



**2nd NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY
IN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
7-8 September 2017, Odessa-Vylkove**

Background

Ukraine, a non-EU country involved in the EU Danube Strategy process, shares significant part of the Danube-Carpathian Region that includes four oblasts (regions) – Odessa Oblast, Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast and Zakarpatska Oblast – occupying 68,100 sq km with a population of 6,160,400.

The Danube Strategy is seen as a tool for sustainable development of areas belonging to the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region and provides a good opportunity for accelerating Ukraine’s move towards the European integration.

On 22 April 2015, the 1st National Participation Day in the EUSDR was held in Kyiv with the purpose of bringing together Ukraine’s key actors in the Danube Strategy process and to consolidate efforts of the government and the civil society to ensure Ukraine’s efficient involvement in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The 1st National Participation Day was organised together by the Centre for Regional Studies (Odessa), the Danube Civil Society Forum and the EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” in the framework of the EU-funded action “Strengthening Civil Society Involvement in Assisting the Government with the Implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”. Thus Ukraine is the first country of the Danube Region where the tradition of holding a national event dedicated to the country’s participation in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region has been started.

At the same time, Ukraine has not yet become an active player in the Danube Strategy process although many Ukrainian actors are closely involved in EUSDR-related actions. Ukraine’s involvement in the EUSDR still requires an effective coordination structure at the national level and well-coordinated horizontal cooperation between the four administrative regions covered by the EU Danube Strategy. The nomination of the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing as the Danube Strategy national coordination body and the appointment of the National Coordinator are important steps towards building a national coordination structure of Ukraine’s involvement in the EUSDR. Along with that, actions to bring together Ukraine’s various actors in the Danube Strategy process and to ensure good coordination, communication and collaboration between them must be welcomed. In early March 2014, the Ukrainian Network of the Danube Civil Society Forum has been launched. 18 February 2015, the Memorandum of Cooperation in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region was signed in Odessa by the chairmen of Odessa, Chernivtsi, Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk regional councils. But to keep up the momentum, regular direct communication between people is needed.

Therefore, the National Participation Day is seen as an important national forum that provides a good opportunity for bringing together Ukraine's key stakeholders in the Danube Strategy process, i.e. the national and regional government, civil society, academic and expert community, politicians and local actors, strengthening coordination and cooperation between them, and discussing and revising Ukraine's agenda in the EU Danube Strategy process. The idea of the National Participation Day is closely linked to the concept of the Danube Participation Day, an annual event held on the eve of Annual Forums of the Danube Strategy and providing an interactive platform for communication and exchange of experience between civil society and local actors, including local and regional authorities, academic community, international organisations and other stakeholders in the EUSDR.

The **2nd National Participation Day** is jointly organised by the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing of Ukraine, Danube Civil Society Forum, U-LEAD project team, and Centre for Regional Studies with support from Foster Europe – Foundation for Strong European Regions, Odessa Regional Council, Odessa Regional State Administration and the EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (City of Vienna).

Aim: to discuss the current state of affairs with Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR implementation and to facilitate cooperation between various actors interested in making Ukraine an active player in the Danube Strategy process.

AGENDA

1st Day – 7 September 2017, Odessa

Venue: Session Hall of Odessa Regional Council (4 Shevchenko Avenue, 3rd floor)

Languages: Ukrainian, English, Russian

9:15 – 10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:00 **OPENING AND WELCOME**

Anatoliy URBANSKIY, Chairman of Odessa Oblast Council

Svetlana SHATALOVA, Deputy Chairman of Odessa Oblast State Administration

Viktor DOVHAN, Deputy Minister for Infrastructure

Akseniya NAZARENKO, Deputy Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine

Daniela URSCHITZ, Coordinator of the Danube Local Actor Platform, EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (City of Vienna)

Yuri MASLOV, Member of Odessa Regional Council, Head of the Deputies' Group “EU Strategy for the Danube Region”

Félix MOLDOVÁN, Coordinator of the Hungarian Presidency of the EUSDR and the 6th Annual Forum

Stefan August LÜTGNAU, President of the Danube Civil Society Forum, Director of Foster Europe – Foundation for Strong European Regions

Yuri TRETAK, Technical Team Leader, Regional Development in Policy and Action, U-LEAD with Europe Programme

