



Danube strategy & space technologies

How space technologies contribute as an enabling tool to advance the Danube strategy

16 June 2011

High-level Workshop

Gerhard Stahl, Secretary-General, Committee of the Regions





THE DANUBE REGION STRATEGY



The Danube Region

- 14 countries: 8 EU MS, 6 non-EU MS
- 115 millions of people
- 1/5 of the territory of the EU
- Special protections areas and special areas of conservation Natura 2000
- Danube delta: UNESCO World Heritage List since 1991





The CoR Work

- 2 opinions

(Rapporteur: Wolfgang Reinhart)

« *An EU strategy for the Danube area* » (2009) – *own initiative*

« *The Danube region strategy* » (2011)



The Strategy

- Commission communication (9 Dec 2010)
 - To be approved by the Council (24 June 2011)

- Objectives of the strategy
 - to smooth the way for economic growth, prosperity and security
 - to make the Danube region "one of the most attractive in Europe".

- Implementation:
 - No new laws nor institutions nor funding
 - Strengthening links between several policies and stakeholders



The Strategy

Pillars

1 Transport and interconnections

Priority Areas

To improve mobility and intermodality

To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts

To encourage sustainable energy

To restore and maintain the quality of the waters

2 Environment

To manage environmental risks

To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

To develop the knowledge society

3 Prosperity

To support competitiveness of enterprises

To invest in people and skills

4 Security

To step up institutional capacity and cooperation

To work together to tackle security and organised crime



CONTRIBUTION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGIES



Space Technologies in Europe

❖ Commission communication, on European Space Policy (4 April 2011)

"Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens"

- 3 types of needs: strategic, social, economic (the EU2020 goals)
- Part of industrial policy, role in EU competitiveness and innovation
- Priorities: Galileo and GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security)

Local and regional interests

- GMES is user driven and active involvement of users is needed to define service requirements;
- Galileo could especially contribute to better management of all forms of transport in towns and regions;
- New applications will emerge in the nearest future, but such innovation requires long term investment, so EU and national authorities should facilitate technology investment and uptake of services;
- It could be recommended for the future EU space policy to support the establishment of regional GMES centres and networking - NEREUS



Fields of contribution for the Danube Strategy

- Environment
- Security
- Economy
- Same concern:
contributing to the economic growth of the EU and its regions



Environment (1/2)

- One pillar of the Danube strategy
 - improving the water quality
 - environmental risk management
 - maintaining biodiversity
- The priority is given to
 - the conservation of the natural flood retention capacity of the Danube basin
 - the prevention of the recurrence of floods.



Environment (2/2)

- **GMES** can help providing the optimal and liable data to control and anticipate the natural phenomena
- Purpose of GMES:
 - to guarantee continuous access to information services on the environmental and security issues
 - to play a vital role in monitoring the sea, land and atmospheric environment



Security (1/2)

- Fourth pillar "strengthening the Danube region"
 - increasing security
 - combating serious and organised crime
- GMES can help the supervision of the security in this area highly sensitive (external borders of the EU with not yet stabilised countries: Balkans, Ukraine)



Security (2/2)

- Potential GMES' contribution to find solutions for areas such as
 - monitoring borders
 - maritime surveillance
 - civil protection.
- Providing of tools and network for a better coordination of national facilities.



Economy (1/2)

- Third pillar "Building prosperity in the Danube region"
 - knowledge-based society through research, education and IT
 - competitiveness of businesses
 - clusters, investments in skills

- Space technologies contribution:
 - Promoting and taking part in clusters
 - Hosting the "ground segment" infrastructures of the space chain
 - Supporting higher education and research institutes as a way to promote regional knowledge and expertise
 - Frontline use of new technologies and applications
 - Creating the conditions for an industry-led innovation



Economy (2/2)

- In terms of competitiveness, a real opportunity for the Danube region:
 - Possibility of development of a high range of expertise in one sector of space industry
 - A driving force for growth and innovation, generating highly qualified jobs and market opportunities for innovative products and services far beyond the space sector



Other potential tools: Galileo

- Galileo: satellite navigation system designed for civilian use
 - independence of the EU

- Benefits: across all sectors of the economy such as
 - transport
 - telecommunications
 - the environment
 - security.



CoR's political work in relation to EU space policy

- Opinion on the "Green Paper on satellite navigation applications," CdR 96/2007 fin
- Ongoing work: Opinion on the "Space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens"



Thank you!

www.cor.europa.eu