



Cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova: achievements, opportunities and problems

Igor Studennikov

Executive Director

Centre for Regional Studies, Odessa, Ukraine

Member of the Executive Committee of the Danube Civil Society Forum

DANUBE FINANCING AND CAPACITY BUILDING DIALOGUE

Chişinău , 26-27 October 2017

Cross-border cooperation between UA & MD: why it is important?

Ukraine and Moldova are Post-Soviet countries sharing a common boundary that is 1,222 km long.

“New border areas” – a phenomenon appeared after the collapse of the Soviet Union and defined as “a complex of relationships that have appeared along the borders between the former Soviet republics and is based on ties of history and culture as well as new social and economic relations” (*EU Enlargement and its Impacts for Relations between Ukraine and its Central-European Neighbours. Kyiv, 2004*).

Close cultural relations and contacts between people across the border.

Common problems: environmental, emergency management, tackling trans-boundary crimes and illegal migration.

Cross-border cooperation between UA & MD: highly institutionalised

Lower Danube EuroRegion (est. 14 August 1998)

Upper Prut EuroRegion (est. 22 September 2000)

Their creation is based on the *Protocol on trilateral cooperation between the governments of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Romania (3-4 July 1997)*.

EuroRegion Dniester (est. 2 February 2012).

Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Joint Use and Protection of Trans-boundary Waters (23 November 1994).

Cooperation under the umbrella of the ICPDR.



EU Danube Strategy

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011.

KEY DOCUMENTS:

- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2010) 715)
- Action Plan to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (SEC(2010) 1489)

14 COUNTRIES OF THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN:

- 9 EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)
- 3 Accession Countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia)
- 2 Neighbourhood Countries (**Moldova, Ukraine**)

Macro-regional Approach vs. Euroregions

Too ambitious objectives and steep expectation of the euroregions.

Real areas of cross-border cooperation in the framework of the Euroregions involving Ukrainian and Romanian territorial units:

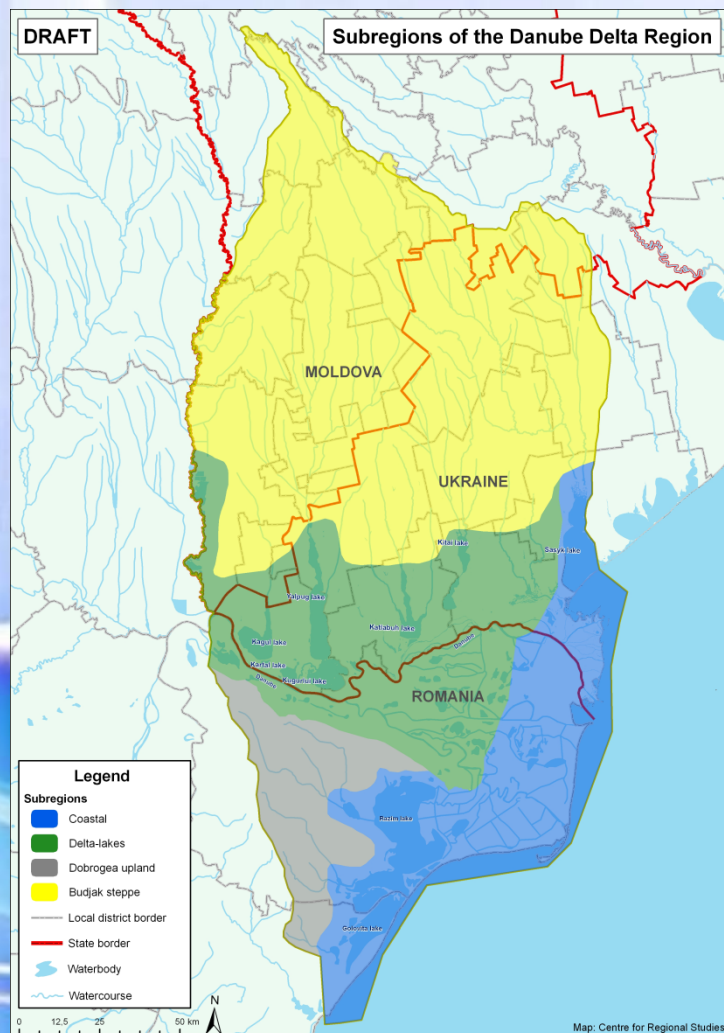
- Environmental protection, joint management of natural resources, joint management of natural and antropogenic risks.**
- The promotion of tourism.**
- The promotion of SME.**

Synergy between the Macro-regional approach and cross-border cooperation.

On the way to the development of a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin – Project «Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube Delta region»



Project «Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube Delta region»



The project is to establish a basis for the development and enhancement of a coordinated water management policy in the Danube Delta Region based on the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive and the provisions of the *Joint Declaration of the Heads of Delegations from the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine "Towards a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta supporting sustainable development of the region"* (Vienna, December 2007).

