

### The Danube Strategy- National Participation Day in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

On 21 October 2016 the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Regions and Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) carried out the informational workshop titled „The Danube Strategy- National Participation Day in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in Bratislava.

The workshop was aimed at presenting what exactly the Danube Strategy is, what is its importance for Slovakia, which institutions and persons are responsible for the strategy and its priority areas in Slovakia and what types of organisations could be the Danube Strategy useful for. The participants of the workshop were also invited to the international conference “Danube Participation Day” which was to be held on November 2-3 in Bratislava.

The workshop was opened by the statement of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society representatives, then Mr. Stefan August Lütgenau from Foster Europe, DCSF presented the Danube Strategy in an international context, he also clarified its fundamental principles and the process of its creation and approving. The following speaker was Mr. František Koločány from the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. He introduced the functional process and the responsibility of the Government Office as the national coordinator of the Danube Strategy in Slovakia and also towards foreign countries.

Representatives of three priority areas (Mrs. Andrea Vranovská for P.A.4 Water Quality, Mr. Štefan Chudoba for P.A.7 Knowledge society, Mrs. Lucia Auxtová and Mrs. Drahuša Kalmanová for P.A.9 People and Skills) presented their priority areas, their scheduled goals and activities together with the possibilities for NGOs for engaging and cooperation in fulfilling the goals of the priority areas.

Final section of the workshop was devoted to a discussion about real possibilities of engaging in the Danube Strategy and the options for financing these activities. Questions and answers in this discussion suggest that the Danube Strategy is not so well-known issue in the civil society and it is important to lead very intensive communication and to initiate development of mutual relations in order to successfully implement this strategy with the involvement of civil society actors.

The workshop was attended by 40 participants from public administration and civil society.