

MINUTES

2nd Workshop on Danube Funding Coordination Network

November 2, 2016, in Bratislava/Slovakia

Host: Division of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Venue: Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)
Lamačská cesta 8/A, Bratislava, Slovakia (Conference Room, 5th floor)

Introduction

The first Workshop on setting up a Danube Funding Coordination Network (DFCN) was organised in Berlin/Germany in the frame of the Danube-INCO.NET project in project in close cooperation with Priority Area 7 (PA7) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) on May 30 and 31, 2016.

The aim of the first meeting was to lay the basis for a sustainable coordination structure supporting the cooperation of stakeholders interested in funding and performing joint S&T activities in the Danube Region. The main outcome of the first DFCN meeting was adoption of the Terms of the Reference (ToR) for a DFCN.

The second DFCN workshop was organised on November 2nd, 2016 in Bratislava by the Slovak PAC7 team represented by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport during the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU and the EUSDR Presidency.

The agenda of the second meeting was focused already more on the common undertaken joint activities and on possibilities for the future cooperation.

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

Minutes

The Slovak PAC7 team invited all nominated DFCN members and potential new members to the 2nd DFCN meeting, which was held in Bratislava back to back with the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSDR.

The agenda of the event is presented in Annex 1.

At the beginning of the meeting Director General of the Division of Science and Technology Dr. Marek Hajduk welcomed all participants in Bratislava and expressed his hope in regards to promising future joint activities.

A Tour de table helped to get to know the new DFCN members and invited guests, brought up the motivation and vision of all participants and a clearer overview of their interests.

Furthermore, the Agenda of the meeting was introduced and adopted.

The first presentation given by Ms. Hartl gave the participants an overview on the DFCN main objectives and introduced its ToR. Also, the activities of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the Danube region were presented by Mr. Konetzko.

The second presentation of Ms. Hartl showed the results of the first Danube Transnational Program Call (DTP Call) open in two steps (on 23 September 2015 and 9 May 2016)., 55 projects have been approved with conditions, involving over 700 partners. The majority of lead partners come from Austria, Hungary and Slovenia. The possibility of organising a synergy-Workshop jointly held by Danube-INCO.NET and the DTP in spring 2017 is raised and will be checked.

Following to this, Ms. Slosar from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) presented possibilities of cooperation within EUREKA framework, and gave an overview on the common Danube Call for Cross-border Cooperation in the Danube Region (2015). A new call is planned for spring 2017.

Ms. Szudi briefly informed about the Austrian pilot Multilateral (AT-CZ-RS-SK) Call, which can be considered as one of the first tangible results of the DFCN. The received project proposals will be evaluated before Christmas and the results of the Joint Commission will be officially announced by the beginning of 2017.

Mr. Kutka from the Slovak Organization of Space Activities (SOSA) presented information about possible cooperation within ESA and was also interested in learning more precisely about the possibilities given within DFCN framework.

Ms. Hartl introduced the upcoming Work Programmes 2018-2020 of H2020. The Work Programmes 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been almost fully implemented (SME, ICT, JTI, CO-Creation, Teaming Phase 1, ...) . The mid-term evaluation of Horizon 2020 is now in its starting phase (first organisations have already given structured opinions) – which actually opens the opportunity for the DFCN intervention. The next suggested step for DFCN therefore will be screening of scoping papers for topics of mutual interest (type of multilateral activities/ ERA-NETs etc.included in the Work Programmes 2018-2020; where would/could DFCN like to jointly intervene by lobbying via our contact points/delegates).

Ms. Kunze and Ms. Hartl opened the discussion concerning the future organization of the DFCN. According to the Terms of Reference, the network should be co-chaired by 2 chairs. However, in deviation from the Terms of reference, the participants agreed to change the duration of the chairmanship from 2 years to one year for the period of 2017 and 2018. All DFCN members were invited to volunteer for co-leadership for 2017 and 2018. Germany (BMBF and DLR) offered to chair the DFCN in 2017. For the second chair for 2017, one option would be for Hungary as future EUSDR presidency country in 2017 to co-lead ; If Hungary would not accept the chairmanship, Slovakia volunteered to lead the network in 2017 together with Germany upon the agreement.

For 2018, Austria and Serbia will be co-chairing the DFCN.

The last point of the agenda was to inform about future upcoming events and activities of interest. At first Ms. Pitlova introduced the agenda of the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSDR, and the Joint Ministerial Conference.

