Network building in and with "**Central and Eastern Europe**"

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Questions to be answered

- What is the status of “the region” and how can we capture patterns? **Where does the region stand and where does it go**?
- Which **support** is available? What is done at the level of policy, programmes, projects and individual researchers?
- How do we try to **coordinate funding** and how successful is it?
- What are **main barriers** to cooperation?
- How can we **build strategic networks**?

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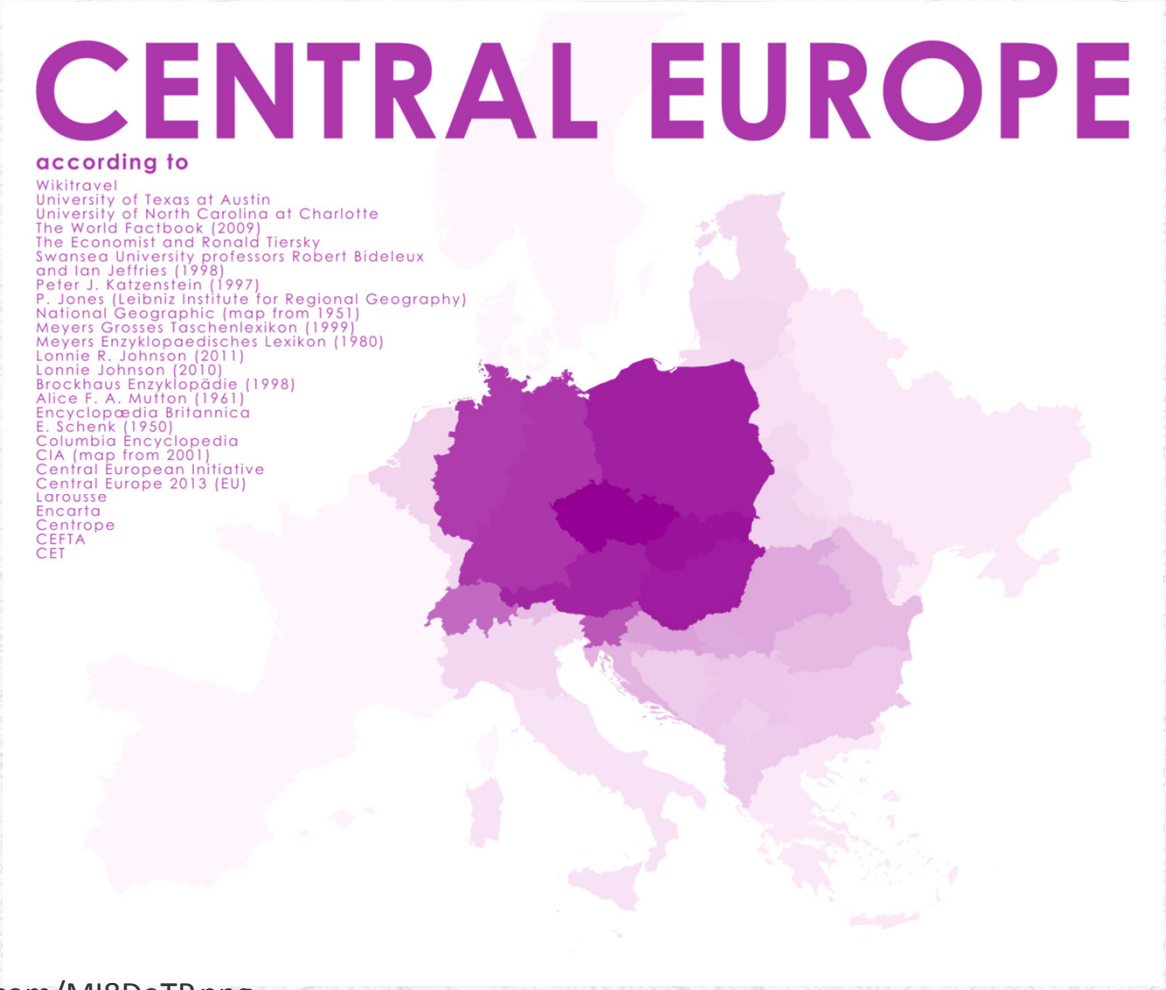
What is “the region” after all?
Central Europe



Source:
http://i.imgur.com/MI8DoTP.png

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What is “the region” after all?

