

# Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic



## **DONAUREGIONEN**

# The Spatial Development Concept of Interregional Cooperation in the Danube Space

## Final Conference Report



**Submitter**     Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

**Processor**     AUREX, Ltd.

Hanus, Július

Tvrdoň, Jozef

Slimák, Dušan

Baláži, Aleš

Krumpolec, Juraj

Králik, Ján

Šubová, Monika

Hrdina, Vojtech

Červeň, Ladislav

Petrík, Pavol

Macák, Ľubomír

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Course of Workshop</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Course of Final Conference and Summary Report</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Opening and Introduction (Conference goals) .....	7
Objectives, Results and Project Activities .....	7
Project Logical Scheme .....	7
General Scheme Settlement Structure and Human Resources.....	7
General Scheme Transport and Technical Infrastructure .....	8
General Scheme Natural Conditions .....	8
General Scheme Economy .....	9
Summary Evaluation of Development Potential .....	9
Typology of Regions .....	9
Territory Arrangement Concept .....	10
Donaudatenkatalog.....	10
<b>Annexes</b> .....	<b>12</b>

# Final Conference Report

## Introduction

Project DONAUREGIONEN Final Conference took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2008 at Hotel Barónka ([www.hotelbaronka.sk](http://www.hotelbaronka.sk)) in Bratislava, Slovakia. Purpose of conference was to present results and outputs achieved during all project period and the proposal of the next project idea. Four General Schemes – GS Natural Conditions, GS Settlement Structure and Human Resources, GS Transport and Technical Infrastructure and GS Economy, as well as Summary evaluation of regional potential, Typology of regions and Territory arrangement concept are the result of this project. Text schemes and maps are the output of the project. Besides all project partners attend the conference also invited guest from Slovakia and foreign countries.

## Course of Workshop

### DAY 1 – 22 May 2008 – Thursday

08,00 – 09,00 – **Registration of Participants**

---

09,00 – 09,30 – **Opening – Official Welcome**

- Representative of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
- 

09,30 – 10,30 – **Project Objectives, Activities, Results**

- Tibor NÉMETH – Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Department of State Building Administration and Spatial Planning, Project Manager – Lead Partner (LP)
  - Július HANUS – AUREX, Ltd. – Subcontractor for LP, Coordinator of Main Works
- 

10,30 – 11,00 – **Coffee Break**

---

11,00 – 12,30 – **Presentation of Results – Session 1**

*Moderation – László KOVÁCS - Scientific Association for Regional Development, Budapest, Project Partner from Hungary*

- Monika ŠUBOVÁ, Ján KRÁLIK – Coordinators of works for “General Scheme Natural Condition” – AUREX, Ltd. , Slovak Republic, Lead Partner
  - Julia SPIRIDONOVA, Mary NOVAKOVA – Coordinators of works for “General Scheme Settlement Structure and Human Resources” – Project Partner from Bulgaria - National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
- 

12,30 – 14,00 – **Lunch Break**

---

14,00 – 15,15 – **Presentation of Results – Session 2**

*Moderation – Oana POPESCU - INCD URBANPROIECT BUCHAREST, Project Partner from Romania*

- Tijana ZIVANOVIČ – Coordinator of works for “General Scheme Transport and Technical Infrastructure” - Project Partner from Serbia - Republic Agency for Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia
  - Beatrix KÓSA, Attila KOROMPAI – Coordinators of works for “General Economic Structure” - Project Partner from Hungary - Scientific Association for Regional Development, Budapest
- 

15,15 – 15,30 – **Coffee Break**

---

15,30 – 16,30 – **Presentation of Results – Session 3**

***Moderation – Henrieta HOŠOVSKÁ - The Self-Government of Bratislava County, Project Partner from Slovak Republic***

- Jozef TVRDOŇ – Coordinator of works for “Summary analysis of physical technical conditions and evaluation of development potential and Typology of regions” – AUREX, Ltd. - Subcontractor for LP , Slovak Republic

-----  
17,00 – 19,00 – **Bratislava City Tour – transport arranged**  
-----

from 20,00 - **Reception – Hotel Barónka**  
-----

**DAY 2 – 23 May 2008 – Friday**

08,00 – 09,00 – **Registration of Participants**  
-----

09,00 – 10,30 – **Presentation of Results – Session 4**

***Moderation – Vojtech HRDINA – AUREX, Ltd. – Subcontractor for LP from Slovak Republic***

- Július HANUS, Jozef TVRDOŇ – Coordinators of works for “Presentation of the Territory Arrangement Concept (SW Analysis, Problems identification, Specification of Development Centers)” – AUREX, Ltd. - Subcontractor for LP , Slovak Republic

