



Participation Day in the EUSDR

**Shared History
Common Future**

Ulm, 28.10.2015

Reports from the Working Groups



Working Group 1

Social Entrepreneurship „Knowledge from the Inside“

Expert/Rapporteur/Moderator: Srdjan Stankovic, Maria Shishkova, Tobias Faltermeier

Participants: Petra Wolf, Dilyana Gyurova, Mykhailo Nesterenko, Klaus Binder, Matthias Holzner, Lajos Szalkai, Lesya Loyko, James Peter, Molly Reeder, Cherry Tsz Tuen Cheng, Stefan Zell, Sonja Jilek, Lana Mayer

Countries: Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Ukrain, Bulgria, Germany

Main Demands:

- „Seed Funding“ / Grants for „Start-Up's“
- Social Entrepreneurship Education – Training – Coaching
- „Match-Making“ Services for NPO's & Enterprizes

Explanation:

1. Seed Funding“ / Grants for „Start-Up's“

The working group *agrees* on the lack of state funding for social enterprise /start-up . It also *recognizes* that lack of capacity of smaller organisations to apply for large funds on European level. They further recognize that enterprises can contribute to the development of social entrepreneurship through small funds. The working group recommends to put in place small grants, microfunds or „Seed-Money“ also from the state & multinational organisations, with easy application processes in order to support the growth of the Social Enterprise sector.

2. Social Entrepreneurship Education – Training – Coaching

The working group identified the need for entrepreneurial education in the third sector. While being experts in the social / ecological field the group agreed to be lacking the necessary business competences to sell the individual product / service. As a result, the organisations welcomes Social Entrepreneurship Education – Training – Coaching (based on the individual level of knowledge). It further supports the idea to receive training directly from the industry in the fields of need such as Marketing – Branding – Human Resource or others.

3. „Match-Making“ Services for NPO's & Enterprizes

The participants would welcome a platform of exchange between NPOs and enterprises. Such a platform of exchange could also further match making processes. Recognizing that such platforms exist on national levels in some countries, the organisations would

welcome a similar platform within the EUSDR. The above two recommendations (funding & training) could be exchanged at such a platform. Demands 1 & 2 could be integrated into such a platform.



Working Group 2

Participation and Governance

Expert: Stefan August Lütgenau, Anders Bergström, Iva Taralezhkova

Content and Results:

- Clear commitment on the participatory democracy as an indisctabke element of good governance at all levels (local, regional levels)
- To mainstream macroregional approach by using existing structures (procedures, institutions)
- Develop a work plan (list of actions) for joint capacity activities to target stakeholders at all levels
- To build thematic partnerships (state, civil society) on participation and capacity building in the EUSDR



Working Group 3

Lifelong learning for individual and social benefit

Expert: Tihomir Ziljak, Croatia, Dusana Findeisen, Slovenia, Carmen Stadelhofer Germany

Participants: 16 Persons from 6 countries

Content and Results :

- Access to education is a human right, a question of dignity and respect. Not having access to education is a matter of discrimination. Learning throughout life is a prerequisite for full filling one's potentials for personal growth, participation in economic and social development as well as in democratic processes.
- Having access to education is crucial for disadvantaged groups (people with disabilities, older people, minorities, women, etc.)
- Functional literacy is necessary for sustainable development.

Key goals:

- providing equal learning and educational opportunities for all.
- Recognizing the value of all types of learning (formal, non-formal, informal, vocational and non-vocational)
- Continues support for educational structures increase in trainers competences, improvement of method and equipment.
- Continues support is needed for the networking of adult educators, providers, learners in face-to-face meetings.



Working Group 4

Financing

Expert: Daniela Stojnovic, Alexandar M. Gajic

Content and results:

This report is based on the analyzing of individual experience of four European countries

Our focus was on three sources of funding :

- State level
- EU level
- Private sector level

Focus on the problems and solutions:

To 1. State level

Problems: Transparency, Corruption

Solutions: Open government, clear rules, communication

To 2. EU level

Problems: too much bureaucracy , higher regulations?

Solutions: very challenging distrust to trust, less control, less administrative work, smaller projects

To 3. Private sector level

Problems: offering ????, small money

Solutions: social investment



Working Group 5

Open Data

Expert: Simon Vrekar

Content and results:

- Open data as starting points of CSO participation
- Legal and institutional framework (14 countries) for participation
- Level of capacity, information and expertise of CSO and citizens
- Capacity building and networking very important
- Collaboration not confrontation > partnership (CSO, government)
- CSO to become important and respected stakeholder of open governance framework
- Monitor the involvement of CSO in ???and policy
- framework collaboration



Working Group 6

Participation and Civil Society and Ukraine

Expert: Igor Studennikov

Content and results:

- At the moment, the lack of coordination of Ukraine's involvement in EUSDR at the level of the central government.
- The civil society is the main driving force of the EUSDR in Ukraine.
- The government has not enough capacity to be the only key actor in the EUSDR process.
- Civil society has to push the government to establish an efficient coordination structure that has to involve the government, civil society and expert community.
- Civil society has enough capacity to assist the government with the implementation of concrete projects in the framework of the EUSDR.
- Civil society is able and must to perform an efficient monitoring of the governments activity in terms of the EUSDR implementation.
- Civil society needs to be supported by EU politically, institutionally and financially.



