

1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Danube Local Actors Platform (AC D-LAP)

Main Outcomes

The AC D-LAP adopted on the following conclusions:

1. Targets

General

- 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

Operational

- Establish **National Hearings** in each of the states participating in the EUSDR
- Implement the 2nd **Participation Day** back to back with the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Ulm (Germany) in order to voice the needs and concerns of the civil society, academia and local authorities/institutions, report on the results of the 2nd Participation Day during one of the panels of the 4th Annual Forum in Ulm

2. Next steps

D-LAP members are invited to **contact their respective National EUSDR Coordinator¹**, to **participate in national EUSDR coordination platforms** (if applicable) and propose to hold National EUSDR Hearings for the civil society before the 4th EUSDR Annual Forum in Ulm. The results of these National Hearings are to be presented at the 2nd Participation Day in October 2015 back-to-back with the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR.

Upcoming Meetings

- ⇒ 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the D-LAP (first half of 2015)
- ⇒ National Hearings in each of the 14 participating states of the EUSDR, until October 2015
- ⇒ 2nd Participation Day back to back with the 4th Annual Forum in Ulm on 29-30 October 2015
- ⇒ 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR on 29-30 October 2015

Communication

The internal and external communication of the D-LAP Advisory Committee will be carried out in **English**, per e-mail and on the PA10 website.² National Hearings may be held in the respective National language.

¹ See <http://www.danube-region.eu/contact/contact-pacs-ncps>

² <http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/civil-society>

Meeting Minutes

The Governance of EUSDR/PA10:

The Coordinators of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (henceforth to be referred to as “PA10”), Kurt Puchinger (AT) and Irena Lukač (SI), gave a brief overview on the new structure of PA10. Following the statement of the Danube Region’s foreign ministers issued on 26 June 2014 in Vienna at the eve of the 3rd Annual Forum, PA10 redesigned its internal structure and created 4 platforms, each of which is to be accompanied by an advisory committee. On 23 October 2014, the Steering Group of PA10 adopted its new working structure, consisting of 4 advisory committees and 4 related stakeholder platforms:

- a) Danube Capacity Building Platform (D-CAP)**
- b) Danube Local Actors Platform (D-LAP)**
- c) Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR)**
- d) Danube Financing and Investment Platform (D-FIP)**

Lukač stressed that the local level is of utmost importance in the implementation of the EUSDR. She developed on the pilot projects PA10 is implementing. Puchinger pointed out the role of the advisory committee consists in elaborating a working programme for the platforms and provide it with relevant input and headlines, as well as networking activities.

Presentation of the D-LAP

Following this concept, Daniela Urschitz and Jörg Mirtl (both PA10, City of Vienna) presented the concept of the Danube Local Actors Platform, whose advisory committee is mainly composed by representatives of three main areas:

- a) Public authorities active in the Region, including international, regional and local ones;
- b) Civil Society Organisations, including umbrella organisations;
- c) Academia, especially with a specific focus on research dealing with macro-regional Strategies (MRS).

Urschitz recalled the current development in the field of civil society and local actors involvement in the framework of the EUSDR. D-LAP is a follow-up of Working Group 2 and reflects the existing structure that was developed in this framework. She gave a brief overview on the participation day on 25 June in Eisenstadt, Austria, in a close cooperation

The upcoming Danube TRANSNATIONAL Programme

Jörg Mirtl presented the upcoming Danube TRANSNATIONAL Programme, which is one of the successors of the Southeast Europe Programme of the transnational cooperation of the European Territorial Cooperation goal of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Part of the Danube Region is also covered by the Central Europe Programme, whose programming will be finalized at the end of the year. Priority Axis 4 of the DP will provide direct support for EUSDR implementation. The other three deal with the innovation and societal challenges, tourism and culture as well as mobility and energy. The first call is not to be expected before summer. 20% are allocated for innovation, 14% for priority axis 4 (7 % for 4.1 (institutional capacity) and 7% for 4.2 (EUSDR support)). Lead partner will be responsible for both ERDF and IPA countries. IPA project partners will implement projects according to external

rules – which affects their public procurement. TAF and START are pilot projects with a limited time frame. The experiences of these pilot projects are going to be used for priority axis 4.2 of the Danube Transnational Programme. Once the programme is submitted, more details can be provided. In the draft Programme, Priority Axis 4 is likely to provide an Action for Institutional Cooperation in the field of civil society and development programmes. It should be clarified to what extent the programme and the Danube Strategy Point will support future activities for civil society involvement in the EUSDR implementation.

