

## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities of the Danube Region | Summary

1 June 2021 | Online

### Introduction

Priority Coordinators of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region of the Priority Areas 9 “People and Skills”, Roland Hanak, and Priority Area 10 “Institutional capacity and Cooperation”, Claudia Singer, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Michal Blaško, EUSDR Presidency Slovakia, welcomed the participants as well as the endeavor of this network to work towards embedding and better coordination of funding in the Danube Region.

### State of Play ESF+ Operational Programmes

The participants shared the current state of play in ESF+ programming with a particular focus on (expected) selected topics, the next steps of the programming process, institutional setting (with a specific focus on changes in comparison to the previous funding period), and (potential) links to the EUSDR and transnational cooperation (TC).

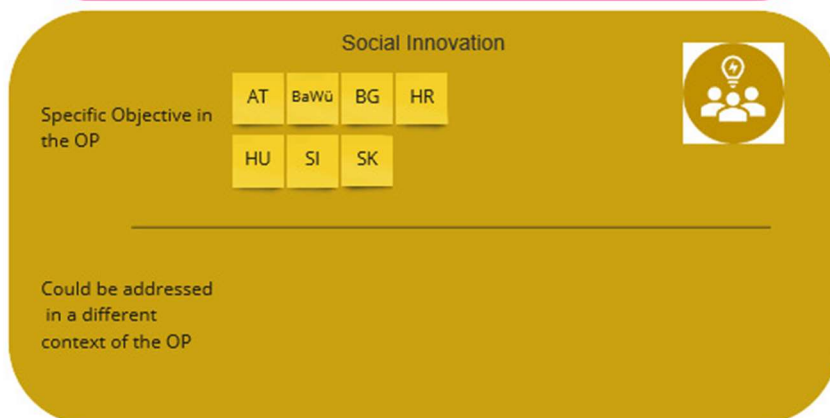
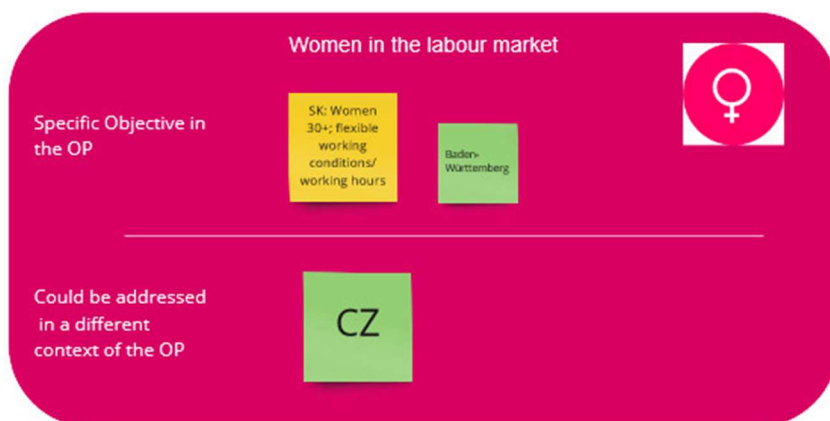
Country/OP	Topics	Process	Institutional setting	Link to EUSDR/TC
<b>Austria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- equality between women &amp; men (narrow pay gap, tackle stereotypical professional views)</li> <li>- active ageing</li> <li>- social inclusion</li> <li>- avoid school drop-outs</li> <li>- life-long learning</li> <li>- social innovation</li> </ul>	Next OP draft will be sent mid-July 2021.		Social innovation – in the frame of the Social Innovation Competence Centre - can be a topic for transnational cooperation.
<b>Baden-Württemberg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual support for people with social difficulties for flanking their occupation</li> <li>- Individual support for people in vocational training for nursing assistant and housekeeping assistant professions</li> <li>- individual support for people in part-time vocational training</li> <li>- Integration of women in labour market (for women with experience of domestic violence or to enable exit from prostitution)</li> </ul>	<p>First calls are expected to be published by late summer of 2021 on <a href="http://www.esf-bw.de">www.esf-bw.de</a></p> <p>First calls are expected to be published by late summer of 2022 on <a href="http://www.esf-bw.de">www.esf-bw.de</a></p>		
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Labour market</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- social inclusion</li> <li>- health</li> <li>- youth employment</li> </ul>	21 May: Discussion of strategic objectives;	Institutional setting: MA (=technical secretariat), line ministries are	TC is allowed all over the OPs, but depends on line ministries, whether it will be applied.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- child poverty</li> <li>- FEAD activities</li> <li>- social innovation</li> </ul> <p>Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pre-school education,</li> <li>- investments in health staff,</li> <li>- investment in NEETs,</li> <li>- child poverty</li> <li>- Vocational schooling (establishing a new school for masters of crafts)</li> <li>- Further proposals for projects (e.g. area of Roma inclusion)</li> </ul>	<p>8 June: document on strategic objectives will be finalised;</p> <p>Beginning of July: Drafting the OP in template</p> <p>September 2021: first comments</p>	responsible for the content.	TC will most likely be implemented via horizontal issues; response in the area of education, the topic will be further discussed with DG EMPL.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>OP includes a broad variety of topics (OP addresses most of the topics addressed in the topics for transnational cooperation)</p> <p>For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women in the labour market</li> <li>- Roma inclusion in the labour market</li> <li>- Life-long Learning: not decided yet, which OP will address the topic</li> <li>- OP will include Social Innovation</li> </ul>			<p>Interested in transnational cooperation, working with competence centres</p> <p>CZ does not participate in the SI Plus hub, but intends to find ways of cooperation.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>Multi-Fond-Programme: enterprise development, research &amp; development, innovation</p> <p>strong business focus</p> <p>5,7 bn will go to ESF topics (youth employment, tertiary &amp; vocational training)</p> <p>Raising quality of vocational education (developing digital content vor VE</p> <p>Tackling early school drop-outs</p>	<p>End of June: submit OP for inter-service consultation</p> <p>Plan to launch some of the more traditional programmes in 2021</p>		<p>HU = active in setting up a transnational social innovation competence centre</p> <p>not really articulated yet in the OP draft</p> <p>vocational training is regarded as a common topic in the Danube Region</p> <p>open to participate in transnational cooperation</p>
<b>Slovakia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adaptable/accessible services</li> <li>- labour market</li> <li>- quality inclusive education</li> <li>- Youth Guarantee</li> </ul>	Partnership Agreement is sent to the EC for comments	<p>1 Multi-Fund Programme</p> <p>Allocation of funds: 2,1 bn EUR</p>	Text module has been integrated in the template of the OP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- active inclusion and available services</li> <li>- FEAD</li> <li>- Social innovation &amp; experiments</li> </ul> <p>NEW: Roma inclusion is now part of all priorities (e.g. labour market, education etc.) for more collaborative initiatives</p>	<p>Exchange with EC on the conditions (by end of June)</p> <p>Working on enabling conditions</p>		TC is considered very relevant to share knowledge
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- labour market</li> <li>- long-term care</li> <li>- ageing</li> <li>- social inclusion</li> <li>- competences</li> <li>- modernisation of social services</li> </ul>	<p>Currently, the focus lies on the Recovery Fund</p> <p>Discussion on enabling conditions &amp; allocation of funding</p>	<p>1 Multi Fund Programme</p> <p>Include CLLD</p> <p>Dedicate funding to interregional programmes</p>	

