

# **NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION**

## *A Manual*

### **WHAT IS A NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY?**

National Participation Days (NPD, formerly national hearing) are annually held meetings of all interested active or potential stakeholders of the EUSDR on a national level. The NPDs specifically addresses civil society organisations and networks, local actors from municipality level, academia, public authorities on local and regional level as well as national institutions active in the EUSDR and EUSDR Priority Coordinators (PACs) based in the country, as well as the National Contact Point (NCP). The NPD should be open to interested stakeholders from abroad such as representatives from PACs, academia, umbrella organisations (CoDCR, DCSF) and civil society.

The NPD is the important link:

- a) between the national public actors (ministries, national agencies, NCP, PACs, etc.) and the interested stakeholders active in the country
- b) The NPD gives stakeholders the possibility to meet and exchange information in view of possible cooperation on a macro-regional level
- c) The NPD gives stakeholders the possibility to inform themselves about ongoing projects, calls or other possible financing programmes or instruments in the EUSDR between the supra-national activities of the EUSDR, at the Annual Fora and the annual Danube Participation Days.

### **AIMS OF A NPD**

The NPD should be a forum for stakeholders to report from their work, experience, perspective and planning on both state and non-state level, for mutual information and opinion building on national level.

The NPD should be closely interlinked with the annual fora and the Danube Participation Days. For this the agenda of the NPD should reflect the outcome of the previous and the agenda of the upcoming annual fora and Danube Participation Days as well as the state of implementation, reform and progress of the EUSDR as a whole.

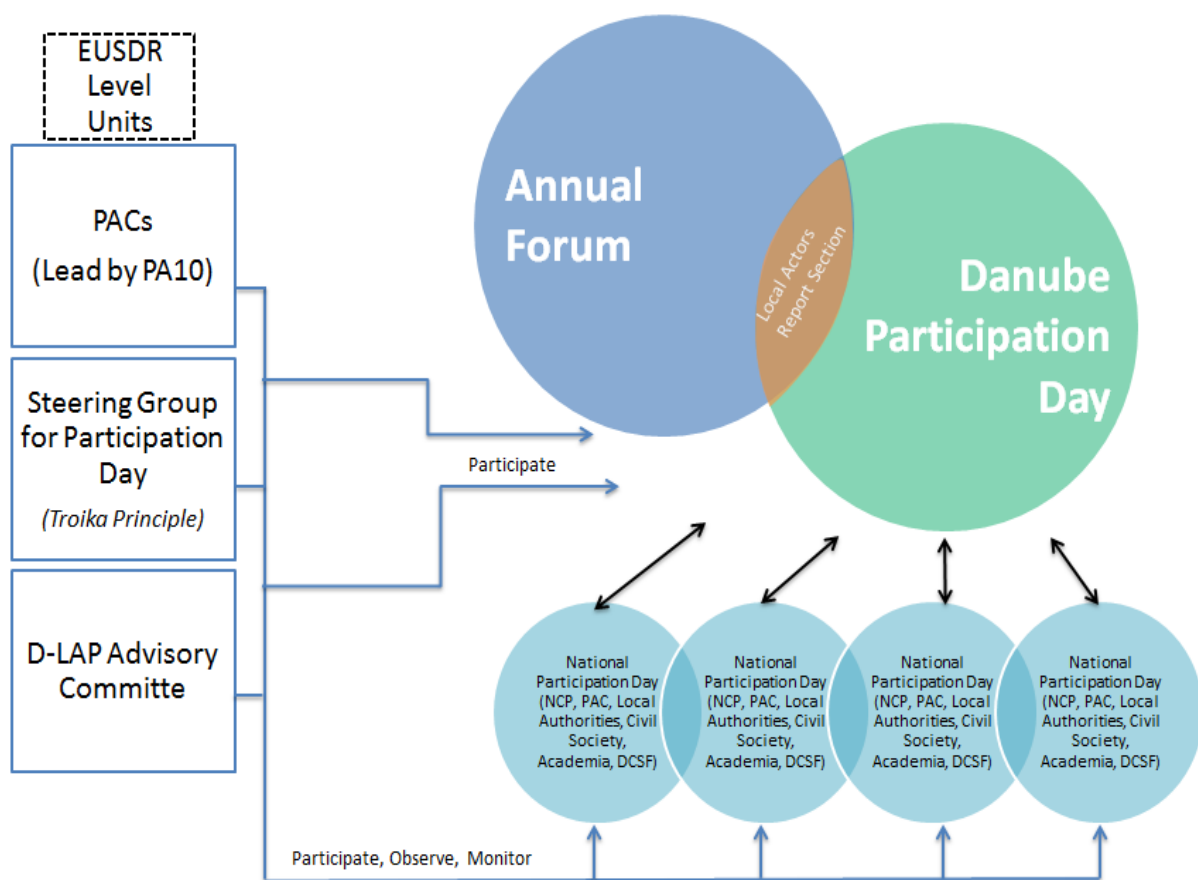
### **FORMAT**

As a practical matter, the experiences from other NPDs held so far shows that the NPD should be held at a venue easy to reach and last not longer than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a day. It should be organised either jointly by the NCP and civil society in coordination with PA 10 responsible for civil society and participation in the EUSDR or by civil society in coordination with the respective NCP and PA 10. In general the NPD should be a low hurdle event for participants and a low cost event for the organisers. From previous experiences, attendance is between 100 and 120 persons.

## OUTCOMES

The NPD should raise the level of national coordination, participation and knowledge on the national strategy within the EUSDR. It could inform participants on current agenda of the EUSDR and foster direct links and contacts between actors from various fields of expertise (state and non-state). The NPD should raise awareness on the national level and motivate possibly interested actors to join the strategy and become active stakeholders.

*Scheme of the participative structure in the EUSDR governance:*



National Participation Days/National hearings have been held so far in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Austria. DCSF and PA 10 are happy to support all efforts to organise National Participation Days.