



**Slovenian Presidency
of the EU Strategy
for the Danube Region**

Empowering for Cooperation in EUSDR

Opening event of the
Slovenian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

1–2 December 2022
Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

The opening event of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, organised by Slovenia with support from the European Commission and the Danube Strategy Point, will take place on 1–2 December 2022 at Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, in physical form. The event is dedicated to the presentation of the Presidency Programme and an open discussion on some of its priorities.

The first day of the event will feature the opening of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency and a discussion on empowering the involvement in the EUSDR. An informal meeting of National and Priority Area Coordinators will follow on the second day.

Registration link: <https://danube-region.eu/danube-events/empowering-cooperation/>

Day 1: Opening of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region & Discussion “Empowering for involvement in EUSDR”

1 December 2022, 13:30–18:00 CET

Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

Draft agenda

| OPENING EVENT OF THE SLOVENIAN EUSDR PRESIDENCY | |
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| 13:30–14:00 | <i>Arrival and registration of participants</i> |
| 14:00–14:30 | Opening of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Marko ŠTUCIN, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i> • <i>Sławomir TOKARSKI, Director, DG REGIO, European Commission</i> • <i>Nataša GORŠEK MENCIN, Deputy Head of Representation, European Commission</i> • <i>Nadija AFANASIEVA, Director, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics; Ukrainian National Coordination Team Member</i> |
| 14:30–15:30 | Presentation of Slovenian EUSDR Presidency Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i> • <i>Katja GERŠAK, Executive Director, Centre for European Perspective</i> • <i>Robert LICHTNER, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point</i> • <i>Peter VOLASKO, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Republic of Slovenia</i> • <i>Franc ŽEPIČ, Ministry of Infrastructure, Republic of Slovenia; Priority Area Coordinator, PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility</i> |
| 15:30–16:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| EMPOWERING FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUSDR | |
| 16:00–16:30 | Empowering for involvement and strengthening the ownership of countries and regions in the EUSDR – setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ambassador Ksenija ŠKRILEC, Acting Director-General for EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i> • <i>Sławomir TOKARSKI, Director, DG REGIO, European Commission</i> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nicholas CENDROWICZ, Deputy Head of Unit for Georgia, Moldova, Economic and Investment Plan, DG NEAR, European Commission (TBC)</i> <p><i>Moderator: Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i></p> |
| 16:30–17:45 | <p>Unlocking the potential of MRS cooperation for non-EU countries & regions – discussion on the needs and possible solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representatives from all EUSDR countries</i> <p><i>Moderator: Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i></p> |
| 17:45–18:00 | <p>Conclusions and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stawomir TOKARSKI, Director, DG REGIO, European Commission</i> • <i>Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia</i> |
| 18:00 | End of meeting |
| 18:00 | <i>Networking dinner</i> |

Day 2: Informal meeting of EUSDR National Coordinators and EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators

2 December 2022, 09:00–14:15 CET
Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

Draft agenda

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| 08:45–09:00 | EUSDR TRIO Presidency meeting |
| 09:00–09:15 | <i>Arrival and registration of participants</i> |
| 09:15–09:30 | Welcome note & adoption of the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, EUSDR Presidency • Robert LICHTNER, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point • Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, EC |
| 09:30–10:30 | Implementation of Slovenian EUSDR Presidency programme and calendar – open discussion with PACs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia |
| 10:30–11:30 | European Commission – State-of-play of MRS; EC implementation report on MRS, EU MRS week, HLG and 4 Trio Presidencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johan MAGNUSSON, DG REGIO, EC <i>Information & discussion</i> |
| 11:30–11:45 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:45–12:00 | Results of the 11th EUSDR Annual Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michal BLAŠKO, Nina BRATKOVÁ, Slovak EUSDR NC Team |
| 12:00–13:00 | Inclusion of youth in EUSDR <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Danube Youth Council and POPRI challenge Plans for the establishment of DYON Financing of DYC beyond 2023 <i>Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, EUSDR Presidency Robert LICHTNER, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point</i> <i>Information & discussion</i> |
| 13:00–14:00 | Follow-Up: Supporting Stakeholder Involvement in Priority Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Petra ČESEN-ČATAR, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia • EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators <i>Open discussion</i> |
| 14:00–14:15 | AoB |



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| 14:15 | End of meeting |
| 14.15–15:00 | <i>Networking lunch</i> |