

	European Danube Region Strategy, EDRS
Priority	<i>III. Strengthening of Danube identity and cooperation</i>
Name of the programme	9. Institutional cooperation in the Danube region “MacrosCOOPe”
<i>The preliminaries, justification and objective of the programme</i>	<p>Since the change of the political system and the country’s accession to the EU, Hungary has taken great strides forward on the way to the threefold unit, building up to a paradigm, consisting of a democratic society, a market economy that serves this society, and a multilevel governance culture that is built on the previous two elements and is able to govern these systems. During the change of the paradigm, the logics of the (co)operation of these three areas have pointed from a centralized, sectoral and basically normative governance/development system of organizations and institutions toward a multilevel (decentralized), cooperative (strategic) structure with a regional approach.</p> <p>However, this transformation, on the one hand, involved rather varied results with regard to these areas and the (co)operation thereof, and, on the other hand, the latter has been intensely affected by the dynamics of transformation up to this date. The Danube region has created a new opportunity, as the matter of the Danube Strategy, the social, economic and political players that have been addressed, as well as the institutional and organizational system of the cooperation that has developed between them may become the starting point and driver of the full-fledged development of good governance and the cross-border cooperation of the governance players of the various levels, as part of the integration process.</p> <p>The key principles of “good governance” are usually characterized by the following, as accepted internationally: wide participation; endeavor to reach consensus; taking responsibility, accountability; transparency; quick response to events; effective and efficient operations; fairness, comprehensive operations that include everybody; rule of law. Through these, the reduction of corruption to the minimum can be ensured, as well as a situation where the decision-makers can hear the voice of the minorities and those who are the most vulnerable can be achieved. Good governance is responsive not only to the needs of the present but also to those of the future.</p> <p>A closer cooperation of the Danube region, the exploration of growth potentials depend on the trust between the cooperating parties. An obstacle to this is that the protection and respectful treatment of the rights of the indigenous national minorities are lagging far behind the best practices in some countries. The cooperation and bridging role of these minorities are in the interests of the Danube region and the EU alike. The representative office of the</p>

European Danube Region Strategy – Hungary II. contribution – draft
30.04.2010.

	<p>Hungarian national minorities living in the neighboring countries made a proposal on this subject to the European Commission in Brussels and it initiated that a permanent forum to make proposals be established by relying on the existing network of cooperation, with the participation of the representative offices of the national minority groups of the nations in the Danube region, by establishing Danube H-SOLVIT, besides SOLVIT, which is the dispute settling forum of the Single Market.</p> <p>The goal of the programme is to improve the quality of social governance on each regional level of the governance in the region primarily by encouraging cooperation, and thus, to strengthen the social efficiency and economic competitiveness of the region.</p>
<i>The content of the programme (subprograms)</i>	<p>9.1. Cross-border cooperation of municipalities, associations of settlements, euro regions, primarily economic and indigenous minority advocacy groups, as well as state institutions</p> <p>9.2. Development and implementation of cross-border cooperation programs in settlement and regional planning and the process of licensing procedures (sample projects: Budapest European Metropolis Program, Danube Main Street Program, Rehabilitation of Historical Danube City Centers)</p>
<i>Other countries potentially affected</i>	<p>Germany (non-paper: cooperation in legal security and good governance), Austria, Slovakia, the Ukraine, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia (non-paper: contacts with the Danube towns), Romania, Bulgaria (non-paper: Ruse international information and cooperation center for the regional and local authorities)</p>
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	<p>The joint closing statement of the regional development ministers of the V4+2 countries of their meeting of 29.03. 2010 emphasizes that the regular cross-border cooperation programmes in regional development be continued and extended to further countries.</p> <p>On the subject of governance, a dialog has started on the European level as well, the result of which is the separate chapter on governance appearing in the Europe 2020 strategy. The weight of the subject is indicated by that the principles of multi-level governance and subsidiarity were dealt with by the EU member states in the form of an informal meeting of ministers during the Spanish presidency (Malaga, March 16-17, 2010).</p>
<i>Compliance with the Danube strategy</i>	<p>III.D. Cooperation and partnership</p>
<i>Parties affected by the programme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	<p>Municipalities, groups of citizens, associations of local governments, state institutions and organizations</p>

European Danube Region Strategy – Hungary II. contribution – draft
30.04.2010.

<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	Governance will become more efficient, the funds, utilizations, costs and benefits will become more transparent. The effectiveness of governance may also grow if action is extended to everyone, if the partners are involved by the government in the responsibility to be taken for the social programmes on all levels. The Danube Strategy will give new momentum to the process of transformation, thus contributing to a more coherent, efficient, flexible governance culture, which is more easily accessible and foreseeable by everybody. The regional umbrella of the Danube Macro will create the organizational and institutional system of cooperation.
<i>The source of the financing of the programme</i>	European Social Fund, Citizens for Europe, Culture 2014, Youth
<i>Term of implementation</i>	Continuous from 2012
<i>The level of preparedness of the programme (permits, plans, expected time of start, etc.)</i>	The program does not require any licensing procedures, while the existing cooperation programs such as the Danube Partnership Network may provide a good basis.
<i>Relationship with other programmes</i>	Hungary-Slovakia Initiative for a Sustainable Network Cooperation II, (European Regional Cooperation Program), DunaLog programme