- Western Balkan countries
- Eastern Partnership countries
- Danube Region

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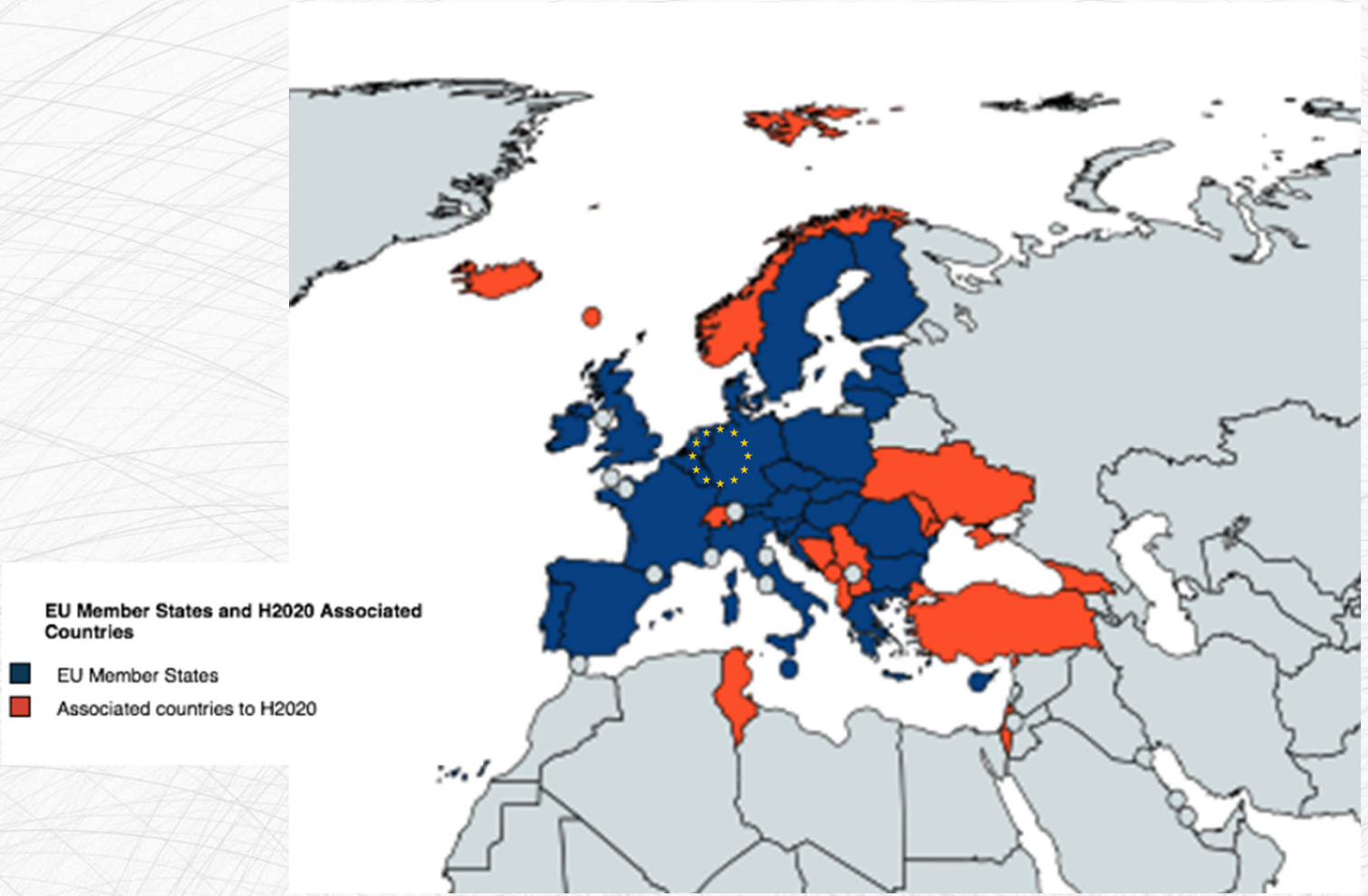
Horizon 2020 association status



