

Working Group II: Participation Partnership – Building Macro-regional Strategies on local and multi-level governance

The Partnership will be aimed at developing concrete measures for the implementation of Participation at the local level, based on the new guidelines for Participation developed by the Council of Europe.

Chair: Stefan August **Lütgenau**, Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe

Working Group III: Participation Partnership – A key factor of social innovation and sustainable development

The Partnership should identify innovative, co-creative and trans-sectoral approaches in order to sustain long term top-down (thinking) and bottom-up (acting) processes (developments).

Chair: Stefan **Barth**, Agapedia Foundation

Working Group IV: Participation Partnership – Designing 2020+ with Local Actors in the Macro-regional Strategies

The Partnership aims to look at existing participatory instruments within EU-institutions, funding programmes and decision-making processes in the macro-regions and explore the possibilities to strengthen the participation of the civil society and local actors in shaping regional development post 2020.

Chair: Claudia **Singer**, Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity & Cooperation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Working Group V: Participation Partnership – Empowering Roma

The Partnership deals with participatory approaches to empower Roma communities in the macro-regions in order to enable their participation in the shaping of their social and political capital.

Chair: Barbara **Willsberger**, Priority Area 9 People & Skills of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:00 National Civil Society report on the activities in the Danube Region 2017

Hungary

Miklos **Barabas**, Coordinator for the Civil Society in Hungary, Director European House Csaba **Madarász**, Participatory Democracy Expert, e-Democracy Workshop Association

National Participation Days in the EUSDR

Daniela Stojkovic, NGO World and the Danube

Q & A

17:00 – 18:00 Outlook on the participation and position of the Agenda for the Civil Society in the Macro-Regional Strategies and Partnerships 2018

Results of the Workshops

Blaz **Barboric**, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

Stefan August **Lütgenau**, Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe

Stefan **Barth**, Agapedia Foundation

Claudia **Singer**, Claudia Singer, Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity & Cooperation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Roland **Hanak**, Priority Area 9 People & Skills of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

18:00 – 19:00 Passing the Bell: Closing Session and Outlook on the Danube Participation Day 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria

Dietmar **Meyer**, Andrassy University

to Iva **Taralezhkova**, Citizen Participation Forum

19:00 Evening Reception

We thank the Esterházy Etyeki Kúria in the key note address for their generous support

Civis Europaeus Sum

György **Konrád**, Author

Fostering Civil Society Engagement

Gisela **Erlér**, State Counsellor for Civil Society and Civic Participation, the Baden-Württemberg

Program might be subject to change



Day 2

18 October 2017 | Hall of Mirrors at Andrassy University,

Pollack Mihály tér 3, Budapest 1088, Hungary

10:00- 13:00 Participation through Media

Participation through the Media

How can media literacy and using effective instruments for social media help civil society actors to be heard?

Chair: Iryna **Gumenchuk**, Agapedia Foundation

09:30-12:00 D-LAP Meeting, Priority Area 10 of the EUSDR

Program might be subject to change

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ALDA
European Association for Local Democracy



ELDUE
European Local Democracy Week



Baden-Württemberg Stiftung
WIR STIFTEN ZUSAMMEN



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StadA + Wien

AGENDA

Day 1

17 October 2017 | Hall of Mirrors at Andrassy University,

Pollack Mihály tér 3, Budapest 1088, Hungary

The Danube Participation Day is moderated by Jörg Mirtl, Interact Programme

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Opening Session

Dietmar **Meyer**, Rector, Andrassy University

István **Joó**, Ministerial Commissioner for Water Diplomacy, Export and the Danube Region Strategy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, National Coordinator of Hungary in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Rudolf **Schicker**, Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity & Cooperation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

09:45 – 10:30 Keynotes: Participation from Theory to Practice Top-down and Bottom-up

Andre **Baumann**, State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector

Zoltán **Pállinger**, Andrassy University

Q & A

10:30 – 12:30 Discussion: The Agenda for Participation in the EU Macro-Regional Strategies

