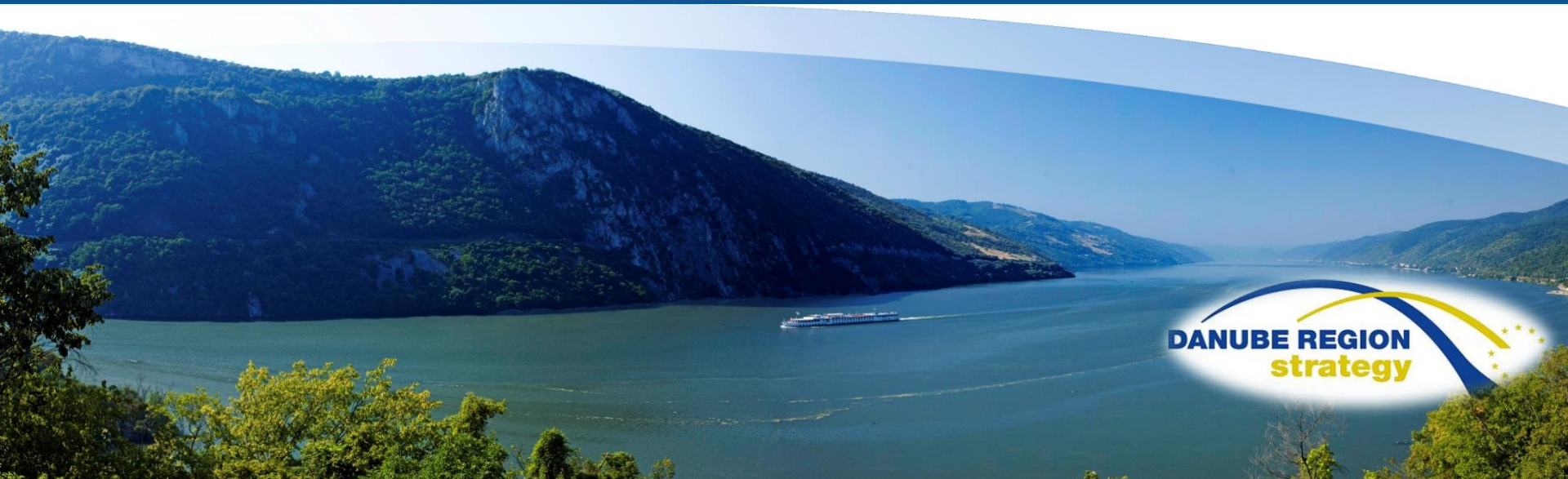


# The EU Strategy for the Danube Region in the programming of ESIF for 2014- 2020: state of play and next steps



# The EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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# Timeline

# 2014-2020 Leg. Package: State-of-play

## October

- Trilogues on remaining pending issues

## November

- 20/11 Adopted by EP

Legal revision  
+ Translations

## December

- Adoption in the Council
- Signature
- Publication in the Official Journal/entry into force  
(expected date: 20 December 2013)

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## Partnership Agreement

General regulation adopted

Max 4 months

Partnership Agreement  
submitted (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 1 month

Partnership Agreement  
approval

## Country specific programmes

Max 3 months

All OPs submitted (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 3 months

OP approval

## ETC programmes

Max 9 months

ETC OPs (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 3 months

ETC OP approval

**Objective: to be faster  
than the deadlines.**

**Importance of informal  
dialogues to complete  
the formal procedure as  
rapidly as possible.**

# Regulatory timeline

# 2

## MRS in the Cohesion Policy Regulations



The implementation of the EUSDR will be supported by the programmes of the ESIF

## CONCEPT OF MACRO-REGION

### Article 2 (25 bis) CPR

A "macroregional strategy" is an integrated framework endorsed by the COM which may be supported by the ESIF among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to MS and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

# The implementation of the EUSDR will be supported by the programmes of the ESIF

## Common Provisions Regulations (COM (2011)615)

### Drafting 'Partnership Agreements (PA)'

#### Article 14

✓ MRS need to be taken into account in the PA

### Drafting 'Operational Programmes (OP)'

#### Article 87

✓ OP shall describe their contribution to MRS

## FUTURE Danube Programme

### ETC REGULATION (Art.3, Art. 7)

Legal basis for the Danube programme,  
matching the geographical programmes  
with the Danube Strategy

