

Urban Platform Danube Region

An initiative of PA10 and the city of Vienna in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



Coverage of the Danube Region





What is the Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR)?

- An initiative of PA10 and the city of Vienna in cooperation with the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)

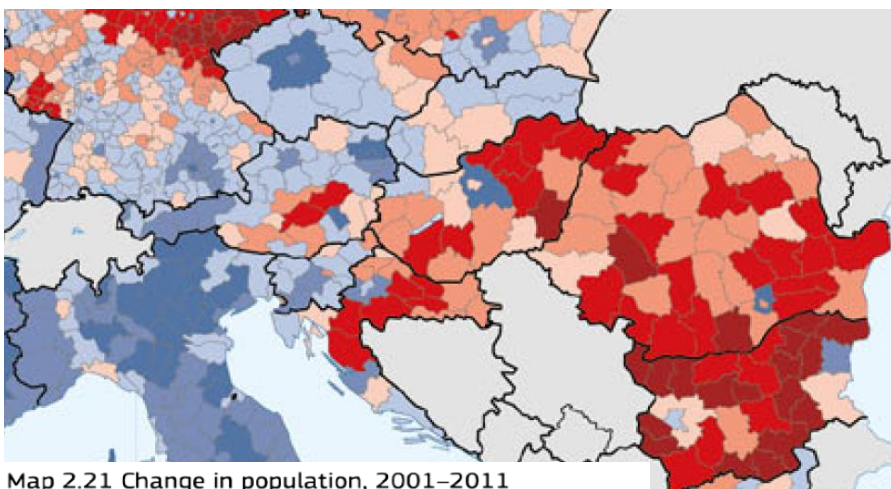
Which are the objectives of the UPDR?

- The UPDR brings the political framework of the CoDCR to the administrative level and enlargens it to the entire Danube macro-region (including 9 EU-MS and 5 third states)
- The UPDR provides an online platform for information exchange of cities in the Danube Region
- The UPDR provides the cities of the Danube Region with a common voice in the framework of the EUSDR implementation
- The UPDR links the EU2020 targets to the urban level in the Danube Region

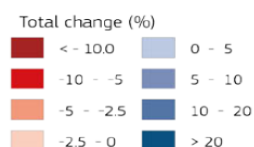


Common challenges

- Need for **more coherence** between regional and national policies
- Strengthening of **local governance and furthering of decentralization**
- Privatization led to **lack of social housing** in some countries, lack of affordable housing for marginalized groups
- Concentrated economic growth in capitals; smaller cities cannot catch up, rural and urban **depopulation**
- Substantial improvements towards **healthier urban environments**
- More investment into integrated public **transport** networks, underdeveloped rail and road networks
- Lack of single cross-country documents for urban policies
- Need for further **institutional and legislative reforms**



Map 2.21 Change in population, 2001–2011



EU-28 = 3 399
 HR: 2002–2011
 Source: Eurostat



Common opportunities

- **Better spending of ESIF** in the upcoming budget period (bottlenecks)
- Stronger **cooperation** of cities and city networks in the Danube Region
- 75% of the EU population lives in cities, growing potential for urban development which is becoming a key element of Regional Policy of the EU
- Urban areas are directly targeted by several of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment priorities
- In each EU member state, a minimum **5 % of the ERDF** will be invested in integrated sustainable urban development; its on-the-ground deployment will be decided and directed by urban authorities
- 330 million Euro will fund innovative actions in the field of sustainable urban development over a seven-year period
- **URBACT**, the European cities networking cooperation programme will be more result-oriented and will help cities promote and enhance their work on integrated sustainable urban development



→ Together with the EU, Vienna and Ulm have financed UPDR website and a number of thematic meetings and conferences, i.a.:

- 27-28 October 2013: Bucharest statement of the CoDCR: „**Towards an Urban Platform Danube Region**“
- 9-10 December 2013: 1st Stakeholder Conference „**Building the Urban Future in the Danube Region**“
- April 2014: PAC10 and General Coordinator of CoDCR invited more than 200 cities to participate in the UPDR and to sign a ‚letter of commitment‘
- April 2014: UPDR website goes online
- 26 June 2014: Meeting of CoDCR „ **Perspectives of Urban Policies in the Danube Region: Enlargement of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR) and Establishment of the Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR)**“; Cities which join the UPDR also join the CoDCR
- 27 June 2014: UPDR presented at the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR; workshop „**The Urban Agenda in the Danube Region – Growing Together on the Urban Platform**“
- 5-8 November 2014 UPDR presented at the Annual **Eurocities conference**
- 26-27 January: 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the UPDR, Vienna



UPDR Website – www.updr.eu

The screenshot shows the UPDR website home page. At the top left is the logo for the Urban Platform Danube Region. A navigation bar includes 'Login'. A search bar is positioned on the left with tabs for 'CITY SEARCH' and 'KEYWORD SEARCH'. Below it are dropdown menus for 'CITY' (set to 'All cities'), 'TOPIC' (set to 'All'), and 'SEARCH FOR' (set to 'All'), followed by a 'SEARCH' button. A blue callout box labeled 'Database: Cities/projects/networks/events' points to the search area. Another callout box labeled 'Key EUSDR policy documents' points to the 'URBAN POLICIES' link in the navigation bar. The main content area features the heading 'URBAN PLATFORM DANUBE REGION' and introductory text about the Danube region's potential. A third callout box labeled 'Information on Funding and Urban Policies' points to the 'URBAN POLICIES' link. At the bottom left, there is an 'ABOUT UPDR' button.

This screenshot displays the 'Projects & Initiatives' section of the UPDR website. The top navigation bar includes 'Login / Register'. A search bar on the left has tabs for 'MEMBER SEARCH' and 'KEYWORD SEARCH', with a note that members include cities, regions, and organizations. It features dropdown menus for 'MEMBER' (set to 'All members'), 'TOPIC' (set to 'All'), and 'SEARCH FOR' (set to 'All'), along with a 'SEARCH' button. The main navigation bar includes 'MEMBERS', 'TOPICS', 'DANUBE STRATEGY', 'URBAN POLICIES', and 'FUNDING'. Below this, there are tabs for 'PROJECTS & INITIATIVES', 'MARKETPLACE', and 'DOCUMENTS'. The 'PROJECTS & INITIATIVES' tab is active, showing dropdown menus for 'TOPIC' (set to 'Please Select') and 'CATEGORY' (set to 'Please Select'). A highlighted project card for 'EURO-DEAL NETWORK' is shown, with a location pin for 'Ljubljana', a topic of 'Mobility/ Transport', and a category of 'Network, Initiative'. A 'View' button with an eye icon is also present. At the bottom left, there is a 'NEXT EVENTS' button.



Next steps and future challenges

Political commitment needs to be translated into concrete action:

- Additional **visibility** for existing projects through presence the electronic platform in order to ensure continuity
- Strengthened **exchange of experience** and information on the platform
- **Project development** until 2020, using the platform as tool for partner search
- Additional **thematic leaders** to be identified in order to foster of urban policy development, capacity building and cooperation in the Danube Region
- **Mobilisation** and involvement of stakeholders interested in urban issues in the Danube Region in order to increase transparency and participation
- Follow-up of the **urban agenda of the EU** in the Danube Region
- **Establishment of the CoDCR** (underpinned by the UPDR) as official representation of the EUSDR cities within the EUSDR governance
- Increase ownership: **The UPDR is YOUR platform!**
- → Contributions can be sent to updr@pa10-danube.eu

Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation

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