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Newsletter July 2023: 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.

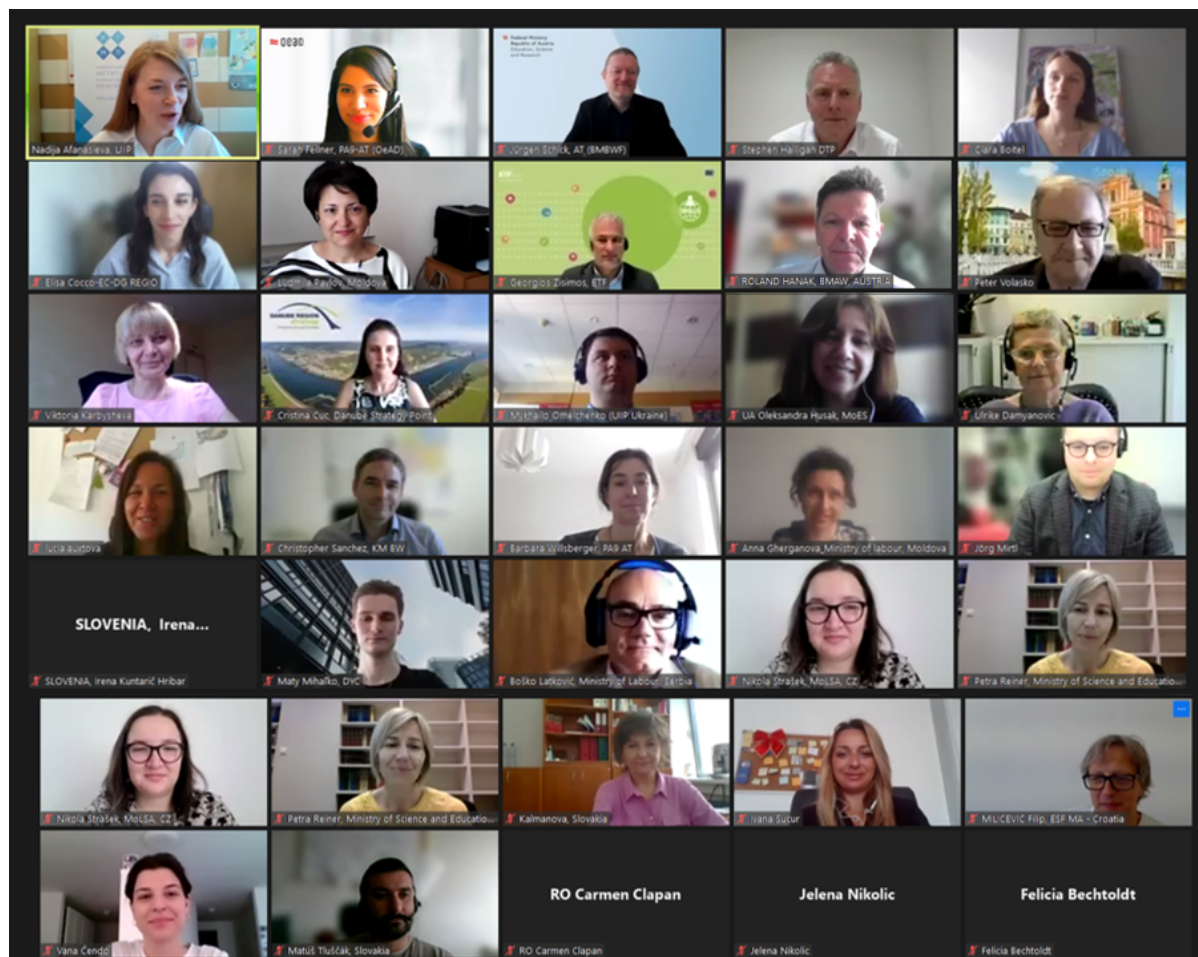
Best wishes for the summer,

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

HIGHLIGHTS - People & Skills

24th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 14 June 2023 | online

Participants of our 24th 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 two initiatives as Danube Strategy Flagships: the [Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe](#) (ERI SEE) and the initiative behind the annual eTwinning conferences "Bringing the Danube Region Into Classrooms: Promoting Cooperation of Schools and Teachers". Find out more about the Steering Group meeting [here](#).



