

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

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For Sustainable and Smart Urban Development

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MINISTRY OF
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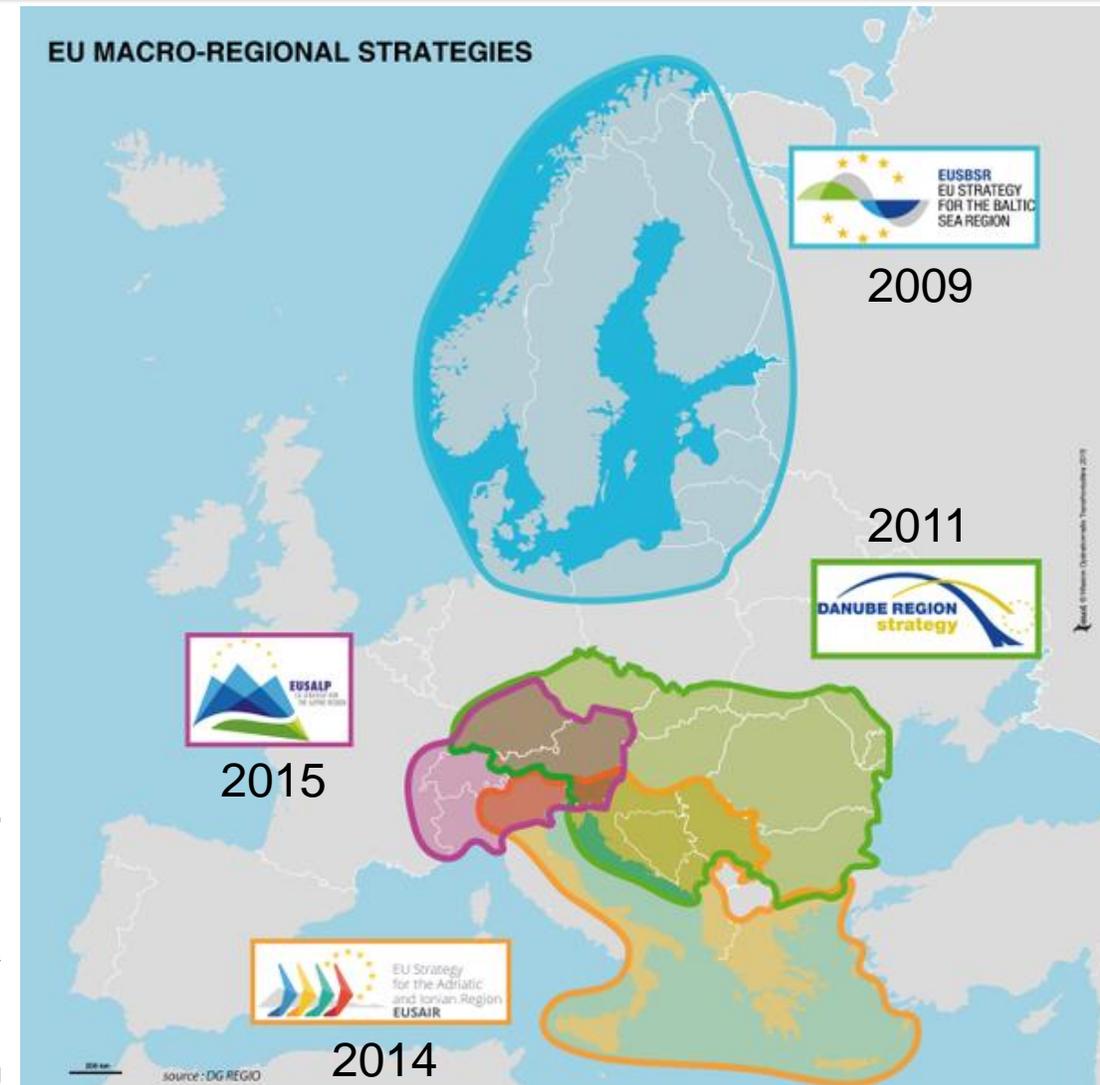
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Macro-regional Strategies of EU

- ❑ EUSDR was adopted under the Hungarian EU Presidency in 2011
- ❑ 2nd macro-regional strategy of the EU
- ❑ Currently Slovenia is presiding the EUSDR
- ❑ Guiding principle: 3 NOs - “no new EU funds, no additional EU formal structures, no new EU legislation”

EUSDR is the single macro-regional strategy of EU established on the basis of a river basin.

Source: <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CUAwL88WwAAh1cH.png>



EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)



9 EU Member States

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern)
- Hungary
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia

