

Newsletter March 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 we would like to share a review of some of our past events.

We wish you a continuing successful cooperation!

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

REVIEW

6th Stakeholder Conference | November 29, 2018 | Vienna, Austria

The last International Stakeholder Conference of Priority Area 9 assembled 105 Stakeholders from thirteen Danube Region countries and provided the participants with opportunities to discuss current and future challenges related to education and training as well as employment policies in Europe and the Danube Region. With regard to experiences and achievements in the countries of the Danube Region, conference attendees examined, if it is time to think about new topics and new structures of working together.

This discourse was held in the context of the currently ongoing consultation phase concerning the review of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region that has been in effect since 2011. In May 2018, the European Commission and the Bulgarian EUSDR Presidency have initiated a revision process of this document.

[More Info](#)

15th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | November 30, 2018 | Vienna, Austria

The 15th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 'People and Skills' took place back-to-back with the Stakeholder Conference and served in particular the discussion of the findings of the conference and concrete steps concerning the review of the PA9 action plan. Moreover, the steering group members of all Danube Region countries presented and discussed current reform priorities in education and labour market policies. Further topics on the agenda included current PA9 projects, the

development of the 'Danube Region Monitor', as well as the new 'DSP - Danube Strategy Point'. [More info](#)

4th Meeting of ESF Managing Authorities in the Danube Region | 19-20 of September 2018 | Bratislava, Slovakia

The ESF Network Danube Region is a network of Managing Authorities of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the Danube Region, Priority Area 9 "People and Skills" and Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacity and Cooperation" of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The 4th meeting aimed at identifying beneficial framework conditions for transnational cooperation as well as at developing positions and perspectives for transnational cooperation for the European Social Fund 2021-2027 with ESF Managing Authorities and beneficiaries in the Danube Region. There is a need to continue and strengthen transnational cooperation, especially within macro-regional strategies, as they are connected not only geographically but also via common topics. [More info](#)

Workshop "Empowering people with disabilities through employment support" | October 23-24 | Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

The workshop brought together NGOs, experts and policymakers from 6 Danube Region countries. More than 50 participants discussed challenges of the social integration of disabled people, exchanged good practices and projects related to empowering people with disabilities through providing employment support. Inclusive vocational education; labor inclusion of people with disabilities, including development of social enterprises, improving collaboration between employers and NGOs working with people with disabilities - are the main priorities for the future cooperation in the Danube Region, according to the conclusions of participants. [More info](#)

Danube Region Youth Platform | December 17 - 18, 2018 | Vienna, Austria

This workshop focused on the topic of 'Early School Leaving and NEETs across the Danube Region - towards new regional perspectives' and assembled experts from different sectors (formal and non-formal education, public administration, research, NGOs, service providers) from 13 different countries of the Danube Region. These experts took stock of current developments with regards to early school leaving and NEETs, highlighting country specific and general problems, needs of target groups and to showcase and share successful examples of how these challenges are met in different countries of the Danube Region. The workshop also served as a platform for project development. Based on the findings of the workshop, the potential for future cooperation across the Danube Region on the issue has been explored and 5 concrete project ideas have been elaborated. [More Info](#)

**Now published: Guidelines of the DSPF Project I-VET | 2018
Inclusive Vocational Education and Training - Career Guidance and
Counselling to support access to relevant education and training pathways**

Ensuring equal access to education, training and the labour market is a priority in the entire Danube region, including Austria, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova. The project “I-VET” facilitated the exchange of good practices & policies on how to optimize existing career guidance and counselling services to ensure outreach to students with special educational needs. In the framework of the project lessons learned from all three partner countries were summarized in “Guidelines for Career Guidance and Counselling for Students and Young People with Special Educational Needs”, a “hands-on” manual for policy makers and practitioners, available in English, Moldovan and Montenegrin. The project was financed by the Danube Strategic Project Fund of the EU and the City of Vienna and KulturKontakt Austria. [I-VET Video](#)

OUTLOOK 2019

May 9 Danube Region Monitor Workshop | Vienna
May 10 15th Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 9 | Vienna
June 13-14 Danube Region Etwinning Conference | Vienna
June 26 Participation Day | Bukarest
June 27-28 Annual Forum of the EU-Strategy for the Danube Region | Bukarest

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!

PA 9 | People & Skills

www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/

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