

# 14<sup>th</sup> Forum

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region

November 5 - 6, 2025

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Interreg  
Danube Region

Co-funded by  
the European Union



## The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

### *Flowing Together, Growing Together*

4–6 November 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Venue: Hotel Holiday, Zmaja od Bosne 4, 71000, Sarajevo 71000

## Draft Agenda

*Disclaimer: The organiser reserves the right to modify the indicated session locations based on final participant confirmations or logistical requirements. Updated details will be communicated in advance of the event.*

### Monday, 3 November 2025, 14.00-17.30 CET

14.00-17.30

#### **Steering Group Meeting EUSDR PA 3**

Location: Room "Una"

*The Priority Area 3 Steering Group (SG) is a relevant body of representatives from intergovernmental institutions of the EUSDR Member States. It meets at least twice a year, either online/onsite, and is coordinated jointly by the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) from Romania (Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration - MDPWA) and Bulgaria (Ministry of Tourism - MT).*

*The SG meeting will include an evaluation of PA 3 activities and outline planning for the future period. Irina Cozma (MDPWA Romania and the Bulgarian PAC representative (MT) will present an overview of PA 3's recent activities, an outlook on 2026 initiatives, presentation of the PA 3-flagship and next activities in the project related to culture in tourism - CAST, NONA, IBC, Culinary Trail, Mystical Danube, CultHerit, COMHERITOUR, CRAFTS until the end of 2025.*

*Further agenda items include announcing the next SG meeting and the upcoming edition of the "Danube Salon" event in Berlin, back-to-back with ITB-Berlin, hosted under the Bulgarian Presidency of EUSDR. Discussions will also cover PA 3's participation in the other relevant project activities and relevant events at the regional and macro-regional level, best practices in other MRS, regional initiatives - CPMR examples and projects, exploring synergies with EUSAIR Facility Point on horizontal themes and Youth Council cooperation.*

*Representatives of relevant projects and local and regional stakeholders from EUSDR and beyond will be invited.*

*It is a members-only meeting.*

Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 09.30-18.00 CET

## 12<sup>th</sup> DANUBE PARTICIPATION DAY

	<b>Parallel sessions:</b>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 8 event (DECIDE- Digital Services for Circular Economy - a Toolbox for Regional Developers &amp; SME- project meeting) (9.30 – 18.00)</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>The DECIDE project (Digital Services for Circular Economy – a Toolbox for Regional Developers &amp; SMEs) supports the development of circular economy business models (CEBMs) through digital tools and methods tailored for SMEs and regional developers in the Danube region. Coordinated by ZD.BB, DECIDE focuses on resource-intensive sectors, including packaging, textiles, batteries, food, and smart cities, integrating blockchain-based monitoring and simulations of ecological and social impacts. The project runs from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, with a total budget of approximately €2.89 million, co-financed by the EU’s Interreg Danube Region Programme (~€2.31 million). Following the successful development of the DECIDE toolbox and best practice showcases in the first phase, current efforts are geared toward validation, implementation, and regional outreach. In July 2024, DECIDE was recognised as a PA8 EUSDR Flagship Project, highlighting its strategic importance in advancing the circular economy in the region.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
10.00-11.00	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> Danube Participation Day: "Local Voices, European Future - The Crucial Role of Communities in Shaping EU Policy and Driving Enlargement" (10:00 - 16:00)</b></p> <p>Location: Congress Room</p> <p><i>This conference is dedicated to exploring how we can foster meaningful participation of local actors to improve the quality and sustainability of the EU accession process. We aim to learn from one another, share best practices, and develop strategies to amplify local voices in the broader European integration journey.</i></p> <p><i>Join stakeholders from across the Danube Region for a day of exchange, participation, and inspiration—including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Engaging Panel Discussions</i></li><li>• <i>Interactive World Café Sessions</i></li><li>• <i>The Danube Participation Agora</i></li><li>• <i>Networking Opportunities</i></li></ul> <p>Agenda, registration and further information available at this <a href="#">link</a>.</p>
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
	<b>Parallel sessions:</b>
11.30-13.00	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> Danube Participation Day: "Local Voices, European Future - The Crucial Role of Communities in Shaping EU Policy and Driving Enlargement" (10:00 - 16:00)</b></p> <p>Location: Congress Room</p> <p><i>This conference is dedicated to exploring how we can foster meaningful participation of local actors to improve the quality and sustainability of the EU accession process. We aim to learn from one another, share best practices, and develop strategies to amplify local voices in the broader European integration journey.</i></p> <p><i>Join stakeholders from across the Danube Region for a day of exchange, participation, and inspiration—including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Engaging Panel Discussions</i></li></ul>