- Under preparation (6th Task Force in Zagreb, 11 Dec)
- 80 % budget in 4 TO
- TO 11 to support implementation of EUSDR

## New perspectives for cooperation

- ✓ **Coordination and complementarity between cooperation activities and other actions** supported by ESIF (art. 7 ETC Reg.)
- ✓ **Eligibility of operations:** An operation may be implemented outside a programme area but within the Union, if it is for the benefit of the programme area (art. 60 CPR), the OP shall set the arrangements for IR and TN actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other MS (art. 87 CPR)

- ✓ **New tools:** Integrated Territorial Investments (funding for several OPs to follow integrated inv. strategy for a functional area); integrated operations (an operation financed through several EU funds); Joint Action Plan; EGTC.

Make full use of the  
**POSSIBILITIES**  
of the regulations

- ✓ **Include all projects/act. with a CB or TN impact.**
- ✓ Include references to cooperation with **neighbouring countries** in draft PA and OP.
- ✓ Include mechanisms to ensure **coordination between the Funds**

## Drafting PA

Co-operation (and MR) approach included when identifying **disparities, development needs and TOs** (added value of cooperation in all TOs)

*Section 1.1 PA*

**Coordination mechanisms** (and complementarities ETC/IfGs),  
*how to monitor and report the embedding of cooperation aspect, how NCPs or SG members participate in programming and selection procedures?*

*Section 2.1  
PA*

When describing main **priority areas for cooperation:**

*how EUSDR has been taken into account in strategic programming, how priorities identified in the Strategy/AP link up to planned use of ESIF, in which priority areas cooperation with neighbouring countries is foreseen, is MS intending to make use of the possibilities for cooperation in the IfGJ goal programmes?*

*Section 3.1.4  
PA*

## Drafting OP

OP will lay out the contribution of the planned intervention to MRS.

- ✓ Defining concrete cooperation areas/ projects OR
- ✓ Defining the general cooperation approach/strategy in different investment priorities

*Section 4.4  
template OP*

*Section 4.4.2  
template OP*

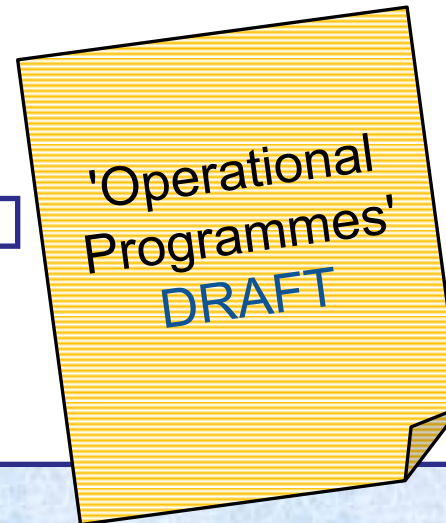


**Mechanisms** to ensure coordination with cooperation activities and MRS include:

- ✓ Inviting SG members to project selection committees
- ✓ Specific calls for projects deriving from EUSDR
- ✓ Additional selection criteria for these projects with cooperation approach (...)

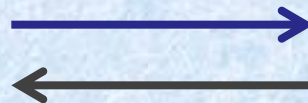
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**Next Steps**



**STRATEGIES**

**OPERATIONAL  
PROGRAMMES**



# What does it mean in practice for the Steering Groups of the EUSDR?

## Use the SG to define priorities at the macro-regional level

- Good practice: Exchange of **programming documents**
- Prepare a **project pipeline**
- Synergies with **other EU funds** incl. **IPA**

## Get involved in the programming process in your country (in coordination with NCP) + **Influence the preparation of PA and OPs (national, regional, and ETC):**

- **Priorities and Project selection criteria**
- **Participation in selection processes**

# Thank you for your attention !



**For more information visit:**

[www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)

[www.ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/danube/index\\_en.cfm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm)