

**Interreg
Danube Region**



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**City of
Vienna**



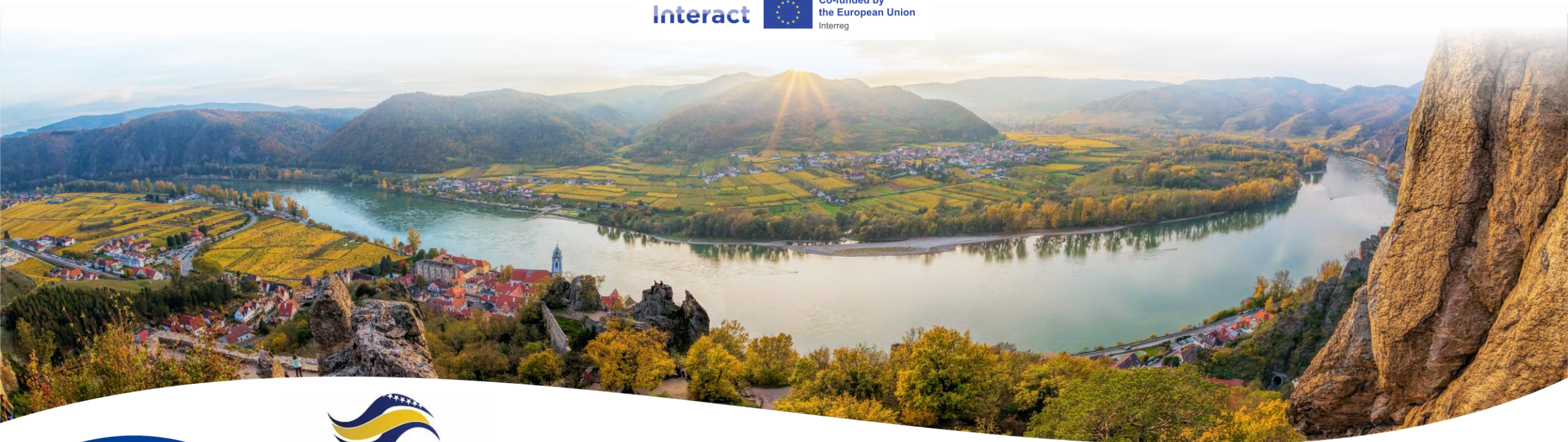
18th Regional Network Meeting of Interreg Programmes in Central and South-East Europe

01-02 October 2025 | Lecce, Italy

Interact



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Interreg



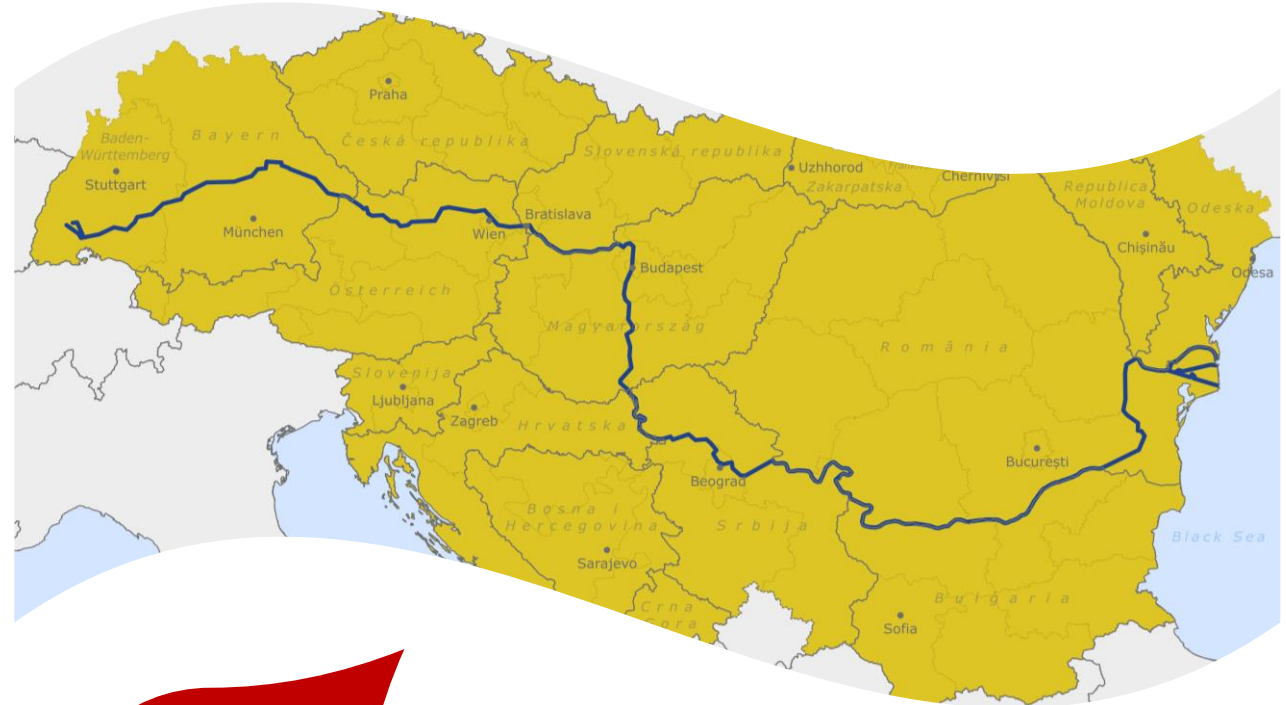
Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency



EU MRS

- Integrated cooperation frameworks endorsed by the European Council;
- Addressing common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and EU-candidate countries and third countries;
- Contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion;
- Serve as open and agile platforms for strategic networking;
- Based on MLG and cross-sectoral principle, MRS help to coordinate joint policies and actions far beyond physical or psychological barriers;
- Can be supported by Cohesion Policy funding instruments and other EU/national/regional funding sources.

- A number of challenges in the region require **working together, across borders** and national interests – supranational, national, regional, local – **cooperation!**
- **Political commitment** to be translated into action – **ownership & trust!**
- Actions need to be **carried out together** – **alignment & coordination!**
- Improved macroregional and national effects of **absorption** of funds – **EU, national, regional and other public and private!**



9 EU
Member
States & 5
EU-
candidate
countries,

The Implementation

PA 1a Waterway Mobility

PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility

PA 2 Sustainable Energy

PA 3 Culture and Tourism

PA 4 Water quality

PA 5 Environmental Risks

PA 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils

PA 7 Knowledge society

PA 8 Competitiveness

PA 9 People and Skills

PA 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation

PA 11 Security



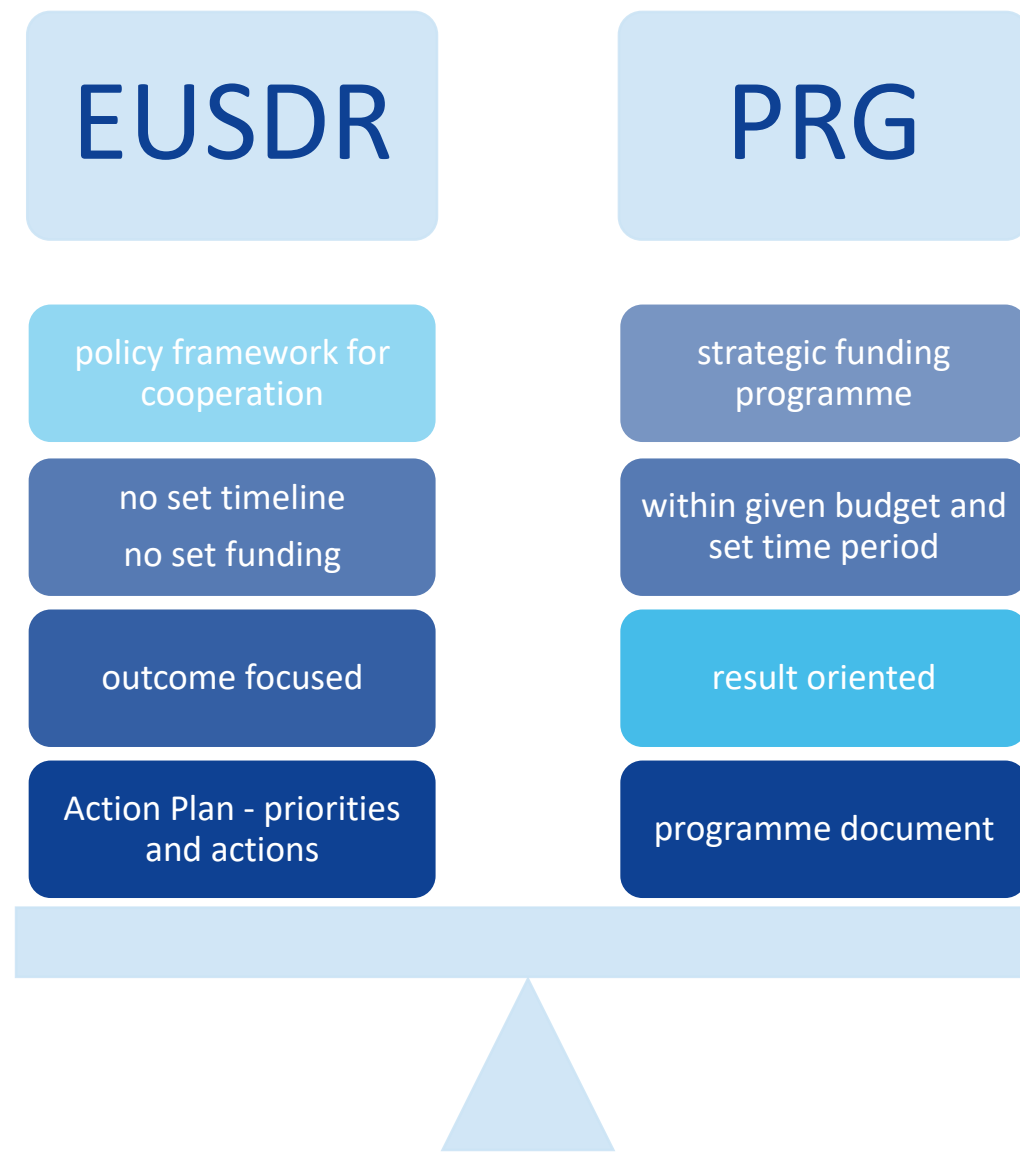
Alignment MRS-Programmes

- **Where do we start from?**

(Interreg) Programmes and EU
macro-regional strategies. What is
the difference?

Interact video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2s9OM0C850>



