

The 10th Annual FORUM

of the EU Strategy for the
Danube Region (EUSDR)

26-27 October 2021,
Bratislava & online

TOWARDS A GREEN AND DIGITAL DANUBE REGION

AGENDA

The 10th EUSDR Annual Forum, jointly organised by the Slovak Republic, the European Commission, the Danube Transnational Programme and with support of the Danube Strategy Point, takes place on 26-27 October 2021. The EUSDR Annual Forum will take place in a hybrid format. This means that the organizers and presenting participants (panellists and speakers) will physically meet in Bratislava, from where the entire annual forum will be streamed. Speakers will present their presentations and registered online participants will have the opportunity to interactively participate in discussions through an online platform.

DAY 1: 26 OCTOBER 2021:

10:00 – 12:00

Reflections and Discussion of the 8th Danube Participation Day on the topic of Digitalisation & Participation - Putting people at the centre of the digital transition

A report from the event organized by Priority Area 10 of the EUSDR and the Danube Civil Society Forum on 25 October as a side-event of the EUSDR Annual Forum.

10:00 – 10:30

Introduction & Interactive Reflection on Aspects of Participation & Digitalisation



10:30 – 11:00

PANEL: A MACRO-REGIONAL VISION ON DIGITALISATION THAT PUTS PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

Tomáš Jucha

Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Slovakia (tbc)

Igor Studennikov

Centre for Regional Studies

Andreea Pena

Danube Strategy Point

11:00 – 11:30

DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

- Reflecting & prioritising the results from the world café discussion
- What can macro-regional networks contribute to improve participation and digitalisation in the Danube Region?
- If you could send one message to the board of NCs regarding digitalisation & participation, what would it be?

11:30 – 12:00

CLOSING SESSION

10:00 – 12:00

Meeting of EUSDR ministers responsible for innovation and digitalisation

The ministerial meeting is traditionally part of the EUSDR Annual Fora and the most important political meeting of the Strategy. The meeting of ministers will take place in online format. The topics to be discussed are:

- Support for non-EU states in promoting innovative solutions in EUSDR priorities (innovation transfers, support of human capital);
- Role of youth in innovation and digitalisation;
- Funding innovation and digitalisation in the new programming period with a special focus on the EUSDR priorities and objectives;
- Synergies between the EUSDR and other initiatives at the European level (e.g. RIS3);
- Support for transnational projects in innovation and digitalisation in order to further foster mutual cooperation in these areas.

The Ministers will adopt a Joint Statement of Ministers responsible for Innovation and Digitalisation of the participating countries of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

13:00 – 14:00

OPENING OF THE 10TH EUSDR ANNUAL FORUM

Eduard Heger

Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Elisa Ferreira

Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

Mariya Gabriel

Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission – (tbc)

14:00 – 15:00

PLENARY SESSION

Ján Budaj

Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic (tbc)

Normunds Popens

Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO,
European Commission

Lilyana Pavlova

Vice-President of European Investment Bank (tbc)

Miroslav Vesko

DG Joint Research Center, European Commission

15:00 – 15:30

BREAK

15:30 – 17:30

DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME ANNUAL EVENT

The aim of the DTP session is to present the continuum of co-operation in the Danube Region, starting from its early CADSES times, through the SEE, followed by the DTP2014-2020 and continuing with 2021-2027, with the focus on how it was adapting to ever changing reality and responding to regional needs (e.g. inclusion of back then pre-accession countries, a pioneer enterprise of shared management of IPA funds, content wise adaptation to the regional needs, etc.) and introducing the topics to be financed in the 2021-2027 programming period.

