

# XIV PA7 Steering Group Meeting

November 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 | University of Belgrade, Rectorate building  
Studentski trg 1, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

## MINUTES

### Agenda

#### REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

- 09:00-09:30** Registration  
**09:30-09:45** Opening address (Stefan Chudoba, Viktor Nedovic)

#### PA7 UPDATE ON PAST ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

- 09:45-09:55** Information on DTP-PAC1-PA7 project activities (Jaroslava Szudi)  
**09:55-10:05** Information from the Annual Forum (Dijana Strbac)  
**10:05-10:15** Information about the future of DSP (Jaroslava Szudi)  
**10:15-10:25** SMF Call – information on received proposals (Dijana Strbac)

#### CAPITALISATION STRATEGY (PART I)

- 10:25-10:40** Introduction of the DTP Capitalisation Strategy (Jaroslava Szudi)  
**10:40-11:10** Thematic Pole I: Innovative Ecosystems (Daniela Chiran)  
Synergies with PA8 WG in Innovation and Technology Transfer (Daniela Chiran)

#### COFFEE BREAK

#### CAPITALISATION STRATEGY (PART II)

- 11:30-12:15** Thematic Pole II: RDI Infrastructures (Ines Marinkovic)  
Thematic Pole III: Entrepreneurial Learning Systems (Maria Baracsi, Peter Kiss)  
Thematic Pole IX: Educational Governance (Alina Felder)

#### REPORTS ON WORKING GROUPS (WG) & FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

- 12:15-13:15** WG DFCN (Jaroslava Szudi) + Information on Comming Calls and Possible Joint Actions (within H2020, COST, EUREKA, SFIC) (Martina Hartl) + Handover of DFCN Presidency;  
WG Higher Education (Ivanka Popovic) + Erasmus Programme Synergies (Marija Ozegovic) + CEEPUS Programme (Jaroslava Szudi);  
WG on RIS3 (Viktor Nedovic);

**WG on ICT (Mladen Krajic);**

**Report on DRC Activities and on Flagship Project Danube: Future (Sebastian Shaffer)**

## LUNCH BREAK AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON CAPITALISATION

- 14:00–14:15**    **New working groups composition – WG on Capitalisation**
- 14:15-14:30**    **Closing and follow-up** (Stefan Chudoba, Lubica Pitlova, Viktor Nedovic)
- 14:30-15:00**    **AoB**
- after 15:00**    **Bilateral meetings and Farewell of participants**

### Welcome notes

**Mr Viktor Nedovic** (co-PAC, Serbia) opened the meeting, thanked to all SG members and stakeholders for attending the meeting and gave word to prof. dr Ivanka Popovic as a meeting host.

**Ms Ivanka Popović** (Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade, leader of WG on HEM) welcomed all participants and expressed her hope to have a fruitful meeting.

**Mr Viktor Nedovic** thanked to the University of Belgrade for hosting the meeting. He also read the message from Mr Marco Onida from DG REGIO who unfortunately was not able to take part in the meeting. His message addressed to the SG members was the following: *“DG REGIO apologies for not being able to attend, but the current staff resources do not allow to take part in SG meetings. PA7 as a cross-cutting priority plays a key role for the implementation of the EUSDR. We encourage you to keep up with the excellent work done up to now. We work on a daily basis in contact with the JRC, which is the DG in charge of knowledge society within the Commission, and we take that you liaise also directly with them. The last two Annual Fora were organised jointly with the JRC. We are aware that 2017 has been a challenging year, with the switch from Commission based support (either direct or via DSP) to Programme-based support. We are keen to hear about your experience on this. A meeting with all PAC will be organised on 1<sup>st</sup> February in Sofia, where we expect a fruitful exchange. We look forwards to the new DSP which should be decided upon in 2018, so to offer to PACs and SG a platform for support and horizontal coordination. We also praise your efforts made at ensuring a wide participation of EUSDR countries to PA 7 meetings and activities in the future. In 2018 the Commission will publish its 2<sup>nd</sup> report on the implementation of MRS and in this context any experience/information which you deem it important in that context will be very welcome to hear. We praise your initiative to have a joint meeting at PAC level with PA 10. Maybe you can explore the possibility for a similar meeting with PA 3, which will be in charge of the topic to be the main focus of the next Annual Forum.”*