Kosovo* is not yet associated to H2020

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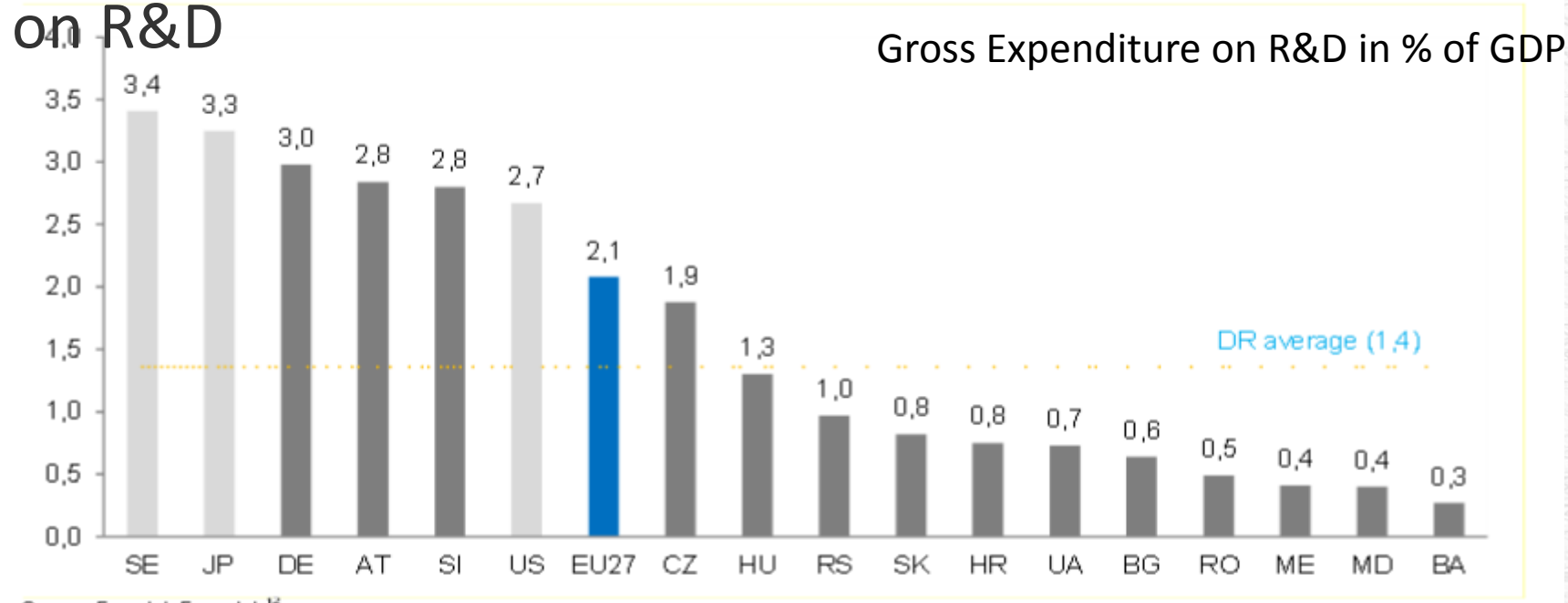
Where do we stand?

Countries are not reaching adequate levels of spending on R&D



Source: Eurostat, Eurawatch[12]
* Gross domestic R&D expenditure (GERD) comprise: business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD), higher education expenditure on R&D (HERD), government intermural expenditure on R&D (GOVERD) and non-profit expenditure on R&D (PNPRD). GERD by sectors can be found in Appendix 1
** GERD (2011) Bavaria = 3,1 %; GERD (2011) Baden-Württemberg = 5,1 %

Source: https://danube-inco.net/object/document/15630/attach/ENG_DRRIF_Prog__document_Feasibility_study_FINAL.pdf

