



Newsletter December 2022: EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

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

2022 is coming to a close. This year has been overshadowed by multiple crises, in particular in light of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Despite these challenging times, cooperation in the Priority Area "People & Skills" continued and we had the opportunity to bring together representatives and experts, gather scientific insights, and launch videos on our work. Please continue reading below to find out more.

We thank our growing newsletter community for all your interest and contributions!

Season's greetings and best wishes for 2023,

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Videos on Priority Area "People & Skills" and our Cooperation Areas

We have just released two videos to introduce the work of Priority Area 9 "People & Skills" and our cooperation areas. Watch the videos [here](#) to find out more about our cooperation platform and the topics we focus on.

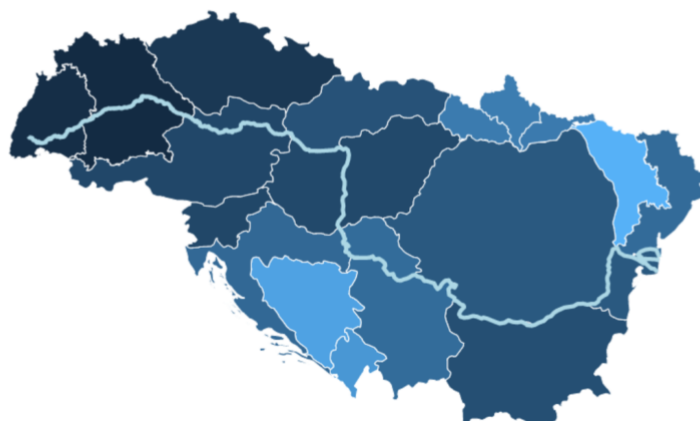


New Report and Online Database | “Danube Region Monitor – People & Skills

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected education systems and labour markets in the Danube Region? This is one of the questions that the newly released update of the “Danube Region Monitor – People & Skills” investigates. A dedicated chapter of the report also gives first insights into the impact of the invasion of Ukraine. To visualize the data behind the report, Priority Area 9 also launched an online database. The report and online database were prepared by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and discussed during an online workshop with experts from the Danube Region countries on 15 December. Check out the database [here](#). The final report will be published on our website. Documentation on the workshop is available [here](#).

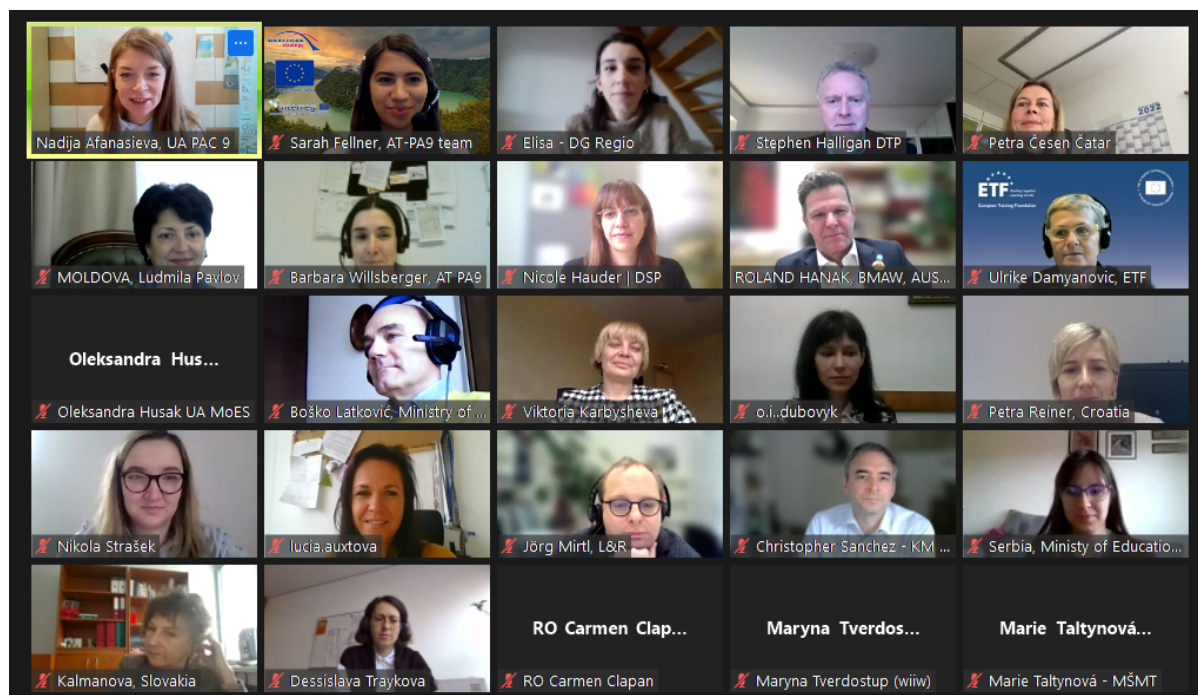
DANUBE REGION MONITOR - PEOPLE AND SKILLS

