

16th Meeting of the Steering Group of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” of the EUSDR (PA10)

– Minutes –

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

Bucharest, 20 May 2019

Main Outcomes

	AT	BA	BG	CZ	DE	HR	HU	MD	ME	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA	EC	EESC	RCC	CEI	DSP	DCSF
SG14	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+

Participants:

6 out of 14 EUSDR countries were represented at the 16th Meeting of the Steering Group of Priority Area 10 (see Annex 2 Participants list). Furthermore, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Danube Strategy Point and the Danube Civil Society Forum as well as a representative from the DTP project “Attractive Danube” attended the meeting.

Main outcomes of the discussion:

- The Steering Group takes note of the information on the Danube Participation Day that takes place on 26 June 2019 in Bucharest.
- The Steering Group takes note of the information on the EUSDR Annual Forum 2019 that takes place on 27 and 28 June 2019, and the Danube Participation Day that takes place on 26 June 2019 in Bucharest.
- The Steering Group takes note of the state of play concerning the consolidated input document for the revision of the action plan, prepared by the DSP.
- The Steering Group endorses the activities of PAC 10’s work plan 2019.
- The Steering Group endorses and comments on the updated actions within the EUSDR PA10.
- The Steering Group takes note of the PA10 initiatives

Upcoming meetings:

26 June 2019	Danube Participation Day, Bucharest (RO)
27-28 June 2019	EUSDR Annual Forum, Bucharest (RO)
31 Aug-3 Sept 2019	Young Bled Strategic Forum (SI)
2-3 September 2019	Bled Strategic Forum (SI)
September 2019	Seminar on Sound Local Public Management, Vienna (AT)
8-9 October 2019	ESF Network Danube Region, Sofia (BG)

Welcome

Claudia SINGER (PAC 10/City of Vienna, AT) welcomes the participants of the 16th Steering Group (SG) Meeting of EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacities and Cooperation”, which is held back to back with the EESC Public Hearing, as decided during the last SG Meeting in Prague in Nov. 2018. She welcomes Angel GHEORGHIU, under State Secretary in the Ministry, hosting the 16th EUSDR PA 10 SG Meeting.

Angel GHEORGHIU welcomes the participants. Angel GHEORGHIU points out that on 16 May, the Ministry of Regional Development organised the first National Participation Day in Romania in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Over 100 representatives from local authorities and civil society participated in the event that took place in Tulcea (RO). Further, he points out that the Romanian EUSDR Presidency strives to facilitate the relaunch of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. In doing so, the Presidency counts on the close cooperation with the main players involved in the strategy and assures full support of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania on EUSDR PA10 activities.

Claudia SINGER apologises for the delay of co-coordinator Nina ČEPON (PAC 10/Centre for European Perspective – CEP, SI), who could not attend the meeting due to flight delays.

Claudia SINGER presents the agenda for the 16th Steering Group Meeting of PA 10 (see Annex 3_PAC 10). The agenda was adopted by the Steering Group.

Tour de Table of the members of the PA 10 Steering Group

All participants of the Steering Group Meeting introduce themselves. (See Annex 2 Participants list)

Raluca HERPEAN (RO) from the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania is working together with PA10 on the organisation of the Danube Participation Day in Romania as well as for the EU Presidency in the first half of 2019. They informed about the first Romanian National Participation Day in Tulcea. The organisers welcomed approximately 150 participants and appreciated the constructive debates in the course of the event.

Aurelia LISAN (RO) is supporting Raluca HERPEAN in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania in the activities related to Priority Area 10 and works on the organisational aspects of the meeting.

Robert LICHTNER (AT) works for the Danube Strategy Point responsible for the EUSDR Pillar 4 “Strengthening the Danube Region”¹. He wants to show the progress and the state of the play of the revision of the action plan, which is expected to be finalised by October 2019. Further, he points to the Meeting of National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators that takes place on 23/24 May 2019.

Pietro ELISEI (RO) is an urban planner and director of URBASOFIA. In his capacity, Pietro ELISEI was project partner in the project ATTRACTIVE DANUBE that was co-financed by the Danube Transnational Programme. He will present the results of the ATTRACTIVE DANUBE project as well as the project’s Memorandum of Understanding (see Annex 7 + Annex 8).

¹ EUSDR Pillar 4 includes Priority Area 10 „Institutional Capacity and Cooperation“ and Priority Area 11 „Security“.

