmes/projects which can be funded as possible, to implement the action plans of PAs co-ordinated by Hungary, and to facilitate the involvement of less active countries. During the formulation and articulation of their programmes, they build upon synergies with other programmes and stakeholders. Similar coordination mechanism at national level exists in Austria as well.

Examples for good practices regarding the functioning of the Ministerial Commissioner are as follows:

- the functioning of the intergovernmental commissioner as such being the coordinator and engine of the implementation of the EUSDR at national level;
- As regards science policy, policy makers aim to prepare and force the Hungarian scientific community to take part in the Scientific Support for the Danube Strategy Programme of the JRC; partly to provide support to the research community, partly to encourage research needed for policy making.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14450>

Danube Area Interregional Group at the Committee of the Regions

The Group was established in 2009. The main goals of the initiative are to (1) promote a common identity for the Danube Region in order to affirm the region's full potential, (2) to work towards creating synergies, (3) to raise the region's profile at national, regional and European levels, and (4) to set up a Danube platform to facilitate the exchange of views, ideas and practices between CoR members and representatives of European institutions as well as non EU- countries along the Danube.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13225>

3.2 Regional and/or transnational stakeholders

3.2.1 Networks

Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation

The Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation is a transnational network for the Black Sea and Danube Region established in 1992. The main goal of this multilateral, political and economic initiative is to foster interaction and harmony among the Member States, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity encouraging friendly and good-neighbourly relations in the Black

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

Sea and the Danube Region. Research, innovation and education are the main targeted areas of the initiative with diverse thematic areas such as health, biotechnology, food, agriculture, nanotechnology, manufacturing, energy, transport, environment, climate change, social sciences and humanities and security.

The Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation Fund is involved the organization of the annual Danube – Black Sea Innovation Forum: an important networking event for public or private organisations, institutions and companies promoting specific projects and initiatives in order to find complementary funding and international partners.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14400>

CEI Network of Focal Points on Science and Technology

The Network of Focal Points consists of representatives from ministries and other governmental institutions from all CEI Member States, appointed by the respective governmental bodies through the CEI National Coordinators. In certain cases experts from the civil society have also been invited in order to brief the network on specific issues.

The Focal Points are regularly invited to evaluate, gather, propose and execute CEI activities as well as to assist in the definition of the strategies in the CEI Plan of Action. In other words, the Focal Points are involved in the evaluation and selection of activities financed by the CEI Cooperation Fund. Additionally, the CEI Secretariat relies on these networks if it aims to set up partnerships, for instance, to prepare EU project applications.

The target areas in 2014-2020 are as follows:

- Bridging gaps between countries within and outside the European Research Area (ERA).
- Promoting cooperation along the lines of the Triple Helix Model for innovation (science, academia and entrepreneurship).
- Facilitating access to the institutions of the CEI Science and Technology Network.

The funding source of the initiative is CEI Cooperation Fund. They fund multilateral programmes, including R&D projects, innovation projects, mobility, career development, cooperation activities, know-how exchange programme, post-graduate studies, such as university network, for CEI Member States, and also for non-EU CEI Member States.

The Central European Initiative (CEI) strongly supports transnational mobility of scientists and researchers across its area, for example by the Research Fellowship Programme – CERES. Building upon the growing demand for scientific cooperation stemming from its Member States, CEI decided to strengthen its Research Fellowship Programme by merging its own resources with those provided by the European Commission through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) - Marie Curie Actions. The synergy between the Community action and the regional impact of the CEI, as well as the financial resources made available by 5 partner institutions (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology - ICGEB, International Centre for Theoretical Physics ABDUS SALAM - ICTP, International School for Advanced Studies - SISSA, Synchrotron ELETTRA, Cluster in Biomedicine - CBM), has provided the right framework for strengthening the CEI Research Fellowship Programme, of which CERES represents the natural evolution.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13220>

Central European Initiative University Network (CEI UniNet)

The network was established in 2004. The CEI University Network is a contribution of CEI to higher education in order to enhance cooperation among universities and other institutions of higher education in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe at post-graduate level. This is done through the mobility of students and teaching staff at postgraduate level. Mobility is promoted through the implementation of Joint Programmes such as PhD and Master's courses, financed through annual calls for proposals. Summer schools, seminars and workshops may also be supported provided that they envisage a teaching element, a minimum duration of one week and an awarding certificate.

Since 2004, more than 80 projects (PhD and Master's courses, summer schools and seminars) have been co-financed with a total allocation of around €1 million provided by Italy for more than 1000 beneficiaries (students, researchers, professors) with a fund mobilisation of around €7 million.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13222>

3.2.2 Committees, councils with the status of international organization

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

BSEC is an international organization established in 1992. It is a multilateral political and economic initiative aimed at fostering interaction and harmony among its Member States, as well as to ensure peace, stability and prosperity encouraging friendly and good neighbourly relations in the Black Sea region. Research, innovation and education are important and relevant targeted areas of the initiative.

They fund multilateral programmes for member countries through the Project Development Fund (PDF) and BSEC Hellenic Development Fund (BSEC-HDF), such as R&D, innovation projects, mobility, career development programmes, networking events (workshops, conferences) and joint use of R&D facilities/joint laboratories.

Each Member State volunteers in contributing to PDF. A PDF grant is up to € 30,000 / project covering the pre-feasibility study of the proposed project ideas which shall seek additional financial sources for the implementation phase. Between 2003 and 2012 twenty four projects were funded from the PDF in the fields of agriculture and agroindustry, education, energy, environmental protection, ICT, health and pharmaceuticals, science and technology, SMEs.

BSEC-HDF was set up in 2008 based on the voluntary contribution from the Hellenic Republic is a flexible mechanism targeting a set of key areas of regional cooperation, such as small scale infrastructure projects, networks and capacity building that promote innovation and regional development in the field of transport, renewable energy sources, environmental protection, business cooperation and trade facilitation, tourism, as well as culture. BSEC HDF provides grants at least € 50,000 out of the average project budget of € 62,500-80,000.

BSEC has an important network of regional stakeholders; among others they are working and cooperating with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), and International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14411>

The Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe of ICA (CASEE)

CASEE is a regional network related to various science disciplines (agriculture, food, biotechnology, natural resources, nanotechnology, manufacturing, energy, transport, climate change, social sciences and humanities, space, rural development and the environment), founded in 2010. The organisation aims to stimulate and support its member institutions in the development of a European dimension in education and research through the development of concerted actions and in engaging globally.

The PA flagship DREAM project, the International Joint Degree Master Programme “Sustainability in Agriculture, Food Production and Food Technology in the Danube Region” (Danube AgriFood), and several types of summer schools are the most relevant outcomes of the past years.

The main target areas in 2014-2020 will be the following:

- to support the development and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- to strengthen research, education and university development in the Region
- to develop joint research, educational and other projects (e.g. joint curricula, joint continuous educational offers, structural development, human resource development, know-how transfer, e.g. via an e-platform).

The funding source of the initiative is covered from membership fees. CASEE funds multilateral programmes for educational and research projects providing a kind of “seed money” for initiating larger projects. € 10,000 is the yearly budget of the CASEE Fund for Incentives Programme, out of which an individual project usually received maximum € 5,000.

[Danube Rectors’ Conference](#), Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the Austrian Co-ordination Committee for EUSDR are the most relevant stakeholders with which CASEE cooperates.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13219>

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

The Regional Cooperation Council is an international organization founded in 2008 by the ministers of the [South-East European Cooperation Process \(SEECP\)](#) as a successor of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe aiming to launch a more “regionally owned” initiative. RCC promotes mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South-East Europe in order to inspire development in the region to benefit its people. The main tasks of the RCC are to represent the region, assist the SEECP, monitor regional activities, exert leadership in regional cooperation, and provide a regional perspective in donor assistance. Its key role is to generate and coordinate developmental projects of a wider, regional character and create an appropriate political climate susceptible to their implementation. The organization targets, among others, the fields of research, innovation and education along with regional cooperation. It focuses on several scientific fields such as ICT, security, transport, energy, environment, climate change, social sciences and humanities.

The South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE 2020) – which is entirely in line with the EU2020, as well as partly overlapping with the priorities of EUSDR – aims at promoting the creation of jobs and prosperity in a European perspective for the Western Balkans. The SEE 2020 with a focus on Integrated, Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, as well as on the Governance for Growth, aims to provide a framework for the socioeconomic policies of its member countries in developing their economies, achieving the goals relating to the accession, etc.

Consequently, RCC invests in the following fields: (1) Trade and investment integration; (2) Regional cooperation in education; (3) Research and innovation, including the establishment of the Regional Research Platform; (4) Culture and creative sectors (e.g. Continuation of Ljubljana Process, Establishment of the SEE Museums Network); (5) Digital society development; (6) Contribution to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region; (7) Strengthening regional environmental and climate change cooperation; and (8) Competitiveness and Social development. Research and innovation related actions will be implemented by the Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise ([WISE](#)) Facility which aims to promote policy stability and continuity of reform in the Western Balkans' research and innovation sector aiming to improve the quality of public spending on R&I.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14005>

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative is an international organisation established in 1996. Member countries of SECI are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. Its objective is to eliminate administrative and other obstacles with a view to increase efficiency in the flow of goods and improved trade, identification of bottlenecks at main international traffic corridors, creation of networks and zones of energy efficiency, investing in the promotion of networks of pipelines and their connections with the international pipelines, provision of funds for the promotion of entrepreneurship, primarily through projects of small and medium-sized enterprises, etc. Environment and climate change are special scientific areas of the initiative. The organization funds multilateral programmes and they cooperate with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Secretariat (OSCE), and other regional initiatives.

SECI is open to multilateral cooperation with governments and other stakeholder groups since it serves as a bridge between the different involved parties from the region as much as outside the region, all with the view of finding sustainable and long term solutions for better integration.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/598>

3.2.3 Organizations with an intergovernmental feature

Central European Initiative (CEI)

CEI is a regional intergovernmental organization established in 1989 with the aim to support CEI Member States on their path towards European integration, to promote their alignment to EU standards, to implement small and medium-sized projects, and to open to convert constructive ideas into innovative results.