**Mr Stefan Chudoba** (co-PAC, Slovakia) welcomed all representatives of DTP thematic poles and SG members. He highlighted the role of overall cooperation among PAC teams and SG members in the past and expressed hope in the successful continuation in the future. Mr Chudoba stated that the role of education, research and innovation play a crucial role in building knowledge society in our region and beyond, and must be supported by all possible means. He also thanked to both PA7 support teams, to all SG members and WG members for their overall work and support in achieving the common targets announced that since January 2018 he is taking over his position to Ms Lubica Pitlova. He wished to all colleagues successful continuation in all ongoing and new activities and stated that although he is leaving,

he remains available as an advisor for consultations, recommendation or potential new project preparations.

### **PA7 update on past activities and future plans**

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** presented PA7 DTP project activities, i.e. its main work packages and financial overview – the main project outputs achieved within the first project period, as well as the new tasks awaiting for PACs, SG and WG members in the coming years (ppt available on PA7 official website).

**Ms Martina Hartl** said that we should focus on the content of the studies that should be developed within PA7 project. **Ms Daniela Chiran** informed that there are similar studies to be developed within PA8 so maybe we should get in touch before finalising topics for PA7 studies in order to avoid possible duplications.

**Ms Martina Hartl** argued that there is a clear link between PA7 and Thematic Pole 11 (TP11) of DTP Capitalisation strategy (Participatory and Local Governance) in the area of citizen science / participatory approaches in science and research. PA7 could contribute to TP11 by providing a short State-of the art report related to citizen science activities in the Danube Region countries, including initiatives, methodologies and best practise examples. This report could then be discussed with experts from the region in a round-table/ world-café format to address the weaknesses/challenges as well as opportunities/needs identified in the workshop and to see how participatory elements could be integrated in a better way in future calls, projects etc. on regional, national and trans-national level.

**Mr Sebastian Schäffer** (Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe, Danube Rectors' Conference Secretariat) informed that there is an open call of Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) in the area of compiling EUSDR activities of DRC member universities. The call is available on DRC web site. In relation to this call, PA7 could cooperate with DRC.

**Ms Dijana Štrbac** presented the most important activities of PA7 team during the EUSDR Annual Forum in Budapest: moderation of the workshop “Funding opportunities for Pillar III of the EUSDR”, participation at the workshops of thematic poles and networking activities (ppt available).

**Ms Martina Hartl** asked if it is already possible to talk with Bulgarian presidency about the topics for the next Annual Forum. She thinks that PA7 could give contribution in the area of cultural heritage as well.

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** gave presentation on the future of Danube Strategy Point (DSP) and its main future tasks (ppt available). Establishing new DSP is expected after May 2018.

**Ms Dijana Štrbac** presented 6 received SMF project proposals (ppt available). Since all project proposals are in line with PA7 restricted topics from the SMF programme manual, PA7 team has decided to issue Declaration of alignment to all of them.

### **Capitalisation Strategy**

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** explained the purpose of DTP capitalisation strategy, its main goals, target groups, activities and existing thematic poles (ppt available). DTP capitalisation strategy is an excellent instrument

for strengthening links between projects working on similar topics as well as between projects and EUSDR PAs. Since PA7 is a horizontal PA it has the possibility to cooperate with different TPs, so the following presentations introduced options for future cooperation and mutual benefits.

**Ms Daniela Chiran** (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum) introduced TP1 (Innovative ecosystems for SMEs), its main objectives, projects, thematic fields, joint events, thematic studies, etc. (ppt available). She also explained activities of PA8 WG on Innovation and Technology Transfer (coordinated by Steinbeis Europa Zentrum) and the possibilities for joint actions (ppt available). During the TP1 capitalisation workshop, a survey was launched – participants were asked to evaluate the contribution of their projects in achieving targets of PA7, 8 and 9. Ms Chiran presented the results of this survey.

