



Newsletter July 2021: 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" looks back at the past months, which provided many opportunities for exchange through digital means in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We take the 10-year anniversary of implementing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) as an opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions over the past decade!

We hope that relaxing summer months and well-deserved holidays lie ahead of you and that you all stay healthy!

Best wishes,

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Interact Meeting "European Territorial Cooperation Boosting Youth Employability" | 28 June 2021 | Online

Priority Area 9 (PA9) provided an overview of activities in the field of youth employability and used the opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of macro-regional strategies such as the EUSDR, as well as their relationship with Interreg programmes. Click [here](#) to watch the recording.

9th Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 | 17-18 June 2021 | Online

The 9th Stakeholder Conference of PA9 took place online and focused on "A Resilient Danube Region through Digitalization, Inclusion and Education". Panel discussions were held on the topics of digital skills, social inclusion, vocational education and training, and funding opportunities. Speakers included Priority Area Coordinators from PA9 of the EUSDR, as well as representatives from government institutions, the Danube Transnational Programme, the European Training Foundation, the EU Employment and Social Innovation programme, PA10 and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the private sector and academia. About 80 participants from the Danube Region joined the event.

Erasmus+ Thematic Conference: "School cooperation in the Danube Region" | 10-11 June 2021 | Online

The 9th edition of the eTwinning Danube Region Seminar took place online and brought together 49 teachers from all 13 Danube Region countries that are part of the eTwinning

community. The aim of the meeting was to enhance transnational cooperation among teachers and schools and to initiate new eTwinning projects in the region. The Austrian eTwinning National Support Service facilitated training activities and sessions for the joint development of project ideas. 7 new projects with all participants involved were created during the seminar. Click [here](#) to see the event report.

8th Meeting of ESF Managing Authorities in the Danube Region | 1 June 2021 | Online

The 8th Meeting of European Social Fund (ESF) Managing Authorities focused on the developments in ESF+ planning and programming in the different participating countries and on the discussion of a joint focus on topics for transnational cooperation within the ESF. Moreover, the project “SI Plus – National Competence Centres for Social Innovation” was discussed, as well as respective potential for action in the future. For more information, click [here](#).

20th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 27 May 2021 | Online

The 20th Steering Group Meeting 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. Other topics covered included the ongoing embedding process and financial planning under the new Danube Transnational Programme. Information was also provided on past activities, upcoming events and other initiatives.

European Training Foundation Network for Excellence Conference | 11-12 March 2021 | Online

In collaboration with the European Training Foundation (ETF), PA9 Steering Group members were invited to join the ETF Network for Excellence (ENE) Conference. During the conference, the importance of green skills for vocational education and training and the role of Centres of Vocational Excellence for social inclusion were highlighted. PA9 participated actively in the conference and was part of the panel on Session 6 “Connecting the dots (I): The role of International Networks and Platforms”. Potential synergies between ENE and the proposed Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence were discussed in this context.

2nd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week | 1-5 March 2021 | Online

The 2nd EU Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) Week was organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) under the motto “Reconnect – Rethink – Recover”. In the framework of the 2nd MRS week, a first meeting of the EUSDR National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators under the Slovak Presidency took place on 2 March 2021.

Danube Region Monitor

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) was commissioned with the update of the Danube Region Monitor ([last report](#) published in 2019). The updated report is expected to be published by the end of 2021 and will provide first insights on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market and education sector.

PA9 Publication on the Occasion of 10 Years of EUSDR Implementation

10 years ago, on 24 June 2011, the European Council endorsed the EUSDR. PA9 will take this anniversary as an opportunity to publish a collection of texts to look back at the last ten years of PA9 collaboration on labour market and education policies, as well as on the inclusion of marginalised groups. The publication will also reflect on what could be further achieved in the future.

OUTLOOK 2021

25 October 2021: 8th Danube Participation Day

26-27 October 2021: 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

October/November 2021: 21st Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 (tbc)

October/November 2021: Kick-off event for the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (tbc)

1 November 2021: Start of the Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency

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://www.facebook.com/EUSDRPA9/).

PA 9 | People & Skills

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