



4TH MEETING OF THE PA 10 STEERING GROUP

May 22, 2013

CEF, Cankarjeva 18, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Report

1. Participants

Present at the meeting:

Marko Žabojec (Croatia), Miroslava-Nina Mišković (Croatia), Elean Gagov (Bulgaria), Annamaria Olah (Hungary), Peter Kiss Parciu (Hungary), David Pelech (BDCI), Peter Langer, Ionut Vasilca (Romania), Katarina Tomić (Serbia), Dorota Malečková (Slovakia), Daniela Urschitz (AUT, PAC 10 team), Kurt Puchinger (Austria, PAC 10), Irena Lukač (Slovenia, PAC 10).

2. EUSDR and the future programming period 2014-2020 funding

A. Joint meeting of the EUSDR National Contact Points and Partnership Agreement Coordinators

First joint meeting of the EUSDR national contact points (NCPs) and Partnership Agreement Coordinators took place in April in Bucharest where first discussions on how to integrate the EUSDR into the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds in the upcoming programming period 2014-2020 started.

The second meeting will be in Stuttgart, on June 21, 2013. Priority Area Coordinators and programming experts were also included in this round of consultations. European Commission extended their invitations via PACs also to all the EUSDR steering groups.

B. Workshop of the EUSDC Priority Area Coordinators and Danube Programme Task Force

Workshop hosted by PA10 (WG4 Financing event) on May 21 in Ljubljana was attended also by some participants of this Steering Group meeting. It was the first time that the EUSDR PACs and ETC Danube Programme task force were jointly discussing this new ETC program that has the same geographic scope as EUSDR (estimated value EUR 200 – 300 million).

The process of programming began in February and the countries were at a point of selecting 4-5 thematic objectives. EUSDR PACs' main concerns are that some priority areas will be excluded from the



programme's financing and the future funding of PACs work (now flexible TA agreement with the European Commission) will be financed from the Danube programme. With regard to the latter, the EUSDR PACs already submitted their concerns to the European Commission.

At the workshop the thematic objectives were not discussed. It was however agreed that the Danube task force will put together a proposal of how PACs could be financed from the programme and at the same time maintaining the flexibility and their positions related to policy makers (steering groups) and "end-users". The proposal will be discussed at their June meeting and the submitted to PACs.

The PA10 SG members were distributed a list of workshop participants should they want to communicate the EUSDR (PA10) priorities / thematic objectives with them.

- C. As a result of the discussions at the WG2 (Civil Society) meeting in March 2013, a **position paper of containing the views of the Danube region civil society stakeholders** and their role in the future programming period was created and sent to the European Commission in April (available at PA10 web).
- D. **Presentation of the current and future funding options** and overview of financial instruments was given (PPT uploaded in groupspaces).

3. Technical Assistance Facility for the Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)

The Technical Assistance Facility for the Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP) is a pilot project that will support the preparation of projects with a EUSDR value added. TAF-DRP is managed by the PAC10 City of Vienna (the managing authority for the TAF-DRP). The SG members were distributed all the TAF-DRP related documents which are also available at [this link](#). Below are the main points.

- Medium and small projects under EUR 20 million will be eligible to receive consultancy services of up to EUR 25,000. TAF-DRP total budget is EUR 900,000 and up to 40 projects are expected to be supported.
- Tender for consultants (that will provide consultancy services) will start in May/June, European-wide and open tender. As requested, the PA10 SG members were notified of the [tender](#).
- There will be 2 – 3 calls. [First call](#) was launched on May 24 (until September 10). PACs should choose and send two project proposals to managing authority (PAC10 City of Vienna) for evaluation. The decision on awarding is on the TAF-DRP managing authority which will strive to achieve a balanced thematic and geographical spread over Danube region countries.



- As PAC10 City of Vienna is the managing authority of the TAF-DRP, PAC 10 Slovenia will submit two PA10 projects and work with the PA10 Steering Group. Steering groups must have open procedure of choosing from a list of projects already submitted, but new projects can also be proposed. Criteria for projects to be chosen are published, procedure will be transparent.
- After reviewing around 70 project proposals submitted to PA10, a list of projects that could be eligible will be created and communicated to the PA10 SG for a decision. PA10 SG members can also propose new projects.

4. Horizontal Initiatives

The following initiatives of PA10 were outlined:

- Civil Society homepage will be launched in autumn. Still work in progress for all involved. The participation will be open but registration will be required.
- City Network stakeholder conference will be held in Vienna from 9-10 December 2013.
- Vienna Charter goes Danube, starting with Bulgaria on 4 June 2014.
- UNESCO World Heritage network. Project outline will be sent to SG members for identification of national contacts.
- E-government initiative
- WG1 on Institutional Capacity now gathers 21 institutions from 11 countries and 3 international organizations – mostly public administration and specialized training institutions. Some of their initiatives were introduced:
 - Public Procurement Academy
 - Dante 4 PA (vocational training for public admin. on a local level)
 - IOM (Int. Org. for Migration) and CeGD
 - Academy for Exchange in Administration in the Danube Region
 - Building capacities in policy design and implementation

For details please see reports of WG1, WG2 and WG3 meetings from March 2013.

5. Budapest Danube Contact Point

Mr. David Pelech introduced the Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCP). BDCP, established in June 2012 and located in Budapest, is an initiative of Hungary and the European Investment Bank to support feasible and bankable projects in the Danube region. BDCP offers advisory services to improve projects' quality, speeds up preparation and assesses their "bankability". The initiative is aimed mainly at infrastructure projects (transport, environment, energy). At the moment there are not many projects available, many PACs and SG are not very active and project promoters are not recognizing the value-added yet. BDCP is also working on the Danube Innovation Fund, a few countries are interested.



BDCP is staffed with 2 experts from Hungary and 1 from European Investment Bank. Danube region countries are invited to second their representatives for a short term (currently, the Land Baden-Wuerttemberg has an expert seconded to the BDCP). There have been considerations of establishing contact points in other countries.

BDCP offered support to estimate projects or project proposals within the PA10. It was also agreed that the projects which will not be eligible under the TAF-DRP could be potentially be directed to BDCP.

PPT presentation is uploaded in the PA10 groupspaces.

6. Next Steps

The following activities of PA10 are planned for second half of 2013:

- 3rd Danube Financing Dialogue, Bucharest, 30 - 31 October 201
- 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSDR, Bucharest, 28 - 29 October 2013
- WG2 (Civil Society) and WG3 (Regional Cooperation), Ruse, 26 September 2013
- WG1 (Institutional Capacity) Meeting, Ljubljana, autumn 2013
- WG4 (Financing) Meeting / Event, Ljubljana, autumn 2013
- City Network stakeholder conference, Vienna, 9-10 December 2013
- 5th PA Steering Group Meeting, Vienna, December 2013