## Topics for Transnational Cooperation

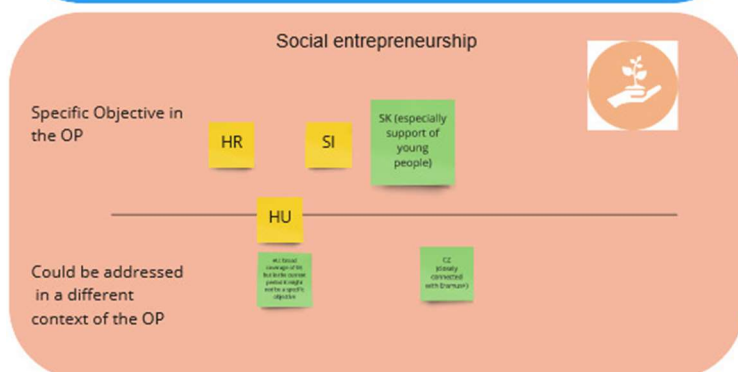
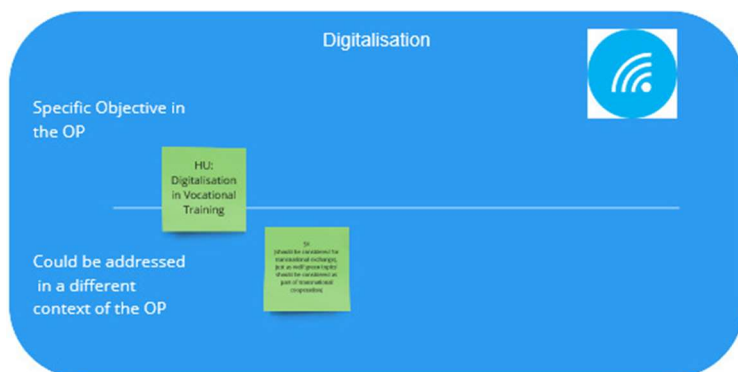
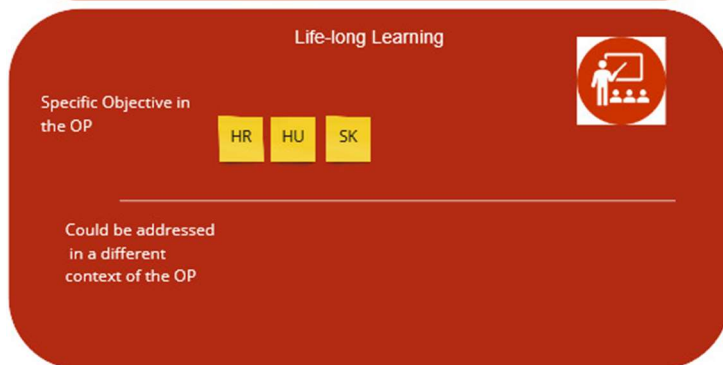
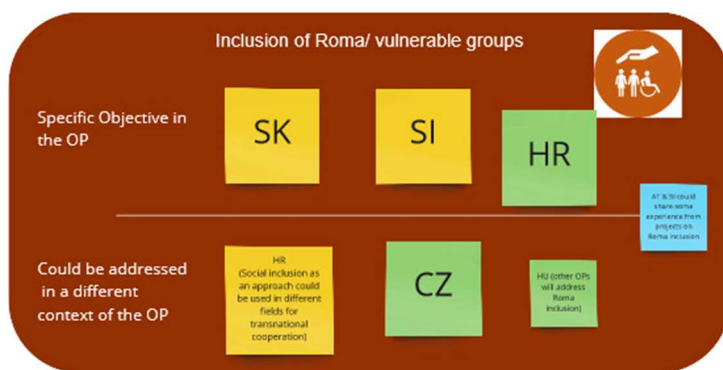
The list of topics for transnational cooperation was discussed and updated according to progress in national programming:

