

**3<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION  
&  
2<sup>nd</sup> DONORS' CONFERENCE  
"Danube Final and Capacity Building Dialogue"**

**3 October 2018, Odessa**

## **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.

The **National Participation Day** is an important national forum that brings 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, and improves coordination and cooperation between them. 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.

On 22 April 2015, the **1<sup>st</sup> National Participation Day in the EUSDR** was held in Kyiv in the form of a public hearing 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 in order to ensure Ukraine's efficient involvement in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The 1<sup>st</sup> National Participation Day was organised 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".

The **2<sup>nd</sup> National Participation Day** was jointly organised by the Danube Civil Society Forum, U-LEAD project team, and Centre for Regional Studies with support from the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing of Ukraine, 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) and held in Odessa on 7 September 2017 with the **aim** of discussing the current state of affairs

with Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR implementation and facilitating cooperation between various actors interested in making Ukraine an active player in the Danube Strategy process.

This year, the National Participation Day is combined with the **Donors' Conference** – a platform for conducting a dialogue between project promoters and various donors, looking deeper at needs and challenges which project promoters face with, presenting funding opportunities (public and private) for various initiatives in the Danube Region, and enhancing cooperation between participating stakeholders.

The **Donors' Conference Framework** is a concept that suggests the form of a living dialogue between those who launch public, private and civil society initiatives in the Danube Region, and the donor and financial institutions which may financially support such projects and initiatives. The Donors' Conference aims to bridge the gap between topical issues in the Danube Region and funding opportunities to tackle them, as well as to ensure a synergy between, on the one hand, various projects and initiatives in the Danube Region, and, on the other hand, funds provided by different donor and financial institutions to support the sustainable development and reduce regional disparities within the Danube Region.

The idea of a "Donors' Conference" has been jointly developed by the EUSDR Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation", the Danube Civil Society Forum and the Government of the Republic of Moldova based on the previous experience in holding the Danube Financial Dialogues and National Participation Days. The 1<sup>st</sup> event named "Danube Financial and Capacity Building Dialogue" was held on 26-27 October 2017 in Chisinau. Then it was decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Donors' Conference "Danube Financial and Capacity Building Dialogue" would be held in Odessa, Ukraine.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Participation Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Donors' Conference "Danube Financial and Capacity Building Dialogue" aim to discuss available tools for fostering Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR implementation, in particular, institutional capacities and funding opportunities for conducting respective activities.

The event is jointly organised by Odessa Regional Council, Danube Civil Society Forum, EUSDR Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation", Centre for Sustainable Development and Environmental Studies of the Danube Region and Centre for Regional Studies with the support from Foster Europe – Foundation for Strong European Region and Baden-Württemberg Foundation.

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

**Venue:** Reception House of Odessa Regional Council (2 Sanatornyi Lane)

**Languages:** Ukrainian, English, Russian

9:00 – 10:0 Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:00 **OPENING AND WELCOME**

**Anatoliy URBANSKIY**, Chairman of Odessa Oblast Council

**Claudia SINGER**, Coordinator of the EUSDR Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation" (City of Vienna)

**Alexander URBANSKIY**, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Head of the Subcommittee for Maritime and Inland Navigation of the Committee for Transport of the Parliament of Ukraine

**Olena KUCHERENKO**, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of

Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine,  
EUSDR National Coordinator

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

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

**Liliana IVANOVA**, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development and Environmental Studies of the Danube Region

**Igor STUDENNIKOV**, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies, Member of the Executive Committee of the Danube Civil Society Forum

11:00 – 12:00

**PANEL DISCUSSION 1 – Ukraine and the EUSDR: how to make the regions active players in the Danube Strategy process?**

**Moderator – Artem FILIPENKO**, Head of the Department for the Danube-Black Sea Region Studies, National Institute for Strategic Studies (tbc)

**Issues to discuss:**

Do the regions of Ukraine have enough capacities to be active players in the Danube Strategy process?

Do the regions of Ukraine have strategic visions of their participation in the EUSDR?

Are coordination and collaboration between the regions of Ukraine so good to ensure a synergetic effect on Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR?

How to achieve good coordination of Ukraine's participation in the EUSDR?

**Panellists:**

**Olena KUCHERENKO**, Director of the Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services of Ukraine, EUSDR National Coordinator (tbc)

**Oxana YURYNETS**, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Head of Sub-committee for Regional and Cross-border Cooperation between Ukraine and EU member countries, Parliamentary Committee for European Integration (tbc)

**Alexander URBANSKIY**, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Head of the Sub-committee for Maritime and Inland Navigation of the Committee for Transport of the Parliament of Ukraine (tbc)

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

**Myhailo PAVLIUK**, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chairman of Chernivtsi Oblast State Administration (tbc)

**Alexander SYCH**, Chairman of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council (tbc)

**Mykhailo RIVIS**, Chairman of Zakarpatia Regional Council (tbc)

12:00 – 12:20

**Tea / Coffee Break**

12:20 – 13:30

**PANEL DISCUSSION 2 – Funding opportunities for Ukraine's participation in the EUSDR: Do the cross-border cooperation programmes and EU sector policy support to Ukraine take into consideration the EUSDR and its priority areas?**

**Moderator – Igor STUDENNIKOV**, Executive Director, Centre for Regional Studies;

Member of the Executive Committee, Danube Civil Society Forum

**Issues to discuss:**

Do the cross-border cooperation programmes take into consideration the EUSDR priority areas?