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13.00-14.30	Lunch break
	<b>Parallel sessions:</b>
14.30-16.00	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> Danube Participation Day: "Local Voices, European Future - The Crucial Role of Communities in Shaping EU Policy and Driving Enlargement" (10:00 - 16:00)</b></p> <p>Location: Congress Room</p> <p><i>This conference is dedicated to exploring how we can foster meaningful participation of local actors to improve the quality and sustainability of the EU accession process. We aim to learn from one another, share best practices, and develop strategies to amplify local voices in the broader European integration journey.</i></p> <p><i>Join stakeholders from across the Danube Region for a day of exchange, participation, and inspiration—including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Engaging Panel Discussions</i></li> <li>• <i>Interactive World Café Sessions</i></li> <li>• <i>The Danube Participation Agora</i></li> <li>• <i>Networking Opportunities</i></li> </ul> <p>Agenda, registration and further information available at this <a href="#">link</a>.</p>
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16.00-16.30	Coffee break
	<b>Parallel sessions:</b>
16.30-18.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 8 event (DECIDE- Digital Services for Circular Economy - a Toolbox for Regional Developers &amp; SME- project meeting)</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>The DECIDE project (Digital Services for Circular Economy – a Toolbox for Regional Developers &amp; SMEs) supports the development of circular economy business models (CEBMs) through digital tools and methods tailored for SMEs and regional developers in the Danube region. Coordinated by ZD.BB, DECIDE focuses on resource-intensive sectors such as packaging, textiles, batteries, food, and smart cities, integrating blockchain-based monitoring and simulations of ecological and social impacts. The project runs from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, with a total budget of approximately €2.89 million, co-financed by the EU’s Interreg Danube Region Programme (~€2.31 million). Following the successful development of the DECIDE toolbox and best practice showcases in the first phase, current efforts are geared toward validation, implementation, and regional outreach. In July 2024, DECIDE was recognised as a PA8 EUSDR Flagship Project, highlighting its strategic importance in advancing the circular economy in the region.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
17.00-19.00	<p><b>Danube Transfer Centre Network Ceremony (PA 8, RAIS, SERDA)</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Neretva”</p> <p><i>Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, in collaboration with the Culinary Trail Project, invites you to the Danube Transfer Centre (DTC) Network Ceremony. The DTC Network is a flagship initiative under EUSDR Priority Area 8 “Competitiveness,” promoting innovation and technology transfer across the Danube Region. The event also supports cross-sector collaboration between PA3 (Tourism and Culture) and PA8 stakeholders as part of the Culinary Trail Project activities. Scheduled for 4 November 2025 in Sarajevo, the ceremony will highlight successful cooperation models while also reflecting on regional contributions to tourism, education, skills, and labour market development. New DTC members will be welcomed, including RAIS and SERDA from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event aims to strengthen partnerships and foster regional innovation and it aligns with the broader goals of the EUSDR Annual Forum. Participants can expect networking, knowledge exchange, and strategic collaboration opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
	End of Day 0

