

The 1st National Participation Day of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region for Civil Society in the Republic of Moldova

The event took place on September 22, 2016 in the Meeting Room of the Writers' Union of Moldova. 66 participants attended the Participation Day. The event was proved as significant by attendance of representatives from a wide range of civil society organisations, including NGOs, local public administration, the academia, farmers, teachers, students.

The attendance by Vice-M Minister of Regional Development and Construction and some members of members of the Interministerial Group for implementation of EUSDR showed the support and appreciation of central authorities, while the attendance of the international community from Chisinau, including representatives of the EU delegation in the Republic of Moldova, the Ambassador of Slovakia, representatives of the German Embassy as well as foreign experts working in Moldova showed support to a highly useful initiative. The President of the Danube Civil Society Forum, Manager of Priority Area 10 and the representative of the Municipality of Vienna, have not only attended the event, but also got very actively involved in its concept, preparation and discussion.

A wide range of subjects were addressed during the Participation Day, including:

- the role of Civil Society, Local Actors and Cities in the Governance of the Strategy and its Member Countries,
- the State of Implementation, Challenges and Opportunities of EUSDR implementation in the Republic of Moldova
- increasing Efficiency in Education for people in the Danube Region,
- experience of of the network for business women in the Danube countries in framework of EUSDR,
- transboundary cooperation and knowledge transfer,
- experience, challenges and opportunities regarding fostering Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR implementation
- ecological problems of the Danube River and Nistru and Prut Rivers as well as adjacent areas, the problems in agriculture and general economy of the Danube region in general and of the Republic of Moldova in particular.

Among the most highly appreciated solutions to the multiple problems of the region the following may be mentioned: informational support for any initiative for the development of the region, a constructive dialogue and sharing of opinions and experience regarding existing good practices and models, active fund-raising strategies involving the business community and citizens, communication and learning.

The event was organized by NGO BIOS in cooperation with the National EUSDR Coordinator, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions in coordination with Danube Civil Society Forum, Priority Area 10 responsible for civil society and participation in the EUSDR, the City of Vienna and Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Regions. This event is also financially supported by Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with Austrian Development and Cooperation Funds.

Agenda and list of participants of the the 1st National Participation Day are attached.

The presentations of the experts could be downloaded from the link: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ut241oceveeb14g/Prezentari_Ziua%20Participarii_SUERD.rar?dl=0 , while the pictures from the event - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/eje33q1uam6ws09/Fotografii%20Ziua%20Participarii%20SUERD1.rar?dl=0>

We hope that the National Participation Days of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region for Civil Society in Moldova truly become platforms for communication and collaboration among all stakeholders, especially between governments and civil society in order to fulfill all the SUERD provisions.