

## EUSDR PA7 26<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting

November 27-28, 2023 | University of Maribor, Meranovo, Vrhov Dol, 14, 2341 Limbuš + ONLINE

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### Minutes

The 26th Steering Group (SG) Meeting of Priority Area 7 (PA7) was organized on November 27-28, 2023, as a hybrid event. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants of the PA7 SG meeting are presented in Annexes.

Presentations from the meeting can be found at the following link (in a .zip file):

<https://knowledgesociety.danube-region.eu/steering-group-meetings/>

#### Official welcome on behalf of the PACs, University of Maribor and DG REGIO

The meeting was opened and moderated by **Mr Viktor Nedovic** (Serbian PA7 co-coordinator), who welcomed on site and online participants at the hybrid form of the SG meeting organised in Maribor. He also thanked the colleagues from the University of Maribor who had kindly offered to host the meeting. Although the Slovenian EUSDR presidency has now officially ended, this meeting is planned as part of this presidency. After the last SG meeting, there was an EUSDR Annual Forum, which was successfully organised by Slovenia. Mr Nedovic expressed his hope to organise more face-to-face meetings in the future.

**Mr Mladen Kraljic** (University of Maribor) welcomed all participants on behalf of the University of Maribor and expressed his pleasure for hosting the SG meeting.

**Ms Elisa Cocco** (EC DG REGIO) was pleased to participate in the PA7 SG meeting and shared several updates on the activities of the European Commission. The EC is organising the EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2024, which will take place in Brussels from 12 to 14 June 2024. It will not include stakeholders sessions like last year but it would be good to have all stakeholders involved in MRSs on site. The programme is still in preparation and the aim is to have a dynamic and participatory agenda that goes a little beyond the usual agenda of the event. It is planned to organise 5 parallel workshops with colleagues from the Directorates General and colleagues from the MRSs. The workshops will focus on enlargement, clusters and the social economy, post-2027 consultations, sea basin strategies and citizen engagement. The idea is to give other DGs the opportunity to participate in the event and organise a “speed dating” with other participants. This could be the JRC, DG NEAR, DG MARE and DG MOVE and the participants will have the opportunity to talk and exchange views with representatives of the strategies in these DGs. The EC also plans to offer the members of the DYC to organise a youth plenary on European values and democracy. The idea is also to organise a project exhibition. Therefore, DG REGIO will get in touch with the strategic points of MRSs and ask them which projects they would like to present at the EU macro-regional week. Regarding the post 2027 consultations, Ms Cocco informed that the Commission and Interact have started

consultations on the future of cohesion policy. DG Regio itself launched the consultations in Santiago de Compostela at the annual Interreg event with the general idea of consulting citizens and young people about the Interreg programmes. However, the European Commission also wants the MRSs to be involved in these consultations. The results will be available by the end of 2024 and will be presented in 2025.

### Information on PA7 activities in the second half of 2023

**Ms Jaroslava Szudi** (Slovak PA7 coordination team) presented PA7 activities from the perspective of the new project for priority area coordinators supported by the Danube Region Programme. This project was approved for the period of 6 years (2023-2028) and the project partners remained the same as in the previous project, i.e., the Slovak Centre of the Scientific and Technical Information and the University of Belgrade. Ms Szudi briefly informed about the main specific objectives of the project and the changes in comparison with the previous project. Afterwards, the main activities related to the new specific objectives of the project carried out in the second half of 2023 were presented (ppt available).

**Ms Martina Hartl** (Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria) asked how exactly PA7 is involved in the DRP Seed Money Facility Call, whether it will participate in the Info Day (on 6 December) and how this call can best be used for PA7's needs. **Ms Szudi** said that PA7 will be present at the DRP Info Day and that PA7 is trying to co-organise several other info days. For example, one of them will be organised on 7 December, especially for Slovak citizens who would like to participate. **Ms Lubica Pitlova** said that Seed Money Facility could help to continue and support PA7 activities although the projects will be implemented in 2025. The final work programme of Horizon Europe will be up to date at that time, so we can advise participants to plan the preparation of larger projects for this programme or for the DRP. Currently PA7 is an associated partner for the HARMON MISSIONS project and the call for proposals under the Seed Money Facility could help with the continuation of this project.