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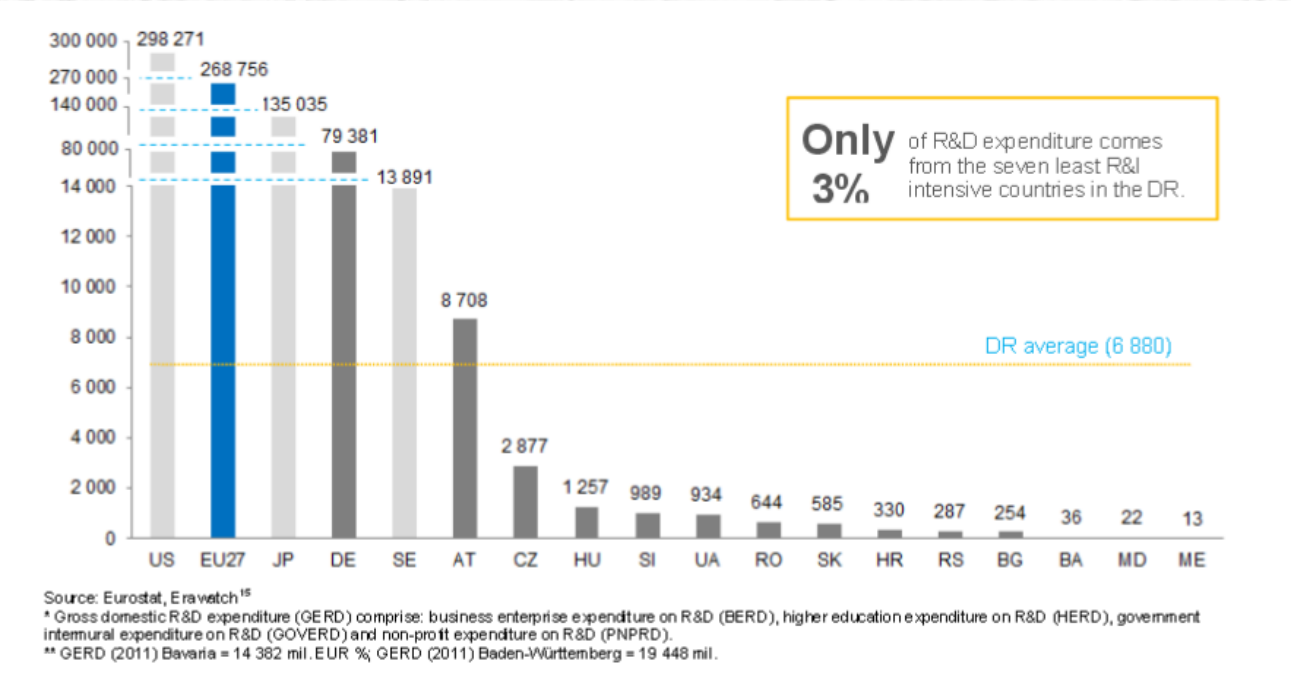
Where do we stand?

