

MINUTES

Workshop on Danube Funding Coordination Network

May 30 and 31, 2016, in Berlin/Germany

Venue: German Aerospace Center/Project Management Agency (DLR Projektträger)
Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 2, 10178 Berlin/Germany, Room 6.31, 6th floor

Background and introduction

On May 30 and 31, 2016 a Workshop on setting up a Danube Funding Coordination Network was organised in Berlin/Germany in the frame of the Danube-INCO.NET project in close cooperation with coordinators and actors of Priority Area 7 (PA7) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The agenda of the event is presented in Annex 1.

Invited were nominated experts by the PA7 SG in the frame of the PA7 activities, but also interested and motivated organisations such as funding agencies/programme owners, policy makers, and Danube-INCO.NET project-affiliated institutions from countries of the Danube Region. The list of participants is presented in Annex 2.

The aim of the meeting was to lay the basis for a flexible, but sustainable coordination structure supporting the cooperation of stakeholders interested in funding and performing joint S&T activities in the Danube Region. The Workshop was divided in 2 parts: during Part I of the Workshop which was foreseen for nominated experts by PA7, participants discussed objectives, mission, instruments and guidelines for the functioning of the planned Danube Funding Coordination Network (DFCN) laid down in Terms of reference. In Part II, which was open also for other experts, examples for successful planned and ongoing coordinated actions were presented and cooperation possibilities for future activities were discussed.

Presentations are available and were sent out to the participants.

Part I

During the first part of the Workshop, the general framework for establishing the DFCN was presented focusing on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 7 its Working Group on Coordination of funds. Furthermore, the Danube-INCO.NET project and its activities on coordination of funding mechanisms were introduced to the participants. A Tour de table brought forward the motivation of participants toward the establishment of a DFCN. It was concluded that there is an appar-

ent need for coordination of funding activities, to explore meaningful synergies, but that there is also a good existing basis for the network with successful cooperation in the last years. Examples of similar initiatives emerging from other (bi)regional networking projects were presented.

In the second block of Part I, the draft Terms of Reference for the DFCN were presented and discussed based on a discussion paper, including:

- Mission and objectives
- Structure, network members
- Functioning and tasks
- Possible joint actions, and
- cooperation possibilities with other initiatives.

In the following round table discussion, participants aligned their views and the draft ToR were amended according to the discussion. An agreement has been reached regarding the text for the Terms of Reference.

Further points in the discussion included the nominations of additional experts from countries where no nomination had been received from the PA7 SG members prior to the meeting. It was concluded to address the EUSDR National Contact Points in order to complete the list of nominations.

The next meeting was announced to be held in Bratislava in autumn 2016 organised by the Slovak MESRS during the Slovak EU Council Presidency and the EUSDR Presidency (possibly back to back with the next PA7 SG meeting and/or the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSDR).

Part II

In Part II which was held on May 31, input presentations on cooperation instruments in the Danube Region were given. This included contributions by different speakers on the following ongoing and planned joint funding actions:

- the German BMBF Danube call
- news from EUREKA
- a planned COST Targeted Network for the Danube Region (by a debriefing of Danube-INCO.NET COST Workshop)
- the Austrian multilateral pilot joint call by opening up bilateral agreements
- a short analysis of Danube countries' participation in ESFRI Roadmap 2016
- further joint activities such as a planned JRC call /activity (synergy centre).

In preparation of the EUSDR Annual Forum in Bratislava in November 2016, the provisional programme was presented. Concerning the ministerial meeting on the first day of the Forum, it was suggested to use it as opportunity for joint political actions in Science and Technology for the Danube Region and to include the DFCN in the joint political statement. A PA7 Workshop on the alignment of funding was also foreseen during the Forum, where the DFCN could be highlighted.

The following block of Part II consisted of the presentation of existing coordinated initiatives and cooperation possibilities followed by a discussion. The following contributions were given:

- Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs):

- JPI MYBL (JPI More Years, Better Lives): Implementation of the alignment, and mapping exercise on demographic research funding and national strategies; a new call will be published and information will be sent out to the Workshop participants in due time; the participation of new member countries is welcomed and is free of charge (political backing necessary though)
- JPI Urban Europe - outreach to widening countries; a project entitled EXPAND is planned focusing on the inclusion of widening countries not yet members in the JPI; cooperation with Danube-INCO.NET in the preparation and organisation of a Workshop (to take place in spring in 2017 in Vienna) in this regard was agreed. It addresses the funding agencies of the Danube and widening countries in the field of applied sciences in energy, urban sciences, ICT and mobility.
- JPND (JPI Neurodegenerative Disease Research): update on newest developments
- Era-Nets:
 - IraSME: this initiative is a former ERA-Net and a self-sustained network since 2011 which is open for cooperation with new partners (under the conditions that they bring a reliable budget with them and stick to the timetable of the evaluation procedure)
 - The Platform of bio-economy ERA-NET Actions: a Master class on inclusiveness focusing on the “High Potential Countries” was held in Vienna; a section in the frame of the Annual PLATFORM event will be dedicated to inclusiveness.
 - Integration of Danube partner countries into (running) Era-Nets.

During the Tour de table, participants presented existing participations from their countries in multi-lateral initiatives. Also, cooperation interests were brought forward by the participants and ideas for joint actions were collected. The following topics were addressed:

- The DFCN (or its chair) should inform EC, the DSP and other important EUSDR actors on its creation and its tasks. DFCN is useful for capacity building and could also serve for coordination purpose of political views in preparation of H2020/EU Committee meetings. Sustainability has to be assured. JRC could be a helpful partner in the DFCN activities (in view of smart specialisation etc).
- More use of structural funds should be made (also for cross-border cooperation), and funding should be better synchronised in order to use the potential better and have more impact. The creation of Workshop Groups especially devoted to cooperation with Era-Nets and JPIs should be suggested to discuss in detail the processes, legal procedures and their synchronisation.