### Information from the Annual Forum

**Ms Dijana Strbac** (Serbian PA7 coordination team) briefly presented the main activities and information from the EUSDR Annual forum, which took place on 24-25 October 2023 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. She presented the thematic focus, the agenda and the main points of the Joint Statement of the Ministers Responsible for the Implementation of the EUSDR. Ms Strbac emphasised the participation of the PA7 in the session "Knowledge-driven society: a regional search for the competences and skills of future professions". The session highlighted the crucial need for collaboration between businesses and educational institutions, focusing on addressing skill mismatches, anticipating job displacement resulting from technological advancements, and emphasizing the necessity for strategies promoting lifelong learning (ppt available).

**Ms Martina Hartl** said that the topic of skills will be in focus of Austrian Presidency as well. Moreover, it is important to see what is happening at EU level concerning this topic. There are packages on skills and research careers that are being implemented in the member states, but are also relevant for the Western Balkans and the Danube region.

## Reports of the PA7 working groups

### WG RIS3

**Mr Viktor Nedovic** reported that the working group continues to work on various activities related to the implementation of RIS3 in the region in order to create a smart region based on common S3 priorities. In this context, the JRC remained the main actor for cooperation. Together with the JRC, the PA7 participated in the European Week of Regions and cities (at the session dedicated to smart specialization strategy), organised in Brussels on October 11. The meeting was attended by over 100 people who discussed the ongoing processes and future activities. One of the topics that was high on the agenda is the future support of joint activities to promote the regional value chain in different macro-regions (including the Danube Region). Therefore, the future activities of the RIS3 WG will focus on finding the right solution to support common priorities between different regions and countries.

There is another activity supported by the JRC – UN Global pilot programme, focusing on the development of STI roadmaps for the SDGs, in which Serbia has been participating from the beginning. Ukraine has also recently joined the programme. A special action called Partnership in Action is organised under the umbrella of this global programme and the intention is to involve more countries in this process.

Recently, the United Nations adopted an initiative of Serbia (i.e. the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation) related to the Decade of Science. The resolution was adopted by the United Nations and activities are currently underway to prepare and implement the action plan. The idea is to find synergies between the Decade of Science and the STI roadmaps for the SDGs in the coming period.

At the level of macro-regional cooperation, the well-established exchange with the EUSAIR during this period is reflected in the participation in the final conference of the BLUEAIR project, which was organised in Trieste on 11 July. The conference included a special panel on the topic of S3.

The RIS3 working group lacks a stronger involvement of different countries in the ongoing work and the goal for the next period is to find a way to address and communicate with different countries in the region.

**Ms Martina Hartl** noted that she has the impression that the S3 concept is losing a little momentum. She asked Mr Nedovic whether he still sees the S3 concept as strong as it was 4 years ago and, with regard to the future of cohesion policy, how he believes the S3 concept will continue from 2027. **Mr Nedovic** replied that the dynamics regarding S3 are still there. Today he had a meeting with the JRC about the achievements and future steps of RIS3 in the Western Balkans and Turkey. He assumes that S3 will continue to play an important role in the future, but with the aim of putting transformative innovation at the centre.



## **WG Danube Funding Coordination Network**

**Ms Martina Hartl** informed that on 16 October the Danube Region Programme made a decision to award 60 projects. If we take a closer look at the awarded projects, 15 projects have been awarded under priority 1.1 and 5 projects under priority 1.2. These two priorities relate to innovation and research. In the future, we could see the themes of these projects and recognise how we could work with them. There is an opportunity to get in touch with many of them. There is a 2nd DRP call, but the priority on innovation and technology is not open. The Mission calls within Horizon Europe are now closed. For the Danube river basin lighthouse 4 proposals were submitted and for the European Natural Lakes 6 proposals were submitted. For the clusters, there are still many calls that were opened as part of the 2024 call. There are still information days on the clusters in many countries.

