

Welcome from PAC 10 Vienna, Rudolf Schicker

- PAC 10 Vienna welcomes the D-LAP members. The minutes of the 5th DLAP meeting on 02.11.2016 and the agenda of the 6th D-LAP meeting 21.03.2017 are adopted (see annex 1).
- New PA10 Slovenia, Centre for European Perspective (CEP): director Gorazd Justinek presents the Centre for European Perspective, which is a Slovenian think tank, mostly working for the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, carrying out research work, organizing the yearly Bled Strategic Forum.
- UPDR joins Danube Local Actors Platform (Urschitz): UPDR joins D-LAP because of new European developments with the EU Urban Agenda as well as potential synergies with civil society:
 - digital platforms helping cities to gather information, find project partners and specific funding.
 - 2016: end of UPDR Pilot Project; PA 10 continues to work on strengthening Danube cities' institutional and administrative capacities. UPDR and D-LAP merge to facilitate information flow and cooperation between all relevant Local Actors of and for the Danube Region.
 - PA 10 develops specific pilot-projects, conferences and seminars targeted at common problems and challenges of Danube Cities:
 - Since 2016, cooperation between PA 10 and BACID.eu on the governance hub for the coordination of administrative capacity building measures in the Danube Region.
 - Preparation of a project furthering the coordinated introduction of cadastre and land register in the Danube Region, following a first preparatory seminar in Vienna in October 2016.
 - Further projects are planned, information on city projects welcome for D-LAP and PA 10 website.
 - PAC 10 and D-LAP specifically welcome new members (City of Prague, City of Vienna) that have joined from the Urban Platform Danube Region (UPDR) of PA 10. The presence of City representatives in the Local Actors Platform can boost cooperation between local actors and generate projects in the Danube Region.

Tour de table – D-LAP members

(List of participants see annex 2)

- Prof. Ellen BOS, pro-rector of Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary: will host the 4th Danube Participation Day (DPD) on the 17th October 2017; Andrassy University, 200 students, deals with participation, civil society, and governance as well as macro regional strategies.
- Jani KOZINA, Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Slovenia: Coordinator of Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) AgriGo4Cities project; deals with participatory governance, urban agriculture is used to strengthen local decision making process through participation of vulnerable groups. 11 partners, 8 countries, 6 pilot areas. (annex 3)
- Stefan BARTH, Agapedia Foundation Baden-Württemberg: Active in Danube Region for 22 years, in EUSDR from the very beginning; co-organising DPD with PA 10 and DCSF;



- Miklos BARABAS, European House, Hungary: Challenging task is to coordinate civil society contribution to the Annual Forum, European House will organize several events in 2017, main event with all MRS first half of September in Budapest.
- Anna MOLDOVAN, NGO BIOS, Republic of Moldova: Organization works on environmental issues; co-organized successful National Participation Day in 2016, National Participation Day 2017 is planned.
- Otto SCHWETZ: ARGE Donauländer, Austria: cooperation with Council of Danube Cities and Regions and PA 10 in the Danube Transnational Project “Black Sea cooperation platform” and the City of Vienna Project CapaCities. Is interested to join forces with DCSF and D-LAP.
- Simon VRECAR, European Umbrella organization for Geographic Information EUROGI, CEKTRA-Centre for knowledge Transfer, Slovenia: contributes to the DCSF working group on transparency issues in participation.
- Igor STUDENIKOV, Center for Regional Studies, Odessa, Ukraine: dealing with regional studies/development & professional project management, involved with Danube issues since 1998.
- Vesselina PODANOV-PELAGIC, Farm Development Foundation, Serbia: working on chapter 12 “Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy” of the accession negotiations between European Union and Serbia; currently writing a book in the national convent in Serbia on the EU dealing with the question on how to use the network with local institutions.
- Niall SHEERIN, Council of Europe, Good Governance division: center of expertise for local governance reform, civil society; CoE will publish guidelines for civil participation in autumn 2017. Will present guidelines with 12 principles of good governance at Danube Participation Day Budapest.
- Andrea VAN OERS, Department for European Affairs, City of Vienna, Austria: coordinates EU-activities and projects of the City of Vienna
- Zsuzsa LASZLO, Network Social NGO’s in Transylvania, Romania: very few federations of NGOS are representing the social sector, Network was created in 2011 as a result of EUSDR
- Irina PLIS, Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Republic of Moldova: dealing with energy efficiency and renewables; happy to use the network and looking forward to cooperation
- Gerhard JORDAN, City of Vienna, Austria: local assistant of MEP Monika VANA, green Party
- Irene LUCIUS, Regional Conservation Director, WWF International, Danube-Carpathian Programme
- Irena SHOPPOVA, Ministry for Regional Affairs, Bulgaria: EUSDR is important for the ministry; seeks to improve cooperation with regions around the Danube to enhance capacity building and improve regional policy.
- Jan HAUSER, Oldrich HNATEK, City of Prague, Czech Republic: Prague is interested in the Region and in information to improve the participation in the Operational Programme Prague.
- Sebastian SCHÄFFER, research associate at IDM, supporting and organizing civil society events in MD and UA, permanent secretariat of Danube Rectors conference;
- Georg KRAUCHENBERG, Secretary General of the Institut für den Donaauraum (IDM), Austria: IDM active in the Region for over 60 years, looking for cooperation partners in the EUSDR.
- Peter LANGER, Secretary General of the Council of Danube Cities and Region: CoDCR fosters cooperation at local and regional level, founded 2009 in Budapest, working together with ARGE Donauländer and PA 10; CoDCR cooperates at the interfaces of PA 10 topics and organises joint events with every Danube Participation Day like the European Conference of CoDCR in Bratislava in November 2016 (see Annex 4).