HOME DATA EXPLORER
SELECTED MAPS IMPRINT



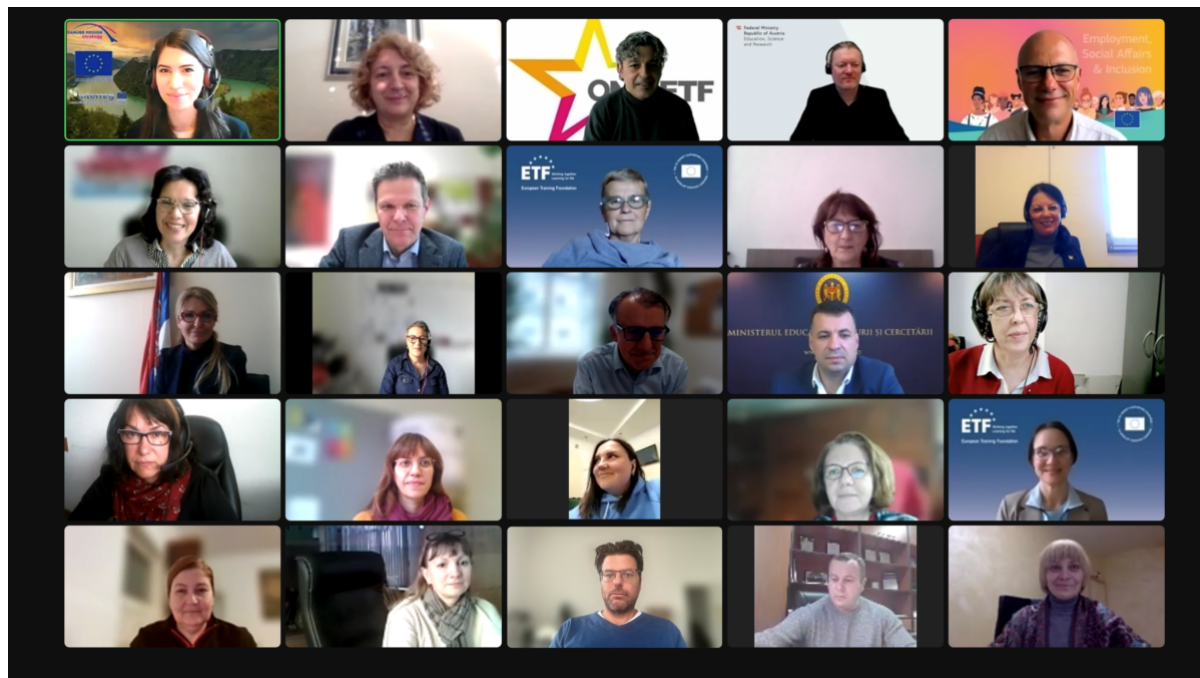
23rd Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 23 November 2022 | Online

What is happening in labour markets and education systems in the Danube Region? The Steering Group of Priority Area 9 met online on 23 November to discuss current developments, measures to support Ukrainian refugees, and cooperation activities in the Danube Region. Documentation on the meeting is available [here](#).



2nd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence | 8-9 November 2022 | Online

The Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence provides a forum to promote green and inclusive vocational excellence in the Danube Region. Almost 50 participants from 11 Danube Region countries and partner institutions joined our second online platform meeting in November. The first day was dedicated to updates from the Danube Region countries, Priority Area 9, the European Training Foundation, and the European Commission. Funding opportunities and potential areas for cooperation were discussed on the second day. You can find documentation on the meeting [here](#).



10th Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities Network | 4-5 July 2022 | Vienna

The ESF Managing Authorities Network of the EUSDR aims at fostering transnational cooperation within the ESF Operational Programmes in the Danube Region, to thereby connect cooperation and investment, and serve as a joint knowledge hub for implementation, planning and exchange of experience with social policies. The 10th Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities took place on 4-5 July 2022 (hybrid and on the spot in Vienna). The meeting gave an overview on the state of play of programming and exploring options for transnational cooperation in the context of ESF+ Operational Programmes. Reports, presentations and other documents can be viewed [here](https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/?na=view&id=108).



Visit at Madgas Hotel - a Social Enterprise

Danube Strategy Flagships

To promote the visibility of achievements in the EUSDR, strategic initiatives were selected as “Danube Strategy Flagships” across all Priority Areas. For Priority Area 9, three initiatives were chosen: the [Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence](#), the [ESF Managing Authorities Network](#) and the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points project ([EQAVET-NRP-RO 2019](#), [EQAVET-NRP-RO 2021](#)).

Start of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency

With 1 November 2022, Slovenia took over the EUSDR Presidency from Ukraine. One of the thematic priorities of the Slovenian EUSDR Presidency is “Towards the knowledge society and professions of the future”. Strengthening involvement in the EUSDR, strategic governance, the inclusion of youth, as well as embedding are among the institutional priorities.

4th Report of the European Commission on the Implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies

The [4th report of the European Commission on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies](#) and accompanying [Staff Working Document](#) were published on 9 December 2022. The report is also available in the EU languages spoken in the Danube Region, which you will find [here](#). The report calls for a stronger focus of MRS on social change, including labour market and education policies. When it comes to embedding MRS into mainstream programmes, the report highlights the importance of [PA9's ESF network](#). Moreover, it points out the importance of social transitions and innovation, e.g. with a reference to the PA9 project [SI PLUS](#), which was presented at this year's macro-regional week in Brussels. The documents also highlight the role of PA9 Danube Region eTwinning conferences in fostering transnational school cooperation and promoting the digital skills of teachers. Reference is also made to the [Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence](#), launched by PA9 in cooperation with the European Training Foundation to promote green and social VET excellence, local innovation and smart specialization.

OUTLOOK 2023

- 17-18 May: EUSDR Presidency conference "Knowledge-driven society"
- Spring: 24th PA9 Steering Group Meeting (tbd)
- Autumn/winter: 11th PA9 Stakeholder Conference, 25th PA9 Steering Group Meeting (tbd)
- Autumn/winter: 3rd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (tbd)
- 24-25 October: 12th EUSDR Annual Forum

Visit our website and Facebook page

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](#).

PA 9 | People & Skills

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