-----  
10,30 – 11,00 – **Coffee Break**  
-----

11,00 – 12,30 – **Presentation of Results and the Future – Session 5**

***Moderation – Tibor NÉMETH – Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Lead Partner***

- Klaus ADELHARD – Coordinator of works for “DonauDatenKatalog” - Project Partner from Germany - Ministry of Environmet, Health and Consumer Protection of the Bayern
- Július HANUS – Next project idea AUREX, Ltd. – Subcontractor for LP, Coordinator of Main Works,
- Tibor Németh – Closing, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Lead Partner

-----  
13,00 – 14,00 – **Lunch**  
-----

14,30 – **Excursion to Gabčíkovo Hydroelectric Power Plant (with refreshment)\* - transport arranged by buses**  
-----

cca. 20,00 – **arrival to the Hotel Barónka**

## Course of Final Conference and Summary Report

### Opening and Introduction (Conference goals)

The Final Conference of DONAUREGIONEN project was opened by Ing. Miloslava Pašková from Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic. After opening words, she called Ing. Peter Černega, general director of Department of Building and Housing Policy, MCRD SR, to take the floor. He welcomed all concerned guests and officially opened Final Conference.

### Objectives, Results and Project Activities

At this entry, Ing. Tibor Németh advised all guests with background, objectives, results and activities of the project from its initial till present, final phase. He mentioned creation and existence of ARGE DONAULÄNDER working group – Working Unity of the Danubian Region Countries, which was established in 1990. Thanks this working group was initiated DONAUREGIONEN project in total duration 27 months in term from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006 – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. Project came out from the Measure 1.1: Supporting joint strategies for spatial development and actions implementation of Priority 1: Promoting spatial development approaches and action for social and economic cohesion of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Program. Project summary budget was 974 964,- EUR, with 10 participating partners from 6 countries – Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria. Project main objective was to create Territory arrangement concept of Danube regions and evaluate their socio-economic development potential. Next objective was to create suitable information system, used by forming of strategic development plans. Within this project was organized 9 Workshops, 25 meetings of project partners and was created web page – [www.donauregionen.sk](http://www.donauregionen.sk), available for general public. On the page are present project basic information, list of project partners and project activities.

### Project Logical Scheme

Ing.arch. Július Hanus, from AUREX, Ltd. (subcontractor for LP), continued with next presentation. He advised all guests with Project logical scheme. DONAUREGIONEN project filled first matrix row – evaluation of Danube regions development potential, which should continue with Concept phase and Implementation phase. Project evaluated regions state in four fields: Natural Conditions, Settlement Structure and Human Resources, Transport and Technical Infrastructure and Economy. Besides present state evaluation was elaborate Typology of regions, sectionalizing the regions into four, similar characteristic groups.

### General Scheme Settlement Structure and Human Resources

After the short break take the floor Ms. Julia Spiridonova from National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria. As a coordinator of works for GS Settlement Structure and Human Resources she presented results achieved in this section. Total population of the area is cca. 20 mil., with total decrease about 800 thousand. of inhabitants from 1991 to 2006. Bulgaria and Romania loses the biggest part of the whole region. In the region have most of settlements with lower population density (less than 100 inh./km<sup>2</sup>). The highest density have metropolitan regions as Budapest, Bucurest, Beograd and Bratislava. Common trend in all

regions is characterized by a negative tendency of increase of the share of aged population. It means increasing of number of inhabitants in age 60+ and decreasing of inhabitants under 14. In accordance with the ageing process the vitality index (ratio of population 0-14 and 65+ ) decreased. The unemployment rate was fluctuating between 6% (in Romanian and Hungarian region) and 30% (in Serbian region). According to the official data, the total number of unemployed in 2005 was 1,45 million people. Considering the number of settlements the share of settlements below 2 000 inhabitant in the region as a whole is almost 70%. Living standard expressed by number of dwelling per 1000 inhabitants shows, the best situation is in the Bulgarian regions (478 dwellings) and the worst position have Slovak regions (332 dwellings). The average value of the whole region is 390 dwellings per thousand inhabitants. One of the reasons for such high values of this indicator in Bulgarian part of the region is the accelerate process of depopulation in some areas. Danube area has its own territorial dynamic. The network of large cities – centers of the general socio-economic development – is unevenly distributed. This gives rise to the problem “center-periphery” and becomes a factor for inter-regional and especially intra-regional differences within the area as whole. The Danube project area includes important urban centres with historical co-operation tradition and strong current dynamic. The increase of co-operation and complementarity between the metropolitan centres and main cities could set in motion the creation of development corridors. This cooperation should be realized by creating of common development strategies and plans aimed on regional territory integration considering of each region specifics.

