



## DFD - Danube Financing Dialogue

### What is the Danube Financing Dialogue?

The Danube Financing Dialogue (DFD) is a pilot initiative of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and started in 2012. The DFD consists of a series of events which bring together organisations from the Danube Region looking for financing for their projects and financing institutions that can provide financing support from the entire Danube Region.

The DFD provides a unique platform for stimulating match-making of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), public organisations, local authorities and other project promoters on the one hand, as well as national and international financing institutions on the other hand. The DFD is coordinated by PAC 10 (Priority Area Coordination 10 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)) of the City of Vienna, with the financial support of the European Commission. The events are hosted by the National Bank of the respective Danube country.

Especially SMEs have a crucial role to play and are the backbone of the EU's internal market. With regard to this, the DFD advocates an optimistic attitude as a solid basis for the economic future of the Danube macro-region. It also goes beyond simple events since it provides a long-term framework for discussion in a macro-region that was not only particularly hit by the financial and economic crisis, but also by major conflicts in the recent past. It intends to give new impetus to the already existing, but often unknown, funding sources for project promoters. This is even more important with the new EU multiannual financial framework (2014-2020) ahead.



### The events of the Danube Financing Dialogue

The Danube macro-region's economy plays not only a decisive role for the future economic performance of the entire EU, but can also be seen as driver for regional integration which paves the way towards Europe's neighbours in the Black Sea Region, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. With regard to these political implications, the DFD's structure follows a threefold approach:

- **Initiate a discourse** in order to foster better spending for a more innovative Danube macro-region and thereby contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- **Raise the public awareness** about existing available funds in the Danube Region with a view to the goals of the EU2020 Strategy
- **Sustain regional integration**, both in political and economic terms

It should also be borne in mind that the macro-region encompasses a large number of capital regions which are the engines of growth of their respective countries. The conferences identify the opportunities and challenges

in relation to project financing and thereby strengthen the dialogue between SMEs and other project developers and their potential financiers in the Danube Region.

### *Which are the target groups?*

- Representatives of national and international **financial institutions**, funding agencies and EU/national funding programmes, offering inter alia loans, grants and guarantees
- **Project developers** from the Danube Region, for projects not exceeding 25 Mio. €
- **Public actors** involved in the EUSDR
- **Local authorities** facing challenges in project financing

### *What is offered by the Danube Financing Dialogue?*

Depending on the exact schedule of the event, match-making opportunities like the following are offered:

- **Face-to-face meetings:** Opportunities for participants to connect among each other and schedule meetings with partners of interest
- **Match-making sessions:** Small group discussions on project financing issues
- **Panel discussions:** High-ranking investors or representatives of international institutions are invited to share their experiences and ideas
- **Presentations / poster sessions:** presentation of projects seeking financing/funding support



### *Next event*

The first three events took place in 2012-2013 in Vienna, Belgrade and Bucharest and have attracted more than **600 key stakeholders** from all over the Danube Region. These successful conferences will be continued on the basis of the results of an evaluation published in June 2014 and thereby provide a focussed approach. The evaluation is available on the PA 10 website (see link below).

**The next Danube Financing Dialogue is foreseen for February 2015 in Zagreb, Croatia.**

### *Contact*

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### *More information*

[www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu](http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu)



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