

Water protecting actions in the Danube Region Strategy

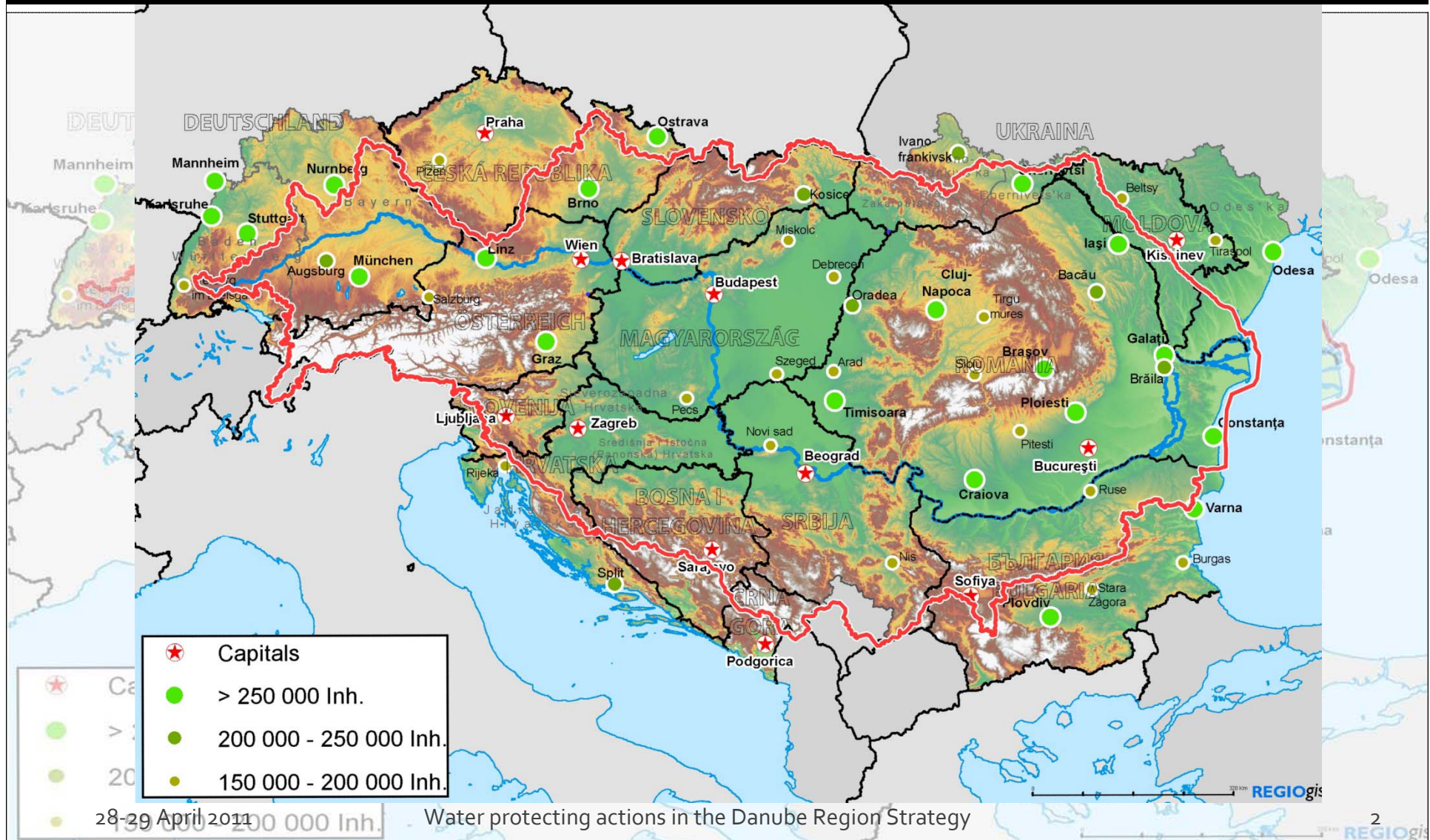
Expectations and facts

CASEE Conference
28-29 April 2011, Gödöllő, Hungary

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The Danube River Basin District within the Danube Region



Region strategies in EU

- The Baltic Sea Region (the first)
- The Danube Region (the most international river basin of the world)

Involved countries

8 MS countries (DE, AT, SLO, CZ, SK, HU, RO, BG)

1 Candidate/accession country (HR)

5 Non EU countries (UA, MD, SR, BiH, MO)

Benefits on

Regional level

- Socio-economic development
- Competitiveness
- Environmental management
- Resource efficient growth
- Transport corridors modernization
- Security growing

