

## TRANSREGIONAL ALPINE- CARPATHIAN DIMENSION OF DANUBE STRATEGY

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Main challenges in Danube Region are specified by appreciable differences between EU Members and Partner States, their regions, geo-landscapes and habitats. This disparity can be perceived in social-economic and spatial conditions, mentalities/traditions, approaches and accessibility to resources, energy, education, mobility, information and other "creature comforts".

Such "patchwise cohort" has, first of all, to find common fields of interests on the way to joint synergic solutions to prevent further face-off barriers for macro-regional Sustainable Development. At the moment Danube Strategy (EUSDR) establishment can be qualified by term "betweenness" as "a place or a time where differences and borders are redefining themselves" (D. Sibony).

This betweenness overcoming opportunity was formulated by EU Commissioner O.Renn: "Borders are restrictive. Borders limit our minds, chain actions, and reduce our influence. Frontiers are innovative. Frontiers free our minds, stimulate action, and increase our influence. Frontiers are much more substantive and functional – even mental – than geographic". From such point of view successful start up of EUSDR embodiment should be conform to the principle proclaimed by the EU in Article 1 of the ENPI: "Community assistance may be used for common benefit of Member States and partner countries and their regions, for the purpose of promoting cross-border and transregional cooperation" through different EU Programs and other tools.

Further development of this EU approach was formulated in the ENPI Eastern Regional Program Strategy Paper 2007 – 2013: "seems that the most successful projects have been those which from the outset have benefited from a sustained high level political support provided from a regional institutional framework. By contrast, projects that have been implemented through a bottom-up approach, i.e. as a result of demand from individual partner countries, rather than within a well defined political multi-lateral framework, have tended to remain isolated, even when successful, and in general have not succeeded in fostering a genuine regional spin-off".

The "natural" challenge of Climate Change in Danube area should receive "anthropogenic" answer through Sustainable Development mechanisms. Using experience of "Industrial Metabolism Refinement" in Rhine basin we can act "implementing our climate and energy package showing how tackling climate change is a dynamic element in a strategy for growth by creating jobs and boosting energy security under the Europe 2020 approach", how it was proposed by President Barroso to EU Heads of State and Government after Copenhagen.

Water is the general common Resource in Danube basin. It's evident that EUSDR will concert those activities, which are realised immediately in the river-bed space, e.g. navigation, or hydro-technical processes in the river basin (irrigation, melloration, bowels exploitation and mining water pumping, river beds regulation, dredging, sand/gravel mining on the river banks etc.).

In parallel should be revised all other core anthropogenic activities impacting river basin both on more or less constant value and through the emergency risks generation (probable accidents). For instance in the industrial sphere they are: production in mining and ore-dressing, chemical, forestry-wood-cellulose, all kinds of food, construction materials, electronic and machine building sectors etc. And especial attention will be paid to hazardous waste generators, waters polluters and potentially danger manufactures.

But the most general topic of EUSDR concerns Clean Water Sources in Alps and Carpathians. Under Climate Change this tremendous problem very soon will became more then obvious.



Transregional Alpine-Carpathian interaction in Danube basin

Taking into account actual Alpine and Carpathian Conventions - their last years collaboration should become a "Common Generator" for further EUSDR project's topics. It means utilisation of common and individual achievements and agreements of these Conventions for Sustainable Development of Transport, Energy, Water, Forests, Agriculture and other sectors. As well as both Conventions also foresee intercultural and interethnic reciprocal actions aimed to augment common heritage.

For instance nowadays Alpine and Carpathian Forestry

[http://bfw.ac.at/events/documents.dokument\\_anzeigen?datei\\_name\\_in=F1641845050/climate.pdf](http://bfw.ac.at/events/documents.dokument_anzeigen?datei_name_in=F1641845050/climate.pdf)



