

Executive Committee Meeting Danube Civil Society Forum

CPF Office at NGO House in Sofia (Str Hristo Belchev 3, Sofia)

16:00 – 18:30

Resolution Minutes

Participants

Stefan August Lütgenau	Daniela Stojkovic	Simon Vrečar
Irene Lucius	Iva Taralezhkova	Igor Studennikov
Gábor Schneider	Diana Andreeva	Anna Gencheva
Vanesa Gödölleová		

Late with notice

Carmen Stadelhofer

Iva Taralezhkova welcomes the participating Executive Committee members.

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.

The Executive Committee agrees unanimously on the agenda.

Stefan August Lütgenau:

Report on the 3rd Participation Day, followed by a debate

- 2 – 3 November 2016;
- Location: Cvernovka (Old spinning mill) : 3rd floor, Páričkova 18, 821 08 Bratislava
Industrial space of the old factory Cvernovka offers a room for maximum 180 people, and two smaller meeting rooms. Possible location for 3rd November 2016: Bratislava City Hall;
- CODCR organizes a Steering Committee Meeting on 3rd November 2016 in Bratislava City Hall;
- Participation Day will consist of various workshops covering the topic *Resilient Sustainable Development*; Organizers of the Participation Day collect projects to be presented in these workshops, projects can be in all three phases: project plan, ongoing or finalized project; Deadline to submit a project is end of March 2016;
- Preparation Phase for the 4th Participation Day in Budapest 2017 has started;
- Possible partner for the 4th Participation Day is the Andrassy University; Andrassy University offers content and technical support to 3rd Participation Day and the role of the main organizers of the 4th Participation Day;
- Second possible partner in Hungary is HAND.ORG organization;

Debate on the project application for Baden Württemberg and RCC

Agapedia Stiftung together with DCSF applied to receive funding, 45 000 Euro, from the Baden Württemberg Stiftung in Germany to organize National Hearings and Participation Days in Danube countries from 2016-2018. 5th Participation Day will take place in Bulgaria organized by Citizen Participation Forum with a focus on the Participation Index.

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo offers to financially support, 20 000 Euro, the organization of the 4th Participation Day. A share from RCC should be spent for national Participation Days in West Balkan countries.

New Development on the Working plan of the DCSF 2016/2017

Iva Taralezhkova: *Become a stronger partner in EUSDR*

- The importance of micro-funding possibilities was debated;
- Suggestion: DCSF could create a concept for the next financial period in the EUSDR to be implemented and keep presenting it;

Simon Vrečar: *Institutional development of the network*

- Simon Vrečar has organized a skype meeting with Iva Taralezhkova, Daniela Stojkovic and Carmen Stadelhofer; Due to technical difficulties Carmen Stadelhofer could not be present online;
- Executive Committee members discussed the importance and definition of the DCSF membership status, sustainability of the networks and better/greater representativeness of the DCSF members in the official bodies ;
- Executive Committee concluded, for a strong network active members that bring new content are important but also keeping the network open for observes;
- Executive Committee agreed that it is important to invite and approach other networks to become part of the DCSF groups;
- Executive Committee members will inform the DCSF group, about possible new memberships (E.g. INGO, JRC)
- Executive Committee will use the events organized by one or more members of the DCSF to promote the DCSF membership;
- DCSF should invite champions to present each EUSDR priority area;
- Executive Committee agreed to collect the membership fee annually.

Daniela Stojkovic: *Communication Strategy- Questionnaire*

- Questionnaire will be used to collect answers from DCSF members on: what are their expectations on work of the DCSF, how are members feeling in the network, why are they in the DCSF-network, etc.
- Questionnaire will be revised by all Executive Committee members and then shared with DCSF member organizations.

Short Report on social media:

DCSF Followers on Twitter: 504, 1003 tweets, 235 members on twitter DCSF follows

DCSF Facebook Members: 154 and DCSF Facebook Fun Page

All Executive Committee Meeting members agreed to draft a paper on main goals and principles of the DCSF. This paper will not only concentrate on to achieving the goals of the Danube Strategy but also on the wider perspective. This will be distributed prior to the questionnaire.

Igor Studennikov: *Financial sustainability*

Executive Committee will create a list of possible funding opportunities and will ask all its members to contribute to it.

Iva Taralezhkova: Europe for Citizens 2014-2020, Strand 2 –Democratic engagement and civic participation; Report on the project application, Danube Citizen Participation Index – DACIPIX

Iva Taralezhkova reported that the project partner cooperation was very positive. The project application created a very valuable sustainable model for participation in the EUSDR.

Carmen Stadelhofer: Report on Transdanubian civil society project Tastes of Danube

Carmen Stadelhofer report on the project *Taste of Danube*, including 11 Danube countries, and members of DCSF; Carmen Stadelhofer has also introduced two upcoming events:

First, the project Taste of Danube on 8th July 2016 at Haus der Begegnung in Ulm, will present it results on a symposium on the International Danube Festival in Ulm.

Second, the Breakfast on the Danube Bridge Herdbrücke in Ulm on 10th July 2016 will be a new format of strengthening the participation and integration of citizens from different countries, backgrounds, cultures having different interests and experience.

Irene Lucius: Report on NGO Statement for ICPDR Ministerial Meeting

Civil society was present and visible on the ICPDR ministerial meeting with the NGO statement supported by the DCSF. Civil society was in this way being heard but still their suggestions not very much implemented in many Danube countries. DCSF is observer to ICPDR.

Vanesa Gödölleová: DCSF Website Tools

Foster Europe has sent out an Executive Committee website manual prior to the Executive Committee meeting. Executive Committee had no further comments, questions to the manual. All Executive Committee members were asked to contact Foster Europe in case of any further questions.

All DCSF Members agreed to meet also on 17th March 2016 to elaborate the paper on main goals and principles of the DCSF.

All DCSF Members agreed to change the name of National Hearings to National Participation Days.

TO DO:

1. All DCSF members can send in proposals for projects for the Participating Day by the end of March 2016.
2. Foster Europe will publish a general manual for DCSF members on how to use the website.
3. All Executive Committee Meeting members agreed to draft a paper on main goals and principles of the DCSF. All members will submit their input on the first draft shared by Gabor Schneider and Irene Lucius.
4. All Executive Committee Meeting members will send in proposals and contribute to creation of the questionnaire. The first questionnaire proposal was sent out by Daniela Stojkovic.