

DANUBE REGION TOWARDS FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 10

The path to the next MFF and Horizon Europe: Lessons learned and outlook for the Danube Region research community

*Workshop of the Priority Area 7 Knowledge Society
of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region*

10 June 2026 | 9:30 – 13:00 CET (online)

Priority Area 7 (Knowledge Society) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a horizontal priority that supports the development of a dynamic knowledge society in the Danube Region. It focuses on strengthening cooperation in research, development, innovation, and higher education, and on better integrating Danube countries into the European Research Area (ERA) - including enhanced participation in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Against the backdrop of discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the successor to Horizon Europe (Framework Programme 10), this workshop will bring together policymakers, programme managers, researchers, and stakeholders from across the Danube Region to discuss how to position the region for the future.

The workshop “Danube Region Towards Framework Programme 10” will:

- **present the current state of play** of Danube countries’ participation in the European Research Area and in Horizon Europe,
- **showcase experiences and good practices** from Danube countries in accessing EU research and innovation funding and strengthening collaboration,
- **provide up-to-date information on the preparation of the next MFF**, with a focus on research and innovation, the macro-regional dimension, and the implications of a new MFF structure for advisory and training systems.

The event will offer a platform for discussion, peer learning, and networking to help the Danube research community better prepare for future EU framework programmes.

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10th of June 2026 online

Moderation: Martina Hartl, Federal Ministry Women, Science and Research, Austria

Registration: [Registration Form for the Online Workshop](#)

Connection link: [Video NTI](#)

Draft Agenda:

PART I	
09:15 - 09:30	Online arrival of participants
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome notes • Viktor Nedović, Serbian PA7 co-coordinator • Ľubica Pitlova, Slovak PA7 co-coordinator • Cristina Cuc, Danube Strategy Point
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction of the Priority Area 7 • Jaroslava Szüdi and Dijana Štrbac, PA7 team members
10:00 – 10:45	Mid-term evaluation of the participation of Danube countries in ERA and Horizon Europe (based on PA7 Analyses) • Daniel Straka, Research and Innovation Authority, Slovakia
10:45 – 11:30	How to strengthen participation of STI stakeholders: Positive experiences / recommendations from CZ and SI NCPs • Nad'a Koníčková, Horizon Europe NCP coordinator, Czech Republic • Darija Valančič, Horizon Europe NCP coordinator, Slovenia
11:30 – 11:45	Break

PART II	
11:45 – 12:30	Current state of MFF preparation with an emphasis on research and innovation and the macro-regional aspect • Monika Bideau – Repčíková, Head of Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels (focusing Horizon Europe & the European Competitiveness Fund) • Elisa Cocco, EC - DG Regio (focusing on the Structural Funds / macro-regional aspects)
12:15 – 12:45	Impacts of the new MFF structure on advisory and training structures for the science, research and innovation communities in the Danube Region • Birgit Steininger, Deputy Head of Division for European and International Programmes, Austrian Research Promotion Agency
12:45 – 13:00	Closing