



**EUSDR Priority area 7:
To develop the Knowledge Society through research, education and information
technologies**

**7st STEERING GROUP meeting
20th May 2014
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs**

MINUTES

Attendees:

Members of SG PA7:

1. Miroslav Vesković, University of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia-PAC
2. Sandra Salamanová, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Slovak Republic
3. Eva Nussmueller, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
4. Elke Dall ZSI- Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
5. Julius Oszlanyi, Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Republic
6. Béla Kardon, Ministry of Human Resources, Department for Science Policy, Hungary
7. Bence Tamássy, Ministry of National Economy, Hungary

Other participants – representatives of relevant stakeholders:

8. Zsuzsanna Angyal, The Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development, Hungary
9. Peter Bednar, Technical University of Kosice
10. Beatrix Borza, Ministry of Human Resources, Department for Science Policy, Hungary
11. Stefano Brumat, University of Trieste, Italy
12. Radoslav Delina, Technical University of Kosice, Slovakia
13. Marián Cápaj, Ernst&Young, Slovakia
14. Renato Gennaro, University of Trieste, Italy
15. Moritz Haller, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
16. Martina Hartl, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
17. Frigyes Hausz, Ministry of Human Resources, Department for Science Policy, Hungary
18. Béla Hegyesi, Office for National Economic Planning, Hungary
19. Helena Hirszenberger, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
20. Simona Katonova, Ernst&Young, Slovakia
21. Vladimír Kastier, Ernst&Young, Slovakia



22. Mladen Kraljic, University of Maribor, Slovenia
23. Anna Lechner, Bavarian State Ministry for Education, Science and the Arts
24. Pitlova L'ubica, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Slovak Republic
25. Balázs Medgyesy, Government Commissioner for EUSDR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary
26. Kerstin Nagels, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
27. Vilmos Németh, National Innovation Office, Hungary
28. Daniel Srch, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic
29. Antal Ferenc Kovács, Office of the Government Commissioner for EUSDR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary
30. Péter Módos, Európai Utas, Hungary
31. Máté Szalay, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary
32. András Király, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary
33. Tamás Schanda, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary
34. Ágota Dávid, The Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development, Hungary

Agenda

Monday 19 May 2014

19.00 – 21.00 **Dinner at Búsuló Juhász Restaurant**
Meeting Point: At 18:45 in the restaurant

Tuesday 20 May 2014

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration**

09.00 – 09.20 **Welcome speech**

- András Király, Director of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
- Balázs Medgyesy, Government Commissioner and National Contact Point of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Hungary
- Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković, PAC

09.20-10.10 **Working Groups updates**, introduction by Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković, PAC

- Higher Education and Mobility - Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković

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- ICT – Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković
 - DRRIF and coordination of national funds – Ms. Martina Hartl
 - Collaboration with JRC with special emphasize on RIS3 – Moritz Haller, JRC
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- 10.10-11.00 **PA7 proposed flagship projects**, introduction, Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković
- Cloud Enabled Business Information Service for Danube Region, introduction by Radoslav Delina, Technical University of Kosice
 - Macro-Regional Project “Regional Network for Innovation and Development”, introduction by Peter Poláček
 - H.I.N.O. project, introduction by Prof. Renato Gennaro, Univeristy of Trieste
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11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

- 11.30-12.30 **PA7 proposed flagship projects (cont.)**
- Danube Academy of Dual Education, Dr. Kerstin Nagels, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Relevant news and updates**, moderated by Dr. Bela Kardon
- **WBC-INCO.NET project final report**, introduction by Ms. Elke Dall, ZSI
 - **DANUBE-INCO.NET project progress report**, introduction by Ms. Elke Dall, ZSI
 - **Danube Programme 2014-2020 – state of the art**, introduction by Mr. Béla Hegyesi, Office for National Economic Planning
 - **JRC event in Brussels: Developing Danube R&I projects across borders – How to make the joint use of EU-funds a reality**, report by Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković, PAC
 - **RIS 3 activities in the region**, report by Prof. Dr. Miroslav



Vesković, PAC

12.30-13.30

- **Roadmap for Action**, introduction by Lubica Pitlova
- Update on the state of art and discussion

