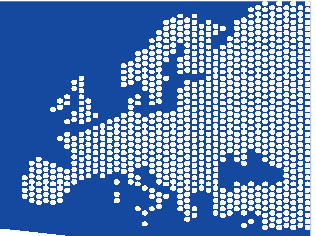


EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EU SDR)

A new challenge and new opportunities

Zagreb – 9 March 2010

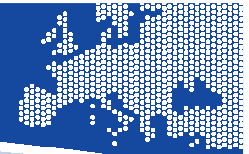
Marieke van Nood – on behalf of Nathalie Vershelde



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):

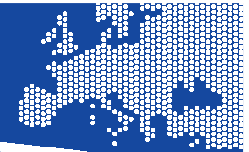
- Move from political statements to **action**;
- **Integrated approach** (not sectoral one);
- **Stakeholder involvement** essential
- **Principles – the three “NO”** : no new institutions, new EU funding or new legislation





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 :

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/danube/doc/scoping_danube_strategy.pdf.



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

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm

Thank you for your attention.