



A smarter Danube Region

23 May 2022, 9.30 – 11.30 CET
online seminar

Specific objective 1.1
Specific objective 1.2

Enhancing innovation and
technology transfer

Building skills for smart
specialisation, industrial transition
and entrepreneurship



Transnational Cooperation

- is an instrument of the EU Cohesion policy
- financially supports cooperation projects beyond national level
- in a geographically defined area in order to address common needs and challenges
- it is meant to complement the mainstream programmes
- brings together policy makers, academia, research, civil society and private actors



Danube Region

- is a region of barriers, due to its highly fragmented status in political, economic and administrative aspects
- has the highest number of countries (14) and highest number of borders compared to other macro-regions, (rate of border areas is 44.7%)
- the European measures for a stronger cohesion along with the accession and neighbourhood policies create a new, unique historic situation for the better integration of the Danube space
- Creating a better institutional platform and transnational cooperation environment for the territorial, economic and social integration is the mission of the Danube Region to become region of flows



Sustainable economic development

- large competitiveness gaps between the old, the new Member States and the non-EU countries, including their status within the regional innovation ecosystem.
- a low share of technology and knowledge-intensive activities
- need for strengthening synergies and cross-relationships between quadruple innovation stakeholders in order to facilitate the uptake of innovative technologies across the region



Sustainable economic development

- Danube Region is still characterised by large cohesion gaps in social and economic aspects
- solutions can be delivered through digitalisation, industry 4.0 processes and/or smart specialisation strategies and policies (S3) with a special focus on SMEs
- large differences in S3 in terms of specialisation, sectors and territorial coverage.
- support for transnational alignment of S3 strategies is of great importance



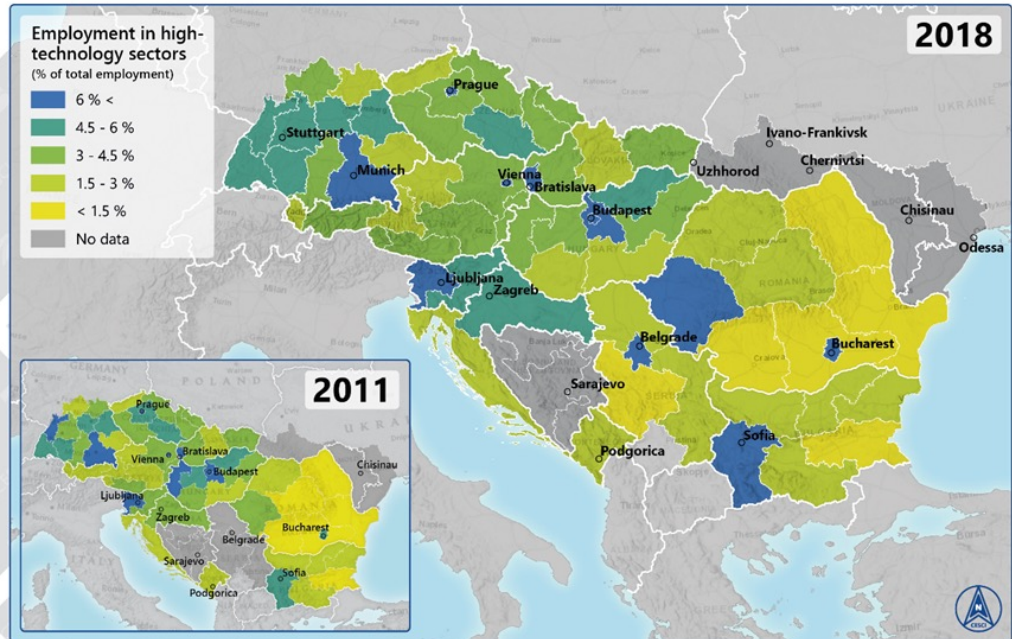
Funding opportunities - innovation

- SO 1.1 Enhancing innovation and technology transfer in Danube region
- SO 1.2 Development of skills for advancing smart specialisation strategies, industrial transformation and transition towards industry 4.0, including cross-sectorial collaborations

SO 1.1 - Needs and challenges



Spatial distribution of **employment in high-technology sectors** in the Danube Region

