EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EU SDR)

A new challenge and new opportunities

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Danube macro-region strategy – why?

- Political demand from the Member States (initially RO and AT)
- Test of the macro-regional working method - new form of governance (example of the Baltic Sea Strategy)
- Aim: Better cooperation and coordination
- Expected result: improvement of living conditions in the Danube Region
Danube macro-region strategy – how?

Ingredients (lessons learned from the Baltic Sea exercise):

• Move from political statements to **action**;

• **Integrated approach** (not sectoral one);

• **Stakeholder involvement** essential

• **Principles – the three “NO”** : no new institutions, new EU funding or new legislation
Proposed priorities

• **Connectivity and communication** (transport and energy)

• **Environment, water and risk prevention**

• **Socioeconomic, human and institutional development** (economy and institutions + education, culture, tourism, social inclusion)
Where are we in the process?

- **Sep 2009 – Jan 2010**: start up phase and informal discussions

- **14** Danube Cooperation Process countries, i.e. 8 MS (CZ, DE, AT, SK, HU, SI, RO, BG), 4 (potential) Candidate countries (BA, HR, RS, ME) and 2 Neighbourhood countries (UA, MD)

- **11/12/2009**: first meeting with MS

- **Jan 2010** bil-lateral meetings with non MS

- **Start of the stakeholders events**
The next steps

Feb-June 2010: formal consultation phase

• Stakeholder Conferences:
  Ulm (1-2 February), Budapest (25-26 February), Vienna-Bratislava (19-20 April), Ruse (10-11 May), Danube Delta (10-12 June)

• Public consultation via Internet
  Scoping paper available:
The next steps

- **May 2010-Sep 2010**: draft strategy for further consideration by all countries
- **Sep 2010-Dec 2010**: submission of strategy documents (Communication + Action Plan)
- **Spring 2011**: Presidency Conclusions - HU Presidency first half 2011 – *Strategy adopted?*
Further information


Thank you for your attention.