The main instrument for coordination of funding within the PA7 is still the Multilateral call so the question is, what other instruments for coordination of funding do we really have and what is the impact of the information days we have had? It would be good to have a follow-up to see who of the people who participated in our various information events actually submitted proposals focussing on the Danube region. We should also discuss how we can better integrate DRP projects and how we can use the Seed Money Facility for better coordination of funding. One of the ideas is the mobility programme that is now being developed as part of the Western Balkans project and using the experience of the University of Maribor with a view to expanding the programme (ppt available).

## **WG European Research Area**

**Ms Lubica Pitlova** (Slovak PA7 co-coordinator) reported on several activities of this working group: 1) meeting with the leaders of the flagship project Danube Tech Valley; 2) an interview with a student from the University of Erlangen who was preparing a master doctoral thesis on territorial cohesion through macro-regional governance which contributed to the visibility of the strategy; 3) cooperation with PA4 and organisation of an online stream on water quality; 4) meeting with Slovak NC working in the Ministry of Investments which is the central coordinating body for structural funds. The possibility of using 15% of the national operational programmes outside the eligible area is currently being examined.

The plan for the future is to work on the mid-term evaluation of the Danube region countries participation in Horizon Europe. This would allow us to assess how important the activities of PA7 have been in this respect.

In the context of ERAC activities, in addition to the preparation of a new ERA policy action, the discussion on the role of research and innovation in Ukraine's recovery is very important. Ukraine is EU candidate country and its successful integration into the ERA will require extensive policy reforms and the reconstruction of research infrastructure. The research and innovation priority should be well reflected in the Ukrainian national plan for reconstruction and development which is currently being elaborated. Therefore, the topic of R&I should become more visible and PA7 could support this.

**Ms Martina Hartl** reminded that she is also the delegate for Marie Curie and that there has been the activity related to Ukrainian researchers - the MCA for Ukraine that has actually gotten €25 million in the last last year. The Commission will provide another 10 million in the work programme next year. It is nice to talk about recovery but Ukraine is still at war and the researchers are still displaced. Many of them cannot return, so they need another round of fellowships in order to stay at the same place. Related to ERA, the discussion started on what will be the new priorities in the new ERA actions, so we need to make sure that the voice of the Danube region countries is heard. Ms Hartl asked Ms Pitlova if she knew of any position papers being produced by the Danube Region in this regard (e.g. on skills and research careers). She suggested thinking about the ideas we might have for the new ERA policy agenda in terms of things that might be specific to the region.

**Ms Pitlova** replied that she has seen a long list of ERA policy actions which are proposed by the member states and she thinks we should wait until the short list of Actions will be selected and then consider the PA7 involvement.

### **WG Higher Education and Mobility**

**Ms Ivanka Popovic** (University of Belgrade) began by talking about the solidarity and support of the Danubian higher education institutions towards their colleagues in Ukraine. She pointed out that a very important aspect is the reconstruction of the higher education system in Ukraine, which was necessary even before the invasion. The European University Association will conduct an institutional evaluation of five to six Ukrainian institutions in 2024, which will then allow all interested parties to propose some relevant points that need to be implemented for the reform of higher education in Ukraine. For a successful reconstruction of the higher education system, the problem of bringing back the people who have left Ukraine arises again. There have been many financial programmes, including the MSCA, which has funded 125 researchers for up to 24 months.

Another point concerns the use of European Universities alliances as a further driving force for the development of universities in the Danube region. There is great interest from universities in the region to become members of EUA. This will not be possible, but the Alliance's outreach programmes could do much to motivate and improve higher education in the region.