The CEI is actively engaged in supporting projects in various areas of cooperation, also through the mobilisation of financial resources providing greater possibilities for studying, financing and executing national and international projects. Research, innovation, education, cooperation and integration are the main areas to be supported by CEI. The special scientific areas targeted by the initiative are the

following: ICT, biotechnology, food, agriculture, energy, transport, environment, climate change, social sciences and humanities.

By participating in EU Projects, CEI is able to achieve tangible results and to enlarge its cooperation networks. 18 projects have been implemented since 2004 with a total fund mobilisation of €21.2 million. Its long-standing activity in the promotion of regional cooperation and networks in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe represent an added value for the construction of project partnerships and for the elaboration of concepts and constructive ideas to be transformed into innovative EU project applications.

According to the Action Plan 2014-2016 CEI's target areas in 2014-2020 could be summarised through the following points:

- 1) Towards a knowledge based society (research, innovation, education, information society),
- 2) Towards a sustainable economy and development (transport, logistics, energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate, environment, business development),
- 3) Towards an inclusive society (intercultural society, media, civil society).

The CEI Cooperation Fund is financed by annual contributions from all Member States, which supports a large number of small and medium-sized projects, such as seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, fostering mobility and people-to-people contacts in the CEI region. Through these Cooperation Activities, the intra-CEI mobility rate has grown to an average of 5,000 people every year. Since its inception in 2002, 857 activities have been co-financed with around €8 million and having an overall value of about €52 million.

The CEI Fund at the EBRD, which has significantly contributed to strengthening CEI's project-oriented dimension, is active since 1992. The Fund based on the sole contribution of Italy as of €38.5 million, mainly provides grant-type assistance for specific components of Technical Cooperation (TC) projects. Since its inception, the Fund has provided more than €23 million for funding more than 120 TC projects mobilising €4.8 billion of international investments in the countries of operations. The CEI Fund has also contributed a total of more than €2.1 million to the Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP) supporting around 70 projects facilitating the transfer of experience from organisations in the EU to peers in the non-EU countries within the CEI region. Since 2008, the KEP has also been financed by Austria. 22 projects, for an overall value of about €1.2 million, have been supported with €550,000 in the period 2008-2013.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/297>

Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries

The network was established in 2006 with the goal of supporting the enhanced integration of the Western Balkan Countries (WBCs) in the European Research Area. Senior Officials from the WBC, interested EU Member States and the European Commission meet regularly to discuss the current issues in RTDI in the WBC, issues related to the adoption of the *acquis*, cooperation possibilities and good practices. Research and innovation are the targeted fields of the network.

The layout of the Steering Platform (SP) meetings can be taken as good practice possibly transferred: it has been applied to other areas e.g. RTDI dialogues in the Eastern Partnership region. Additionally, the MIRRIS consortium⁸ also used the experiences for a broader stakeholder dialogue in EU13.

⁸ MIRRIS is a

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

The Steering Platform is open to many stakeholders(SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, WBC-INCO.NET projects, [RCC](#), European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), EUREKA, [CEI](#), [UNESCO](#), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), EUSDR PACs, etc.) whose representatives are regularly invited to the SP meetings. The formulation and adoption of conclusions is carried out during the meetings. They highlight synergies, define and coordinate joint activities with other programmes / initiatives and rely also on the follow-up of those.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13238>

Salzburg Forum

The Salzburg Forum was established in 2000. Its member states are Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The Salzburg Forum provides a platform for the discussion of political, strategic and operational issues with a view to coordinating and steadily enhancing cooperation amongst Central European national authorities in the area of internal security. Operational cooperation and lobbying are the main targeted fields of the initiative with a special focus on security. They fund multilateral programmes. Cooperation within the Salzburg Form is based on a threefold approach, strengthening operational cooperation in Central Europe, joint lobbying for EU policy-making, implementation of a joint external strategy of the Salzburg Forum.

The strongly coordinated, well-functioning and active cooperation between Member States at the Council meetings can be considered as a good practice of the Salzburg Forum, as it can be a “pressure group” within the Council, having an influence on decision-making processes.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13235>

South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)

The South-East European Cooperation Process was launched in 1996. Its main objectives are the following: (1) strengthening security and the political situation, (2) intensification of economic relations and (3) co-operation in the areas of human resources, democracy, justice, and battle against illegal activities.

Since the Zagreb declaration in 2011 the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) continued to play its role as a Forum for Political Dialogue and Direction of Cooperation between the Participating States, the [Regional Cooperation Council](#) Secretariat, based in Sarajevo, became the operational support to the SEECP.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13237>

Visegrad 4 Cooperation (V4)

The Visegrad 4 Cooperation is an inter-governmental organisation established in 1991 with the purpose to promote cultural cohesion, to enhance the imparting of values in the field of culture, education, science and exchange of information of the member states; the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The Visegrad 4 cooperates with other regional bodies, as well as with single countries in the region and beyond on an ad-hoc or regular basis. Germany, Ukraine, Austria, Romania can be mentioned among them. While the Benelux countries and countries of the Nordic Council of Ministers can be considered as model for V4, countries within the EU’s Eastern Partnership and the

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

Western Balkans can be regarded as regions targeted by V4 activities. The Visegrad Group generally strives for the representation of interests of its members within the EU.

Important successes during the negotiations of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Frameworks shall be highlighted as transferable good practices since V4 managed to set up a strong coalition among those EU Member States which joined the EU since 2004 to preserve the role and budget of Cohesion Policy. Additionally, V4 Countries with Romania and Bulgaria (V4+2) are planning to prepare a common spatial development strategy which promotes the more harmonious and efficient spatial development of this region and is suitable to establish the basis of a common platform to influence dominant processes of the European Union.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13217>

3.2.4 Agencies, funds at transnational level

Visegrad Fund

Visegrad Fund was founded in 2000 as a regional and cross-border programme. The purpose of the Fund, as an autonomous entity (contrary to the funds maintained by CEI or BSEC), is to facilitate and promote the development of closer cooperation among V4 countries (and of V4 countries with other countries, especially but not exclusively non-EU member states in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus) through grant support of common cultural, scientific and educational projects, youth exchanges, cross-border projects and tourism promotion, and through individual mobility programs (scholarships, residencies). The fund targets mainly research, innovation, education, culture, cooperation and external policy, with emphasis on security and social sciences.

Most of the grant recipients are non-governmental organizations, municipalities and local governments, universities, schools, as well as other public institutions and individual citizens. By the end of 2013, the fund has supported nearly 3,800 grant projects and awarded over 1,700 scholarships and artist residencies in total worth of nearly €54 million. The size of grants varies between €6,000 and €45,000, depending on the grant program. The share of the grant in the project budget is between 80 and 100 percent.



Figure 5: Countries covered by CEEPUS and the Visegrad Fund (edited by RCISD)

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13240>

Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)

CEEPUS is an international organisation established in 1993, with the main goal of organising university networks and operating joint programs (i.e. Joint Degrees and Joint Doctoral Programs). CEEPUS also covers mobility grants for students and teachers. The funding of CEEPUS comes from national contributions. Several colleges/universities are participating in the programme from its Member States, namely from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Pristine/Kosovo. The currently running programme is called CEEPUS III (2013-2015) which aims to stimulate academic mobility in the frame of individual university networks, to promote university cooperation in Central and South-eastern Europe, and to develop joint programmes resulting in joint or double degrees.

Several good practices effectuated by CEEPUS could be highlighted such as the volume and outcomes of exchange programmes, reinforced networks, pilot projects and joint applications, coordination of projects, and its current aim to simplify the application systems and enhance its uniformity.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/359>

Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE) Facility

WISE is planned to be a regional technical assistance facility, developed by WB countries, the European Union, and OECD to facilitate the implementation of the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation programme being the RI branch of the SEE 2020 (see [RCC](#)). The objective of WISE is to promote policy stability and continuity of reform in the Western Balkans' research and innovation sector. This sector wide approach is supposed to help improving the quality of public expenditures on RI and thereby to increase the sector's contribution to economic growth and job creation. The WISE Facility shall provide a platform for the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of donors' support to research and innovation in the region including serving as a "technical secretariat" for the discussions under the R&I pillar of the SEE 2020.

In the future, WISE will manage the implementation of four main programmes formulated by the WB Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation, namely (1) the Research Excellence Fund (with an estimated budget of €55 million); (2) Networks of Excellence (with an estimated budget of €55 million); (3) Technology Transfer Program (with an estimated budget of €40 million); (4) Early-Stage Start-Up Program (with an estimated budget of €40 million) to nurture growth in technology-based start-ups in coordination with national initiatives and serve as a pipeline to the Western Balkans' Enterprise Innovation Fund, other Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility(WB EDIF) initiatives, and regional investors interested in later-stage financing.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/359>

3.2.5 Other types of initiatives/stakeholders

Southeast Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC)

SEEIC was established in 2007. The main goal of the committee is to create a high-level decision-making and to be a coordination body with a goal and mandate to initiate and support the reform and

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

implementation of policies promoting foreign and domestic investments in the South East Europe Region. SEEIC currently has three main objectives: (1) development of the related parts of South East Europe 2020 Strategy (see [RCC](#)) jointly with the SEE countries; (2) increasing competitiveness and enhancing regional value chains; (3) promoting the SEE region as an attractive investment destination.

Research, innovation and education are also targeted fields of the initiative. SEEIC cooperates with different stakeholders in the Region, such as [RCC](#), OECD, Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) Secretariat, South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECLE) and Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF).

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14451>

Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)

The Vienna Economic Forum was established in 2004 with the aim of popularising and promoting investment opportunities in the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, and promoting economic cooperation. Between 2014 and 2020 the Vienna Economic Forum plans to develop close bonds in the region, not just in the political sphere but in economy, energy, environment and climate change.

The New Europe Bridge (Danube Bridge 2) between Romania and Bulgaria could be mentioned as a good practice, one of the tangible achievements of the Danube Strategy since it literally connects the regions. VEF was actively lobbying and gave political support for the New Europe Bridge.

