

12th

Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

24–25
October
2023

Brdo pri Kranju,
Slovenia

EUSDR Entering the Decade of the Future



Slovenian Presidency
of the EU Strategy
for the Danube Region



Interreg Programme
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

AGENDA

24 October 2023

10:00–11:30

Splendens hall

Beyond Boundaries: Rethinking the Danube's Potential with Emerging Voices

The panel organised by the Danube Youth Council will provide an opportunity to exchange views on how the future of the Danube Region and its "power of youth" is seen by different stakeholders and generations.

9:30–12:00

Brdo Castle

Meeting of Ministers responsible for the EUSDR (invitation only)

11:15–13:00

The Lobby

Lunch

13:00–13:30

Grandis hall

Official Opening of the 12th EUSDR Annual Forum

13:30–15:00

Grandis hall

High-level plenary panel: The EU Enlargement Process & EUSDR

Discussion on the role of MRS cooperation in the framework of the new impetus of the EU enlargement process.

15:00–15:15

Grandis hall

Handover Ceremony of EUSDR Presidency to Austria

15:15–15:30

The Lobby

Break

15:15–15:45

Glass hall

Press Conference

15:30–16:30

Grandis hall

Danube Region Programme – A new beginning for cooperation and EU integration

Discussion on the future of cooperation and development in the Danube Region and the role that the new Danube Region Programme can play in supporting these efforts, focusing on Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, but not forgetting the Balkan countries.

16:30–17:45

Grandis hall

Bottom-up recovery and transformation of Ukraine – Supporting Ukraine and Moldova on their way to the EU

The panel will be an opportunity to explore the role of local and regional stakeholders and non-state actors (civil society and NGOs) in the recovery of Ukraine and its path towards the EU. The focus of the panel will be on how the EUSDR can build an environment where all these actors could help generate the biggest yields in terms of their contribution to the accession process.

17:45–18:15

The Lobby

Break

18:15–18:50

Grandis hall

Concert by the Slovenian and Ukrainian Youth Orchestra

19:00

Splendens hall

Dinner

25 October 2023

09:30–11:00

Grandis hall

Knowledge-driven society: a regional search for the competences and skills of future professions

The panel will provide an opportunity to explore the key issues and offer possible recommendations for policymakers, focusing on the knowledge, skills and competences needed in the professions of the future.

09:30–11:00

Splendens hall

Mobility & Multimodality: The Impact of Large Projects for Improved Connectivity

Transport infrastructure is a key ingredient in the economic development, supporting personal well-being and economic growth. In addition, goals such as efficient, safe, resilient and sustainable multimodal network should not be neglected when the transport network is planned and expanded.

The main aim of the panel is to look at some of many great projects in the Danube region that contribute or will contribute to improved mobility, connectivity, accessibility and cohesion and explore their implications related to environmental, economic and social issues.

09:30–11:00

Heros hall

Danube Region Programme 2nd call for proposals

The panel will focus on presenting the 2nd call's main features as well as how it differs from the 1st call for proposals. Additionally, the presenters will provide examples of best practices in terms of transnational approach.

11:00–11:30

The Lobby

Break

11:30–13:00
Grandis hall

Enhancing the hydrogen economy in the Danube Region

Hydrogen provides excellent opportunities for the EUSDR countries to move their energy systems further along the decarbonisation pathways. The discussion will focus on the key challenges for the development of the hydrogen economy in the Danube Region and provide some examples of good practice.

13:00–14:30
Glass hall

Lunch

14:30–16:00
Grandis hall

Embedding in EU accession countries – Mainstreaming IPAIII/NDICI in the Danube Region

The panel will explore the IPAIII/NDICI programming framework and how MRS/EUSDR is displayed therein. Based on an open discussion the recommendations for further improvements shall be made to stakeholders at the EU, macroregional and national level, as well as regional initiatives in the Danube Region.

