

	<b>European Danube Region Strategy EDRS</b>
<b>Priority</b>	<i>II. Sustainable economy development</i>
<b>Name of the programme</b>	<b>5. Green Economy along the Danube</b>
<p><i>The preliminaries, justification and objective of the programme</i></p>	<p>The so-called Green Economy is a promising way of renewing the economy, affected by the global climate change, increasing unemployment and considerable limits in development (e.g. increasing power and raw material demand and prices). In the course of the complex management of the issue, covering several factors and conditions, in addition to producers, the role played by the consumers of products and the function of government in the economy need to be reconsidered.</p> <p>Owing to the imminent environmental effects of the global climate change, the green economy, and more specifically green employment, the promotion of job creation in relation to green investment projects, is increasingly gaining ground. The extension of green employment is included among the priorities of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian presidency as an area in which specific action is planned to be taken in progress (the facilitation of green job creation in joint effort with the social partners in order to support an economy with low CO2 emission).</p> <p>The objective of this programme is to contribute to the maintenance of and increase in biological diversity, support natural self-regulatory procedures, preserve endangered species that are important for reasons of cultural history and genetics, protection and improvement of the biological condition of the soil, and facilitation of food safety by joining the forces of countries along the Danube. Additional programme objectives include the direct reduction of environmental load by businesses through technological development, in other words, encouraging them to increase the efficiency of their power, water and other raw material consumption, and cut the volume of waste generation and the emission of hazardous substances along with reducing their hazard. The aim is to have an environment-conscious approach and consideration for sustainability regularly and consciously included in the operational and decision-making practice of companies. The traditional form of economy, significant for maintaining the landscape, needs to be maintained, and the benefits of small quantities of plant-protecting agents and optimum nutrient management must be increased.</p> <p>As a significant element in maintaining biological diversity, growing genetically modified plants should be avoided and impeded on areas under agricultural cultivation. Consequently, the traditional plant species need to be preserved and re-included in production, and the traditional forms of farming must be revived.</p>

<p><i>The content of the programme (subprogrammes)</i></p>	<p>The Green Economy programme can be implemented and reinforced by way of the following interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encouraging the reinforcement of Green Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The elaboration of a performance measuring system that can demonstrate environmental effects in the economy.</li> <li>▪ As a result of improvement in their current activities and the operating technologies businesses apply (perhaps capacity improvement), they should make the best of environment friendly technologies and production methods, increase their competitiveness and economic efficiency.</li> <li>▪ Encouraging product and technology development in the environment protection industry</li> <li>▪ Support to employment and job creation in the environment protection industry</li> <li>▪ Raising environmental awareness in the participants of the economy and consumers</li> <li>▪ The establishment of social economy (as a non-profit sector) and local markets</li> <li>▪ Rules to govern the production processes and products, explicitly aimed at the protection of employees, health and the environment against the harmful effects of economic activity</li> <li>▪ Green tax and support policies may contribute to a fairer economy in terms of social as well as environmental considerations (e.g. environmental taxes and bonuses, Green Bank)</li> <li>▪ Reinforcement of financial means or raising funds to facilitate the activities of small, medium and fledgling businesses with the help of the European Investment Bank</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. High-standard food supply, agricultural development based on ecological and the traditional food production culture, and provision for the conditions of maintaining the genetically non-modified status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reinforcement of dialogues, information flow and cooperation between businesses and organisations engaged in eco-farming</li> <li>▪ Targeted support to processing agricultural products from eco-farming and facilitating their marketing</li> <li>▪ Setting up a monitoring and control system for the analysis of the use and spread of genetically modified plants, and the extension of long-term scientific research in the physiological effects of GMO plants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Promotion of green employment: facilitating job creation in relation to green investment projects</li> </ol>
<p><i>Other countries potentially affected</i></p>	<p>Countries along the Danube River, like Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, the Ukraine, Croatia and Serbia</p>
<p><i>Obligation (in terms of law etc.)</i></p>	<p>Position by the European Greens: “A Green Economic Vision for Europe”; Relevant provisions of the Community rules on GMO-free organic foodstuffs (Council Regulation 834/2007 EC and its enacting rules, as well as Commission Regulation 889/2008);</p>

