

# **1st Meeting of the Danube Local Actor Platform (D-LAP)**

Vienna, 4 November 2014

**AN INITIATIVE OF PRIORITY AREA 10  
„INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND  
COOPERATION“ OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE  
DANUBE REGION**

# 1. THE GOVERNANCE OF THE EUSDR/PA10

# Presentation of the new strategy of PA 10 of the EUSDR

Kurt Puchinger, City of Vienna  
Irena Lukač, Centre of Excellence in  
Finance  
PACs

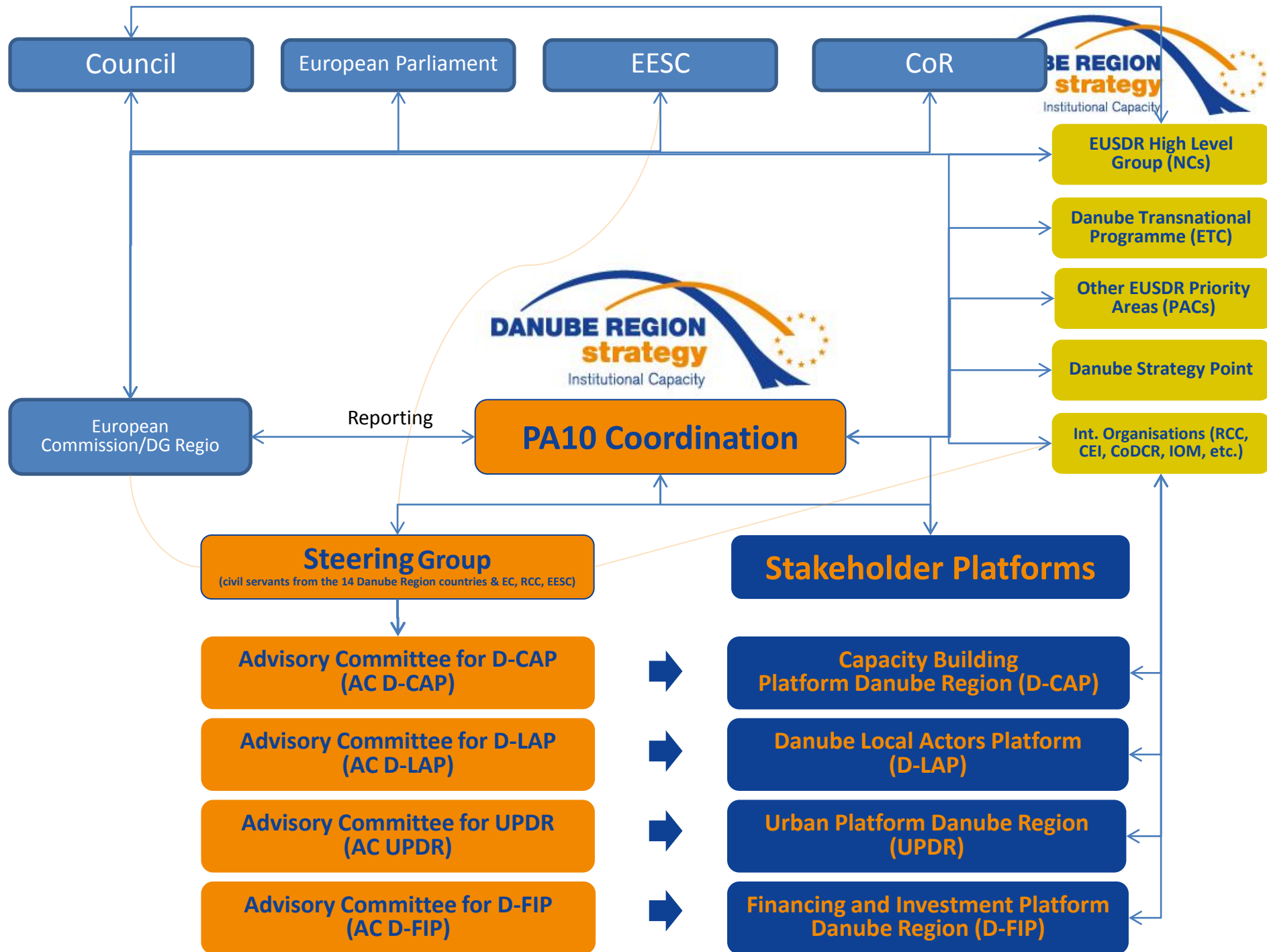
## **4 Stakeholder Platforms**

**Capacity Building Platform Danube Region**

**Danube Local Actors Platform**

**Urban Platform Danube Region**

**Financing Platform Danube Region**



# Presentation of the D-LAP

Daniela Urschitz and Jörg Mirtl

PA10

## How does the D-LAP work?

- The D-LAP is organized by an **advisory committee** representing the 14 EUSDR member countries and the three groups of local actors
- The advisory committee meets twice a year , and interacts via the PA 10 website
- The advisory committee prepares statements, and sees to the follow up , at national and EUSDR-level, of the D-LAP roadmap – basically the „Eisenstadt Declaration“ of June 2014
- The advisory committee prepares the „Participation Day“, the local actors stakeholder meeting held at the Annual Forum of the EUSDR
- First meeting of the D-LAP advisory Committee: 4 November 2014, Vienna

## Who participates in the D-LAP?

Representatives

- **civil society umbrella organisations** (CSOs) from the Danube Region
- **public administrations responsible for regional/urban policies and funding**
- **relevant international organisations**
- **academia**

interested in

- **cooperation**
- exchange of **information**
- **knowledge transfer** in the area of governance, macro-regional development, civil society etc.
- **making their voice heard** via joint public statements, organization/participation in stakeholder events, Annual Fora of the EUSDR



# New Members of the Danube Local Actors Platform

<b>CSO</b>		
Austria	Marco Frimberger	Interkulturelles Zentrum
	Nina Hechenberger	Volkshilfe Österreich