- Stefan August LÜTGEMAU: President of the Danube Civil Society Forum DCSF
- Christina WEIDEL, Association World of NGOs: represents network for projects in the Danube Region with civil society and social issues.
- Milan ANDREJKOVIC, Plenipotentiary for the development of Civil Society in the Slovak Republic: responsible of increasing participation of civil society in policy-making/decision-making at local, regional and national level. Office serves as a dictionary/translator between public administration and civil society.
- Team PA 10: Daniela URSCHITZ, Claudia SINGER, Simone BÖHM-GARTNER

EUSDR-Developments: report and activities from PA 10

(see annex 5)

EUSDR PA10 SG Meetings in Bucharest 15 November 2016 and Berlin 10 March 2017 (Singer):

Main topics of discussion were:

- Presentation of the Romanian Operational Programme for Administrative Capacities (OPAC)
- Danube Transnational Programme (DTP): Approved projects of the 1st call/announcement of the 2nd call
- Presentation of PA 10-related DTP projects (Attractive Danube, AgriGo4Cities)
- Presentation & discussion of the Danube Transnational Programme 's Seed Money Facility
- Presentation of the Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF)
- EUSDR Annual Forum 2017 & Danube Participation Day 17. October 2017, Budapest
- EC report on Macro-regional Strategies & Cohesion Policy 2020+, December 2016
- Project proposal PA 10: "A new narrative for the Danube Region"
- Agenda for Civil Society Participation in the MRS

Danube Transnational Programme: PA 10 subsidy contract 2017-2019- D-LAP activities (Singer):

- PAC financial support project 2017-2019 includes activities in regard to local actors: funding amongst other for D-LAP Meetings, Danube Participation Day, Bled Strategic Forum/Youth Expert Forum, event on enhancing civic engagement, project consultation, "Cooperation Conference" in Republic of Moldova, Policy Paper on sound local public management, Policy Paper on Metropolitan Regions, Agenda for Civil Society Participation

Priority Area 10- Danube Transnational Programme DTP (Singer):

- Approved DTP projects in the thematic scope of Priority Area 10: 13 (of 54) projects are related to Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity & Cooperation"
- PAC 10/City of Vienna is Associated Strategic Partner in 2 projects:
- DTP Capitalisation Strategy: 11 thematic poles, PAC 10 is linked to poles on "Migration" & "Participatory Governance", will share information with D-LAP
- Dissemination of project information and exchange on common topics

All organisations & stakeholders who are interested in the project results/topics addressed and/or would like to share their experience and know-how are invited to take part in the capitalisation activities.



Priority Area 10-Implementation of the Danube Strategic Project Fund DSPF (Singer):



Implementation of the Danube Strategic Project Fund

- 56 applications were submitted to the PACs
- 9 Applications were related to PA 10

Activity	Timeframe
Application phase	End of Nov. 2016 – Feb. 2017
<u>Assessment of applications - 1st step:</u> (formal check, pre-assessment by Advisory Board)	Feb. – May 2017
<u>Refinement of best applications – 2nd step:</u> (more detailed project descriptions & project budget plan)	May – August 2017
Project selection by DSPF Jury	August/Sept. 2017
Project Implementation	Oct. 2017 – August 2018 (Dec. 2018)

PA 10 is the managing authority, EC financing, City Vienna Co-financing and implementation Body. DSPF-projects specifically address cohesion policy and Adriatic Ionian Strategy, youth and social partners.