Cooperation tools

Alignment of existing EUSDR activities and the proposals developed for concrete active involvement in the various areas of the (Interreg transnational/CBC) programme cycle

Programming	Calls	Implementation, Information & Communication	Capitalisation	Evaluation	Capacity Building
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Interact tool on cooperation actions aims at unlocking joint activities • Embedding tools • managing/programming authorities Networks (ESF+, ERDF/CF, IPA/NDICI) • yearly Embedding Weeks	• EUSDR (PA 8) / EUSBSR/EUSALP synchronised call • EUSDR MA Network meetings • EuroAccess • SMF Call 2024: PAC co-evaluation.	• EUSDR website and social media channels • EUSDR Embedding Weeks • mutual participation in PA events/(SG) meetings/project events, EUSDR/PA networks • participation in EUSDR Annual Fora • Interreg DRP Lead Partner Seminar 2024	• Participation EUSDR/PA networks • biennial reporting of PACs and NCs and assessed in the EUSDR Implementation Reports.	• EUSDR Policy/Impact and Process/Implementations evaluations every three years • biennial EUSDR Implementation Reports.	• EUSDR Embedding tools • yearly EUSDR Embedding Weeks • Interact cross-MRS Working Group 'Embedding'.

Examples of EUSDR Implementation

Danube Strategy Flagships

- Non exhaustive, **projects or processes** that contribute to the **implementation of the EUSDR**,
- EUSDR provides a **cooperation framework**,
- have a clear **macro-regional dimension** and a **multi-level governance approach**,
- selected by **EUSDR Priority Areas**.
- high importance for the **Danube Region's economic, social and territorial cohesion** and for **improving the quality of life in the Danube Region**.



