

Danube Civil Society Forum
3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Ulm 2015

Report on WG4: Governance and open data initial meeting report

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In the frame of 3rd General Assembly of Danube Civil Society Forum in EUSDR WG 4 - Strengthening the Danube Region has been initiated. The WGs within DCSF are created in accordance of the main pillars of EUSDR. Strengthening the Danube Region is one of them covering two priority areas: Institutional capacity and cooperation and Security. As it was presented by the convener it will be focused at least from the beginning to issues related to the Governance and open data. The issues have been discussed in presence and with contribution of representative of WG2. It has been discussed that open data is presenting an aspect of good governance. One of the biggest question might be how civil society organisation and citizens are prepared. CSO should be able to access and use data and inform others. There are some examples of good practices in Europe e.g. City of Vienna, approach of Danish government, assessment of CSO participation in Bulgaria. CSO should provide standards for their transparency. CSO are not considered as partners in planning processes therefore cooperation platforms should be established. Lack of finances for supporting the activities have been identified.

Messages:

- Open data and open governance framework could be a starting point of CSO participation
- Legal and institutional framework for participation varies throughout EUSDR countries
- Capacity building and networking are crucial

- Instead of confrontation collaboration between CSO and governments should be established
- CSO should become important and respectful stakeholder of OPEN GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
- Participation of CSO in the processes of open governance framework should be monitored and assessed
- Small grants supporting the activities are needed

Prepared by Simon Vrečar