EU level

- Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy
- Connection to Black Sea Region, South-Caucasus and Central Asia



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The EU Danube Region Strategy

■ Background

■ Requesting from Council to Commission to prepare this Strategy (19 June 2009)

■ Based on good acceptance and experiences of the Baltic Sea Strategy

■ Expectations

- Integrated approach (as in case of EUBSRS)
- Synergies and trade-offs (final consensus)
- Base documents making
 - Communication Report (at the end of 2010)
 - Targets setting (should be further developed - stakeholders)
 - Action Plan (for implementation of targets)

★ Capitals

● > 250 000 Inh.

● 200 000 - 250 000 Inh.

● 150 000 - 200 000 Inh.

■ Pillars (4)

■ Priority Areas (11)

■ Actions/projects (uncountable)

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Challenges & Opportunities (in the EUDRS)

■ Challenges in the field of...

■ Mobility

■ The Danube River - high valuated TEN-T corridor
(moderate using 10%-20% of that on the Rhine)

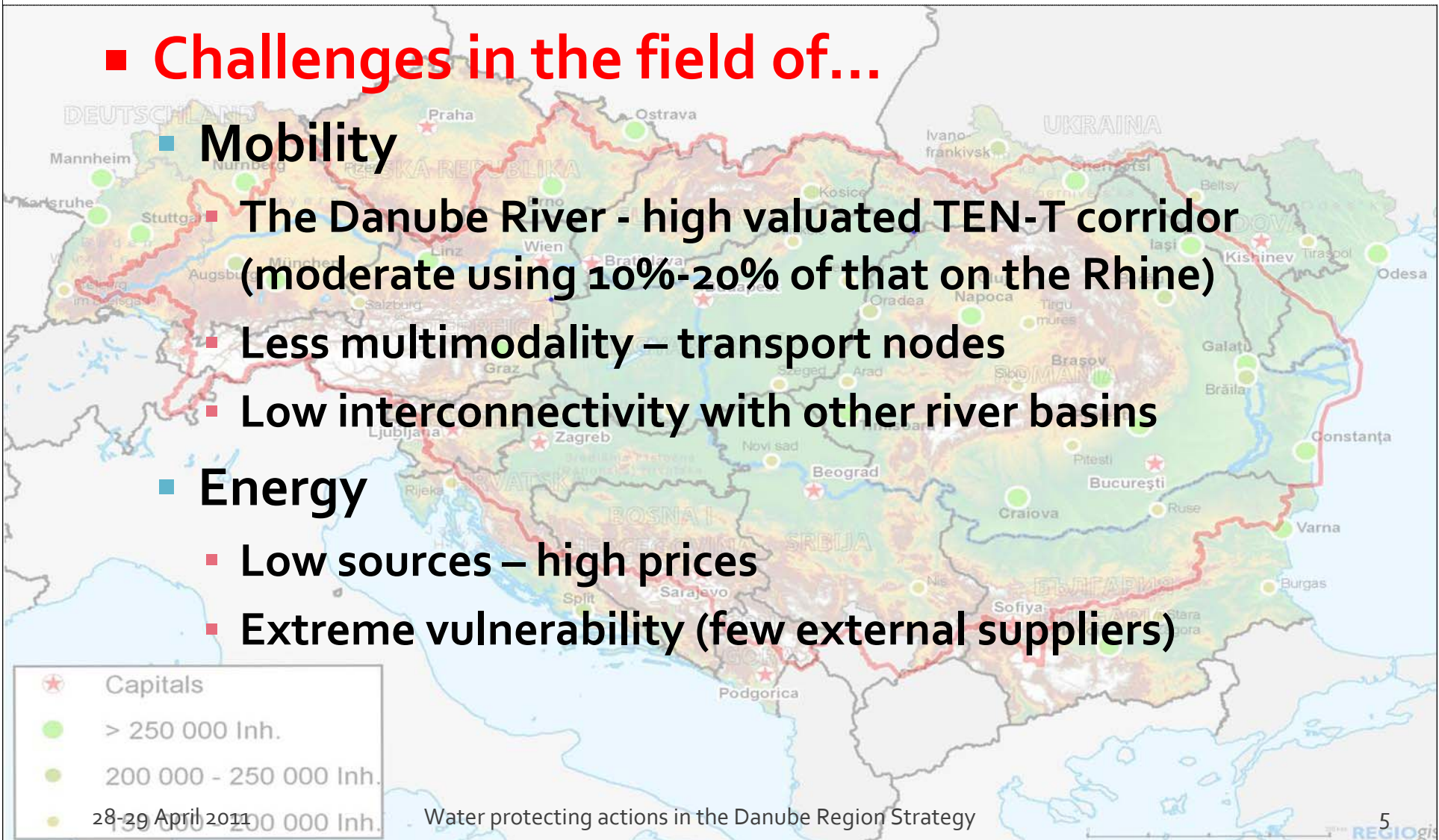
■ Less multimodality – transport nodes

■ Low interconnectivity with other river basins

■ Energy

■ Low sources – high prices

■ Extreme vulnerability (few external suppliers)



Challenges & Opportunities (in the EUDRS)

■ Challenges in the field of... (cont.)

■ Environment

- High water & environment pollution (point and diffuse sources)