What are the priority areas of the CBC programmes (HU-SK-RO-UA, RO-UA-MD, Black Sea Basin, RO-UA, RO-MD, MD-UA)?

Do you consider the CBC programmes efficient in terms of the EUSDR implementation in respective countries?

Does the EU sector policy support to Ukraine (regional policy) help to foster Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR implementation?

Have EU funds been effectively used in Ukraine, and which are the major obstacles to the efficient use of EU funding?

**Panellists:**

**Oxana GRYSHEVITCH**, Director, Department for Public Investment Projects and Support to Development, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine (tbc)

**Olena KUCHERENKO**, Director, Department for Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Services of Ukraine (tbc)  
National Bank of Ukraine (tbc)

**Ingrid BUCSA**, Director, Joint Technical Secretariat, JOP Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 (tbc)

**Danut RAGALIE**, Coordinator, Joint Technical Secretariat, JOP CBC Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 (tbc)

Joint Technical Secretariat, JOP Romania-Ukraine-Moldova 2007-2013 (tbc)

**Balázs SIMÓ**, Head of the Joint Management Authority, ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine 2014-2020 (tbc)

13:30 – 14:00

**DISCUSSION**

14:00 – 15:00

**LUNCH**

15:00 – 16:00

**PANEL DISCUSSION 3 – Does Ukraine take into consideration wider opportunities for being involved in the EUSDR implementation?**

**Moderator – Alfred F. PRAUS**, Chairman, Ukrainian-Austrian Association

**Issues to discuss:**

Do we effectively use available instruments for fostering Ukraine's involvement in the EUSDR?

What can we do to achieve a synergy between various institutional tools and initiatives in the Danube Region and the EUSDR?

**Panelists:**

**Gabriele HASELSBERGER**, Austrian trade attaché in Ukraine (tbc)

**Natalia BUDESCU**, Director, Association for Cross-border Cooperation "Lower Danube EuroRegion"

**Serhiy MAKSYMENKO**, Technical Deputy Team Leader, Regional Development in Policy and Action, U-LEAD with Europe Programme (tbc)

**Zinoviy BROJDE**, Director, "ECORESOURSE" Research and Engineering Centre, Chernivtsi

**Oleg LUKSHA**, Chairperson, Agency of Local Development and Information Resources "EUROPOLIS", Uzhgorod

**Dorin ANDROS**, EUSDR National Coordinator Moldova, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional

Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova (tbc)

16:00 – 16:20 **Tea / Coffee Break**

16:20 – 17:30 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UKRAINIAN PART OF THE DANUBE REGION**

**Moderator – Yuri MASLOV**, Member of Odessa Regional Council, Head of the Deputies' Group "EU Strategy for the Danube Region"

**Speakers:**

16:20 – 16:30 **Tetiana SHULHA**, Sector Coordinator, Regional Development, EU Delegation to Ukraine (tbc)

16:30 – 16:40 EBRD Office in Ukraine (tbc)

16:40 – 16:50 World Bank in Ukraine (tbc)

16:50 – 17:00 USAID (tbc)

17:00 – 17:10 CIDA (tbc)

17:10 – 17:20 SIDA (tbc)

17:20 – 17:30 Ukrainian Cultural Fund (tbc)

17:30 – 18:20 **PANEL DISCUSSION 4 – Civil Society: a driving force in the Danube Strategy process**

**Moderator – Claudia SINGER**, Coordinator of the EUSDR Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation" (City of Vienna)

**Issues to discuss:**

Do civil society and non-state actors play a crucial role in the process of the EUSDR implementation?

Is the civil society's contribution to the EUSDR implementation appreciated at the level of the EUSDR coordination and the national coordination?

How to build good partnership and cooperation between civil society and the government in the process of the EUSDR implementation?

**Panellists:**

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

**Catalin ANTON**, Chairperson, Association "Sustainable Development Group", Constanța

**Valentin CIUBOTARU**, Executive Director, NGO "BIOS", Chișinău (tbc)

**Lesya LOYKO**, Chairperson, Agency for Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region "FORZA", Uzhgorod (tbc)

**Igor STUDENNIKOV**, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies, Member of the Executive Committee of the Danube Civil Society Forum

18:20 – 18:40 **CONCLUSIONS**

19:00 – 21:00 **DINNER & CULTURAL PROGRAMME**