

## **4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Danube Local Actors Platform (AC D-LAP)**

### **Vienna, 19 May 2016- Main Outcomes**

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#### **1. News from PA 10:**

- PA 10 “Institutional capacity building and cooperation” has a new Coordinator, DI Rudolf Schicker, former vice-mayor of the City of Vienna and city councillor for City Planning. In his introductory speech, PAC Schicker stressed the importance of PA 10, aiming at strengthening the cooperation between city and regional administrations, the Civil Society, social partners as well as academia and the political level throughout the Danube Region. He had a first meeting with the City of Budapest concerning a Strategic Project of PA 10 “The Helpers of Vienna”, which shows the advantages of cooperation between CSOs and City Administration in the case of big public events.
- Jörg Mirtl, collaborator of PA 10 since 2013, is leaving for the Interact Programme in Turku; his Successor is Claudia Singer (Claudia.Singer@pa10-danube.eu)
- Daniela Urschitz presented an overview of the organisation of the EUSDR and PA 10 with its platforms, targets and strategic projects (Annex 1)
- The advisory committee greeted new members from Slovakia, Austria and Serbia. The steadily growing D-LAP is mentioned in a report about macro-regions from the European Parliament. New members/participants are kindly asked to send their contact details to: simone.boehm-gartner@pa10-danube.eu.
- Amended minutes of last meeting were adopted
- The new website organized by the Danube Strategy Point for all the PAs is not ready yet, PA 10 will send the link as soon as possible.

#### **2. Tour de table: Reports from National Hearings, new projects and policy developments:**

##### **National Hearings for Civil Society:**

- One of PA 10 official targets agreed with the Steering group and the European Commission is to have National Hearings for Civil Society in 80% (11 countries) of the EUSDR Countries; Hearings have so far been held in Austria, Baden-Württemberg, Bulgaria, Serbia and Ukraine.
- Daniela Urschitz reported from the Bulgarian National hearing, which was held in Sofia from 17-18 March 2016 under the Title “Navigation or floating downstream” with almost 100 participants.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Austrian National Hearing for Civil Society, called “Kooperations-Plattform”, will be held in September in Tulln, Lower Austria and present the EUSDR as well as CSO projects in the Danube Region with the aim to broaden the number of Austrian Stakeholders in the EUSDR under the title “Innovative Forms of Cooperation in the Danube Region”.

- AC D-LAP members are invited to contact their respective National EUSDR Coordinator<sup>1</sup>, to participate in national EUSDR coordination meetings and propose to hold National EUSDR Hearings for the civil society and local actors. DCSF and PA 10 are ready to provide support. (Annex 2: comprehensive description of National Hearings)

- Stefan Lütgenau (DCSF) reported about new funding possibilities for National Hearings and the Participation Day of the EUSDR granted to Agapedia Jürgen Klinsmann Stiftung GmbH by the Baden Württemberg Foundation which should help financing and organising future events.

### **New Projects and Policy Developments:**

- EC Pilot Project “Science meets Parliament” organized by PA 7 and PA 10 will bring together the EU- Joint research council with members of the Austrian Parliaments science Committee and the Austrian Academy of Sciences on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September in Vienna (Annex 3).

- Valentin Ciubotaru from the NGO BIOS is working on sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova, creating a sustainability network of NGOs and relevant stakeholders in Moldova reports on the the “Danube connects” project implemented by Ministry of Regional Development and Construction with ALDA. He will try to organize a Civil Society hearing in Moldova.

- Juraj Corba from the Central European Foundation CEF, Slovakia reported about the project “Danube Fund” aiming at the cultural and social revival of the borders of the Danube, which will be part of the Participation Day in Bratislava in November.

- Dagmar Engels, City Councillor in Ulm, representing the Council of Danube Cities and Regions reports on the Project of the City of Ulm reports on the project against human trafficking and forced prostitution implemented by the “Ulmer Bündnis gegen Menschenhandel und Zwangsprostitution”, where the City administration, law enforcement, NGOs and the political level are cooperation to change the situation in Ulm.