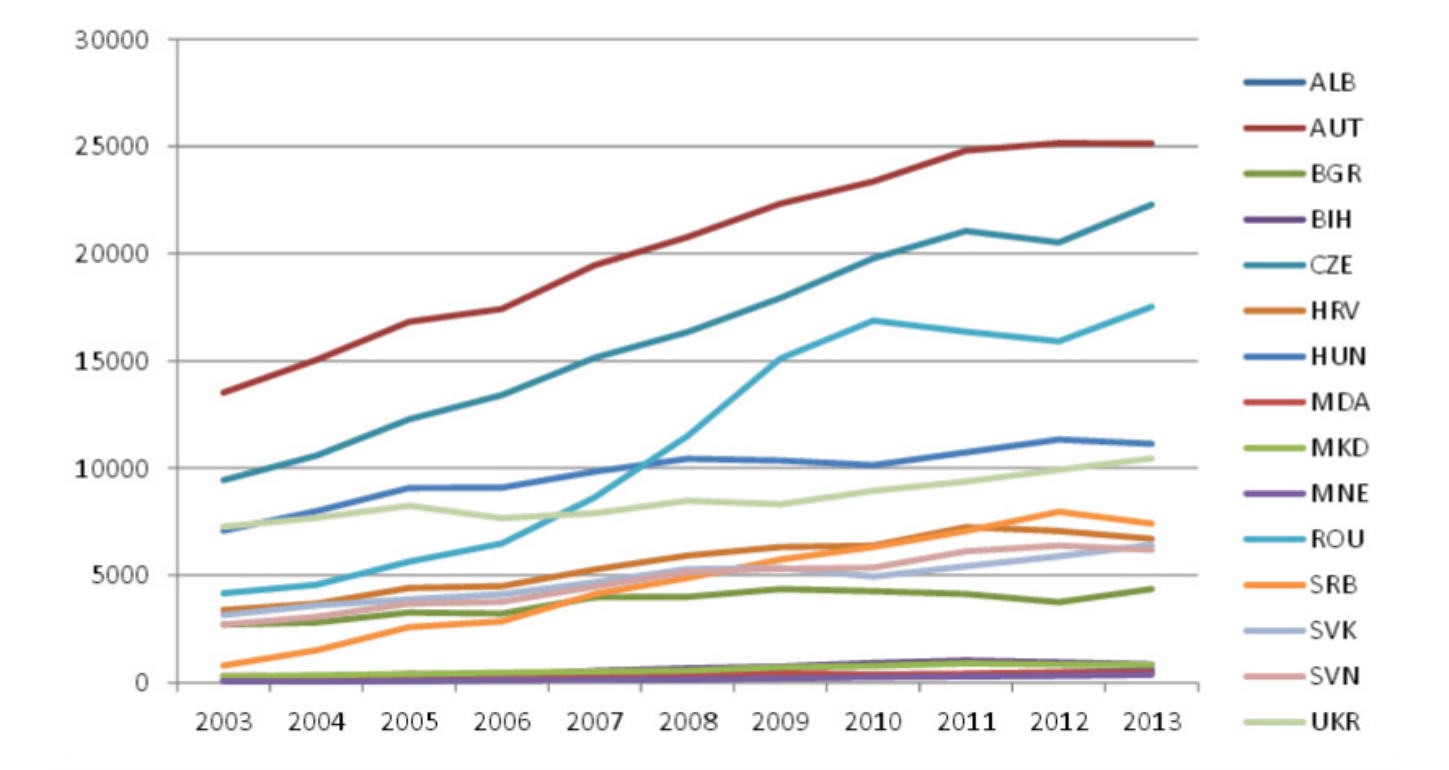
In absolute terms, we see that one country in the region is absolutely dominant



Source: https://danube-inco.net/object/document/15630/attach/ENG_DRRIF_Prog__document_Feasibility_study_FINAL.pdf

Where do we stand?

Publication output 2003-2013



Source: Danube-INCO.NET D4.16 on Copublication and Copatenting.
https://danube-inco.net/object/document/15630/attach/ENG_DRRIF_Prog__document_Feasibility_study_FINAL.pdf

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Where do we stand?

Innovation Union Scoreboard suggests

- **Innovation leaders** (above the EU average): Germany
- **Innovation followers** (above or close to the EU average): Austria, Slovenia
- **Moderate innovators** (below the EU average): Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia
- **Modest innovators** (below the EU average): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine

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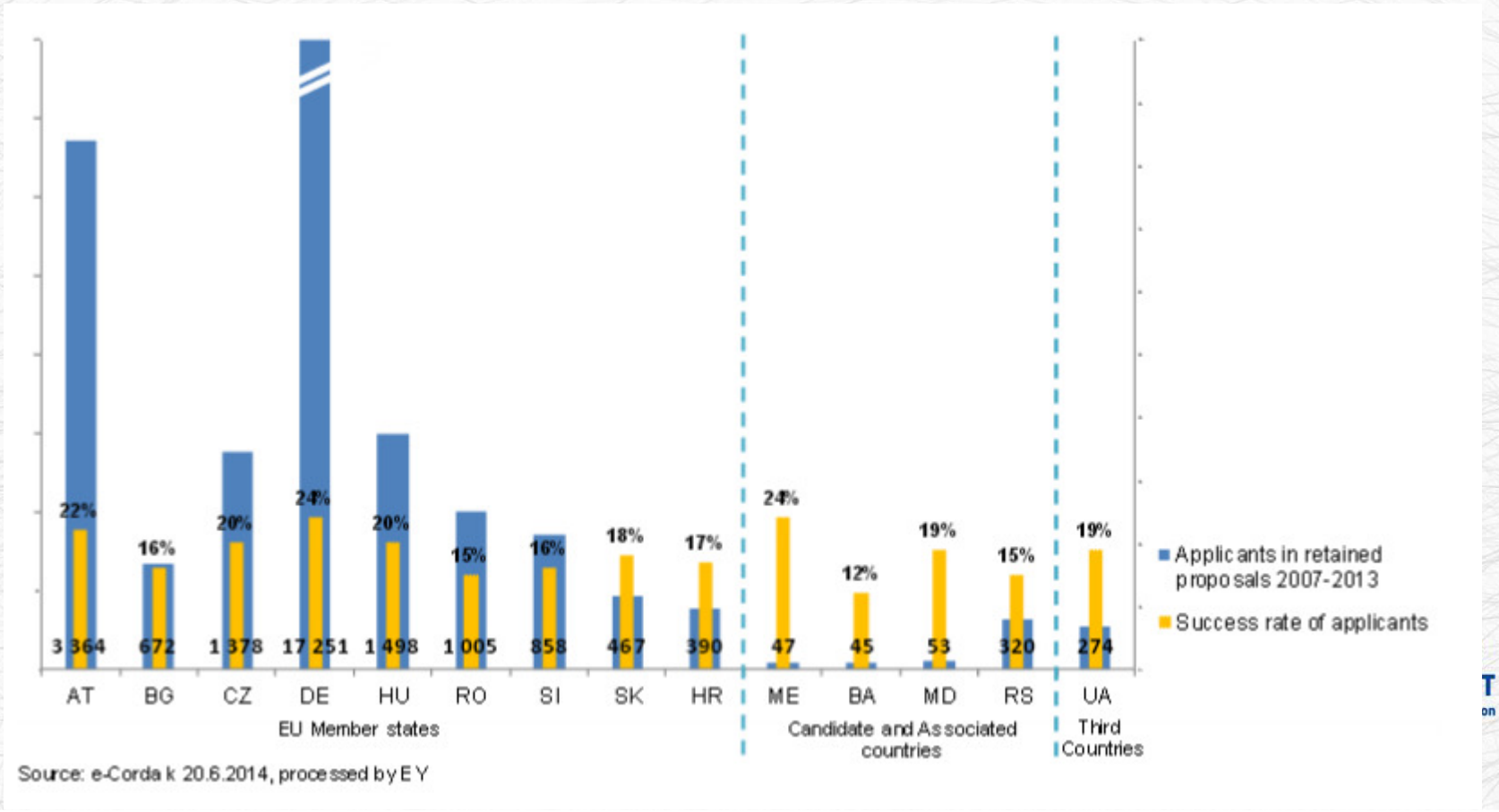
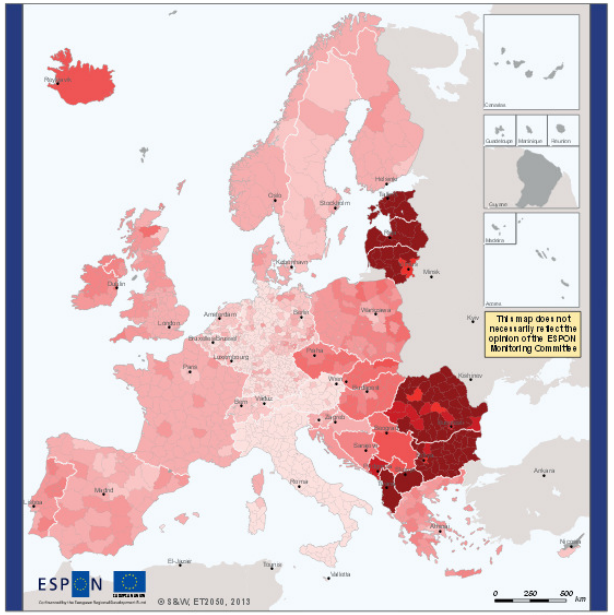
Where do we stand?

