

Welcome from PAC 10 Vienna (Daniela Urschitz)

- PAC 10 Vienna welcomes the D-LAP members. The minutes of the 6th DLAP meeting on 21 March 2017 and the agenda of the 7th D-LAP meeting on 18 October 2017 are adopted (see annex 1).

Tour de table – D-LAP members

(List of participants see annex 2)

6th EUSDR Annual Forum 2017 & Annual Event of the Danube Transnational Programme – DTP (Claudia Singer)

(See annex 3)

- This year, the EUSDR Annual Forum and the Annual Event of the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) are jointly organised and take place from 18-19 October 2017.
- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” co-organised two workshops at the 6th EUSDR Annual Forum:
 - I. Workshop on the DTP Capitalisation Strategy – Thematic Pole 11 “Participatory and local governance” (19 October 2017 | 10:30-11:30);
 - II. Workshop on Financing of EUSDR Pillar IV “Strengthening the Danube Region” (19 October 2017 | 12:30-13:30)

Information on the State of the Danube Region (Daniela Urschitz, Claudia Singer)

(See annex 3)

- **Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF):** All applicants will receive notice about the results of the assessment procedure on the Danube Strategic Project fund (DSPF) call by the end of October 2017.
- **Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) | 2nd Call for Project Proposals:** The assessment of applications in the second call for the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) is expected to be finalised in spring 2018.
- **Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) | 3rd Call for Project Proposals:** The third call is expected to be published in autumn 2018. Which specific objectives to be funded is still open for decision by the Monitoring Committee. However, there is a possibility that the Specific Objective 4.1 (“Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges”) will be funded in the 3rd call for project proposals. Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” will publish the information as soon as it is available.
- **Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) | Seed Money Facility:** The first call of the DTP Seed Money Facility (SMF) will be open until the 7th of December 2017. The SMF supports the preparation of projects that should be submitted to suitable funding programmes. Every project submitted to the DTP SMF has to be submitted first to the Priority Area Coordinators for the Declaration of



Alignment. (More information on the Declaration of Alignment within Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” is available here: <https://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/seed-money-facility>)

Priority Areas are not limited in signing the Declaration of Alignment for project applications. However, according to the DTP SMF rules, only up to 3 projects per Priority Area will be selected for funding by the DTP Monitoring Committee (see *SMF Programme Manual*, p. 65)

The Priority Area Coordinators provide further consultation regarding the topics defined within the SMF. Any questions regarding the framework and implementation of SMF projects should be discussed with the respective National Contact Points of the Danube Transnational Programme.

Potential applicants should keep in mind that the DTP SMF is based on the principle of reimbursement. As Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” takes note that this is not suitable for all interested project promoters, the development of alternative funding structures for future financing has been and will be proposed to the European Commission and further stakeholders.

- **DTP Capitalisation Strategy:** Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” co-leads – in cooperation with the Geodetic Institute Slovenia – the Thematic Pole 11 “Participatory and local Governance” of the DTP Capitalisation Strategy. In this regard, all interested stakeholders are kindly invited to take part and to contact the coordination of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” if they would like to participate.

Danube Project Support Toolkit (Claudia Singer)

(See annex 3)

- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” drafted with EuroVienna the Danube Project Support Toolkit (DPS Toolkit). The Toolkit is supposed to support capacity building for funding organisations that plan to establish or revise funding instruments.
- The DPS Toolkit shares lessons learnt from 9 funding instruments and provides tips and recommendations for setting up a funding structure in the Danube Region.
- The DPS Toolkit is available online at <https://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/dps-toolkit>

Donors’ Conference Framework (Claudia Singer)

(See annex 3)

- Last year, Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” planned in cooperation with Foster Europe and DCSF as well as with the Ministry for Regional Development in the Republic of Moldova to implement a Donors’ Conference, which will take place on the 26 and 27 October 2017 in Chisinau (MD). The conference (“Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue”) aims at improving cooperation through better coordination of public and private funding instruments and exchange between funding organisations and project promoters.
- The conference is a pilot initiative. Its results will be reflected in the development of a Donors’ Conference Framework and is supposed to be replicated/implemented in further regions, particularly in non-EU member states of the Danube Region. Representatives from the Ukraine



already expressed their wish to organise this format in 2018. Further regions are cordially invited to organise the event.