Baden-Württemberg	Stefan Barth	Agapedia-Jürgen Klinsmann Stiftung gGmbH
Czech Republic	Jolana Turnerova	SPIRALIS – citizens association
Romania	Iulian Stoian	Romed2/Romact
Rep. of Moldova	Monika Lengauer	Concordia Sozialprojekte
<b>Academia</b>		
Austria	Verena Winiwarter	Fakultät für Interdisziplinäre Forschung und Fortbildung Universität Klagenfurt
Austria	Gertrud Haidvogel	Alpen Adria University
Bayern	Franziska Sielker	Institut für Geografie Universität Erlangen
Baden-Württemberg	Ulrich Klemm	Europäische Donau-Akademie, Ulm
Norway/Germany	Stefan Gänzle	University of Agder
<b>Public Administration</b>		
Austria	Susanne Pfanner	Federal Chancellery, Roma NCP
Baden-Württemberg	Peter Langer	Ulm City Hall
Czech Republic	Marko Zabojec	Ministry of Regional development and EU Funds
Hungary	Marton Mehes	Collegium Hungaricum

# New Members of the Danube Local Actors Platform

<b>International organisation</b>		
CEI	Margit Wästfelt	Central European Initiative, Alternative Secretary General
CEI	Martin Allgäuer	Central European Initiative, Alternative Secretary General
EC-DG Regio	Csaba Hende	DG Regio, Competence center Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation
EC-DG JUST	Viviane Hoffmann	DG COM, Director General citizenship
EESC	Pierluigi Brombo	Relations with Civil Society Forward Studies
EESC	Annemarie Sigmund	
European Parliament	Monika Vana	Committee for Regional Affairs, Committee for Womens Rights and Gender Equality, Committee for Employment and Social Affairs
EUSBSR	Anders Berström	Norden Association, PAC Education HAL Involve
IDM	Susan Milford	Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa
<b>EUSDR</b>		
EUSDR PA 3	Elisabeth Pacher	PA3 Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria
EUSDR PA 9	Roland Hanak	PA9 Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria
EUSDR PA 9	Jürgen Schick	PA9 Federal Ministry for Education and Womens Affairs , Austria
EUSDR PA 7	Martina Hartl	PA 7 Ferederal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
EUSDR NCP	Werner Almhofer	Ferederal Ministry for European and International Affairs
EUSDR NCP	Matthias Holzner	State Ministry Baden-Württemberg