5 EU Accession Countries

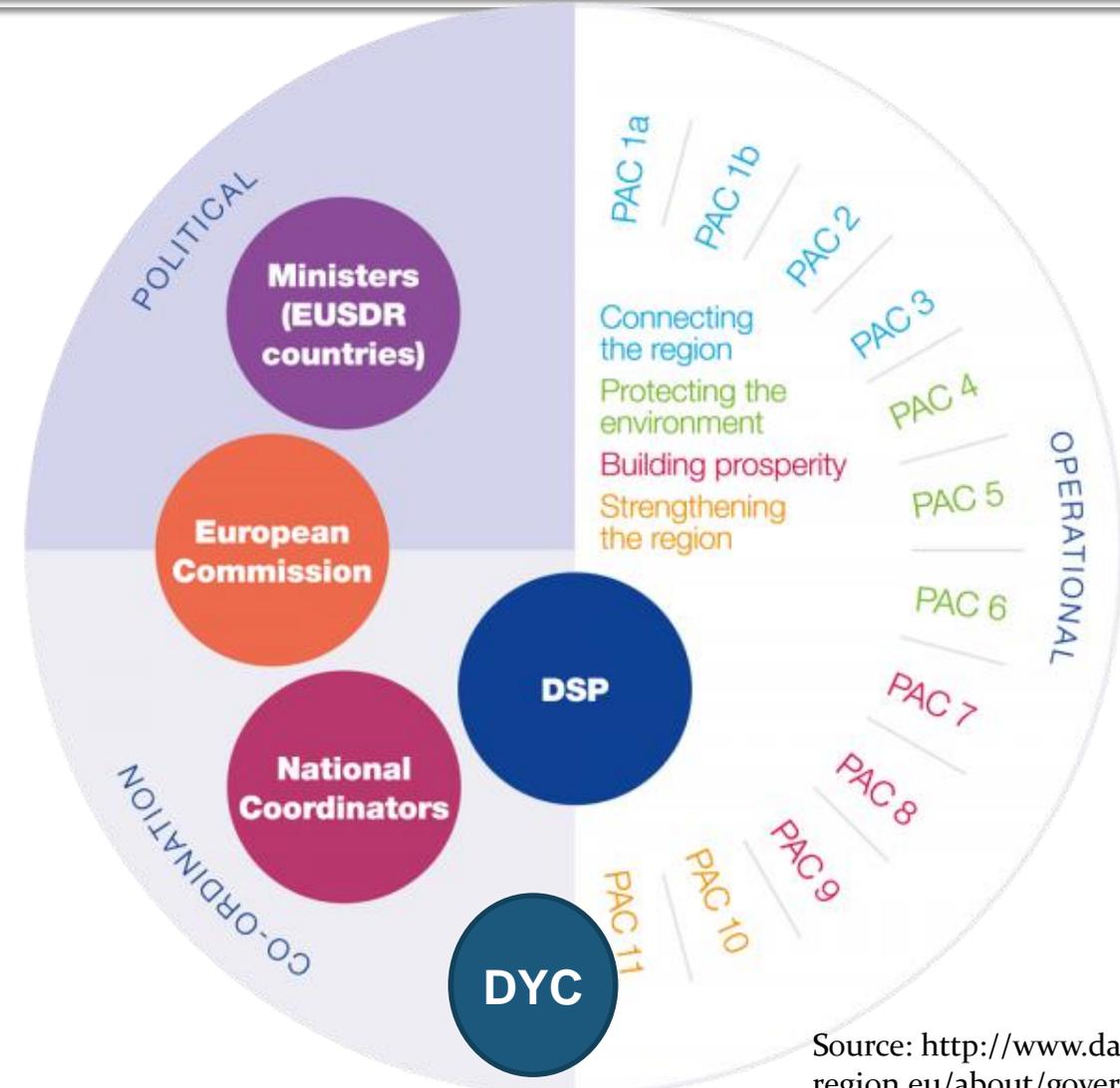
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Moldova
- Ukraine (4 districts)



- 14 countries
- More than 100 million inhabitants
- 10% of the territory of Europe

Governance of the EUSDR

- **Joint Ministerial declarations** representing the commitment of countries for DRS issues.
- **National coordinators** (14 NC) decision making body – (Office of the Government of the Czech Republic)
- **Priority Area coordinators** (PACs)
- **Steering Groups** (SG) as the forum of decisions within each priority area
- **Danube Strategy Point** (DSP) - supporting coordination and communication
- **Danube Youth Council** (DYC) since 2022



Harmonization of territorial development under 4 pillars and 12 priority areas

- EUSDR sustainable energy priority area (PA2) is CO-coordinated by HU & CZ (Ministry of Industry and Trade in CZ)

Connecting the Danube Region			Building Prosperity in the Danube Region		
PA 1/a	To improve mobility and multimodality - Inland waterways	Austria and Romania	PA 7	Knowledge society	Serbia and Slovakia
PA 1/b	To improve mobility and multimodality - Road, rail and air links	Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine	PA 8	Competitiveness	Baden-Württemberg and Croatia
PA 2	Sustainable energy 	Czech Republic and Hungary	PA 9	People and Skills	Austria, Moldova and Ukraine
PA 3	Culture and Tourisms	Bulgaria and Romania			
Protecting the Environment			Strengthening the Danube Region		
PA 4	Water quality	Hungary and Slovakia	PA 10	Institutional capacity and cooperation	Austria and Slovenia
PA 5	Environmental Risks	Hungary and Romania	PA 11	Security	Bulgaria and Germany
PA 6	Biodiversity	Germany and Croatia			

Main technical topics of EUSDR PA₂

- ❑ Renewable energy (especially geothermal)
- ❑ Energy efficiency
- ❑ Heating and cooling sector
- ❑ Security of energy supply – focus gas markets and gas supply
- ❑ New innovative technologies (e.g. hydrogen)
- ❑ Local low-carbon energy communities
- ❑ Comprehensive policy analyses (e.g. Russian gas phaseout; National Energy and Climate Plans)



Embedding – the financial toolkit of EUSDR



Danube Strategy Flagships 2022



- **Projects/processes/networks/platforms** that contribute to the implementation of the EUSDR,
- have a clear **macro-regional dimension** and a **multi-level governance** approach.
- They are of high importance for the Danube Region's economic, social and territorial cohesion and for improving the quality of life
- **strengthen** internal and external **communication** of the Strategy
- **states may** consider to explicitly **foster Flagships** in the EUSDR **through**, for instance, **dedicated funding** opportunities, **enhanced communication** and/or **promotion at political/ministerial level**.