- Helga Konrad: Combating Human Trafficking at the local level; PA 10 is developing the project D-CAHT- Danube Cities against Human Trafficking, together with the Regional Implementation Initiative, building a network of cities and relevant Organizations cooperating with NGOs in local anti-trafficking policies.

- Erwin Slezak from Lower Austria and PA6 presented the project SONDAR-Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region, a network which develops activities for soil protection between science and practice, between administration and users of land, between education, arts and civil Society. The measures taken by the partners in the Danube Region are aimed at showing sustainable, quantitative and qualitative soil conservation through demonstration of best-practice examples.

- Roman Haken from the EESC reports on two new EESC opinions about CLLD (Community led local development) and EU-Urban Agenda. He points out the importance of the engagement

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

of local authorities, national representatives in the activities and events of civil society.

( [www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu) )

- Igor Studenikov, Center for Regional Studies from Ukraine presented the project PAN - "Climate proofing the Danube Delta through integrated land and water management" The project supports building a foundation for the adaptation of the Ukrainian, Moldovan and Romanian parts of the Danube Delta sub-basin to the modified climate conditions. It also helps increasing the cooperation between sub-basin countries through increasing cooperation between partner countries to develop and implement the regional trans-boundary Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Danube Delta sub-basin and Action plan, strengthening the capacity of local nature and water managers and increase the awareness of local stakeholders in the Danube Delta to address climate change as well as developing a local green business regarding the sustainable biomass production.

- Martina Handler presents the model of the "Wisdom Council", which is an interactive technique involving citizens in local administrations strategic planning and decision making; the project will participate in a workshop at the Participation Day.(Annex 4)

- Austrian and Serbian Trade Union representatives reported about the project Dalmex, aiming at capacity building and cooperation between trade Unions in the Danube Region, organizing seminars and meetings on dual education and labour law as well as developing a website. The project will participate in the 2. call of the DTTP.(Annex 5)

- Sonja Jilek, University of Vienna, reports about the project Smart Limes, which will participate in the 2. Phase of the Danube programme. (Annex 6 )

- Bertram Häupler, City of Vienna presents the project Ökokauf Danube; The EcoBusinessPlan Vienna was launched in 1998 by the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection on behalf of the Vienna City Administration. To date, 1,041 enterprises have participated in the EcoBusinessPlan, implementing more than 11,000 environmental projects and actions. Through appropriate environmental management practices, these enterprises have been able to generate substantial cost savings totalling about EUR 121.4 million. The success of the EcoBusinessPlan illustrates that the voluntary move to apply quality standards that exceed legal requirements creates significant financial benefits. The project will also participate in the 2. Call of the DTTP. (See Annex 7) and participate in the 3.Participation Day of the EUSDR.

### **"Strategic Projects" of PA 10**

- Please find the complete list on the PA 10 website. Should you want to present projects on the PA 10 website(<http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu>), please send to [claudia.singer@pa10-danube.eu](mailto:claudia.singer@pa10-danube.eu). Strategic projects of all the 11 PAs will be found shortly on the EUSDR- website.

- Julie Dalmoro from EuroVienna presented the website EuroAccess, facilitating the search for adequate European funding, which was presented at PA10s "Danube Financing Dialogue" in Bratislava on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. Euro Access(<https://danube-euroaccess.eu>).

- PA 10 plans a new Pilot Project with DG Regio, the "Danube Strategic Project Fund", specifically aimed at enlargement and neighbourhood countries, youth, and associations. The projects should be transversal and touch several priority areas, have a multilevel governance

approach, target economic and social cooperation and foster integration and reconciliation.

### **3. First Call of the Danube Programme DTTP**

Urschitz reports on difficult situation, many projects were rejected, especially in the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar, only 10 as far as possible to say at this stage from Civil Society and local actors were accepted in the 2. stage of the first call (Annex 8). Many projects failed outright due to a lack of consideration of specific Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) technicalities. Civil Society involvement was indirectly tackled only in few projects, as well as innovative governance models. The 12. DTP call will be a one step procedure, involving Eni funds for Ukraine and Rep. of Moldova. The DTP will also launch a seed money facilities building on the experience of PA 10 Pilot Project START.

