Strengthening the cooperation in the region: Carpathian, Tisa, Danube and Black Sea areas

14th October 2009
SEE Annual Conference
Advancing development through transnational cooperation in South East Europe
• Present status
• Future challenges
• Integrated vs strategic approach on several development areas: Danube, Carpathian, Tisa, Black Sea areas
Since its inception, the cohesion policy has made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of Member States and regions of Europe. It has contributed to the take-off of the former "cohesion countries" and now allows most of the new Member States to record some of the highest rates of growth in Europe.

The promotion of partnerships and "multi-level governance" has fostered coordination between institutions at different levels (European, national, regional and local).

The current global economic crisis represents a major challenge for the European Union and requires a rapid response to counter the impacts on the whole economy.

In reaction to the crisis, the cohesion policy was focused on boosting investment with a view to generating economic growth and jobs through: *increase flexibility* (simplify the procedures of the programmes and speed up implementation), *give regions a head start* (increase cashflow, help major projects, simplify state aid rules), *smart investments* (maintain public investments, more energy-efficiency investments, enhance cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Investment Funds (EIF))
Cohesion policy in the context of globalisation

- support current activities and stimulate initiatives that will result in the better use of resources in the regions in question
- promote innovation and support employment in accordance with the Lisbon Strategy having as objective support regions create prospects for development, further develop their potential and create propulsive effects from territories that produce growth.
- vital need for detailed analysis of the diverse range of stakeholders concerned within the European Union and its member states, of their responsibilities and the coordination mechanisms that sometimes exist between them.
- need for coherent and collaborative mobilisation of all levels of European governance including regions and cities
In the context of EU Cohesion Policy the main objective of SEE Programme is to realise high quality, result orientated transnational projects of strategic character, relevant for the programme area.
Main challenges for SEE Programme

- Promote transnational cooperation as a whole
- Provide a concrete approach to broad, geographical cooperation and, as such, ensure a valuable contribution to the territorial cohesion of the European Union, and to a more effective implementation of the EU’s Regional Policy.
- Provide results that have real multiplier effects and catalytic impact on the area
Strengthening the cooperation in the region: Carpathian, Tisa, Danube and Black Sea areas

- Integrated space, spatial structures that overlap, are interconnected and interdependent
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Approach:
- Transnational
- Integrate: strategic, spatial and investments planning
- Working with regional and local actors
- Clear stakeholder analysis: central public authorities, regional and local public authorities, bodies governed by private law.
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- around 10 ETC Programmes finance activities within the space
- around 4 Convergence Programmes (per country) finance activities within the space
- IPA and ENPI funds for non EU countries
- each country finances activities through national funds

- Need for correlation and coordination between different financial instruments, Managing Authorities and projects
- Policy coordination, the cross-sector aspect of multi-level governance.

Jointly for our common future
Strengthening the cooperation in the region: Carpathian, Tisa, Danube and Black Sea areas

- correlation and coordination
- between different financial instruments,
- Managing Authorities and projects
  - policy coordination,
  - the cross-sector aspect
- of multi-level governance.

Concrete results in a shorter period of time
Danube - European River
Danube - European River

- The Danube flows for almost 3000 kilometres through South-East Europe. It flows through 10 countries, and its drainage basin extends to a further 9 countries.
- It is a European river flowing through capital cities, and even forming the very border itself in a number of cases.
Danube - European River

Up to now Danube had been generally treated within:
- a sectoral approach: transport, environment, tourism etc
- or national - with different interests accordingly with national needs and interest).
- Danube, as a geographical element and natural border, has a significant contribution in shaping and maintaining of the borders between European countries with a negative impact on integrated basin development.

South East Europe Programme offers the best opportunities for an integrated, interdisciplinary and interregional approach
Danube - European River

Danube’s assets:

- Eco-efficient transport corridor (Corridor VII) within the European transport system which leads to the possibility of decongesting the road transport
- Tourism potential, protected areas and natural assets
- Large scale hydrographic system
- Complex ecosystem
- High economic potential
- Danube Delta
Danube - European River

First call for proposals - transnational cooperation in Danube area has begun

6 Danube projects approved on:
- waste management, natural heritage,
- floodrisk reduction, inland navigation,
- networking waterway administrations,
- tourism

Next steps: encourage cooperation for the future calls for proposals, including preparation of projects that generate concrete results to be further used and implemented through national or other funds, including use of 20% flexibility rule.
Danube - European River