Danube Strategy Flagships 2022

- Altogether **27 EUSDR flagships** were **selected in 2022**.

Let's see some examples:

- **PA2 - Promote local low-carbon energy actions in the EUSDR**

- enable the spread of comprehensive systems, such as e.g. the “**European Energy Award**” (EEA) that facilitate the daily operation work of local authorities in their municipal energy planning
- to establish a network of experts and interested municipalities (“**Danube Region Advisory Hub**”) that support the **set-up of new and the expansion of existing energy communities** in a broader sense

- **PA5 - Disaster Management Working Group**

- Led by the Budapest Firefighter Association, CZ Ministry of Environment (national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework), Technical Univ. of Ostrava Occupational Safety Research Institute

- **PA11 - Collaboration for Dismantling Drugs Distribution and Illicit Laboratories (CO₃DIL)**

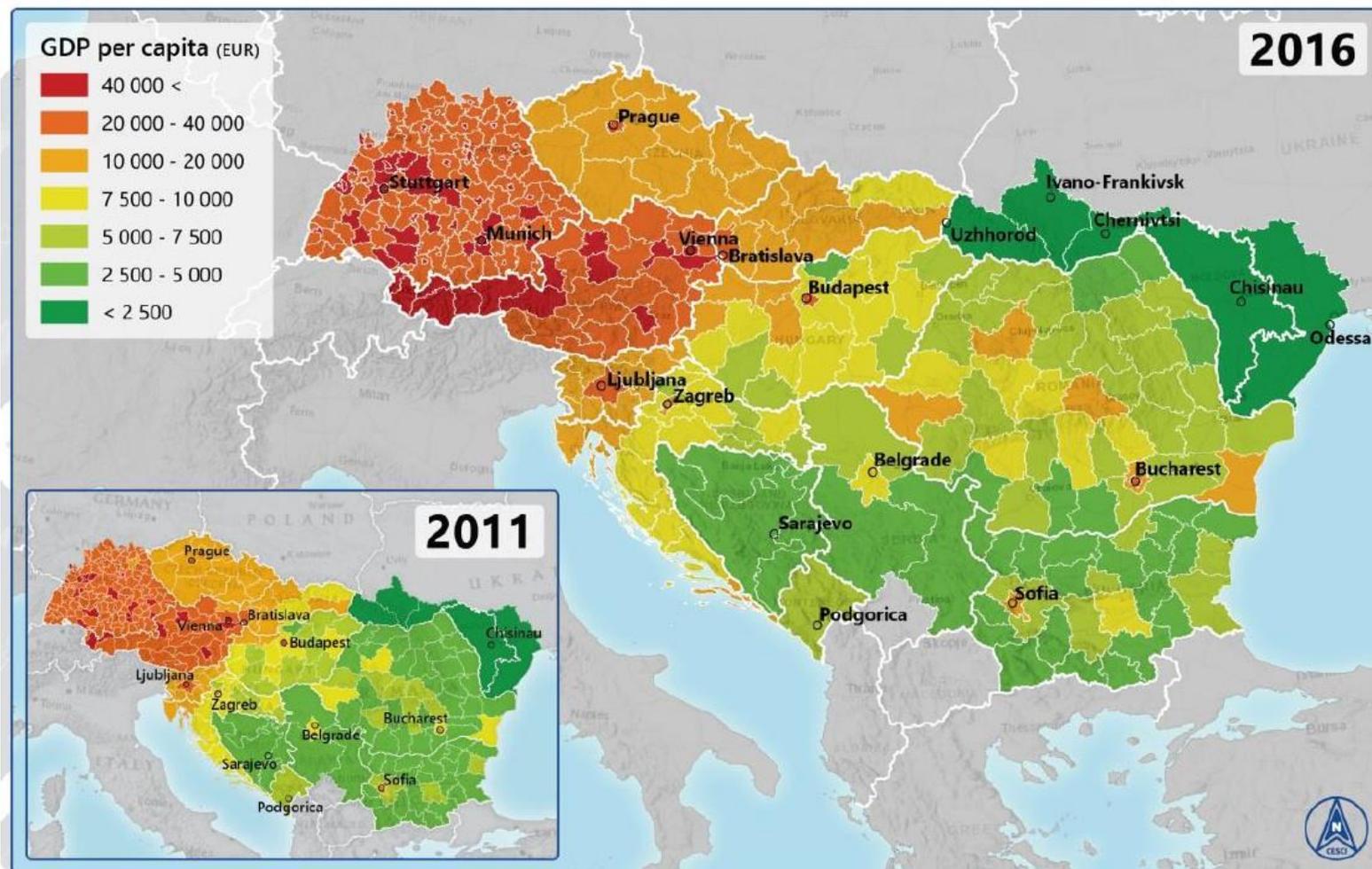
- The leader of the project was the National Drug Headquarters of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic



Some challenges in the DRB

Trends and challenges in the DRB

- Still significant regional differences in GDP per capita within the DRB.