Report of the European Commission to the European Council and the European Parliament and meeting of the high-level group on MRS in Brussels, 09.02.2017 (Urschitz):

- European Commission made Report on all MRS in December 2016 which was discussed at High level Group on MRS in February, report was sent to D-LAP; EUSDR-PA 10 Vienna was present at HLG meeting on 09 February; report is very short, reiterates that MRS are important, as are the three No's; MRS need better governance, better integration of 3rd countries, better alignment of funding and stronger focus on results. However, every strategy should be able to develop its own governance, strategies and funding;
- Specific findings of the EC Report for the EUSDR: the EUSDR is on track, good achievements on navigability and cooperation, but the political momentum is decreasing;
- PA 10 mentioned creation of D-LAP as an innovative way for participative governance, more involvement of local actors in set-up for regional development. The next report of the EC should include progress in participation and governance. EU funding does not fit the needs of civil society and local governments, MRS stakeholders in the EUSDR need more small-scale funds, more pre-financing, and more money for networking (see annex 6).



PAC 10 activities related to the MRS report 2016 of the EC (Urschitz):

- **Agenda for local actors and civil society participation in MRS:** Agenda is prepared and financed by DCSF and EUSDR-PA 10, with the cooperation of EUSBR, CEI, Interact Turku, EESC and experts; cooperation with EUSALP and EUSAIR is being sought. The Agenda will be presented and its implementation discussed at the Annual Forum of the EUSBR, the Austrian National Participation Day, and finally at the Danube Participation Day in Budapest.
PA 10 has prepared a lobbying paper which will be sent with the minutes. D-LAP members are asked to spread and use it, more specifically to think about participation in the planned standing working groups/partnerships (annex 7).
- **+2020 financial framework debate:** Many position papers are developed, the Commission wants to propose a first draft in autumn; most opinions do mention regions, but not MRS, local actors and civil society. PA 10 tries to include these actors in the debate. **PA 10 has prepared a position paper for the post 2020 debate (see annex 8). Paper is sent to D-LAP, PAC's, NC's, EP and EC as well as other MRS and European organizations for further dissemination. D-LAP members are asked to use and spread it.**
- **Danube Participation Day and National PD:** Review/assessment on DPD and NPD's since 2014 is prepared in cooperation with the Danube Strategy Point and Euro Vienna.
D-LAP members will receive on- line questionnaire and are asked to respond.

The discussion centered on the following topics:

- How to be present with the topics relevant to Local Actors and Civil Society in the main fora and Institutions of the European Union, at the MRS and at the national level (Schicker, Urschitz, Langer)
- How to cooperate in a sustainable way between relevant organizations, inform about and use the many existing tools and guidelines that should help the establishment and implementation of multi-level governance and participatory democracy in the EUSDR (Sheerin, Kozina)
- The role of PA 10 and the D-LAP in this process, both at European, macro- regional and national level, especially through Participation Days and National participation Days (Barth, Langer)
- The relevance of the EC report itself, which was seen as a positive initiative, however is top-down and probably unable to reconcile the citizens with EU-policy makers, which can be seen in the fact that there has been no response/reaction from Civil Society to the report. Concrete steps from and for Civil Society are needed in all four macro-regions, even if the actors are very different in the strategies; the planned Agenda for Local Actors and Civil Society is an important step (Barabas, Schicker, Urschitz, Lütgenau).
- The difficulties of defining Civil Society in order to develop appropriate instruments for cooperation and participation also in the context of subsidiarity, responsibility and legal representation as well as different settings/levels of implementation and governance ; an open and inclusive platform like the Local Actors Platform tries to overcome the debate (Barabas, Schicker, Urschitz, Lütgenau, Kozina, Barth).
- The difficulties of information and cooperation policies, pro's and con' s of social media as information tools, opposed to the long-term developments guiding the roll out of a strategy (Barabas, Krauchenberg, Schicker)

First outlook on the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSDR:

Urschitz reports on the draft from the Hungarian Presidency that was presented at the High Level Group in February. The topics are centered around:

- „A secure, connecting and prosperous Region“
- Three thematic pillars: Energy security, infrastructural development, clean connectivity
- Highlights: Post 2020 financial framework, financial possibilities, project presentation and exchange platform

The Agenda will be discussed at the next EUSDR- National Coordinators meeting in June 2017 and will probably be amended in order to encompass more PA's and a larger number of topics and cross-cutting issues relevant for the EUSDR. It is possible that PA 10 will have a role to play where the transversal topics of capacity building and Civil Society participation is concerned.

