

**EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

PA7 Interim progress report

**Project: Coordination, Facilitation and Implementation of Common Activities
Supporting Building Knowledge Society in the Danube Region – Serbia (KSocSr)**

Period: 1/09/2015 – 29/02/2016

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11th PA7 Steering Group Meeting
Bratislava, May 25th, 2015.

Short summary of the project

- ✓ The project **aims to** support technical management of all activities and processes (organization and active participation at meetings, workshops, conferences, and developing relevant materials) that are part of PA7 main objectives and milestones resulting from EUSDR Action Plan and PA7 Roadmap updated and agreed by PA7 SG.
- ✓ It is mainly **focused on**:
 - Coordination and effective PA7 governance – strengthening policy-level representation in the SG and decision-making.
 - PA7 as EUSDR horizontal priority – highlighting research, education and ICT in other PAs.
 - Scaling up funding mechanisms and opening new funding possibilities for R&I.
 - Support relevant R&I projects and large-scale collaborations, linking research infrastructure and centres of excellence in the Danube Region.

Project activities

- ✓ **Activity 1: Technical management of PAC activities and SG coordination** - support to the PAC to set up implementation and coordination of PA7 activities between all participating countries and regions.

- ✓ **Outputs:**
 - Co-organisation and facilitation of 10th PA7 SG meeting in Budapest, December 2015.
 - Minutes from 10th SG meeting (prepared and delivered to all meeting participants by Serbian PA7 team; also available on PA7 web page).
 - Update of PA7 targets, their presentation to SG members, adopting their comments; delivering new PA7 targets to DSP and EC.
 - Inputs for interim progress report.

✓ **Outputs:**

- appointed a new leader of WG on Higher education and mobility; several meetings at University of Belgrade have been organized, exchange of views with previous WG leader regarding the future activities; the potential members of this WG have been identified.
- WGs motivated to apply for DTP.
- DRRIF Working Group has been involved (in cooperation with Danube-INCO.Net project) in the preparation of the COST workshop aimed to develop the Targeted Network Proposal.
- expert support to the S3 Workshop “S3 DESIGN LEARNING WORKSHOP” organized by JRC and Danube-INCO.Net project in Chisinau, Moldova in February 2016.
- initiated official joining of Serbia to the EU S3 Platform (hosted by JRC).

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

- ✓ Promotion and support for new project ideas and proposals highly relevant for the Danube Region. It is also focused on scaling up funding mechanisms and providing policy level support to strategic projects applying for research and mobility funds under EU and regional grant schemes, 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.
- ✓ **Outputs:**
 - Identification of one project proposal relevant for the Danube region in the field of risk management; communication with project coordinators and preparation of documentation for “PA7 flagship label” application.
 - Initiation of COST targeted network for the Danube Region in coordination with Danube-inco.net project.

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

✓ **Outputs:**

- Joint meeting with PA 8 in Budapest in December 2015. The meeting resulted in better understanding current and future activities of both PAs and conclusion that there is a lot of space for joint projects.
- Participation at PACs meeting in Brussels, on January 14-15 2016.
- Participation at the following events:
 - 1) DTP kick-off event, Budapest, September 23-24 2015.
 - 2) International scientific conference “EUSDR in 21st century”, Belgrade, September 27-28 2015.
 - 3) National hearing of the Danube strategy, Novi Sad, October 20 2015.
 - 4) JRC Annual Event on the Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy, October 27-28 2015.
 - 5) 4th Annual Forum of the EUSDR, October 29-30 2015.
 - 6) S3 DESIGN LEARNING WORKSHOP, Chisinau, Moldova, 18-19 February, 2016.

Weaknesses & Foreseeable risks

- ✓ Countries were not equally committed to the EUSDR PA7. Representation of partner countries in the PA7 SG and active participation of national representatives in the work of SG and its WGs has not been improved. Not all EUSDR member countries participate actively in the Steering Group, attend meetings, or take active part in the e-mail correspondence.
- ✓ Not equally policy-level representation among members of the SG prevents some major and for the partner states obligatory decisions to be taken.
- ✓ 2nd labelling exercise planned in relation to the Danube-INCO.NET framework developed was put on hold, due to the announcement of the common and coordinated labelling approach (EUSDR Strategic Projects).

Thank you for your attention!