# The upcoming Danube TRANSNATIONAL Programme

Jörg Mirtl

PA10

## SOUTH-EAST EUROPE 2007-2013 – hard facts:



### 16 partner countries:

Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

ERDF co-financing rate: 85 %

Total budget:                   207 Mio. € ERDF  
  27 Mio. € IPA  
  2 Mio. € ENPI

### 4 thematic priorities:

- Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship
- Protection and improvement of the environment
- Improvement of the accessibility
- Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas

Core result: **122 projects financed**

**[www.southeast-europe.net](http://www.southeast-europe.net)**

## DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL 2014-2020 programme:



INTERREG B cooperation area 2014-2020

Source: European Commission,  
as proposed on 18th December 2012  
Geometrical basis: GFK MACON

### 14 partner countries:

Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (Baden-Württemberg & Bavaria), Hungary, Moldavia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

ERDF co-financing rate: 85 %

Total budget: 202 Mio. € ERDF  
19,8 Mio. € IPA  
+ ? Mio. € ENI

## Draft outline of the cooperation programme

**DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL cooperation programme (CP) 2014-2020**  
Policy driver and pioneer to tackle common challenges and needs

**PA 1 – Innovative and socially responsible Danube region**

**1.1 Improve framework conditions and a balanced access to knowledge (1b)**

**1.2 Increase competences for business and social innovation (1b)**

**PA 2 – Environment and culture responsible Danube region**

**2.1 Sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage & resources (6c)**

**2.2 Restoring & managing ecological corridors (6d)**

**2.3 Transnational water management and flood risk prevention (6d)**

**2.4 Preparedness for disaster risk management (6d)**

**PA 3 – Better connected & energy responsible Danube region**

**3.1 Environmentally-friendly and safe transport systems and balanced accessibility of urban and rural areas (7c)**

**3.2 Improved energy security and energy efficiency (7e)**

**PA 4 – Well governed Danube region**

**4.1 Increase institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges (11)**

**4.2 Support the governance and implementation of the EUSDR (11)**

## Priority Axis 4: Well governed Danube Region

**Thematic objective 11:** Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF...

### Specific objective 4.1: Increase institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges

Action: Support the exchange and transfer of know-how and best practices on labour market policies between labour market institutions and social partner organisations in the Danube Region (incl. youth employment, reintegration of disadvantaged groups into labour market, etc.)

Action: Support institutional capacities and framework conditions for implementing education systems and policies aimed at raising the level of education and qualification

Action: Support the joint development and improvement of policies and innovative learning systems that address demographic change and migration challenges

Action: Support the exchange and transfer of know-how and best practices on social inclusion policies regarding the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups such as Roma communities

Action: Improve joint policies and implemented tools to strengthen participatory planning process and involvement of civil society

Action: Strengthen cooperation of networks among cities and of urban-rural partnerships

Action: Support the enhanced cooperation of public administration at national, regional and local level

Action: Support the creation of healthy communities on the basis of healthy cities and healthy communities' concept

## **2. EXAMPLES FOR COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH TRANSVERSAL ACTIONS AND PROJECTS**



# Danube Cultural Cluster

Márton Méhes

PA 3

# START - EUSDR Pilot Project

## *Results and Outlook*

Elise Lindner  
EuroVienna

# Agenda

- **Main characteristics of START**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Call for proposals**
- **First results - Facts & figures**
- **Outlook and lessons learnt**

# Objectives of START

## Recommendation of NCPs, July 2013:

- Need to provide Seed Money in the Danube Region, like in the Baltic Sea Region

## Objective of START:

- Kick-start project development in the Danube Region and facilitate the financing of transnational projects
- Help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop and implement their project ideas

# Principles, facts and figures

## Main principles:

- **Pilot initiative:** a flexible approach is used and adaptations may be brought during implementation
- **Seed money:** beneficiaries receive a large pre-financing at the beginning of the project implementation (50%) and a second rate at midterm (25%), if certain conditions are fulfilled
- **Involvement of PACs** in governance of START
- **Benchmarking from other Facilities:** EUSBSR Seed Money Facility, Visegrad Fund, People-to-People

