

## Knowledge building and exchange

Better skills for health

Around 1.2 million people in the Danube Region suffer from Celiac disease, an autoimmune condition triggered by gluten. Owing to disparities in medical expertise, infrastructure and healthcare budgets, treatment approaches vary significantly across the region.

The project CD SKILLS focuses on harmonising diagnostic tools and training doctors, medical staff and patients as well as catering services to improve the treatment of Celiac disease. A wide range of information and teaching materials is provided, while a multisectoral transnational network facilitates mutual learning. By addressing knowledge gaps and providing tailored learning environments, CD SKILLS builds a common knowledge base in the Danube Region, ensuring a consistent and high standard of care for all.



**The Danube Region Strategy bridges international cooperation with local investment. Project results are fed back to the policy level, enabling broad impact through enhanced institutional knowledge.**



Learn more about this value in our video about CD SKILLS.



## Awareness building and common values

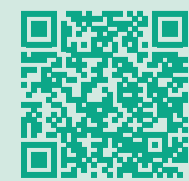
Empowering women in forestry

From the Black Forest to the extensive primeval woods of Romania, forestry remains a cornerstone of rural development in the Danube Region. The visibility of women in the sector – whether as forest owners or part of the workforce – is often low, and their contributions to a more sustainable forestry are underestimated.

The Fem4Forest project advocates for mutually attractive working conditions for men and women in the sector to foster a culture of equality and inclusion. By providing training and building a cross-border network, the project has empowered women to gain a stronger foothold in forestry throughout the region. Diversifying the workforce and building a common understanding of challenges like climate change and demographic shifts have also contributed to the sector's resilience.



**Awareness building is important to ensure that structural challenges, such as the climate crisis and demographic change, receive attention alongside everyday issues everywhere. A common understanding of these problems and shared values form the foundation for addressing them jointly.**



Learn more about this value in our video about Fem4Forest.



## Transnational solutions for common problems

Restoring nature across borders

Animals migrate, grass spreads, water flows; nature transcends national boundaries. Consequently, environmental conservation must not stop at borders. In the Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, a stunning river landscape spans through Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. However, narrow riverbeds, isolated sidearms and the loss of biodiversity are problematic for the entire ecosystem.

Therefore, the project LIFE RESTORE for MDD aims to rehabilitate 29 sites in the biosphere reserve in cooperation with regional administrations, universities, and environmental organisations. The project points out conflicting management practices and advocates protecting the region's biodiversity. The joint activities effectively address macro-regional challenges with local causes or effects to gain sustainable impact.



**Cooperation is key to sustainable solutions: Only by working together to overcome barriers and borders and by engaging also at a strategic level, can we solve problems without unintentionally causing new issues elsewhere.**



Learn more about this value in our video about LIFE RESTORE for MDD.

## Realise new potentials through cooperation

Exploring history together

The common Roman history of the Danube Region is well documented by the archaeological sites found along the river. Historically, the Danube formed the northern border of the Roman Empire and served as a waterway connecting settlements and defences.

Today, the scientific examination, tourist presentation, and public visibility of these sites vary greatly. This is where the project Living Danube Limes comes in. By bringing together expert institutions, public authorities, and civil society organisations across ten countries along the Danube, the project supports museums and visitor sites to better engage the public and protect Roman heritage. The Connecting Cruise on a reconstructed 4th-century Roman patrol vessel symbolises new potentials unlocked through this cooperation.



**Diversity is a key strength of the Danube Region: its many languages, cuisines, arts, and histories enrich the entire area. Through mutual learning, this diversity creates immense potential for common growth – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.**



Learn more about this value in our video about Living Danube Limes.

## Immediate impact on everyday life

Safe cycling routes for daily use

The cycling path along the Danube is renowned as one of the most picturesque routes for bicycling in Europe. However, not all sections on the route have been developed to the same quality standards yet. Promoting cycling for leisure and daily commuting is an important lever for the mobility transition in the Danube Region.

In the project Danube Cycle Plans, partners from nine countries worked together to lay the groundwork for improving the cycling infrastructure. Plans for local and regional bicycle networks and their quality standards were developed. Today, these foundations contribute to the construction of new bicycle paths, including in Romania, for example. Route inspectors trained as part of the project ensure that both local communities and tourists can rely on well maintained and safe bicycle routes in the country.



**Extensive cooperative structures enable projects that improve people's basic living conditions. However, while functional public services are often taken for granted, disruptions quickly draw attention. The question remains: how can we make the benefits of cooperation more visible?**



Learn more about this value in our video about Danube Cycle Plans.



## Stability through cooperative structures

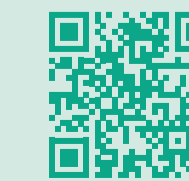
Building a long-lasting network

The Danube Region faces numerous challenges in various fields, such as infrastructure development, environmental protection, culture, education, business, and security. Addressing these, the Danube Region Strategy has united 14 countries in a unique network, transcending EU borders to foster collaboration and mutual learning.