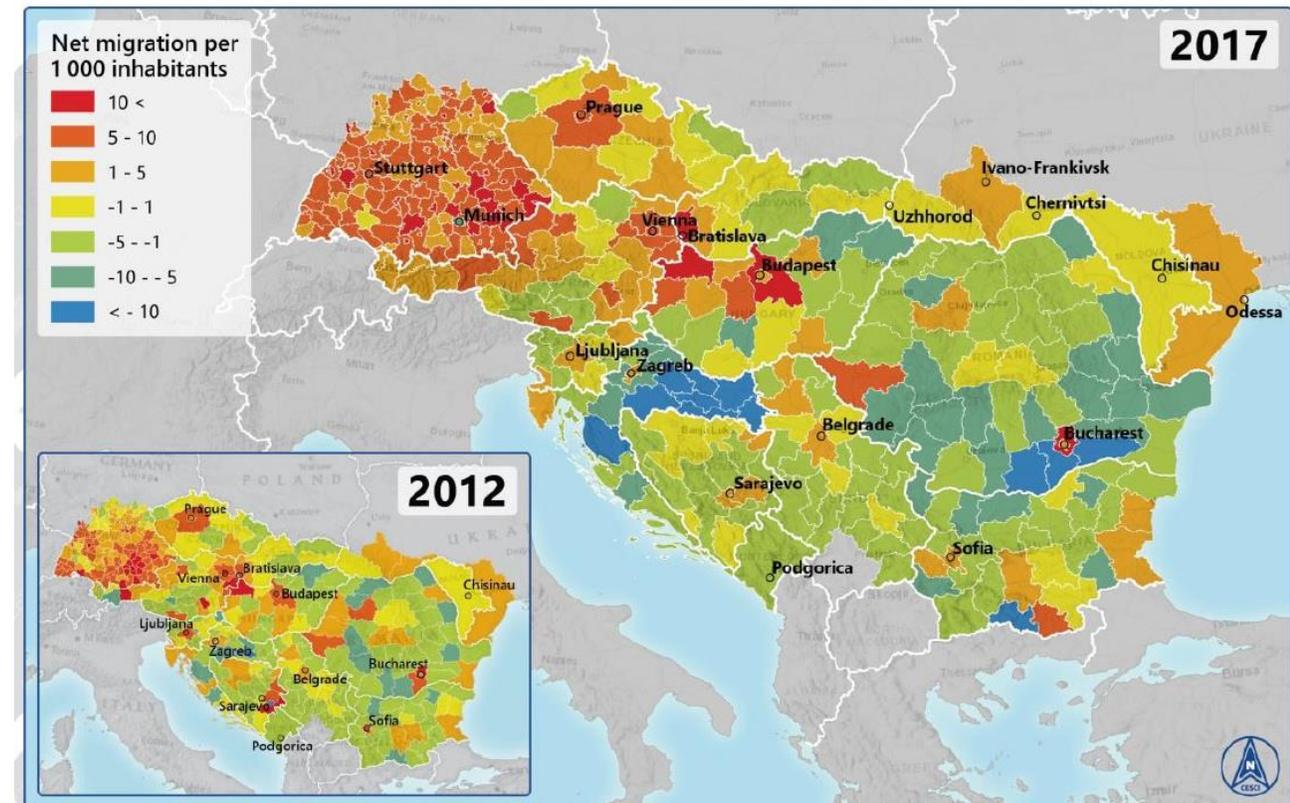
source: ESRI database, Eurostat, national statistical offices, data submitted by the members
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Changing and accelerated regional processes in the DRB

- SE-NW direction of internal migration
- Migration from rural to urban areas
- High border density
- Obstacles in cross-border services and administration

