



WORKING COMMUNITY of the DANUBE REGIONS – the voice of regions in the danube area



„Wenn Europa Realität werden will, müssen wir in der Lage sein, mit uns selbst und mit unseren Brüdern und Schwestern zu leben.“

Translation

‘If Europe is to become a reality, we must be able to live with ourselves and with our brothers and sisters.’

(Peter Ustinov)



Donau, Dunaj, Duna, Dunav, Dunarea

Danube Basin:

Home to around forty different nationalities,
with their different languages, literatures and cultures



HISTORY of the Working Community

Founding:

Signing of the „Joint Declaration“ on May 17th 1990 on a shipping tour from Melk to Dürnstein, Lower Austria

Goal:

Article 1 of the „Joint Declaration“:

Promotion of cooperation between its members for development of the Danube area, to serve the interests of its inhabitants and to foster peaceful cooperation in Europe.

Members

Slovak Republic:

Tnava
Bratislava

Austria:

Upper Austria
Lower Austria
Vienna
Burgenland

Germany:

Baden-Württemberg

Observer:

South Moravia Region (CZ)
Nitra (SK)

Ukraine:

Odessa

Republic of Moldova

Hungary:

Gyoer-Moson-Sopron
Komarom-Esztergom
Pest
Budapest
Fejer
Bacs-Kiskun
Tolna
Baranya

Romania:

Caras Severin
Mehedinti
Dolj
Olt
Teleorman
Giurgiu
Calarasi
Ialomita
Braila
Galati
Tulcea
Constanta

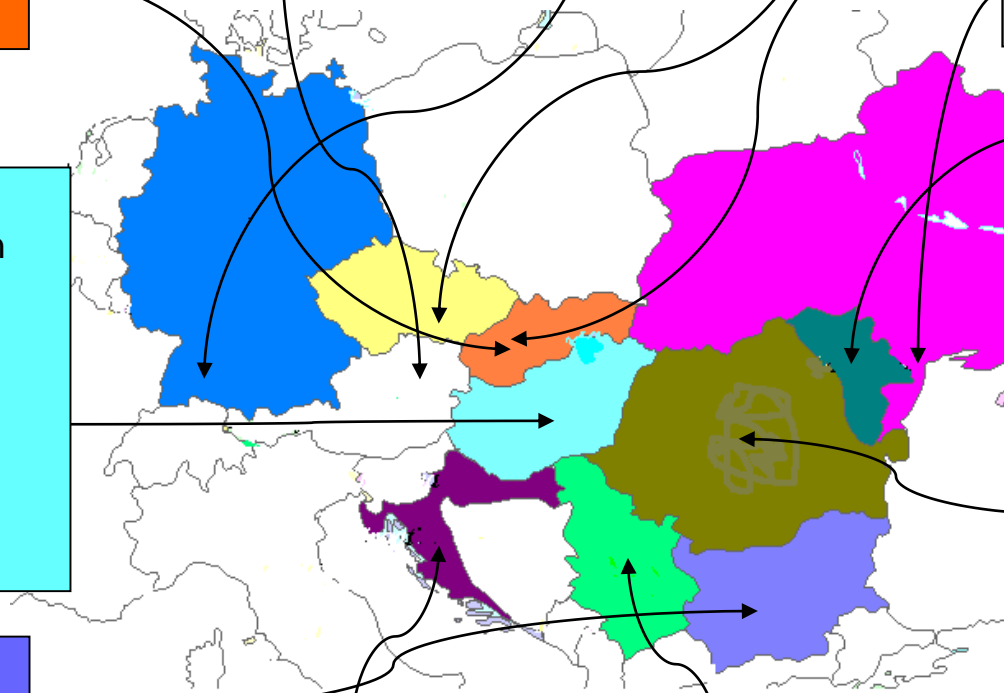
Bulgaria:

Vidin
Montana
Vratsa
Pleven
Veliko Tarnovo
Rousse
Silistra

Croatia:

Osjecko-Baranjska
Vukovarsko-Srijemska

Republic of Serbia



Working Community of the Danube Regions

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CURRENT STATUS

- Working Community of the Danube Regions **General Secretariat** of the Government of Lower Austria
- 2018/2019: Lower Austrian Presidency



KEY TOPICS

- Economy, tourism and transport
- Culture, science and education
- Sustainability, Energy and Environment
- Health and Urban Development



REFORM PROCESS

Recommended resolution 2017:

With the start of the Lower Austrian presidency The Working Community started a reform process.

→ March 2018: kick-off for the reform process of the Working Community



Aims of the REFORM PROCESS

1. Streamlining of the committees and reorientation of the **working groups** in terms of content and organization
2. Strengthening the integration of the **interregional level**
3. Strengthening **public and political visibility**
4. Examination of the **possibilities to accompany** the reorientation



The GOALS

- Clear self-perception of the Working Community of the Danube Regions for 2020+
- Definition of the important topics
- Questioning institutional aspects of the Working Community



STRENGTHS and POTENTIALS

What works well?

Where are the unused potentials for the Working Community?



STRENGTHS and POTENTIALS

- **Representative** of the Regions
- Representative of the **regional level** in the nationally shaped EUSDR
- **Impulse generator** for the Danube Region
- **Think-tank** for Danube basin activities
- **Network** for actors in the Danube region



STRENGTHS and POTENTIALS

- Exchange of views
- Exchange of best practices
- Collecting ideas for submission of projects
- Making already planned projects better known
- Combining existing projects and adapting them to Danube basin aspects



Examples for **PROJECTS**

- **SONDAR** - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region
- Touring exhibition **DANUBEcartoons**
- **DBS Gateway Region** – Regional and Transport Development in the Danube Black Sea (DBS) Region towards a Transnational Multiport Gateway Region



OUTLOOK

■ Evaluation of the outcome of the events

- Kick-off Workshop in March 2018
- Digitalization Conference in May 2018
- Conference “voice of regions in the danube area” June 2019

→ Autumn 2019: Update on the further steps in the reform