

Eisenstadt, 09 April 2015

Dear Members and friends of the Danube Civil Society Forum,

Since its foundation in July 2011, DCSF has work hard to increase the inter-regional and international cooperation among civil society in the Region, to further the understanding for participation in the national and supranational processes of the Danube Strategy, and to develop participatory structures for the EUSDR.

After years of hard work 2014 was a year of harvesting. With support of the Danube River Show Project, the PA 9, and PA 10 DCSF introduced a new element in the EUSDR, the Participation Day as annual convention of NGOs, civil society representatives and local actors in the EUSDR.

This highly successful project as the opening event of the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Vienna, 26-27 June, became a new format of active participation in the EUSDR. With support of the State Ministry Baden Württemberg, the 2nd Participation Day 28 October 2015 will be organized as pre-event to the 4th Annual Forum in Ulm, 29-30 October 2015. Here the DCSF again is represented in the programming Steering Group and the Organisational Bureau.

The Participation Day is the most visible element of the envisaged participation and governance structure based on the Eisenstadt Declaration of the 1st Participation Day. In the EUSDR participation will be built on the Participation Days, the annual national hearings in the 14 participating countries and the permanent Danube Local Actors Platform with PA 10 (D-LAP).

This participation and governance structure comes to life with the first annual national hearings held in Ukraine (Kiev, 22 April 2015) and Austria (Vienna, 13 May 2015), both reporting to the 2nd Participation Day in Ulm. Further hearings are to be expected before October 2015.

2014 DCSF was granted observer status to the ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River). We thank Daniela Stojkovic Jovanovic for her initiative.

The future goal of the DCSF is to launch two new online tools, D-LAP platform and DCSF website, developed jointly by Foster Europe, DCSF and PA10. The online platform and website were designed to serve as a tool for presentation, coordination, cooperation and communication. Both enable sharing of information and networking online among local and regional stakeholders, PA of the EUSDR, private, public or non-profit organization to interact with each other and to interact with institutions established to implement the EUSDR.

In order for you to be timely informed even before the websites are launched, Daniela Stojkovic Jovanovic has launched of a message space, Twitter account, LinkedIn account and Facebook account to allow all of you to share your practise with few or all and to receive up to date information. Again we thank Ms. Stojkovic for active building and upgrading all the online social media tools.

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We plan to launch these websites soon and share all the necessary information with you. We would like to invite

you to become active and visit our social media tools and online platform regularly, as they are just as good and accurate as we, users, make it.

For the first time since 2011 we levy a combined membership fee for 2014 and 2015 of € 50,-. Please note that due to the statutes, members who have not paid their membership fees and not entitled to vote at the General Assembly. Those of you who would have to pay unreasonable bank and transfer fees for the bank transaction have the possibility to pay the fees in cash in Ulm before the General Assembly (e.g.: by deduction from travel reimbursement). Please inform Vanesa Gödöleova (office@foster-europe.org) when you plan to pay in Ulm.

We encourage you all to register for the General Assembly and use your presence in Ulm to stay on for the Participation Day. Again Foster Europe will have limited funds to support travel and accommodation expenses.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information on office@foster-europe.org.

Your's sincerely,



Stefan August Lütgenau
President
Danube Civil Society Forum