13.30-14.30

Lunch Break

14.30-14.45

- **Preparation for the EUSDR Annual Forum 2014, Vienna June 2014**, introduction by Ms. Martina Hartl, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Deputy Head of Department International Research Cooperation
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14.45-15.45

PA7 Flagship projects updates:

- **DRRIF**, Ernst & Young
 - **DREAM**, Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković
 - **DANUBIUS**, Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković
 - **DANUBE:FUTURE**, University of Trieste– Mr. Stefano Brumat,
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15.45-16.15

Final Conclusions

- Head of the Department for Science Policy, Ministry of Human Resources, Dr. Bela Kardon
- PACs: Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesković

Opening session

The seventh meeting of the Steering Group for Danube strategy Priority Area 7 was opened by **Dr. Béla Kardon**, Hungarian member of the SG PA7, who welcomed the colleagues from all the countries participating in the Strategy, as well as all participants at the meeting, and invited **András Király**, Director of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) to give a welcome speech. Mr. Király presented the Institute and the historical past of the building, and that the Institute has recently expanded its activities towards research projects, and that the



EUSDR is important for the Hungarian foreign affairs policy and they seek closer relations. Mr. **Balázs Medgyesy**, Government Commissioner for EUDRS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary, talked about the importance of the EUDRS, and the huge potential to contribute to the stability and welfare of the region, and how R&D and higher education, through the triple and quadruple helix can utilize this potential.

Ms. Salamanova has acknowledged the hospitality of the HIIA and apologized on behalf of Mr. Chudoba for not being present at the event. Mr. Chudoba's message was to discuss the state of play and progress since 2013. The public procurement process for the feasibility study of DRIF has come to an end. Prof. Veskovic and Mr. Buchbauer have also taken part in the evaluation process. The discussion of proposed flagship projects is also part of the meeting's agenda, alongside the Roadmap actualized with the contribution of the working groups.

Prof. Veskovic has greeted the hosts and expressed its gratefulness for the helping hand that Hungary has given to Serbia in the flood situation. He underlined that this gesture also shows the good coordination within the Danube region. He enumerated the recent events, including the last meeting of SG PA7 in Ulm, the Bonn meeting of the follow-up group, the meeting in the Center for Advanced Studies in Rijeka.

Prof. Veskovic talked about the Danube Rectors' Conference as the most important institution in the field of higher education mobility within the Danube region, that was also the initiator of cooperation in 2010 in Novi Sad. Its activities include summer schools; in 2014 three summer schools will be organized.

- neighbouring policies on different topics
- JRC's help, activities – Cluj, November 2013
- New universities joined : 75 members
- Network of Life Science students – Sout-East and Danube – May 2014 Novi Sad – economic universities – joint MA – 8 univ.s
- DRC annual meeting and DRC 2014 General Assembly will be held at the University of Belgrade on November 6-7. The preliminary topic if the conference is Digital culture – the synergy between higher education and ICT.
- the PA should concentrate more on Erasmus+ and Jean Monnet activities.

Mr. Moritz Heller from JRC has presented the **S3 Platform: Achievements and outlook on activities for 2014.**

- Update on S3 Platform Members
- Main activities of S3 Platform in support of the countries/regions preparing RIS3
- Eye@RIS3 – an online database of RIS3 priorities - Data from peer reviews, expert assessment reports, and national reports



- EP Pilot Project Stairway to excellence in New MS (S2E) – Start May 2014
- Upcoming events
 - - Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy, 24-25 June, Vienna
<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/danube-innovation-partnership-workshop-1>
 - S3 Peer review workshop, 3-4 July, Dublin
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dublin-july-2014>

Following Mr. Moritz's presentation **Ms. Martina Hartl** has informed the participants about the work done by the **DRIFF Working Group**.