Feedback from the Danube Participation Day 2017 (Daniela Urschitz)

(See annex 3)

- The Danube Participation Day 2017 took place on 16 October 2017 in cooperation with Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation”, the DCSF, the Andrassy University Budapest, the Baden-Württemberg Foundation and further partners. This year, the Agenda for Participation was presented. The document capitalises on past declarations for civil society and reiterates the necessity of participatory governance for regional development. Furthermore, the Agenda should be implemented through five concrete Participation Partnerships, that were started within the Working Groups of the Danube Participation Day. The Partnerships are expected to provide first results until the next Danube Participation Day in Sofia in 2018. The Partnerships deal with Participation and Research, Multi-level Governance, Social innovation, Roma Inclusion and Designing Regional Development 2020+.
- The results of the Working Groups will be accessible for all interested stakeholders. Furthermore, there is a possibility to join more Partnerships.
- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” asks the D-LAP members to respond, in which partnerships they wish to participate.
- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” commissioned a review of the Participation Day format (Danube Participation Days and National Participation Days). One of the results was that stakeholders want to meet more often and more regular. Many participated to the questionnaire and gave relevant feedback and suggestions expressing support for what has been done and encouraging further initiatives. The review was sent to the National Coordinators and PACs as well as to DG Regio and further stakeholders of the EUSDR. The review not only generated suggestions for the Participation Days, but also more general observations and demands related to the implementation of the EUSDR.
- In 2017, National Participation Days were organised in Novi Sad, Sofia, Bratislava, Prague, Stuttgart, Odessa and Chisinau.
- Igor STUDENNIKOV (Centre for Regional Studies Odessa) reported on the National Participation Day 2017 in Odessa. He describes it as a successful event for sharing ideas. He underlines that even though the national government did not want to be involved, the regional level had a different opinion and was very supportive. The Participation Day provided the opportunity – amongst others - to exchange on navigation and environment in the entire Danube region. He concludes informing that further news on the following events will be shared through PA10.

Project Development in Priority Area 10 „Institutional Capacity & Cooperation“ (Claudia Singer)

(See annex 3)

- Last year, Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” carried out a project consultation initiative in cooperation with the Danube Transnational Programme, which turned out



to be very helpful as the participants could discuss their projects with the project officer for Priority Axis 4 “Well governed Danube Region” and to further develop the project idea.

- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” wants to provide another low key project support format for project promoters. Therefore, PA10 asks the participants if there is any specific need for support be it individual project consultations with a particular funding programme, funding information from specific programmes or public/private donors, information on project development assistance such as JASPERS or information on capacity-building programmes (e.g. TAIEX, ROMACT etc.)?
- Emese Barabas (European House) points out that project promoters might not like to share their project ideas with peers. PA10 acknowledges that project promoters might not want to discuss project ideas with peers – especially if they seek to apply for competitive funding structures. Thus, project consultation formats would take place on an individual basis, as this was also the case for the consultation format in 2017 with the DTP.
- Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” will send a questionnaire with the draft minutes to all D-LAP members in order to ask for needs regarding project development support. The members will have the opportunity to feed back. Afterwards, PA10 will check the responses and arrange the respective support.

Outlook on D-LAP member activities until the EUSDR Annual Forum 2018 in Sofia (BG) (Daniela Urschitz)

(see annex 3)

- The next D-LAP meeting should be held in March 2018 but more information will be provided by PA10 in the upcoming months.
- All participants are asked to communicate to PA10 the events and initiatives that they organise for further dissemination and communication. The information will be published on the PA10 website as it is very important to show the variety of activities that are organised.

Closing of the Meeting (Daniela Urschitz, Claudia Singer)