**19:00 - 21:30 Welcoming cocktail for all participants**

**DAY 1: Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 09.30-17.00 CET**

<b>08.00-09.30</b>	<i>Registration</i>
<b>09.30-11.00</b>	<b>MEETING OF DANUBE REGION FOREIGN MINISTERS</b> <i>(Closed meeting)</i> Location: Room "Holiday"  Traditionally, the political high-level meeting of ministers is part of the EUSDR Annual Fora. A ministerial declaration/ joint statement will be adopted at the meeting.
	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
<b>09.30-11.00</b>	<b>EUSDR PA 2 event (plus results SECW 2025): "Affordable, secure and sustainable energy for the Danube Region"</b>  Location: Room "Neretva"  <i>To support the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target, EUSDR PA 2 focuses on reducing fossil fuel dependence, enhancing energy efficiency, and increasing the use of local renewables. Given the region's outdated energy systems, especially in non-EU countries, the session will explore how energy diversification and efficiency – particularly in heating, cooling, and industry – can strengthen resilience and accelerate the green transition.</i>
<b>09.30-11.00</b>	<b>PA 11 Event: "Impacts for the Danube Region of the war in Ukraine in regards of security"</b>  Location: Room "Una"  <i>The Danube Region is a dynamic space of security and prosperity. Cooperation between the members of this region is essential to tackle current challenges in Europe. The Munich Police Department will showcase the current actions being taken to demonstrate how PA 11 supports law enforcement in keeping the Danube Region safe and secure. There will be a presentation on initiatives aimed at improving international police cooperation and information exchange, as well as on specific case studies where the EUSDR is actively promoting collaboration.</i>  <i>The presentation will be given by a Munich Police representative in conjunction with a partner from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime.</i>
<b>09.30-11.00</b>	<b>Steering Group Meeting EUSDR PA 8</b>  Location: Room "Drina"  <i>The PA8 Steering Group (SG) is a stable body of representatives from relevant intergovernmental institutions of the EUSDR Member States. It meets regularly twice a year and is coordinated jointly by the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) from Baden-Württemberg and Croatia.</i>  <i>The upcoming SG meeting will include a mid-term evaluation of PA 8 activities and outline planning for the future period. Carmen Hawkins (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism, Baden-Württemberg) and the Croatian PAC representative (Ministry of Economy) will present an overview of PA 8's recent activities, an outlook on 2026 initiatives, and proposed minor project revisions until the end of 2025.</i>  <i>Further agenda items include announcing the next SG meeting and the upcoming edition of the "Danube Region at the Turn of Times" event in Ulm. Discussions will also cover PA 8's participation in the Mediterranean and MRS Week in Izola in September</i>



	<p>2025, exploring synergies with the EUSAIR Facility Point on horizontal themes such as bio/ circular economy, digitalisation, and Youth Council cooperation. Additionally, the PA 8 Working Group Coordinators will present updates, including a concept for a thematic exchange and site visit in the first half of 2026, subject to DRP Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat approval.</p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
11.30-14.00	<p><b>OPENING OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> EUSDR ANNUAL FORUM</b></p> <p><b>High-Level Panel</b></p> <p>Of ministers of EU Candidate countries with EU Commissioner(s)</p> <p><b>Handing-over ceremony</b> (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bosnian and Herzegovinian EUSDR Presidency</li> <li>• Bulgarian EUSDR Presidency</li> </ul> <p>Location: Congress Room</p> <p><i>Keynote speakers: TBC</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Benjamin Couteau, Jacques Delors Institute, Paris</i></p>
14.00-15.30	Lunch break
	<b>Parallel sessions:</b>
15.30-17.00	<p><b>Danube Region Programme Annual Event: “From Vision to Cohesion: Funding Pathways for EU Integration in the Region”</b></p> <p>Location: Congress Room</p> <p><i>The first part of the session explores the modernisation and territorial focus of the EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2027, emphasising its role in supporting regional development and integration. Discussions will cover the link between accession and cohesion instruments, and the growing importance of cooperation between Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) and transnational cooperation on one side and on key contributions to better regional integration, lessons learned, and opportunities aligned with future Cohesion Policy goals on the other side. The role of improved governance mechanisms, along with the unique position of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the Danube Programme (DRP) in driving continued regional integration, will also be tackled.</i></p> <p><i>The second part of the session is dedicated to the discussion of key topics for the region: demographic change and water availability.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers: TBC</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: TBC</i></p>
15.30-17.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 10 event: Masterclass "How local participation reinforces EU enlargement"</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>The session Masterclass ‘Enlargement in Action: Civil Society and Municipalities Shaping the Future’ aims at showcasing and discussing the contributions of civil society organisations and municipalities to the EU enlargement process, how their empowerment can be facilitated, and how macro-regional cooperation can support this endeavour.</i></p> <p><i>The session will present results from the Danube Participation Day 2025 and sets those results into the context of EU Enlargement and academic findings.</i></p>