- financing issues
 - o Vienna meeting
 - determination of the focus of the WG
 - strategy of financing of projects
 - there are many tools – all of them has to be considered; coordination on bilateral, then on multilateral basis
- identification of main barriers of cross-country cooperation
 - o differences in contracts, views, etc.
 - o great potential benefits of working together
 - o 2nd meeting: early September – with E&Y
 - o colleague from Eureka (part of Austrian Ministry)

Prof. Veskovic has commented Ms. Hartl's report:

- S3: Serbia is one of the countries that has prepared it as a non-EU country (as did Romania and Bulgaria); it would be great if Bosnia-Herzegovina was involved too.
- Event in Brussels on the 3rd of April 2014: synergies between EU-funds, for details see the website of PA7
- ICT WG – Slovenia; **Mladen Kraljić** (University of Maribor)
 - o ALADIN (Alpe Adria Danube universities INitiative - ALADIN) project
 - o DRC – with the transformation it has become possible to continue the active work

Ms. Nussmüller

- ICT WG – please present a report on content, priorities
- JRC – WS in June in Vienna:



- financial design of S3
- state of play

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS SEEKING PA7 FLAGSHIP STATUS

CEBIS – Cloud Enabled Business Information Service for Danube Region

Radoslav Delina, Peter Bednár –Technical University of Kosice

- Rationale and motivation:
 - Weak participation of SMEs in electronic market
 - Existing e-Business standards
 - Not adopted by SMEs !!!
 - Lack of standardization = inefficient collaboration processes, no transparency, no in-dept analytics, no market intelligence
- Approach:
 - Bottom-up standardization
 - New services for SMEs and other stakeholders

European network for innovation and development

DANUBE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER – Peter Poláček

- **Principal mission:** ...to create for the Danube Region inhabitants the conditions for growth, prosperity and solidarity in line with the prepared EU Strategy for the Danube Region and through the creation of a knowledge economy...
- **Main purpose:** To identify and draft concrete and real solutions (of big supranational projects) to facilitate the achievement of competitiveness of the European macro-regions in the multipolar world by interconnecting the technological and social research within the European Network for Innovation and Development.

Ms. Hartl has commented on the presentation that the project's scope is very wide. Ms. Pitlova suggested the project to be divided into several sub-projects. Prof. Veskovic noted that the official voting of the SG is needed for the project to be accepted.

H.I.NO. - Health Impact of Nanotechnology

Prof Renato Gennaro, University of Trieste

- **Aim:** The project aims to fill up the gap in understanding the **health impact of nanotechnology** putting together scientists working on **NP health effects** in countries along THE Danube river



Ms. Hartl has expressed her concern that the subject of the project is sensible issue and might need the approval of the national bioethical committees.

Mr. Gennaro has answered the question, by declaring that they are aware of the sensibility of the issue.

Prof. Veskovíc described the flagship procedure of the PA7: 9 official representatives are needed to be present to vote on the spot, otherwise the voting will take place on writing

Ms. Hartl asked about the strategy of the PA7 concerning flagship projects; what is the concept: few or many FSPs? It should be discussed within the SG.

Prof. Veskovíc reacted that the electronic voting assures more possibility to discuss the subject in detail, and as there are not enough SG members are present, the voting will take place electronically.

Ms. Nussmüller noted that the main point should be whether the proposed project contributes to the implementation of the Action Plan.

Prof. Veskovíc remarked that there are two possibilities: the projects can be awarded of FSP status or a Letter of Recommendation.

<Coffee break>

Danube Academy of Dual Education

After the coffee break, **Dr. Kerstin Nagels** (GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) has presented the project “**Danube Academy of Dual Education**”(DADE)

- relatively high youth unemployment
- SMEs’ productivity, technological absorption is weak
- pilot approaches of AT&D supply

Objectives:

- Creation of DADE as THE Excellence Centre for training and motivation
- starting point: autototive sector
- state of the art training and testing facilities
- creation of training cooperation networks between schools and companies
- proposed partners: in Slovakia, Germany and Austria
- next: submission of project for the call within K3 (Support for Policy Reform/National Authorities for Apprenticeships) of EACEA 13/14 (Erasmus+)



Prof. Veskovic:

- PA9 was also contacted for SMEs
- the German government is keen to help WBC to develop VET
- Suggestion: next step should be to think about cooperate Western-Balkan Countries (maybe not in the area of automotive industry), as the dual system of education is lacking in the WB, thus could be copied.

Ms. Hartl:

- It would be advisable to make a „Danube-effort”, to expand the project to the Danube region.