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	The 18-months programme of the Council (16771/09) – programme of the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian presidency
<i>Link with the Danube strategy</i>	I. D Food safety II. C Sustainable industrial development
<i>Parties affected by the programme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Economic research institutes, environment businesses, scientific and technological development institutes, consumer protection organisations, non-government organisations, producers, SMEs, dealers
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	<p>In the course of the expected transformation, the environment will become cleaner, smaller and medium-sized businesses will be established, and the ratio as well as the significance of environmental research will increase. Through capitalisation on the natural endowments of the region, production and trade performance as well as food and environment safety will increase in the region. In agreement with the rural development objective, retaining rural population, the creation of attractive living and working conditions by a carefully considered, integrated and sustainable exploitation of the local resources.</p> <p>Through the reinforcement of green economy, the environmental infrastructure will be developed with a view to sustainability considerations, while natural resources will be used more efficiently and economically. The individual environment technological developments should serve the preservation of the quality and functions of the most possible environmental constituents, and convert a complete production and consumption structure into a more sustainable pattern (requirements, demand and production capacities).</p> <p>In the framework of the programme, dialogue, the information flow and cooperation between the businesses and organisations engaged in eco-farming along the Danube River must be strengthened. The establishment of joint ventures and the optimisation of the available resources must be encouraged by methods elaborated by businesses that can be cited as examples in other areas (e.g. the Novohrad–Nógrád Geopark).</p> <p>With a view to the fact that the ratio of processed eco-products remains low among others for the reason that due to undercapitalisation, businesses have not built the required capacities to the sufficient extent, the processing and marketing of the produced eco-products should be given targeted support. This way the price of eco-products may be reduced and their spread can be facilitated in order to promote the achievement of the programme objectives. The Member States located along the Danube River may contribute greatly to the realisation of the priority objectives of the European Union, like sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>As a result of improvement in their activities and the operating technologies businesses apply (perhaps capacity improvement), they should make the best of environment friendly technologies and production methods, increase their competitiveness and economic efficiency.</p>

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<i>Funding sources for the programme</i>	European Regional Development Fund, European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund
<i>Term of implementation</i>	ongoing
<i>Progress made in preparation for the program</i>	The conceptual and theoretical regulatory elements of the Green Economy as well as the individual constituents of the system of support to businesses and the ecological production culture – e.g. in respect of technological development and agricultural environment protection – have already been elaborated.
<i>Relationship with other programmes and projects</i>	They are connected with interventions made in order to preserve the natural and biological heritage and promote social integration.

	<b>European Danube Region Strategy EDRS</b>
<b>Name of subprogramme</b>	<b>5.1. Encouraging the reinforcement of Green Economy</b>
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Countries along the Danube River: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and the Ukraine
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	The economies of the above-mentioned countries
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the subprogramme</i>	<p>Converting the economy into green systems includes three things: development of the environmental economy into a key industry, improvement of energy efficiency, and gaining ground for renewable as against fossil energy.</p> <p>The purpose of reinforcing green economy is the development of the environmental infrastructure with a view to sustainability considerations, and a more efficient and economical use of the natural resources. The efficient and economical use of the infrastructure and resources require a more thorough knowledge and more natural application of the considerations of sustainable development. This requires complex developments that would use the individual environment technological developments in the interest of the maintenance of the quality and functions of all or the most possible environmental constituents, and convert a complete production and consumption structure into a more sustainable pattern (requirements, demand and production capacities). Promoting the establishment of green investment projects serve several purposes at a time: they gradually restructure the industry towards environment friendly technologies. With this it lays the foundations of a sustainable and environment friendly development, opening up new perspectives for innovation and technological reforms, and creates jobs. As a driving engine in the economy, in addition to the provision of opportunities to employees who actually use the specific industrial solutions, it contributes to the creation of new jobs and the use of the available potential labour in the field of training specialists and infrastructure development.</p>
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	Position by the European Greens: “A Green Economic Vision for Europe”
<i>Common interests of the Danube Region Member States</i>	Renewal of the industry in the region and increase in employment
<i>Parties affected by the subprogramme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Economic research institutes, environment businesses, scientific and technological development institutes, consumer protection organisations, non-government organisations
<i>Content of the subprogramme, projects</i>	<p>The evolution and reinforcement of the Green Economy can be encouraged by the following interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The elaboration of a performance measuring system that can demonstrate environmental effects in the economy;</li> <li>▪ As a result of improvement in their current activities and the operating technologies businesses apply (perhaps capacity improvement), they should make the best of environment friendly technologies and production methods, increase their</li> </ul>