15.30-17.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 8: Workshop on Lighthouse Initiatives from the Danube Region</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Neretva”</p> <p><b>Supply Chains &amp; Finance</b> (as part of the EUSDR PA 8 Study IDENTIFICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS IN THE DANUBE REGION)</p> <p><i>Drawing upon insights from a study commissioned by EUSDR PA 8 and carried out by Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, Pannon Business Network (Hungary) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, this session will examine how resilient supply chains and accessible funding mechanisms – particularly for SMEs – can enhance competitiveness across the Danube Region.</i></p> <p><i>During the workshop, three representatives of selected projects will present their results and engage with participants in a discussion on the essential elements of robust supply chain structures and effective, practical financing tools. In line with the priorities of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian EUSDR Presidency, the workshop encourages the exchange of ideas, mutual learning, and inspiration for future applications, concluding with the presentation of project awards and the official release of the final study publication.</i></p>
15.30-17.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 8: Working Group meeting on Circular Economy and Bioeconomy</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Una”</p> <p><i>This meeting will provide a dedicated platform for structured exchange among national and regional stakeholders committed to advancing the circular and bioeconomy agenda in the Danube Region. The programme will include contributions from members presenting recent developments and ongoing initiatives in the fields of circular economy and bioeconomy. Additionally, WG members will participate in interactive workshop sessions designed to explore shared challenges, identify synergies, and develop ideas for future cooperation. The meeting also aims to reflect on the strategic direction of the Working Group and discuss priorities for upcoming activities in alignment with the goals of Priority Area 8 and the overall EUSDR framework.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
	<p><i>Social event, dinner offered by Bosnian and Herzegovinian EUSDR Presidency</i></p> <p>Location: TBC</p>

## DAY 2: Thursday, 6 November 2025, 09.30-16.00 CET

08.00-09.30	Registration
	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>Joint meeting EUSDR/ EUSAIR NCs</b></p> <p><b>Contextualising EU enlargement in a macro-regional perspective</b></p> <p>Location: Congress Room</p>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>Digitalisation, boost for competitiveness, sustainability and growth (PA 8, IDDEEA)</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>The event explores the transformative power of digitalisation in the private sector, with a special focus on SMEs in the Danube Region. It highlights investment opportunities in cutting-edge technologies such as AI, IoT, robotics, and e-commerce systems, while also</i></p>

	<p><i>addressing the potential side effects of digital transformation. Additionally, the event emphasises the crucial role of digital infrastructure development within the public sector, recognising it as a key enabler for businesses to fully leverage the benefits of digitalisation. By fostering discussions among industry leaders, policymakers, and investors, the event aims to accelerate digital adoption, enhance competitiveness, and drive sustainable economic growth.</i></p> <p>Organisers: BA EUSDR Presidency in cooperation with BA Agency for Identification Documents, Registers, and Data Exchange (IDDEA), European Commission and ESUDR PA 8 – Competitiveness of Enterprises</p>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 8 - Workshop on Lighthouse Initiatives from the Danube Region</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Neretva”</p> <p><b>Green Tech, Circular Economy and Circular Bioeconomy</b> (as part of the EUSDR PA 8 Study IDENTIFICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS IN THE DANUBE REGION)</p> <p><i>This workshop will spotlight pioneering projects in Green Tech, Circular Economy, and Bioeconomy from across the Danube Region—highlighting how sustainable innovation can drive both environmental progress and economic resilience. Commissioned by EUSDR PA 8 and implemented by Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, Pannon Business Network, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, the accompanying study identifies initiatives that combine circularity and green technologies with practical business impact. In alignment with the Bosnian and Herzegovinian EUSDR Presidency’s focus on an accelerated green transition, the session will feature project presentations, a panel discussion, and the awarding of “EUSDR Priority Area 8 Lighthouse” certificates – fostering exchange, inspiration, and replication across the region.</i></p>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>EUSDR PA 4, 5, 6 event: “Increasing Water Security: A key to achievement of SDG”</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Una”</p> <p><i>This side event is to bring attention to the SDG Agenda, recognising water as a connector to all goals of sustainable development. Examples will comprise good practices in the protection of water quality, measures to adapt to climate change (flood forecasting, mitigation of drought impacts), and the importance of vital ecosystems dependent on water.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed agenda (include keynote speech, 2-3 presentations, interactive part depending on time slot):</i></p> <p><i>SDG Agenda and Water Goal: progress and way forward</i>  <i>Safeguarding drinking water supply and wastewater treatment (examples of the activities conducted by the EUSDR PA4)</i>  <i>Floods and droughts – interlinked phenomena (work conducted by the EUSDR PA5)</i>  <i>Water-related ecosystems (EUSDR PA6).</i></p>
09.30-11.00	<p><b>DYC meeting</b></p> <p>Location: Room "Drina"</p> <p><i>In this closed session, members of the Danube Youth Council (DYC) will meet among themselves to discuss and streamline their activities. Each Working Group within the DYC will report on their activities. Plans for the upcoming year, potential collaboration with the Bulgarian EUSDR Presidency 2026, and the inclusion of new members will be discussed.</i></p> <p><i>The meeting is continued after the coffee break, in the same room.</i></p> <p><i>This meeting is open to DYC members only.</i></p>
11.00-11.30	<p>Coffee break</p>