**Ms Ines Marinkovic** (Centre for Social Innovation) introduced TP2 (RDI Framework support): participating projects, main aim(s), target groups, possible linkages with PA7, 8, 9, future activities (ppt available). She highlighted the challenge of motivating project partners to actively participate in capitalisation activities, especially if no dedicated budget is foreseen.

**Ms Maria Baracsi** (IFKA) presented TP3 Entrepreneurial Learning Systems: objective, participating projects, thematic synergies with EUSDR PAs, possible linkages with PA7, future events (ppt available). She also distributed brochures of TP3 which disseminate the information on TP3 activities and participating projects with relevant contact details. Ms Baracsi considers TP3 capitalisation workshop during the EUSDR Annual forum in Budapest as a very important step forward because TP leaders and project coordinators met and had the opportunity to discuss in person relevant issues. In her opinion, it is of utmost important to make cooperation between TPs and PACs more effective and practical. She informed participants about organising Summer School on Social innovation (Budapest, September 2018). Ms Baracsi suggested a possibility to engage IVY (Interreg Volunteer Youth) volunteer in project activities in order to provide support for the capitalisation activities.

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** said that there is an idea to create a separate section on PA7 web site dedicated to DTP thematic pole of the Capitalisation Strategy.

**Ms Ines Marinkovic** thinks that pre-financing of DTP projects is a problem for the capitalisation activities since it limits organisation of events and travels for certain project partners.

**Ms Alina Felder** (EFE) presented TP9 Educational Governance: aims, projects within the pole, possible linkages with PA7, next steps and future events (ppt available). She also said that TP9 has a rotating leadership on a 6 months basis. As the most important activities for raising impact of capitalisation strategy, she considers the following: clearer role of TP leaders, more face-to-face meetings between TPs, DTP projects and PACs, defining concrete outputs, better dissemination of results, and closer cooperation with other programmes. Ms Felder explained that she started to work on EDU-LAB project as IVY Volunteer.

**Ms Martina Hartl** said that PA7 is related to 5 different thematic poles and it will be difficult to organise cooperation with all of them especially if there are no funds available for capitalisation. **Mr Viktor Nedovic** and **Ms Jaroslava Szudi** agreed on that, but stressed that this meeting is dedicated to exploring possibilities for cooperation with different TPs.

## **Reports on working groups and flagship projects**

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** presented activities and main achievements of WG DFCN (ppt available). She also highlighted the most important obstacles and recommendation for the next period. Since DFCN Presidency of Slovakia is ending, Ms Szudi informed the participants that in the next 1 year period Austria and Serbia will co-chair the DFCN presidency.

**Ms Martina Hartl** informed on coming calls and possible joint actions within H2020, EUREKA, SFIC (ppt available). She also provided an update of DFCN activities related to COST. After a lengthy process and exchange with COST on the implementation of a Targeted Network for the Danube Region (DANUBELINK) the proposal has been rejected due to the fact that no new Targeted Networks will be supported by COST for the time being (also for budgetary reasons). COST has however signalled the willingness to organise a COST CONNECT event in the Danube region (in one of the Inclusiveness Targeted Countries) in order to bring together researchers from running COST actions with researchers from the Region. As discussed in the meeting there are three topics suggested by COST where they think there is enough critical mass for making connections: Energy / Robotics / Earth Sciences. Steps that should be taken are:

- Decision on a topic for COST CONNECT workshop (Energy, Robotics or Earth Sciences)
- Establishment of a small preparatory board that combines scientific and management expertise
- Decision on a location for the Workshop and a related contact person for the dialogue with COST
- Planning for the timing taking into account the suggestions of COST – May 2018, End of June 2018, or September 2018.