Iva TARALEZHKOVA (BG) chairs the Board of the Citizen Participation Forum in Bulgaria and is member of the Board of the Danube Civil Society Forum. Iva TARALEZHKOVA will present the perspective of civil society regarding participation and economic convergence at the EESC Public Hearing on economic convergence and transnational clusters that is taking place on 21 May 2019 in Bucharest.

Diána LENGYEL (HU) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary mentions that the main focus of her work is the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

Matthias HOLZNER (DE) from the States Ministry of Baden-Württemberg working on all issues related to the Danube.

Midhat DŽEMIĆ (BIH) works for the Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the office of the national IPA coordinator. He was invited as speaker for the EESC Public Hearing, where he will be reflecting upon his experience working with both the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

Roman HAKEN (CZ) represents the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in the Steering Group and welcomes the opportunity to have the Steering Group Meeting back-to-back with the EESC Public Hearing on economic convergence and transnational clusters.

6th Danube Participation Day

Claudia SINGER outlines the 6th Danube Participation Day (DPD) in Bucharest on the 26th June. The Danube Participation Day will take place in the Parliament Palace, back-to-back with the 8th EUSDR Annual Forum (see Annex 3_ PAC10). The theme of this year's Danube Participation Day is "Youth – Participation – Empowerment" and addresses the involvement and representation of young people in the governance and implementation of the Danube Strategy. Claudia SINGER presents the preliminary agenda of the event and encourages the participants to register until 6 June 2019. Raluca HERPEAN adds that participants need to make sure to register with the online form of the EUSDR Presidency in order to access the Parliament Palace. Any participants, who are not registered via the official form of the EUSDR Presidency will be denied access to the Parliament Palace due to the strict security requirements.

Outcome:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the current state of the Danube Participation Day 2019.

Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan & Discussion on targets, potential indicators & thematic priorities

Robert LICHTNER gives a state of the play update on the revision of the action plan. He gives a brief overview of the structure and content of the consolidated input document for the revision of the action plan, prepared by the DSP (Annex 4_LICHTNER). This document shall be a basis document for the staff working document on the revised EUSDR Action Plan drafted by DG Regio.

Claudia SINGER points out that the draft input paper was sent in advance to the Steering Group Members, to give them the opportunity to comment on it until the 31 May (see Annex 5_DSP Input

paper)². The Steering Group members are kindly asked to comment on PA10 topics and the governance. The comments will be provided to the Danube Strategy Point.

Roman HAKEN would like to know how detailed the input can be, as he sees the possibility to emphasise the idea of more participation and more participative democracy in macro-regional strategies as well as the promotion of cooperation on local level, using tools like community-led local development (CLLD). Claudia SINGER clarifies that the contributions of each Priority Area was limited to a certain amount of characters. Hence, it is not recommended to provide too detailed comments on the input. Nevertheless, the Steering Group and stakeholder groups should define concrete activities or concepts for implementation that will be pursued in the future. The Action Plan provides a general framework that needs to be further defined by the stakeholders. Therefore, if we talk about civil society involvement, there are a lot of different instruments for doing that. She points out, that just the fact that something is not written down in the action plan, does not mean, that it is out of the scope.

Iva TARALEZHKOVA asks, whether the contribution of PA10 was considered when preparing the consolidated input. Further, Iva TARALEZHKOVA welcomes the integration of civil society involvement, youth involvement and citizen participation in the input paper. Regarding the roles within the EUSDR Governance, Iva TARALEZHKOVA reiterates the need for better communication between National Coordinators and civil society and local actors. She highlights the necessity to reflect upon the roles of National Coordinators in making the Danube Strategy more visible. Another topic is the allocation of small-scale grants and funding for smaller players to get involved in the implementation of the strategy. Finally, Iva TARALEZHKOVA asks the Danube Strategy Point for the definition of “key implementers”, who are mentioned in the consolidated input, as in her point of view all stakeholders should be considered key implementers of the EUSDR. Claudia SINGER points out that the result of the PA’s consultation are integrated in “Part B” of the consolidated input. Robert LICHTNER underlines Claudia SINGERS statements. What the DSP tried to get in the proposal is to get comparable information from PAs and in order not to get very different inputs that is why the DSP prepared this document. The most important thing is to have the main topics on the objectives and targets. Regarding the involvement on national level, the DSP has already found that in some countries, the involvement of the national level has to be pushed. This is mentioned in the draft document. The Romanian EUSDR Presidency puts a strong emphasis on young people and civil society and advocates this topic in the revised EUSDR Action Plan.

