

EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

PA 7 – Knowledge Society

**Project proposal for period 1 /09/2015 –
31 /12/2016**

Prof. Dr Viktor Nedović,
Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and
Technological Development
EUSDR Priority Area 7 Coordinator
Dijana Štrbac, PA7 Support Team

10th PA7 Steering Group Meeting
Budapest, December 9th , 2015.

Summary of PA7 Work plan

- Work plan for the period 01/09/2015 – 31/12/2016 is based on the outcomes of the previous actions, EUSDR Action plan, updated PA7 Roadmap, outcomes of the DRRIF feasibility study, flagship projects and Danube-INCO.NET project.
- RS coordination complements with SK proposal and focuses on:
 - funding possibilities for research and higher education,
 - horizontal interlinking with other PAs,
 - activities of PA7 Working Groups,
 - collaboration with the JRC on nexuses and RIS3 platform and
 - wider promotion.

Summary description and main objectives of the project

The project will be mainly focused on:

- Coordination/support to effective PA7 governance – strengthening established good practices and policies, stronger focus on policy-level representation in the Steering Group and decision-making.
- PA7 as EUSDR horizontal priority – establishing/strengthening links with other PAs, emphasizing research, education and ICT roles in other PAs (special focus on energy, water, environment, mobility etc).
- Scaling up funding mechanisms and opening new funding possibilities for R&I in the Danube Region.
- Supporting the most relevant R&I projects and large-scale collaborations, linking research infrastructure and centres of excellence in the Danube Region.

Alignment of the project activities with the overall PA work plan

- The project aims to support technical management of all activities and processes that are part of PA7 main objectives and milestones resulting from EUSDR Action Plan and PA7 Roadmap updated and agreed by PA7 Steering Group.
- The activities of this project will put special attention on in the grant period were discussed and synchronized with the Slovak colleagues. It includes:
 - Effective governance of PA7, strengthened policy level representation in the Steering group and decision making, and good communication with the DSP and DG Regio (including M17)
 - Scaling up funding mechanisms for R&I (M6-8)
 - Link competitive research infrastructure and centers of excellence in the Danube Region (M1, M11)
 - Support the cooperation among education and research institutions, mobility schemes and joint programmes (M12, M13, M15)

Project activities

- **Activity 1: Technical management of PAC activities and SG coordination** - support to the PAC to set up implementation and coordination of PA 7 activities between all participating countries and regions. This will include:
 - Coordination of the PA7 and day-to day management of the SG activities;
 - Maintaining effective and timely communication with SG and WG members, DSP, EC and other interested parties;
 - Organisation of SG meetings, relevant WG workshops, contribution to Annual Forums;
 - Preparing reports, financial management, event organization, organisation of travels, etc.

Activity 2: Organization and support to Working Groups

- In the upcoming period there is a need to intensify activities of some WGs and contribution to the SG work. Some WG will need to involve more experts and stakeholders in their work, while others are expected to move forward and write project proposals to get funding for their activities, organisation of workshops, meeting, conferences, etc. The PACs will initiate activation and opening of WGs in order to increase their contribution to PA7 action and targets.
- Expected outputs of the activity 2:
 - Increasing the number of members of the WGs
 - Meetings of the Higher Education and Mobility WG
 - Initiation of new joint HE programs in the Danube Region,
 - New joint programmes and projects developed.

Activity 3: Supporting common R&I projects and scaling up funding mechanisms



- Providing promotion and support for new project ideas and proposals highly relevant for the Danube Region (e.g. in the field of energy, environment protection, food safety, traditional food, risk management and minimization of natural disaster effects in the DR).
- Scaling up funding mechanisms and providing policy level support to strategic projects applying for research and mobility funds under EU and regional grant schemes (Horizon 2020, Eureka, COST, Erasmus+, ETC programme Danube 2014 – 2020), to the future of DRRIF, possibilities for specific Danube calls under existing multi– and bilateral agreements.
- Strengthening cooperation among a number of stakeholders in R&I, higher education and ICT sector, throughout the Danube Region, towards common project activities.

Activity 4: Promotion of PA7 actions/targets & Strengthening collaboration



- Better recognition and awareness of PA7 targets among relevant audiences and stakeholders. This includes web based activities, attending relevant events, targeted presentations of scientific, research and innovation activities in the Danube Region, Danube-INCO.NET project platform, and media appearances.
- Strengthening collaboration will include the following:
 - Strengthening horizontal links with other PAs, regular communication and exchange of news with other PAs, especially PA2, PA4, PA5 and PA6 (contact points will be appointed), as well as close collaboration with PA10 in capacity building actions like START and TAF-DRP
 - Strengthening collaboration with the JRC in providing scientific support to EUSDR and RIS3 platform, and with other relevant stakeholders.
 - Interlinking with other European macro-regional strategies and platforms that focus on research, innovation, education and ICT (e.g. Adriatic-Ionian, Balkan (WISE), Black Sea (BSEC), Baltic, etc.).

Activity 5: Financial control and audit

- smooth financial management of the TA grant and accurate financial reporting as stipulated in the Grant Agreement
- The expected outputs of this activity will be:
 - interim financial progress report and interim certificate on the financial statements
 - final financial progress report and final certificate on the financial statements

Sustainability of the project activities

- Proposed project activities are expected to give more strength to the SG, get wider involvement of stakeholders and experts in the WG and new project proposals, and coordinate possible funding for R&I in the region.
- The aim of the activities planned for the next period is to continue previous activities and improve representation the SG and partner countries' commitment to the PA7 and EUSDR. It will ensure effective promotion and time for new approach to work organization in the light of future funding schemes and EUSDR developments. After TA support 2015-2016 there is a plan to apply for DTP and to seek additional opportunities for funding on-going and new activities.

Thank you for your attention!