The Danube Rectors' Conference is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and the annual meeting took place in Timisoara in October. The DRC is a member of a Coalition for advancing research assessment. This is a very important initiative that aims to make research careers more flexible. It is also the beginning of a reassessment of academic careers in general, because we need to inspire young people to pursue academic and scientific careers, which is not always the case due to the rigidity of the system.

**Mr Mladen Kraljic** informed about the latest activities of the DRC - the DRC Initiative Fund and the Foresight Programme. In connection with the Foresight Programme, he explained that about 20-24 students met in Vienna and discussed future scenarios for higher education in the Danube region. They

also produced a publication on this and presented it at the DRC's annual conference in Maribor in 2022. The DRC Initiative Fund is established on the basis of realisation that many doctoral students lack information about what equipment is available in neighbouring universities and that they are looking for foreign collaborators at the same time. The activity was addressing three targets of PA7: increasing mobility of young researchers, improvement of innovation by offering research equipment from partner universities in the region and thirdly, facilitating joint publications. The call for applications was opened and €50,000 was offered to doctoral students who applied for one or more of these three targets. In the end, 14 students were selected, 1 withdrew, leaving 13 students either doing research at another university, publishing jointly or participating in a study visit. The results were presented at the DRC annual conference and there were many spillover effects from the activities undertaken.

## Presentation of the PA7 Flagship projects

### Danube Tech Valley Initiative

**Ms Maria Kozakova (GLOBSEC)** presented the role of the Danube Tech Valley Initiative (DTVI) as a platform that facilitates bottom-up cross-border interactions and initiatives between different stakeholders in the Danube Region, including local and regional governments, research institutes and universities, start-ups and companies. The main objective is to strengthen and accelerate the innovation potential of the Danube Region through this cooperation. The initiative is based on 5 main pillars: financial capital, human capital, markets, regulatory framework, systems & culture. The first activity of the DTVI was the mapping of the innovation ecosystems of all 14 countries in the Danube region, which led to the creation of the Danube Innovation Tracker. The tracker assesses the current state of the innovation ecosystem and provides a platform that helps users to identify the stakeholders, start-ups and unicorns, venture capital, accelerators and other partners of the innovation ecosystem. The second activity relates to the organisation of the Danube Tech Summit (December 12, 2023) with the idea of bringing all innovation stakeholders together in one place. The themes of this year's summit will be: energy, spin-offs, access to finance and the creation of the DTVI brand. During the summit, the Danube Tech Valley Hub will be launched, which will serve as a space for collaboration between stakeholders, such as an extension of the Danube Innovation Tracker. The aim is to connect experts, explore research opportunities, develop joint project proposals and exchange information and ideas. The future activities of DTVI will include Excellence campus project, Tech Summit 2024 and GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum 2024.

### WB Info Hub

**Ms Elke Dall (ZSI)** reported on the latest developments in the WB Info Hub, a communication platform for stakeholders that is mainly relevant for the Western Balkans, but also for the Danube region. The platform also covers the activities of the macro-regional strategies. The WB Info Hub is currently funded by the Horizon Europe project POLICY ANSWERS. She explained that the hub is in the relaunch phase, which will

be completed by the end of the year. In the meantime, the hub continues with sharing the news, documents, calls, events, etc. Ms Dall presented the key milestone of the POLICY ANSWERS project over the last 18 months (ministerial meeting, ERA reports, capacity building programmes, regional schemes). The most recent development is related to the regional pilot activities: a regional grant scheme supporting academia industry links (innovation vouchers) and Regional Mobility Scheme. The policy dialogue on the alignment of priorities in the Western Balkans is launched at a conference in Sarajevo organised in September 2023. The Info Hub will organise monthly webinars focusing on the priorities: green, digital, health. Reports on ERA integration are available as well as capacity building programmes in the WB. Ms Dall invited PA7 stakeholders to share their ideas for the next Framework Programme at the following link: <https://survey3.zsi.at/index.php/933771> (ppt available).