Reports and planned activities of PA 10-D-LAP 2016/2017:

- Report from Milan Andrejkovic, Plenipotentiary for the development of Civil Society in the Slovak Republic on the National Participation Day:

The 1st National Participation Day, Bratislava was held on 21 October 2016, just before the Danube Participation Day, the 2nd will be in May 2017. EUSDR is not very well known in Slovak Republic, only few civil society actors understand macro regional strategies; DCSF helped Slovakia to organize a National Participation Day, NGOs and government representatives exchanged information. The Government and NGOs speak a different language - NGOs are more interested in funding than in strategies, nevertheless NPD achieved active workshops and good exchange; EUSDR is an important instrument for local actors, government and Civil Society if they want to implement participation and projects. Office of the Plenipotentiary sees itself as an intermediary between Civil Society and government.

- Report from Peter LANGER, Secretary General of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions on the activities of the CoDCR and cooperation with PA 10 D-LAP:

Successful cooperation of 2015 in Ulm and 2016 in Bratislava with UPDR and D-LAP, continues in Budapest. In 2015, a joint declaration on the role of local actors in the on going European refugee crisis was presented. 2016 in Bratislava, the cooperation was extended to the CEI; D-LAP members are invited to attend 10th European Conference of Danube Cities and Regions in Budapest on 18th of October; The City of Budapest invites participants of the 5th Danube Participation Day to the evening reception in the Budapest City Hall.

CoCDCR organizes Roma Conference in 6-8 April 2017 in Budapest, website: www.opendanube.eu – agenda of conference and event details, D-LAP members are invited to participate. Next meeting of extended Executive Committee of CoDCR 27-28 April in Ulm: “Smart, sustainable and social Danube Cities”. D-Lap members are welcome, invitation will be sent by PA 10.



- **Report from Stefan August Lütgenau, President of the Danube Civil Society Forum on National Participation Days in the EUSDR 2014-2017**

Priority Area 10 Target 2 in the EUSDR Action Plan: *“80 % of participating countries involve the national, regional and local authorities and CSOs through annual National (provincial) EUSDR Hearings in cooperation with the National Coordinators of the EUSDR”*: Target is not yet reached, but progress is being made. Many countries have already made more than one NPD, which shows that the innovative format is successful, which was also recognized by European Parliament and European Commission (Urschitz).

Basic Paper on National Participation Days was distributed to members of D-Lap, will be resent. NPDs are usually organized together with EUSDR National Coordinator or national member of PA 10 Steering Group, DCSF and /or member of the D-Lap. International guests are welcome, translation in English /national language useful.

National participation Days 2014-2016:

- Public Hearing on Ukraine’s involvement in the implementation of the EUSDR, Kiev (UA), 22 April 2014
- National Participation Day 2015 (Extended Dialogue Forum), Vienna (AT), 13 May 2015
- National Hearing Serbia – EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Novi Sad (RS), 20 October 2015
- National Participation Day Bulgaria 2016, Sofia (BG), 17-18 March 2016
- National Participation Day 2016 (Extended Dialogue Forum), Tulln (AT), 9 September 2016
- National Participation Day Republic of Moldova 2016, Chisinau (MD), 22 September 2016
- National Participation Day Slovakia 2016, Bratislava (SK), 21 October 2016

Planned National Participation Days 2017:

- National Hearing Serbia, Novi Sad, 24 March 2017
- National Participation Day Slovakia, Bratislava, May 2017
- National Participation Day Czech Republic, Prague, May 2017
- National Participation Day Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, June 2017
- National Participation Day Ukraine, Odessa, September 2017
- Enlarged Dialogue Forum, Austria, October 2017
- Danube Forum, Baden-Württemberg, June 2017
- National Participation Day Slovenia, Ljubljana, Autumn 2017

- **Report on the First draft of the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest, 17.October2017 (Lütgenau, Bos)**

Stefan August Lütgenau, DCSF, presents the first four Danube Participation Days:

- 1st Danube Participation Day, 25 June 2014, Eisenstadt, Austria: *“Participation Day in the Danube Strategy – Local actors and participation”*
- 2nd Danube Participation Day, 28 October 2015, Ulm, Germany: *“Shared History – Common Future”*
- 3rd Danube Participation Days, 2-3 November 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia: *“Working towards sustainable development: Civil Society, Local Actors and EU Strategies”*



- 4th Danube Participation Day, 16 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary: “Bottom Up and Top Down: Science meets Innovation and Participation”

Each of the Danube Participation Days finished with a joint declaration summarized in a rolling document, mentioning needs and challenges of the Civil Society and Local Actors in the Danube Region (annex 9), serves as a roadmap for D-LAP activities.

