

*Danube Civil Society Forum
3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Ulm 2015*

Resolution Minutes

Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Stefan August Lütgenau greets the participating DCSF members.

As DCSF members are present, the quorum is met.

Agenda was sent out and received in due time.

The DCSF agrees unanimously on the agenda.

The program of the DCSF was adjusted according to some delays in arrivals.

Registrations/ Payment of Membership Fee

Chair Stefan August Lütgenau

Opening Session

Presentation and welcome speech of Ivo Gönner, Lordmayor of Ulm

Due to unforeseen duties, Lordmayor Ivo Gönner joined and addresses the DCSF GA later in the morning.

Lordmayor Ivo Gönner points out the need for the atmosphere and structure that welcomes civil society engagement in many difficult topics, and activities. Lordmayor Ivo Gönner calls for less paper work and more action.

Lordmayor Ivo Gönner addresses the need of closer integration among countries because only this integration will enable better, more efficient and easier solution finding.

Chair Iva Taralezhkova

Reports 2013 - 2015 and Work Program 2016 -2017

Igor Studennikov, Treasurer

Daniela Stojkovic Jovannovic, Vice-President

Stefan August Lütgenau, President

Igor Studennikov, Treasurer

Financial report presented by Igor Studennikov.

Foster Europe sponsored the activities of the DCSF 2013-15. 1st Participation Day co-financed by PA 09 and PA 10. Danube River Show was co-funded by State Ministry of Baden Württemberg and Baden Württemberg Foundation. It was concluded that new ways of funding are necessary to be found. 26 organizations of the DCSF covered the membership fee.

Daniela Stojkovic Jovannovic, Vice-President

Ms Stojkovic Jovannovic introduced social media for DCSF. DCSF is present on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Link to new interactive website was also established.

Ms. Stojkovic Jovannovic stressed the need to be more active on social media. Gábor Schneider supported this statement, and sees social media as an important tool for the well-functioning DCSF.

Carmen Stadelhofer, Executive Committee Member

Carmen Stadelhofer reported from two projects. One successfully closed receiving European reward, second ongoing “Bread, Wine, and Herbs”, in which she welcomes all interested organizations.

Ms. Stadelhofer reported on the Qualification Training, offered by DANET, with the aim to strengthen civil society collaboration in Europe by capacity building.

She calls for more participation and more action from the side of the DCSF members.

Stefan August Lütgenau, President

Report 2014/15 “Stagnation and Progress “

Stagnation:

- No third-party financing has been identified so far beyond the co-funding for 1st and 2nd Participation Day and the Danube River Show. DCSF is mainly sponsored by Foster Europe.
- DCSF needed financial resources: First, the minimum costs app. € 32.000 per year to organize two Executive Committee Meetings, General Assembly, and to further fund the DCSF Website and Working Group/s. Second, the approximate costs € 94.500-200.000 per year to run a fully functioning office including the costs for above mentioned events, for support of four Working Groups, for office rent, for communication strategy, and for consultation.
- DCSF was involved in 8 European Union project applications, none of them were accepted.
- Foster Europe, successful applicant in the EU project LADDER. This project will partially finance the 3rd Participation Day of the EUSDR.

Progress:

- Institutionalized D-LAP Platform under PA10 of the EUSDR.
- Website *danubestrategy.eu*: runs online and is being actively updated. The registration, information sharing of the 2nd Participation Day and the 3rd Participation Day is done on the website platform.

- Annual Forum in 2015 as the most important political summit opened to local authorities, academia, who all suffer the same problem- little information and action possibilities. Annual Forum will hear the results of the 2nd Participation Day. The Participation Day is now a key part of the government structure. To bring the participation to the local, regional and national level Annual National Hearing were created accessible for all actors interested. Annual National Hearings took place in Austria, Ukraine, and Serbia in 2015. In 2016 Bulgaria is on the agenda.
- 3rd Participation Day will take place on 2nd November 2016 in Bratislava. The main thematic focus will be Sustainable Resilient Development.

Membership:

DCSF has 26 member organizations willing and able to actively participate and pay the membership fees. 7 new members of the DCSF are strong players and work in very active networks.

Discussion on reports:

Ecovast, Valerie Carter:

agrees that funding is the key issue that must be discussed and solved. It is difficult for many organizations to cover their travel and accommodation costs.