European Danube Region Strategy, EDRS	
Name of subprogramme	9.1. Cross-border cooperation of municipalities, associations of settlements, primarily economic and indigenous minority advocacy groups, euro regions, as well as state institutions
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Hungary, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, the Ukraine, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	Budapest and towns along the Danube
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the subprogramme</i>	<p>The key principles of “good governance” are usually characterized by the following, as accepted internationally: wide participation; endeavor to reach consensus; taking responsibility, accountability; transparency; quick response to events; effective and efficient operations; fairness, comprehensive operations that include everybody; rule of law. Through these, the reduction of corruption to the minimum can be ensured, as well as a situation where the decision-makers can hear the voice of the minorities and those who are the most vulnerable can be achieved. Good governance is responsive not only to the needs of the present but also to those of the future.</p> <p>A closer cooperation of the Danube region, the exploration of growth potentials depend on the trust between the cooperating parties. An obstacle to this is that the protection and respectful treatment of the rights of the indigenous national minorities are lagging far behind the best practices in some countries. The cooperation and bridging role of these minorities are in the interests of the Danube region and the EU alike.</p>
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	Political commitment on the level of the interests of the individual member states
<i>Common interests of the Danube Member States</i>	The states of the Danube region wish to enforce the principle of good governance in cooperation as well, in order to enforce a higher participation of the citizens and those of the fundamental rights.
<i>Parties affected by the subprogramme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Citizens, institutions, municipalities, state organizations, real estate developers-investors
<i>The content of the subprogramme, projects</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening of the relationships between the sister cities and the euro regions, the establishment of new relationships in the Danube region for sharing experience and transferring knowledge 2. Strengthening of social involvement by involving advocacy groups in decision-making 3. Strengthening of municipality-level cooperation by involving international partners 4. Establishment of a Euro-regional Cooperation Forum for the regions 5. Establishment of the association of Danube chambers
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	Through the application of this, governance will become more efficient, the funds, utilizations, costs and benefits will become more transparent. The effectiveness of governance may also grow if action

	is extended to everyone, if the partners are involved by the government in the responsibility to be taken for the social programs on all levels. The more organized cooperation of the representative bodies of the indigenous minorities may give a boost to the development of the region, the spreading of the best regulatory practices, the enforcement of the values of the EU, as well as the good neighbor relations between the states. These objectives are also meant for those of the Danube regions which are near the external borders of the EU.
<i>Cost requirement of the subprogramme</i>	Currently unknown
<i>The term of implementation</i>	Continuous from 2012
<i>The level of preparedness of the subprogramme</i>	The subprogram does not require any licensing procedures, while the existing cooperation programmes such as the Danube Partnership Network may provide a good basis.

European Danube Region Strategy, EDRS	
Name of the subprogramme	9.2. Cross-border cooperation programmes in settlement and regional planning
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Hungary, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, the Ukraine, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	Border regions of the Danube
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the subprogramme</i>	The cooperation programmes in urban planning are aimed at the harmonized functional development of the elements of the polycentric urban network system, and this, by the learning process through good examples, also serves the spreading of good urban planning practices.
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	
<i>Common interests of the Danube Member States</i>	Development of a polycentric urban network for the strengthening regional competitiveness
<i>Parties affected by the subprogramme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Municipalities, universities specializing in urban planning, design institutes and professional organizations, as well as regional and county municipalities
<i>The content of the subprogramme, projects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common regional planning – harmonization of regional development plans, contributing to the regional planning coordination by developing and implementing the process of common licensing procedures in the border regions ▪ Cooperation programmes in urban planning and urban management (problems related to the agglomerations, greenbelt planning, urban management, incentive schemes for investments, strategy development processes, facility designs, urban marketing, etc.)
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	The harmonization of the area utilization and regulatory plan requirements of the border regions and the involvement of the affected settlements of the neighboring country will contribute to the harmonization of the mutual interests of the partner states, as well as the prevention of environmental problems that may arise from the future area utilization.
<i>Cost requirement of the subprogramme</i>	Currently unknown
<i>The term of implementation</i>	Continuous from 2012
<i>The level of preparedness of the subprogramme (permits, plans, expected time of start, links to ongoing investments, etc.)</i>	The project does not require any licensing procedures, while the results of the existing cooperation programmes such as those of the DunaLog programme may provide a good basis.

