



Identification of priorities and projects within the EUSDR and their realisation

Meeting of the Danube ESF Managing Authorities Munich, 07.07.2016

Matija Vilfan



Co-financed by the European Union and Land Baden-Württemberg

TAPPING THE POTENTIAL OF THE EUSDR COOPERATION

- Engaging with the existing initiatives/projects framework;
- EUSDR initiatives/projects modalities in relation to ESF;
- Future challenges in developing the "embedding process".

ENGAGING WITH THE EXISTING INITIATIVES/PROJECTS FRAMEWORK



EUSDR

=

- 14 countries experts counterparts at a glance;
- existing framework of 12 interlinked and interconnected policy makers as project generators;
- existing network of identified and experienced transnational project benficiaries (all sectors);
- DSP a single entry point for EUSDR network and strategic coordination working unit for the implementation of the EUSDR.

EUSDR INITIATIVES/PROJECTS MODALITIES – IN RELATION TO ESF

1. **BUILDING ON IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS/INITIATIVES**

- (mainly) Initial projects` phase financed through TAF and START initiatives (TA support) and projects "spin-offs";
- All PAs and all types of beneficiaries covered;
- Annual (Implementation) Reports;
- KEEP.eu database;
- DSP Publications on success stories (late 2016);
- Next phase of completed Danube Transnational Projects (post 2018/2019)?

EUSDR INITIATIVES/PROJECTS MODALITIES – IN RELATION TO ESF (II)

2. SEED MONEY FACILITY

- Support to initial projects` phase financed through Danube Transnational Programme (INTERREG);
- All policy areas and all types of beneficiaries covered;
- All financial possibilities to be addressed;
- Completion of first projects in late 2017-beginning of 2018 (publication of call late 2016).

EUSDR INITIATIVES/PROJECTS MODALITIES – IN RELATION TO ESF (III)

3. EUSDR STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Concept confirmed and finalised last NC meeting and PAC meeting (March 2016);
- An optional tool for PA and/or PAs;
- **Directed towards future** (cut-off year 2014);
- "flexible and rolling concept" for single project pipeline;
- Clear link and ambition towards ESIF;
- All policy areas and all types of beneficiaries covered.

EUSDR Strategic Projects - Purpose

- To contribute to stronger and clearer strategic focus to the EUSDR PA's activities;
- To further encourage joint cooperation between Danube states/regions - introducing more strategic focus;
- To establish strategic ground for projects/processes to be considered in 2015/2016 revision process (EUSDR targets, actions, milestones, roadmaps);
- To strengthen and improve communication on the strategic focus and efforts of the EUSDR;
- Could serve as pilot examples for possible strategic support for embedding projects in funding programs/sources.





EUSDR Strategic Projects : Scope & Criteria

Scope :

- In terms of structure:
- 1) Single project, contributing to a PA or PAs;
- 2) Group of projects, contributing to a PA or PAs;

3) Process (e.g. network, new cooperation mechanism, etc.), contributing to a PA/PAs.

- In terms of readiness:
- 1) Preparatory projects
- 2) Investment projects

CRITERIA:

I.) it clearly contributes to a EUSDR Targets;

II.) it clearly and substantially supports a EUSDR Action;

III.) it has evident and high macro- regional dimension (at least 3 Danube countries/regions);

IV.) it is approved/supported widely by the Danube countries;

V.) it is realistic in terms of objectives, activities, timeframe and results;

VI.) it has clear financial plan, clearly linked to SP activities, timeframe, deliverables.

Future challenges in developing the cooperation process

- Feasibility of proposed mechanisms;
- Information and services requested from DSP;
- Feedback information to EUSDR governance structure and future actions;
- > Technical/administrative/legal issues.





Co-financed by the European Union and Land Baden-Württemberg

Thank you for your attention!

Follow us on:

www.danube-region.eu

facebook.com/DanubeRegionStrategy

twitter.com/eusdr





Co-financed by the European Union and Land Baden-Württemberg



EUSDR Priority Area 9 "Investing in People and Skills" | www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu

EU Strategy for the Danube Region





EUSDR Governance Structure



Since it's start in 2011 the strategy works towards its aim to address common challenges and to create synergies trough cooperation within the Danube Region. The strategy addresses **4 pillars, 11 priorities** as well as **several actions and projects**

...