### **General Scheme Transport and Technical Infrastructure**

In this section of the conference take the floor Ms. Tijana Zivanovic from Republic Agency for Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia. Serbian partner processed Transport and Technical Infrastructure theme in Danubian area. In this GS was used data sources like: national legislation, international agreements and strategies, EU and national statistics. In transport were evaluated so indicators as road network, railway network, waterways and ports, air transport and multimodal transport systems. Technical infrastructure was represented indicators as electric energy network and installations, gas and oil supply and distribution, telecommunication network and water protection and management. Main problem of transport infrastructure is lack of Danube crossings and underestimating the role of Danube as a important transport corridor. The best conditions for all kind of transport are in Hungarian and Slovak regions. Energy production rely for the most part on thermal, hydro and nuclear power plants. In spite of high energy generation, all countries import electricity. Production from RES in all countries is still low but is developing (hydro potential, biomass...). Telecommunication network state is very different on national as well as regional level. Generally we can say the most succesful transport and technical infrastructure conditions are in Slovakia and Hungary. Effort of all Danube regions is to build and modernizing transport and technical infrastructure facilities to approach the EU average.

### **General Scheme Natural Conditions**

After lunch break take the floor Ing. Ján Králik as a partner responsible for elaborate GS Natural Conditions. This GS was aimed on evaluation of the state of protection of landscape and nature protection, water management and environment. There were monitored NATURA 2000 areas, which is the biggest protection network on the world. Also were monitored here Ramsar convention zones, which protect international important wetlands. Landscape quality solve

a territorial system of ecological stability. Among the areas of protection can be inserted natural reservations, protected landscapes, national parks, natural monuments etc. Regarding air pollution with CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and ash the worst position have big urban agglomerations. The highest effect on air pollution has industry production and transport. Water quality is deteriorating down the Danube flow. Big reserves in all regions are by waste recycling.

## **General Scheme Economy**

Mr. Attila Korompai from Scientific Association for Regional Development in Budapest presented General Scheme Economy. In this GS was evaluated economic level of regions expressed by GDP, structure of economic activities etc. Also it was here characterized economic potential (primary and secondary sources) and summary evaluation of regions. In the whole area Danube regions are characterized with extensive heterogeneity in many aspects, which affect on regional development. On the other hand, all regions have common history and transition from centrally planned economy to market economy, but in different ways. Economically are the most important the capitals of countries – the 4 „B”-s - Bratislava, Budapest, Beograd, Bucurest. Very important centres of development are also industrial and service centres, ports as well as tourist centres. On the other hand, areas with unfavourable infrastructure accessibility, unfavourable population structure, or unfavourable economic structure are economic declining territories. In general is registered increasing importance of engineering, chemical industries, construction and service industries and losing importance of agriculture and light industry. Positive trend is increasing role of small and medium enterprises. To negative effect we can insert growing regional disparities, relatively low level of technical equipment in SME, extremely low level of participation on the labour market, low level of mobility of workforce, insufficient education reform, or very low R&D spending. Opportunity to solve these negative features is utilization of EU structural funds, as well as common market. For much more faster growth it is necessary mutual cooperation of the regions.

## **Summary Evaluation of Development Potential**

In this section take the floor Mr. Jozef Tvrdoň with presentation on Summary evaluation of development potential of Danube regions. He introduced methodology and process used for overall evaluation. First there were choose indicators from each General Scheme, which express key factors of territory development. The number of indicators for each GS was 5 – 8. on the basis of achieved values of these indicators was determined position of each region by the each of indicator and summary. On the basis of specified procedure were identified regions with problems and were outlined opportunities of interregional relations.

This presentation finished first working day of project Donauregionen Final Conference.