Total budget: 900.000€

→ 95% EU Commission (funds from EU Parliament); 5% City of Vienna

Timing: originally 2 calls -> one call

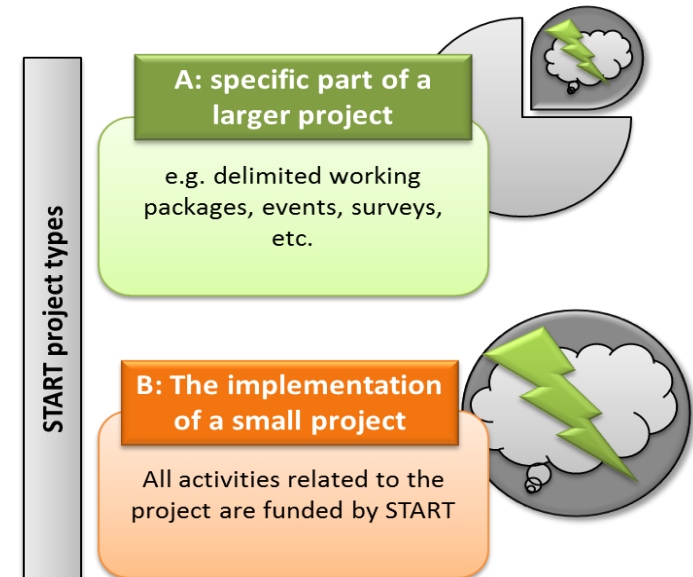
# What is a START project?

## START supports:

- Projects from the entire **Danube Region**
- Projects addressing issues from **all Priority Areas**
- **Two types of projects:**

A) A specific part of a larger project (total value and duration of the overall project goes beyond the framework of START (yet below 25M€))

B) Implementation of a small project



## What types of activities are eligible?



## Characteristics of START support

- Project duration / START support: **between 6 months and 1 year**
- EU/START allocation: between **€10.000** and **€40.000**
- 90% of project costs can be reimbursed - START co-finances **90%** of the project's budget – remaining **10%** must be brought by the partners (or other non-EU donors)
- Official language is **English** (application, contracting, reporting)



## Basic eligibility criteria (I)

- Eligible applicants:
  - Bodies established under **public** or **private** law not having a predominantly industrial or commercial character and having legal personality
  - Organisations **located in the Danube Region** (seat or department dealing with the project) with a preference to **non-governmental** and **non-profit** organisations, **municipalities** and **local governments**
- Not eligible:
  - Individual persons

## Basic eligibility criteria (II)

- Project partnership:
  - At least **two partners from two countries** of the Danube Region (exceptions possible)
  - One partner acts as “Applicant”, once selected as “Lead Partner” (LP).

LP signs subsidy contract, receives payments, is responsible for management, communication, implementation and coordination of activities
- Maximum number of partners: **6** (incl. applicant)

## Basic eligibility criteria (III)

- **Project activities must take place in the Danube Region**

Travel/meetings outside the Danube Region are only eligible if necessary to implement the project activities.

- **Projects have to reveal public interest**

START does not support projects with a predominant commercial interest

- **Access to START is not correlated to TAF-DRP or DFD support**

It is not excluded to combine support from these different schemes, but it is no condition

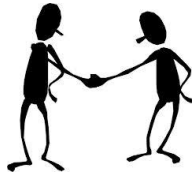
# START and other support schemes



**START:** seed money to finance small projects or a part of a larger project (preparation, work package(s))



**TAF-DRP:** technical assistance by experts to turn project ideas to bankable/fundable projects (for projects <25Mio €)



**Danube Financing Dialogue:** match-making opportunities between project promoters and financing organisations (events)



**JRC (Joint Research Centre):** scientific support to the Danube Strategy (4 clusters)



**Budapest Danube Contact Point:** technical assistance for large transnational infrastructure projects

# 1<sup>st</sup> Call for proposals

## 1. Launch (18.07.2014)

→ Web publication – dissemination through PACs, NCPs etc

## 2. Online Submission (15. – 17.09.2014)

## 3. Formal Check by EuroVienna / PAC10 (until 03.10.2014)

→ Completeness, basic eligibility criteria

## 4. Pre-Selection by PACs & Steering Groups (until 18.11.2014)

→ Is the partnership relevant for the purpose of the project?