**Ms Martina Hartl** said that Multilateral call could be a channel for promoting the two regional programmes of POLICY ANSWERS, as people who applied for the multilateral call might also be interested in these calls. She added that the regional mobility schemes could be promoted through the communication channels of DRC, EUSDR and PA7.

**Ms Ivanka Popovic** pointed out that although these calls do not provide significant funding, they are a great stimulus for young people in the region. She asked about the deadline for comments on Framework Programme 10 from the perspective of the WB economies. **Ms Dall** said that they first need input to the discussion until early next year and that they expect to have results than can be publicly shared in the first quarter of 2024. It would be good to motivate the countries to write their own contributions.

### **Danube Multilateral Call**

**Ms Martina Hartl** informed about the results of the Multilateral Call 2023. 24 projects were selected in total (the success rate is 50%). The projects started in July 2023 and will run for two years. Most of the participants come from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The strongest bilateral links are between Czech and Slovak partners, Czech and French partners and between Austrian and Czech participants. As far as the topics are concerned, some of them are closely related to the Danube region, while others are highly specialised for cooperation in specific scientific fields (ppt available).

**Ms Pitlova** said that at the last PAC meeting she the possibility of involvement of others MRS in the call was discussed. She asked Ms Hartl whether this would be problematic from a technical implementation point of view. **Ms Hartl** said that she would have to consult with her colleague who manages all bilateral calls. At the moment, Austria has bilateral cooperation with all the countries involved in the Multilateral call, so there are standard evaluation procedures that are followed. Should a new country come in that is not part of this bilateral framework, we would have to see if it can accept these common procedures.

### **RIS4Danu**



**Mr Oliver Ziegler** (IIT Berlin) presented RIS4Danu, a Horizon Europe project that addresses sustainable smart specialisation by proposing solutions for broader regional transition through the revitalisation of disused industrial sites. The project has three main objectives: to develop green and innovative development plans for the revitalisation of 21 industrial areas in 10 countries of the Danube region; to further develop the existing S3 methodology towards sustainable smart specialisation (S4) to facilitate “green structural change”; to provide concrete policy recommendations on the identification of innovation barriers and on the creation of synergies with other R&I funding programmes. Mr Ziegler presented the industrial sites involved and the project governance structure which continuously supports the project activities. Over the course of 2023, a series of 21 workshops were organised at various industrial sites in the Danube region. The project received very positive feedback from the project officer and the advisory board. The work at local level and the link with the regional level was particularly appreciated. The project was successfully presented at the EU Industry Days, the EU Week of Regions and Cities and the CoP S3 Policy Forum. The visibility of the project was increased by the promo video created by the DSP.

**Ms Martina Hartl** announced that the Austrian Presidency is organising the EUSDR Annual Forum in June 2024 and that, although the programme is not yet ready, it would be really great to present the RIS4Danu project and its results there.

### DRP Seed Money Facility Call

**Mr Johannes Gabriel** (DRP MA/JS) explained that this is the second edition of the SMF call, in which the DRP has used the experience gained and integrated some new elements. The aim of the call is to kick-start the development of strategic projects and large-scale initiatives for the EUSDR, which can later be funded through other financial instruments. All projects should be in line with the EUSDR Action Plan and clearly relate to at least one PA. The mandatory outputs of the projects are: report of the state of play, main project work plan and report on funding opportunities. The call for proposals is open from 27 November 2023 to 29 March 2024. The expected start date for the projects is May 2025. The reasons for such a long evaluation period are: 1) there are many things happening in parallel in the DRP, 2) there are no predictions on how many project proposals will be submitted, 3) the need to involve PAs in the evaluation of project proposals. The PAs will be actively involved in assessing the relevance of the proposals in relation to the topic and addressing the concrete challenges of the EUSDR Action Plan (ppt available).

