

Newsletter June 2024:

EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

Dear stakeholders of Priority Area 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)!

Before your well-deserved summer breaks, we invite you to join us in taking a look back at the last months. Continue reading to find out more about the latest developments, events and initiatives of Priority Area "People & Skills".

Thank you for all your interest and contributions to our work! We continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Best wishes for the summer,

The team of EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

HIGHLIGHTS - People & Skills

3rd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) | 18 April 2024 | Vienna, Austria



The 3rd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence, titled "**Greening of VET in the Danube Region: Changing Skill Demands and the Role of Centres of Vocational Excellence**" held on April

18, 2024, in Vienna, focused on the greening of vocational education and training (VET) in the Danube Region, particularly addressing the changing skill demands in the construction and energy sectors due to the green transition.

The event, attended by EU and national policymakers, country experts, and VET stakeholders, highlighted the critical role of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) in addressing these new skills needs. Key discussions revolved around sectoral developments, EU policy responses, and the potential of CoVEs in supporting this transition. The meeting emphasized the importance of mutual learning, collaboration, and the creation of joint regional projects to enhance VET systems' capacity to meet green skills demands.

MORE INFORMATION

12th International Stakeholder Conference | 23 May 2024 | Vienna, Austria



The 12th International Stakeholder Conference of EUSDR Priority Area 9 titled **"Fair, Green and Digital Transition in Education and Labour Market Policies in the Danube Region"** took place on May 23, 2024, in Vienna, Austria in the framework of the Austrian EUSDR presidency. We welcomed more than 90 participants in Vienna.

The conference was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria, and addressed the region's profound transformations, emphasizing the development of green skills, adaptation to digital technologies, inclusivity for vulnerable groups, and the importance of youth involvement.

Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and working groups, participants explored challenges and opportunities, exchanged on related policies and

initiatives and shared good practices. One working group was hosted by representatives of the EUSDR Danube Youth Council and tackled these topics from the perspective of young people.

MORE INFORMATION

26th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 24 May 2024 | Vienna, Austria



Participants of our 26th Steering Group meeting shared updates on education and labour market developments and opportunities for cooperation in the Danube Region. Our Steering Group also decided on labelling three initiatives as Danube Strategy Flagships: the [Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe](#) (ERI SEE), the [Platform of ESF Managing Authorities](#), and the [Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence](#).

MORE INFORMATION

Erasmus+/eTwinning Thematic Conference: “School Cooperation in the Danube Region” | 13-14 June 2024 | Krems, Austria



The latest eTwinning conference “School Cooperation in the Danube Region” brought 42 teachers from 12 Danube Region countries to the town of Krems, Austria. The aim of the event was to connect teachers and schools and to initiate innovative cooperation projects in the region. Ten new eTwinning projects were developed during the conference. The conference was hosted by OeAD, the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+, in cooperation with Priority Area “People & Skills” and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

MORE INFORMATION

Thematic Workshop "Digitalisation of the Public Employment Service and Labour Market Administration" | 27-28 June 2024 | Podgorica, Montenegro



The Thematic Workshop was hosted jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy of Austria on the 27th and 28th of June in Podgorica, Montenegro, and brought

together stakeholders from the Danube Region with the aim to exchange good practices between countries in the region with different levels of digitalisation and to explore possible applications for digital services and tools, which could be integrated into the labour market administration of Candidate Countries.

Around 25 national policy makers, representatives of the labour market administration and country experts from Montenegro, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Republic of Moldova and Republic of Serbia participated in the workshop. Over the course of two days, the participants shared experiences and exchanged views on benefits as well as challenges emerging from the digitalisation of public services in the area of employment. Discussions revolved around the importance of digital services for different client groups of the Public Employment Service, data and information security, interoperability as well as the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.

MORE INFORMATION

HIGHLIGHTS - EUSDR

Austrian EUSDR Presidency



With 1 November 2023, Austria took over the EUSDR Presidency from Slovenia, under the slogan **'Shaping Transformation, Creating Opportunities: A Prosperous, Resilient and Secure Danube Region'**. One of the thematic priorities of the presidency is on 'Boosting skills and competences'.

The objective of the Austrian presidency is to achieve an even closer cooperation in the Danube Region, to highlight the clear added value of the EUSDR and its projects, to bring the EUSDR closer to its citizens and to continue building up a prosperous and resilient Danube Region. The Austrian presidency will last until 31 December 2024.

MORE INFORMATION

13th EUSDR Annual Forum | 20-21 June | Vienna, Austria



The 13th EUSDR Annual Forum 2024, themed "Cooperation in the Danube Region: now more than ever! Shaping transformation, creating opportunities" took place on 20-21 June 2024 in Vienna, Austria, was set to convene policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss the emerging trends and in the Danube Region.

This included a **session** organised by our Priority Area titled “**Skills and education for the green transition**”, which explored the critical role of education and vocational training in supporting the green transition. This session aimed to identify strategies and best practices for integrating green skills into education systems, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the workforce is prepared for sustainable development challenges.

OUTLOOK 2024

- 10-12 September: Forum on Vocational Excellence in Lyon, France
- 7-10 October: 22nd European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, Belgium
- Autumn: Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities Network
- Autumn/winter: 27th PA9 Steering Group Meeting

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Stay updated on current projects and initiatives, upcoming events, available funding opportunities, interesting research and publications, as well as possibilities for cooperation and much more on the PA9 [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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