Participation Days are side-events to Annual Fora of the MRS:

The EUSDR Danube Participation Days are being taken as model for other MRS, there will be a Participation Day in the Baltic Annual Forum 2017 in Berlin 13/14 June 2017 and a Participative Forum as element of the Annual Forum of the Alpine Strategy in Munich, talks with the EUSAIR are ongoing.

Ellen Bos, pro-rector of Andrassy University, Budapest presents the draft agenda for the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest that takes place prior to the EUSDR Annual Forum 2017 on 17th of October (see annex 10). Members have the opportunity to propose project ideas as well as implemented projects. A consolidated draft will be sent to D-LAP in June.

Stefan LÜTGEMAU, Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF), mentions that the DCSF offers to cover travel and accommodation expenditures for civil society organisations that cannot afford the participation to the event. The offer is not limited to members of the DCSF.

The participants had no comments on the agenda, the principle of the 4th DPD is therefore agreed by D-LAP, the organisers will continue the detailed planning and involve D-LAP. All D-LAP members are encouraged to send their proposals for project presentations for the Participation Day. Rudolf SCHICKER, PAC 10, highlights that the D-LAP members also have the opportunity to submit comments after the meeting.

- **Report from Miklos Barabas, director of European House, on the Hungarian civil society contribution to the 2017 Hungarian EUSDR Presidency**

Barabas states that Hungary has a clear commitment towards civil society in the EUSDR. Around 85 participants were present at the national kick-off meeting on 9 March 2017. Schools will be approached and encouraged to inform and organize activities around the EUSDR and the Danube Day, which will also be used for information activities. The Hungarian government plans to have a contribution from civil society at the EUSDR Annual Forum in Budapest. In the first half of September, European House plans to organise a Civil Day that brings together all four macro-regional strategies. The topics of the event are based on the European Commission’s report on macro-regional strategies. The Civil Day, called “together.stronger” is planned to be a 1 ½ day event, where CSOs from other MRS will be invited. The concrete date and venue is expected to be specified by end of March.

Barabas highlights that European House and the Andrassy University will assist each other in the planning stages of the Danube Participation Day and the Civil Day. Andrassy University will therefore change the date for the EUSDR- “Market place” for projects from September to October.

- **Report from Igor STUDENIKOV, Centre for Regional Studies**



Studenikov reports about the first national Participation Day in the Ukraine in Kiev in December 2016. The event was organised with the ministry for regional development and foreign affairs. He highlights the importance of involving civil society in the EUSDR agenda and welcomes every activity that puts the EUSDR on the political agenda in Ukraine. The meeting focused on the need for the consolidation of the efforts of the government, civil society and expert community; he highlighted the role of the DCSF in the closer involvement of Ukrainian actors in the EUSDR process. Regretably, information/invitation policy by Kiev and DG Regio did not include PA 10, and DCSF, who are usually invited to National Participation Days. However, House of Europe was invited by DG Regio. Furthermore, he thanks PAC 10 and the D-LAP for the good cooperation and coordination.

Report from Veselina RADOVANOV PELAGIC, Farm Development Foundation

Pelagic stresses that it is important to bring the local level closer to the European Union. Civil Society can play a crucial role to help structuring the discussion. Therefore, cooperation between civil society and cities needs to be further strengthened. Novi Sad currently fosters cooperation with civil society through the urban gardening project AgriGo4Cities.

Report from Christina WEIDEL, The World of NGOs

Weidel provided information on the preparation of the Danube Women City Guide supported by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation (see annex 11).

D-LAP members are asked to provide further information for the guide if available.

Rudolf SCHICKER, PAC 10, reminds all D-LAP members to provide information on activities and events to PAC 10 for further dissemination and the website of PA10

Members report on upcoming events:

- 16 May 2017: National Participation Day Sofia, Bulgaria
- 30 May 2017: National Participation Day Prague, Czech Republic
- 26-27 June 2017: CoDCR Conference "Smart, social and sustainable Danube cities", Ulm
- September 2017: National Participation Day Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
- Autumn 2017: CEMAT Meeting on functional metropolitan areas, Romania
- October 2017: National participation Day (Dialogplattform) Austria
- October 2017: CoE Conference for metropolitan regions, Thessaloniki
- November 2017: CoE Conference on tools for cross-border cooperation