→ Is the project (output) relevant for the EUSDR and for the PA addressed?

→ Are the project activities realistic and in line with the budget?

→ **Ranking list: best of 15 and best of 4**

## 5. Plausibility Check by EuroVienna / PAC10

→ Incl. consideration of overall criteria (geographic and thematic balance, budget, etc)

## 6. Final List by PAC10 / Consultation of PACs & Steering Groups

## 7. Communication to applicants

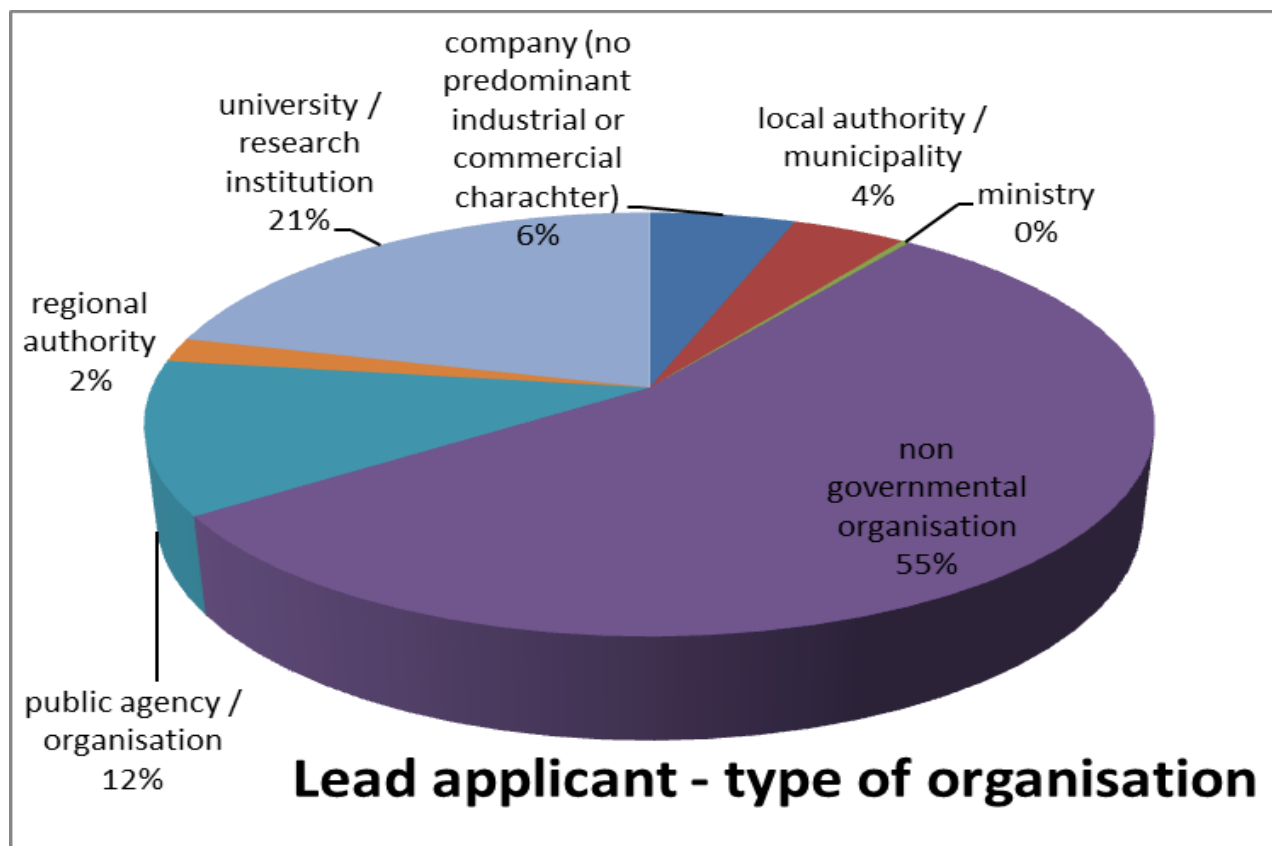
## First results (I)