Danube Strategy Flagships 2025



RIS CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE



X4ITS - CENTRAL EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR ITS



DANUBE REGION MULTIMODAL CORRIDORS



DANUBE REGION TRANSPORT DAYS (DRTD)



DIVERSIFICATION OF GAS SUPPLY IN THE EUSDR



ENHANCING HYDROGEN ECONOMY IN THE EUSDR



PROMOTE LOCAL LOW-CARBON ENERGY ACTIONS IN THE EUSDR



DANUBE SMALL PROJECT FUND



DANUBE TOURISM LABORATORIES (DATULABS)



NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS ON THE DANUBE (THE NEBOD INITIATIVE)



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON EMERGING SUBSTANCES



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON MIGRATORY FISH



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR FLOOD RISK REDUCTION IN THE DANUBE REGION



DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY THROUGH PUBLIC AWARENESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN



DANUBE WILDISLAND RAMSAR REGIONAL INITIATIVE



HARMONMISSIONS - HARMONISATION OF MISSIONS IN THE DANUBE REGION



MULTILATERAL DANUBE CALL



WESTERN BALKANS R&I INFORMATION HUB



DECIDE: DANUBE REGION PROGRAMME DIGITAL SERVICES FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY - A TOOLBOX FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPERS AND SME



PLAN-C: MOVING PLASTICS AND MACHINE INDUSTRY TOWARDS CIRCULARITY



WE.CIRCULAR: BOOSTING DIGITAL AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CIRCULAR TRANSITION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE DANUBE REGION



DANUBE REGION PLATFORM ON CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (ERI SEE)



EUSDR ESF NETWORK



CROSS-BORDER EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE



MOTHERS FOR ECOLOGY AND PEACE



NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY



FOLLOW-UP EUSDR WORKSHOP ON THE "IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON ARMS TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SECURITY THREATS"

Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Western Balkans R&I Information Hub

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 7 Knowledge Society
- Horizon Europe funded project, budget: 5 Million EURO
- EUSDR member states: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Montenegro, Serbia
- EUSAIR participating countries: Italy, Albania, North Macedonia
- Stimulating, monitoring, and supporting the cooperation in research, education, and innovation
- Scale up common efforts of the European Union and the Western Balkans – for cooperation on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

**WESTERN
BALKANS
Info Hub**

powered by  **POLICY ANSWERS**



POLICY ANSWERS

R&I POLICY making, implementation AND Support in the WEstern Balkans



Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Danube Region Multimodal Corridors

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility
- Development of an interconnected and integrated transport system in the Danube Region
- Closing infrastructural, technological, and legislative gaps alongside the TEN-T to improve accessibility, cross-border flows, and regional connectivity
 - Assessing growth, jobs, and climate impacts of 2022–2030 corridor investments aligned with EU transport policy
 - Identifying and supporting additional multimodal corridors with macro-regional added value (e.g. Black Sea – Northern Adriatic Corridor)



Examples of EUSDR & EU Enlargement

Adaptation to Climate Change

- EUSDR Priority Area: PA 4 Water Quality
- Focuses on climate change and sharing experience and best practices in climate change adaptation emphasising (green) water retention measures, which contribute to better water quality and water availability in the Danube Region:
 - Small water and nutrient retention measures (OPTAIN)
 - Local water retention measures (LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS).
 - Creation of water balance mode for the whole Danube River Basin (Danube Water Balance).
 - Innovative water management initiatives (DALIA)
 - Improving the management of sediment quantity and quality (DanubeSediment_Q2)
 - Restoration of river banks and riparian areas (RESTORIVER)



14th Annual Forum

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

5 – 6 November 2025

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

<https://danube-region.eu/events/14th-eusdr-annual-forum>

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**Dr. Robert LICHTNER
Coordinator**

Danube Strategy Point / EU Strategy for the Danube Region

✉ email: robert.lichtner@eusdr-dsp.eu

🌐 web: www.danube-region.eu