Erasmus+/eTwinning Thematic Conference: “School Cooperation in the Danube Region” | 1-2 June 2023 | Krems, Austria

The latest eTwinning conference “School Cooperation in the Danube Region” brought 43 teachers from 11 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. The agenda, event report and list of projects are available [here](https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/?na=view&id=109).



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Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

The Danube Region needs new skills and jobs to support the green transition – vocational education and training plays a key role in this regard. In cooperation with the European Training Foundation's (ETF) [Network for Excellence](#), we are continuing to promote vocational excellence in the Danube Region. For this purpose, our Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence connects policymakers, experts and practitioners. The greening of vocational education and training will be the focus of upcoming activities in 2023 and 2024. Stay tuned and find out more about the Platform [here](#).



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DANUBE REGION PLATFORM ON CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



HIGHLIGHTS - EUSDR

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

In June 2023, the Council adopted conclusions on the [4th Report of the European Commission on the Implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies](#) in 2020-2021. The [Council conclusions](#) highlight the relevance of macro-regional strategies such as the EUSDR in fostering cohesion, regional development and in the context of the green, digital, and socially sustainable transition. Their role in the enlargement process and to support Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova is also emphasised.

4th EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week | 24-28 April 2023 | Brussels, Belgium + online

The 4th EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week was held in Brussels and online from 24-28 April 2023 under the motto "Transform to Thrive". It focused on the topics of skills, energy, and funding. Priority Area "People & Skills" contributed by moderating a panel on "Skills for Resilient Societies". Watch the recording [here](#).

Slovenian EUSDR Presidency Conference “Towards Knowledge-Driven Society and Professions of the Future” | 17-18 May 2023 | Brdo, Slovenia + online

The Slovenian EUSDR Presidency conference “Towards Knowledge-Driven Society and Professions of the Future” took place from 17 to 18 May 2023 in Brdo, Slovenia and online. It focused on the importance of knowledge development and adaptations to the changes brought about by the green and digital transitions. Priority Area “People & Skills” contributed to the discussions with inputs on skills needed for the reconstruction of Ukraine. Read more about the conference [here](#).

Involvement of Youth in the EUSDR

The Danube Youth Council, launched in October 2022, consists of 28 members aged 18-29 from all Danube Region countries. It is envisaged to have an advisory role in the governance of the EUSDR. In February 2023, we met with members interested in the work of our Priority Area. A member of the Danube Youth Council also shared inputs during our latest Steering Group meeting. In addition to the Danube Youth Council, the involvement of youth in the EUSDR shall also be promoted through a Danube Youth Organisations Network. The current call for expressions of interest for national or regional youth organisation/entities interested in joining the network can be accessed through [here](#) and is open until September 2023.

OUTLOOK 2023

- 25-26 September: Forum on Vocational Excellence in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 9-12 October: 21st European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, Belgium
- 18 October: Joint Online Meeting of ETF's GRETA and the Danube Region Platform on CoVEs
- 23-27 October: European Vocational Skills Week 2023
- 23 October: 10th Danube Participation Day
- 24-25 October: 12th EUSDR Annual Forum in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia
- 1 November: Start of the Austrian EUSDR Presidency
- 9-10 November: ETF ENE Conference in Torino, Italy

- Autumn: Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities Network
- Autumn/winter: 11th PA9 Stakeholder Conference, 25th PA9 Steering Group Meeting

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](https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/) and [Facebook page](https://facebook.com/EUSDRPA9/).

PA 9 | People & Skills

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