- Duration of the call: **8 weeks**
- **1005** online registrations
- **871** applications formally submitted through the online application tool by the deadline
- **651** applications passed the formal check (76,1%)
- **220** applications did not pass the formal check (23,9%)

## General project characteristics

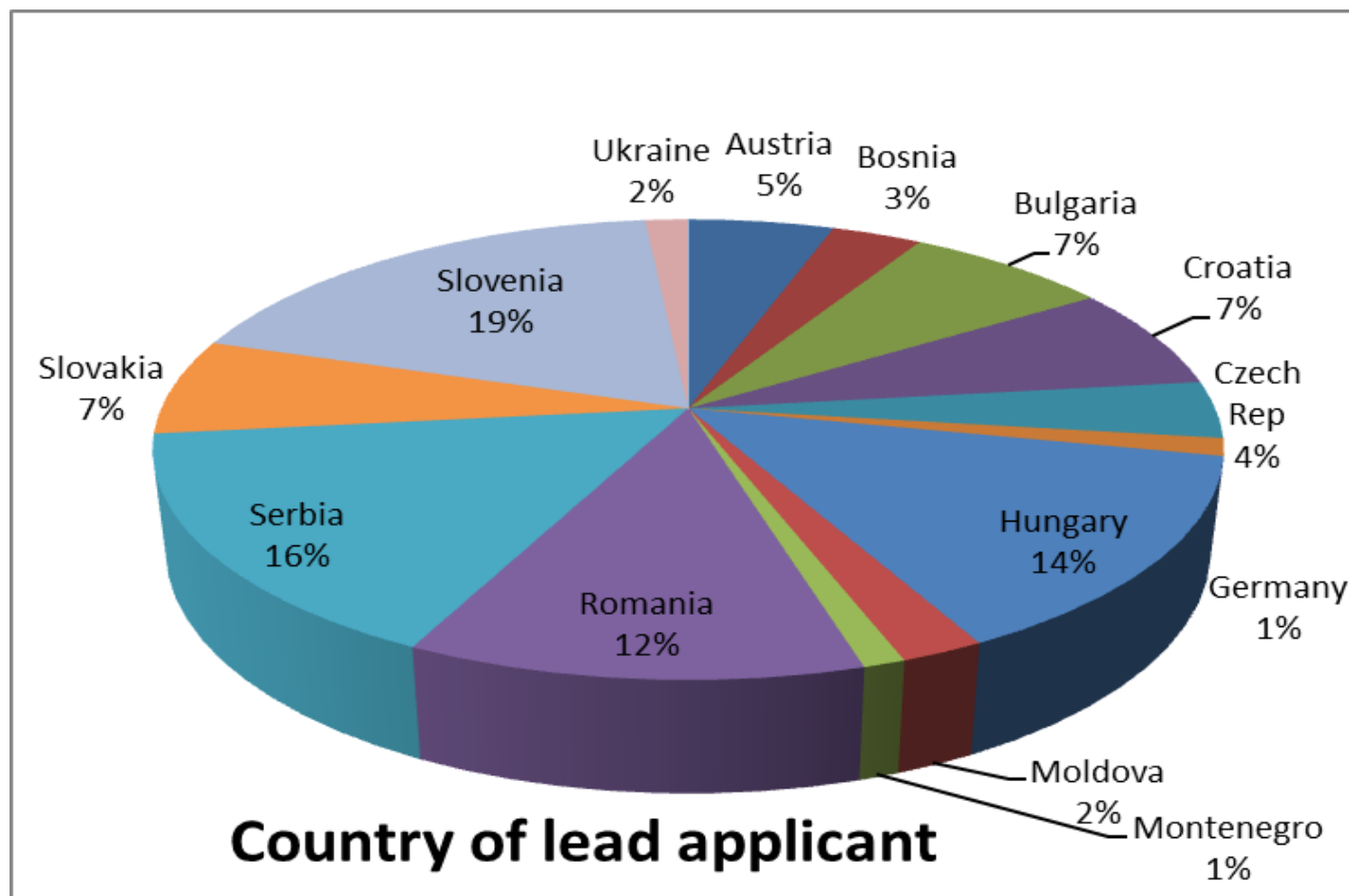
- **Average project budget** (total expenditure): **€ 43.700,00**
- **Average requested START grant** (maximum 40.000€): **€ 35.700,00**
- **Average % of START funding** from total project budget (maximum 90%): **82%**

