

Newsletter December 2019: EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

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

The team of Priority Area 9 "Investing in People and Skills" now looks back on eventful past months and on fruitful three years of cooperation as the 2017-2019 DTP-PAC period comes to an end. We are looking forward to a continuing transnational collaboration in the important fields of PA 9.

In addition, we wish you a Merry Christmas and the best possible start to the new year 2020!

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

HIGHLIGHTS

7th Stakeholder Conference | October 24, 2019 | Chisinau, Moldova

In October the last International Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 took place in Chisinau and was held under the motto "Building Partnerships for Future Skills". The conference involved 140 participants from the Danube Region countries, the European Commission, the World Bank, the OECD and other organisations. As the title of the meeting betrays, the attendants mainly elaborated on the skills challenges of the Danube Region. As skills demands are changing rapidly stakeholders of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region discussed how new technologies were changing the nature of work and how educators and employers could collaborate to find innovative approaches to these changes. Several PA 9 project representatives used the opportunity to share their experience and know-how in presentations ranging from the role of the Qualification Frameworks to best practice examples of skills development.

More info: <https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/events/international-pa9-stakeholder-conference/>

17th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | October 25, 2019 | Chisinau, Moldova

During the 17th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 the members discussed the countries' current reform priorities in education and labour market policy. The participants received information on the DTP-PAC application for 2020-2022, which has been submitted in October 2019 (more details below). Furthermore, the members of the Steering Group agreed on PA 9 comments on the first EC draft of the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan (more details below). In addition, the participants supported the idea to collaborate on the development of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs).

More info: <https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/events/17th-steering-group-meeting/>

Danube Region Monitor Report

In 2017 PA 9 initiated the creation of a 'Danube Region Monitor' to visualise the developments in the countries with respect to labour market and education. This can help to determine what policy fields to focus on in the framework of the Strategy for the Danube Region in the future.

After intensive discussions within the Steering Group and with experts, the first edition of the report "Danube Region Monitor – People and Skills" is almost ready and will be published soon on our [website](#). The paper includes detailed information and statistics on recent developments in labour market and education systems of the Danube Region. In the coming years the used indicators to evaluate the state-of-play in the Danube Region will be further assessed and the process of improving the monitoring system will continue. For the coming period of the PAC support project the PA 9 team aims to create an online database to make the results of the Danube Region Monitor easily accessible.

New PA 9 "Investing in People & Skills" Folder

Priority Area 9 has now published a new folder with the latest information on our objectives. The folder includes 8 concrete actions we are promoting in the field of Labour Market and Social Policy as well as Education and Training. Thus, it is a guide how we can meet the challenges of the coming years and contribute to a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive development of the 14 countries in the Danube Region.

Find the new folder for download here: <https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu/now-published-new-eusdr-priority-area-9-folder/>

You can like the respective Facebook post here: <https://www.facebook.com/EUSDRPA9/>

5th Meeting of ESF Managing Authorities in the Danube Region | October 8-9 2019 | Sofia, Bulgaria

The seminar aimed at identifying policy areas and necessary factors for successful transnational cooperation in the European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027 in the Danube Region and to define concrete tasks to make use of the full potential of ESF Managing Authorities and Macro-Regional Strategies to maximise the contribution to a social Europe. A Vision Paper was developed, which serves as a general framework to set the agenda for the network of ESF Managing Authorities in the Danube Region. In doing so, the Vision Paper is the basis for further steps towards better coordination of thematic priorities, project proposals and capacities for the technical implementation of transnational cooperation in accordance with the MAs' and the EUSDR's requirements.

Revision of the Action Plan

The process of the revision of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region started in 2018. Based on the Consolidated Input for the EUSDR Action Plan revision, DG Regio created a first draft of the revised Action Plan, which was discussed with NCs and PACs in a workshop in September. DG Regio will redraft the document based on the comments of the PACs and NCs submitted by 31 October. A new timeline for the revision of the final draft was established with the new Action Plan to be adopted by February 2020. Following the publication, a meeting of Ministers responsible for EUSDR as kick-off for the new Action Plan is being considered for the first quarter 2020, tentatively with the participation of the new Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms.

DTP PAC application filed for 2020-2022 period

As the 2017-2019 period comes to an end DTP has launched the second call for proposals for the support of PAC activities. The DTP-PAC application of PA 9 for 2020-2022 has been submitted by the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection as Lead Partner on 7 October 2019. Project Partners for the implementation are

the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova. The main goal of the PAC assistance is to support the governance and implementation of EUSDR PA 9. This includes coordination (e.g. SG meetings, Stakeholder Conferences), cooperation (e.g. know-how transfer, cooperation among institutions) and communication activities (e.g. PA 9 website, folders, PR-material).

The implementation of the project will start at the beginning of the year 2020.

OUTLOOK 2020

February 10 PACs meeting | Zagreb (tbc)

February 11 Joints NCs/PACs meeting | Zagreb (tbc)

Visit our new website

Priority Area 9 “People & Skills” updated its [website](#)! Check out useful information on current projects and initiatives, available funding opportunities, upcoming events, studies as well as possibilities for cooperation and much more!

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Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, ENI)