	European Danube Region Strategy, EDRS
Name of the subprogramme	9.2. Cross-border cooperation programmes in settlement and regional planning
Project name	9.2.1. Budapest European Metropolis
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Germany, Austria, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia Justified by: intermediary role between the Western European and the South-Eastern European states
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	Budapest Metropolis: this means an area that surrounds the central city in a 60-80 km radius, and one that cooperates with it, including Dunaújváros, Kecskemét, Balassagyarmat, the Ipoly area, Esztergom, Tatabánya and Székesfehérvár
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the project</i>	Europe's traditional division into Northern and Southern Europe, as well as Western and Eastern Europe is in the process of transformation : to Western Europe, the Eastern European, Balkan, Belorussian and Turkish regions have opened up, which have created new markets. By its reaction to the needs of the Adriatic, Balkan and Black Sea regions and its intermediation of the needs of the Western regions, Hungary's role may be appreciated within the Union. In order to ensure appropriate market operations and to create growth, the task to perform is to develop the urban distribution centers . Budapest as a distribution center would become responsible for building connections in the broad sense of the word, by performing such tasks related to human capital as coordination between the institutions, strengthening of transnational cooperation, contribution to the establishment of self-organized identity regions, management of information flow between the cities, sharing of good examples, consulting, business advising, training, building of cultural connections, spreading of social culture.
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	The obtaining of professional and political legitimacy and the adoption of the program by society are in progress, the objective is to incorporate the programme into the national development policy.
<i>Common interests of the Danube Member States</i>	Hungary may fulfill an intermediary role between the Western European and South-Eastern European regions (cooperation programs between universities along the Danube, knowledge export, cultural transfer). The sample project of urban regional planning is the development of the metropolis model adaptable for the urban regions of the Danube Region.
<i>Parties affected by the project (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Danube city governments, professional organizations and NGO's , chambers, cross-border organizations, interregional cooperation organizations
<i>The content of the project</i>	International positioning, development of internal networks, contribution to intra-regional specialization. Besides the development of the large facilities of the urban region such as the public road and railroad networks, the establishment of metropolis, i.e. identity and

	service providing sub-centers. Strengthening the further growth conditions of sectors with future growth potentials.
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	By relying on its weight in the Danube region, Budapest may become a strong point of gravity for the network of the Danube urban regions both on the international and national levels. The Budapest metropolis may intermediate the dynamics of the growth points in Central Europe to the communities situated on the lower sections of the Danube.
<i>Cost requirement of the project</i>	Currently unknown
<i>The term of implementation</i>	Between 2010 and 2014 Implementation: continuous from 2014
<i>The level of preparedness of the project</i>	To be launched immediately: the Budapest European Metropolis Orientation Study on Economic Development has been prepared; completed proposals for institutional development. DunaLog and the organization of the Danube Partnership Network are already operating.

European Danube Region Strategy, EDRS	
Name of the subprogramme	9.2. Cross-border cooperation programs in settlement and regional planning
Project name	9.2.2. Budapest's Danube Strategy: Danube Main Street Program – Sample Project for the City Regional Cooperation of Danube Capitals
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Germany, Austria, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia Justified by: experience that can be shared with the big cities along the Danube such as Vienna, Belgrade, or Bratislava, building of connections
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	Danube section stretching from Esztergom to Dunaújváros and their settlements
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the project</i>	Background: establishment of DunaLog , a cooperation program for the integration of the towns and urban regions situated in the South European region, and the generation of joint projects, as well as the creation of a national coordination organization called the Danube Partnership Network (with over 40 Hungarian settlements and settlement associations), whose goal is to harmonize the Danube developments in Hungary on a national level. The program is aimed at strengthening the connections between the individual cities (core centers) on the Danube on the one hand, and strengthening of the unity of the capital and its region stretching to the surrounding city ring in the Budapest metropolis area, including the identification of roles and the mutual strengthening of each other, on the other hand. Introduction of a new planning culture , the aim of which is to merge future-oriented planning based on the strategic fundamentals with adaptive community management. The organizational setup developed and legitimized during the programme is capable of meeting the requirements of multi-level governance and of involving those players whose opinions are critical in formulating the common will.
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	Integrated Urban Development Strategy of Budapest In progress: regulation of the Budapest Danube section on the level of the capital
<i>Common interests of the Danube Member States</i>	The knowledge and experience gained in relation to the developed process management can be shared with other European Danube cities. The equal chances of development formed as a result of cooperation between the Danube settlements
<i>Parties affected by the project (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Danube city governments, professional organizations and NGO's , chambers, cross-border organizations, interregional cooperation organizations
<i>The content of the project</i>	The planning process governed by structural planning, with the participation of the legitimacy, professional and inhabitants' groups of various levels, as well as the players of implementation Definition of an innovative revitalization strategy and development programme extending to the Danube and the related urban areas, as

	well as the implementation of an international architectural brainstorming tender and the results thereof , on the basis of the latter
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	The program may serve as a revitalization development sample project for the Danube member states in strengthening regional cohesion, the improvement of regional and local cooperation, as well as cooperation with third countries (i.e. those outside the European Union), and the strengthening of traditional cultural and historical ties.
<i>Cost requirement of the project</i>	Currently unknown
<i>The term of implementation</i>	Planning, preparation: between 2010 and 2014 Implementation: continuous from 2014
<i>The level of preparedness of the project (permits, plans, expected time of start, links to ongoing investments, etc.)</i>	The preparation of the project began in 2008. The Heart of Budapest Programme, which is a related project aimed at the renewal of the public areas indicated in the Integrated Urban Development Strategy of Budapest, is being implemented. The building of facilities, the international university workshops, as well as the preparation of the design tender accepted by the International Union of Architects (UIA).