	<p>competitiveness and economic efficiency;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouraging product and technology development in the environment protection industry;</li> <li>▪ Increase in the demand for products that meet the requirements of sustainability, familiarity with the independent rating system of such products, the selection of environment-friendly packaging, and the encouragement of and feedback on the development in the supply of environment friendly products;</li> <li>▪ Raising environmental awareness in the participants of the economy and consumers;</li> <li>▪ The establishment of social economy (as a non-profit sector) and local markets;</li> <li>▪ Cooperation between communities, especially the reinforcement of micro-regions in the interest of sustainability;</li> <li>▪ Rules to govern the production processes and products, explicitly aimed at the protection of employees, health and the environment against the harmful effects of economic activity;</li> <li>▪ Contracts and commitments by dealers regarding “environmental performance”;</li> <li>▪ A more extensive application of the market instruments run by the incorporation of environmental costs (e.g. taxes and resource use fees), review of the incorporation of the environmental aspect in the value added tax (the green tax and subsidy policies contribute to a fairer economy in terms of social as well as environmental considerations (e.g. environmental taxes and bonuses, Green Bank)</li> <li>▪ Improvement and integration of the European Union’s environmental product rating system in various policies; action against wrong and misleading environmental product labelling and promotion;</li> <li>▪ Campaigns for green procurement, furnishing consumers with information and training consumers.</li> </ul>
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	In the course of the expected transformation, the environment will become cleaner, smaller and medium-sized businesses will be established, and the ratio as well as the significance of environmental research will increase.
<i>Cost requirement of the subprogramme</i>	Currently unknown
<i>Term of implementation</i>	ongoing
<i>Progress made in preparation for the programme(permits, plans, expected time of start, etc.)</i>	The conceptual and theoretical regulatory elements of the Green Economy as well as the individual constituents of the system of support to businesses – e.g. in respect of technological development – have already been elaborated.