### Information from the DSP – Update of the activities & the way forward

**Ms Nicole Hauder** (Danube Strategy Point) informed the participants on behalf of the DSP about its latest activities and the way forward. She explained the DSP support to the key stakeholders in terms of preparation of relevant documents, capacity building, cross-PA and cross-MRS events, support to the organisation of SG meetings and other PAC events, revision of contact lists and common calendar, “Unfolding EUSDR” sessions, etc. The embedding process is expected to be completed by 12/2024 at the



latest. Subsequently, further targeted support on the topics of financing and funding programmes is planned. Embedding will be driven forward and as a result an interim and final report on the results of embedding will be published in 2025 and 2028. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, a PAC report will be produced in 2024 for the period 2022-2023. The new evaluation plan 2023-2028 has been finalised and is available on the EUSDR website. In terms of communication, the social media platforms are constantly updated and videos are produced to promote the PAs and the flagship projects. A capacity building assessment will be conducted to develop a CB framework for the main actors of the EUSDR in terms of their roles and responsibilities. DYC involvement in the PAs should be based on a mutually beneficial exchange and a long-term financing concept is elaborated (ppt available).

### Danubius Young Scientist Awards

**Ms Martina Hartl** said that this year the Danubius Award and the Danubius Young Scientist Awards took place in Timisoara. The Danubius Award winner is Andreas H. Farnleitner, Full Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics at TU Wien and Full Professor of Microbial Diagnostics in Water Quality and Health. The Danubius Mid-Careers Award has gone to Marco Beaumont, Assistant Professor and Junior Research Group Leader at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Institute of Chemistry of Renewable Resources. This year there were 112 applications for the Danubius Young Scientist Awards. In the end, 14 winners were selected – 1 per EUSDR country. The JRC has offered to organise a visit to ISPRA, Italy, from 5 to 7 February 2024 for the winners of 2022 and 2023. The next call for entries for the Danubius Awards is scheduled for February 2024. The impact evaluation of the Danubius Young Scientist Awards has shown that more than 90% of the awardees are still working in the Danube region and 90% have remained in academia/research (ppt available).

### Austrian EUSDR Presidency

**Ms Martina Hartl** noted that the Austrian EUSDR Presidency began on 1 November 2023 and will last until 31 December 2024. The slogan is 'Shaping Transformation, Creating Opportunities: A Prosperous, Resilient and Secure Danube Region'. There are three thematic priorities: 1) contributing to stability and security and a clear European perspective for the entire Danube Region, 2) promoting innovation, skills and business opportunities in the Danube Region, 3) improving the Danube Region's ecosystem, water and green transition management. Institutional and governance objectives are: Strengthening political commitment and broad ownership of the EUSDR with the full involvement of Danube Region stakeholders; Continuing joint efforts to enable tangible funding opportunities; Illustrating the clear added value of the EUSDR at local, regional, national and European level and ensure visibility. Ms Hartl kindly offered to hold a PA7 SG meeting either back to back with the Annual Forum or with the DRC conference.

**Ms Ivanka Popovic** pointed out that the Danubius Young Scientist Award is a very useful programme to support young researchers in the Danube region and thanked the Austrian colleagues for organising the award over the last 10 years.



**Mr Peter Volasko** thanked everyone for the cooperation during the Slovenian presidency and wished the Austrian colleagues all the best for the EUSDR presidency.

**Ms Dijana Strbac** thanked all for active participation in the meeting on site and online. She highlighted the many information received on a project level, level of working groups, flagship projects, but also related to Seed money facility, DRP, Danubius Awards, Austrian Presidency. She also thanked Mr Mladen Kraljic and the University of Maribor for hosting the meeting.

**Ms Lubica Pitlova** said that the meeting was very fruitful and included important information about passed and future PA7 activities. She asked the SG members to spread information about the SMF call and the info day on 11 December. She thanked the Slovenian and Serbian colleagues for organising the meeting and all the speakers for their presentations.

