



Newsletter December 2021: EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

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

With the end of the year approaching, we are looking back at the last months, which allowed us to continue our cooperation and start new initiatives on matters of education, training, labour market and inclusion in the Danube Region.

We thank you all for your interest and contributions throughout the year and look forward to opportunities for further collaboration and exchange in 2022!

Season's greetings and best wishes for the new year,

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

HIGHLIGHTS

10-Year Anniversary of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

In June 2011, the European Council endorsed the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the EUSDR implementation, the Danube Strategy Point has published a digital brochure, which also features a contribution from Priority Area 9. Under the title "Where Labour Market and Education Policies Meet Neighbourhood Policy", the text looks at how the EUSDR enables cooperation between EU Member States and non-EU countries on equal terms. This is particularly true for Priority Area 9, where Austria and the Republic of Moldova have been cooperating in the coordination of the Priority Area since 2011 and were joined by Ukraine in 2019. Click [here](#) to read the digital brochure.

To celebrate the last 10 years, Priority Area 9 is also preparing a dedicated publication with a collection of texts on collaboration in labour market and education policies, as well as on the inclusion of marginalised groups in the Danube Region. The publication will also reflect on what could be further achieved in the future. It will be released early next year.

8th Danube Participation Day | 25 October 2021 | Online

The 8th Danube Participation Day was dedicated to "Participation & Digitalisation" and took place online back-to-back with the 10th Annual Forum. The importance of digital skills was one of the topics of the panel discussions and world café sessions.

10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region | 26-27 October 2021 | Bratislava/Online

The 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region “Towards a Green and Digital Danube Region” was held in a hybrid form in Bratislava and online on 26 and 27 October 2021. Click [here](#) to watch a video on the event.

Priority Area 9 “People & Skills” was invited to contribute to a round table on “The role of youth and youth policies in the EUSDR”. At this occasion, PA9 highlighted the importance of education and labour market policies both when it comes to the participation of youth in the EUSDR’s governance structures and on a more general level when dealing for instance with young people not in education, employment, or training. The audience participated actively and shared their views on pressing issues for young people, useful tools for youth involvement and their visions on the future of the Danube Region.

3. Which word comes to your mind when you think of the future of the Danube Region?



During a panel discussion on embedding, the ESF+ Managing Authorities Network was presented as a good practice example. Already existing since 2015, the network is being facilitated by Priority Areas 9 and 10.

Start of the Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency | 1 November 2021

Ukraine is the first non-EU country to chair the EU Strategy for the Danube Region from November 2021 to October 2022. The presidency was handed over by Slovakia at the Annual Forum. The development of human capital and labour markets will be one of the thematic priorities of the Ukrainian Presidency. Find out more in this [video](#). You can stay updated through the Ukrainian Presidency’s [website](#) and social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

21st Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 4-5 November 2021 | Online

The 21st Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 was held online. Participants presented recent developments in the labour market and education systems in their respective countries, including measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Steering Group was briefed about past activities, upcoming events and other initiatives. Updates were also provided by the European Commission, the Ukrainian Presidency and the Danube Strategy Point. Documentation on the meeting is available [here](#).



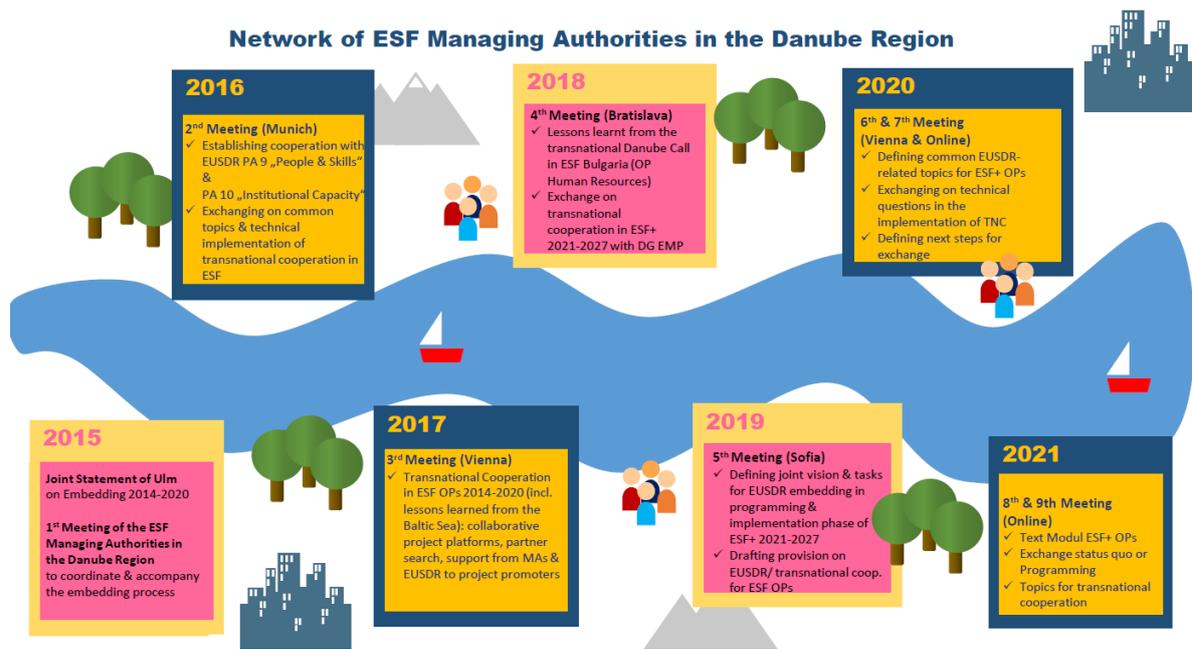
Kick-off of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence | 29 November 2021 | Online

The Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence was launched by Priority Area 9 and the European Training Foundation in an online event on 29 November 2021. The thematic focus of the platform lies on the topics of going green and social inclusion. As part of the initiative, the meeting established a Policy Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence, bringing together a core group of representatives of responsible national institutions from Danube Region countries and experts from the European Commission, PA9 and ETF. Inputs from Centres of Vocational Excellence active in the areas of going green and inclusive VET provided a basis for the thematic exchange in break-out groups. Documentation on the event is available [here](#).



9th Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities in the Danube Region | 1 December 2021 | Online

The meeting focused on the state of play of programming in the national ESF+ Operational Programmes and how to integrate the text module "interregional and transnational actions" into the programmes. Furthermore, the topics for transnational cooperation were specified as well as first project ideas were discussed.



Danube Region Monitor “People & Skills”

The Danube Region Monitor “People & Skills” is a report prepared on behalf of Priority Area 9. It analyses data on education and labour market developments in the Danube Region to support decision-makers. Watch this [video](#) from the Danube Strategy Point and read our [background story](#) to find out more. You can access the last report published in 2019 [here](#). A new report is currently being prepared by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw).

OUTLOOK 2022

March 2022: 3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week (tbc)

Spring/summer 2022: 22nd Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 (tbc)

Spring/summer 2022: 10th Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 (tbc)

June 2022: Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency Thematic Event 1 (tbc)

September 2022: Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency Thematic Event 2 (tbc)

October 2022: 1st Youth Participation Day (tbc)

October 2022: 9th Danube Participation Day (tbc)

October 2022: EUSDR Hackathon organized by the Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency (tbc)

October 2022: 11th EUSDR Annual Forum (tbc)

2022: 2nd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (tbc)

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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/).

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