MODERATOR:

Stephen Halligan, Danube Transnational Programme
MA/ JS

Jean-Pierre Halkin	Head of Unit Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional
Imre Csalagovits	Head of the Managing Authority, Danube Transnational Programme
Katalin Kovacs-Kasza	MA / JS, coordinator innovation topic, Danube Transnational Programme
Horst Schindler	MA / JS, coordinator energy and transport topics, Danube Transnational Programme
Gusztav Csomor	MA / JS, coordinator environment topics, Danube Transnational Programme
Stephen Halligan	MA / JS, coordinator social issues and culture topics, Danube Transnational Programme
Johannes Gabriel	MA / JS, coordinator governance topic, Danube Transnational Programme
Simona Ene	Head of JS, Danube Transnational Programme

18:00 **NETWORKING DINNER FOR PRESENTING (ON-SITE) PARTICIPANTS**

DAY 2: 27 OCTOBER 2021

09:30 – 11:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

SESSION I

The role of youth and youth policies in the EUSDR

(organised by PA10, PA9, DYN, DCSF, DSP)

The workshop brings together relevant EUSDR institutions and NGOs in the Danube region working for and with youth, developing and implementing youth policies in the EUSDR. The exchange should lead to an overview of existing and upcoming structures and activities as well as developing a perspective on the future youth representation in the EUSDR.

MODERATOR:

Iryna Gumentchuk, Agapedia/EUSDR civil society network

OPENING:

The role of youth and youth policies in the EUSDR and its participation in the implementation of the EUSDR; Slovak EUSDR Presidency (tbc)

PRESENTATIONS:

- Implementing the Guidance Paper for Youth Participation; **Claudia Singer**, Priority Area 10 Coordinator
- Education, qualification and labour market - EUSDR youth initiatives; **Roland Hanak and Jürgen Schick**, Priority Area 9 Coordinators
- Results and Perspectives from Youth Participation Projects; **Matthias Holzner**, Danube Service Office, Baden-Württemberg / Germany
- Involving youth in the governance and thematic implementation of the EUSDR; **Robert Lichtner**, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point, **Michal Blaško**, Slovak EUSDR Presidency

ROUND TABLES:

1.Implementing the EUSDR Youth guidance Paper:

- Claudia Singer, Priority Area 10 Coordinator
- Ljuben Geogiev, Re-Act, Danube Youth Network
- Astrid Aulnette, DG REGIO, European Commission, Youth Manifesto (tbc)

2.EUSDR youth initiatives for education and qualification

- Sarah Fellner and Jörg Mirtl, Priority Area 9 Danube Region Youth Platform
- Anamaria Glavurdic, Breza, Danube Youth Network
- Rossitsa Rousseva, Regional Conservation Director, WWF CEE

3.Involving youth in the Danube Strategy

- Robert Lichtner, Coordinator Danube Strategy Point
- Michal Blaško, Slovak EUSDR Presidency (tbc)
- Mara Micheu, FONT, Danube Youth Network
- Susanne Neib, EUSDR National Coordinator, Baden-Württemberg / Germany (tbc)



SESSION II

Digital transformations and innovations (organised by PCY)

- Gerd Meier zu Köcker, CEO of Cluster Agency Baden-Württemberg - The flagship project-Danube Alliance and Innovation Express 2021
- Grit Ackermann, Director of Project Office, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia: Cultural and Creative Industries in the Danube Region: (CINEMA – Creative Industries for New Urban Economies in the Danube Region) and RESTART_4Danube - Boosting cREative induSTries in urbAn Regeneration for a stronger Danube region

Detailed Agenda & Speakers to follow via SK PCY

11:00 – 11:30

BREAK

11:30 – 13:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION I

Biodiversity – threats and opportunities (organised by SK Ministry of Environment, SK Centre for Scientific and Technical Information and SK Presidency)

- **Evangelia Tzika**, DG MARE, European Commission: Mission Ocean initiative of DG MARE

Further Agenda & Speakers to follow

SESSION II

Support to non-EU states & Economic and Investment Plan for Western Balkans (organised by European Commission DG Regio, DG Near, SK EUSDR Presidency)

FACILITATED BY:

Robert Lichtner, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point

- **Maciej Popowski**, Deputy Director-General and Acting Director-General, DG NEAR, European Commission (tbc)
- N.N., DG REGIO, European Commission (tbc)
- **Jadranka Joksimović**, Minister of European Integration, Republic of Serbia (tbc)
- **Harald Stranzl**, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Austrian National Coordinator for EUSDR (tbc)
- N.N. (Croatia); EU Enlargement and Western Balkans Perspective – An Experience (tbc)
- **Igor Korkhovyi**, Deputy Minister for EU integration at Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine – Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency

13:00 – 14:00

BREAK

14:00 – 15:30

EMBEDDING OF THE EUSDR INTO EU FUNDS 2021-2027

Council Conclusions: CALLS on MRS key implementers to organise, by the end of 2021, with the support of the Commission, workshops for project promoters in order to encourage participation in the calls for projects within the relevant directly and indirectly managed programmes.