Working Group 7

Media

Expert: Sabine Geller

It should be clearly defined in a written form to which priority area media belongs in the EU-Danube strategy.

- We have the vision and a dream to create a very open and inclusive media network.
- This could strengthen multi-national cooperation, integrates and motivates civil society in the process of EU-Danube strategy. It creates an open dialogue, transparency and democratic participation. It can strengthen or build up Danube identity in everyday life.
- Europe is about people, Danube Strategy is about people, so people should know more about!



Working Group 8

Small Towns and Cultural Heritage

Expert: Valerie Carter

Content and results:

Slogan: **Take note of us! Do not ignore us!**

1. Importance and? Of? strategies for small cities and villages
 - Every community has to be involved
 - belongs to them
2. Small cities and villages should link together
 - Countryside for health
3. enough local farmers to take produce? to small cities and villages – recreate local markets
4. be ambassadors for small town/ village and promote it
5. keep open schools in small cities and villages with others in larger towns



Working Group 9

Roma and vulnerable Groups

Expert: Kadrin Hasanov

Content and results:

What challenges are we faced with?

- Hate speech against Roma
- How can the money for Roma – Projects really reach to the ground – to the people?
- Roma projects should be brought back into the circle topics
- We miss the implement advocacy government structure to do their own work
- Awareness building? For the society
- Ghettos of Roma
- No access to school and infra- structure
- Low living conditions
- Internalized discrimination- stigma
- Socio- cultural values in opposition to children's rights

Solutions – Ideas

- If you are hungry, you don't help minorities! Help all!
- We are one nation! Roma and all together!
- Motivation the society by integrate them in projects, by give them jobs, perspectives and money!
- Collaboration
- Locally initiatives
- Community organizing
- Self-help-groups
- PR work for projects
- We want from government equal access for Roma
- Hate speech > teach the local people
- Use the legal ways to stop it

- Free space where people can organize themselves in a welcoming atmosphere
- EU money to make a media campaign to change the image of Roma



Working Group 10

Danube social service and education cluster

Expert: Ivan Ivanov, Bulgaria

Content and results:

The members of "Danube social service and education cluster" workshop strongly recommend to increase cooperation between civil society organizations and public authorities in the social field.

We see a lot of advantages with the sector to contribute for instance with qualitative and innovative social services but we recognize that we also need to develop our advocacy abilities.

We invite public authorities on all levels to structural dialogue on this issue.

The network and federations in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Moldavia, Austria and in Baden-Württemberg are equipped with expertised actors and are ready to contribute.



Working Group 11

Youth

Expert: Iryna Gumenchuk, Maksym Altunin

Content and Results:

In the discussion we talked on such relevant issues for young people

- Who we consider as youth > two groups 15-24, 25-29 years
- Needs, interests, problems, difficulties: personal identity, professional orientation,
- exchanges, getting necessary experience, cooperation with other institutions.

The group discovered the challenges that we face:

- Lack of organized information for youth and people who work with youth
- Lack of collaboration with institutions(official)
- Youth mobility – intergenerational exchange and communication

The possible solutions can be:

- Online friendly communication channel and information platform,
- To foster the deep dialog (interregional)
- Common projects development to bring youth (elderly) together



Working Group 12

Migration

Expert: Ana Ditta

Content and Results:

The work of the WG started from the introduction to the topic, with some data and information.

The discussion produced four main outcomes:

1. Social implication and social conflicts:

Refugees are people escaping wars and they are mainly reaching the EU, so it is essential to integrate them in our society. Indeed they will stay in long-term, therefore we need to find the best way to ensure a substantial integration in the EU.

Two main issues:

- Benefit for EU welfare system: European are ageing, so we have to ensure the sustainability of our welfare system;
- Fear of immigrants (because of their different culture/religious background) or do we have fear of the future changes in our communities?

2. Involvement of main stakeholders at all different levels: An effective solution implies the involvement of all stakeholders (civil society organizations, local authorities, member of states, the EU). Each stakeholder has its own peculiarity:

- Civil society: it is flexible, can react properly and very fastly, can propose alternative and creative solutions
- Local and regional authorities: can put in place policies and tools for the integration (social housing, toolkits.....)
- Member states and the EU: shared approach and response to a common issue.

3. Responsible communication (of media and local authorities) People have the impression to be overwhelmed by refugees and migration flows, and often there is a misunderstanding between the words "refugee", "asylum seeker", and "economic migrants". Therefore information should be correctly and responsibly communicated.

4. European citizenship:

There is no clear idea of what EU citizenship is and the link with national one.

We could reform the concept of EU citizenship in order to give it a wider implication/sense.