Vienna Economic Forum has a very good and fruitful cooperation network in the Danube Region. Their most relevant partners are: Bled Strategic Forum; Business Advisory Council for Southeast Europe and Eurasia (BACSEE), Thessaloniki; [CEI](#); Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Vienna; European Center for Environmental Economy, Sofia; Hayek Institute, Vienna; Institute for the Danube and Central Europe (IDM), Vienna; [Visegrad Group](#), and other international financial institutions, e.g. the European Investment Bank and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14452>

3.3 European Union

3.3.1 European Transnational Cooperation Programmes (EU)

The European Territorial Cooperation programmes, namely the transnational ones relevant for the Danube Region were examined, including Central Europe (2007-13 and 2014-20), Southeast Europe (2007-13) and the Danube Region (2014-2020) ETCs. These programmes, though not exclusively but do focus on research and innovation to a certain extent and are open to public entities, such as universities and research institutes, and to a certain extent to companies. Other ETC programmes were not considered relevant for the investigation due to the fact that research, innovation or education represent only a small share of the funded projects (such as Cross-Border Cooperation programmes, CBCs) or funded projects shall have an interregional feature (INTERREG including URBACT).

Central Europe (CE)

Central Europe (CE) is a European Union programme founded in 2007, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The main objectives of this programme is to facilitate innovation, improve accessibility, promote responsible environment using and to enhance competitiveness and attractiveness in nine central European countries, including Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine (see Figure 6).



Figure 6: Territorial coverage of Central Europe ETC (source: central2013.eu)

The Central Europe 2020 (launched in the 2014-2020 period) will support further development in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport. These fields include the followings issues: linkage improvement among actors of the innovation, improvement of skills and entrepreneurial competences for economic and social innovation, development and implementation solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy usage, improvement of territorial based low-carbon energy strategies and policies, improvement of mobility planning in urban areas, lowering CO₂ emissions, improvement of environmental management capacities for the protection of natural heritage and resources, improvement of capacities for the use of cultural heritage and resources, environmental management improvement urban areas, improved planning and coordination of passenger transport systems, improved coordination among freight transport stakeholders for environmentally-friendly freight solution. The programme is open for SMEs, research institutes, institutions of higher education, policy makers, local governments and authorities.

Southeast Europe Transnational Programme (SEE)

Southeast Europe (SEE) was a transnational integration and cooperation programme of the European Union, founded in 1996. The main goal of the programme was facilitating innovation, and the further improvement of environment, accessibility and growth areas in Southeast Europe, including Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy (some regions), Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and some regions of Ukraine (see Figure 7). The funding of the programme was twofold: it was mainly funded by the EU (75-85%), but national contribution was necessary apart from the in-kind contribution of applicants.

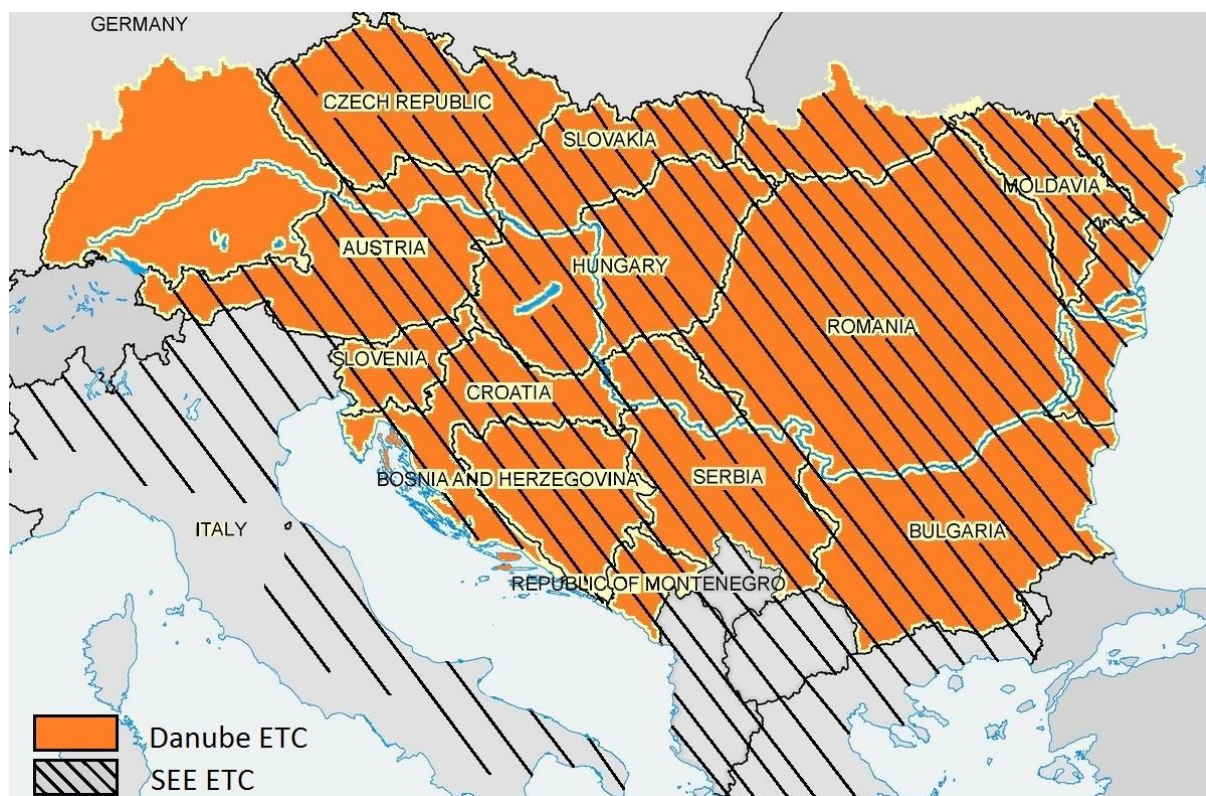


Figure 7: Territorial coverage by SEE ETC and one of its successors, the Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme (Danube ETC) (edited by RCISD)

In 2014 three new programmes have been launched as successors of SEE: Adriatic Ionian 2014-2020, focusing on research, environment, transport and governance in 4 EU countries (Greece, Italy and Slovenia, and Croatia) and in 4 non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) of the Adriatic-Ionian Region; Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020, focusing on economic, social, environmental and institutional cohesion and development in Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece; and Danube Transnational 2014-2020, focusing on innovative and socially responsibility, environment and culture responsibility, better connected and energy responsibility and a well-governed Danube Region.

Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme (Danube ETC)

The Danube Transnational Programme is launched in the 2014-2020 funding period by the European Union, as one of the successor of the Southeast Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme. The programme aims to improve research and innovation in the countries of: Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria (see Figure 7). Potential applicants of the proposals are institutions of higher education, research institutions, SMEs, policy makers and local governments. Main target areas include the improvement of transport and environment, although the programme invests ample resources in fostering eco-innovation, knowledge transfer, cluster policy, social innovation and skilled entrepreneurship including technological and non-technological aspects, disaster prevention, environment preservation, TEN-T network, environment friendly transport, regional energy planning, multi-level and transnational governance, improved EUSDR. The total estimated budget of the programme would reach 269 million Euros, although a minimum of 15% contribution consisting of national and private funding is needed.

3.3.2 Networks at EU level

As it has been previously pointed out in the section 2 [Methodology](#), certain networks or organizations having a strictly European or international character (i.e. UNESCO, EURADA, Eurochambers, etc.) and not having any special focus on the region or the countries covered by the Danube Strategy became also subject to the investigation. The reason was that it was considered important to check whether they respond by any means to the priorities of the Strategy or whether they have such plans for the near future.

European Cluster Alliance (ECA)

The European Cluster Alliance was established in 2006 with the aim at bringing together political and administrative policy makers, development of trans-regional programmes for innovation and cluster activities, establish close links with existing and planned European innovation programmes within the framework of the PRO INNO Europe initiative and the European Cluster Alliance.

In the recent years, ECA delivered a detailed overview on cluster wide needs of CEE regions and countries in regard to future strategic points of interest. ECA also facilitated the approval of CEE Cluster Agreement commitment on common strategies and objectives for the future innovation and cluster policy signed by politicians representing all CEE countries and regions in Brussels in 2007.

Several actions were taken to increase cross-border cooperation, i.e. the intensive involvement of the administrative governmental level through “speed-dating” in a 3-step workshop. Last but not least, ECA managed to draft a trans-regional Innovation Support Programme as well.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14447>

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

Enterprise Europe Network was officially launched by the European Union in 2008. The main goal of the network is to support SMEs in exploiting opportunities provided by the common market of the EU by bringing together almost 600 European business support organizations from 50 countries from the EU, candidate countries and EFTA countries. The programme has ties not only with EU countries, but with several non EU and regional leading countries. In all of these countries, the programme focuses on institutions of higher education, research institutes, industries and SMEs. Stakeholders of the programme include: European Technology Platforms, Europe INNOVA projects and Business Innovation Centres (BICs), research-driven clusters and National Contact Points of EU FP7. This cooperation aims to enhance not only the development of small companies, but further increase the influx of technology and innovation at both EU and international levels.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13229>

3.4 Stakeholders at international level

3.4.1 Agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations founded in 1945 with the main ideas of mobilizing for education, building intercultural understanding, pursuing scientific cooperation, protecting freedom of expression. The three main sectors of UNESCO are education, natural sciences and culture, plus two other additional sectors: social and human sciences and communication and information, however, there are many other intersectoral platforms as well. UNESCO has three main divisions: World Water Assessment program (led by the UNESCO), environmental science (e.g. one for biosphere reserves) and science policy and capacity building. UNESCO is linked with national governments through the National Commission, enhancing modality of work at UNESCO.

Networking was successfully implemented in the Balkan Region (especially after the Balkan War): science was used as a means to re-establish good relations between different states. UNESCO does not exclusively focus on developing research activities but it facilitates peaceful environment. Approximately 10 years ago, the SEE Network for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics has been launched. Currently it has 15 member countries of the region with nearly 300 participants.

Due to its international nature, today it has 195 member states. UNESCO operates in a fairly wide range of research, innovation and education, representing not just institutes of higher education and research institutes, but also intermediaries, industries, SMEs policy makers, programme owners and managers.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/13212>

3.4.2 Associations

Association of the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambers)

Eurochambers is an association founded in 1958, which strives to improve the general conditions in which businesses operate, to facilitate access to markets within and beyond the EU and to ensure the availability of human, financial and natural resources. It promotes innovation, lobbying and education in most of the European countries. Eurochambers represents policy makers, industries and SMEs alongside with the chambers of commerce in each member countries. The association also covers scientific areas, like energy, environment, climate change, social sciences and humanities.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/14408>

Association of Regional Development Agencies (EURADA)

The Association of Regional Development Agencies is an association serving as a platform, keeping its members up to date with EU policy developments and provides briefing on critical issues such as state aid rules. It also alerts members to funding and contract opportunities and helps with forming and running partnerships. Apart from lobbying and briefing the European Commission on behalf of members, it is also interested in research, innovation and education.