The next related invitations are as followed:

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- Policy Roundtable: which role for science in smart specialisation? (by Danube-INCO.NET at OPEN Evaluation 2016 conference)
 - <https://danube-inco.net/object/event/18113>
- Energy Networking4Innovation
 - <https://danube-inco.net/object/event/16869>
- Annual Joint Programming Conference 2016 (brought forward by Felix during the meeting)
 - <https://www.era-learn.eu/registration/conference>

Co-operation possibilities in 2017:

ERA NET Co-Fund

- SC1-HCO-03–2017: Implementing the Strategic Research Agenda on Personalised Medicine
- CULT-COOP-10-2017: Culture, integration and European public space
- FETPROACT 3 – 2017: FET ERANET Cofund in Quantum Technologies

Widening-related activities

- SC1-HCO-08–2017: Actions to bridge the divide in European health research and innovation
- RUR-12-2017: Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap
- RUR-15-2017: The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector
- CO-CREATION-01-2017: Education and skills: empowering Europe’s young innovators
- SwafS-07-2017: 2016: Training on Open Science in the ERA

Any other business and follow-up:

- The DFCN (or its chair) will inform the EC, 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 synchronisation of funding should be improved in order to better use the potential and have more impact.
- The creation of Workshop Groups especially devoted to cooperation with Era-Nets and JPIs was suggested to discuss in detail the processes, legal procedures and their synchronisation.
- 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 3rd DFCN meeting is scheduled to be held in spring/summer 2017 organised by the two co-chairing countries (Hungary/Slovak MINEDU and BMBF with the support of DLR PT and BMWFV). Ideas for cooperation possibilities are welcome and can be addressed to either one of the organisations.

The list of participants is presented in Annex 2.

Presentations from the 2nd DFCN workshop are available upon request and were sent out to the participants.

ANNEX 1

Agenda: 13:00 – 17:30

13:00 – 13:30	Registration and light refreshment
13:30 – 13:45	Welcome by Lubica Pitlova/Jaroslava Szüdi (hosts & PA7 Coordinators) <i>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Slovak Republic</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Tour de Table
14:00 – 14:30	Outcome of the 1st DTP Call and Outlook on the 2nd Call – Implication for the DFCN <i>by Martina Hartl, BMWFW, Austria</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Updates on co-operation possibilities within multilateral activities (Joint Programming Initiatives, EUREKA; Era-Nets etc.) <i>Speakers to be confirmed</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Updates on multilateral Calls initiated by Member States <i>various, e.g. AT & partner countries, DE - as news are available</i> <i>Moderation: Lubica Pitlova /MESRS (tbc)</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 15:45	Information on possible cooperation within the ESA framework <i>by Alex Kutka / Slovak Organization for Space Activities</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Horizon 2020 upcoming 2017 Work Programme and developments for the Work Programmes 2018-2020 – Potentials for co-operation <i>by Martina Hartl, BMWFW, Austria & other partners</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Organisation of the network – co-leadership for 2017 and 2018 <i>all Members are invited to volunteer</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Upcoming events of interest <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i> <i>Moderation: Ulrike Kunze /DLR and Martina Hartl /BMWFW</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Conclusions and next steps
From 19:00 on	Networking Dinner - Venue: Zylinder restaurant, Hviezdoslav square, Bratislava

ANNEX II

2nd Meeting of the Danube Funding Coordination Network

Wednesday, November 2nd 2016, in Bratislava/Slovakia

(List of Participants)

No.	Name	Surname	Organisation	Country	E-mail address
1.	Kostadin	Ganev	Bulgarian National Science Fund	Bulgaria	kganev@geophys.bas.bg; kosta_nigg@yahoo.com
2.	Ulrike	Kunze	German Aerospace Center	Germany	ulrike.kunze@dlr.de
3.	Martin Felix	Gajdusek	ZSI - Centre for Social Innovation	Austria	gajdusek@zsi.at
4.	Sanja	Seslija	University of Belgrade	Serbia	sseslija@tmf.bg.ac.rs
5.	Viktor	Nedović	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	Serbia	viktor.nedovic@mpn.gov.rs
6.	Dijana	Štrbac	University of Belgrade Institute , Mihajlo Pupin"	Serbia	dijana.strbac@pupin.rs
7.	Martina	Hartl	BMFW - Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy	Austria	Martina.Hartl@bmfwf.gv.at
8.	Štefan	Chudoba	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	Stefan.chudoba@minedu.sk
9.	Irina	Slosar	FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Austria	irina.slosar@ffg.at
10.	Roland	Mayer-Frei	Ministry for Science, Research and Art of Baden-Wuerttemberg	Germany	Roland.Mayer-Frei@mwk.bwl.de
11.	Jaroslava	Szüdi	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	jaroslava.szudi@minedu.sk
12.	Alexander	Kutka	Slovak Organisation for Space Activities	Slovakia	kutka@sosa.sk
13.	Stefan	Konetzko	BMBF - Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Germany	Stefan.Konetzko@bmbf.bund.de
14.	Anna	Lechner	Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts	Germany	Anna.Lechner@stmbw.bayern.de
15.	Ľubica	Pitlová	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	lubica.pitlova@minedu.sk