



Danube-INCO.NET

**Advancing Research and Innovation
in the Danube Region**

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Project	Danube-INCO.NET
Project Number	GA 609497
Responsible author(s):	Martin Felix Gajdusek (ZSI)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no [609497]

Danube-INCO.NET understands itself as strategic high-level coordination and support action. Its background is the macro-regional approach of the European Union, in particular the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and its Priority Areas for Knowledge Society (PA7) and for Competitiveness (PA8). Based on strong institutionalised links with the PA Coordinators and the PA Steering Groups, a consortium of 19 partners from all over the region supports the policy dialogue within the EUSDR, to exchange with other regional policy initiatives and to enhance bi-regional dialogue with a focus on the implementation of the 'Innovation Union' and the ERA Framework.

As defined in the project plan, one of the foci of Danube-INCO.NET was on the societal challenges of energy efficiency and renewable energy in a bio-based economy, which are addressed by mapping and analysis, clustering and networking and the implementation of two concrete pilot activities. Moreover also the societal challenge of innovative and inclusive societies in the Danube region was addressed through the provision of analytical evidence: Research and innovation activities were monitored with several instruments, co-publication and co-patenting analysis, a survey identified barriers to cooperation and less competitive innovation systems were reflected through two STI policy mix peer reviews.

To implement concrete innovation support measures, smart specialisation strategies, technology transfer centres and a system of supporting the development of targeted project proposals have been addressed.

The Danube-INCO.NET partnership was also committed towards the development of joint funding mechanisms enhancing Danube Region Research and Innovation Funding (e.g. through supporting EUREKA and other platforms in the development of targeted calls), the establishment of a functioning Danube Funding coordination Network – DFCN is a valuable result.

In this respect, Danube-INCO.NET supported the cooperation among the leading – indeed world-class – innovative regions upstream to the regions, downstream both at strategic and operative level and further integration of the region was achieved, main stakeholders were encouraged to cooperate in a self-sustained way to activate the added value of enhanced RTDI cooperation in the region.

The core objectives were fully achieved

- Facilitated further dialogue on the integration of the DR in the ERA was achieved by introducing ERA Workshops and further exchange of information with dedicated targeted meetings and ensuring best outreach to the broad stakeholder community and contributing to newly started initiatives;
- Contributed to synergies with existing funding programmes and coordination structures as the PA7, PA8 and the DTP by means of dedicated workshops and contribution to the established steering meetings of the RTDI core processes in the EUSDR;
- Facilitated the implementation of two Pilot activities which contribute to Bioeconomy development in the DR and also the facilitation of further exchange on the topic in the DR, the necessary strategic recommendations to active the main actors working on the topic;

- Provided evidence by means of regional cooperation analysis with i.e. focusing on co-publication and co-patenting, identification of cooperation patterns and individual support to two countries which requested a STI Policy Mix Peer review by the project what contributed to the national reform agendas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and the better DR integration of main STI stakeholders;
- Contributed successfully to the macro regional dialogue on the quadruple helix approach by means of a conference;
- Successfully completed the identification and increased the commitment of non EU MS who from 2017 on are involved in a S3 process with JRC (Serbia, Moldova);
- Developed advanced tools for multilateral STI cooperation i.e through the establishment of Funding coordination bodies in the DR, the functioning Danube Funding coordination Network – DFCN;
- Continue the efforts for information provision and the continuous provision of up to date information to best disseminate to relevant macro regional stakeholders by means of a website and a newsletter with a broad outreach - more than 50 newsletter issues reached more than 13.5 thousand subscribers, an effort that is continuing beyond the project duration.