Institute for research and Development of Education, Slovenian Third Age University,
Tamara Jare:

asked if DCSF wins a project, which members will be included. She suggested setting a common goal for the DCSF to easier receive funding support.

Foster Europe, Stefan August Lütgenau:

projects submitted by the DCSF were diverse but did not include all members as the rules of the application were restricting the number of co-applicants, variety of countries or their specialization.

WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, Irene Lucius:

mentioned various political structures that developed and changed in the EUSDR, Danube point- Brussels, DLAP, DG REGIO Commissioner. She asked, if these structural changes make it easier for us to reach our long term goals.

Foster Europe, Stefan August Lütgenau:

Danube strategy point wants to concentrate on 5-6 main projects supporting jobs, economic growth and participation of civil society is not in their main focus. D-LAP, PA 10, PA 09 State Ministry of Baden Württemberg and Baden Württemberg Foundation are very supportive to DCSF activities.

Once there is a new action plan for the Danube Strategy we need to have the minimum standards for participation in the action plan.

State University of Library Studies and Information Technology, Mariela Nankova:

asked if DCSF as an organization can apply to projects, or it should be a project partner.

Foster Europe, Stefan August Lütgenau:

DCSF was not eligible to apply for projects until officially registered in 2013. Members out of the DCSF were applying for project and DCSF was a partner. DCSF is missing a solid financial record.

Chair: Daniela Stojkovic Jovannovic

Presentation of the applying members

Voting on membership applications

Daniela Stojkovic Jovannovic invited all members applying for the membership to present themselves to the DCSF plenary.

- Farm Development Foundation represented by Veselina Pelagic (unanimously pro).
- European Danube Academie represented by Peter Langer (unanimously pro).
- Citizen Participation Forum-The Bulgarian Network for Citizen Participation represented by Iva Taralezhkova (unanimously pro).
- Danube Area Research Center (DAReC) represented by Aleksandar M. Gajić (unanimously pro).
- Gábor Schneider, external expert researcher (unanimously pro).
- Association of Germans and Austrians Vukovar represented by Dara Mayer (unanimously pro).
- The Association the Writers` League Timisoara represented by Ana Zlibut (unanimously pro).

Chair Gábor Schneider

Presentation of suggested change of Statues

Voting

Gábor Schneider presents the changes in Statutes after 2013.

Participants received changed Statues beforehand.

- Working Groups elect their chairs.
- President, Vice President, Vice Treasure, Treasurer, Executive Committee directly elected by the DCSF members.
- Vice Treasure post according to Austrian law must be elected and included in the structure.
- If less than half plus one of the Regular Members are present or represented at the General Assembly the General Assembly can be postponed for 30 minutes. After this the General Assembly has a quorum.

All members were unanimously for the changes.

Break

Chair Gábor Schneider

Working Groups Meetings and Reporting

- It was taken note of that Tihana Fabijanic will be substituted by her colleague Valerie Carter from ECOVAST.
- Working Group chairs reported the outcomes of their work to the plenary.
- Working Group leaders are asked to send in the report from their groups by 8, November 2015.

Chair Markus Marquard

Presentation of Candidates for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, Members of the Executive Committee

- Candidates must submit their candidacies 45 days before the General Assembly.
- All members present received the candidacies in advance per email.
- It was unanimously decided that all Executive Committee posts will be elected at once. One vote for each post.
- All members received the voting cards needed to vote.
- All members present, who voted paid the membership fee.
- The candidates presented their work for the DCSF, and their background.
- Lesya Loyko and Markus Marquard were chosen to count the votes.
- 26 votes were to receive per candidate.

Post	Name	Yes	No	Undecided
President:	Stefan August Lütgenau	26	0	0
Vice President:	Daniela Stojkovic	26	0	0
Treasurer:	Igor Studennikov	26	0	0
Vice Treasure :	Gábor Schneider	24	1	1
Executive Committee:	Iva Taralezhkova	25	0	1
	Irene Lucius	25	0	1
	Carmen Stadelhofer	23	1	2
	Simon Vrecar	25	1	0

14:30 Closing Remarks and Farewell Address by DCSF President, Stefan August Lütgenau.