Claudia SINGER asks why targets and projects are still part of the consolidated input, since all PACs agreed that this should not be part of the Action Plan at previous meetings. Further, she asks, if the Steering Group should have another round of discussions on possible targets, since the National Coordinators introduced new objectives that have not been covered yet by the Priority Areas. Claudia SINGER requests further clarification on the subject of the decision on cross-cutting issues by the National Coordinators. The Danube Strategy Point should clarify whether the National Coordinators are deciding on the topics that should be addressed or the topics that require stronger coordination by an additional coordinator. Eventually, Claudia SINGER asks, whether the Danube Strategy Point plans to launch a role building process for PACs, NCs and SG members. Regarding the first question, Robert LICHTNER highlights that in the document it was asked strategic project, that are very important for the PAs., they are just examples, this does not mean, that there are no other projects. On the

² The EUSDR National Coordinators agreed on a change of the schedule for the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan at the NC/PAC Meeting on 23/24 May 2019. Hence, Steering Group members have the opportunity to comment the consolidated input until 6 June 2019.

question on objectives and targets, the DSP sent two questionnaires to the NCs and to the PACs asking for objectives and targets. In the course of this exercise, the NCs listed some objectives that have not been reflected in the PA's targets and will be further discussed at the NC/PAC Meeting on 23/24 May 2019. Robert LICHTNER answers, that regarding the cross-cutting issues, the National Coordinators will decide on potential topics that are shared by several PACs and require closer coordination. Regarding the roles of the core governance, the DSP described the current status quo and added some proposals on how to evolve the responsibilities for the future in order to strengthen the ownership in the EUSDR at both, national and regional level. This will also be a matter of discussion at the NC/PAC meeting.

Matthias HOLZNER comments, that during the last National Participation Day, Baden-Württemberg had the discussion on visibility of the EUSDR and on how to deal with it. With regard to the EUSDR narrative, he wants to know if civil society will be involved in the development of the narrative if it will be a top down communication effort. Another topic was how to include 3rd countries, which don't have a PAC responsibility at the moment. Robert LICHTNER explains, as the DSP is there at a starting point, they have to create a traditional narrative, first, but the bigger challenge will be to reach the public, too. Concerning the responsibilities of the 3rd countries, which do not have a coordination role, the National Coordinators have to decide on the further procedure to integrate countries, who want to have a coordinating role.

Midhat DŽEMIĆ, bearing in mind the opportunity of current discussion of new MFF 2021-2027, would be very interested to see more deeply developed methodology that will obtain the embedding of selected number of actions proposed by the PAs into new OPs of the ESIF and IPA III framework. Unfortunately, the results of the COWI report and the EC report on the implementation of MRS is not sufficiently reflected in the input. Hence, he fears that the revised Action Plan will not lead to significant improvements for the EUSDR implementation. However, he states that better implementation of flagship actions with real macro-regional impact leads to more visibility and stronger civil society involvement.

Radu GORINCIOI (NC Romania) says that the involvement of Non-EU countries is a very important issue. So far, Ukraine and Montenegro showed interest in taking more responsibility in the EUSDR.

Claudia SINGER highlights that the Action Plan is an important guidance document, that sets a direction, but the quality of the implementation relies on each and every stakeholder and on the actual activities that are taken. The revised Action Plan should be a good basis, but it is not the end of the process.

Outcomes:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of a state of the play update on the revision of the EUSDR action plan.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the schedule for the revision process.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group are requested to provide comments to the consolidated input until 6 June 2019.

As a key event of the EUSDR Presidency in 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania is organising the 8th Annual Forum between 27- 28 of June 2019 in Bucharest (Palace of Parliament), under the motto: “Building cohesion for a shared prosperity in the Danube Region” in cooperation with the European Commission and the Danube Transnational Programme,.

