

Guidelines for the Workshops preparing the Participation Partnerships

What are the Participation Partnerships?

- The Participation Partnerships are open platforms, working on concrete goals, challenges and solutions. Acting transversally and transnationally, they should facilitate joint macro-regional responses and actions to common challenges.
- They operate as frameworks for dissemination and implementation of participatory processes, policies and strategies, top down and bottom up in the macro-regional strategies (MRS).

What is the aim of the Participation Partnerships?

- Through the involvement of dedicated and knowledgeable partners at all levels of MRS member states, they aim to further a change of culture through cooperation and participation
- Through their reporting to the European Institutions and the MRS-member countries, they strive to enhance the capitalisation of civil society's innovative potential, knowledge and expertise.

How do the Participation Partnerships work?

1. The members of the Participation Partnership

The members of the Partnership should represent local actors, organised civil society, the administrative and the political level from involved MRS member states as well as experts from International and European organisations, institutions, and academia.

2. The role of the lead partner

Each of the partnerships is to be coordinated by a lead partner able to ensure:

- Continuity and professional, target-oriented work,
- Communication and networking for the implementation of the Partnership action proposal
- Partnership meetings at least once a year
- Funding of the Partnership activities wherever possible
- Reporting to the Agenda Network.

3. Proposal of actions

The thematically defined Participation Partnerships develop a concrete action proposal relevant to participation at all levels in the macro-regional framework. This action proposal could result in:

- the development and/or implementation of one or more pilot projects;
- the development and/or implementation of a methodology;
- the organisation of one or more events/round tables, to exchange and disseminate information and develop models of cooperation and participation;
- the involvement of new groups of stakeholders in on-going pilot activities or projects to broaden and further effective implementation and dissemination.

4. The Participation Agenda Network

The Agenda Network consists of representatives of Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF), EUSDR/PA 10, as well as the Participation Partnership lead partners, but is open to other dedicated members. It ensures that the Participation Partnerships are enabled to report at the respective MRS Participation Days, National Participation Days of the member countries and to the Annual Fora. The Agenda Network is the link to the governance of the macro-regional strategy and the European Institutions, to both of which it reports at the end of 2018.

5. Developing the Participation Partnerships 2017-2018

Five thematic Participation Partnerships are currently planned:

- **Participation: A research perspective:** The Partnership will work on theories, research and good practices promoting participatory governance in order to enhance capacities for multi-level governance in the macro- regions, developing measures and actions for the strategy.
- **Participation: Building MRS on local governance and multi-level governance:** The Partnership will develop, based on the new guidelines for Participation developed by the Council of Europe, concrete measures for the implementation of Participation at the local level.
- **Participation: A key factor of social innovation and sustainable development:** The Partnership will identify innovative, co-creative and trans-sectoral approaches in order to sustain long term top-down (thinking) and bottom-up (acting) processes (developments).
- **Participation: Designing 2020+ with Local Actors and MRS:** The Partnership will look at participatory structures that integrate Civil Society and Local Actors regional development and EU funding instruments (Partnership Principle) in regard to challenges, good practices and opportunities within the ongoing discussion on EU Cohesion Policy 2020+.

- **Participation: Empowering Roma:** The Partnership deals with participatory approaches to empower vulnerable groups in the macro-regions in order to enable their participation in the shaping of their social and political capital

The participants of the working groups, building the core group of the Participation Partnerships, shall develop as a result of the working group a first draft outline of their respective action proposals and decide on the scope, structure, participants and possible financing of their partnership.

The five draft action proposals will be presented in the plenary of the Danube Participation Day in Budapest on 17th October 2017.

6. The Progress Report on Participation in the macro regional Strategies:

A first Progress Report on Participation in the macro regional Strategies (MRS), compiling the results of the work of the Participation Partnerships in 2017/18, will be presented under the Bulgarian Presidency in Sofia 2018. It will be used, next to the Eisenstadt Declaration, the Baltic Sea Declaration and other basic documents as a roadmap for the implementation of participation in the macro-regional strategies.

The Progress Report on Participation in the macro-regional strategies 2018, based on the reports of the Participation Partnerships, should include the following:

- Description/analysis of the current situation in MRS/challenges/consequences
- Aims/future visions built upon the analysis
- Description of the Participation Partnership action proposal: research activity, policy formulation, project definition
- A description/results of the implementation process
- The assessment/ reality check and adjustment of the activities if necessary
- Results of the Participation Partnership/further work plan

Guidelines for the Working Groups at the 4th Danube Participation on Day 17th October 2017, Andrassy University Budapest

The purpose of the workshop is to formulate a first draft of an “action proposal” for the Participation Partnership with a group of participants based on their expertise/practical experience (15-25 participants).

The working groups are open to all participants of the Danube Participation Day. The workshop will be moderated by the lead partner and documented by students of Andrassy University Budapest.

The working groups should work along the following phases:

- Introduction by the lead partner outlining the objectives of the workshop and the aims/objectives of the planned Participation Partnership
- Short presentations of participants/existing projects sustaining the Participation Partnership objectives, leading to:
 - An agreement about the members of the planned Participation Partnership
 - The development of a draft outline for an action proposal for the Participation Partnership
- Reporting the results of the workshop to the plenary

The draft outline of the action proposal should include the following steps:

(Please find below the template for working group summary)

- Description/analysis of the current situation and its consequences in the macro-regional strategies based on the discussion in the workshop
- The aim of the Partnership: future visions, new perspectives built upon the analysis
- A possible implementation strategy
- Timeframe/roadmap for the Participation Partnership (communication, meetings, reporting)

DANUBE Participation Day
in the EUSDR