

Ecology

Social Affairs

Economy

Sustainable Operations Network in the Danube Region



Danube Transnational (2016 – 2020)



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Sustainability Working Group of the Working Community of the Danube Regions Areas of soil conservation and socio-ecological production

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Sustainable Operations Network in the Danube Region *Work package of SONDAR+:*

“Soil and Land Use“

1. Short description

Based on initial success, the continuation and expansion of this soil network are of crucial importance: through broadening the range of this topic, new ideas can be adopted, required work can be divided across more shoulders, and on the whole the relationship between the organizations and persons participating can be strengthened.

Expressed in simple terms: In order to be able to deal with the topic of soil in the future as well, an expansion through crosslinks to other topics is required, which is bundled and subsumed under the term of sustainability. This consideration also corresponds to the strategy and organization of the Working Community of the Danube Regions: the Sustainability Working Group bundles soil conservation, rural development and socio-ecological production.

2. Benefit for the Danube region

- Sustainability project in the EU – EU Strategy for the Danube Region with effects upon priority areas 6, 7, 8 and 9
- Innovation in the area of soil conservation – sustainability in the Danube region
- Creation of awareness of soil conservation
- Use for area-wide soil conservation

3. Outputs

- The Working Community of the Danube Regions, Sustainability Working Group, coordinates implementation by experts, achievers and creators of awareness (for instance on March 25, 26, 2015 at the UFT in Tulln)
- Expansion of existing networks, such as the Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region (14 national coordination points in the Danube region)
- Expansion of network through broader implementation of the „SCIENCE – ALLIANCE – AWARENESS“ approach for partners in the fields of science (Danube University of Krems and CASEE – scientific network of life science universities in the Danube region), municipalities, multipliers and the general public.
Precisely:

+ 200 memberships in the European Land and Soil Alliance: Towns and municipalities, which are interested in topics of soil

+ 350.000 young people participate in measures of creation of awareness (for instance, „Painting with the Colours of the Earth“)



+ Making use of present dynamics of the International Year of Soils 2015, and establishing current interest in soil topics (especially soil consumption!) in the long run: “Soil conservation cannot be solved within a year”

- Cooperation with 70 scientific institutions: universities, institutes, research institutions
- 500 educational institutions in the fields of general education, agriculture, the environment and natural conservation participate in the concept of “SOILART” (competitions, expositions)
- 14 Danube countries win soil colours typical of their domestic soils = Danube countries paint-box

4. Classification of work package

- **Expansion of Sustainable Operations Network in the Danube Region (SONDAR) – with broad implementation of the SCIENCE – ALLIANCE – AWARENESS”** approach together with existing Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region and the CASEE scientific network of the life science universities in the Danube region
- **Soil map of the Danube Region**
- **Soil as an indicator of flood occurrences**
- **Measures against soil erosion**
- **Soil as a reservoir and filter / production of humus and regional fertilizer**
- **Painting with the Colours of the Earth / Danube countries paint-box**

Sustainable Operations Network in the Danube Region Work package of SONDAR+:

“Social innovations” for economy & health care

1. Short description

Regional economic activity is a key factor for sustainability. Growing regional value creation with inclusion of social marginal groups of the Danube region through sustainable cooperation between economic enterprises, public institutions and social enterprises in the Danube region is the target of this project. Through establishment and linking to regional consultation structures, respectively, the model of “**socio-ecological production**” has been established, which is directed by an international innovation platform situated in Lower Austria.

2. Benefit for the Danube region

In the EU project of „So-Pro HU-AT 2012-2014“, sustainable cooperation has proven to be a model for the future for sustainable economic activity in the Danube region. Approx. 150 new products and services for economic enterprises have been developed. In Hungary, in the surroundings of this project approx. **450 new jobs** have been created. The Danube region shall become the central platform and headquarters of this innovation agency in Europe within the framework of the SONDAR+ Sustainable Operations Network.



3. Outputs

The results of the whole project to be expected are relevant to the entire range of sustainability. Sustainable economic activity with a social added value (factor 10 in relation to the SoPro project terminated)

- 1,000 high-quality, sustainable products and services = **saving of resources**
- 2,000 regional instances of cooperation = reducing transport routes = **safeguarding of jobs through increased regional value creation**



+ Creation of approx. 4,500 new jobs in the Danube region / safeguarding of jobs in Lower Austria

- Creation of high-quality jobs with a social background
- Green jobs for young people: social entrepreneurship, employability & sustainable social business development (ERASMUS+)
- Organization of a social cluster in the Danube region & linking with economy
- Qualification and inclusion of disadvantaged persons within more than 100 occupational projects
- Active citizenship, solidarity, and an economy with democratic values
- Plan for the poor, taking disadvantaged persons into consideration

+ Occupation / qualification of disadvantaged groups and individuals

- At least 5 international model projects for economy (industry cooperation, such as bene „2nd Life Desk campaign“, RICOH “greenline”)
- At least 5 international model projects for strengthening sustainability in health care (for instance handicap tailor’s)
- Site of EU-wide innovation agency for sustainable work: “goodworks”
- Strengthening of business location of Lower Austria + Danube region

Sustainable Operations Network in the Danube Region

“Sustainability in economy & health care“

4. Classification of work package

- “Social integrative and know-how intensive rural subsistence farming“
- “Heritage Stations” – practice for a sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage in the Danube region
- Socio-ecological production – sustainable cooperation between economic enterprises, health care and public institutions, agriculture and social enterprises. Installation and operation of regional consultation structures and an international innovation platform
- Establishment of sustainability network in the Danube region – with broad implementation of the “SCIENCE – ALLIANCE – AWARENESS“ approach together with existing partner networks (economic, health care and social network of “socio-ecological production for the environment”, CASEE scientific network of the life science universities in the Danube region + network of Danube universities, Danube University of Krems)
- Training of “sustainability ambassadors in the Danube region“

