

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

## “A Resilient Danube Region through Digitalization, Inclusion and Education”

**Date:** June 17-18, 2021

**Venue:** video-conference

**Links:** Zoom Platform

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

### Background:

The general objective of the conference is to raise the discussion related to the main challenges within the Priority Area 9 (People and Skills). The profound digitalization of education, as well as the labour market and readiness to such transformations, remain to be a central necessity for the EUSDR member states. The issue of digitalization is widely discussed internationally and should be actively and regularly raised in the Danube region.

The conference aims to support the general development of social inclusion within EUSDR countries. Such topics as the problem of early school leavers and involvement of youngsters in education and training are crucial and remain on the discussion list.

The third main thematic pillar of the stakeholders’ conference is vocational education and training development. There is no doubt that this sphere requires specific attention and consolidation of international cooperation to make VET institutions capable to prepare up-to-date and required specialists in various fields of national economies.

### Participants to be involved:

- EU and international institutions;
- 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:

- Promotion of digital skills and competences in the Danube region;
- Equal opportunities and inclusion in the Danube region;
- Enhancing cooperation between vocational education and training and labour market in the Danube region.

## AGENDA

Thursday, June 17th, 2021, 12.00-15.00 CET

11.45-12.00 Registration

12.00-12.15 Welcome speech

Artur Seletskyi, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Ukraine (tbc)

Olga Revuk, Deputy Minister of Social Policy, Ukraine

Introduction

Daria Bovkun, Ministry of Education and Science, Ukraine

Roland Hanak, Federal Ministry of Labour, Austria

Jürgen Schick, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria

Anna Gherganova, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova

12.15-12.30 Online poll exercise

12.30-13.30 Panel discussion 1. Promotion of digital skills and competences in the Danube region

*Moderator: Sarah Fellner, OeAD – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, PACg Team*

Roksolana Shvadchak, Acting Director-General on Digitalization in the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Esa Kokkonen, Policy Area Coordinator, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - Policy Area Innovation

Danijela Šćepanović, Education Policy Analyst, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia

Project presentation

Martina Chvatalova, Digital & Media Competence for Students and Teachers

Discussion

13.30-13.45 Coffee Break

13.45-14.45 Panel discussion 2. Equal opportunities and inclusion in the Danube region

*Moderator: Jörg Mirtl, L&R Social Research, PACg Team*

**Natalja Bovkun**, State Expert in the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

**Claudia Singer**, Priority Area 10 Coordinator EUSDR

**Paul Downes**, Director of the Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dublin City University

### Project Presentation

**Mykhailo Dankanych**, Virtual Reality Unites Carpathians: Interactive School Laboratories

Discussion

14.45-15.00 Wrap-up of day 1

## Friday, June 18th, 2021, 12.00-15.00 CET

12.00-12.15 Registration

12.15-13.45 Panel discussion 3. Enhancing cooperation between vocational education and training and labour market in the Danube region

**Moderator: Gennadiy Rusanov**, Deputy Team Leader PL/EU4Skills

**Iryna Shumick**, Director-General on Vocational Education and Training in the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

**Natalya Vasylenko**, State Expert in the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

**Dmytro Vterkovsky**, Director-General, SE "Production Association "Carpathians"

**Silviu Gincu**, Head of Department for technical professional education, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Republic of Moldova

**Georgios Zisimos**, Head of Policy Advice and EU Programming Unit, European Training Foundation

Discussion

13.45-13.55 Coffee break

13.55-14.50 Panel discussion 4. Financial instruments to support implementation of PA9 EUSDR

**Moderator: Nadija Afanasieva**, Director of the Ukrainian Institute for International Politics

**Henk Visser**, Programme Coordinator, Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Programme

**Johannes Gabriel**, Project Officer of the Danube Transnational Programme, Update on DTP financial planning

**Tetiana Biletska**, Deputy Director of the Reform Support Team (RST) at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Discussion

**14.50-15.00**      **Concluding remarks**