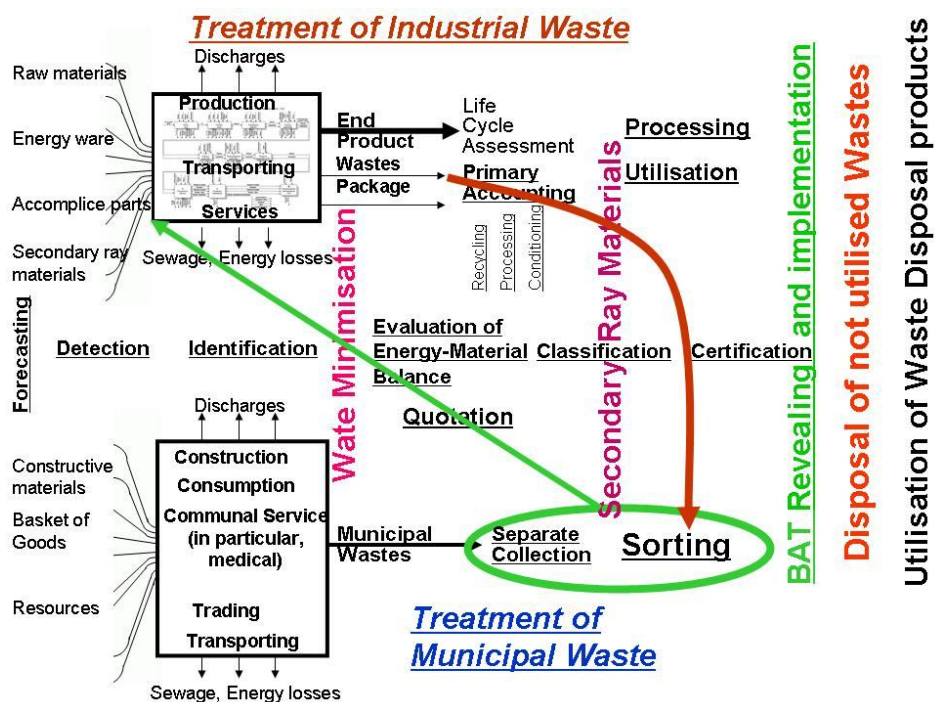
## Alpine-Carpathian forest “lungs” of Europe

pollutants into small rivers and Danube due to low “Environmental Capacity” of mountain areas;

- one of the main Renewable Sources of Alternative Clean Energy;
- specific value for Recreational-Touristic activity taking into account principal changes in these sectors through Climate Change, etc.

Set of these problems arise very important and urgent task of Mountains Reforestation, as well as crucial transformation of whole Forestry Life Cycle Management (breeding optimal age of mature, logging, wood utilisation, forest roads building etc.) in Danube area.

As another example can serve Pollution Prevention and Waste Treatment. Through last decades former Natural Environment was finally transformed by Mankind activity into Natural-Anthropogenic habitat. And from previous separate techniques of “household cleaning” in industrial and municipal sectors this activity also becomes quit more universal tool for innovations (investments involvement) in general Life Cycles of Productions, Goods and Services. As specific project’s topics EUSDR can take advantages of the following key functions of Solid, Liquid, Gaseous, Radiation and Power Wastes:



- already their Generation detection serves as main indicator of existent Technologies «weak points» in Industrial - Consumption Life Cycles;
- just these Waste flows from Anthropogenic Activity bring most global negative impacts into Environment;
- through Waste lays way to Energy Cycles optimisation and Energy Losses minimisation in mentioned “weak points”, as well as to utilisation of great Energy & Materials Resources, residuary (or even concentrated ) in Waste by inefficient technologies.

## General Pollution Prevention – Waste Minimisation – BAT implementation Scheme

This sphere of activities in the framework of EUSDR is already foreordained by the EU Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive. And involvement of Best Available Technologies (BAT) coming from this Directive was transformed by last EU decisions into prospective instrument of Innovation-Investment platform for Small and Middle Size Entrepreneurship (SME), Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and new European Clustering Policy.

Besides above mentioned examples of probable common activities in Danube area, the following key project's directions have to be discussed immediately in the EUSDR establishment process.





First of all it's an issue of Mobility and Accessibility along and across Danube, which should be resolved through actual transformation of European network of TEN-T Corridors according to Commission's Communication of 31.01.2007 "Extension of the Major Trans-European Transport Axes to Neighbouring Countries. Guidelines for transportation in Europe and neighbouring regions". Agreed Feasibility Studies for these transformations will have ruling influence on Socio-Economic and Spatial Sustainable

Development of macro-region in whole. The main peculiarity here is the necessity to combine economic and population needs with environmental-technogenic safety. These requirements are already elaborated in Transport Protocol of Alpine Convention and in the similar Carpathian draft. In particular there foreseen that main transporting flows should bypass mountains, as well as the preference should be given to railways restoration and advance development, both on security and energy minimisation causes.