FACILITATED BY:

Ilze Ciganska, Interact

online

- Johan Magnusson** Team-Leader, EU Macro-Regional Strategies, DG Regio, European Commission: Legislative and policy assumptions of the Embedding
- Robert Lichtner** Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point: EUSDR Embedding as a multilevel and inclusive process - results and outlook
- Michal Blaško** Slovak EUSDR Presidency: From Words to Action (Policy Paper by Slovak EUSDR Presidency offering practical tools for Embedding); Embedding as a matchmaking exercise in Slovakia
- Eva Masárová** ESF Managing Authority Slovakia - Representative of national Operational Programme: Measures adopted at MA level to embed the EUSDR objective into the OP
- Barbara Willsberger** Priority Area 9 / Network of EUSDR ESF Managing Authorities – a success story since 2015 – an example of networks of managing authorities in the Danube Region

15:30 – 17:30

HANDOVER CEREMONY AND CLOSING OF THE 10TH ANNUAL FORUM

- Maroš Šefčovič** Vice-President and Commissioner for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight European Commission (tbc)
- Veronika Remišová** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Slovak Republic
- Igor Korkhovyi** Deputy Minister for EU integration at Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine
- Jean-Pierre Halkin** Head of Unit Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement, DG REGIO, European Commission: Wrap-up by the European Commission

NETWORKING DINNER FOR PRESENTING (ON-SITE) PARTICIPANTS



SIDE EVENTS 25 OCTOBER 2021

10:00 – 15:00

8th Danube Participation Day (online) Digitalisation & Participation. Putting People at the Centre of the Digital Transition

This year, the Danube Participation Day is dedicated to “Participation & Digitalisation”. The conference will address participatory decision-making and co-design of public services in view of digitalisation and eGovernment. Programme, registration and further information can be found on the website <https://danubeparticipationday.eu/>.

16:00 – 18:00

Reception at the Austrian Cultural Forum Bratislava

On the occasion of the 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the Working Community of the Danube Regions and the Ambassador of Austria to the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Danube Strategy Point, kindly invite to the opening of the touring exhibition DANUBECartoons and a reception, on 25 October 2021, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Austrian Cultural Forum Bratislava. Venue: Astoria Palace, Hodžovo námestie 1/A, 811 06 Bratislava.

Please kindly register until Wednesday 20 October 2021:
regina.stierschneider@noel.gv.at

26 OCTOBER 2021

10:00 – 16:00

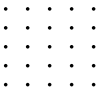
Impact of Climate Change on Forests – CLIMAFORCELIFE Opening Conference (online)

In the framework of the 10th EUSDR Annual Forum, the Slovak EUSDR Presidency together with the World Wide Fund for Nature invite you to explore and discuss the impact of climate change on forests, how forests adapt to climate change, how this affects the forestry business and how EU policies tackle the issue of climate change in forests.

Programme and registration can be found here:

<https://danube-region.eu/danube-events/wwf-event-on-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-forests/>.





28 OCTOBER 2021

09:00

Facilitating Research and Innovation Cooperation in the Danube Region within dedicated calls of the “Widening participation and spreading excellence” part of Horizon Europe Online Info Day & Long-Term Virtual Matchmaking (B2B-Meetings) Opportunity

This initiative of the the EUSDR (Priority Area 7) aims to bridge potential applicants from the Danube Region in upcoming Horizon Europe “Widening” calls in order to foster participation in this programme. Further information and registration can be found on the website

<https://widening-cooperation-danuberegion.b2match.io/>