Radu GORINCIOI welcomes the participants and informed them that all information concerning the AF can be found on the EUSDR website, but he wants to highlight a few things: Firstly, he invites the Steering Group members to bring in ideas and things they would like to promote in this forum. Secondly, he wants to thank PA10 and the DCSF for proposing a very good agenda for the Danube Participation Day. In his point of view, it is much better than the years, before as it brings in new elements like youth involvement but also allows to interlink the DPD with the AF discussions. Therefore, he invites one or two speakers of the DPD to bring in conclusions of the DPD in the AF. Thirdly, the revision of the action plan will be one of the key topics. There will be a Public Hearing and the dedicated session about the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan will allow stakeholders to take stock of the ongoing progress and at the same time become involved in shaping the Strategy’s future by sharing concrete proposals for the final stage of EUSDR’s Action Plan Revision. For this purpose, public consultations are organised by the Danube Strategy Point with the support of the Romanian EUSDR Presidency. It gives opportunity to bring the last minute ideas on board of the revision of the AP (the document the DSP will draft). Radu GORINCIOI asks the participants to promote this hearing and thanks the Danube Strategy Point for organising the event. Further Radu GORINCIOI presents the main topics of the 8th EUSDR Annual Forum. The second day of the AF has a strong focus on the link between MRS and EU Funding. An emphasis will be placed on the possibilities of creating better synergies between macro-regional strategies and EU programmes and policies in the framework of the new Cohesion Policy. Discussions over new opportunities for enhancing funding for macro-regional strategies will also feature in the program prominently. The last session will be on how the future is seen after 2020, where NCs will present their point of view from a national perspective. Radu GORINCIOI also briefly presents the side events of the Annual Forum that can be seen on the website of the EUSDR Annual Forum. The Forum will be preceded by a Ministerial meeting that will take place in the morning of the 27th of June, allowing the Ministers in charge of Economic Affairs from the EUSDR participating countries to share views on SME and business support structures. Claudia SINGER assures that PA10 is encouraging people to join the public hearing and pointed out that there are lot of possibilities for participation and invited the participants to spread this information. Radu GORINCIOI mentions some technical topics, like that there will be official invitations concerning stands to present project materials - and that the deadline for the registration for the Forum will be the 18th of June 2019. Further, the registration for the Annual Forum is necessary to join the side events, which will take place in the same building. Raluca HERPEAN wants to mention that there will be the possibility of a late registration, but a list of all people, wishing to enter the building before the event should be send to her.

Outcome:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the activities planned by the EUSDR Presidency regarding the 8th EUSDR Annual Forum.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the Public Hearing on the revision of Action Plan.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group are requested to get back to the coordination of Priority Area 10, if they are interested to display information material at the PA 10 information stand.

The coordination of Priority Area 10 confirmed to support the dissemination of event info on the Annual Forum and the Public Hearing.

Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan

Claudia SINGER gives an overview of what has been done so far, the next steps and showed the timeline (see Annex 3_PAC10). She pointed out the 3 major topics, under which EUSDR PA 10 can summarize its actions:

Institutional Capacity Building

- To improve institutional capacities in order to provide high-quality public services
- To enhance capacities of cities and municipalities to facilitate local and regional development

Multi-level Governance

- To foster cooperation built on mutual trust between state and non-state actors
- To strengthen the involvement of civil society and local actors

Funding

- To review bottlenecks relating to the low absorption rate of EU funds
- To support better coordination of funding
- To test and support innovative funding solutions (for local actors and civil society)

Claudia SINGER asks the EUSDR PA10 SG meeting participants, if they have targets and/or activities in their areas of responsibilities, that they think they are important and maybe can develop targets out of that. In the past PA10 had 4 targets, which were very partly very challenging and difficult to influence- so, when thinking about targets, we have to think what the activities we are planning are, what are the things that we need or want to do and who are the stakeholders, that we need to involve additionally.

Diána LENGYEL thanks Claudia SINGER for taking into consideration HU inputs following the last SG meeting, as the topic of people living in border areas should be emphasised. Further, she wants to mention the topic of EGTC as tool for targets. As already mentioned, her main portfolio is basically the EGTCs. Hungary has around 23, so they have a good practices with them. This is a big hub in multilevel governance in HU with local municipalities, local actor and universities are involved and they receive a lot of input like territorial analysis and they use it for their decision making, too.

Claudia SINGER points out that this sounds interesting in terms of transnational cooperation in the Multi-level Governance, but also for the cross border action, she guesses, that this could be a target, how to organise Multi-level Governance at transnational cross border level. In any case, it could be an interesting target to promote.

Diána LENGYEL wants to link that with another topic, the legal accessibility, which they consider as a cross cutting topic- to eliminate any of legal or administrative obstacles between people living in border areas, but this can be seen in transnational aspect as well.

Matthias HOLZNER announces an activity planned concerning a dialogue between companies with social responsibility and Civil Society, in regard of funding of projects. There will be a small international conference workshop (60-80 people) on the 14 of November 2019 in Bucharest. This has also a relation to the target of funding- funding opportunities, private funding.