	<b>European Danube Region Strategy EDRS</b>
<b>Name of the subprogramme</b>	<b>5.2. High-standard food supply, agricultural development based on organic and the traditional food production culture, and provision for the conditions of maintaining the genetically non-modified status</b>
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, the Ukraine
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	The total agricultural areas of the above-listed states
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the subprogramme</i>	<p>The global strategic significance of food production and processing is increasingly evitable on account of the rocketing growth of demand for food and the conflicting territorial and ecological limits of food production. After the food overproduction characteristic of the decades past, the safety of food supply is becoming an increasingly worsening social and political issue once again.</p> <p>In this situation, the countries having comparative advantages in the field of food production, like Hungary, must do everything in order to fully capitalise on their advantages. Geographically speaking, Hungary is centrally located among the Danube region countries as a significant ratio of its territory is suitable for the production of high-quality food. However, the best of these advantages can be made if high-standard is produced. The maintenance of GMO-free production may provide a basis for such a high-standard and its uninterrupted control can guarantee safety in the entire field of food production.</p>
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	<p>Regulations on the limitations and prohibition of GMO in organic foodstuffs include Article 9 in Council Regulation 834/2007 on ecological production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 on ecological production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products, and Decree 86/2006. (XII. 23.) FVM of the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on the simultaneous cultivation of genetically modified and traditional plants with plants from ecological farming.</p> <p>Furthermore, in addition to the referenced Council Regulation (EC) 834/2009, organic food production is also regulated by Commission Regulation (EC) 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 834/2009 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic products, labelling and control; as well as Decree 79/2009. (VI. 30.) FVM of the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on the detailed rules of certification, production, distribution, labelling and control of agricultural produce and foodstuffs according to the requirements of ecological farming.</p>
<i>Common interests of the Danube Region Member States</i>	The production of high-quality foodstuffs also serves the purposes of preventing the emergence of future risks.
<i>Parties affected by the subprogramme (target group, beneficiaries, cooperating parties)</i>	Research institutes, producers, SMEs, dealers and consumers

<p><i>Content of the subprogramme, projects</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforcement of dialogues, information flow and cooperation between businesses and organisations engaged in eco-farming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cooperation between communities, especially the reinforcement of micro-regions in the interest of sustainability;</li> <li>▪ Launching joint development and innovation projects, primarily for the elaboration of energy efficient technologies, the utilisation of bye-products, and the reduction of the generated waste;</li> <li>▪ Development of borderland (micro-)regional relations with the involvement of the SMEs operative in the regions, with special regard to the production of traditional, peculiar and organic products; survey of the production background, and eventually the establishment of joint ventures for raw material processing;</li> <li>▪ Increased use of the agricultural marketing tools in the reinforcement of cooperation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Targeted support to processing agricultural products from eco-farming and facilitating their marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preservation of the traditional plant species and their incorporation in re-launched cultivation, revival, preservation, and network organisation of the traditional forms of farming and agriculture from the raw material to the buyer;</li> <li>▪ Encouragement of the organisation of events popularising ecological production and organic products.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Provision for the conditions required for maintaining GMO-free production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Setting up a monitoring and control system for the analysis of the use and spread of genetically modified plants, and the extension of long-term scientific research in the physiological effects of GMO plants.</li> <li>▪ Prevention of the cultivation of genetically modified plants on agricultural land.</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a monitoring and control system analysing the use and spread of genetically modified plants.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><i>Vision/effects/results</i></p>	<p>Through a better capitalisation on the natural endowments of the region, increase in the production and trade performance as well as food and environment safety in the region. In agreement with the rural development objective, retaining rural population, the creation of attractive living and working conditions by a carefully considered, integrated and sustainable exploitation of the local resources.</p>
<p><i>Cost requirement of the subprogramme</i></p>	<p>Currently unknown</p>
<p><i>The term of implementation</i></p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p><i>Progress made in preparation for the programme(permits,</i></p>	<p>Development based on the existent institutions (National Meteorological Service, Plant Health Authority)</p>

