

EVALUATING THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION: EXPERIENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

International Conference on the occasion of the two year anniversary of the EU
Strategy for the Danube Region

Organisation

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Time, Venue Registration

15th until the 17th of October 2013, Andrassy University Budapest
until 13th of October at Ms Simone Blunck
hilfskraft2.donau-institut@andrassyuni.hu

Concept:

The Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) was established as second macro-regional strategy for the Danube Region in June 2009 and ratified by the European Council on the 24th of June 2011. The experiences and accomplishments as well as the existing deficits after the first two years of implementation will be assessed and discussed at the conference, which takes place from the 15th until the 17th of October 2013 at the Andrassy University Budapest.

The conference addresses questions of the development, implementation and the future of the Danube regional strategy (EUSDR) and the future of macro-regional EU-strategies and regional cooperation in general. This event attempts to draw a preliminary result over the EUSDR projects and gives an outlook of the EUSDR's future, as well as to assess new macro-regional strategies, which are currently under consideration. Aspects of functionality in the area of EU-integration and the efficiency in governance are topics to be discussed, as well as questions in relation to financing of the activities, the task and the coordination of the EUSDR priority areas and more critical approaches in relation to the added value of the EUSDR compared to other regional initiatives.

These topics shall be discussed from an academic and a practitioners' perspective.

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TOPICS

Panel 1: Basics of the macro-regional strategies: Introduction into the topic in relation to regional and integration policies of the EU (DG Regio), its strategic considerations, its objectives and the implementation of macro-regional initiatives in the EU-member states.

Panel 2: Comparative Perspective: EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and other regional cooperation initiatives in the Baltic Sea Region: The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) acting as a comparative case to the EU Strategy for the Danube region, to analyse similarities and differences of both strategies in structure and implementation. As an additional aspect the panel will address other (apart from the EUSBSR) existing regional cooperation initiatives in the region.

Panel 3: EU-Danube Strategy: Activities, Financing and Development of the Priority Areas: The focus of this panel is an analysis of the EUSDR by insiders, preferably by Priority Area-Coordinators themselves, or politicians and public servants, working in the area. Furthermore the panel addresses the question of financing activities in the EUSDR Priority Areas. Funding is an important issue, which guarantees the implementation of the EUSDR, and is therefore a vigorously discussed topic.

Panel 4: The impact of the EUSDR on the competitiveness of the Danube region – first evaluation of the situation: The objective of the third pillar of the EUSDR, „building prosperity“, focuses on the impact of competition and therefore on the competitiveness in the region. The EUSDR commits to this complex task, whereas three Priority Areas – seven, eight and nine – are assigned to deal with it. The panel analyses to what extent companies' „competitiveness“ was improved and if the investment in „people and skills“ supported the development of a „knowledge society“.

Panel 5: Macro-regional Strategies in the Context of other Regional Central European initiatives: Apart of the EUSDR exist a number of other regional and transnational initiatives and organisations in the Danube region (e.g. European Partnership, European Neighbourhood Policy, Black Sea Synergy, EU-Enlargement Policy, Stabilisation and Association Agreements, Visegrád-Cooperation, Central European Initiative). Is a macro-regional strategy along the Danube or around the Baltic Sea needed? Is there an overlap of competences due to the various initiatives and cooperation projects? Do the EUSDR or the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) have an added value in comparison to the other EU-Initiatives? Are these strategies purposeful?

Panel 6: The future macro-regional strategies in the context of the EU-foreign policy: Adriatic Ionian and Alpine Region: The last panel of the conference shall give an outlook towards future developments of macro-regional strategies in the context of the EU-foreign policy. Concepts of currently newly developing EU macro-regions for the Adriatic Ionian and Alpine Region and its benefit shall be analysed and discussed.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

(preliminary)

TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2013

GERMAN

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| 14:00 – 14:15 | Opening speech and Welcome , Prof Dr András Masát , Rector of the Andrassy University Budapest |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | Keynote speech (<i>held in English</i>) Balázs Medgyesy , Government Commissioner for the EU Danube Strategy, Hungary |
| 14:45 - 15:15 | Coffee break |
| 15:15 – 17:15 | Panel 1: THE BASICS OF THE MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ellen Bos: <i>Macro-Regional Strategies as European multi-level project</i>• Boglárka Koller: <i>Development of macro-regional strategies and the future perspectives of the EU</i>• Franziska Sielka: <i>EU Governance – the EU Danube Strategy – Added Value and challenges of macro-regional cooperation</i> |

WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2013

GERMAN

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| 09:00 – 11:00 | Round Table: WHY DOES THE EU SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN EUROPE? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key note presentation: Wolfgang Streitenberger, Adviser to the Director General, DG Regional Policy, European Commission, Brussels• Ellen Bos, Professor of Political Science, Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary• Wolfgang Streitenberger, Adviser to the Director General, DG Regional Policy, European Commission, Brussels• Edit Bátorfi, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, V4 National Coordinator and CEI National Coordinator, Hungary• Stefanie Dühr, Professor of European Spatial Planning Systems, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Panel 2: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE: THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION (EUSBSR) AND OTHER REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN THE REGION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Luif: <i>Basics: The Nordic Cooperation</i>• Stefan Gänzle: <i>Development, status and perspective of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</i>• Martin Koschkar: <i>The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – A model region in practice</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch break |

14:00 – 16:00	<p>Panel 3: EU-DANUBE STRATEGY: ACTIVITIES, FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIORITY AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Béla Kardon: <i>Activities and finance opportunities in the priority area 7: Development of the Knowledge Society through Research, Education and Information Technologies</i> • Daniela Schily: <i>PA3 as a linking topic within EUSDR Priority Areas – Challenges and benefits of culture and tourism development in the Danube Region</i> • Jörg Mirtl: <i>Cooperation in education as engine for development and social cohesion in the Danube Region</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:30	<p>Panel 4: THE IMPACT OF THE EUSDR ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE DANUBE REGION – FIRST EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Eckardt: <i>The EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the competitiveness of the Danube Region – overview and status quo</i> • Jürgen Raizner: <i>The EUSDR and the Promotion of Innovation capacity</i> • Jörg Dötsch: <i>The Desire and Reality of the Priority Area 7: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies</i> • Ádám Török: <i>Problems of measuring R+D competitiveness</i>

THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2013

ENGLISH

Panel 5 and 6 of the conference will be held in English!

09:30 – 11:00	<p>Panel 5: MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamás Kaiser: <i>Macro-regions and territorial cohesion: a case of an integrated approach</i> • Andrea Stocchiero: <i>The evolving situation of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy</i> • Margit Wästfelt: <i>Title to be announced</i> • Dr. Marc Stegherr: <i>The Western Balkans and Serbia within the EU strategy of the Danube region and other macro-regional strategies - a favourable contribution to the stabilization and association process?</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Panel 6: THE FUTURE MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EU-FOREIGN POLICY: ADRIATIC IONIAN AND ALPINE REGION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Walsch: <i>A Europe of macro-regions? Arguments for and against</i> • Fabio Pigliapoco (tbc) • Greta Klotz: <i>The European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino: Background, Features and Perspectives</i>

REFERENTS

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