Input: The State of Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

Clara **Moder**, Social Entrepreneurship Centers, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Presentation: The Agenda for Participation in the EU Macro-Regional Strategies

Stefan August **Lütgenau**, Danube Civil Society Forum, Foster Europe

Panel Discussion with Participation Partnerships

Stefan **Barth**, Agapedia Foundation

Blaz **Barboric**, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

Claudia **Singer**, Priority Area 10 Institutional Capacity & Cooperation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Roland **Hanak**, Priority Area 9 People & Skills of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Stefan August **Lütgenau**, Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe

Iva **Taralezhkova**, Citizen Participation Forum

Q & A

12:30 – 13:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 – 16:00 Working Groups

The Working Groups will lay the basis for the establishment of the Participation Partnerships with the perspective of implementing the principles of participation and good governance in the EU macro-regions. The Participation Partnerships should develop into sustainable cooperation networks throughout the EU macro-regional strategies between civil society, local actors and academia as well as national, international and European organisations and institutions.

Working Group I: Participation Partnership – A research perspective

The Partnership will aim at exploring and working on theories and good practices in research that promote participatory governance in order to enhance capacities for multi-level governance in the macro-regions and to develop potential measures and actions that can be applied in the macro-regional strategies.

Chair: Blaz **Barboric**, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

I am honoured to address you at the participation day that coincides with the annual forum on EU strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

Civil society organisation is inherently part of each such regional strategy, and especially here in the Danube region as social challenges, including migration and environmental problems are but two of the issues inhabitants of this region share. The success of such strategies very much rests on concrete initiatives that must start with civil society and be implemented jointly with civil society.

After the formative years of "enthusiasm" following the launch of the Strategy, we cannot lose the political momentum at all levels: national, regional and local.

And the key to keep this political momentum lies with the concept of the ownership of this strategy. Civil society plays an important role in this respect. For example, the initiatives of Academia such as the Danube Rectors Conference are very useful as they develop the research agenda building on the various jointly agreed priorities, and this helps maintain political attention to the Strategy.

Let me remind you that last year's report on the four European macro-region strategies stated that the question of ownership helps deliver results as it applies positive pressures. The report equally stated that steps are also being taken to establish stakeholder platforms involving civil society and other organisations.

The role of the local level is important as it helps strengthen the communication on initiatives coming from the EUSDR. This is much needed as, though the EUSDR concerns 110 million people, it has limited resources per se (1 national coordinator per country and 2 priority area coordinators per priority area). This makes the strategy Governance very cheap for the European taxpayer, but it makes it impossible to reach the local level systematically with information on what is going on.

Furthermore, the Strategy does belong neither to the European Commission nor to the Governments of the 14 Countries: it belongs to the people. Civil society is crucial in this respect. Therefore, I can only encourage you, the organisers of and participants to this participation day to broaden your ranks to non-governmental organisations that represent citizens, and thus

broaden the basis of the Danube Civil Society Forum, taking into account the current priorities.

I wish you a successful event!

Corina Crețu
Member of the European Commission
Regional Policy



17 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary

Having taken part in the 3rd Danube Participation Day last year, I am fully aware of the crucial work that the Danube Civil Society Forum carries out in the areas of civil society cooperation and opinion and capacity building in the Danube Region.

I am convinced that the huge challenges we are facing in Europe today can only be solved through cooperation and participation at transnational level. This cooperation implies per se a macro-regional approach. The European Committee of the Regions has highlighted the fact that macro-regions are not simply an EU "invention". They are areas which have developed historically and grown together and should therefore have a natural interest in cooperation.