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

The association covers most European countries, including countries from the Danube Region: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Italy, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia. However, EURADA cooperates only with a few stakeholders from the Danube Region, which are mainly from Romania and Austria. EURADA is funded publicly at regional and EU level.

The support provided in the formulation of several Regional Innovation Strategies to find the link between research and innovation and to get funding for the academia-industry cooperation can be considered as one of the main achievements of EURADA in the past few years.

For further information see: <http://danube-inco.net/object/organisation/1162>

4 Evaluation on the results of the initiatives identified from the point of view of R&I policy dialogue

Results of the desk research, questionnaire and interviews

As a result of the desk research, questionnaire and interviews, quantitative and qualitative data of 40 stakeholders were collected. One part of these data describes the main features of the initiatives analysed, thus, they can be found in section [2.2 “Methodology”](#) and also in section [3 “Introducing stakeholders, related programmes and activities with a special focus on their relevance to R&I activities within Danube Region”](#). The present section, therefore, aims to provide a holistic view on the stakeholders under investigation. Therefore it focuses on those questions and replies which are found significant from the point of view of research and innovation policy dialogue, which provide new insights and eventually can help us formulate recommendations.

4.1.1 Targeted Field

Question: What are the targeted fields of your initiative?
Choose more if relevant.

- Research
- Innovation
- Education
- Other – please specify

We have identified three main fields to be targeted being research, innovation and education with the possibility to choose more if relevant. As the figure shows below (Figure 8), most of the initiatives focus on all the three fields (15 – 37.5 %), and innovation is by far the most popular: 32 stakeholders – 78 % of the initiatives have innovation as one of the targeted fields. Many stakeholders have indicated other targeted fields as well such as finance, economy, cooperation, lobbying.

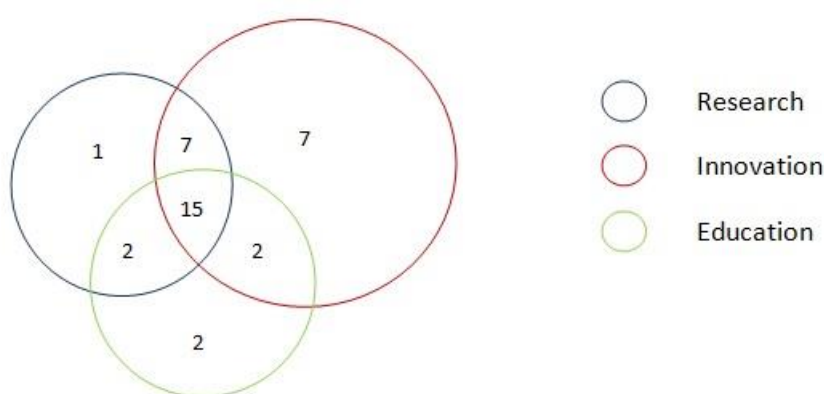


Figure 8: Number of stakeholders targeting research, innovation and education

4.1.2 Scientific areas targeted

Question: Does your initiative target any scientific areas?

YES/NO

If yes, please specify, choose more if relevant

- Health
- ICT
- Biotechnology, food, agriculture
- Nanotechnology, manufacturing
- Energy
- Transport
- Environment, climate change
- Social sciences and humanities
- Security
- Space

The questionnaire listed a set of research areas – mostly based on the thematic priorities of FP7 – and asked if the initiatives targeted these or any at all. We can see that among the 40 stakeholders, 64 % have different thematic priorities in focus whereas 33 % of them do not focus on a scientific field of any kind.

Among the scientific areas targeted, the most favoured ones are “Environment, climate change” (13.68%) followed by “Social sciences and humanities” (11.63 %) as well as by “Energy” (10.95 %). It seems that the less preferred fields are “Space” (0.68%) and “Health” (1.37%).

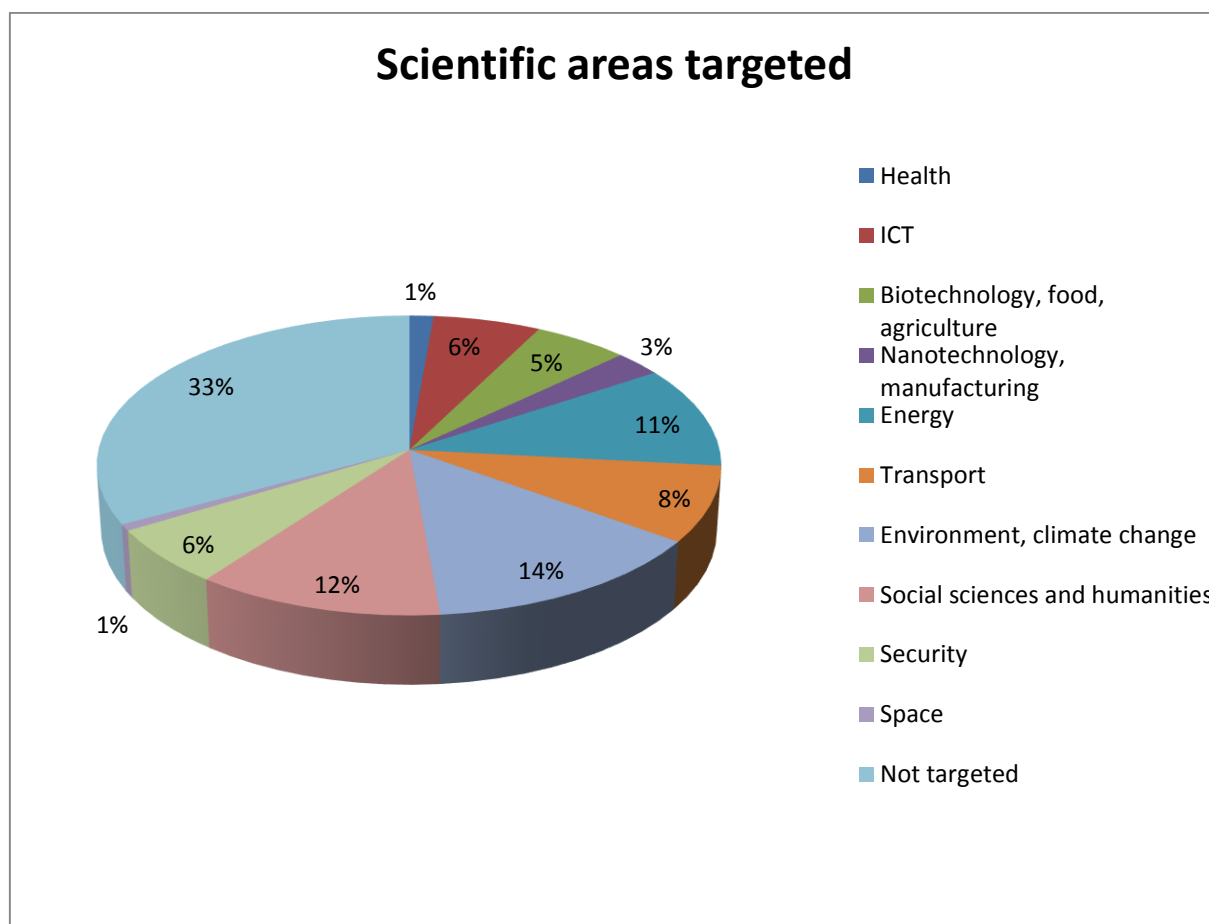


Figure 9: Scientific areas targeted by stakeholders

4.2 Funding

4.2.1 Funding Source of the Initiative

Question: What is the funding source of your initiative?

- Public (regional)
- Public (national)
- Public (EU)
- Private
- Other, please specify

As the diagram below shows, the funding source of the initiatives analysed are mainly (89%) public. 51% of the public funding comes from national and only 11% from regional resources.

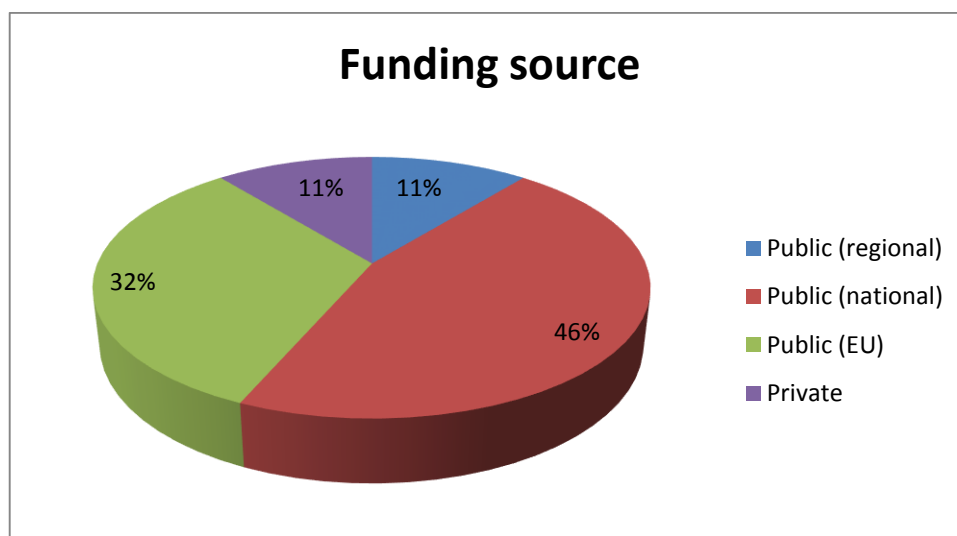


Figure 10: Funding source of initiatives

4.2.2 Type of Activities funded

Question: What type of activities do you fund?

Choose more if relevant

R&D projects

- Innovation projects
- Mobility, career development
- Networking (workshops, conferences)
- Joint use of R&D facilities/joint laboratories
- Others, please specify

Out of the 40 initiatives, 20 provide funding for programmes covering different types of activities such as research and development, innovation, mobility career development, networking and joint use of R&D facilities/laboratories. Networking (participation in workshops, conferences) seem to be the most popular activity to be funded: 34% of the initiatives support this type of activity. Apart from the activities listed in the question, stakeholders mentioned the following activities they provide financing for: organisation of/participation in summer schools, knowledge exchange programmes, participation in trainings, etc.