## **Typology of Regions**

Second working day start Mr. Jozef Tvrdoň with presentation called Typology of regions in the Donauregionen area. For regional typology was used evaluation of each general scheme indicators (quantitative aspect) and SW analysis characterizing strenghts and weaknesses of regions (qualitative aspect). For the project was used typology of VISION PLANET. It means the regions were classified into the one of this four groups: developed region, stabilized region,

stagnant region, or depressed region. On the basis of summary evaluation were created this categorization:

1. group – developed regions	Bratislava, Budapest, Győr-Moson-Sopron
2. group – stabilized regions	Bács-Kiskun, Baranya, Bucuresti, Constanta, Fejér, Grad Beograd, Ilfov, Južno-bački, Komárom-Esztergom, Nitra, Pest, Plevén, Ruse, Tolna, Trnava, Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa
3. group – stagnant regions	Borski, Braila, Calarasi, Caras-Severin, Dolj, Galati, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Južno-banatski, Mehedinti, Montana, Podunavlje, Razgrad, Silistra, Sremski, Tulcea, Vidin, Zapadno-bački
4. group – depressed regions	Braničevski, Olt, Srednje-banatski, Teleorman

Developed regions are characteristic with diversified economic structure aimed at sophisticated production and services, human and innovated potential quality, high level of territory urbanization, polycentric settlement character as well as decline quality of environment. Economic basis of stabilized regions is created by industry branches. In these regions is also available enough labor force, sufficient transport infrastructure facilities and lower grade of concentration of air, water and soil pollution sources. Stagnant regions are characterized by decrement of traditional economic basis branches in the region, dispose of basic transport and technical infrastructure and settlement structure is relatively stable without any significant population migration. Environment in the stagnant regions is in good health – no significant negative effects. For depressed regions the main factor of economic development is low level of economic basis diversification. These regions have also higher population migration, declining of demographic structure, ageing of population, low transport accessibility and technical infrastructure facilities and lack of internal development sources. On the other hand is there natural condition in good health with new functional utilization attractiveness. Each type of regions have differentiated regional and territory planning policy focused on creating of social economic development conditions, territory arrangement or support of creation and protection of the environment.

### **Territory Arrangement Concept**

This section was presented by Mr. Július Hanus. He links to the two previous presentations of Mr. Tvrdoň. Main objective of the Concept was to identify potential growth areas of Danube regions in order to strengthen cohesion and competitiveness of Danube transborder development corridor of European importance. On the evaluation and typology of regions basis were identified „crossdanube” regions. For the identification of these regions were used expert appraisal methodology based on settlement structure, transport network, Danube crossings and ports and cross border cooperation. Totally were characterized 18 cross border regions with possibility of the next specification in the future.

### **Donaudatenkatalog**

After short coffee break came the last presentation of Final Conference. Theme Donaudatenkatalog was presented by Mr. Klaus Adelhard from Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection of the Bayern. He introduced there importance and signification of data

collection and availability for the project. DonauDatenKatalog is centralized data base with metadata about the project results. Metadata are data on data. They serve for simple and fast searching of necessary materials in the system. For the simple process of data inserting and seeking in the catalogue is used thesaurus. In the catalogue are information about Workshops, progress reports, information about homepage, or source data (maps, shapefiles) from project partners. Totally are more over the 1.529 entries available in the metadata catalogue and almost 50 entries available in the documentation system.

At the end of Final Conference Mr. Július Hanus presented the next project proposal called DONAUREGIONEN+, which will follow on this finishing DONAUREGIONEN project. It will be aimed to elaborate strategic development documents and to determine concrete activities of mutual crossdanube regions cooperation.

Thereafter Mr. Tibor Németh finished second and last working day of Final Conference of DONAUREGIONEN project. He thanks to all concerned guests, as well as all partners participating on the project. He also expressed hope for the mutual cooperation in the future.

## **Annexes**

**Background, Preparation, Objectives, Results and Project Activities**

**Logical Project Scheme**

**General Scheme Natural Conditions**

**General scheme Human Resources & Settlement Structure**

**General Scheme Transport and Technical Infrastructure**

**Evaluation of the economic level and the development potential of the Danube region**

**Summary evaluation of the development potential in the DONAUREGIONEN area**

**Typology of regions in the DONAUREGIONEN area**

**Donaudatenkatalog**

**Concept – problem identification**