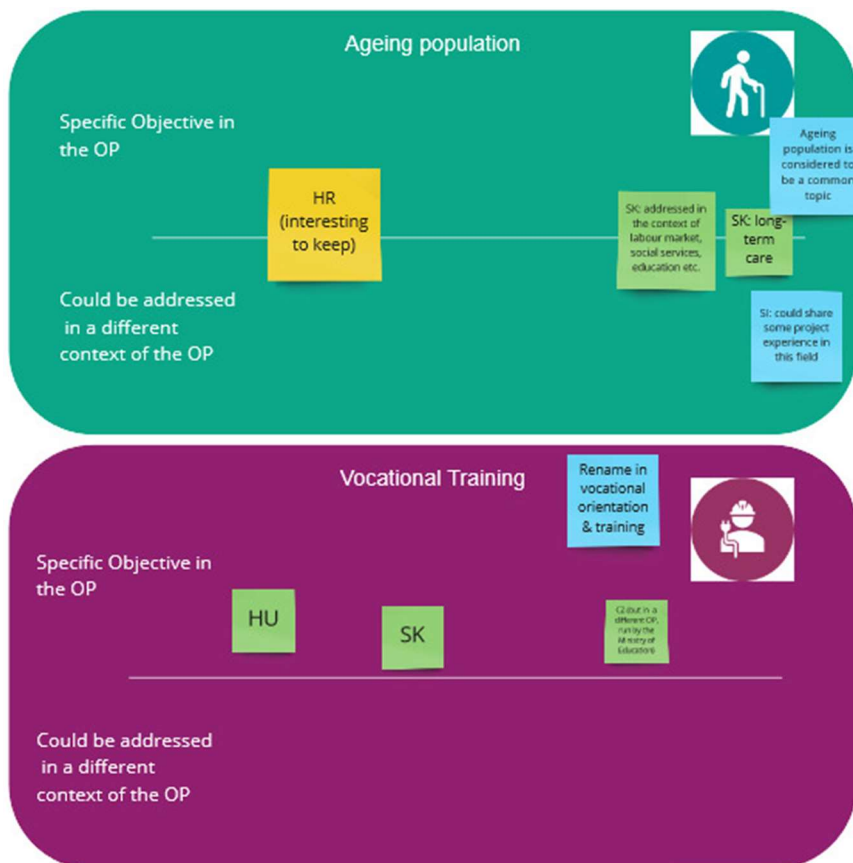


### Legend

Results from the last meeting

Discussion 1st of June 2021





In the context of transnational cooperation possibilities Barbara Willsberger (PA9, L&R Social Research) introduced the new project “SI PLUS”, which is funded under the EasI Programme and brings together 7 countries (Austria, Baden-Württemberg, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bulgaria) from the Danube Regions to establish National Competence Centres for Social Innovation. The project is also going to serve as a platform for transnational exchange. Marianne Doyen (EC, DG EMPL) added that the DG EMPL is ready to help and contribute to this project.

Claudia Singer (PAC10) provided an overview on how to integrate TNC into national OPs, reaching from transnational capitalization up to coordinated calls. Barbara Willsberger highlighted the importance of sharing experience in this respect. The Presidency and DSP stressed the importance of the ESF MA network, which serves as a model for the ERDF/CF and IPA/NDICI networks in the EUSDR context.

## Outlook

Barbara Willsberger and Claudia Singer thanked the participants for their contributions. The next meeting should take place in autumn 2021 and offers the opportunity to exchange on good practice examples that can be picked up for transnational cooperation in the ESF+. At this point of time the programming phase should be at a much more advanced stage, which gives the opportunity to discuss the thematic cooperation in more detail but also possible tools for cooperation.

Michal Blaško (Presidency) proposed to hold the next meeting of the ESF MA network in the framework of the next Annual Forum of the EUSDR in October 2021.

## Annexes

- Agenda of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ESF Managing Authorities
- PPT
- Miro-board