



PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE DANUBE STRATEGY

LOCAL ACTORS AND PARTICIPATION

Village report: Culture Village

Date of the event: 25 June 2014, Esterházy Palace, Eisenstadt

The participants: All 15 representatives from the cultural sector showed a great engagement in in the discussion.

The discussion followed the beforehand prepared and distributed guiding questions:

1. What is the communication in your town, region or national state on the EUSDR like? Do people/citizens know about EUSDR related planning?
2. Do you have a contact person in your town, region or national state?
3. Networking is high on the agenda of many conferences in the Danube region: Does networking have a measurable impact on your projects so far?
4. Are you informed about the planned major cultural events in the other 13 EUSDR countries?
5. How did the three No's (no new money, no new legislation, no new institutions in the EUSDR) impact your projects and your future planning? Have new project been triggered or hindered?
6. What have been the improvements and advantages you realised in your field of expertise since the strategy was launched?
7. From your experience: What is the greatest challenge for participation the EUSDR in your field of expertise?

Danube Strategy: information flow, communication and knowledge sharing:

The majority of participants had the clear feeling of insufficient flow of information, communication and knowledge sharing on the local and regional level. Communication to and from national and regional resource persons, coordinators, contact points is regarded if all insufficient.

Networks are of essential importance:

The impact and potential role of networks to facilitate information and promote the strategy is undervalued. There is a high desire and effort to establish functioning and effective networks. Physical meetings of stakeholders like the Eisenstadt Participation Day are essential to fuel these networks. A smoothening of the strict 3 NOs' seems to be inevitable.

Information Platforms:

There is a lack of focused cultural information platform comparable to the recently launched Urban Platform. A standing offer to incorporate the cultural sector into the local actors' platform is most welcomed. The lack of information fuels a feeling of the intransparency.



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Financing:

The creative force in the area of culture has not been met by sufficient and adequate, small scale, financing opportunities. The general rule of co-financing is very often a hurdle that cannot be taken.

The culture sector should receive more attention and given a greater role in the community of cultural nations and states like the EUSDR. Undoubtedly, the key benefit of the EUSDR is to bring people together to trigger a chain reaction of projects and cooperation.

The culture element can breathe emotion and creativity into the strategy. Here again the desired platforms and networks can act as vehicles to transport these feelings of pluralism. In the Danube Region we can build on the rich tradition and plurality of cultures. These treasures are at hand on the day to day basis and should be utilized should be protected and developed with care.

Many thanks for your invitation to this event!

Moderation and report: Regina Hellwig-Schmid, Regensburg