## First results (II)



**Relevance for LAC:** strong participation of NGOs (incl. civil society organisations) and of the university sector, limited participation by local authorities/municipalities

## First results (III)

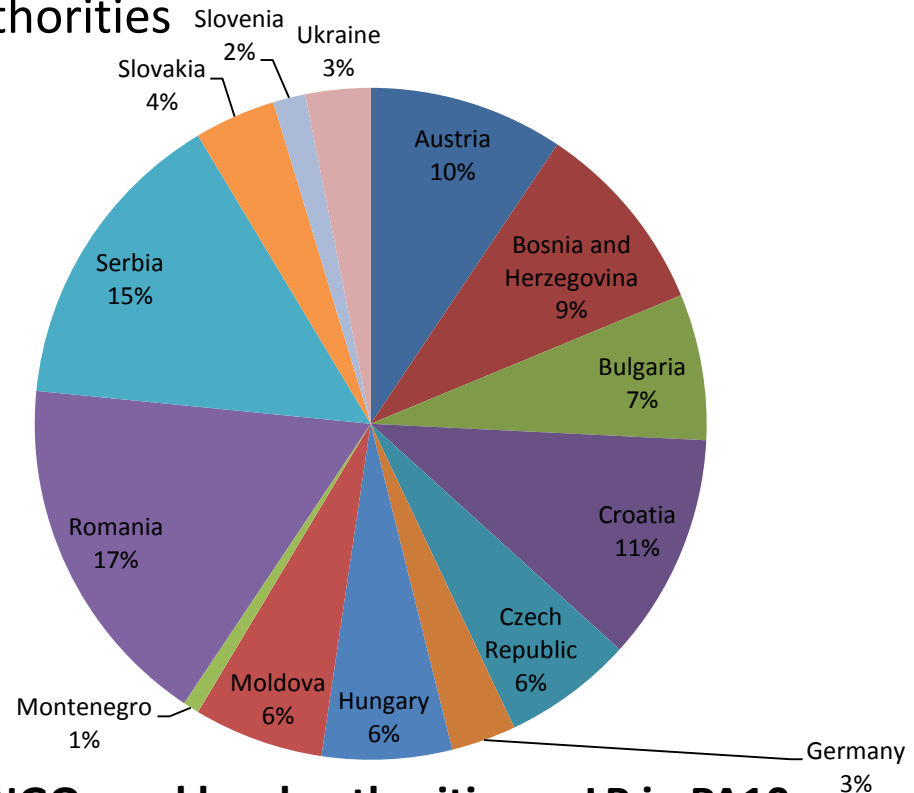




## First results (IV)

### Zoom on Priority Area 10: Institutional capacity and cooperation

- **127** applications submitted (**3<sup>rd</sup> most demanded PA**)
- **14** applications led by local authorities
- **72** applications led by NGOs



**NGOs and local authorities as LP in PA10**

## First lessons learnt

- **Large interest for START from the entire Danube Region**
- **The need for financing support for projects in the Danube Region is very high**
- **The number of project applications shows the engagement of many organisations (esp. NGOs!) and the innovation potential in the Danube Region – A unique snapshot since start of the EUSDR!**
- **Need for simple and small funding schemes; often not available in EU programmes**

## MANAGING AUTHORITY:

**Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Kurt Puchinger**  
**PAC10 Coordinator – EUSDR**  
Kirchberggasse 33-35 / 9  
A - 1070 Wien  
Tel: +43 (0) 1 89 08 088 2201  
Mobile: +43 664 883 568 58  
[kurt.puchinger@pa10-danube.eu](mailto:kurt.puchinger@pa10-danube.eu)



# Thank you for your attention!

## ORGANISATION:

**Elise Lindner**  
**Project Manager**  
EuroVienna  
Kellermannngasse 8/5  
A – 1070 Wien  
Tel: +43 (0)1 89 08 088-2907  
[elise.lindner@eurovienna.at](mailto:elise.lindner@eurovienna.at)