South East Europe Programme  

Pioneer and best practice for the future Danube Strategy
Danube - European River

The future Danube Strategy:
1. should address with priority the following issues: economical and social development, transports infrastructures, environment;
2. should be implemented through European (cohesion, agricultural, transports, sustainable development) and national policies and programmes;
3. must have special financial instrument to support the implementation of the proposed activities.
Strengthening cooperation in Tisa area

• Following an industrial accident in Romania, Tisa river was heavily polluted therefore on 16th September 2003 - the Initiative on the Sustainable Spatial Development of the Tisza/Tisa River Basin and the Declaration on co-operation concerning the Tisza/Tisa river basin were adopted by Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning/Heads of delegation of the concerned States - Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

• The aim is to prepare a joint strategy of sustainable development of the area and to implement the guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European continent.
Strengthening cooperation in Tisa area

Objectives:
• promoting territorial cohesion through a more balanced socio-economic development of regions and improved competitiveness;
• encouraging development generated by urban functions and improving the relationships between town and countryside;
• promoting more balanced accessibility;
• developing access to information and knowledge;
• reducing environmental damage;
• enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage;
• enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor of development;
• developing the energy resources while maintaining safety;
• encouraging high quality sustainable tourism;
• limiting the impact of natural disasters through preventive action
Strengthening cooperation in Tisa area -
transnational cooperation in Tisa area begun

**TICAD project** - having as background CEMAT initiative, which has brought together the representatives - civil servants and professional planners of all the five partner countries
Strengthening cooperation in Tisa area - transnational cooperation in Tisa area begun

Main actions:

• Elaboration of a common methodology for this innovative cooperative process;
• Construction of a common information and data base;
• Analysis of the state and perspective of the area: national studies and integrated evaluation;
• Elaboration of an integrated strategy of water management, land-use consolidation, environmental rehabilitation, nature conservation, economic diversification as well as social progress with the help of development and use of an integrated territorial assessment tool
• Elaboration of pilot projects representing typical issues of the area, discussion, consultation;
• Formulation of recommendations: national, regional and specific local, consequences drawn for European policies;
• Dissemination of findings, outputs, results throughout the project and at the final stage.
Strengthening cooperation in Tisa area - what to do next

- encourage cooperation for the future calls for proposals, including preparation of projects that generate concrete results to be further used and implemented through national or other funds.
- promote projects tackling environmental issues, improve prevention of environmental risks, transport, polycentric and balanced spatial development of the settlement network sets as main direction the identification, formation, consolidation and balanced distribution of development poles.
Trans/Carpathian connections reinforcement for balanced regional development

- Length of the Main Chain: 1500 km
- Population of the region: over 16 million inhabitants
- Countries: Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine

Brief characteristics:
- less favoured for agricultural production
- geologically younger mountain range and therefore poorer in mineral wealth
- difficult to cross and hard to access.
- peripheral areas in their respective countries,
- large sections of the mountain range constitute borders between countries and were far from the large urban centres
Trans-Carpathian connections reinforcement for balanced regional development

- solve or mitigate the “brown-fields” problem which is very serious in many Carpathian cities and regions. New financial arrangements and technological innovations should be applied to solve this problem.
- promote the diversification of industrial structure, especially in the so-called “one-factory-towns”.
- To promote the development of SME-s in the region.
- establish a new urban-rural relationship: creating different types of cooperation between cities and their neighbourhood in providing basic services for the population.
- To promote the establishing of protected landscapes instead of further large national parks.
- To promote the establishing of common national parks and protected areas in the border regions
• In the present time, the Black Sea Basin is emerging as a decisive geo-strategic crossroad for the future of a wider Europe. The region has generated some of the most important challenges to the security of today’s and tomorrow’s Europe: from legal and illegal migration to Europe to environmental degradation; from the security of energy supplies to illicit trafficking of drugs and weapons and “frozen” conflicts.
Black Sea area

Integrated approach

Projects improving accessibility (integration of the ports into an efficient and adequate transportation and logistics system, tackle pollution caused by traffic, tourism and from big rivers which flow into the sea after passing through mostly industrialized and built-up regions, and areas of intensive agriculture with a high density of intensive livestock breeding and the use of agricultural chemicals).
Romanian Participation in the first call

- Out of the 40 projects approved within the first call, 37 have Romanian participation. Out of the 7 Danubian projects all have Romanian partners.

- Romanian Government is supporting the participation of partners by giving 13% out of the 15% national cofinancing from the state budget.

- Furthermore, the National Contact Point is supporting Romanian partners at all stages: project preparation and implementation.
Thank you!

Iuliu BARA
General Director
Head of National Authority