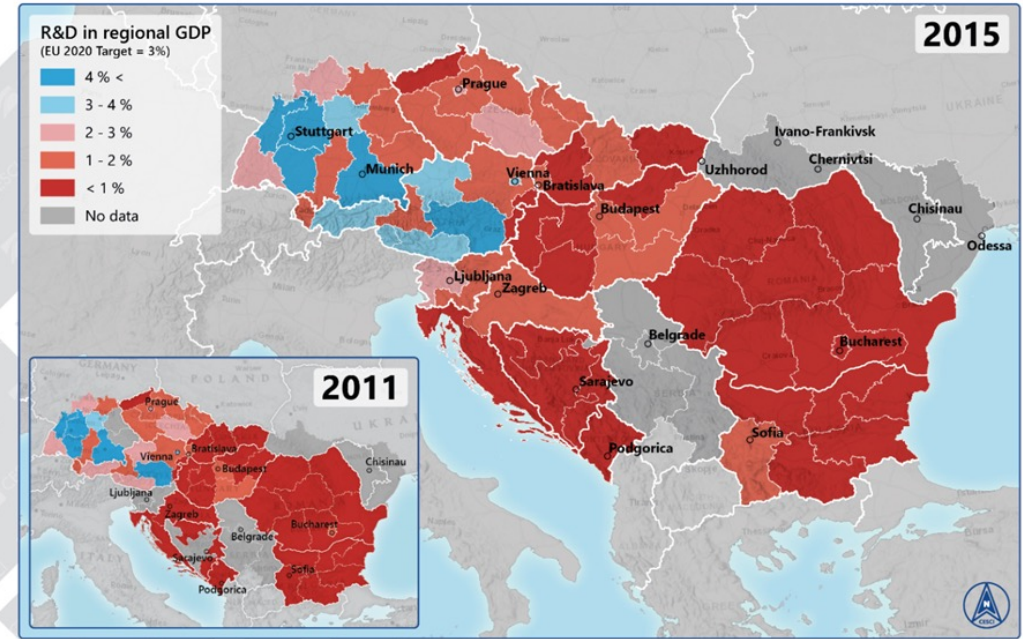


source: ESRI database, Eurostat
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0 75 150 300 450 600 Km



Spatial distribution of **R&D in GDP (%)** in the Danube Region



source: ESRI database, Eurostat, data submitted by the members
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SO 1.1 - Needs and challenges

- Across Danube Region, there is a low share of technology and knowledge-intensive activities. The RDI activities are overly concentrated within the western regions or the major urban hubs, including capital cities or university towns.
- Structural problems arise, especially in regard to the development of hi-technology economic sectors or the low level of ICT employment.
- Joint measures are of high relevance to support the better share of innovation capacities and the joint uptake of innovation and advanced technologies. Such actions should result from new, RDI related policies and furthered through quadruple helix approaches.



SO 1.1 - FOCUS

- RDI related transnational policies and processes
- uptake of innovation and advanced technologies
- capacity building among thematic value chains
- technology transfer and uptake from and towards SMEs
- circular economy policies and processes
- smart, sustainable and green transport technologies and networks
- e-mobility solutions
- integration of smart cities' and regions' solutions



SO 1.1 – Type of ACTIVITIES

- Uptake of technologies alongside thematic value chains
- Circular economy collaboration forms and harmonisation
- Technology generation
- Uptake of related advanced technologies
- Direct contributions to EUSDR Action Plan for PA7 and PA8



SO 1.1 – What we do not finance

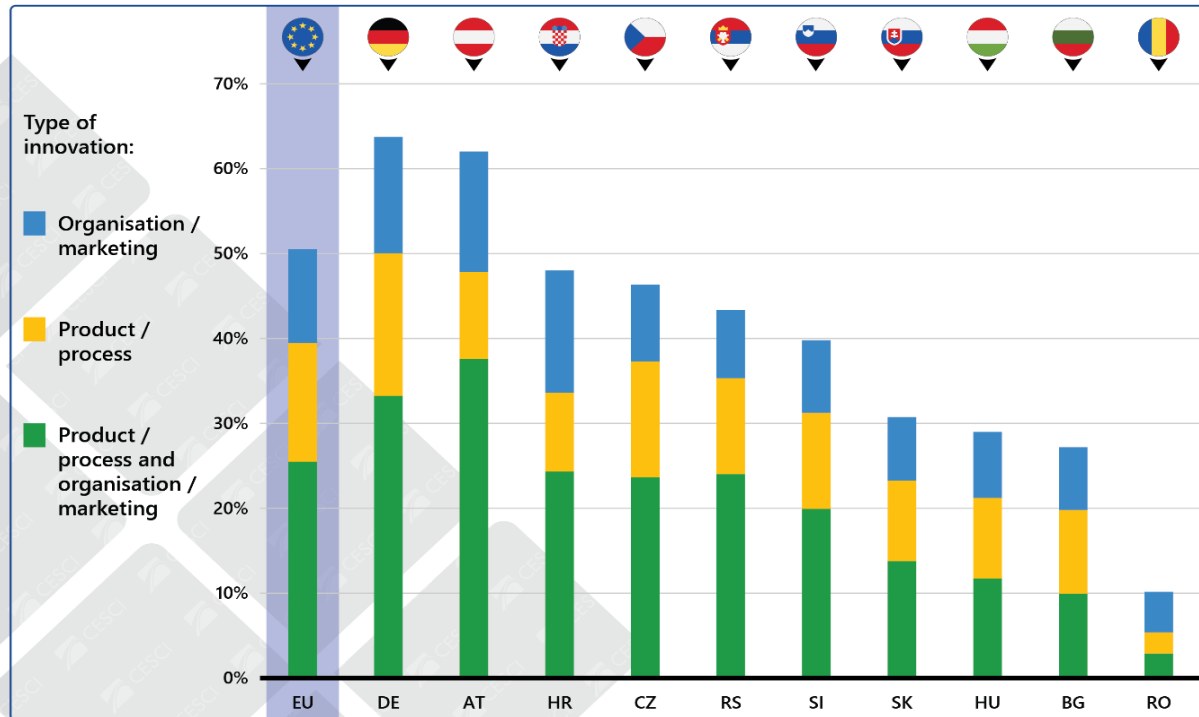
- projects not being clearly embedded in a territorial scenario.
- projects not involving countries of different level of innovation capacities.
- projects with pre-dominant focus on infrastructure.
- projects with pre-dominant focus on mere technical solution development without ensuring its application by the target users.
- projects with pre-dominant focus on research and data collection activities without translating their outcomes into applied solutions and, or policy strategies, plans still within the project.
- projects missing a clear focus and potential on closing the innovation gap in the Danube Region.