### **4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Danube Participation Day of the EUSDR, Bratislava, 2-3 November 2016 - working towards sustainable development and inclusive governance:**

- Urschitz and Lütgenau (DCSF) reported on the structure of the Annual Forum as planned by the EU-Commission and Slovakia, concentrating on two specific topics (Innovation, Water) in cooperation with the Joint Research Committee and specific PAs leaving almost no room to the transversal but central EUSDR topics like the EU-Urban Agenda or Civil Society.

The Participation Day therefore is all the more important, even if this year there is no financial support neither from Commission nor from the host country. The Advisory Committee of the D-LAP agreed with the basic concept as proposed PA 10 and the DCSF, in agreement with the representatives of the office for Civil Society of the Slovak Republic (Annex 9)

- The Advisory Committee of the D-LAP specifically agreed to hold a joint meeting with the Council of Danube Cities and Regions, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer and representatives of the Participation Day in order to start a stronger cooperation between Civil Society, local actors, Cities and regions in accordance amongst others with the conclusions of the study: “New role of macro-regional strategies in European Territorial Cooperation” which stresses the successful combination of the agendas of different non-governmental interest groups and considers the resulting “local actor approach” to participation one of the best working cooperation networks in EUSDR.  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL\\_STU%282015%29540349](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU%282015%29540349)
- At the last Annual Forum in Ulm, these three stakeholders for the first time presented and distributed a common resolution about the role and challenges as well as needs of the local actors confronted with the European refugee crisis (Annex 10);
- AC D-LAP members are invited to propose Projects or NGOs which could be presented in the Workshops of the Participation Day. PA10 will send out a consolidated programme before the summer break.
- Thomas Strazay, Slovakia, has reported by mail that he could unfortunately not secure funding for the workshop he planned on the cooperation between Baltic and Danube Strategies together with Slovak and Hungarian NGOs.

- Milan Andrejkovic from the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Civil Society development reported on the Workshop “OGP- Open Government Partnership” organized by the office of the Plenipotentiary at the Participation Day in Bratislava.
- Laszlo Flamm, representative from NGO European House reported about a planned event for Civil Society organized by the Hungarian Foreign Ministry with the possibility for NGOs to take part. Provisional date will be 29 June (Danube Day) 2017.
- Stefan Lütgenau, DCSF, mentioned that a cooperation with the Andrasz University in Budapest to host the next Danube Participation Day back to back with the Annual Forum is planned.

### **Upcoming Meetings 2016:**

- ⇒ National Hearings in member states of the EUSDR
- ⇒ 17 June: Fight against Human trafficking, European House, Vienna  
Organized by Regional Implementation Initiative +PA 10
- ⇒ 21-24 June: Forum of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in Vienna- Workshop on “Empowering Cities in the fight Against Human Trafficking “, organized by FRA+PA 10
- ⇒ 23-24 June : “Public Governance as the Foundation of European Integration”- Capacity Building for public administrations and local actors, Vienna City Hall, organized by KDZ, PA 10, City of Vienna
- ⇒ 09 September : 2. Austrian National Participation Day, Tulln, organized by the Austrian Chancellery, Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lower Austria, PA 10
- ⇒ 24<sup>th</sup> September : “Science meets Parliament” , Austrian Parliament Vienna  
Organized by PA 7 , PA 10 and EC Joint Research Council, Austrian Parliament
- ⇒ October: Workshop “Empowering Cities in the fight Against Human Trafficking- D-CAHT”
- ⇒ 2-3 November: 3<sup>rd</sup> Danube Participation Day, Bratislava,  
Organized by DCSF, PA 10, Slovak Republic
- ⇒ 3-4 November: 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR, Bratislava  
Organized by European Commission, Slovak Republic
- ⇒ 13 December: Euro Access Launch, Vienna