Number of applicants in retained proposals and success rate in FP7 2007 - 2013



Where do we go?

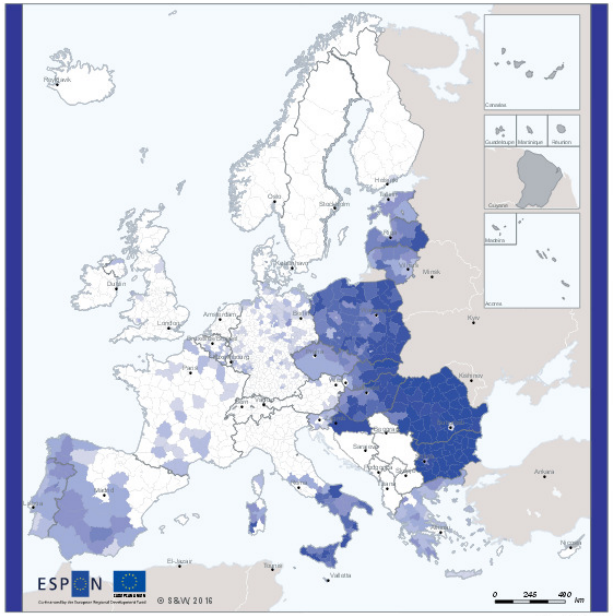
Map 1. Baseline: GDP progress of regions with better regulation



Mean annual change in GDP per capita (%), 2011 - 2051

2.8 - 3.0	1.8 - 2.0	no data available
2.6 - 2.8	1.6 - 1.8	
2.4 - 2.6	1.4 - 1.6	
2.2 - 2.4	1.2 - 1.4	
2.0 - 2.2	1.0 - 1.2	

Map 2. Baseline: Slowdown of GDP progress with less efficient regulation



Difference in GDP per capita, 0Lr - 0Br (%), 2051

> -0.3	-1.8 - -1.5	no data available
-0.6 - -0.3	-2.1 - -1.8	
-0.9 - -0.6	-2.4 - -2.1	
-1.2 - -0.9	-2.7 - -2.4	
-1.5 - -1.2	< -2.7	

Source: EPSON Policy brief May 2016: Territorial implication of Better Regulation for Europe towards 2050 / https://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Publications/PolicyBriefs/03-BetterRegulation-0516/Policy_brief_better-regulation_final.pdf

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What is going on in policy?

- **European Research Area** – status of "association" to **Horizon 2020**, involvement in ERA advisory bodies, programme committees, etc., available Policy Support Facility, specific "widening" activities
- **Enlargement** process – negotiating *EU aquis* 'chapter 25', using IPA II funds, regional cooperation among "Western Balkan countries", e.g. development of "South East Europe 2020" strategy under coordination of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) (which includes focus on R&I) and **European Neighbourhood Policy**
- **Macro-regional strategies**, e.g. EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Adriatic-Ionian, etc. including both MS and non-MS; transnational cooperation (Interreg), Policy Learning Platforms etc.

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What programmes are available?

- National and bilateral programmes
- Horizon 2020
- COST
- EUREKA
- EU structural funds (primarily ERDF followed by ESF)
- Interreg (transnational and cross-border)
- Instrument for Pre-accession II
- European Neighbourhood Instrument
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation schemes
- Grants through Central European Initiative and other multinational cooperation fora (Visegrad 4, etc.) and in the future WISE (currently set-up phase)
- Erasmus+, CEEPUS, etc.
- Etc.

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Coordination of funding
Creating a sustainable structure

- Creation of a Danube Funding Coordination Network (launch end of May 2016)
- Members nominated from ministries and agencies
- Cooperation with ERA-NET COFUNDs, JPIs, COST, EUREKA, etc.