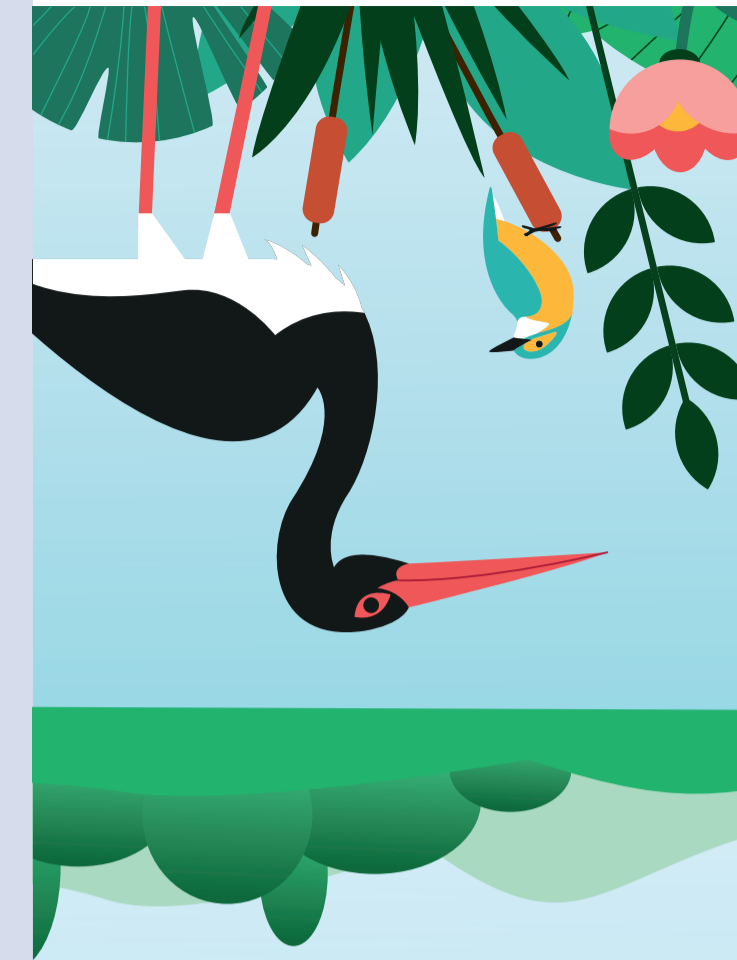
The Strategy provides a structured framework for joint activities and projects, offering a platform to find partners, ensuring thematic coherence, and supporting long-term cooperation. Moreover, it allows the integration of accession candidates into European collaborative structures on an equal footing.

The daily efforts of political, institutional, and civil society stakeholders across local, regional, and national levels within the 'EUSDR Family' and beyond foster mutual understanding and prosperous development in the region.

**Cooperation in the Danube Region thrives with strong support from local administrations. Direct collaboration between cities and regions proves highly productive, as they are closer to people's daily lives and often pioneer solutions that can later be adopted at the national level.**



Learn more about this value in our video about Stability through Cooperation.



# Danube Region Thriving through cooperation

## Added values of cooperation:

Building the Danube Region together

The Danube, both a unifying and dividing force, lends its name to a region that has been interwoven for centuries through shared histories, economic and social ties, and natural legacies. The gradual integration of the Danube Region's countries into the European Union and the implementation of the 2011 Danube Region Strategy have deepened this connection. But what drives our enthusiasm for cooperation in the Danube Region?



Thanks to Dagmar Karisch-Gierer, Janus Maftei, Jernej Dolinšek, Stefan Prünner, Anna Kaiser, Nadia Atanasieva and Yasmin Sadiković for talking to us about their work and projects in the Danube Region. Thanks to Jürgen Schick, Jörg Hirtl, Konrad Staniš, Kathrin Huber, Harald Lisch, Rudolf Schickler, Sebastian Schäffer, Martin Hütter and Hannes Swoboda for reflecting with us on the added values of cooperation in the Danube Region.

IMPDRINT: Media owner and publisher: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, (BML), Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
 Concept and editing: UUV Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH, Vienna's climate and innovation agency. Graphic design and illustrations: The Gentlemen Creatives. Production: Lindenaue Productions GmbH, 1030 Wien. Print: Gerin Druck GmbH, 2120 Walkersdorf.

Vienna, 2024 | 1<sup>st</sup> edition | All rights reserved.



# Discover the Danube Region

Strength through diversity



## Facts about the Danube Region

- 18 days** Average time for a drop of water to flow along the entire Danube River
- 3.7bn** Number of bathtubs that could be filled by the water flowing from the Danube River into the Black Sea each day
- >30** Ethnic groups identified in the Danube Region
- 4** National anthems that mention the Danube River
- 120** World Heritage sites in the Danube Region
- 30%** Portion of land in the Danube Region covered by forest
- 6** Sturgeon species found in the Danube River
- 18** Hydropower plants operating along the Danube River
- 173** Trucks that can be replaced by one inland navigation vessel
- 25%** Share of EU-27 population that lives in the Danube Region