Urschitz added that the administrative burden of ETC projects of the ERDF is considerable and invited everybody to think of how to design projects. Puchinger commented on the technical assistance for Priority Area Coordinators, which will also be provided via the Danube programme after two interim years. Antalovsky (AT, Europaforum) commented on the issue of pre-financing and explained how pilot projects financed by public authorities can pre-finance ERDF projects. Antalovsky also commented on his institution's experiences with the Centrope project and in the implementation of the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Vienna.³ The main challenge is pre-financing and not the administrative burden. Three or four states could manage such a project and outsource this to NGOs.

Puchinger asked how to include the experiences of the pilot projects implemented by PA10 can be reflected in the Danube programme, since the ERDF has not included an option for pre-payment.

Urschitz Invited the AC-D-LAP to discuss this option in their countries.

Some examples for Cooperation and capacity building trough transversal actions and projects:

- “Danube Cultural Cluster” Creativity, Invention and Cooperation in the Danube Region: Márton Méhes (HU), Priority Area 3
 - ➔ See presentation
- “Danube Future”: Gudrun Heidvogel (AT), Priority Area 7
 - ➔ See brochure
- “River Show”: Danube Civil Society Forum, Stefan August Lütgenau (AT)
 - ➔ Several “River Show” events have been held in those parts of Ukraine which participate in the EUSDR and have also shown a very strong interest in the EUSDR
- “Start” PA 10 pilot project: results and outlook, Elise Lindner, EuroVienna
 - ➔ See presentation
- Presentation of Volkshilfe
 - ➔ See presentation

EUSDR Events and Danube Local Actors Platform stakeholder meetings:

³ <http://www.europaforum.or.at/>; <http://www.centrope.com/>

- Fostering cooperation and capacity building for Roma Integration in the Danube Region, Joint PA 9 and PA 10 Stakeholder meeting 9-10 October 2014.

Mirtl (PA10) gave an overview on the strategic meeting. Roma Inclusion in the Danube Region is a crucial topic and an upcoming event in the implementation of the EUSDR.⁴

- Urban Platform Danube Region Stakeholder Meeting, 26-27 January 2015

The next stakeholder meeting of the UPDR will be held on 26 January 2015 in Vienna. Its advisory committee is going to meet at the eve of this meeting.

Road Map for the D-LAP Advisory Committee:

- Next Annual Forum Ulm- first information from Baden-Württemberg:

The Next Annual Forum is going to be held on 29-30 October 2014 in Ulm, Germany. Based on the experiences of the first participation day held in Eisenstadt and jointly organized by the Danube Civil Society Forum as well as PA9 and PA10, a 2nd participation Day is being planned at the eve of the 4th Annual Forum.

D-LAP members are invited to

- ➔ contact their respective National EUSDR Coordinator and
- ➔ propose to hold National EUSDR Hearings before the 4th EUSDR Annual Forum in Ulm on 29-30 October 2015.
- ➔ The results of these National Hearings are to be presented at the 2nd Participation Day in October 2015 back-to-back with the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Ulm, Germany. The 2nd Participation Day's results will be reported on one of the Annual Forum's panels.

Annexes

Annex 1 PA10 presentation D-LAP (including START and TAF-DRP)

Annex 2 DCSF policy paper on participation

Annex 3 Danube "Future" project brochure

Annex 4 Presentation of Austrian organization "Volkshilfe"

Annex 5 Presentation Cultural Cluster

Annex 6 D-Lap Road Map

⁴ <http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/item/664294>