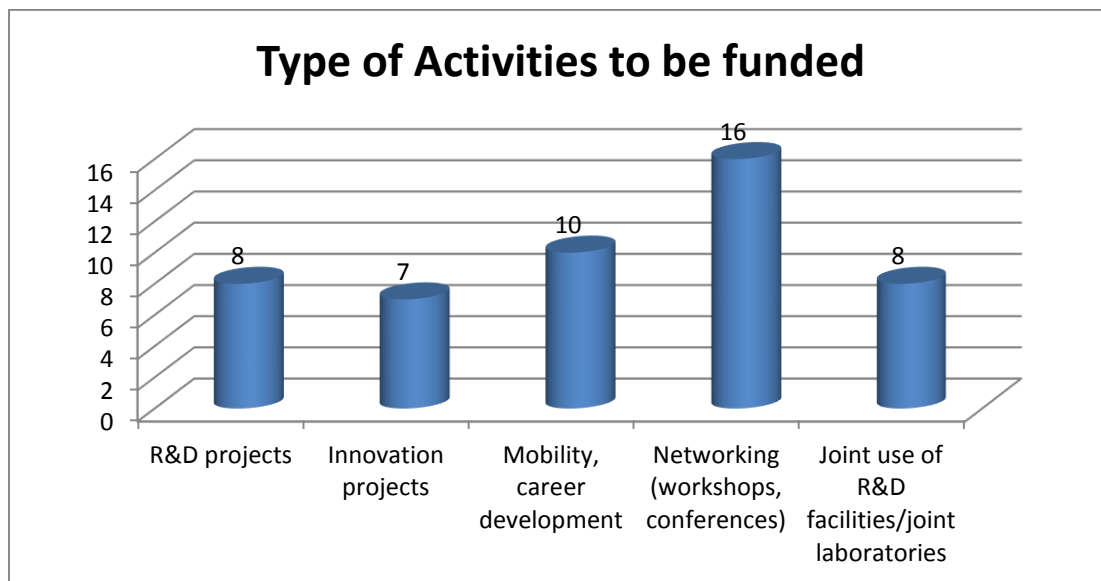


Figure 11: Type of activities funded by selected stakeholders (if any)

4.3 Cooperation among stakeholders

Question: Do you have any cooperation with other stakeholders which play a relevant role in the Danube region?

- Yes
 - o If yes, please give the names of the stakeholders
- No

The question was targeted at mapping the existing relations/network of the 40 stakeholders including their connections to relevant national/international/EU bodies which are considered to play a significant role in the Danube Region as well as their awareness about similar projects/programmes. The figure below (Figure 12) shows that every stakeholder has its own established network of national and regional stakeholders and there are strong connections between stakeholders and the European Commission, the EUSDR (and its related Priority Areas). Ostensibly, networks or other stakeholders targeting higher education institutions (CEEPUS, DRC, CASEE) are interconnected and are related to PA7. Similarly, innovation focused entities (such as Steinbeis Centres, DanuClus, DCCA) are also interlinked and linked to the respective PA, namely to PA8. Regional or transnational organizations covering different regions from the Danube region (e.g. BSEC, SECI, SEEIC) are evidently separated. In case of international associations under investigation (ECA, EURADA), they do not have any direct relation to other regional stakeholders.

However, as regards the rest of stakeholders, interconnections are rather poor among them (although the web is not exhaustive due to the fact that it only reveals the relation web of the stakeholders under investigation without taking into consideration stakeholders out of the scope of the analysis).

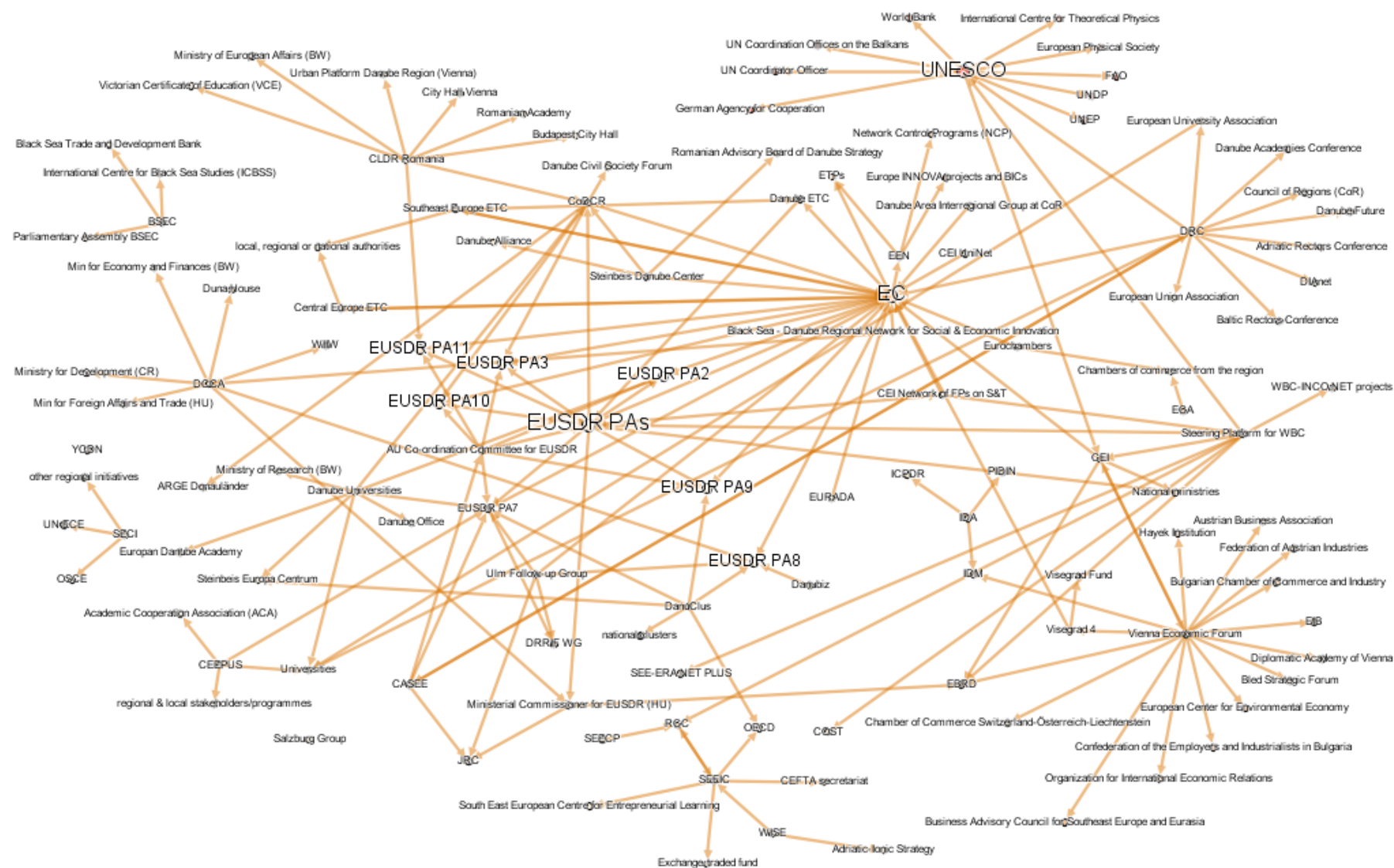


Figure 12: Cooperation web of selected stakeholders

4.4 Self-Evaluation of the Initiatives

Question: Please give your opinion regarding the following statements:

- Positive results of the initiative are visible and measurable
- The programme has led to huge interest among target groups
- The initiative contributes to deepening regional cooperation
- The projects are by far too small to have a visible impact
- Lack of political will and/or funding limits the outcomes of the initiative
- Low efficiency: high administrative burdens and costs for minimal output and impact
- We are aware of synergies with other programmes which we intend to exploit as much as possible.

Stakeholders have been asked in the questionnaire and also during the interviews to evaluate the impact of their initiatives. They had to rate the above statements on a scale of 1-5 (1=disagree, 5=agree).

Out of the 40, 18 stakeholders provided their opinion. The results can be seen in the following table.

	1	2	3	4	5
Positive results of the initiative are visible and measurable	0	0	4	3	11
The programme has led to huge interest among target groups	1	0	2	6	9
The initiative contributes to deepening regional cooperation	0	1	1	4	12
The projects are by far too small to have a visible impact	7	4	2	2	2
Lack of political will and/or funding limits the outcomes of the initiative	4	2	3	4	5
Low efficiency: high administrative burdens and costs for minimal output and impact	6	1	2	4	2
We are aware of synergies with other programmes which we intend to exploit as much as possible.	0	0	0	1	11

Table 2: Self-evaluation of interviewed stakeholders

The table shows that most representatives of the initiatives seem to be satisfied with the impact of their initiatives: the majority of them believe that their positive results are visible, target groups are interested and their activities contribute to deepening regional cooperation. The role of political will and/or funding limits divided the opinions: only half of the respondents agreed (entirely or rather) with the fact that political will can significantly influence the outcome of the initiatives, and almost the same amount of respondents disagreed with this statement completely. Similarly, regarding the efficiency of stakeholders, a third of the respondent agreed that administrative burdens and costs can minimize the output, whereas the other third strongly opposed this statement. More importantly, all stakeholders under investigation are aware of synergies with other programmes and initiatives.

5 Conclusions

The findings of the investigation on stakeholders can be summarized through the following points:

- Policy dialogue and priority setting,
- Topics covered by stakeholders,
- Activities or programmes supported by stakeholders,
- Initiatives targeting Cross-sectoral Dialogue.

These aspects shall provide the basis for the formulation of policy recommendations of the next section.

