



Danube Financing Dialogue in Bratislava

The Danube Financing Dialogue has taken place for the fifth time and brought about a novelty: The Danube Region Award.

On the 23rd and 24th of May, the fifth edition of the Danube Financing Dialogue (DFD) was held in the premises of the Slovak Central Bank in Bratislava. The Slovak capital followed Vienna, Belgrade, Bucharest and Zagreb in hosting the DFD on behalf of the European Commission and the City of Vienna. At the DFD, project promoters from all countries in the Danube Region had the opportunity to obtain information about relevant financing opportunities and to enter into in-depth dialogue with the representatives of major institutions, free of charge.

After Wilhelm Molterer from the European Investment Bank (EIB) presented the existing financing opportunities offered through the Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the first day of the event revolved around a DFD novelty: the 'project-pitch'. Six pre-selected promising project promoters were given the possibility to present their ideas on stage and to win a 2,000 euro prize. The winner was chosen by a top-class jury consisting of representatives from the European Investment Bank (EIB), academia, the business development sector and venture-capital experts. After a neck-and-neck race, the award was granted to Tamás Szőke from the Slovak firm Centire for their 'Grant Expert' project which aims to make existing ideas fit for the digital market through innovative approaches. The handover of the prize at the networking dinner in the premises of the National Bank closed the first day of the fifth DFD.

The second day was set off by an introductory speech by Jozef Makúch, Governor of the Slovak National Bank. The following points on the agenda revolved around the question of what projects need in order to be successful in the Danube Region. Expert panel discussions and presentations by representatives from the European Institutions, legal establishments, the start-up and the consulting environment, chaired by the journalist Nikolaus Jilch, covered the Dos and Don'ts of project development, the existing financial and non-financial needs and opportunities as well as the ways to improve the framework conditions for innovative business ideas.

The networking sessions allowed for one-to-one meetings and more in-depth discussions between the project promoters and the representatives of financing and governmental institutions. Thanks to the positive feedback from the participants as well as Rudolf Schicker, PA10-Coordinator of the Danube Region Strategy and Franz Nauschnigg from the Austrian Central Bank, one of the initiators of the 2012 Initiative, the idea of the DFD is planned to be carried on in 2017. The future form of the DFD is to be evaluated in the near future.

A review of the 5th Danube Financing Dialogue as well as images, presentations and documents can be found here: <http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/5th-danube-financing-dialogue>

Agenda und Photos:

Opening of the 5th Danube Financing Dialogue on 23rd May 2016

16:30 **Registration and welcome drinks**

17:00 **Welcome and opening**

How project developers can benefit from the new EU investment initiative
Wilhelm Molterer, Managing Director, European Fund for Strategic Investments

17:30 **Project competition**

Presentations of the most promising start-ups and projects in the Danube Region

Jury:

Edina Csanyi, European Investment Bank (EIB)
Eden Mamut, Black Sea Universities Network
Vasina Radoslav, Investment Manager for Innovations and Technologies at the Slovak Business Agency (SBA)
Imre Hild, Global Traction Co.

19:00 **Buffet and award ceremony**

21:00 **End of the 1st conference day**





NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA
EUROSYSTEM



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Regional Policy

24th May 2016

08:30 Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 Welcome statements

Jozef Makúch, Governor of National Bank of Slovakia

09:45 How to get money? What else beyond money is needed for supporting business ideas

Financial instruments and the EIF

Hubert Cottogni, European Investment Fund

Combining ESIF and EFSI in support of SMEs: implications for the Danube Strategy

Andrea Mairate, European Commission

How to support businesses getting ready for investment

Lena Gansterer, Impact Hub Vienna / Investment Ready Program

How crowd funding drives regional innovation

Brigitte Hatvan, ConPlusUltra

11:15 How to find the right funding source? Launch of Euro Access Danube Region

Julie Dalmoro, Euro Vienna

11:30 Face-to-Face meetings and networking

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Share your story: Do's and Don'ts when setting up businesses and projects

Setting up a successful business in Romania, George Suciu, BEIA Consult

Doing business in South East Europe, Eugeniy Ivanov, Euroconsultants

Crowdfunding in Central Europe, Andrej Wallo, Conda Slovakia

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Creating an inspiring environment for businesses and innovative projects

Innovation policy and strategy for supporting smart industry

Zuzana Nehajova, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

The new legal form in Slovakia - Simplified Joint Stock Company

Katarína Miháliková, Majerník & Miháliková s.r.o.

Danube-INCO.NET - can one project make a difference in the region? Informing, networking, supporting the coordination of funding

Elke Dall, Centre for Social Innovation

Presentation of KEEP: How to find information on Territorial Cooperation projects in different thematic areas, Janne Kiilunen, Interact Programme

16:30 Concluding statements and outlook

Rudolf Schicker, Priority Area10 Coordinator of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Franz Nauschnigg, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

17:00 End of the conference

The sessions will be moderated by Nikolaus Jilch, Journalist, Die Presse.



NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA
EUROSYSTEM



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Regional Policy