Claudia SINGER mentions that this could also be something in terms of innovative funding or finding alternative funding solutions. Further, she points out that it is interesting to see in what directions some activities go- it doesn't need to be implemented or planned or the outcomes defined.

Matthias HOLZNER informs that it is a conference planned in 2020 for around 80 people, together with PA11, concerning human trafficking, with the security side, local actor and social workers but it is on the starting point at the moment.

Claudia SINGER points out that this also could also be interesting for capacity building for local actors in terms of multi-level governance.

Raluca HERPEAN mentions that the previous targets were very broad, we need to make it a little more specific, but not too specific in order to be able to incorporate somehow, multiple actions and multiple contributions. Another point is, when consulting the Romanian stakeholders concerning the revision of the action plan, there were 2 main things that were under the RO EUSDR presidency: funding- a better funding coordination to implement the strategy and the other topic was dealing capacity building and cooperation somehow- events, where border region people meet to be able to identify common problems they have, so that they can put this issues in future projects.

Iva TARALEZHKOVA says that the DCSF sees as a gap of activities at NC level in the different counties. Therefore, it might be good to address this issue somehow. For example, in Romania, they adopted a bill with the tasks and responsibilities of the NCs and the other people being involved in the Coordination on national level in the EUSDR. This gap leads to a lack of visibility of the EUSDR in the countries. Further, she highlights the importance of smaller scale funding opportunities, especially in terms of per- financing- the DSPF for example, was a very good model and it has to be multiplied.

Pietro ELISEI points out that the strategies are lively and they are changing continuously so it is impossible to have fixed structure. The EUSDR is a very young strategy. There are just 8 years of experience, and it is very important to start learning from the projects, from the practices. Starting from the good practices, maybe we bring up the principles for improving the strategy. Another point concerning governance- we did big steps in terms of horizontal governance, but the main issue is the vertical governance- it's about cross cutting issues. If we are not going politically, strategically and technical touching this point, we are not going to be more effective, so there is the need to create new layers of governance.

Matthias HOLZNER informs that in the next weeks they will have a meeting with all Managing Authorities dedicated aligning funding for MRS. The way the meeting is set up, is that all the managing authorities are presenting what they are doing and later on the strategies are asked to provide some input out of the steering groups, which should be set up in a second step should be taken up by the managing authority. The problem is, how to make sure, not being the only one lobbying for a topics, e.g. human trafficking, and how can it be arranged that it is proposed in the other countries, too.

Outcomes:

- The PA 10 Coordination will draft some targets based on the discussion and will send them to the Steering Group for further decision.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the opportunity to provide additional proposals for targets for PA 10.

Roman HAKEN presents the most important information concerning the European Economic Social Committee (Annex 6_HAKEN) He points out that the main roles of the EESC is to give advice and to prepare opinions.

Claudia SINGER explains that EUSDR PA10 was invited to prepare an input on the role of civil society in improving digitalisation and transnational cooperation in macro-regions for the EESC Public Hearing “Towards better economic convergence and competitiveness within macro-regions” organised by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). There will be an additional contribution by Iva TARALEZHKOVA, representing the DSCF and the civil society perspective and by herself.

Iva TARALEZHKOVA presents the main points of the contribution, which has been developed within the last EUSDR PA10 Danube Local Actors Meeting, and agreed by a broad group of stakeholders. It is mainly about improving cooperation and citizens’ involvement within the implementation of the EUSDR, but she believes that it can be used as a basis for all MRS as well. Considering the importance of the involvement of broad stakeholder groups and platforms and considering that this is a crucial requirement for the efficient regional development, they suggest following things:

- National Coordinators shall involve civil society players and local actors of their countries in the consultation process to revise and implement the EUSDR (including the political part), preferably face to face, by means of consultations, hearings and National Participation Days – establishment of common standards for all the NPCs,
- Organize annual consultations on topical aspects and progress of the EUSDR in all EUSDR member countries and to make results of these consultations publically available; National Participation Days are tested and recommended formats for such consultations;
- The development and implementation of a long-term EUSDR Communication strategy, preferably in participatory manner and e.g. in the frame of the revised Action Plan, to ensure visibility and foster networking, participation and better results
- Improved mechanisms for effective involvement of civil society and local actors in decision making, evaluation and planning processes, making best use of the EUSDR Action Plan revision as an opportunity for making progress towards this objective (e.g. the CoE Guidelines for Citizens Participation in Political Decision Making – 2017)
- the allocation of small scale funding possibilities accessible to local actors for (small companies, CSOs, youth org., academia, etc.) for transnational partnerships and projects planning processes, making best use of the EUSDR Action Plan revision as an opportunity for making progress towards this objective (e.g. DSPF)

Claudia SINGER thanks for outlining the contribution from the CS perspective and gives an overview of the PA10 input. (see Annex 3_PAC10).