	<b>Parallel sessions</b>
<b>11.30-13.00</b>	<b>Joint meeting EUSDR/ EUSAIR NCs</b> <b>Contextualising EU enlargement in a macro-regional perspective</b> Location: Congress Room
<b>11.30-13.00</b>	<b>EUSDR PA 9 event- “Closing the Skills Gap: Green and Digital Skills for a Competitive Europe”</b> Location: Room “Holiday” <p><i>Widening skills gaps and the need for more and better skills pose significant challenges within the Danube Region. The loss of young people through outward migration and skilled labour shortages hinders economic development, innovation, and social progress. Targeted and inclusive education, skills and labour market policies can help build attractive offers to attract and retain talent in the region. Building skills for life through strong educational foundations and a focus on green and digital skills are essential to meet the rapidly changing skill demands and employment needs in the green and digital transition. Promoting these skills through cooperation can help bridge the skills gap, foster economic growth, retain talent in the region, and contribute to a sustainable and more competitive Danube Region.</i></p> <p><i>Following the keynotes that will provide context and strategic direction, the panel discussion will bring together experts who will share insights on EU strategies, trends in education and labour market systems in the region, and good practice examples on international cooperation in the fields of education and labour market policy. Panellists will first discuss key challenges around brain drain and the growing skills gap, showcase current initiatives addressing these issues, and highlight the role of transnational cooperation and the promotion of green and digital skills. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences.</i></p> <p>Keynote speakers: Maryna Tverdostup, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) – Findings of the Danube Region Monitor, Nathalie Lahire, Senior Economist for Education, World Bank - Assessment of green skills, foundational skills and skill gap profiles for the green transition in the Western Balkans</p> <p>Moderators: Roland Hanak, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria and Jürgen Schick, Federal Ministry of Education, Austria, Coordinators of EUSDR Priority Area 9 – People &amp; Skills.</p>
<b>11.30-13.00</b>	<b>EUSDR PA 3 event- “Eco-Culture in Motion: Green Tourism Initiatives as Part of the Sustainable Danube Network”</b> Location: Room “Neretva” <p><i>The event promotes sustainable mobility by integrating travel into the tourist experience and supports inclusive tourism for all social groups.</i></p> <p><i>Develop new ecotourism services focused on nature-based solutions that protect the environment and enrich visitor experiences.</i></p> <p><i>Highlight cultural heritage as a driver of the green transition and emphasise local cuisine as an authentic part of sustainable tourism development.</i></p> <p><i>Planned topics under the theme:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cultural heritage as a driver of green transition and sustainable development</i></li> <li>• <i>Sustainable mobility – travel as a destination</i></li> <li>• <i>New ecotourism services with a special focus on nature-based solutions in tourism,</i></li> <li>• <i>Inclusive tourism, blue tourism opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Local cuisine: a gastronomic journey.</i></li> </ul>