- Environmental risks growing (floods, droughts, accidents)
- Breaking down of protected areas (biodiversity losses)

■ Socio-economic issues

- Definite disparities (Eastern-Western EU countries problem)
- Cooperation lacking
- Less financial and institutional promotion
- Low innovation, research and marketing opportunities

■ Security, crimes

- Smuggling
- Corruption



Challenges & Opportunities (in the EUDRS)

■ Opportunities

■ Gate to East

■ Traditionally good and solid education level

■ High quality regionwide cultures

■ Unique natural diversity and heritage

■ Rich environmental assets (water, soil, landscapes, flora&fauna)

■ More opportunity for using of renewable energy

sources

★ Capitals

● > 250 000 Inh.

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Pillars & Priority Areas (with coordinating countries)

- **Connecting the Danube Region**

- 1 To improve mobility and multimodality
 - Inland waterways (AT&RO)
 - Road, rail and air links (SLO&SR)
- 2 To encourage more sustainability energy (HU&CZ)
- 3 To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts (BG&RO)

3 PA for AT, DE, HU, RO
2 PA for SLO, SK, SR, BG, HR
1 PA for CZ, MD

- **Protecting the Environment**

- 4 To restore and maintain the quality of waters (HU&SK)
- 5 To manage environmental risks (HU&RO)
- 6 To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils (DE&HR)

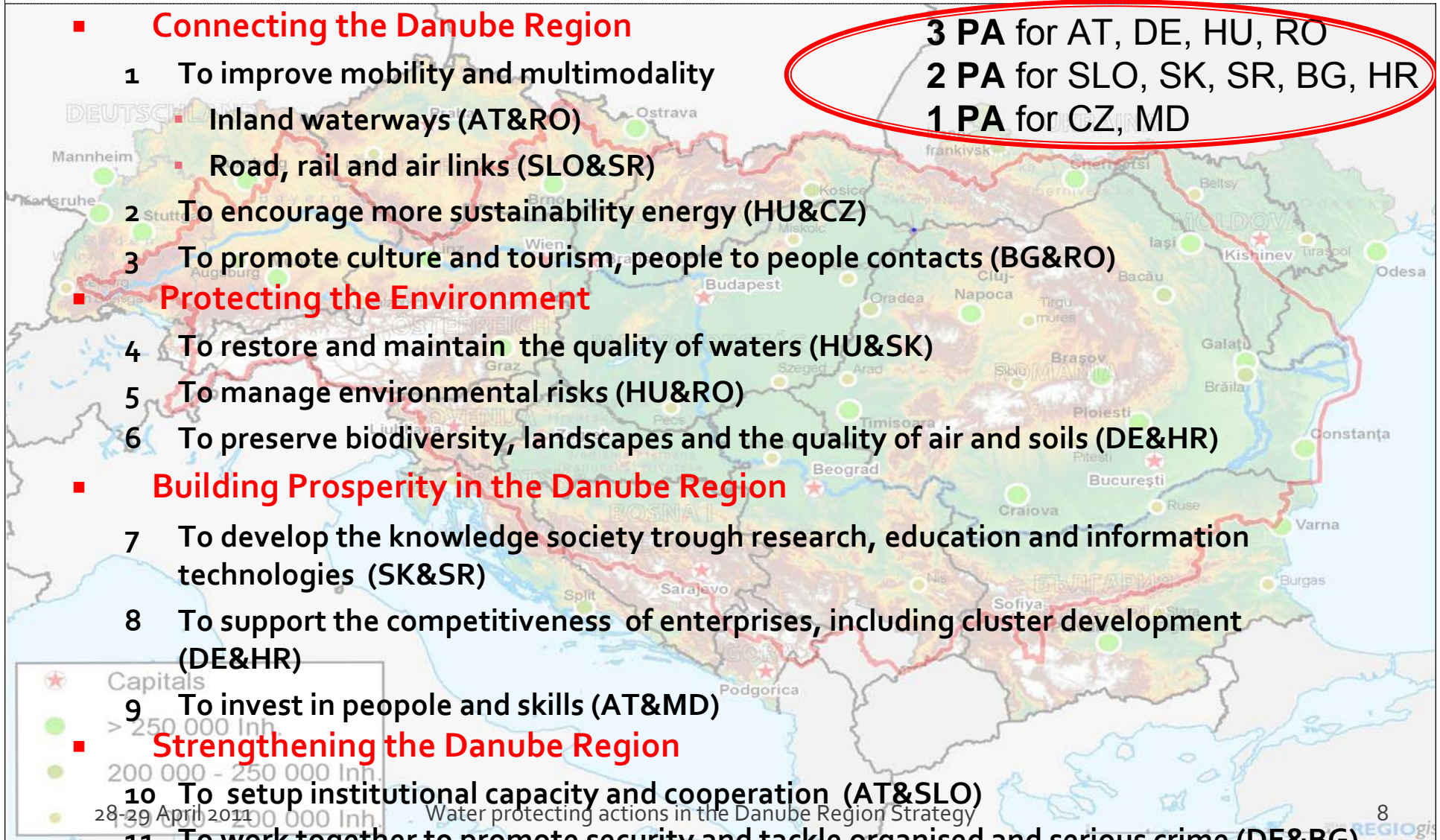
- **Building Prosperity in the Danube Region**