Facilitation of Energy Transporting and Saving will become the next agreed group of projects. It's based on the principle of whole Energy Life Cycle optimisation (primary Energy Resources extraction into Energyware → Transporting → Distribution → Conservation → Consumption → Secondary Resources Utilisation → Renewal).

For each productive-consumption habitat should be elaborated a scale of Energy Life Cycle scenarios, since minimal (survival) till optimal for Sustainable Development and for most advantageous abbreviation of interior and outside resources.

Above mentioned Water, Industrial, Forestry, Pollution Prevention and Waste/BAT projects are parts of EcoEuroRegion model developed for Ukrainian-Romanian-Moldavian Euroregion "Upper Prut". It had been principally agreed by trilateral Summit in Izmail (July 1997). In 1999-2000 under support of UNDP all Ukrainian, Romanian border regions and Moldova assented this approach and nominated proper ideas for transfrontier projects in border basins of Prut, Siret and Dniester rivers, reflected in «Danube Pollution Reduction Programme. National Planning Workshop Ukraine.- Ministry of Environmental Protection & Nuclear Safety/Programme Coordination Unit UNDP/GEF Assistance.-1999-Vienna, Intern.Centre» .

EcoRegional model has been included into Declaration of 14 countries Bucharest Summit "Environment and Sustainable Development of Carpathian-Danube Region" (April 2001) and in 2003 was implemented into Carpathian Convention.

After EU had proclaimed ENPI in 2003-2004 Ukrainian and Romanian members of pilot Euroregion "Upper Prut" agreed system of more then 70 "mirror" project proposals in all agreed areas. Such approach and proposals are utilised in priorities and measures of ENPI bilateral programs (2004-2006) and in Joint Operational Programs (JOP) "RO-UA-MD" and "HU-SL-RO-UA" for 2007-2013. Now they can serve as information source for EUSDR prospective projects development.



Through last years these opportunities were substantially completed by mentioned EU Clustering and BAT approaches, which were proposed and now reflected in initial documents of the Eastern Partnership principal platforms

[http://vi.rorive.be/EaP/PDF/civil\\_society/written\\_contribution/Centre%20EcoResource%20-%20Ukraine.pdf](http://vi.rorive.be/EaP/PDF/civil_society/written_contribution/Centre%20EcoResource%20-%20Ukraine.pdf)



## GLOSSARY

### 1. Definitions related to clusters

Clusters can be defined as a group of firms, related economic actors, and institutions that are located near each other and have reached a sufficient scale to develop specialised expertise, services, resources, suppliers and skills.<sup>100</sup> They are a real economic phenomenon that can be economically measured, whereas cluster policies (or) are more an expression of political commitment to support existing clusters or the emergence of new clusters, and cluster initiatives (or) are organised efforts to achieve this.

Cluster categories: See cluster sectors (or).

Cluster cooperation can take different facets. It can mean the cooperation amongst and between cluster firms (or) and other innovation actors located in different clusters. It can also mean the cooperation between policy-makers at programme level or between at operational level

## THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER MEMORANDUM

### Promoting European Innovation through Clusters

- The strategic importance of clusters for European innovation and global competitiveness is only now becoming fully recognized



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 17.10.2008  
COM(2008) 652

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Towards world-class clusters in the European Union:  
Implementing the broad-based innovation strategy

[SEC(2008) 2637]



Besides close collaboration with the Commission's Institutions, for these approaches implementation, it's very important to have links with "Europe of Regions" through EU Committee of Regions and EESC, Council of Europe (CoE-CLRAE-CEMAT), AER, AEBR and other actors participated in "Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent" and Linz Declaration approval in 2002.

Significant role can be played here by Central European Initiative (CEI) as a Forum of 18 States (9 - EU members and 9 partner countries), main part of which cover Danube area.



Set of CEI-Bukovina Workshops in 2006-2008 shown tremendous potential for transregional (horizontal) common efforts in all above mentioned sectors of EUSDR elaboration.