Policy dialogue and priority setting

- 1) A few initiatives have already proved to be successful in influencing decision-making at national or EU-level ([EURADA](#), [VEF](#)).
- 2) Several initiatives have already made important efforts to be more involved in the implementation of the Strategy ([CoDCR](#), [DanuClus](#), [Ulm Follow-up Group](#), [CLDR Romania](#)).
- 3) In the upcoming period, many of the initiatives aim at reinforcing their lobbying activities at EU level in order to (1) achieve their goals and to (2) strengthen their role in the implementation of EUSDR.
- 4) It is also crucial that many, e.g. [CEI](#), [SEEIC](#), [Eurochambers](#), have already harmonized their action plans or strategies with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In many cases, this stands for the Danube Strategy as well, which is in fact the tailor-made version of Europe 2020 to the Region at hand.
- 5) Based on the self-assessment of examined stakeholders it shall be noted that stakeholders under investigation are aware of potential synergies but there is no proof for joint actions neither in priority setting nor in defining the scope and target of programmes.
- 6) However, it is important to highlight that stakeholders at EU or international levels ([Eurochambers](#), [EURADA](#), [EEN](#) or [ECA](#)) covering through their members the whole Danube Region do not necessarily reflect the priorities of the EUSDR in their strategies or action plans.
- 7) The [Ulm Follow-up Group](#) targeting the cooperation in research, education and innovation in the Danube Region has a pivotal role in establishing, with the contribution of PA7 and PA8, the regional research and innovation fund, namely the DRRIF.

Topics covered by selected stakeholders

- 1) Interesting to note that an important majority (78%) of stakeholders under investigation targets innovation as one of their main activities, whereas research and education are almost of equal importance: representing targeted fields of 50-60% of the initiatives.

Main features of activities or programmes carried out by stakeholders

- 1) Half of the stakeholders under investigation provide funding for programmes covering different types of activities such as research and development, innovation, mobility career development, networking and joint use of R&D facilities/laboratories. It cannot be stated that there are unnecessary overlaps among these programmes, however, regarding their scope, target audience and publication of calls, coordination is ostensibly missing. There is a strong

will to promote businesses ([DCCA](#), [Danubiz](#), etc.), especially SMEs (through providing training, advice or creating an adequate environment for them) in most of the initiatives.

- 2) Networking is of utmost importance from the policy level through the research community to the civil sphere. There is an important number of initiatives providing platform and/or funding for networking events.
- 3) There are a number of networks ([DRC](#), [Danube Universities](#), [DanuClus](#)) functioning in the Region related mainly to (higher) education and research offering added value to their members in many spheres, such as networking opportunities, lobbying, information dissemination, etc.
- 4) Some stakeholders ([CoDCR](#), [Visegrad Fund](#)) put special focus also on the involvement of citizens through awareness raising campaigns, programmes dedicating dissemination, etc. Networks targeting additional fields (civil sphere, chambers of commerce, SMEs or companies) also achieved success in addressing their audience.
- 5) Future priorities seem to converge to: (a) generating joint projects – including H2020, educational cooperation, etc. -; (b) capacity building; (c) promoting SMEs, business development and entrepreneurship; (d) focus on intercultural society, cultural heritage, culture; (e) facilitating tourism, trade and investment are also highlighted.

Initiatives targeting Cross-sectoral Dialogue

- 1) Despite aims and priorities declared linkages among the academia – industry – governmental sectors are rather scarce and weak; there are only a few actors (e.g. [Steinbeis Danube Center](#)) devoted to the enhancement of this kind of cooperation.

6 Policy Recommendations on exploiting synergies and transferring good practices

Based on the previous sections of the paper, a set of policy recommendations are formulated to facilitate the exploitation of synergies and to support the possible transfer of good practices in the field of research, innovation, as well as the related fields of education. These recommendations are mainly grouped around the different type of activities proposed to be carried out by stakeholders. Most of them can stand alone addressing a certain group of stakeholders but they are important elements of the enhanced implementation of the related actions of EUSDR.

6.1 Reinforced Policy Dialogue among Stakeholders to Exploit Synergies and Achieve Mutual Goals

Most stakeholders share common targets and many of these organizations have already harmonized their action plans or strategies with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In many cases, this stands for the Danube Strategy as well, which is in fact the tailor-made version of Europe 2020 to the Region at hand. With this regard, in order to reach the above mentioned targets the following proposals are made:

- a) All stakeholders including political initiatives, networks, associations, etc. **are invited to get engaged in and maintain a continuous dialogue with each other** to ensure the achievement of their objectives in the most appropriate ways through the most appropriate means. More specifically, it is proposed to
 - i. *find complementarities* among their programmes/initiatives (e.g. SEE 2020, BSEC Action Plan, CEI Plan of Actions, etc.) and through *harmonized actions achieve more* than through individual efforts. This can be done either by joint actions of the various stakeholders or by defining the actions of each stakeholder to eliminate unnecessary overlaps,
 - ii. *harmonize and synchronize funding mechanisms* (e.g. PDF, HDF, CEEPUS, CEI Cooperation Fund, WISE, Visegrad Fund, etc.) *for research and innovation* in terms of priorities, scientific fields targeted, timing of calls, characteristics of funded projects, etc.,
 - iii. *explore funding opportunities provided by the different funding instruments*, such as Horizon 2020, ENPI, IPA, Cohesion Policy, Erasmus +, national funds, etc.,
 - iv. *priorities of stakeholders shall also take into consideration the regional innovation strategies* (smart specialization strategies, S3) both to benefit from the added value of unique capacities, facilities and developments of regions covered by these stakeholders and to contribute to the growth of these regions.

Regional stakeholders are envisaged to get engaged in a multilateral dialogue with each other to achieve the above-listed goals. The project Danube-INCO.NET aims at facilitating the set-up and framing of this dialogue by organizing dedicated events, which will focus on presenting the report at hand and its results, providing a platform for stakeholders to share their reflections and their own experiences, and launching a multilateral dialogue, which shall not end with the project. Rather, it is suggested that within EUSDR, respective PAs (PA7 and PA8) will sustain it.

- b) The abovementioned dialogue shall be backed by **reinforcing the Ulm Follow-up Group** which has already taken important efforts in setting up a joint R&I funding mechanism for the region in close cooperation with PA7 and PA8, to
 - i. *strengthen the implementation of EUSDR activities*, especially in the field of PA7 Knowledge Society, PA8 Competitiveness and PA9 People and Skills.
 - ii. *realize the regional fund for research and innovation*, namely the Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRRIF), composed of national contributions. The fund shall take the example of well-functioning transnational or regional political organizations ([BSEC](#), [V4](#), [RCC](#), etc.) in terms of priority setting, action plans for implementation and funding mechanism ([PDF](#), [Visegrad Fund](#)).

The project Danube INCO-NET aims to take a pivotal role in this process through its activities in facilitating policy dialogue, priority setting, identifying synergies, information dissemination, pilot activities, as well as the launching of the regional funding mechanism, etc.

- c) By responding to the peculiarities of the Danube Region, the **aspects of culture, tourism, trade shall be emphasized in the research and innovation agenda** as well beside current, also significant research topics, such as energy, climate, biodiversity, etc.
- d) Harmonization of priorities to exploit synergies might be pursued by stakeholders acting in different regions. Therefore **dialogue** (through joint events, exchange of experiences, etc.) **with other regions and/or macro regions** (Baltic Sea or Adrian-Ionian Sea Strategies) is also recommended.

6.2 Enhanced Involvement in the Implementation of EUSDR

Stakeholders acting in the Region shall **broaden their involvement** in the Danube Strategy: partly as they are geographically affected, partly due to their mutual interests, objectives and priorities in the field of research and innovation. This fact also points out the need, in line with the above detailed dialogue among regional stakeholders, that **European or international stakeholders present in the Danube Region shall be approached in a more comprehensive way**. This can be done by various means as follows:

- a) Following the example of several regional actors (e.g. [CoDCR](#), [Ulm Follow-up Group](#), etc.) it is recommended to *tighten further linkages with the EU organizations*, with a special view on the European Commission but also with the Council of Regions, [Eurochambers](#), [Enterprise Europe Network](#), etc. It is important to represent and lobby for regional interests, channel in know-how and good practices. Continuous cooperation and exchange of information with respective priority area (especially with PA7 and 8) Steering Groups are also recommended.
- b) Vice versa, *associations, networks and other fora at EU level* ([Eurochambers](#), [EURADA](#), [EEN](#) or [ECA](#)) *shall also reflect to the regional strategies such as EUSDR in their programmes*. The planned Danube related call of EUREKA can prove the feasibility of this approach.
- c) As regards policy makers at national level, the set up of *a coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Strategy* is recommended among those national ministries which are involved in PA SGs, i.e. the Hungarian intergovernmental committee coordinated by the [Ministerial Commissioner](#) for the EUSDR or its Austrian counterpart.

6.3 Expanding Joint Programmes to Connect and Exploit the Potentials of the Region

As it was already mentioned, **the exploitation of synergies among the various programmes suggests expanding them or making them complement each other**. Since there are a number of initiatives which fund similar programmes mainly in the field of research and education, such as joint academic, mobility or other kind of programmes (summer schools), the scope in terms of number of participants, geographical and thematic coverage of these programmes should be expanded by their joint planning and funding. Consequently the following issues shall be taken into consideration by the relevant stakeholders:

- a) Initiatives funding similar programmes are invited to *foster the possibility of running joint programmes through enlarging the scope* of the original ones, for instance:
 - a. knowledge exchange programmes of CEI, CoDCR
 - b. mobility programmes of BSEC, CEEPUS, CEI, DRC, WISE, Visegrad Fund
 - c. R&D&I projects of BSEC, CASEE, CEI, DU, Visegrad Fund, etc.,
 - d. joint degree programmes of CEEPUS, DU, Visegrad Fund, etc.,
 - e. summer schools of CEI, DRC, DU, etc.,
 - f. staff exchange programmes of CEEPUS, CEI, EEN, DCCA, etc..
- b) These well-functioning programmes are recommended to *be broadened to other forms of cooperation* such as joint use of research infrastructure, knowledge sharing, knowledge and know-how transfer, joint proposals to Horizon 2020 or other funding programmes, etc. as the case of [Danube Universities](#) or [DRC](#) suggests.
- c) Following the example of [CEEPUS](#) and [CEI](#), it is suggested to initiate programmes resulting in tangible outcomes, such as development of research infrastructure, specific research centres in line with S3, etc.

