



Newsletter June 2022: EUSDR Priority Area 9 "People & Skills"

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

After many online meetings, we are grateful that recent events of Priority Area 9 provided the opportunity to meet again in person. The 10th Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 this month explored how labour market and education policies, actions and projects can support young people in the context of the war in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and the green transition. We appreciate the constructive discussions and exchange of inspiring initiatives and ideas during the conference. In these challenging times, our thoughts are with our colleagues and the people of Ukraine.

We thank you for your interest and contributions over the last months and wish you all the best for the summer,

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Update of the "Danube Region Monitor – People & Skills"

Priority Area 9 has released an update of its "Danube Region Monitor – People & Skills". Prepared by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), the report analyses key education, training and labour market indicators to support evidence-based decision-making in the Danube Region. The update of the report can be accessed [here](#). Key findings, conclusions and possible recommendations of the report were discussed in an online expert workshop on 2 March 2022. Documentation on the workshop is available [here](#). Another update with the most recent data available is planned to be released towards the end of the year.

3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week | 7-11 March 2022 | Brussels, online

The 3rd EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week (MRS Week) was held in Brussels and online from 7 to 11 March 2022 under the motto "Engage, Empower, Evolve. This year's focus lay on the topics of youth, the European Green Deal and social innovation. In the framework of the session "Social change – how the EU macro-regional strategies can influence the social reality", Priority Area 9 delivered a contribution on social innovation and the "[SI PLUS](#)" project. You can find the programme and video recordings of the MRS Week [here](#).

Resumption of the EUSDR Presidency by Ukraine

As announced at the meeting of EUSDR National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators on 19 May 2022, Ukraine is resuming the EUSDR Presidency. Ukraine's EUSDR Presidency had been temporarily put on hold on 24 February 2022 due to the outbreak of the war, with the TRIO Presidency members Slovakia and Slovenia acting as temporary chairs. Ukraine is planning to hold the 11th EUSDR Annual Forum in a hybrid format in October 2022. You can stay updated through the Ukrainian Presidency's [website](#) and social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Erasmus+/eTwinning Thematic Conference: "School cooperation in the Danube Region" | 2-3 June 2022 | Vienna

The 10th edition of the eTwinning seminar "School cooperation in the Danube Region" took place in Vienna on 2 and 3 June 2022. It was hosted by OeAD, the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ and National eTwinning Support Organisation, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research as one of the coordinators of Priority Area 9. Forty participants joined the event from eleven Danube Region countries. The aim of the meeting was to enhance transnational cooperation among teachers and schools and to initiate cooperation projects in the region. Nine new eTwinning projects were developed during the seminar. The agenda, event report and list of projects are available [here](#).



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Publication "Ten Years of Investing in People and Skills in the Danube Region"

In 2021, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) celebrated the 10th year of its implementation. On this occasion, Priority Area 9 prepared a dedicated publication on the past ten years of investing in people and skills in the Danube Region that also outlines what could be done in the years to come. It contains texts from core stakeholders and partners on collaboration in labour market and education policies, as well as on the inclusion of marginalised groups. The publication has now been released and can be downloaded [here](#).

10th Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 | 9 June 2022 | Vienna, online

The 10th Stakeholder Conference took place in a hybrid format in Vienna and online on 9 June 2022. During the European Year of Youth 2022, Priority Area 9 dedicated this year's conference to how education, training and labour market systems in the Danube Region can support young people in times of crisis. More than 120 participants joined and participated actively in the discussions. Inputs were provided by experts from Danube Region countries, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other key stakeholders from the public and private sector, research institutes, academia and civil society. In the context of the war in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the Working Groups in the afternoon focused on various aspects related to refugees, green and digital skills, empowering young people and overcoming marginalization. Documentation on the conference can be found [here](#).



22nd Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | 10 June 2022 | Vienna

The 22nd Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 was held in Vienna on 10 June 2022. Participants presented recent developments in labour market and education systems in their respective countries, including measures related to the integration of Ukrainian refugees. The Steering Group also decided on three initiatives to be labelled as Danube Strategy Flagships: the [Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence](#), the [ESF Managing Authorities Network](#) and the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points project ([EQAVET-NRP-RO 2019](#), [EQAVET-NRP-RO 2021](#)). Documentation on the meeting is available [here](#).



OUTLOOK July – December 2022

- 4-5 July 2022: 9th Meeting of the ESF Managing Authorities Network
- 18 October 2022: 9th Danube Participation Day
- October 2022: 11th EUSDR Annual Forum (tbc)
- Autumn/winter 2022: 2nd Meeting of the Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence (tbc)
- Autumn/winter 2022: 23rd Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 (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](#) and [Facebook page](#).

PA 9 | People & Skills

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