Outcomes:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the contribution of Iva TARALEZHKOVA to the EESC Public Hearing.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group agreed on the contribution of PA 10 for the EESC Public Hearing.

Pietro ELISEI presents the Attractive Danube project that is funded by the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) (see Annex 7_ELISEI). ATTRACTIVE DANUBE aims at strengthening multilevel and transnational governance and institutional capacities of policy planners involved in territorial development of the Danube Region, which will result in more harmonised governance system of the area. Against this background, Pietro ELISEI presents the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (see Annex 8_MoU) that should be signed by the PA 10 Steering Group in order to commit to the support of evidence-based decision-making.

Diána LENGYEL asks about the concrete expectation after signing the MoU. Pietro ELISEI responds that the general expectations are to continue the platform for institutions. That is why the project consortium applied for a follow-up project. Claudia SINGER further specifies that one aspect would be to further support the follow-up of the ATTRACTIVE DANUBE project, another aspect would be to disseminate the results of the current projects and eventually to support the general concept of evidence-based decision-making as already stated in the revised actions of Priority Area 10.

Matthias HOLZNER points to the challenge of ownership of the project regarding the long-term maintenance of the data platform and wants to know, if there are concrete examples, where this platform was already used. Pietro ELISEI informs, that they have already data on different levels, e.g. on housing, but not on all levels, it depends on nations and regions, but it is already used for spatial planning. The more institutions they get on board, the powerful the platform will be. The added value is the transnational dimension. Claudia SINGER mentions that she was attending a workshop where it was explained, who will use, where and how. There were also institutions already using TAMP and CO-TAMP in terms of spatial planning. The Attractive Danube project was in touch with ESPON.

Robert LICHTNER mentions that at the PAC/NC meeting, there will be an ESPON PPT, where the company, doing the research, will give some results. Further, in the afternoon, there will be a presentation for the NCs of the Attractive Danube project.

Matthias HOLZNER wants to know, if Attractive Danube already works with already existing data sources and points out that all data needs to be connected. Pietro ELISEI explains that is not just about data, but also about introducing a participatory approach to data collection. Claudia SINGER adds that Attractive Danube project was in touch with ESPON and there was a lot of exchange of e.g. indicators.

Midhat DŽEMIĆ, although do not see much reasons for this step (signing of MoU), bearing in mind rather complex administrative structure in BiH possibly responsible for the implementation of the MoU, would need much more time to review the possible pros and cons, and he needs more time before decide to sign the proposed doc.

Outcome:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group take note of the results of the Attractive Danube project.
- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group will have the opportunity to provide comments and proposals for changes to the MoU before the Written Procedure on signing the MoU will be launched.

Work plan PAC 10

Claudia SINGER presents the work plan of PAC 10 for 2019. (Annex 3_PAC10). Main points are:

- The Danube Local Actors Platform
- To draft a policy paper on Sound Local Management
- A Study on Metropolitan/Functional Regions
- To work on the framework for investment in institutional capacity
- National Participation Days
- ESF Network Danube Region
- Planning 2020+

Further, Claudia SINGER informs the participants, that there will be a 2nd Call for PAC support.

Outcome:

The members of the PA 10 Steering Group takes note of and endorse the PAC 10 work plan for 2019.

Update of PA10 initiatives

Claudia SINGER gives an update on PA10 initiatives (Annex 3_PAC10) like the Danube Strategic Project Fund, Euro Access Macro-Regions- she points out that if there is need for a training on how to use the database, it is possible to contact PA10 Vienna or directly to EuroVienna to request for it. Then Claudia SINGER gives an overview of DTP projects related to Priority Area 10.

Outcome:

- The members of the PA 10 Steering Group takes note of PA 10 initiatives.

Cross-cutting Topics and Cooperation with other Priority Areas

Claudia SINGER presents cross-cutting topics and cooperation with PA9 and PA11 (Annex 3_PAC10)

Outlook & Closing

SINGER thanks everyone for the participation and contributions and closes the 16th meeting of the PA 10 Steering Group.