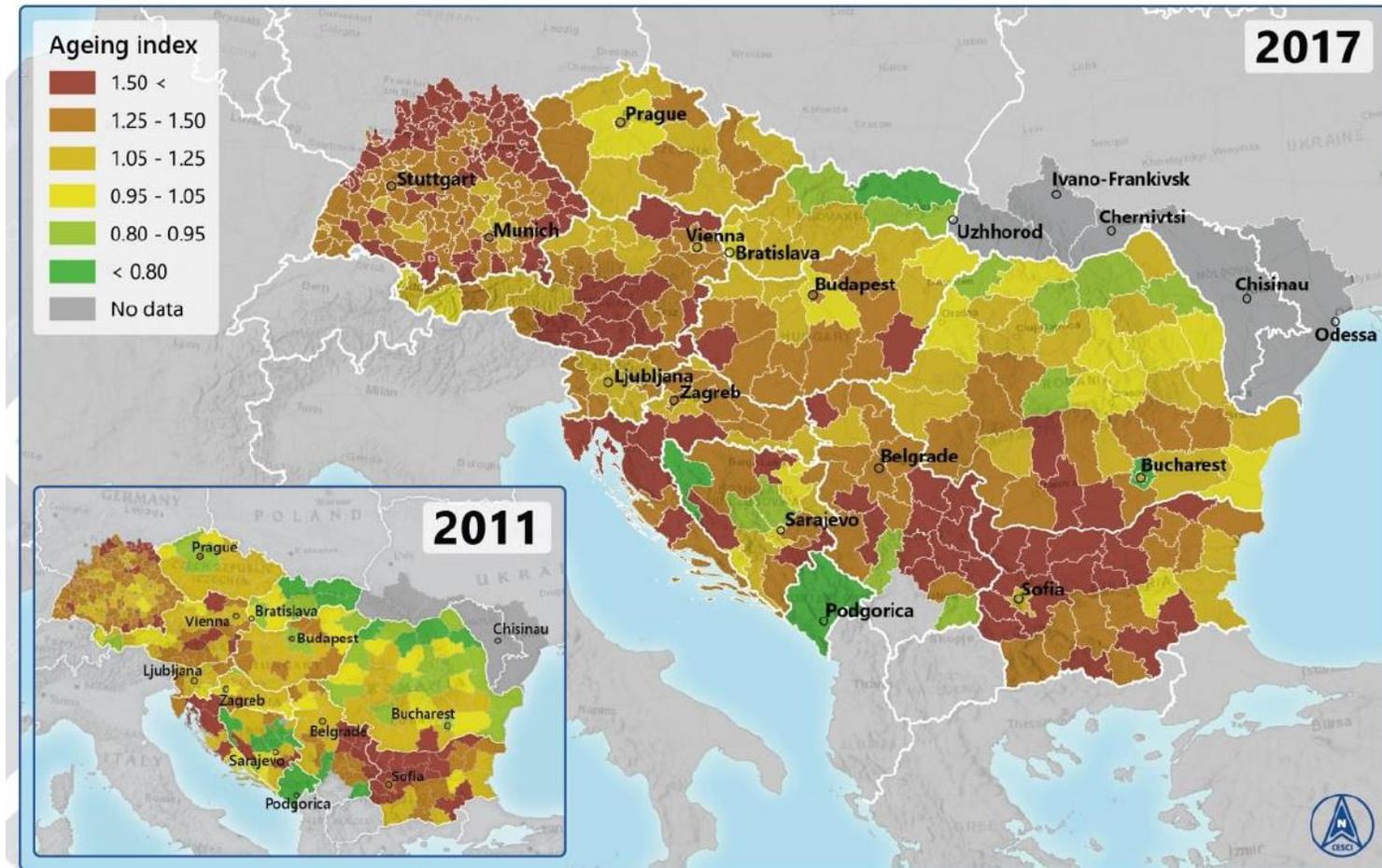
shrinking
places



Changing and accelerated regional processes in the DRB - ageing



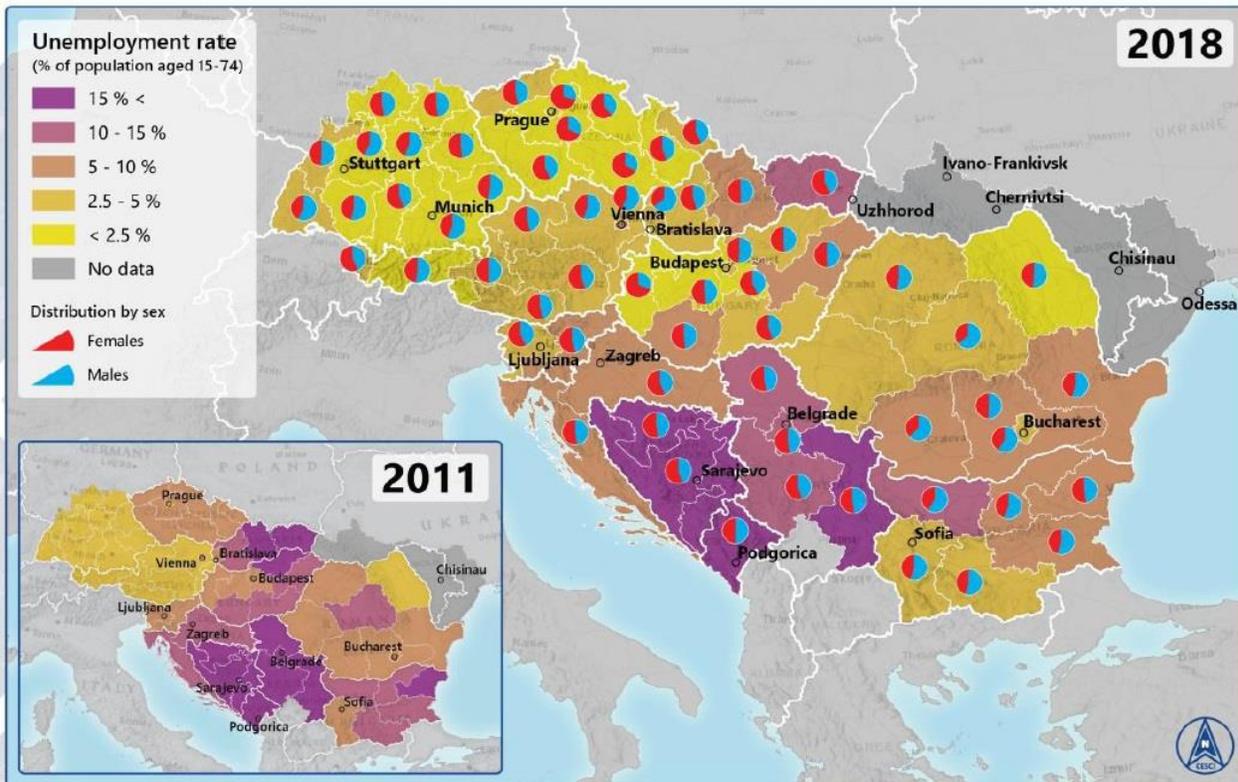
Spatial distribution of **ageing index** in the Danube Region