6.4 Support the RI community

Apart from the above detailed measures, stakeholders aiming to improve the competitiveness and raise excellence in the Danube Region shall **target the RI community by other means** as well. The following actions are advised to be taken into consideration:

- a) *Opportunities for networking*, i.e. scientific conferences, brokerage events, workshops, etc. *shall be further promoted and, if possible, synchronized. Organization of joint or back-to-back events* (e.g. as side events of the Danube Annual Forum, EUREKA & PA7 SG meeting, etc.) by various stakeholders on equally important topics is proposed to support the RI community of the Danube Region in establishing mutually beneficial cooperation among them.
- b) Stakeholders shall tend to *spread information* on calls, programmes, events, etc. *in targeted and well-structured way*. Information on various RI funding opportunities provided by regional stakeholders, as well as by other funding instruments (such as Horizon 2020, ENPI, IPA, Cohesion Policy, and national funds) is advised to be summarized and regularly updated in a so-called *funding map*. The funding map is supposed to compile the main information on calls and funding programmes, i.e. name, deadline, eligibility criteria of applicants, main topics of proposals, volume of funding, link to the call/funding programme in a sole table.
- c) Stakeholders, especially programme owners are recommended to take over the good practices of existing funding programmes ([CEEPUS](#), Horizon 2020) *in reducing administrative burdens of researchers in proposal writing and project management*.
- d) At national level, policy makers are encouraged *to encourage the national RI community to be more involved in the implementation* of the Strategy through exploiting available opportunities.

6.5 Strengthened dialogue among the academia – industry – government

Although an important number of programmes targeting either research or innovation or education were identified in the Danube Region, cross-sectoral cooperation in line with the Triple Helix approach is rather scarce. **Linking the academia – industry – government, and if possible, the civil society is of utmost significance** in the Region to achieve not only the RI related objectives, but in the field of economy and competitiveness as well.

- a) Consequently stakeholders are invited to *develop joint research – innovation – education programmes* to ensure the dialogue and the exchange of know-how among the various sectors.
- b) *Links among science, academia, and business shall be further promoted* by other means, such as targeted events (triple helix events), dialogue with European and National Technology Platforms, clusters, dissemination of Danube Transfer Centres (DTCs), etc. Since some stakeholders ([CoDCR](#), [Visegrad Fund](#)) put special focus also on the involvement of citizens, therefore their involvement in certain actions (regional priority setting, awareness raising campaigns) could be enhanced, to ensure the broad support of EUSDR in line with the recent approach of quadruple helix (see Figure 13).

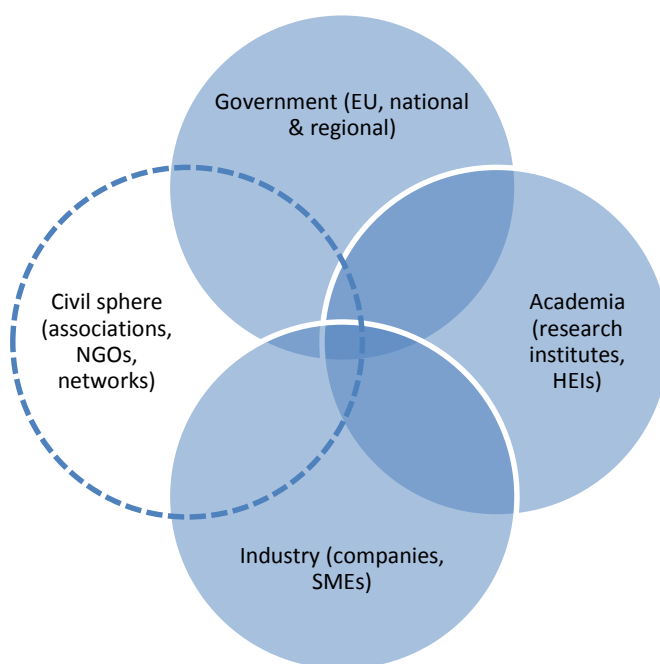


Figure 13: Broadening the support of RI relevant actions of EUSDR might be backed by the approach of the quadruple helix

7 Dissemination Roadmap

This dissemination roadmap will be used to enable and support the dissemination activities carried out through various channels. The dissemination of the report results will be a multiple-level activity.

7.1 Target group

The main target groups for the study at hand are policy-makers and programme owners at first place, i.e. PA 7 & 8 Steering Groups, EU, national and regional decision-makers, scientific councils, as well as stakeholders under investigation (EC DG Regio, DG Research and Innovation, regional initiatives such as the Central European Initiative or the Visegrad Fund, etc.). Additionally, it can be relevant to any stakeholders in the Region, as well as for the RI community who looks for cooperation opportunities. Accordingly our dissemination activity targets the wider public applying the tools of external communication.

7.2 Dissemination methods, tools and channels

Since the target group of the report is broad and diverse, various methods for public dissemination were arranged. The following methods have been identified as utmost important in this certain case and will be discussed in details below:

- presentation at conferences, workshops, back-to-back events
- cross project dissemination
- direct mailing
- newsletter
- online activities on websites
- social media appearance

7.2.1 Presentation at conferences, workshops, back-to-back events

The results of the report shall be presented at first place at those events, where the main target group, namely policy makers and programmes owners are present. It aims to boost the identification of synergies and facilitate future dialogue among the stakeholders under investigation on the one hand, and directly channel in any kind of additional recommendation with regard to the report on the other hand. Project budget envisages three events organized back-to-back to other policy dialogue events, such as Steering Group on Western Balkan Countries, PA7 and/or PA8 meetings, etc. during the project lifetime. These events may be similar to the Stakeholders' Forum where a two-way dialogue can be established with the stakeholders under investigation.⁹

Apart from these events, conferences, workshops and other types of back-to-back events will be dedicated to the wider public in order to spread the report results. Project partners are invited to disseminate the results of this report as broad as possible, e.g. through their existing networks and at relevant national and regional events. To do so, a standard ppt (and prezi) will be prepared by RCISD which can be presented at any relevant event by project partners.

The following list of events provides a rough plan for dissemination which shall be updated and concretized regularly:

⁹ The list of these three events will be defined following the finalization of the report.

Danube-INCO.NET project events

- Policy Dialogue events under WP2
- General Assembly Meeting and side meetings; i.e. Vienna, 10-12 Dec, 2014

EUSDR related events

- Ulm Follow-up Group meetings
- Steering Platform for the Western Balkan Countries meetings; i.e. Budapest, spring 2015
- EUSDR Annual Fora: 4th EUSDR Annual Forum; i.e. Ulm, 29 Oct, 2015
- other PA Steering Group meetings
- meetings of DRC, RCC, Danube Business Forum, Vienna Economic Forum, Danube Transnational Programme Conferences, etc.

Other Appearance

- events organized by projects relating to EUSDR (DREAM, DANCERS, etc.)
- other relevant macro-regional strategy events (Baltic Sea, Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine region strategy)

7.2.2 Cross project dissemination

In order to ensure the accessibility of report results, it can be disseminated at the event of other projects related to the EUSDR, for example the PA7's flagship projects such as DRIFT, DREAM, DANUBIUS or DANUBE:FUTURE.

7.2.3 Direct mailing

As mentioned above, as a first stage of the preparation of the report, a preliminary database of relevant stakeholders has been set up. This database includes the main information of stakeholders including their contact details (contact person, address, e-mail, website), thus they can be informed about the results of the mapping activity. The results also can be spread among respective stakeholders to draw their attention to the synergies and their possible exploitation. Via direct mailing relevant institutions of the EU can be also informed, i.e. respective branches of the EU Commission (including Danube-INCO.NET's Project Officer and the Head of Operational Sector - Macro-regional Strategy for the Danube Region).

7.2.4 Newsletter

Similarly to the direct mailing, stakeholders and other interested parties will be informed about the results in the project newsletter which is published on a bi-monthly basis and circulated among 11,000 subscribers and the events where the result will be presented.

7.2.5 Online appearance on websites

Among online channels, the official project website (www.danube-inco.net) and partners' websites are recognized as main tools for public dissemination. The website of Danube-INCO.NET has a special role in this kind of dissemination: first, the report and the regular dissemination activities will be made public for the broad audience (average number of 2,400 visitors per month); second, it serves as an online database by providing basic information on the stakeholders selected in the first round (ca. 90 programmes, initiatives).

Apart from the project website, other partners involved in the project are invited to disseminate the results of the stakeholders mapping activity and policy recommendations on their institutions' websites.

7.2.6 Social media appearance

This tool can be/ will be used for raising awareness and to inform general public about the report results. News about the report (and its availability) should appear through different channels, as via the official Facebook and Twitter profile of Danube-INCO.NET. Subscribers will be informed on related dissemination activities afterwards.

8 Bibliography

Müller, B., Klee, G., and Hunya, G. (2014): *Socio-economic Assessment of the Danube Region: State of the Region, Challenges and Strategy Development*. Available at <http://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/gutachten/DanubeRegionFinalReportPartI2014.pdf> (downloaded on 27.08.2014)

Saublens, C. (2013), *Smart Makers of Entrepreneurial Regional Ecosystem*. Available at <http://www.eurada.org/files/Innovation/Smart%20makers-EN.pdf> (downloaded on 17.09.2014)

Presentations, documents relating to stakeholders

Danube 2014-2020: preparation of a transnational cooperation programme. Available at <http://kki.gov.hu/download/0/9d/b0000/Danube%20Programme%20-%20Hegyesi%20B%C3%A9la%20-%20hiia.pptx> (downloaded on 17.11.2014)

DanuClus: An Initiative of WG Cluster of Excellence PA8. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/danube_forum2013/doc/ws3/04_danuclus_pa8_si_grid_winkler.pdf (downloaded on 10.08.2014)

Identifying the main Objectives and Activities of Cluster Programmes. Produced by the CEE – Clusternetwork – European Clusters Alliance Consortium Partners. Available at http://www.eca-tactics.eu/sites/default/files/page/10/07/CEE_ClusterNetwork.pdf (downloaded on 18.09.2014)

Overview of Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE). Available at http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/eca/wb13_WBI-Fiches_WISE.pdf (downloaded on 28.10.2014)

Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation. October, 2013. Available at <http://www.rcc.int/download/docs/WBRIS%20Strategy10-21-13%20web.pdf/a3c34a7d7bfa321e83e5b95824d792b4.pdf> (downloaded on 28.10.2014)

DCCA Business Panorama of the Danube Region. Available at http://www.dcca.eu/container/container_attachments/download/106 (downloaded on 10.11.2014)

