



1ST PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE DANUBE STRATEGY

LOCAL ACTORS AND PARTICIPATION

IN THE DANUBE STRATEGY

The **1st Participation Day in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region** was organized in Eisenstadt at Palace Esterházy June 25 2014. It served as the concluding conference of the Danube River Show Project, the joint stakeholder conference of PA 9, and PA 10 of the EUSDR and the official Civil Society opening conference to the 3rd EUSDR Annual Forum in Vienna, 25-26 June, dedicated to foster participation from bottom-up actors in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Hosted by Foster Europe, Foundation for strong European Regions and the Danube Civil Society Forum, DCSF, the Participation Day was organized in close cooperation with PA 9, PA 10 and the City of Vienna and the Austrian NCPs.

The Participation Day aimed at gathering representatives of civil society, public local authorities, youth, and cultural actors to discuss how to improve participation in the EUSDR.

Four thematic “villages”, on civil society, local administration, culture and youth gave opportunity to representatives of local authorities, cultural actors, civil society, academia and SME’s to discuss face to face the EUSDR environment for participation and develop strategies to foster bottom-up structures and approaches in the Danube Strategy.

The Participation Day produced a Final Document composed of the Eisenstadt Declaration on Participation in the EUSDR, and four focused report of the thematic villages (see attached documents).

The Participation Day was the starting point for the establishment of an open, transparent structure comprehending the entire Danube region (Road Map for Participation).

The Participation Day welcomed more than 140 participants from 14 EUSDR countries representing NGOs, academia, local authorities, cultural actors, civil society, EGTCs, national ministers, NCPs, the DG REGIO as well as SMEs. It turned to be a highly successful project concluding the need for a second Participation Day being the opening event of the upcoming EUSDR Annual Forum in October 2015 in Ulm.

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