SO 1.2 Needs and challenges



Proportion of **innovative enterprises** of all enterprises in the Danube Region, 2016



source: Eurostat, flags: Freepic
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In case of Germany data represents the whole country not just the regions affected by the Danube Region. In case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine data is missing.



SO 1.2 - Needs and challenges

- the spatial pattern is quite fragmented, especially due to growing gaps between urban regions as engines of growth and rural regions as peripheries.
- whilst some regional economies of the Danube Region are heavily industrialised
- most economies seem too be unprepared for the challenges arising from transitioning to industry 4.0.
- considering the overall entrepreneurial sector and, in particular, the SMEs, the innovation levels are substandard which results in a share of innovative enterprises below the EU average.



SO 1.2 - FOCUS

- Skills development for and of joint advancement of smart specialisation strategies and policies – less advanced regions
- Skills development and cross sectoral collaborations of smart and traditional type of industries – industrial transformation and transition
- Skills development for delivering products and services with transnational impact



SO 1.2 – Type of ACTIVITIES

- enhancing cooperation related to entrepreneurial skills in advanced technologies, industries of high DR importance – to better combine existing capacities and competences
- building cooperation structures
- obtaining innovation capacity needed
- targeting competitiveness at regional and EU level
- identifying niches within the EU market
- becoming attractive as a partner within DR or towards other EU regions
- establishing platforms for transfer knowledge and skills and
- building interregional synergies for the development of regional smart specialisation strategies and policies by involving entrepreneurial actors and existing networks in discovering and exploiting promising areas of specialisation
- setting up and piloting measures for regions – exchange of experience on implementation of S₃



SO 1.2 – What we do not finance

- projects not being clearly embedded in a territorial scenario.
- projects not involving countries of different level of innovation capacities.
- projects with pre-dominant focus on infrastructure.
- projects with pre-dominant focus on research and data collection activities without translating their outcomes into applied solutions and/or policy strategies, plans still within the project.
- projects missing a coordinated policy, planning and pilot tested led delivery approach.
- projects targeting mere skills developments without having a strategic and policy level approach and impact.



Partnership

- min. 3 partners are needed
- integration of non-EU countries is of utmost importance
- „INTERREG funds“ – bringing together ERDF, IPA and NDICI funds will facilitate equal participation of non-EU partners
- opening Lead Partnership status for all partners



D-Care Labs' PPs – a good example of partnership

- support organisations in the field of home care service provision without experiences in the field of social innovation labs – 5 PPs
- support organisations in the field of home care with experiences in the area of social innovation labs – 2 PPs
- professional lab providers with expertise in the field social investment – 3 PPs
- expert partners – 2 PPs
- scientific partners – 2 PPs



D-Care Labs' ASPs – a good example of partnership

- local level is responsible for the provision and delegation of social services
- regional level is relevant for regional development, innovation structures and acts in some cases also as legislator
- national level is especially relevant for legislation:
- transnational private social investor complements the ASP partnership



Programme Budget

- EUR 213,105,953.00
- „INTERREG funds” – bringing together ERDF, IPA and NDICI funds
- maximum EU contribution is 80% in 2021-2027 programming period
- 50% of the budget will be available in the 1st Call for Proposals

- allocated total budget for Priority Area 1: EUR 37 490 510,25



Follow developments

- DTP website:
 - general information,
 - (draft-) Danube Programme document
 - Call for Proposals announcement,
- DRP events (e.g thematic webinars, kick-off event, Lead Applicants' Seminar)
- DTP National Contact Points
- National events (e.g. national info days)
- DRP Project Officer (e.g. bilateral consultations)
- EUSDR PAs

Danube Region
Programme



Co-funded by
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<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027>