Changing and accelerated regional processes in the DRB - unemployment



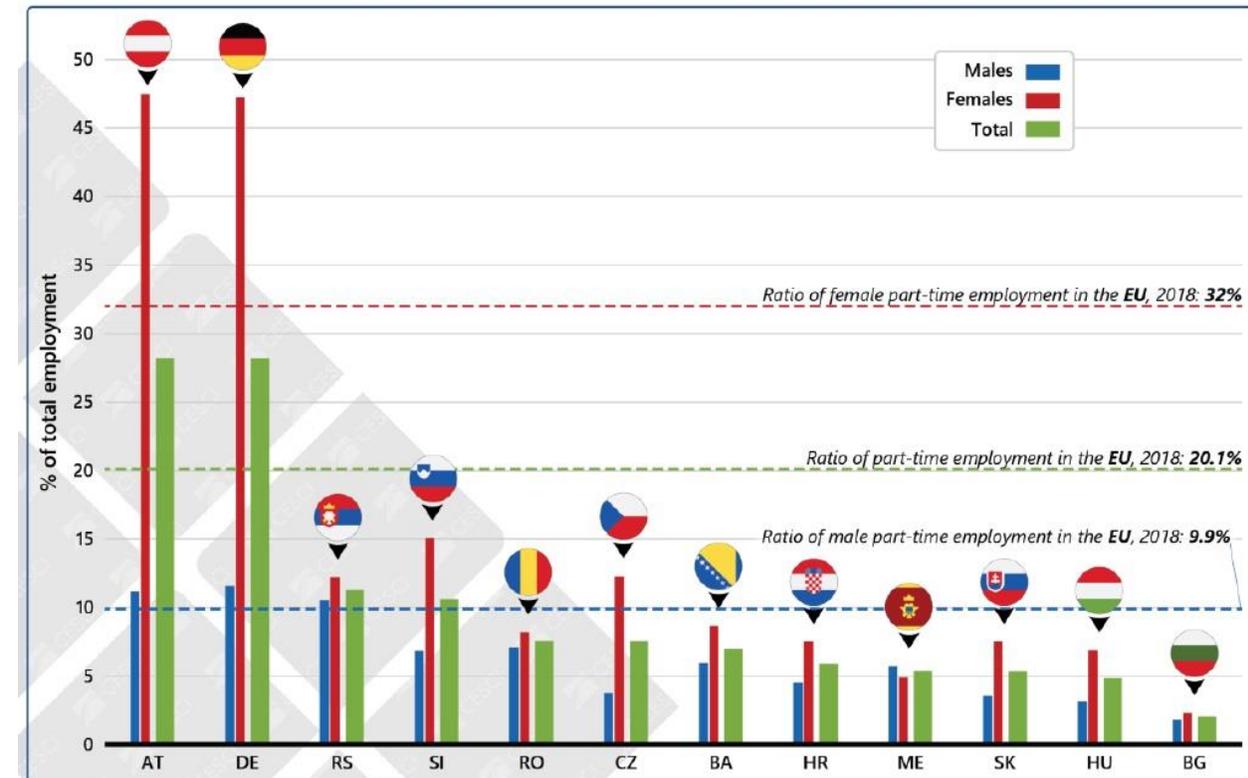
Spatial distribution of **unemployment** in the Danube Region



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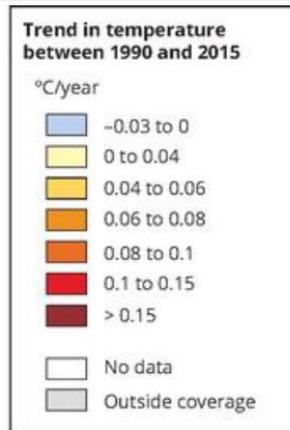
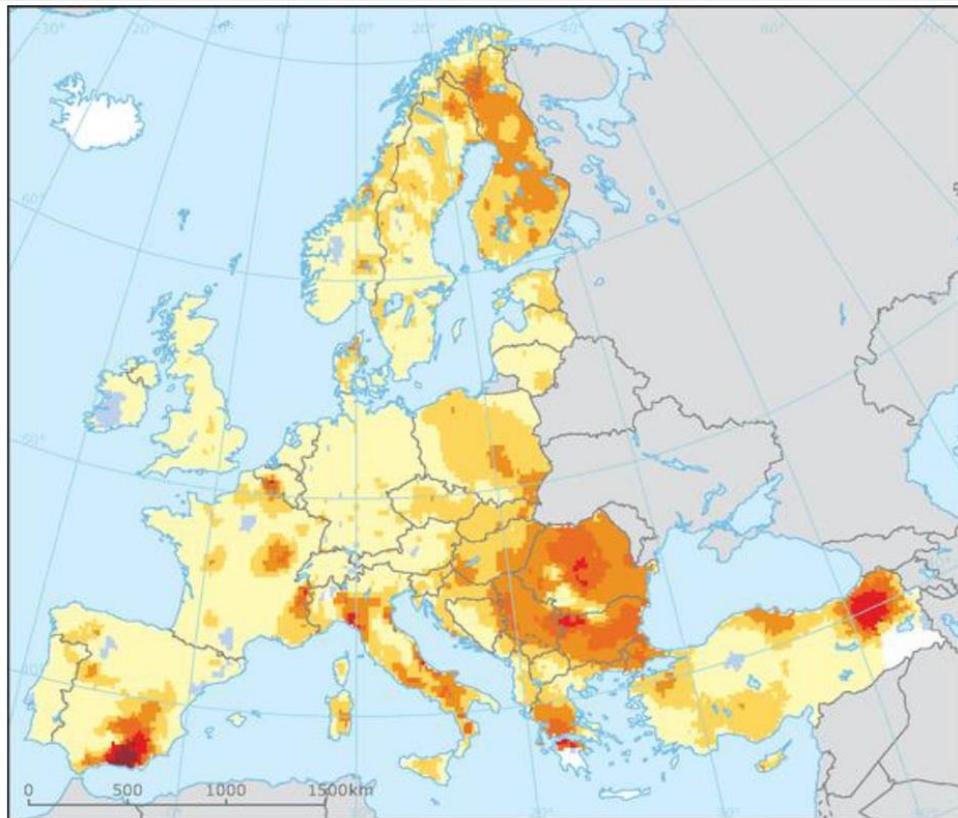
Territorial differences in **part-time employment** in the Danube Region, 2018