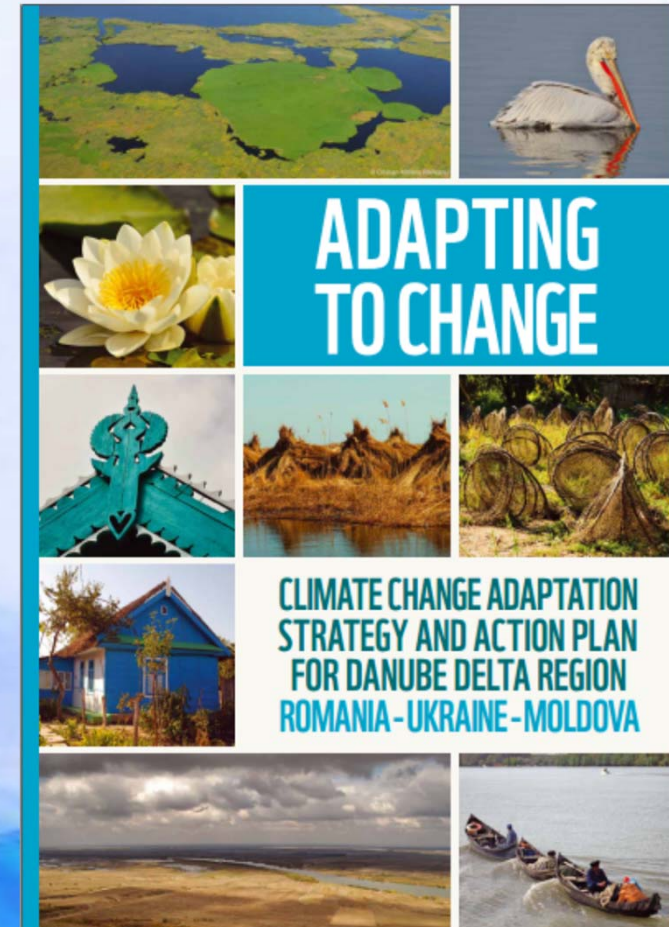
JDDS (2011) conducted including two main parts: survey of the Danube Delta itself and its coast (main Danube branches, internal lakes of the delta, mouth of the Prut River) and field studies in the sub-basin area (big Danube lakes of Kagul, Kartal, Yalpug-Kugurlui, Katlabuh, Kitai; lake complex of Razelm-Sinoe; Prut floodplain lakes – Manta and Bileu; small tributaries of the Danube and Prut rivers).

A trans-boundary Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin



Thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP).

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to biodiversity conservation, increased resilience of Danube Delta ecosystems, and improved local livelihoods for communities by mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into local and regional (trans-boundary) policies and plans.



Consolidation of the nature protected areas' network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature



**JOP “Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova
2007-2013**

Common borders. Common solutions.



Overall objective: to reduce the loss of biodiversity and to improve the local people's livelihoods through introducing an integrated approach to the management of natural resources in the transboundary DD and LPRR, and strengthening community involvement in the SD of the region.

Some of the Specific objectives:

- To improve institutional framework for the transboundary management of protected areas in the region by fostering activities of the Joint Trilateral Commission (JTC);**
- To assist MD with establishing a Biosphere Reserve in the Lower Prut area.**

Consolidation of the nature protected areas' network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature



JOP "Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova
2007-2013

Common borders. Common solutions.



Lead Partner: "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve Administration (DDBRA)

Partner 1: Danube Biosphere Reserve of the NASU (DBR)

Partner 2: Lower Prut Natural Reserve (LNSR)

Partner 3: Danube River Basin Management Department (DRBMD)

Partner 4: Ministry for Environment (ME)

Partner 5: Cahul County Council (CCC)

Partner 6: "Moldsilva" Agency (MA)

**Partner 7: State Department for Ecology and Natural Recourses of the Odessa
Regional State Administration**

Partner 8: Centre for Regional Studies (CRS)



Funding opportunities available for CBC Ukraine-Moldova

ENI CBC Black Sea Basin JOP 2014-2020:

- **is not directly focused on CBC between Ukraine and Moldova;**
- **has to narrow priorities that do not cover common trans-boundary problems in border areas of UA and MD;**
- **has the limited geographic coverage (all the area of the RM, but only the Odessa Region);**
- **extremely high competition in the framework of the programme.**

Moldova – Ukraine Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme: 16 cross-border partnerships have been awarded as a result of the call for proposals. Total amount – 3.3 M Euros.

Future is not clear!

Lost funding opportunities for CBC Ukraine-Moldova

JOP Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova in the current EU programming period 2014-2020 has been spitted into two separate programmes:

- JOP Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020**
- JOP Romania-Moldova 2014-2020**

A trilateral financial instrument for CBC in the geopolitical triangle Romania-Ukraine-Moldova is no longer exist.

There is no direct financial instrument for CBC between UA and MD.

Lost funding opportunities for CBC Ukraine-Moldova

Developing a common agenda of the participation of Ukraine and Moldova in the implementation of the EUSDR

Overall objective: to reduce socio-economic disparity & political instability in the Danube Region.

Specific objectives are to:

- 1.foster Ukraine & Moldova involvement in EUSDR;**
- 2.build their institutional & human capacities as active actors in EUSDR;**
- 3.improve their access to funding opportunities for implementing activities in the framework of EUSDR.**

Developing a common agenda of the participation of Ukraine and Moldova in the implementation of the EUSDR

Overall objective: to reduce socio-economic disparity & political instability in the Danube Region.

Specific objectives are to:

- 1.foster Ukraine & Moldova involvement in EUSDR;**
- 2.build their institutional & human capacities as active actors in EUSDR;**
- 3.improve their access to funding opportunities for implementing activities in the framework of EUSDR.**



Thank you for your attention!

CONTACT DETAILS:

Centre for Regional Studies

tel/fax: +380 48 719 85 36

E-mail: utsc@te.net.ua

www.crs.org.ua