Southeast Europe 2020 – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective. RCC, Nov 2013. Available at <http://www.rcc.int/files/user/docs/reports/SEE2020-Strategy.pdf> (downloaded on 28.10.2014)

Websites of stakeholders under investigation:

Association of Regional Development Agencies (EURADA) <http://www.eurada.org/>

Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation <http://www.houseofeurope.ro/BlackSea-Danube/>

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) <http://www.bsec-organization.org/Pages/homepage.aspx>

CASEE The Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe of ICA <http://www.ica-casee.eu/>

CEEPUS - Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies <https://www.ceepus.info/>

CEI <http://www.cei.int/>

Mapping of relevant stakeholders describing activities, positions, and good practices including recommendations for synergies (D2.9) Danube-INCO.NET

Central European Initiative University Network (CEI UniNet) <http://www.cei.int/content/post-graduate-studies-cei-university-network>

Council of Danube Cities and Regions <http://www.danubecities.eu/>

Danube Alliance <http://www.eudanube.com/>

Danube Area Interregional Group at the Committee of the Regions http://enpi.interact-eu.net/danube_strategy_links/cor_danube/296/4470

Danube Chambers of Commerce Association (DCCA) <http://www.danubechambers.eu/>

Danube Rectors Conference <http://www.drc-danube.org/>

Danube Universities <http://danubeuniversities.eu/>

Danubiz <http://event.danubiz.eu/>

Enterprise Europe Network <http://www.enterprise-europe.eu/>

Eurochambers <http://www.eurochambres.be/Content/Default.asp?>

European Cluster Alliance <http://www.eca-tactics.eu/eca>

EUSDR <http://www.danube-region.eu/>

International Association for Danube Research <http://www.iad.gs/>

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) <http://www.rcc.int/>

Salzburg Forum <http://www.salzburgforum.org/>

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative <http://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/foreign-policy/eu/regional-initiatives/seci>

South-East European Cooperation Process <http://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/foreign-policy/eu/regional-initiatives/seecp>

Southeast Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) <http://www.seeic.rcc.int/>

Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries <http://wbc-inco.net/usefultool/16>

Steinbeis Danube Center (DE) <http://www.stz-ost-west.de/en/steinbeis/steinbeis-donau-zentrum.html>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) <http://en.unesco.org/>

Vienna Economic Forum <http://www.vienna-economic-forum.com/>

Visegrad 4 Cooperation <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/about/cooperation>

Visegrad Fund <http://visegradfund.org/>

Young Citizens Danube Network <http://www.youngdanubians.eu/>

Central Europe (CE) <http://www.central2013.eu/>

Southeast Europe (SEE) <http://www.southeast-europe.net/>

9 Annex I – List of Regional Stakeholders

Name of stakeholder	Selected or not	Background of selection or rejection
Alpe Adria Rectors Conference (Rectors' Conference of the Alps-Adriatic Universities (RCAAU))	Not	Too general scope
ARGE Donauländer	Not	No focus on RI
Association of the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambers)	Yes	Focus related to RI
Association of Regional Development Agencies (EURADA)	Yes	Focus related to RI
Association of the Danube Municipalities	Not	Too general scope
Austria - Italy Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Austria-Germany Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Austria-Slovenia Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Biobased for Growth - A PPP on Biobased Industries	Not	No specific focus on the region
Bioenergy 2020+	Not	No specific focus on the region
Black Sea - Danube Regional Network for Social & Economic Innovation	Yes	Focus related to RI and the region
Black Sea Economic Cooperation	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
CASEE The Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe of ICA	Yes	Focus on HEI, RI
CEEPUS	Yes	Important good practices in HEI programmes
Central European Initiative (CEI)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
CEI Network of National Coordinators	Not	Marginal focus on RI
CEI University Network (CEI UniNet)	Yes	Closely related to HEI and research in the region
Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
Croatia-Slovenia Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Austria – Hungary	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region

Danube Academies Conference European Academy of Sciences and Art	Not	Too general scope
Danube Alliance	Yes	Focus on regional cooperation in EUSDR
Danube Area Interregional Group at the Committee of the Regions	Yes	Focus on regional cooperation in EUSDR
Danube Business Advisory Council (DBAC)	Not	Marginal focus on RI
Danube Chambers of Commerce Association (DCCA)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation
Danube Media Network	Not	No focus on RI
Danube Rectors' Conference	Yes	Important good practices in HEI programmes, cooperation
Danube Region Programme / The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme	Yes	Focus related to RI and the region
Danube Universities	Yes	Important good practices in HEI programmes, cooperation
Danubiz	Yes	Focus on innovation and regional cooperation
DanuClus (Danube Cluster Networks)	Yes	Focus related to RI and the region
EIT Climate KIC	Not	No specific focus on the region
EIT KIC InnoEnergy	Not	No specific focus on the region
Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)	Yes	Focus on RI
EUREKA Network	No	No specific focus on the region
European Cluster Alliance (ECA)	Yes	Focus on RI
European Biofuels Technology Platform	Not	No specific focus on the region
European Innovation Partnerships	Not	No specific focus on the region
European Institute of Technology and Innovation (KICs)	Not	No specific focus on the region
European Spatial Observation Network (ESPON)	Not	No specific focus on the region
European Technology Platforms	Not	No specific focus on the region
European Territorial Cooperation Transnational Cooperation Programme: Alpine Space	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
European Territorial Cooperation Transnational Cooperation Programme: Central Europe	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
European Territorial Cooperation Transnational Cooperation Programme: Mediterranean Sea Basin (ENPI CBCMED)	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region

Expert Council at the Ukrainian Part of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Committee Working Group on the Development of the Danube Region	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region, no specific focus on RI
Ministerial Commissioner for the EU Danube Strategy of Hungary	Yes	Important good practice in regional cooperation, national coordination
Hungary - Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Hungary - Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Hungary-Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
International Association for Danube Research	Yes	Important tracks in research in the region
JRC Danube Air Nexus (DBN)	Not	To be included during the update
JRC Danube Land and Soil Nexus (DLSN)	Not	To be included during the update
JRC Danube Water Nexus (DWN)	Not	To be included during the update
JRC Danube Bio-energy Nexus (DBN)	Not	To be included during the update
Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Not	To be included during the update
Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)	Not	To be included during the update
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)	Not	To be included during the update
JRC Institutes (ISPRA)	Not	
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
Romania - Bulgaria CBC	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Salzburg Forum	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation

Salzburg Group	Not	The initiative ceased to exist
SEE-ERA.NET (PLUS) call management	Not	Too narrow focus
Slovak-Austrian cross-border cooperation programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Slovenia - Hungary Cross-border Co-operation Programme	Not	Covering only a marginal part of the region
Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation
South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation
Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
Steinbeis Danube Center	Yes	Focus on RI, closely related to EUSDR
Ulm Follow-up Group	Yes	Focus on RI, closely related to EUSDR
UNESCO	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation
Visegrad 4 Cooperation	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation
Visegrad Fund	Yes	Important good practices in regional cooperation; focus on RI
Young Citizens Danube Network	Yes	Important tracks in HEI cooperation
Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise Facility (WISE Facility)	Yes	Focus on RI, closely related to the region

10 Annex II – List of Questions for the Investigation

Type of the initiative / programme / stakeholder

1. **Which category does the initiative belong to?**
 - EU
 - Government/ministry
 - International Organisation
 - Higher Education
 - Research Institute
 - Innovation Actor
 - Agency/Fund
 - Association/NGO
 - Danube Region local organisation
 - Network
 - Company
 - Other:
2. **Date of establishment/creation**
3. **Main goal, objective of the initiative**
4. **Scope of the initiative**
 - Regional
 - Transnational/cross-border
 - European
 - International
5. **Geographical coverage - target countries if any**
6. **Targeted field – multiple selection**
 - Research
 - Innovation
 - Education
 - Other:
7. **Type of participants the initiative represents – multiple selection**
 - policy makers
 - programme owners/managers
 - intermediaries
 - universities/colleges
 - research institutes
 - industry
 - SMEs
 - other
8. **Does the initiative target any scientific areas?**
 - **Yes – multiple select**
 - Health
 - ICT
 - Biotechnology, food, agriculture
 - Nanotechnology, manufacturing
 - Energy

- Transport
- Environment, climate change
- Social sciences and humanities
- Security
- Space
- **No**

The main priorities of the organization/initiative:

9. Five main outcomes of the initiative in the past years; main priorities and successes:
10. Good practices/success stories identified which could be transferred to other programmes/initiatives within the Danube Region:
11. Main targets for the following period?

Links to other stakeholders, possible synergies

12. Any cooperation with other stakeholders which play a relevant role in the Danube region:
 - If relevant, names of the stakeholders
13. Possible synergies with other programmes/initiatives taken into consideration when formulating the programmes

Self-evaluation of the initiative

14. Opinion of the respondent regarding the following statements; disagree; agree; strongly agree; or don't have any idea
 - Positive results of the initiative are visible and measurable
 - The programme has led to huge interest among target groups
 - The initiative contributes to deepening regional cooperation
 - The projects are by far too small to have a visible impact
 - Lack of political will and/or funding limits the outcomes of the initiative
 - Low efficiency: high administrative burdens and costs for minimal output and impact
 - We are aware of synergies with other programmes which we intend to exploit as much as possible.

11 Annex III – List of Interviews

Organization	Contact Person	Date
Danube Universities	Csilla Csapó	08. 09. 2014.
Ministerial Commissioner for EUSDR, Hungary	Antal Ferenc Kovács	10. 09. 2014.
EURADA	Christian Saublens	10. 09. 2014.
Danube Chambers of Commerce Association	Littvay-Kovács Áron	11. 09. 2014.
Vienna Economic Forum	Erhard Buzek	24. 09. 2014.
UNESCO	Mario Scalet	14. 10. 2014.
WISE, HR Ministry of Science and Education	Kristina Ferara Blašković	15. 10. 2014
Council of Danube Cities and Regions	Peter Langer	16. 10. 2014.
CEEPUS	Elisabeth Sorantin	21. 10. 2014.
Danube Rectors Conference	Michal Lošťák	21. 10. 2014.
DanuClus	Sigrid Winkler	19. 11. 2014.

12 Annex IV: Database of Selected Stakeholders