**Gudrun Pabst**  
**Project Manager**  
EuroVienna  
Kellermannngasse 8/5  
A – 1070 Wien  
Tel: +43 (0)1 89 08 088-2904  
[gudrun.pabst@eurovienna.at](mailto:gudrun.pabst@eurovienna.at)



With the financial support of the European Union

### **3. EUSDR EVENTS AND DANUBE LOCAL ACTORS PLATFORM STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS**

# Fostering cooperation and capacity building for Roma Integration in the Danube Region | 9-10 October 2014

Joint PA 9/PA 10 Stakeholder meeting

Susanne Pfanner  
Austrian Federal Chancellery, Roma NCP

Jörg Mirtl, PA10

## Focus

- Identification of synergies between the Danube and the Roma strategies, with a focus on structural prerequisites for Roma inclusion in the Danube Region, e.g. the cooperation between public institutions and civil society organisations.
- The majority of the Roma in Europe live in the Danube Region. The workshop provided a focussed approach and draw the attention mainly to the following dimensions of Roma inclusion:
  1. Links between Roma strategies and Structural Funds/EU Funds
  2. The role of local authorities and cities in relation to Roma inclusion
  3. Transnational exchange of experience in the Danube macro-region

# Meeting Vienna 9-10 October

- Joint meeting of PA10, PA9 and the Austrian Contact Point for Roma Integration
- Approx. 70 participants
- Participation of many key stakeholders: Representatives of regional authorities, line ministries, MAs, DGs JUST, EMPL & REGIO, FRA, EESC, RCC, etc.
- Call for a EUSDR Working Group on Roma and make Roma Inclusion a topic for 4th Annual Forum & BW „presidency“ of the EUSDR

## Main Messages

*Roma Integration is...*

- about European Integration and vice versa
- about EU enlargement and vice versa
- a transnational and a macro-regional issue
- a matter of both territorial and social cohesion
- a cross-sectoral issue
- an investment (economic cohesion)



# Urban Platform Danube Region Stakeholder Meeting 26 January 2015

Thomas Prorok  
KDZ Vienna

# Round Table: Presentation of other EUSDR events and meetings

13.00-14.00

**LUNCH**

## **4. ROAD MAP FOR THE D-LAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## Targets

- Increase the level of **participation, transparency, subsidiarity** in the EUSDR implementation
- Increase **public awareness** of local actors about the EUSDR
- Identification of **stakeholders**
- Make use of **expertise**, e.g. for project development in the Danube Region
- Establish **National Hearings** in each of the states participating in the EUSDR with regard to the aforementioned considerations
- Implement the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Participation Day** in order to voice the needs and concerns of the **civil society, academia and local authorities/institutions**, report on the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Participation Day during one of the panels of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Ulm

# Next Annual Forum Ulm

## First information from Baden- Württemberg

Stefan Barth, Agapedia

# The 2nd Participation Day 2015 in Ulm-Follow Up of Eisenstadt

Stefan August Lütgenau, DCSF

Daniela Urschitz, Jörg Mirtl - PA10

# Round Table: Presentation of recent developments, ideas for the 2nd Participation Day and the Annual Forum 2015



# Upcoming PA10 meetings/deadlines

- 4 November 2014:  
D-LAP Advisory Committee, Vienna
- **18 November 2014:**  
**deadline for submission of top 4/15 pre-selected PA10 applications for START**
- 10 December 2014:  
D-CAP Advisory Committee, Ljubljana
- 16 January 2015  
NC meeting, Stuttgart
- Spring 2015:  
E-governance for the Danube Region, Ljubljana
- 26-27 January 2015:  
CoDCR & UPDR meeting, Vienna
- February 2015 (tbc):  
D-FIP Advisory Committee, Ljubljana
- 13 March 2015 (tbc):  
4th DFD, Zagreb
- Spring 2015  
SG8 of PA10
- June 2015  
1st conference of the D-LAP, back-to-back 2nd meeting of the AC-D-LAP
- Autumn 2015:  
5th DFD, Bulgaria (tbc)
- **29-30 October 2015:**  
**4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR, Ulm**  
  
(including 2nd participation day, tbc)