<i>plans, expected time of start, etc.)</i>	
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	<b>European Danube Region Strategy EDRS</b>
<b>Name of the subprogramme</b>	<b>5.3. Promotion of green employment, i.e. the creation of jobs related to green investment projects</b>
<i>Potentially affected countries</i>	Countries along the Danube River: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and the Ukraine
<i>Territorial limitation</i>	The territories of the above-listed states
<i>Preliminaries, justification and objective of the subprogramme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owing to the imminent environmental effects of the global climate change, the green economy, and more specifically green employment, the promotion of job creation in relation to green investment projects, is increasingly gaining ground. The extension of green employment is included among the priorities of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian presidency as an area in which specific action is planned to be taken in progress (the facilitation of green job creation in joint effort with the social partners in order to support an economy with low CO2 emission).</li> <li>• Converting the economy into green systems includes three things: development of the environmental economy into a key industry, improvement of energy efficiency, and gaining ground for renewable as against fossil energy.</li> <li>• In terms of financing, it is worth stressing that part of the funds provided by the European Union also serves the use of renewable energy sources, the improvement of environmental economy development and energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Promoting the establishment of green investment projects serve several purposes at a time: they gradually restructure the industry towards environment friendly technologies. With this it lays the foundations of a sustainable and environment friendly development, opening up new perspectives for innovation and technological reforms, and creates jobs.</li> <li>• Switch-over due to the global climate change and the application of new technologies have positive effects on the labour market: As a driving engine in the economy, in addition to the provision of opportunities to employees who actually use the specific industrial solutions, it contributes to the creation of new jobs and the use of the available potential labour in the field of training specialists and infrastructure development. In addition, mention must be made of the fact that as green economic growth is based primarily on the translation of production means using new economic solutions based on an innovative approach. In the first stage and in the short term, this may increase employment primarily for highly qualified specialists. Switch over to green economy also has its risks: in the beginning, when the obsolete industry is decomposed, employees with low qualifications may lose their jobs temporarily.</li> <li>• Today the core and production basis of the green economy</li> </ul>

	<p>comprises a relatively small green industry, providing no more than a “mere” 2-2.5 million greencollar jobs and a global market slightly exceeding EUR 1,000 billion. However, it is true that in the next few years green industry is expected to be one of the most rapidly increasing industries. Projections estimate the global green market to reach EUR 2200 billion by 2020.</p>
<i>Obligation (in terms of law, etc.)</i>	The 18-months programme of the Council (16771/09) – programme of the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian presidency
<i>Common interests of the Danube Region Member States</i>	In compliance with the Europe 2020 strategy envisaging increase in the employment, the creation of more jobs is a common interest.
<i>Parties affected by the subprogramme</i>	Businesses and employees
<i>The content of the subprogramme, projects</i>	<p>The subprogramme has a considerable <b>training requirement</b>: the education systems must keep pace with the knowledge required for the application of new technologies.</p> <p>(In Hungary: in the field of water management, waste utilisation and power management, training programmes are under gradual revision and new specialisations are also set up. Furthermore, knowledge related to environment protection, energy efficiency and the reuse of waste are being incorporated in every single specialist training material. Within the framework of the new modular National Training Register (Hungarian abbreviation: OKJ), 28 specialist courses have been elaborated for the promotion and implementation of green economic policy in the field of industry, environment protection and agriculture.)</p> <p>In respect of the content of the subprogramme, the envisaged green investment projects also create new jobs. This could be enforced primarily in the <b>project selection mechanism</b>.</p> <p>Examples of such green investment projects include the construction of and support to hydro-culture foil/glass houses heated by the waste energy of central heating plants / small power plants fed by solid bio-mass, and the establishment of bio-mass fuelled small plants.</p>
<i>Vision/effects/results</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment may be increased as an <b>additional benefit</b>, as a result of the implementation of green investment projects. Green economy and more specifically green employment (the creation of green jobs), is coherently linked with the Danube Region Development Strategy, and can unite the Danube Region by the simultaneous enforcement of the environmental, economic and employment considerations.</li> <li>• The climate and energy policy concepts of the Europe 2020 Strategy are expected to <b>create approximately 1 million new jobs by 2020 in the renewable energy industry</b> (relative to the current 200 – 300 thousand), and even more in other sectors related to environment protection. The additional employment increase triggered by the Danube Strategy may contribute to this procedure.</li> </ul>
<i>Cost requirement of the subprogramme</i>	Currently unknown

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<i>Term of implementation</i>	ongoing
<i>Progress made in preparation for the programme (permits, plans, expected time of start, etc.)</i>	Green employment is already in the stage of constant shaping and implementation. In the course of implementing the projects within the framework of the Strategy, employment may increase as an additional benefit.