## Annex I: Agenda

# 26<sup>th</sup> PA7 Steering Group Meeting

November 27-28, 2023 | University of Maribor, Meranovo, Vrhov Dol, 14, 2341 Limbuš |

with possible participation online

## Agenda

### November 27th, 2023

#### REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

14:30 - 15:00	<b>Registration and refreshment</b>
15:00 - 15:15	<b>Official welcome on behalf of the PACs, University of Maribor, DG REGIO and DSP</b> <i>Lubica PITLOVA and Viktor NEDOVIC, PA7 coordinators</i> <i>Mladen KRALJIC, University of Maribor</i> <i>Elisa Cocco, DG REGIO</i>

#### PA7 UPDATE ON PAST ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS WITHIN PA7/EUSDR/beyond

15:15 - 15:30	<b>Information on PA7 activities in the second half of 2023</b> Jaroslava SZUDI
15:30 - 15:45	<b>Information from the Annual Forum</b> Dijana ŠTRBAC
15:45 - 16:00	<b>DRP Seed Money Facility Call</b> Johannes GABRIEL

#### SHORT REPORTS ON PA7 WORKING GROUPS

16:00 - 16:15	<b>WG DFCN</b>	<i>Martina HARTL</i>
16:15 - 16:30	<b>WG ERA</b>	<i>Jaroslava SZUDI/Lubica PITLOVA</i>
16:30 - 16:45	<b>WG HEI</b>	<i>Ivanka POPOVIĆ</i>
16:45 - 17:00	<b>WG RIS3</b>	<i>Viktor NEDOVIĆ</i>
17:00 - 17:15	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
19:00	<b>Networking dinner</b>	

## **November 28th, 2023**

### **UPDATES ON PA7 FLAGSHIP PROJECTS**

09:00 - 09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30 - 10:30	<b>Presentation of the approved PA7 Flagship projects (15 min each)</b> <b>Danube Tech Initiative</b> , <i>Katarína CSEFALVAYOVÁ, Mária KOZÁKOVÁ</i> <b>Western Balkans Info Hub</b> , <i>Elke DALL</i> <b>Danube Multilateral Call</b> , <i>Martina HARTL</i> <b>RIS4Danu</b> , <i>Oliver ZIEGLER</i>
10:30 - 10:45	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:45 - 11:00	<b>Information from the DSP – Update of the activities &amp; the way forward</b> , <i>Nicole HAUDER</i>
11:00 - 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15 - 11:25	<b>Danubius Young Scientist Awards</b> , <i>Martina HARTL</i>
11:25 - 11:35	<b>Austrian EUSDR Presidency</b> , <i>Martina HARTL</i>

### **AOB**

11:35 - 11:50	<b>AOB</b>
11:50 - 12:00	<b>Conclusions of the meeting</b> <i>Lubica PITLOVA, Viktor NEDOVIC</i>
12:00 - 13:00	<b>Farewell light lunch</b>

## Annex II: List of Participants

1	Elke Dall	Austria
2	Martina Hartl	Austria
3	Johannes Gabriel	Danube Region Programme
4	Nicole Hauder	Danube Strategy Point
5	Elisa Cocco	European Commission
6	Matthias Hadesbeck	Germany - Bavaria
7	Miljana Cosic	Germany
8	Oliver Ziegler	Germany
9	Roland Mayer-Frei	Germany - Baden Wurtemberg
10	Ivana Lagator	Montenegro
11	Ivanka Popovic	Serbia
12	Dijana Štrbac	Serbia
13	Viktor Nedović	Serbia
14	Maria Kozakova	Slovakia
15	Jaroslava Szudi	Slovakia
16	Lubica Pitlova	Slovakia
17	Peter Volasko	Slovenia
18	Mladen Kraljic	Slovenia

### Annex III: Selected Photos



