



EUSDR PA7 Newsletter – Wrapping Up the Year 2023 and Wishing You a Happy and Successful New Year!

Dear readers,

With the end of the year slowly approaching, please have a look together with us at the main activities, events, initiatives and projects, which allowed us to continue cooperation with various stakeholders and to accomplish the tasks, which you can find summarized in our wrapping Newsletter.

We hope you will find it an interesting reading and we are also looking forward to the further collaboration and exchanges in 2024.

On behalf of both PA7 coordination teams from Slovakia and Serbia, we would like to wish you a prosperous New Year!

PA7 HIGHLIGHTS

PA7 Workshop Information Day on Horizon Europe Opportunities for Danube Countries | Online | 24 May 2023

PA7 with a support of the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information organized an **Infoday on Horizon Europe Twinning Call 2023** bringing together **potential applicants from the Danube Region with the Horizon Europe programme authorities and successful project implementors in order to support their participation in the upcoming calls.**

Promotion of Danube region researchers and innovators – first online stream organized in cooperation with PA4 | 10 November 2023

PA7 this year prepared its fourth public online stream with a renowned Danube Region Scientist **Dr. rer. nat. Peter Malík, PhD.** representing Slovak State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur.

This online stream was organized in cooperation with **Priority Area 4: Water Quality** with a primary focus on **karst springs in relation to climate change**. Apart from Facebook live streaming there is a possibility to **view our stream** via the following **[link](#)**.



PA7 Steering group meetings in 2023 | 2 June and 27-28 December 2023 | Hybrid

The **25th PA7 Steering group meeting** was organized in a hybrid form on 2 June 2023 in Bratislava with the main aim to present the results of the PA7 activities in relation to the new DRP project for PACs. The leaders of PA7 working groups introduced their ongoing activities and similarly leaders of the approved Danube flagships informed participants about their results and successes. Two new flagship projects were supported by the SG.

On 27 and 28 November, 2023, PA7 in cooperation with the University of Maribor organized the **26th Steering Group meeting in hybrid form in Meranovo, Slovenia**. It was focused on the implementation of PA7 and EUSDR activities, continuation of the revitalized working groups and introduction of the Austrian EUSDR Presidency activities.

All related documents and presentations are available [here](#).

Cooperation and Mutual Support to PA7 Flagship Projects

Danube Strategy Flagships are projects or processes that contribute to the implementation of the EUSDR, have a clear macro-regional dimension and a multi-level governance approach. They are of high importance for the Danube Region's economic, social and territorial cohesion and for improving the quality of life in the Danube Region.

PA7 has been cooperating with the following projects and initiatives:

The Danube Tech Valley Initiative (DTVI); Multilateral Danube Call; The Western Balkans Info Hub provided by the Horizon Europe-funded project **POLICY ANSWERS; RIS4DANU** and **Excellence-in-ReSTI**.

The complete lists of the **Danube Strategy Flagships** (recognized by all Priority Areas) can be found [here](#).



EUSDR NEWS

4th EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2023 | 24-28 April | Brussels + online

The EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week is the biggest annual event dedicated to the four EU macro-regional strategies ([EUSBSR](#), [EUSDR](#), [EUSAIR](#), [EUSALP](#)). This year, the event focuses on three main themes: Energy, Skills, and Funding, and is centered around the motto “Transform and Thrive”. Dr Csefalvayova as a representative of the PA7 flagship project Danube Tech Valley Initiative led one of the stakeholders’ sessions focused on the contribution of the Regional Innovation Valleys to cohesive EU via funding & shared knowledge, where primarily the mitigating measures, best practices and the learning curve in funding innovation, developing RIV and role of MRS were discussed.

Please find more information and available recordings [here](#).

International Conference “Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future” | Brdo at Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia | 17-18 May 2023 + online

Both PA7 coordinators actively supported the first thematic conference organized by the EUSDR Slovenian Presidency focused on the importance of developing future societies based on knowledge and adapting to the changes brought on by the green and digital transformation. These changes will affect our cooperation and connectivity in the region. The conference thus brought the opportunity to a broad range of stakeholders to provide their views in the discussion, such as higher education and research institutions, the private sector, youth, policy-makers and civil society perspectives.

Please read more detailed information on the following [link](#).

12th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region | 24-25 October 2023

The **12th Annual Forum of the EUSDR** was organized in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia) and offered a real and actual perspective of the challenges that the Danube Region faces. With the motto **EUSDR Entering the Decade of the Future**, the Forum will feature discussions on the EU enlargement and support to the accession countries, the recovery of Ukraine, the embedding process, energy and transport challenges of the Region, youth involvement in the EUSDR and professions of the future. Ministers responsible for the implementation of the EUSDR from the 14 countries prepared a [Joint Declaration](#). More information on the EUSDR Annual Forum can be found [here](#).



Danubius Awards 2023 Ceremony | 19 October 2023 | Timisoara

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) honoured the excellent scientists of the Danube Region for their commitment to their scientific work during the **Annual Meeting of the Danube Rectors' Conference** at the West University of Timisoara. It is great to see that the diverse research fields of the winners are contributing in different ways to understanding the Danube Region, its history and society as well as helping to prepare the region for the challenges to come, for example in the field of environment and sustainability.

You can find more information about the Danubius Awardees of 2023 on [our website](#).

New Call for Proposals of the DRP open | Seed Money Facility | 27 November 2023 – 29 March 2024

The [EUSDR Seed money facility \(SMF\)](#) serves as a tool for kick-starting the development of projects in line with the 12 Priority Areas of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Proposals submitted under the 2nd SMF call shall be aligned to at least one EUSDR Priority Area and shall clearly address the EUSDR Action Plan and targets.

There is a possibility to register for the **online lead applicant webinar** in organisation of the MA/JS which will take place on 15 February 2024 ([registration](#) will open in January 2024).

Cooperation with Danube Youth Council

Giving a voice to the young generation, members of the [Danube Youth Council](#) (DYC) have been involved in a year-long campaign to have their say on the topic they feel passionate about – brain drain and talent development in the Danube Region. To secure the long-term perspective and future work of the DYC, the work programme and financing framework for the DYC was endorsed.

Apart from DYC, the EUSDR incited the process of establishing a so-called **Danube Youth Organisations Network (DYON)** open to national or regional youth organisations or other entities working on youth issues established in the Danube Region to offer a **platform** to cooperate and share their needs and experiences, both among themselves and to the EUSDR governance.



SEASON GREETINGS

We thank you all for your support, advices, valuable recommendations and contributions throughout the year and look forward to the upcoming opportunities and challenges in 2024!



OUTLOOK 2024

29 – 30 January 2024	Joint NC-PAC meeting
13 February 2024	EUSDR PA 11 Expert Day for returnees from Syria/Iraq
7 March 2024	Danube Salon
18 – 19 March 2024	8 th Meeting of Presidents of Parliaments of EUSDR
12 – 14 June 2024	5 th EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week
19 June 2024	11 th Danube Participation Day
20 June 2024	Meeting of the Mayors of the EUSDR Capitals
20 – 21 June 2024	13 th EUSDR Annual Forum
21 June 2024	Meeting of the Ministers responsible for the EUSDR

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