Moreover, macro-regions are a very useful tool within the European Union in terms of connecting European policies with citizens and civil society, and encouraging them to get involved in European projects. That is why they generate a lot of expectations. They bring European added-value to the efforts made by the regions to face the challenges of the 21st century. For the Danube Strategy, these challenges include water pollution, transport and climate change. These are quite similar to the challenges addressed by the other macro-regional strategies and those faced by the EU as a whole. Macro-regional strategies are therefore an original way to tackle the problems on the continent. The original concept must be strengthened because it is based on the knowledge and the know-how of the local and regional authorities, working alongside civil society. This strong bottom-up approach will be one key to the success of the EU and also a way to communicate the achievements of the European Union to its citizens.

Another key to its success is multilevel governance. I am not mentioning this word merely because it is the new buzzword we have to use in Brussels. I use it because I strongly believe that cooperation between different levels of governance is a vital part of any solution capable of delivering results on the ground. The incentives for cooperation between levels of governance and (horizontally) between different regions should be reinforced. That is why the negotiations on EU policies for the post- 2020 period are particularly important. The current European Territorial Cooperation and other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) regulations actually hamper the development of projects in a way that would bring a real benefit for the implementation of macro-regional strategies. The current regulation has good intentions but it is far too complex to be used by the local and regional authorities. For instance, cooperation between the various operational programmes from different regions, which form part of the macro-regional strategies, could be strengthened, by simplifying Article 70(2) and 96(3) of the regulation, which allow the use of a certain amount of the European funds outside of the territories receiving them.



Furthermore, if we are to deliver results, it is extremely important not to consider the macro-regional strategies as mere Cohesion Policy gadgets. On the contrary, we must embed macro-regional strategies into all post-2020 EU policies to ensure their implementation. Moreover, we have to find ways to bring genuine added value to macro-regional strategies in all policy fields. This not only concerns Cohesion Policy but also areas such as the environment, digitalization, transport and connectivity, research, innovation, safety and security. These areas must be taken into consideration in all EU sectoral policies. In light of this, we need better coherence between EU programming and the macro-regional strategies instruments if we want them to have an actual strategic dimension and not to be merely a talk shop. That does not necessarily mean overcoming the "rules of the 3 'no'". In short, it means that the European Commission, working together with stakeholders, must propose a strategic framework offering innovative EU instruments and specific funding that is attractive to local, regional and national policy-makers.

Finally, the most important point to note is that macro-regional strategies are an excellent opportunity to foster cooperation. This cooperation is needed at national level as well as between regions and cities. Of course, cooperation should not only exist between regions, but also involve different players in the regions. State and non-state actors have to cooperate: municipalities can, for example, create networks with civil society and the culture and business sector. We need to bring a participatory framework to the macro-regional strategy and encourage the development of an independent, active and strong civil society. I am convinced that your discussions in Budapest at the 4th Danube Participation Day will further develop such bottom-up approaches and the implementation of participatory governance in the macro-regions.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz
President of the European Committee of the Regions

The European Parliament has a long tradition in furthering European regional policies and has played a defining role in the institution of the EU macro-regions since 2010. The EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the largest macro-region, is also one of the most fragmented regions in Europe, with 14 member countries, almost as many languages and traditions, the richest and the poorest European countries, with a long conflicting history, and site of the last armed conflicts on the European continent. The Danube Region has an enormous potential which it is still not able to develop, mainly due to a number of unstable political situations and feeble public institutions leading to corruption and the underuse of the necessary European funding. In many cases these EU funds are much-needed for investments in green innovations and the labour market, promoting gender equality and supporting climate action. The growing mistrust of the citizens in their governments and their institutions as well as large scale migratory movements hamper the development of the Danube Region into a strong, prosperous and truly European Region.

This is why I strongly support the development of the capacities for the public service, public institutions as well as local actors and civil society. They have to be involved in the development and roll-out of the European programs and funds, as well as in the governance of their region. The Participation Agenda for the Civil Society and Local Actors in the MRS developed and implemented together by Priority Area 10 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and its partner, the Danube Civil Society Forum, is certainly an important step in the right direction, and I congratulate you for the realisation of the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest on the 17th and 18th of October 2017.

Monika Vana
Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament