

# 11<sup>th</sup> International Stakeholder Conference PA9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

## “A More Resilient, Safer and Smarter Danube Region at Challenging Times”

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**Date:** November 13-14, 2023

**Venue:** Videoconference

**Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/RbE5JK1aEWspDoj3g>

**Zoom link:** <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/86245567358?pwd=3btetYwxKox55VhqazTgBQRfDGizWO.1>

The conference is hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and Ukrainian Institute for International Politics in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, and OeAD – Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation.

### Background:

The general objective of the conference is to raise the discussion related to the latest challenges within the Priority Area 9 (People and Skills). Dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19 as well as coping with the war in Ukraine are among the main threats that countries from the Danube region currently face. Education, social and labour systems have been under significant pressure for several past years and thus require innovative approaches and increasing resilience to be able to transform to the challenges. EUSDR PA9 wants SHC to become an inspiring platform to stimulate discussion and best practice exchange among EUSDR stakeholders.

### Participants to be involved:

- EU and international institutions;
- Representatives of other macro-regional strategies (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region)
- State institutions responsible for labour market, educational and social policies;
- National educational institutions;
- Agencies of the vocational education;
- Representatives of civil society and NGOs;
- Institutions of social research.

### Panel discussions to be held:

1. Promotion of digital skills and competences in the Danube region and beyond;
2. Lifelong learning for adults in the Danube region;
3. Enhancing cooperation between VET and labour market within the Danube region;
4. Resilience, safety and rehabilitation in the Danube region and beyond.

## AGENDA

Monday, November 13th, 2023, 12.00-15.00 CET

11.45-12.00 Registration

12.00-12.20 Welcome speech

**Dmytro Zavhorodniy**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalization

**Iryna Postolovska**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration

**Introduction by Priority Area Coordinators PA9 "People and Skills"**

**Roland Hanak**, Head of Staff Position, Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, Austria

**Jürgen Schick**, Deputy Head of Department, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria

**Ludmila Pavlov**, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Education and Research, Republic of Moldova

12.20-12:30 Online poll exercise (Mentimeter)

12.30-13.30 Panel discussion 1. Promoting digital skills and competences in the Danube region and beyond

Profound digitalization of education, as well as the labour market remain to be a central necessity for the EUSDR member states. This panel aims to elicit different perspectives regarding the usage and promotion strategies of digital skills and competences in the Danube region and other EU macro-regional strategies.

**Moderator: Mykhailo Omelchenko**, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics, EUSDR PAC9 staff (Ukraine)

1. **Dmytro Zavhorodniy**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalization (Ukraine)
2. **Claus Hoffmann**, Managing Director of the Center for Digitalization of the Stuttgart Region (ZD.BB GmbH), Coordinator of the EUSDR PA8 Working Group "Digital Danube" (Germany)
3. **Bela Kardon**, Inclusion4Schools (a Horizon-2020 project), Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development (Hungary)
4. **Jussi Okkonen**, "Digital Literacy Post Covid" (a European Social Fund project), Tampere University (Finland)

Discussion

13.30-13.45 Coffee Break

### 13.45-14.45 Panel discussion 2. Lifelong learning in the Danube region and beyond

A continuous challenge for lifelong learning is to assist individuals in acquiring skills and knowledge for successful work life, especially during the turbulent times of post-Covid recovery in the EU and bearing in mind refugee crisis in Europe following the full-scale war in Ukraine. Millions of adults and especially some poorly protected categories such as refugees and IDPs are in constant need for integration into new environment as well as keeping their skills and competencies up-to-date. This panel focuses on current and innovative approaches in promoting lifelong learning in the Danube region and other EU macro-regional strategies.

**Moderator: Jakob Weiss**, OeAD-Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, EUSDR PAC9 staff (Austria)

1. **Ulrike Damyanovic**, European Training Foundation
2. **Anatolii Garmash**, European Training Foundation
3. **Olena Gachuk**, Odesa Center of Vocational and Technical Education (Ukraine)
4. **Lina Blažytė**, Towards a Professional Path project, Diversity Development Group (Lithuania)

Discussion

### 14.45-15.00 Wrap-up of day 1

**Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 12.00-14.30 CET**

<b>11.45-12.00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>12.00-13.00</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion 3. Enhancing cooperation between vocational education and training and labour market in the Danube region</b></p> <p>Undoubtedly, in current challenging times VET and labour market spheres require specific attention. Consolidation of international cooperation is required to make VET institutions and labour markets in the Danube region capable to adapt to and confront the ever-increasing challenges, such as the need to reconstruct Ukraine and to prepare required specialists in various fields of national economies that would meet modern standard of innovation-driven, resilience-focused approach.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Jörg Mirtl</b>, Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, EUSDR PAC9 staff (Austria)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Galina Rusu</b>, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova (Moldova)</li><li>2. <b>Tiina Polo</b>, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit B.2: Skills Agenda</li><li>3. <b>Yulia Grytsku-Andriyesh</b>, Deputy Head of Chernivtsi Regional Military Administration (Ukraine)</li><li>4. <b>Eduard Staudecker</b>, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria (Austria)</li></ol> <p>Discussion</p>
<b>13.00-13.15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>13.15-14.15</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion 4. Resilience, safety and rehabilitation in the Danube region</b></p> <p>Full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine is the biggest armed conflict in Europe since WWII. Millions of refugees in Europe as well as millions of IDPs and tens of thousands of war veterans in Ukraine are now a fact that requires all our attention and resources. This panel aims at uncovering how Danube region countries can ensure that the processes of providing mental health recovery, rehabilitation, safety and resilience over time are sustained and improved.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Nadija Afanasieva</b>, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics (Ukraine)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Ugo Guarnacci</b>, European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)</li><li>2. <b>Oleksiy Shafrostov</b>, Director of Educational and Methodical Center for VET in Ivano-Frankivsk region (Ukraine)</li><li>3. <b>Anastasia Nekrasova</b>, LDF Director, Harthill Consulting, Head of Supervisory Board of Folk High School "Vovchok"</li><li>4. <b>Anton Sytnykov</b>, Instructor of EORE Tactical Medicine School</li></ol> <p>Discussion</p>

**14.15-14.30**

**Wrap Up of day 2 and 11<sup>th</sup> SHC**

**Nadija Afanasieva, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics, EUSDR PAC9 staff**