**Ms Ivanka Popovic** (leader of WG on Higher education and mobility) highlighted 2 points: 1) there are differences in the needs of universities in upper and southern parts of the Danube Region. For example, in terms of mobility – there is more movement to the west than to the east. There is always a question how to improve it; 2) it is important to have close connection with TP9 - on one side dual education means more access to internships but there is always a threat of vocationalisation of academic studies. It is important to provide interaction between HE and industry but it should the difference between vocational education and higher education should be always taken into account. Nonetheless, it is important to work not only on mobility but also to work on regional internships. In terms of preparation for the Annual forum next year, there is a strong connection with PA3 and cultural heritage issues. University heritage includes not only museums but also university collections (anatomical, zoological, archives). University collections are important for teaching and as a source of information for students, teachers and researchers. Therefore, the potential topic for the Annual forum in 2018 could be related to improving teaching and research sources.

**Ms Marija Filipovic Ozegovic** (National Erasmus+ Office) presented priorities and possibilities for cooperation within the 2018 Erasmus+ call for proposals in HE area (ppt available).

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** provided an update of cooperation with CEEPUS programme. She explained the main outputs of the meeting between PA7 SK team and CEEPUS programme on November 9, 2017 (minutes available).

**Mr Viktor Nedovic** presented main results of the WG on RIS3. He explained the progress in drafting RIS3 strategy in Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine and strong support of JRC in this process. He also announced organisation of Innovation camp in Belgrade on December 14-15<sup>th</sup> 2017. It is a regional event dedicated to

exploring software industry and it is part of EDP process. Mr Nedovic read a message from Mr Moritz Haller (JRC) who unfortunately was not able to join the meeting: „*Collaboration at the Annual Forum in Budapest - I participated and spoke at the workshop organised by PA7, 8, 9. JRC is focusing on support to Smart Specialisation in non-Member States in the Danube region. JRC had an info stand at the forum, both Commissioner Navracsics and DG Vladimir Sucha gave talks and several colleagues presented JRC activities in the Danube region. JRC was present with DDG Maive Rute and Prof. Miroslav Veskovic at the DRC event in Zagreb. In this frame the Danubius Award Ceremony took place. JRC will invite the winners of the young scientist award to visit JRC Ispra. The visit will take place next year in spring. On 24 November JRC signs a collaboration agreement with Moldova which aims to strengthen the collaboration. JRC is also bringing an Innovation Camp to Belgrade in December. This is a participatory workshop focusing on Smart Specialisation in the ICT area. Participants from neighbouring countries are invited. JRC is rolling out a new initiative called "Science meets Parliament". In this frame JRC coorganises dialogue events in national/regional parliaments with JRC and local scientists and policy makers. The initiative aims at increasing the dialogue between science and policy and underlining the importance of scientific evidence for policy making.*”

**Mr Mladen Kraljic** introduced the activities undertaken within WG on ICT interlinked mainly with the activities within currently running DTP-Interreg projects. He is also actively contributing to the PA8 related activities, therefore the question of stronger connections and information exchange between the two PAs should be discussed on the PAC level in the near future.

**Mr Sebastian Schaffer** at first briefly introduced activities and importance of the Danube Rectors' Conference (ppt available). After that, as a DRC representative of PA7 flagship project Danube:Future, he presented updates of the project (ppt available). He was also interested in the status of Danube:Future project – if it is still a flagship project or it became strategic project. **Ms Lubica Pitlova** explained that Danube:Future is still a flagship project, as there are still no clear information at disposal what will be the future of strategic project labelling and what will be the main benefits the labelled project after all.

Since Mr Stefan Chudoba announced that he will no more continue as a PAC7 SK coordinator starting from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Mr Viktor Nedovic thanked him for excellent cooperation in PA7 activities and his support and contributions in many different initiatives. He also expressed a hope to continue with cooperation in the future. Ms Ivanka Popovic and Mr Viktor Nedovic provided small gifts from the University of Belgrade and Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. Mr Stefan Chudoba said that he had a great pleasure to cooperate with Serbian team and that he leaves PA7 coordination in good hands. He has proposed Ms Lubica Pitlova to overtake the position of PA7 SK coordinator.

**Mr Viktor Nedovic** said that the meeting opened various possibilities for cooperation and that there is a need for further coordination of different initiatives. He thanked to all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.