RELEVANT NEWS AND UPDATES:

Ms. **Elke Dall** has presented the final project report of **WBC-INCO.NET**

- she emphasized that it has served as a policy platform for information exchange between Western Europe and the Western Balkan Countries;
- the activities and reports, as well as the Final Publication - "R&D and Innovation in Western Balkans. Moving towards 2020" can be found at the website of the project <http://wbc-inco.net/>;
- the experiences from the project are handed-over to the Danube INCO.NET project

DANUBE INCO.NET

- working on policy dialogue and creating analytical evidence;
- the website and the newsletter contain all relevant information; and signing to the latter is possible through office@danube.inco.net
- one of the main goals is the cross-fertilization between PA7 and PA8;
- the project has budget available for policy coordination – e.g. for the organization of joint events.

Danube Programme 2014-2020 – state of the art

Presentation by Mr. Béla Hegyesi, Office for National Economic Planning of Hungary

- preparation of a transnational cooperation programme
- DANUBE – EUSDR cooperation
- has presented the basic characteristics of transnational programmes as well as the former transnational programmes in Europe, as well as in the Danube area (ETC I), and also the transnational programmes of the Danube area in the period of 2014-20 (ETC II)



- introduction of the proposed thematic objectives set by the EC
- relation to EUSDR in Danube programming
- Potential instruments proposed by the EC to the DPC for consideration (December 2013)
 - o 1. Facility for direct support to EUSDR governance
 - o 2. Seed money/project development fund facility
 - o 3. The EUSDR Focal Point

Prof. Veskovíc informed the participants about the JRC event in Brussels: Developing Danube R&I projects across borders – How to make the joint use of EU-funds a reality, as well as on the RIS 3 activities in the region

- S3 WG responsible: Mr. Chudoba
- Message to countries and universities:
 - o 20 June, Brussels: Universities' role in the S3
- How to bring to life – funding
 - o Dream Project: good example for project structuring

Ms. Hartl: DRC can be an mediator to disseminate the information about the role of universities in S3 to universities. (May 2014, Novi Sad: DRC presidency meeting.)

Mr. Haller (JRC) has emphasized that there will be a policy brief about recommendations (after the wrokshop)

Ms. Salamanová has reported about the **Roadmap:**

- in March: all the working groups received the updated Roadmap
- only the milestones 2 to 9 were modified
- comments are awaited to prepare the progress report of June

Ms. Nussmüller has commented that the objectives shold/could be adjusted to the changing activities.

Prof. Veskovíc responded, that the whole Action Plan should be adjusted as now we have input from national authorities and infrastructures, Danube INCO.NET, DRIF, etc.

Roadmap Update

Ms. Pitlová has presented the **Roadmap Update**

- milestone no.6: deadline modified to 28.02.2015
- milestone no.7: deadline modified to fall 2016



- milestone no.8: deadline modified to 2016/beginning of 2017
- milestone no.9: deadline modified: 2017 or 2018 the earliest

There have been several comments about the methodology of modification of the Roadmap; it should be considered whether there is a great progress or no progress achieved within the given fields.

According to **Prof. Veskovic's** remarks,

- those field are proven to be successful, where we have infrastructure
- e.g. milestone 11: its scope is too wide, too general; these milestone, have to be rewritten, to make them more concrete

Ms. Salamanová asked that it shall be defined, who should actually do it.

Ms. Hartl's opinion is that we should use some of the existing inputs; in case of milestone 11 we might never fulfil, as we have no means for it.

Ms. Nussmüller has noted that it's up to the SG to change points that are not feasible or not needed.

Preparation for the EUSDR Annual Forum 2014, Vienna, June 2014

After the lunch break, **Ms. Martina Hartl** has presented the **Preparation for the EUSDR Annual Forum 2014, Vienna, June 2014**

- the agenda of the 3rd Annual Forum of EUDRS on 26 to 27 June, organised by the JRC (EC) together with the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna.
- PA7 Involvement in the Danube Cosmos.
 - o Workshop 1: Sustainability of the Danube Region as a Multidisciplinary Issue in Research and Education,
 - o Workshop 2: Challenges and Approaches in Multi-source Funding of Cross-border R&I Projects with a Specific Focus on the Danube Region,
 - o PA7 related events in the Danube Cosmos.
- further events of interest:
 - o high-level event on the scientific support to the Danube Strategy (24-26 June 2014, Vienna),
 - o public event of the "Participation day: local actors and participation" conference (25 June, 2014, Eisenstadt),
 - o public event of meeting of the Extended Executive Committee and Office of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR) (www.danubecities.eu),



- excursion to the research channel site, organized by the DREAM project in Vienna (26 June)

Prof. Veskovíc added as to the high level meeting by JRC in June, that the meeting will be joined by science Ministers, academics and ambassadors.

