

Executive Committee Meeting Danube Civil Society Forum

13 October 2014

Venue WWF office, Ottakringer Straße 114-116, 1160 Vienna

09:00-17:00

Resolution Minutes

Participants

1. Tihana Fabijanic
2. Irene Lucius
3. Stefan August Lütgenau
4. Carmen Stadelhofer
5. Daniela Stojkovic
6. Igor Studennikov

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1. Stefan Lütgenau greets the participating EC-members.
 2. As all EC members are present the quorum is met.
 3. The EC agree unanimously on the agenda.
 4. Carmen Stadelhofer and Tihana Fabijanic request to close the meeting earlier as they have to travel back home. It is agreed to close the meeting at 5 p.m.
 5. Report from Stefan August Lütgenau on 1st PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE DANUBE STRATEGY:
 - a. It was 1st time when the civil society became a host and responsible organizer of a civil society and local actors meeting. The necessity of the Participation Day was concluded at various River Shows meetings. The Participation Day became a success with a lot of positive feedback)
 - b. In the beginning process, the Participation Day was not accepted –considered unnecessary as there is a feeling that Commission tempts to exclude civil society from the Danube strategy.
After 1st Participation day turned to a success the decision to organize 2nd Participation Day in Ulm was made. Most likely it will be a part of the EUSDR Forum. Steering committee: PA10, PA8, Ulm, NGO from Baden-Württemberg, NGO from Slovakia, DCSF. DCSF is asked to nominate a well-organized NGO in Slovakia
 - c. Financial background: Majority of expenses covered by PA9 and PA10 from the fund of EUSDR
 6. Report from Stefan August Lütgenau on River Show Project (RS):
 - a. RS in Ukraine was greatly organized by Ukrainian partners and attended by a very active civil society in the region,
 - b. RS financial resources are used up.

- c. Follow-up to RS and PD will be a sequence of National Hearings (NH) to be held annually in each participating country. NH is envisaged to be the national instrument to share and discuss information with all relevant EUSDR stakeholders and to collect input for the next PD and EUSDR Annual Forum.
 - d. NH and PD should follow principles of transparency, be held regularly and in a mood of mutual trust and cooperation of stakeholders (state/non-state).
 - e. Organization of future PD, having a steering body to be transparent in this organization process
 - f. Stefan August Lütgenau is asked to provide a policy paper on how better civil society Participation can be achieved in the EUSDR process. (Paper attached)
 - g. Purpose: to invite all interested people on all levels to the city to present the agenda, problems of the given region in a transparent way
 - h. Time plan: Hearings should take place before the October Forum EUSDR in Ulm (last one by the end of May) to allow us to report on the agenda
 - i. Next Forum will allow a window for civil society to report on developments
 - j. One national hearing will be covered by Foster Europe
7. Report from Stefan August Lütgenau on the Website:
- a. Website not online yet
 - b. Call for moderators of languages is needed to overcome inappropriate propaganda on the website and to facilitate discussions and sharing of information (budget needed at least € 15 000 per annum)
 - c. Improvements: Proposal to add closed discussion group for the DCSF ExCom, proposal to add a closed address book for the DCSF ExCom to share contacts
 - d. The website will be ready, and launched jointly with the D-LAP after the Meeting of the Danube Local Actors Platform Advisory Committee in Vienna, 4th November 2014
8. Brief Report from Stefan August Lütgenau on EU projects:
- a. LADDER: Status. All checks passed, on waiting list
 - b. ENGINE: Status Pending, formal check passed
 - c. START: Status Pending, formal check passed
9. Brief Report from Stefan August Lütgenau general topics:
- The Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum, platform established including 42 members, aims to bring together Ukrainian civil society organizations active nationally in the Danube Strategy
10. Report on Communication Strategy from Daniela Stojkovic:
- a. Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Yahoo group) necessary for the DCSF
 - b. More communication between the ExCom members is desired
 - c. Presentation of Tweetdeck, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn , Yahoo group by Daniela
 - d. Foster Europe will finance the e-communication
 - e. Communication strategy created by Daniela Stojkovic will be distributed

11. Report on DANET by Carmen Stadelhofer:

- a. Current website: thewanteddanube.eu
- b. Project type: Bottom up approach in Danube countries
- c. Financed by Baden Württemberg
- d. Future Event: Meeting (conference) on 8, December 2014, location: Bad Urach
- e. Foster Europe offered to help by € 2000 dedicated to cover partial expenses of the participants, further discussion on billing procedure needed

12. Debriefing on 2nd Conference of Danube Parliamentarians by Irene Lucius:

- a. Participants: NP and MEP from 40 different countries
- b. Aim: to exchange information and foster cooperation
- c. Failure of Organizers: to invite sufficient civil society representatives, WWF Hungary only invited NGO
- d. Problem : Hungarian politics –PA 5 dominating the event by the concentration on flood management
- e. Result: After reviewing of declaration by other participants, it changed somewhat in the last moment and was called common statement.
- f. The next Conference of Danube region Parliamentarians will be held on Belgrade next year and we will try to get in touch with the organizers to improve civil society participation next time
- g. Future goals/objectives: having an influence on the declaration, becoming an observer , having a speaking slot, receiving invitation and declaration in advance, preparing a policy paper; deadline end of November 2014

13. Role of Executive Committee

- a. Executive Committee members should become more visible, e.g. by introducing them at DCSF events
- b. ExCom members shall be involved in preparing DCSF events such as the PD

14. Financial Report by Igor Studennikov

- a. Current sum of all assets on bank accounts: € 677,76
- b. Find new partners for the financing of DCSF
- c. Invoices for the membership fee 2014/15 of € 50, - will be send out jointly with the information of the new website and the D-LAP
- d. Financial report presented by Igor Studennikov is accepted by EC

15. Next general assembly (GA):

- a. Limit the cost by holding it every second year
- b. Using the opportunity to have it on 27, October day before the Forum of the EUSDR in Ulm and the 2nd Participation Day –to save money on travel costs
- c. Collect information on accommodation

16. Next meeting of ExCom (EC):

- a. Hosted by WWF , Ottakringer Straße 114-116, 1160 Vienna

b. Date 2nd or 6th March 2014