- 7 To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies (SK&SR)
- 8 To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development (DE&HR)

- **Strengthening the Danube Region**

- 9 To invest in people and skills (AT&MD)
- 10 To setup institutional capacity and cooperation (AT&SLO)

- 11 To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime (DE&BG)



Coordination workflow

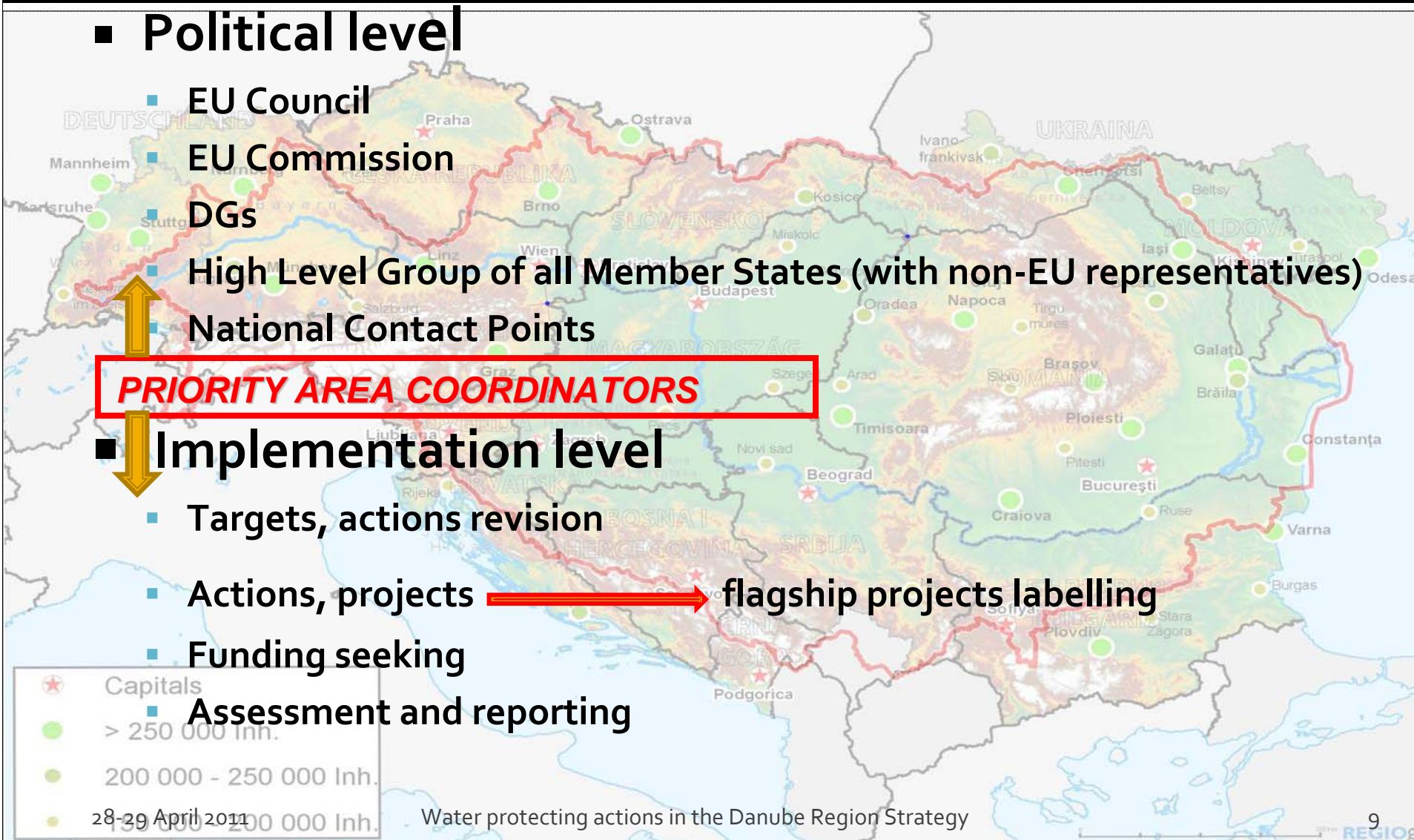
Political level

- EU Council
- EU Commission
- DGs
- High Level Group of all Member States (with non-EU representatives)
- National Contact Points

PRIORITY AREA COORDINATORS

Implementation level

- Targets, actions revision
- Actions, projects → **flagship projects labelling**
- Funding seeking
- Assessment and reporting



Expectations to PACs

- Three NO
 - No new EU funds
 - No new institutions
 - No new EU legislations

BUT

- Three YES
 - Be committed
 - Be proactive
 - Be effective



The 4th Priority Area

- To restore and maintain the quality of waters

- Main features

- Operational area is practically the Danube River Basin District
- Operational method is practically based on WFD implementation
- Operational targets are practically suitable environmental objectives of the DRBM Plan
- Provisional targets (by Communication Document)
 - 1 Achieve the environmental objectives set out in the DRBM Plan
 - 2 Reduce the nutrient (**only?**) levels in the Danube River (**only?**) to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to condition similar to 1960
 - 3 Complete and adopt the Delta Management Plan by 2013

Anything else? No more? Are they fitted for all ?



Actions for PA4

1. **Action - "To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan"**
2. **Action - "To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level"**
3. **Action - "To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR"**
4. **Action - "To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure"**
5. **Action - "To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements"**
6. **Action - "To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution"**
