

Danube Civil Society Forum Executive Committee Meeting Resolution Minutes

20, March 2017, 13:00-16:00, Kirchberggasse 33-35, 1070 Vienna

Participants

Irene Lucius
Igor Studennikov

Stefan August Lütgenau
Vanesa Gödölleová

Simon Vrecar

Stefan August Lütgenau greets the participating Executive Committee members.

As Executive Committee members are present, the quorum is met.

Agenda was sent out and received in due time and amended based on Executive Committee members' suggestions.

13:00 Start of the Meeting

1. Executive Committee members discussed the outcomes of the 3rd Danube Participation Days. Executive Committee published Danube Participation Days working group reports (written by working group moderators) and other informational documents, pictures, presentations and speeches on the DCSF website.
2. Executive Committee agreed to hold the 4th DCSF General Assembly Meeting one day before (16th October 2017) the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest at Andrassy University (17th October 2017) to lower the travel expenses of participants. The General Assembly will also have new elections of the president, vice-president, treasurer, and the Executive Committee Members. General informative letter will be sent out to members of the DCSF to announce the date of the next General Assembly, to invite them to send in their candidacies for elections as well as to request the payment of the membership fee (50 euros per two years).
3. Executive Committee members debated on the future programme of the 4th Danube Participation Day in Budapest and they will suggest speakers, moderators to join the programme. The 4th Danube Participation Day topic will be: **"Bottom Up and Top Down: Science meets Innovation and Participation"**. The Participation Day will welcome interesting key note speakers and present good practice project. These projects can be in form of upcoming plans, ongoing or already completed. The 4th Danube Participation will have an expert thematic input/overview and project presentations mainly from ETC -projects in the Danube Region; results are reported to/in the Annual Forum
Workshop 1: "Participation works: the scientific perspective"
Workshop 2: "Local Actors and Civil Society as drivers of transformation"
Workshop 3: "Social Innovation: taking Civil Society on board"
Workshop 4: "ESIF post 2020: making a Structured Dialogue work"
The day will be closed by **Dinner Reception- Invitation to the Budapest City Hall** by the Lord Mayor of Budapest and the Council of Danube Cities and Regions.

4. Executive Committee members shared the paper on main goals and principles of the DCSF - the new preamble with the DCSF members. The final preamble was distributed together with the questionnaire created to collect the input and expectations from the DCSF members.
5. Executive Committee members debated the financial situation of the DCSF and its next step in regard to its financial possibilities.
6. Executive Committee meeting was joined for one session by Daniela Urschitz (EUSDR PA10) who reported to DCSF ExComm about the upcoming EUSDR Annual Forum, DLAP working agenda and new developments in the EUSDR.

TO DO:

1. Simon Vrecar:

- will contact Andrea Halmos, DG CONNECT who could be a potential speaker at the 4th Danube Participation Day;
- will co-organize the Workshop1: "Participation works: the scientific perspective" together with Ellen Bos from Andrassy University;
- will inform the Executive Committee whether Danube National Participation Day will take place in Slovenia in 2017;

2. Irene Lucius:

- will submit Concept for a funding stream in support of participation pilots in the Danube Region; Office will share this concept with the minutes.

3. Igor Studennikov

- will work on defining specific targets and priorities of the DCSF and will share the list with the Executive Committee Members;

4. Executive Committee Members

- will try to reach possible international institutions that would be willing to cooperate on the future agenda of the DCSF;
- will advertise for the DCSF membership; will do targeted advertisement towards specific organizations that meet the future goals of the DCSF;

Upcoming DCSF events:

Planned National Participation Days in 2017

- National Hearing Serbia, Novi Sad, 24 March 2017
- National Participation Day Slovakia, Bratislava, May/June 2017
- National Participation Day Bulgaria, Sofia, 17 May 2017
- National Participation Day Czech Republic, Prague, 30 May 2017
- National Participation Day Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, June 2017
- Danube Forum, Baden-Württemberg, June 2017
- National Participation Day Ukraine, Odessa, September 2017
- Enlarged Dialogue Forum Austria, Eisenstadt, November 2017
- National Participation Day Slovenia, Ljubljana, Autumn 2017

DCSF Executive Committee Meeting: Sofia, Bulgaria, 17 May 2017

DCSF General Assembly: Andrassy University, Budapest, Hungary 16 October 2017

Danube Participation Days: Andrassy University, Budapest, Hungary 17 October 2017,
Sofia, Bulgaria – 2018

Four Freedoms: Events open to join for all DCSF members and non-members. The travel and hotel expenses can be covered by Foster Europe project Four Freedoms: <http://eu3doms.eu>

- Belgrad , 24 March 2017
- Miercurea Ciuc, 06 May 2017
- Niš, 09 June 2017
- Hévíz, 21 August 2017
- Novi Sad, 08 September 2017
- Lendava, 07 October 2017
- Eisenstadt, 15 November 2017

16:00 End of the Meeting

Members not present with a notice:

Gábor Schneider

Daniela Stojkovic

Carmen Stadelhofer

Iva Taralezhkova

Work in Progress Concept for a funding stream in support of participation pilots in the Danube Region

Irene Lucius

The issue

Genuine public participation in decision making is a critical ingredient for achieving sustainable solutions on the ground and creating a feeling of empowerment, which nurtures democratic development. Unfortunately, in the Danube Region, there is either a participation fatigue in richer EU Member States or a lack of participation opportunities and traditions towards the East and in non-EU countries of the region. Both issues can be counteracted by identifying and testing participation methods for critical development decisions and communicating the resulting best practice models and impacts they have created.

Objective and components of the proposed initiative

With this initiative, we want to foster 10 public participation models across the Danube Region which either repeat a successful participation model in a different context or test a new approach. It will include the following components:

- identification of development decisions currently in the pipeline concerning a broad spectrum of topics (e.g. transport infrastructure, energy efficiency, protected areas management, community infrastructure, agricultural land use, restoration, water management etc.) in at least 8 countries in the region; scoping opportunities and needs for public participation and selection of at least 10 pilots.
- preparing participating actors for participation by building the necessary technical knowledge and informing on the process of participation
- professional facilitation of the participation process
- monitoring and evaluation, analysis of results (outcome, transaction costs, etc.)
- sharing of lessons learnt and good practice, identification of opportunities for upscaling and replication
- formulation of policy recommendations to inform e.g. the programming of EU funds during the next funding period.

Implementation

The initiative will need a professional coordination team of a full-time coordinator and one or two support functions (in total 1 FTE) with a travel budget and a supervisor.

Each participation pilot will need a local part-time coordinator and an activity budget for facilitation, room rent, information material, expert support.

The project will last between 3 and 5 years and will need a budget of between 3 and 5 mio EUR.