

Welcome from PAC 10 Vienna

- Rudolf SCHICKER welcomes the members of the Danube Local Actors Platform (D-LAP) on behalf of the Coordination of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation (PAC10).
- The agenda for the 8th Meeting of the Danube Local Actors Platform (D-LAP) (see annex 1) was adopted by the participants; The participants had no additional comments to the minutes of the 7th D-LAP Meeting on 18 October 2017.
- PAC10 announces that due to the General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR¹, stakeholders, who are interested in the activities of the Danube Local Actors Platform need to provide written consent to the continued use of contact data by PAC10. Hence, PAC10 asks all participants and D-LAP members to provide their written consent through a form in order to continue receiving invitations to the D-LAP Meetings as well as information related to topics, activities and funding information of the Danube Local Actors Platform. The data will not be used for any other purposes.

All participants received a form to fill in provided by PAC10. PAC10 also will send the form to all D-LAP members via e-mail.

If the stakeholders do not provide their written consent, PAC10 ceases to provide any further information through the D-LAP channel from 25 May 2018 onwards. (See form)

Tour de table

(List of participants see annex 2)

Introduction of all participants

EUSDR Updates

EUSDR Presidency Bulgaria (see annex 3)

- Dessislava YORDANOVA presents the activities and thematic priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EUSDR. The **7th EUSDR Annual Forum** will take place in Sofia (BG) from **18 to 19 October 2018**. **The registration will open on 1 August 2018**. The EUSDR Presidency will organise a photo exhibition as a side event of the Annual Forum. In the course of the EUSDR Annual Forum, the EUSDR Presidency will be handed over to Romania.

The new Danube Strategy Point (DSP) is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

Stefan LÜTGENAU asks about the status of the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan, and when the input from civil society would be collected. Dessislava YORDANOVA responded that currently, the Presidency assesses the need for revision. Based on the results, the Trio Presidency will develop the process and timelines. At this stage, there is no procedure on the revision set. However, the revision process should be finalised in 2019 and stakeholders will be involved accordingly.

¹ (EU) 2016/679

EU Cohesion Policy 2020+ & EC Report on macro-regional strategies (see annex 4)

- Claudia SINGER presented the state of play of the public consultation process of the Cohesion Policy post 2020 and draws attention to further open public consultations.

The European Commission drafts its 2nd Report on the implementation of the four macro-regional strategies. All national and thematic coordinators are requested to provide contributions to the European Commission. Against this background, PAC10 invites the D-LAP members provide their inputs for the report until 3 April 2018.

Miklos BARABAS criticised the European Commission's procedure of the draft of the EC Report for its lack of inclusiveness. Also, the results of the first report are not considered to be reflected and used sufficiently.

Young Bled Strategic Forum (see annex 5)

- Nina ČEPON presented the results of the **Young Bled Strategic Forum 2017**. The upcoming Young Bled Strategic Forum will be held from **7 to 9 September 2018**. Call for papers is open until mid-April 2018 (information can be found on PA10 website).

National Participation Days

- Stefan LÜTGENAU presented the National Participation Days (NPD) of 2017. Upcoming "new" NPDs are expected to be organised in Slovenia and Romania in 2018. (See annex 4)
- Igor STUDENNIKOV presented the results of the National Participation Day in Ukraine in 2017 and discussed ways to coordinate Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR. (See annex 6) Despite the national government is hardly engaging in the EUSDR, the regional stakeholders are crucial partners.
- Valentin CIUBOTARU and Daniela STOJKOVIC briefly summarised the results of National Participation Days in the Republic of Moldova and Serbia.

Danube Participation Day (see annex 4)

- Iva TARALEZHKOVA and Stefan LÜTGENAU presented the preliminary concept for the **5th Danube Participation Day (DPD)** that will be held from **15 to 17 October 2018** in Sofia. The DPD will focus on interactive exchange between Civil Society actors and address the challenge of media and shrinking civil space, open data, access to data and data security, NGO management, and access to funding, amongst other topics. Costs can be covered for about 50 people to participate in the "warm-up days" leading up to the DPD.
There will be a call for participation in a "speed-dating" panel open in April. Applications should submit short (1 minute) videos on a project the applicants want to present.
Iva TARALEZHKOVA also introduced a brochure (<http://index.fgu.bg/en>) summarizing the status of civic activism and participation in Bulgaria.
- Raluca VERWEIJEN-RAMNESCU requested to include Romania in the DPD process, and to push on a political level for Civil Society in Romania. Miklos BARABAS stressed the political nature of the issue of shrinking civil space. Jani KOZINA calls for more gender balance on the panel as well as for a more comprehensive involvement of participants in the DPD format and offered support via sharing of experience from the AgriGo4Cities project for the organisation of the – more participative – upcoming DPD.

Agenda for Participation & Participation Partnerships (see annex 4)

- Roland HANAK and Claudia SINGER reported on the implementation of the Agenda for Participation and Participation Partnerships that are meant to serve as “laboratories” of participation. One example of a field of participation includes Roma Inclusion. Roland HANAK provided some insights into the implementation of Roma inclusion projects and the challenges they pose.