DFCN

URBAN EUROPE

PLATFORM

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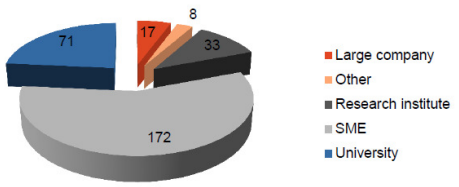
Coordination of funding
A success story?

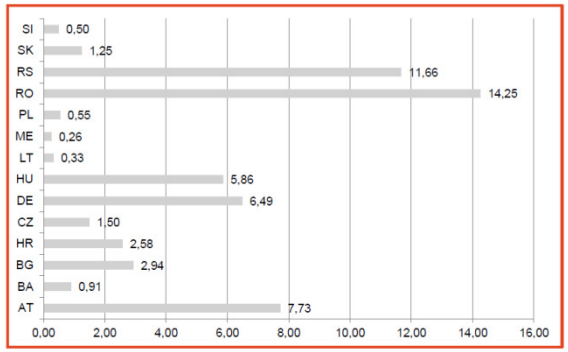
- http://www.eurekanetwork.org/danube-region-call-for-projects

  Call in 2 stages in the first half of 2015
- Participating countries 2015: AT, BiH, BG, HR, CZ, DE, HU, ME, RO, RS, SK

Country	Participants
RS	87
RO	67
HU	45
DE	24
AT	19
HR	13
BG	11
BA	8
CZ	8
SK	8
ME	5
LT	2
PL	2
SI	2
TR	1



Participant type	Number of participants
Large company	17
Other	8
Research institute	33
SME	172
University	71
Grand Total	**301**



Total Budget 56,82 M€

Average project costs 0,71 M€

Coordination of funding
A success story?

- Strong interest, huge potential, existing networks (particular among neighbours)
- National budgets are not “reliably” available (meeting deadlines, etc.)
- Projects not always balanced (both countries profiting, both carrying out R&I, etc.) and of adequate quality

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Barriers to cooperation

From the point of view of the researcher:

1. Barriers related to overall capacity of the country
2. **Project management barriers**
3. **Administrative and bureaucratic barriers**
4. Scientific excellence barriers
5. **Barriers related to the capacity of the institution**
6. Socio-cultural and political barriers
7. Personal barriers

Source:
Danube-INCO.NET Deliverable “Barriers to Cooperation”. Questionnaire in 2015. n= 720 from enlargement countries.

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Barriers to cooperation

- Participation depends (also) on number of submissions; which depend on
  - Number of researchers (depends on GERD)
  - Incentives
  - Information
  - Network effects
- Concentration of efforts is recommended
- Strategic approach towards ESIF – H2020, avoid seeing ESIF funds as “easy way” (less competition, language, etc.)
- Lack of an “ERA ecosystem”, culture of competition and cooperation

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Barriers to cooperation

- Huge **diversity** in the performance of the different EUSDR countries when it comes to R&I capacities and “the region” is not an exclusive cooperation area (what are the common interests and goals in R&I?; researchers look for partners wherever appropriate)
- **R&D is not a priority** in policy and funding
- Salary differences are very high, brain drain and lack of appropriate reward systems, e.g. high teaching loads
- Cultural issues (“victim syndrome”?)

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Network and information platform

News, events, documents, projects related to R&I cooperation in the Danube Region (and beyond)

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Contact

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Thank you for your attention!

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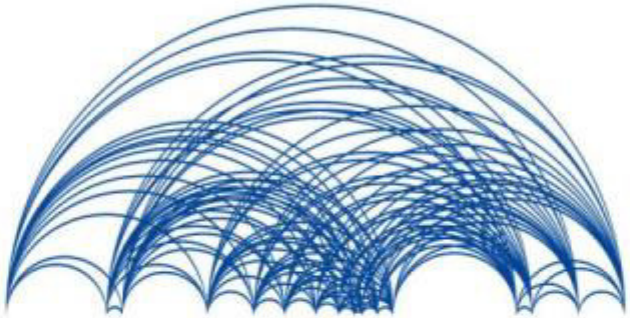

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