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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 Moldova and Ukraine data is missing.

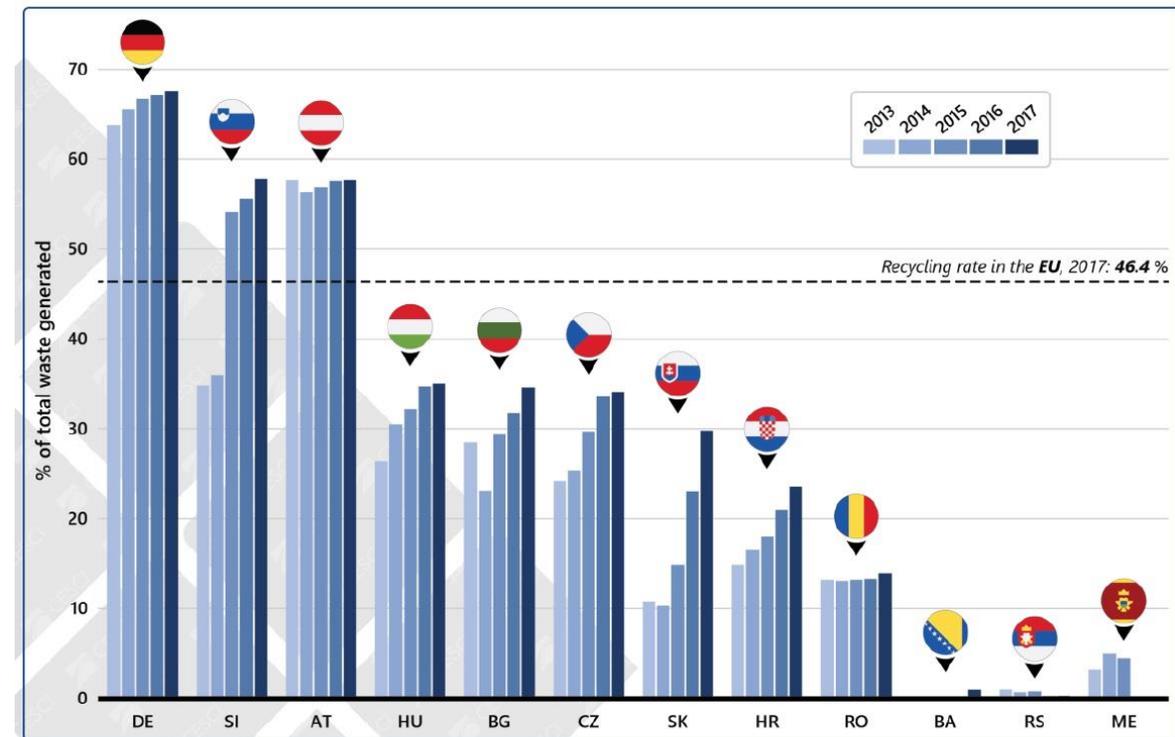
Trends and challenges in the DRB



Change of average surface temperature 1990-2015 (Source: EEA)

Communal waste recycling in the DRB (2013-2017)

Digitization, brain-drain, industry4.0, circular economy, microplastics etc.