Funding and Project Development

- Gudrun PABST presented the **Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF)**, a pilot initiative by PAC10, which is currently providing funding to 12 small-scale projects of different thematic focus and from partnerships of the Danube Region. Since the DSPF is a pilot initiative, no further calls for proposal will be implemented. (See annex 7)
- Claudia SINGER presented the **Donor’s Conference Framework**. Upcoming Donors Conferences are planned to be held in Bulgaria and Moldova. (See annex 4)
Igor STUDENNIKOV introduced the outline for the future Donors Conference in Ukraine, which will focus on the challenge of obtaining co-financing, amongst others.
- Claudia SINGER provided an update on the Danube Transnational Programme’s current state of play. The projects from the first call for proposals for the Seed Money Facility will be approved in July 2018. The 3rd call for project proposals is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2019. The call will be restricted. Currently, the programme considers to fund projects that address governance issues (Specific Objective 4.1). After an analysis of the 2nd call, the programme will discuss further topics to be funded or excluded. (See annex 4)
- Sophie DEUER informed the audience that the EuroAccess-Danube Region will be expanded to all macro-regions (EUSBSR, EUSALP, EUSAIR) in 2018 (EuroAccess Macro-region). (See annex 8)
- Neli KAIL presented a DTP project CrowdStream that addresses crowdfunding for innovation in the Danube Region and discussed different models of crowd funding. The CrowdStream project conducted a case study and market analysis on crowd funding in the Danube Region. (See annex 9)
Tanja DEDOVIC calls attention to an assessment on crowd funding of diaspora communities from Moldova and Ukraine in Moldova that could be provided to the CrowdStream project in order to complement the analysis. Sabine STADLER enquires about the security of investment. Neli KAIL responds that conditions have to be checked individually, as there is indeed always a risk of losing money.
- Gudrun PABST gave a presentation of the project Excellence in ReSTI, providing different services to project managers, such as training and an infodesk service. The application process for participation in the online training course is open until 31 May 2018. (See annex 10)
Valentin CIUBOTARU inquires how the knowledge transferred to the selected participants can be multiplied afterwards. Gudrun PABST responded that the implementation is a pilot, and that the online course would then be available online. Raluca VERWEIJEN-RAMNESCU asks whether the grant awarded by the European Commission only covered the online course presented,

what language the course was to be taught in, and what certification would be provided to participants. According to Gudrun PABST, only a small part of the project was topic for presentation at the D-LAP meeting and informed that the working language was English, and that certification negotiations were still on the way.

- Claudia SINGER presented the results of the survey on needs for project development support published in winter 2017. Currently, PAC 10 is checking possibilities for project consultation and further support with partners. (See annex 4)

Danube Cities Against Human Trafficking

- Claudia SINGER and Nina ČEPON presented the Danube Cities against Human Trafficking (D-CAHT) initiative by PA 10. The next meeting will take place in Ljubljana on 18 April 2018. (See annex 4)

Global Sustainable Development Goals (See annex 11 & 12)

- Nadia PRAUHART and René HARTINGER presented the Agenda 2030 and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provided practical examples on how to implement the SDGs within common local issues such as city centre renewal or local infrastructure. The UN SDGs can be considered a framework for public management. At regional level, e.g. Styria (AT) applies the SDGs for impact oriented budgeting. Despite the crucial role of local actors in implementing the SDGs, local actors often lack the resources to use their full potential. Tanja DEDOVIC reiterates the role of local actors in implementing the SDGs, e.g. for topics such as migration (covered under the goal “less inequality”), where cities are particularly affected. Radica GLIGORIC points out, that the SDGs are applied at local levels in Serbia, however, the challenges is how to measure it. Valentin CIUBOTARU adds that the SDGs were also addressed at past Danube Participation Days and are a topic that should be continued to be addressed.

Update on Local Development in the Danube Region (See annex 4)

- Rudolf SCHICKER presented the Urban Agenda and pointed out the high relevance of cities in the Danube Region. One of the partnerships addresses affordable housing. Despite cities from Austria and Slovenia are the only representatives from the Danube Region in this partnership, the issue is highly relevant throughout the Danube Region. In November, the city of Vienna will organise a conference on affordable housing.
- Rudolf SCHICKER presents the results from the PA 10 initiative on cadastre, land register and open data and explains why transparency on land owning data is important to combat corruption and to improve public administration. Austria and Slovenia are good practise examples regarding land registers and geo data. Geo data also have an important role for reliable statistics.
- Rudolf SCHICKER points out that public administration varies a lot in the Danube Region. In many countries of the Danube Region public administration at regional and local level is less developed. Initiatives such as the BACID programme – funded by the Austrian Development Agency and implemented by the KDZ – Centre for Public Administration Research – supported local public administrations in the Western Balkan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to build



administrative. Based on the findings related to sound public management, PAC 10 plans to develop a White Book with recommendations for local public administrations.

Outlook by Rudolf Schicker (RS):

- Rudolf SCHICKER wraps up the meeting and again draws attention to the form for granting use of data for further communication according to the General Data Protection Regulation.

- End of Meeting -