11.30-13.00	<p><b>Public Conference on EUSDR PA 8 DECIDE project</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Una”</p> <p><i>The Danube region comprises 14 countries and is characterised by a wide variety of economies and cultures. While this diversity is advantageous, it also presents specific challenges in coordinating sustainability efforts between countries. In recognition of the need for a coherent, sustainable development strategy, 10 countries participating in the Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR) have launched the DECIDE project: 'Digital Services for the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Regional Developers and SMEs'.</i></p> <p><i>The DECIDE solution provides a comprehensive toolbox of digital services and methods, offering access to best practice examples from various sectors, as well as training programmes to build capacity and knowledge. By promoting the adoption of circular economy business models (CEBMs), DECIDE ensures that sustainable practices become the norm in the Danube region. The DECIDE Public Conference will present initial results and provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange and discussion with the DECIDE project team.</i></p>
11.30-13.00	<p><b>DYC meeting</b></p> <p>Location: Room "Drina"</p> <p><i>In this closed session, members of the Danube Youth Council (DYC) will meet among themselves to discuss and streamline their activities. Each Working Group within the DYC will report on their activities. Plans for the upcoming year, potential collaboration with the Bulgarian EUSDR Presidency 2026, and the inclusion of new members will be discussed.</i></p> <p><i>This meeting is open to DYC members only.</i></p>
13.00-14.30	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>
14.30-16.00	<p><b>Youth Engagement and Active Citizenship in the Danube Region</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>This workshop will focus on empowering young people as active contributors to the present and future of the region. It will address challenges and opportunities for youth, including mobility, housing, employment, and trust in institutions, while tackling issues such as disinformation, lack of cooperation, and societal polarisation.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will explore the youth perspective on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s EU candidate status, the EU enlargement process in the Western Balkans, and aspirations for integration. Additional topics include brain drain, entrepreneurship, capacity-building, and engaging youth in consultations and decision-making.</i></p> <p><i>The interactive workshop will also showcase good practices and youth-led initiatives to foster dialogue and cooperation across the Danube Region.</i></p>
15.00-18.00 (tbc)	<p><b>Steering Group meeting EUSDR PA 9</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Una”</p> <p><i>The EUSDR Priority Area 9 “People and Skills” (PA9) Steering Group consists of delegated members from ministries and other institutions that are active in the fields of labour market and education policies from all Danube Region countries. It meets twice a year with the aim of sharing updates on education and labour market developments in each country and on opportunities for cooperation within the region. Key partners of the PA9 also participate in the meeting and brief the Steering Group members about their current activities.</i></p> <p><i>The 29<sup>th</sup> PA9 Steering Group Meeting will be held as a side event of the 14th EUSDR Annual Forum in the form of a closed meeting after the completion of the public event.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
	<p><b>Closing and farewell</b></p>

**Friday, 7 November 2025, 10.00 – 18.00 CET**

<b>10.00-18.00</b>	<p><b>Training – EUSDR Policy analysis and advocacy skills</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Holiday”</p> <p><i>This training is the second in a series of training sessions that DSP will deliver for EUSDR core stakeholders, following the Capacity Building Needs Analysis that has been conducted.</i></p> <p><i>The primary aim of these training modules is to support further enhancing the skills and competencies of new and/or existing EUSDR core stakeholders, such as National Coordinators (NCs), Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), and Steering Group (SG) members, to respond to their expressed needs and contribute to the Strategy's effective implementation.</i></p> <p><i>This training session aims to improve skills for effective policy analysis, design, advocacy, and communication. It will also focus on enhancing advocacy skills that may help involve decision-makers and gain support for policy initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>As a horizontal theme, “Cross-cultural administrative contexts” will be incorporated into all trainings, ensuring that cross-cultural administrative perspectives are consistently addressed and integrated as a fundamental aspect.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>
<b>09.00-12.00</b> <b>(tbc)</b>	<p><b>Steering Group Meeting EUSDR PA 9</b></p> <p>Location: Room “Una”</p> <p><i>The EUSDR Priority Area 9 “People and Skills” (PA 9) Steering Group consists of delegated members from ministries and other institutions that are active in the fields of labour market and education policies from all Danube Region countries. It meets twice a year with the aim of sharing updates on education and labour market developments in each country and on opportunities for cooperation within the region. Key partners of the PA9 also participate in the meeting and brief the Steering Group members about their current activities.</i></p> <p><i>The 29<sup>th</sup> PA 9 Steering Group Meeting will be held as a side event of the 14<sup>th</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum in the form of a closed meeting after the completion of the public event.</i></p> <p><i>It is a members-only meeting.</i></p>