7. **Action - "To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents"**
8. **Action - "To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measure for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits"-**



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Actions for PA4 (cont.)

9. **Action - "To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region"**
10. **Action - "To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danuberiver basin"**
11. **Action - "To promote measures to limit water abstraction"**
12. **Action - "To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region"**
13. **Action - "To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply"**
14. **Action - "To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea"**

Revision of Actions & Projects!!!

Adjustment types: - clarification/correction

● > 250 000 Inh. - **modification/new action/project proposal**

● 200 000 - 250 000 Inh. - **deletion**

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State of play on...

■ HU level

■ at political site

- Commissioner bureau set up in Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Political responsibility for relevant PAs
- Nomination of PACs for implementation

■ at executive site

- Projects collection concerning PA4 actions (Excel file)
- Provisional 'flagship' labelling for ongoing and planned projects

■ HU-SK coordination level

■ First 'contact' meeting done

■ Coordination work sharing done

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State of play on... (cont.)

■ HU-SK coordination level (cont.)

- Both coordination staff are ready to work
- First kick-off meeting in Bratislava under preparation

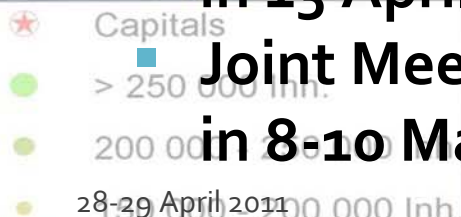
■ Third countries level

- Networking with national counterparts
- Steering Meetings with interested countries

■ EU level

- Commissioner HAHN (DG Regio) announced PACs in 3 February 2011 in Budapest
- EU General Affairs Council Meeting adopted the EUSDR in 13 April 2011

Joint Meeting of National CP and PAC on the EUSDR in 8-10 May, Gödöllő, Hungary



Thank you for attention

