

## Road Map for civil society involvement in the framework of the EUSDR

Promoting transparency and participation through multilevel governance in the Danube Region

*to be adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Participation Day, Ulm, 28 October 2015*

Following the first Participation Day and the Eisenstadt Declaration of 25 June 2014<sup>1</sup>, the overall approach for civil society involvement in the EUSDR is twofold:

- Civil society, social partner and local actors involvement in the governance of the EUSDR;
- Strengthening civil society, European citizenship, social partners and civic engagement throughout the Danube Region.

Civil society involvement within the framework of the EUSDR implementation should first and foremost:

- Improve conditions for civic participation and encourage participation at EU, the macro-regional, and the national/regional level;
- Communicate the EUSDR to the citizens;

A potential revision of the EUSDR Action Plan should be used as opportunity to better enshrine the European principles of participation, transparency and subsidiarity by ensuring minimum standards of civil society involvement in the EUSDR.

### Minimum requirements for civil society participation in a potential revised Action Plan of the EUSDR

Within the current governance of the EUSDR, civil society involvement matters especially with regard to multi-level governance and project development.<sup>2</sup> Currently, the D-LAP implements three actions of the Action Plan<sup>3</sup>:

- To improve the trust of citizens and stakeholders in political authorities;
- To establish a Danube Civil Society Forum;
- To ensure sufficient information flow and exchange at all levels.

With the Danube Civil Society Forum already being set up and continuously growing in terms of members and capability, a revision of the existing EUSDR Action Plan should regroup those actions which are already being implemented by PA10 through the D-LAP and its partners. In particular:

1) Make civil society participation and **integrated part of the EUSDR governance**, on the basis of

a) the **Participation Day for local actors and CSOs** as an integrated part of each Annual Forum of the EUSDR

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/civil-society>

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Council conclusions on the governance of macro-regional strategies of 21 October 2014, 16207/14

<sup>3</sup> SEC(2010) 1489 final

b) through National Hearings in the participating states organised by National Coordinators for transparent and regular exchange with non-state EUSDR stakeholders, especially for civil society and local actors, thus developing their respective political culture of participation.

c) participative structure and interfaces to the civil society for each of the Priority Areas of the EUSDR

Ensure the **parliamentary dimension** of the EUSDR through involvement of the EP as well as national and regional parliaments;

- Create a strong link and exchange of experience with **other macro-regional strategies and research on macro-regional strategies**;
- Involve **European bodies** dealing with the topic, e.g. EU Institutions (especially the EESC) or regional institutions in the Danube Region.
- Support **capacity building** in the Danube Region, in cooperation with the PA10 Danube Capacity Platform (D-CAP), in order to enable institutional memory, capacity to participate on regional, national, macro-regional, and supranational levels (e.g. public consultation processes for policies and programmes), sustain bottom-up processes for self-organization of civil society in a macro-regional context, and project development.

The Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Participation Day

Ulm, 28 October 2015