- 11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 1 – How to build an efficient coordination structure for Ukraine’s participation in the EUSDR?**
- Moderator – Igor STUDENNIKOV**, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies (Odessa), Member of the Executive Committee of the Danube Civil Society Forum
- 11:05 – 11:15 *Institution of the National Coordinator – a key link of making Ukraine’s participation in the EUSDR effective / Akseniy NAZARENKO*, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services of Ukraine
- 11:15 – 11:35 *Ensuring good coordination of the Odessa Region’s participation in the EUSDR / Svetlana SHATALOVA*, Deputy Chairman of Odessa Oblast State Administration
- 11:35 – 11:50 *Ensuring good coordination of the Chernivtsi Region’s participation in the EUSDR / Myhailo PAVLIUK*, 1st Deputy Chairman of Chernivtsi Oblast State Administration
- 11:50 – 12:30 DISCUSSION
- 12:30 – 12:50 **Tea / Coffee Break**
- 12:50 – 14:00 **SESSION 2 – Ukrainian part of the Danube Region in the EUSDR implementation and cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries**
- Moderator – Serhiy MAKSYMENKO**, Technical Deputy Team Leader, Regional Development in Policy and Action, U-LEAD with Europe Programme
- 12:50 – 13:05 *Cooperation between Civil Society and the Government – an Essential Condition of Making Ukraine an Active Actor in the EUSDR: experience, achievements and perspectives / Igor STUDENNIKOV*, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies (Odessa), Member of the Executive Committee of the Danube Civil Society Forum
- 13:05 – 13:20 *Odessa Region’s development programmes through the prism of the EUSDR / Yuri MASLOV*, Deputy of Odessa Regional Council, Head of the Deputies’ Group “EU Strategy for the Danube Region”
- 13:20 – 13:35 *Priorities of the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast in the Context of the EUSDR / Alexander ZRAIKO*, Head of the Department for International Cooperation, European Integration, Tourism and Investments of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast State Administration
- 13:35 – 13:50 *Priorities of the Zakarpattya Oblast in the Context of the EUSDR / Lubomyr BAGRIY*, Head of Directorate for Strategic Planning and Monitoring of Socio-economic Development of the Department for Economic Development and Trade of Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration
- 14:00 – 15:00 **LUNCH**

- 15:00 – 17:00 **SESSION 2 – Ukrainian part of the Danube Region in the EUSDR implementation and cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries (continuation)**
- Moderator – Yuri TRETAK**, Technical Team Leader, Regional Development in Policy and Action, U-LEAD with Europe Programme
- 15:00 – 15:30 *Presentation of priority project ideas in the Odessa Region’s transport sector in the context of the EUSDR* / **Konstantin CHYZHYK**, Adviser to the Chairman of Odessa Oblast State Administration
- Ukraine’s involvement in EUSDR-related activities:**
- 15:30 – 15:40 *Creating a Ferry Line “Orlovka-Isacea”* / **Vitaliy NIKULA**, Deputy Director General of “Orlovka Ferry” Ltd.
- 15:40 – 16:00 *Projects “Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region”, “Consolidation of the nature protected areas’ network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature” and “Integrated Management and Sustainable Use of Floodplain Resources as an Example of an Efficient Local Economy under the Circumstances of Climate Change”* / **Oleg DYAKOV**, Senior Researcher and Project Manager, Centre for Regional Studies; Ukraine’s National Expert at the River Basin Management and Flood Protection Expert Groups of the ICPDR
- 16:00 – 16:10 *Project “LIFE for Danube Sturgeons”: activities in Ukraine* / **Natalia GOZAK**, WWF Ukraine Project Coordinator for Climate Change and Danube Sturgeons’ Protection
- 16:10 – 16:30 *EUSDR Related Activities in the Chernivtsi Region* / **Zinoviy BROJDE** / **Yaroslav KYRPUSHKO**
- 16:30 – 16:50 *EUSDR Related Activities in Activities in the Zakarpattia Region* / **Oleg LUKSHA**
- 16:50 – 17:00 *Presentation of other EUSDR-related activities*
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Tea / Coffee Break / Open Space for Communication and Presentation of Materials**
- 17:30 – 18:00 **SESSION 3 – on the Way to the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the 4th Danube Participation Day (Budapest)**
- Moderator – Stefan August LÜTGNAU**, President of the Danube Civil Society Forum, Director of Foster Europe – Foundation for Strong European Regions
- 17:30 – 17:45 *6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (Budapest, Hungary)* / **Félix MOLDOVÁN**, Coordinator of the Hungarian Presidency of the EUSDR and 6th Annual Forum
- 17:45 – 18:00 *4th Danube Participation Day (Budapest, Hungary)* / **Daniela URSCHITZ**, Coordinator of the Danube Local Actor Platform, EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (City of Vienna)
- 18:00 – 18:30 Questions and discussion on Ukraine’s priorities in the EUSDR and their presentation during the 6th Annual Forum of the EUSDR and the 4th Danube Participation Day

18:30 – 19:00 **CONCLUSIONS**
Akseniya NAZARENKO
Daniela URSCHITZ
Félix MOLDOVÁN
Stefan August LÜTGENAU
Yuri TRETAK
Igor STUDENNIKOV

19:30 – 21:00 **DINNER**

2nd Day – 8 September 2017, Vylkove, Danube Delta Ukraine

6:40 – 7:00 Participants meet at the lobby of Gagarinn Hotel (tbc)

7:00 – 10:00 Bus trip to Vylkove

10:00 – 11:00 Refreshment. Local herbal tea, honey, pancake

10:40 – 15:00 Boat trip around Ukraine’s Danube Delta, presentation of EUSDR-related activities and ideas, lunch on the island in the Danube Delta

15:00 – 16:00 Coming back to Vylkove by boat. Refreshment

16:00 – 19:00 Bus trip to Odessa