16:00–16:30
Grandis hall

Closing of the 12th Annual Forum 2023

SIDE EVENTS

20 October 2023

19:00–20:00

Hotel Lipa, Šempeter pri Gorici

2nd Danube Youth Camp

During a reflection workshop on Saturday, 21 October 2023, the 28 NYC members will look back on their NYC mandate, jointly reflect on experiences, challenges and lessons learnt, discuss the future developments of the NYC and formulate recommendations for its future work, moving from the one-year Pilot Action to a long-term implementation format.

21 October 2023

09:30–16:00

Hotel Lipa, Šempeter pri Gorici

2nd Danube Youth Camp

During a reflection workshop on Saturday, 21 October 2023, the 28 NYC members will look back on their NYC mandate, jointly reflect on experiences, challenges and lessons learnt, discuss the future developments of the NYC and formulate recommendations for its future work, moving from the one-year Pilot Action to a long-term implementation format.

22 October 2023

12:00–21:00

Primorska Technology Park, Šempeter pri Gorici

POPRI Start-up Challenge: From talents to the Danube Region's strengths

The POPRI Start-up challenge, an event that uses the capacity-building method for enhancing entrepreneurial and leadership skills, will focus on the importance of young talents and possible ways to tackle the brain drain in the Danube Region.

23 October 2023

08:00–17:00

Primorska Technology Park,
Šempeter pri Gorici

POPRI Start-up Challenge: From talents to the Danube Region's strengths

The POPRI Start-up challenge, an event that uses the capacity-building method for enhancing entrepreneurial and leadership skills, will focus on the importance of young talents and possible ways to tackle the brain drain in the Danube Region.

09:00–15:00

Grand Hall, Faculty of
Social Sciences, Ljubljana

10th Danube Participation Day

The 10th Danube Participation Day, under the slogan “Ukraine’s recovery towards EU membership,” will aim to explore how the EUSDR can strengthen civil society and local actors for a sustainable recovery towards EU membership and what can we learn for Moldova.

24 October 2023

10:00–12:00

Heros hall, Brdo Congress
Centre

Danube Transfer Centre Network Ceremony - Strengthening regional transformation by boosting the competitiveness of the enterprises and turning the knowledge into value for regions, economy and society *(invitation only)*

Steinbeis Europa Zentrum cordially invite to the Official Ceremony for the Danube Transfer Centre Network. The Danube Transfer Centres (DTC) Network, a flagship project of the EUSDR Priority Area 8 “Competitiveness” (PA8), Working Group “Innovation and Technology Transfer”, contributes to enhanced networking and capacity building within the Danube macro-region in the field of innovation and technology transfer. During the Official Ceremony of the DTC Network on 24th of October 2023, 10:00 – 12:00, we would like to celebrate the introduction of new members to the DTC Network and the reinforcement of existing alliances. We are particularly pleased to be able to further contribute to the development and unity of the Danube region and generating a transnational added value, through the initiation and implementation of various projects.

25 October 2023

11:30–13:00

Splendens hall, Brdo
Congress Centre

Global Water Partnership - GWP CEE partnership is a bridge in water management transformation in Central and Eastern Europe

2023 marks 25 years since Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) was founded with a mission to foster Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in CEE region. The main purpose of the session is to present some of the key success stories from the 25 years. The panel will focus on key lessons learned from the past and highlights the added value of multi-stakeholder partnership and cooperation for sustainable water governance.

11:30–17:00

Heros hall, Brdo Congress
Centre

C2Lab – Kick-start your next project

SMEs, clusters, research organisations, social and public entities are invited to join an interactive workshop to meet, network, exchange ideas, and initiative new project proposals. Guided by experts on project creation and management, you have the possibility to forge new alliances and project consortia for the topic of your interest, for example mobility, energy, skills, or networks. You can either join with a concrete project idea, or offer your skills and knowledge in new areas. This workshop is offered by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and is open to participants from the EU and SMP/COSME countries. For more info and registration, click here.

26 October 2023

09:00–15:00

Austria Trend Hotel,
Ljubljana

C2Lab – Kick-start your next project

For more info and registration, click here.