For its utilisation can be recruited both actual measures of CEI Plan of Action 2010-2012. Also the system of National Focal Points in each CEI Member State may support prospective directions of EUSDR.

In the same way can be stimulated transfrontier co-operation as a fundamental tool for

EUSDR implementation in all eligible forms (cross-border, inter-regional, inter-municipal, twinning etc). This major activity can be also promoted through new Additional Protocol Nr 3 to Madrid Convention on transfrontier co-operation just approved by CoE in Utrecht. It makes more flexible and available core approaches of the EU European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation (EGTC) for EU Partner States, their Regions and Euroregions. Some last years achievements in this field are shown on the proper CEI web-page

<http://www.ceinet.org/content/interregional-and-cross-border-cooperation?tab=1>

Synergy principle, foreseen from the first steps of EUSDR shaping, may bring together actual EU “interior” and ENPI mechanisms. For instance above proposed collaboration tools can stimulate “synchronisation” of the similar priorities, measures and concrete projects of ENPI CEP, SEE and Joint Operational Programs (JOP) “RO-UA-MD”. “HU-SL-RO-UA” and “Black Sea” with other instruments (e.g. Interreg, as well as special Danube – Black Sea Programs and Institutions). It should be also taken into consideration that Western Ukrainian Regions (former Galicia and Bukovina Lands) were already involved into CADSES – Interreg area.

On the other hand some of new World and European approaches per se provoke EUSDR to look for win-win co-operation. Such example was demonstrated in Bucharest by Ministerial Declaration of 05.11.2009 on creation of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (CEECCA) Regional Forum on BAT/BEP (*Best Available Technique/Best Environmental Practice*). Besides new tool for implementation of some above mention projects this structure also brings for them tangible support from UNIDO and GEF.

Besides EU “inside” tools (e.g. Structural Funds) such “synergic” scenario will be very important for EU Partners involvement into EUSDR and for their unhesitating conversion from former TACIS and MEDA mentality to modern ENPI tools. In such context it should become rather demonstrative first experience of ENPI JOP Large Scale transfrontier projects. Selection of such projects accordingly to Commission’s Guideline of 10.05.2009 should start in 2010. In Euroregion “Upper Prut” for this selection are preliminary prepared the following proposals:

for bilateral Ukrainian – Romanian transfrontier projects:

- Promotion reconstruction of Border Infrastructure as a key aspect for Transfrontier Transit; and Sustainable Social-Economic and Spatial Development;
- Establishment of pilot transfrontier Forestry-Wood Processing Cluster on the basis of Carpathian and Alpine Conventions collaboration in the Danube Basin;

and for trilateral Ukrainian – Romanian – Moldavian transfrontier projects:

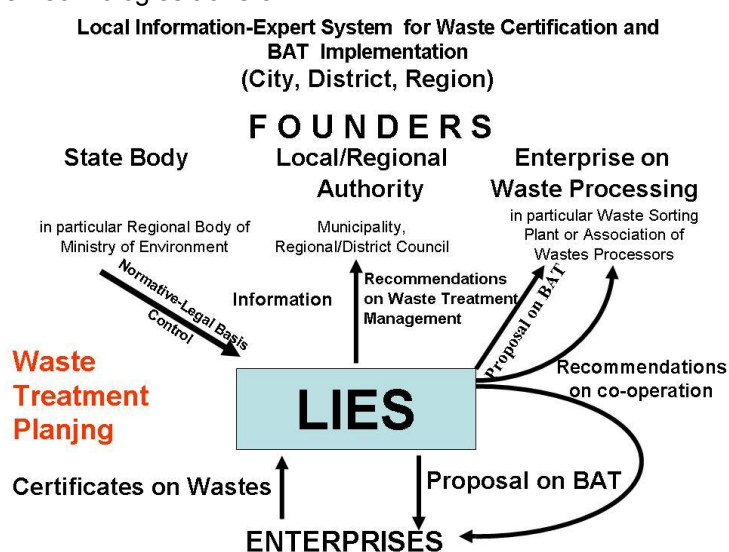
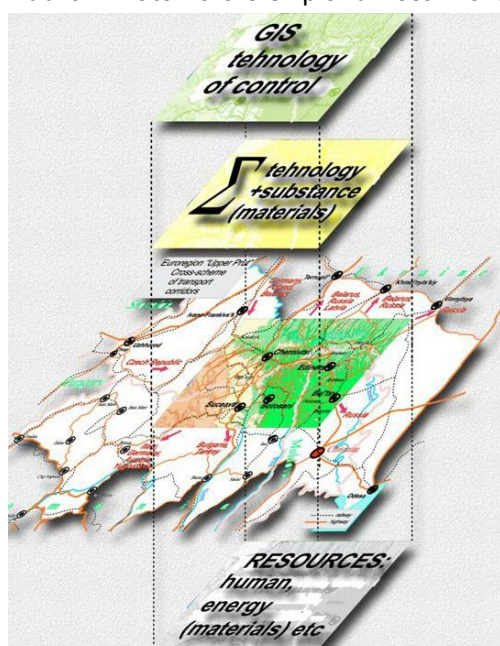
- Floods Prevention, Inundation Control and Protection against the Damage Effect of Waters in the upper part of Prut and Siret River Basins by Modern Monitoring System implementation with Automatic Stations;
- Transfrontier collaboration for implementation of efficient System of Industrial and Municipal Waste Treatment on the basis of their Sorting and BAT (best available technologies) implementation.

