



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE

ISTVÁN JOÓ

Ministerial Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy

Dear Reader,

The topic of the present study signifies the very essence of the work that I and my colleagues, as the Hungarian national coordination for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), try to accomplish every day. The Danube basin is special due to its well-known diversity in several aspects. Despite the socio-economic, political and natural fragmentation of the region, the 14 Danubian countries are facing similar challenges that need joint efforts. That is why cross-border cooperation provides a strong foundation on which a successful Danube Region can be built upon.

There are countless cross-border initiatives that we have supported the past few years, among which those involving partners from non EU countries are of utmost significance. Besides the generation of individual cross-border projects related to water management, energy efficiency improvement or developing transport connections at macro-regional level, the recent establishment of the Tisza European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) involving Hungary and Ukraine, being the first such territorial collaboration between an EU and a non-EU country is a primary example of how we facilitate cross-border cooperation. Having the goals of the Danube Region Strategy included in the founding document of the Tisza EGTC is of historic importance.

Although the study is primarily targeted at policy experts and the scientific community, I am confident that it can also serve as a useful tool to the decision makers of the region as well. Its content and its findings are not only relevant in understanding the way decisions were made in the past, but also serve as guidelines to how projects should be approached in the future.

István Joó

Ministerial Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