- roundtable on scientific support for Danube region; main subjects: water (NEXUS), bioenergetics, Danube Innovation Partnership
- how to further finetune with ministry support; opportunities, challenges

PA7 FLAGSHIP PROJECTS UPDATES

DRIFF – Ernst and Young

The representatives of **Ernst and Young**, Mr. Marián Cápáy, and Mr. Vladimír Kaštíer gave their presentation as to the **feasibility study of DRIFF**.

- **The DRIFF's primary objective** is mobilizing and distributing funding to support the development of research and innovation activities in the countries of the Danube Region.
- **Role of EY:** Complete a feasibility study for the DRRIF project and complete documentation (manuals and directives). The goal is not the actual implementation of the proposed solution
- **Timeline**
- Current focus of feasibility study
- Analysis of
 - absorption capacity
 - potential cooperation with relevant existing grant schemes
 - potential DRRIF thematic areas (12 Priority areas in EUSDR)

All of the countries will be contacted for inputs.

- Proposal of a system to raise funds

Prof. Veskovíc noted, that the data provided to and used by the EY should be basically official data, completed by data collected by the contacted organizations, if needed.

Ms. Pitlová has raised the question if the ministries or the SG shall approve the study.

According to **Ms. Hartl's** response, the DRIFF WG monitors the documents and the presentations, and forwards its opinion to the SG.

Mr. Haller has noted that the JRC has clusters but can not cover all topics.



Ms. Hartl commented that topics are part of the portfolio analysis.

DREAM project

As the next step, Ms. Hartl has presented the **DREAM project**

- Description of Activities
- Implementation ideas for Research Infrastructure
- State of play
- Project SEDDON
- Outlook

Danube: Future project

Mr. Stefano Brumat, Project Administrator, University of Trieste gave a colourful presentation about the **Danube: Future** project.

- a joint contribution of the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) and the Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference (AARC),
- Core module: Danube:Future is aimed at establishing an **open access knowledge base** to which capacity building and research projects can contribute, thus increasing their visibility and accessibility.
- Project organization; network area; project's structure
- Lates activities
- www.danubefuture.eu

Danubius Project

The **Danubius Project** (The Danube International Centre for Advanced Studies in the River – Delta – Sea systems) was shortly presented by **prof. Veskovic**.

- DANUBIUS The Danube International Centre for Advanced Studies in the River – Delta – Sea systems: a Pan-European Research Infrastructure
- 6 to 8 May: Venice meeting
- the Project want to become an ESFRI-facility later; this implies the inclusion to the next roadmap.

Further issues



Ms. Salamanova noted that Roma inclusion as a project has been approved with PA10 and will be completed by June.

Prof. Veskovic has noted about **labeling**, that PA7 has 4 flagship projects so far and that other, already approved projects didn't ask for any label – these projects should be labeled.

Ms. Hartl has noted that these projects can be used as promotional tools for the PA7.

Ms. Hirsberger informed the participants that the labeling is coordinated by the University of Novi Sad. The task is to develop a mechanism of DR-wide labeling; the idea – after development – will be presented to other priority areas as well.

Mr. Béla Kardon called the attention of the participants to the upcoming event about Societal Challenges within Horizon 2020 to be organized on the 12th of June at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs

Final conclusions

Ms. Pitlová has concluded that only 8 representatives with voting right are present, therefore the voting on flagship project status will be done electronically.

Prof. Veskovic suggested the next SG-meeting to be held in the beginning of November 2014, in Belgrade.

Conclusions about the Roadmap: After the introduction to the Roadmap actualized milestones 2 - 9 prepared jointly by Slovak and Austrian SG members and their teams, and the presentation of the other milestones that are required to be updated urgently, it was concluded that Slovak team will continue to coordinate the actualization process, and will address WG leaders to ask for their proposals for the actualization as soon as possible. It is planned to include the updated version of the Roadmap in the Priority Area 7 Annual Report that should be submitted to DG Regio until end of June, with prior approval of the PA7 SG via e-mail process of electronic voting.