For these prospective projects also preliminary agreed possibility to spread them further in EUSDR area through ENPI CEP and SEE programs together with proper EU partners.

Synergy paradigm is very important for available financing tolls and their efficient implementation in EUSDR space. It means not only to optimise “superposition” of the EU and other International costs, but also to utilise more purposefully actual financial facility from different EU Member States, such as German GTZ, British Council, Danish COWI, Austrian-CEI KEP, as well as USAID. For this multilevel facility better co-ordination can be used new infrastructure of ENPI programs, as well as new Civil Society Forum and probable Entrepreneurs Forum in the framework of Eastern Partnership.

On the local level it’s possible provide through EUSDR “polarisation” of the existent Euroregions and other sub-regional structures by clear demonstration of attractive objectives and means , as well as by proper co-financing mechanisms of appropriate common concrete projects.

Nowadays Systems Approach based on modern Information Technologies (in particular GIS) will promote further EUSDR implementation through new Clustering mechanisms for Sustainable Regional Development, Public-Private Partnership and Best Available Technologies transfer.



In comparison with EU Baltic Strategy the Danube one has an immanent preference. Behind nowadays disparities, here still exists common basis of joint development in the framework of former "Danube Monarchy". Practically all above discussed peculiarities of EUSDR elaboration have unified roots from previous centuries. Therefore transregional "crossing frontiers" Alpine - Carpathian vector of new Danube Strategy allows maximally utilise this common heritage accordingly to the slogan "Viribus Unitis" proclaimed on the arms of Bukovinian capital – city of Chernivtsi (Czernowiz).

Thereby Alpine-Carpathian dimension of EUSDR allows to expand modern and inherited features of Danube area by systems approach for synergy results:

- utilisation of macro-regional Transit Potential, providing its energy, economic and environmental safety;
- promotion Sustainable Socio-Economic and Spatial Development based on clustering, innovations and information technologies;
- retention and augmentation of common human and natural heritage, worthy face and answer actual challenges and risks.

Through proper participation of Ukraine in EUSDR development, its further shaping and embodiment the revitalised Alpine-Carpathian interconnection will provide joint resolution of core common issues in basins of main Danube tributaries Prut, Tisa and Siret.

In the same way this focusing of the best European experience for Eastern Partnership area will promote its prompt further transfer to East where such modern synergy approach will be very important and opportune:

- to improve current unsafe situation in Ukrainian-Moldavian Dniester river basin, which was visually demonstrated both by terrible Stebnik Technogenic Catastrophe in 1983 and unprecedented Flood in 2008;
- to establish nowadays collaboration in Ukrainian-Russian-Belarusian basin of Dnepr river known not only on its beauty, but through tremendous Environmental Impacts, great Hydro Power Cascade problems, one of the most "famous" technogenic harmful complex in Krivoy Rog and Chernobyl consequences;
- to elaborate agreed approach for Ukrainian-Russian Don river basin which crosses one of the greatest mining-industrial areas in Europe with obsolete technologies and complicated social situation.