**European Danube Region Strategy**

**Priority Area 9 People and Skills – Youth Platform**

In 2013 the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education and Women’s Affairs together with the NGOs “Kulturkontakt” and “Interkulturelles Zentrum/NA Erasmus+: Youth In Action” started the planning of a *Youth Platform* within the EUSDR Priority Area 9 – People and Skills.

This planning phase included:

* Ongoing meetings between the above mentioned stakeholders in 2013 and 2014
* Presentation of the EUSDR PA9 during the Yearly “TCP Seminar” of National Agencies and SALTO Ressource Centers of the “Erasmus+ Youth in Action” Programme (November 2013, Bonn), discussing financial aspects and possible aims and objectives of a Youth Platform in the EUSDR.
* Workshops with 30 representatives of Educational Ministries, Youth Ministries and Sport Ministries as well as Civil Society Organisations and formal education institutions from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, discussing possible aims and objectives of the Platform. (December 2013, Open Space Conference PA9, Vienna)

Based on the planning phase the following aims and objectives where identified:

Aims:

* Contribution to the achievement of [EU 2020 targets](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm), in particular with regard to smart and inclusive growth
* Contribution to the “Education and Training 2020” strategic framework and its four strategic objectives
* Contribution to the improvement of labour markets and social inclusion in the region
* To foster partnerships at the interface of education (formal and non-formal), training and Youth

Objectives

* Serve as meeting point between formal and non-formal learning institutions to share experiences
* Share good practice projects of cross sectoral cooperation between formal and nonformal learning institutions
* Foster sharing of ideas and project development and explore possible funding opportunities within Erasmus+ or the Danube Region Programme or other funding instruments

**Timetable of Activities Youth Platform**

Prep Meeting 1.EUSDR PA9 Youth Platform – June 2014 in Vienna

The prep Meeting will bring together Erasmus+ National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centers and other stakeholders as well as facilitators of the first Youth platform to work on a concrete Programme of the conference. The Activity is financed by Erasmus+ TCA and SALTO SEE funds

1. EUSDR Youth Platform – November 2014 in Vienna

The Youth Platform will gather around 60 stakeholders from different countries of the EUSDR for 2 days to provide as meeting point between formal and non-formal learning institutions to share experiences, map existing projects, enable exchange and project development and explore possible funding opportunities for projects within the EUSDR. The Activity is financed by Erasmus+ TCA and SALTO SEE funds

**Other Activities related to the EUSDR Youth Platform:**

Participation Day , Castle Esterhazy, Eisenstadt 25.6.2014

Organised by the Foster Europe Foundation this day should bring together Civil Society Organisation and decision makers to exchange ideas and present projects in 4 thematic villages. The Youth Platform will be discussed in the “Thematic village” „Youth: Education-Participation-Qualification”

3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR Vienna, 26/27 June 2014

The development of the youth Platform will be presented during the 3rd annual forum of the EUSDR

Other Training offers financed by Erasmus+ Youth in Action TCA with a possible link to the EUSDR:

*Youthfull Europe, Fall 2014* – Training focusing on the learning of practical exercises in order to support the implementation of European topics within youth projects. Links to the EUSDR will be explored during a prep Meeting in May 2014 in Vienna.

*Erasmus+ Youth in Action Labs*, recurring activities, starting in 2014 This short (maximum) 2 day Trainings brings together potential applicants and provides them with input about funding opportunities in Erasmus+ Youth in Actions let's them exchange ideas with other applicants and experienced beneficiaries and gives time to start writing the first project idea.

Links to the EUSDR will be explored during a prep Meeting in 2014 in Vienna.