source: Eurostat, data submitted by the members
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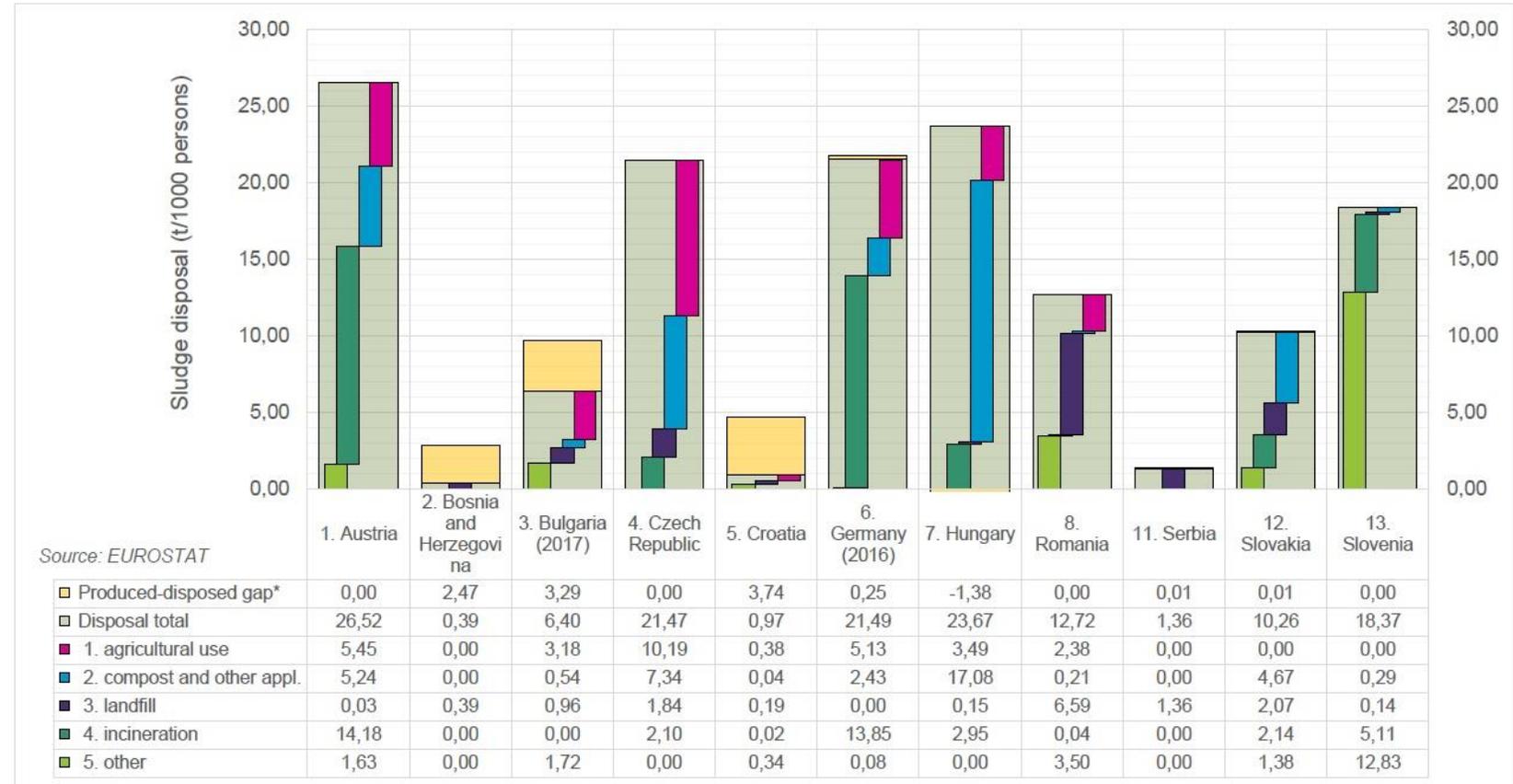
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Some examples for implemented/planned transnational projects

Sewage sludge management in the DRB

- Comparative desk analysis of sewage sludge management in the DRB was financed by EUSDR HU coordination in 2021.



14. Figure: Sludge management in the EUSDR countries – annual figures (2016 / 2017 / 2018)

All data presented in the above figure and table represent the latest available data published by EUROSTAT for each country as shown in the section on national data respectively. In the case of Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine there were no sufficient numeric data found to be included in the figure.

Proactive drought management in the DRB - DriDanube



- **Drought Risk in the Danube Region (DriDanube)**
- Partnership: 15 partners from 10 countries (Global Changes Research Institute CAS; OMSZ, MATE) + 8 ASP (State Land Office CZ, Ministry of Agriculture HU)
- Project duration: 01/2017 - 09/2019
- Budget: 1.97 M EUR

Aimed to increase the capacity of the Danube region to manage drought related risks. Turning the reactive approach to proactive with:

- Harmonized drought risk and impact assessments;
- Drought Watch for more efficient monitoring and early warning tested in 5 countries (CZ, HR, ME, RO, SI) and National Reporters Network established
- Improved decision-making process and drought emergency response.

Source: www.enca.com



Project examples - under preparation

- ❑ **SAFETY4TMF** (Coordinated prevention and disaster management activities on Tailings Management Facilities by authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders for solutions reducing transnational risks and hazards)
- ❑ 19 partners from 10 countries (HU Ministry of Interior, **Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic**, Occupational Safety Research Institute CZ etc.)
- ❑ Submission to the Interreg Danube Region Programme 1st Call 2nd round (16th June)



Tailing pond – Geamana, Romania
(Photo MTI/Ildikó Baranyi)



Cyanide pollution of the
River Tisza in 2000
(Goran Tomasevic/Reuters)

Project examples - under preparation



STREEM (Supporting Transition to Renewable Energy by Empowering Municipalities in the Danube Region)

- ❑ 12 partners from 7 countries (Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities as LP, Friends of the Earth CZ) + 9 ASPs (from CZ: **Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic; National Network of the Local Action Groups**)
- ❑ Submission to the Interreg Danube Region Programme 1st Call 2nd round (16th June)
- ❑ Main objective is to establish a long-term and sustainable one-stop-shop **advisory service for local governments** that empowers them with tailor-made tools and methods **fostering their green energy transition.**
 - ❑ support on how to **better coordinate** activities targeting **low-carbon (RES-based) energy systems** in complex **local energy planning** framework
 - ❑ is how to **encourage the citizens in participatory process** of achieving decentralised, equitable, and regenerative energy systems.



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Thank you for the kind attention!



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For more information please
visit our website:
<https://danube-region.eu/>
<https://dunaregiostrategia.kormany.hu/>