Follow up: Activities as presented in the first block of Part II will be carried on by the respective stakeholders and reported on in the next meeting.

The 2nd DFCN meeting is scheduled to be held in autumn 2016 organised by the Slovak MESRS with the support of DLR PT and BMWFW. Ideas for cooperation possibilities are welcome and can be addressed to either one of the three organisations.

ANNEX 1



Agenda

Monday May 30, 2016

(for nominated members/experts of Danube Funding Coordination Network)

13:00 – 14:00	Registration and welcome coffee/tea Light welcome lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderation: Stefan Konetzko/BMBF</i></p> <p><u>PART I: Setting up of a Danube Funding Coordination Network</u></p> <p>Welcome <i>by Stefan Konetzko/BMBF (host/Danube-INCO.NET WP6 leader)</i></p> <p>Background: the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and Priority Area 7 <i>by Ľubica Pitlová/MESRS and Dijana Štrbac/IMP (both EUSDR PA7 coordinators)</i></p> <p>From the PA7 Working Group on Coordination of funds to a Danube Funding Coordination Network <i>by Martina Hartl/BMWFW (PA7 DRRIF WG Leader)</i></p> <p>Introduction to Danube-INCO.NET and the activities on coordination of funding mechanisms <i>by Ulrike Kunze/DLR PT (Host/Danube-INCO.NET WP6 Leader)</i></p> <p>Tour de table/motivation of participants <i>by all participants</i></p> <p>First steps towards a Danube Funding Coordination Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Background, Workshop– Examples of similar initiatives <p><i>Input by Ulrike Kunze/DLR PT (Host/WP6 Leader)</i></p> <p>Discussion and exchange of views <i>by all participants</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee/Tea break

<p>16:00 – 17:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderation: BMBF/DLR PT</i></p> <p>The Danube Funding Coordination Network: input on draft Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mission and objectives – Structure, network members – Functioning and Tasks of the DFCN – Possible joint actions <p><i>by Ulrike Kunze/DLR PT (Host/WP6 Leader) based on draft discussion paper</i></p> <p>Round Table discussion: alignment of views and agreement <i>by all participants</i></p> <p>Next steps and outlook to next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Announcement of next meeting – Chair (as appropriate) – Summary of results of day one as input for day two <p><i>by Ulrike Kunze/DLR PT, Martina Hartl/BMWFW, Ľubica Pitlová/MESRS</i></p> <p>Closing of day one</p>
<p>19:00 – 21.00</p>	<p>Networking Dinner <i>at Restaurant Reinhard's, Poststr. 28, 10178 Berlin, www.reinhardts.de</i></p>

Tuesday May 31, 2016

(for members and experts of Danube Funding Coordination Network, invited experts)

<p>8:30 – 9:00</p>	<p>Registration and welcome coffee/tea</p>
<p>9:00 – 10:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderation: Marion Mienert/DLR PT</i></p> <p><u>PART II: Cooperation possibilities and potential joint actions</u></p> <p>Welcome and introduction to Part II <i>by Stefan Konetzko/BMBF</i></p> <p>Input presentations on cooperation instruments in the Danube Region:</p> <p>Ongoing and planned joint funding actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The German BMBF Danube call <i>by Stefan Konetzko/BMBF</i> – The Austrian initiative of a multilateral pilot joint call by opening up bilateral agreements <i>by Martina Hartl/BMWFW</i> – News from EUREKA <i>by Ralf König/FFG</i> – A Targeted Network for the Danube Region: debriefing of Danube-INCO.NET

	<p>COST Workshop by Martina Hartl/BMWFW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A short analysis of Danube countries' participation in ESFRI Roadmap 2016 by Martina Hartl/BMWFW – Further joint activities: JRC activity/call by Martina Hartl/BMWFW <p>In preparation of the EUSDR Annual Forum in Bratislava in November 2016: meeting of science ministers – an opportunity for joint political actions in Science and Technology by Ľubica Pitlová/MESRS</p>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moderation: Martina Hartl, BMWFW</i></p> <p>Potential joint funding actions and cooperation possibilities: input presentations and short discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – JPI MYBL (JPI More Years, Better Lives): Implementation of the alignment and mapping exercise by Annette Angermann/VDI/VDE-IT GmbH – JPI Urban Europe - outreach to widening countries by Arjan van Binsbergen/JPI Urban Europe Management Board, Joint Calls Officer – JPND (JPI Neurodegenerative Disease Research): update by Ľubica Pitlová/MESRS • Era-Nets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IraSME - a self-sustained former ERA-Net by Christian Fichtner/AiF Projekt GmbH – The Platform of bio-economy ERA-NET Actions by Martin Greimel/BMLFUW – Integration of Danube partner countries into (running) Era-Nets by Ralf König/FFG <p>Tour de table: cooperation interests and collection of ideas for joint actions</p> <p>Discussion and follow up action items Establishment of ad hoc Working Groups by all participants</p> <p>Closing of the meeting by Stefan Konetzko/BMBF and by DLR PT</p>
13:00 - 14:00	Light farewell lunch Departure

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ANNEX 2

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List of participants

Name	Surname	Institution		Country	Email
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