

Online Conference

8th Danube Participation Day

Digitalisation & Participation

Putting people at the centre of the digital transition

Monday, 25 October 2021 | 10.00 – 15.00 CET

Tuesday, 26 October 2021 | 10.00 – 12.00 CET

Version August 2021

In June 2020, the European Council endorsed the Council Conclusions on “Shaping Europe’s Digital Future” that recognised the contribution of digitalisation to economic cohesion, climate neutrality, and social inclusion. In doing so, the EU member states supported a vision of a “European society powered by digital solutions that are strongly rooted in common values, and that enrich the lives of all of us”¹. Furthermore, the European Union is already cooperating for a digital future with the accession countries through the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans and the EU Neighbourhood countries within the framework of the Association Agreements.

In the revised Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the European Commission and the partner countries of the Danube Region marked digitalisation as cross-sectoral priority. This also impacts the capability to ensure meaningful eParticipation in a more digital environment of decision making.

Against the background of the high expectations of digitalisation as booster for a sustainable, innovative and prosperous future, this year’s Danube Participation Day aims at exploring the following questions:

- What are the preconditions for a citizens-centred digitalisation and why does it matter?
- How do procedures of digital decision-making and digital service provision need to look like in order to serve people’s needs?
- Is there a macro-regional eParticipation and how can the Strategy contribute to raise eParticipation in the region?
- Which skills do civil society and public authorities need to engage in a citizens-centred digital transition?

The Danube Participation Day will provide the opportunity to discuss digital transformation on governance and participation in the Danube Region: What are the potentials and challenges of the digital transition? How do we need to re-design public services? What can we learn from current eGovernance initiatives and smart concepts? How can deliberative processes and meaningful participation of civil society look like in a digital arena? What could be the role of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region support participation in digital decision-making procedures?

¹ European Commission (2020): Shaping Europe’s Digital Future, Manuscript, February 2020.

Agenda

(Disclaimer: This is a preliminary agenda. Programme might be subject to change.)

Day 1 | Monday, 25th of October 2021

Time (CET)	Topic
9:30 – 10.00	Accessing the platform
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome & Opening Session
10.30 – 10.45	Introduction Thematic Panels
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.30	Parallel Panels Panel I: Trust in (e)Government & (e)Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust in eGovernment in Europe (European Commission, DG CNECT – tbc) How can public administrations be transformed into open, innovative and collaborative governments? (TROPICO – H2020 – tbc) Panel II: Accessibility & Digital Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How digitalisation improves access to social services and care (D-CARE Lab – Danube Transnational Programme)</i> <i>Media & digital literacy for sustainable democracies (MELIA Observatory – Danube Transnational Programme)</i>
11.30 – 12.30	Lunch Break
12.30 – 13.00	Parallel Panels Panel III: Open Government & Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How do we benefit from Open Government in cities? City of Vienna – tbc</i> <i>Open Government (Joint Research Centre (JRC) – tbc)</i> Panel IV: Co-designing policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Strategic Management, Public Value and Co Creation COGOV – H2020)</i> <i>Participatory budgeting (Slovak Plenipotentiary – tbc)</i>
13.00 – 13.15	Introduction World Café
13.15 – 13.40	World Café Session I
13.40 – 13.50	Coffee Break
13.50 – 14.15	World Café Session II
14.15 – 14.45	Wrap-up Closing Session

Day 2 | Tuesday, 26th of October 2021

Time (CET)	Topic
9:30 – 10.00	Accessing the platform
10.00 – 10.30	Introduction & Interactive Reflection on Aspects of Participation & Digitalisation
10.30 – 11.00	Panel Discussion
11.00 – 11.30	Discussion with the audience
11.30 – 12.30	Closing Session

Technical requirements

The meeting will be conducted with Zoom. The meeting link will be provided to all registered participants prior to the event.

Required equipment: PC/Laptop/Tablet with internet/Wi-Fi connection; smartphone with internet connection.

Danube Participation Day

The Danube Participation Days are the annual platform for stakeholders in the Danube Region for participatory governance in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The conference – that is held back to back with the EUSDR Annual Forum – offers the opportunity to exchange, network and to further develop ideas and projects on participatory governance in the Danube Region. The 8th Danube Participation Day is a side event of the 10th EUSDR Annual Forum hosted by the Slovak EUSDR Presidency.

dcsf.danubestrategy.eu/event/8th-danube-participation-day | capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/danube-participation-day

Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (PA 10) of the EU Danube Strategy

Priority Area 10 (PA 10) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) aims at stepping up institutional capacity and cooperation. In accordance with the EUSDR Action Plan, Priority Area 10 addresses institutional capacity-building at local, regional and national level, involvement of civil society in public governance, increasing local development and better spending as well as increasing absorption rates of EU funds.

capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/

Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF)

The Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) is the platform for civil society dialogue and networking in the Danube basin under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). It functions as the interface for structured consultations between civil society and public and private authorities on the regional, national and EU level as well as to international and intergovernmental organisations active in the region.

The Danube Civil Society Forum is dedicated to support civil society organisations in the Danube basin. It aims to promote and enhance civil society participation and networking in the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.

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