Priority Areas and countries in charge of coordination

Priority Area	Countries in charge of coordination
P1 Mobility and intermodality	Inland waterways: Austria, Romania Rail, road and air: Slovenia, Serbia
P2 More sustainable energy	Hungary, Czech Republic
P3 Culture and tourism, people to people	Bulgaria, Romania
P4 Water Quality	Hungary, Slovakia
P5 Environmental risks	Hungary, Romania
P6 Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils	Germany (Bavaria), Croatia
P7 Knowledge society (research, education and ICT)	Slovakia, Serbia
P8 Competitiveness of enterprises	Germany (Baden-Württemberg), Croatia
P9 People and skills	Austria, Republic of Moldova
P10 Institutional capacity and cooperation	Austria (Vienna), Slovenia
P11 Security and organised crime	Germany, Bulgaria

EUSDR Priority Area 9 "Investing in People and Skills" | www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu

PA9 Targets



- Contribution to a higher employment rate in the Danube Region, especially through tackling youth and long-term unemployment
- Contribution to improved educational outcomes and relevant skills and competences in the Danube Region, focusing on learning outcomes for employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, active citizenship and well-being
- Contribution to increased quality and efficiency of education, training and labour market systems
- Contribution to ensuring inclusive education and training and promoting inclusive labour markets, equal opportunities and non-discrimination as well as the promotion of civic competences and lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Contribution to a closer cooperation between educational, training, labour market and research institutions, in particular on transnational, regional and bilateral levels

How it works ...



- Priority Area 9 (PA9) is coordinated by Austria and the Republic of Moldova with the involvement of a wide network of key players and stakeholders from the 14 States of the Danube Region and in cooperation with the European Commission.
- Eight Work Areas (four related to the area of education and training, four related to the area of labour market)
- > PA9 activities:
 - > Coordination (e.g. maintaining a network of relevant stakeholders, ...)
 - Implementation (e.g. compiling a list of on-going projects, providing assistance ...)
 - Communication (e.g. providing relevant information, participating in relevant conferences ...)

Some achievements and results ...



- PA 9 has successfully established a network of different stakeholders guaranteeing efficient cooperation between relevant actors, i.a. through involvement of existing regional cooperation networks (e.g. ERI SEE, CECE) and initiatives.
- In order to provide a cooperative framework and to boost discussions and exchange in the area of education and training / labour market, i.a. nine Steering Group Meetings (two meetings per year), three Stakeholder Conferences and several thematic seminars and workshops were organised by PA 9.
- More than 55 cross-border and regional Danube networks, projects and project ideas were started and labelled in the framework of PA 9.
- Two project folders (June 2014, June 2015) were published which provide an overview of on-going and selected finished projects and project ideas.

PA 9 Projects – Selected Examples



- Work Area 1: To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies
 - To increase attractiveness and quality of VET: DALIVET Development of Apprenticeship Learning in IVET in Romania
 - **EDU-LAB** aims at improving institutional capacities to increase the labour market relevance of higher education with a view to retain more young talents studying and working in the region
- Work Area 2: To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments
 - Bilateral Exchange in Labour Market Policy Austria Moldova with a focus on apprenticeship learning
- Work Area 3: To support creativity and entrepreneurship
 - To promote transversal key competences as well as entrepreneurship education and innovative learning: Danube Competence Centres for Creativity and Entrepreneurship (Lead: BG – Business Support Centre for SME, Ruse)
- > Work Area 4: To support life-long learning and expanding learning mobility
 - Lifelong learning: **Milestones of Learning Development** Strategic improvement and development of Life-long learning programmes within Danube Region

PA 9 Projects – Selected Examples



- Work Area 5: To promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through education and training
 - Social Cohesion: Concordia Vocational Training (Lead partner: Concordia Foundation)
- Work Area 6: To improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges
 - SEEMIG Managing Migration and its Effects in South-East-Europe (partners from Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia) (finished)
 - Central European (CE) Knowledge Platform for an Ageing Society aimed to minimize negative effects and impacts of demographic change in CE (finished)
- Work Area 7: To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalized communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities
 - Thara Labour Market Initiative for Roma and Sinti in Vienna
 - RID Roma integration across the Danube: Best practices and social entrepreneurships models exchange between Romania and Bulgaria



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For further information, please visit our homepage! <u>www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu</u>

EUSDR Priority Area 9 "Investing in People and Skills" | www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, Familie und Integration



// Zukunftsministerium Was Menschen berührt.

Transnational Cooperation in the Context of the ESF and Danube Strategy

Dessislava Traykova Munich, 7 July 2016



EUROPÄISCHE UNION ESF IN BAYERN EUROPÄISCHER SOZIALFONDS WIR INVESTIEREN IN MENSCHEN



Added value of transnational cooperation in general

Considering the policy areas and themes for transnational cooperation which could add most value

> Maximising mutual learning

Effective tool that adds value to results



Zukunftsministerium Was Menschen berührt.



- Macro-Regional Strategies consist of strategic framework
- > Areas and topics for cooperation under the Danube Strategy are already set
- MRS address common challanges in the region Priority Areas

The networks within the Danube Strategy exist







How can ESF contribute to MRS?

 through the ESF OPs by financing coordinated projects that contribute to MRS (for example cross-border training programmes)







How can ESF contribute to MRS?

if MRS covers priority areas corresponding to ESF investment priorities (Art. 3 ESF Regulation)

integration of MRS within one or more priority axis in the OP

> development of a specific priority axis for MRS in the OP



Zukunftsministerium Was Menschen berührt.

Member States participating in Macro-Regional Strategy can use the resources available for transnational cooperation activities under article 10 ESF regulation to enhance the implementation of a Macro-Regional Strategy, for example by generating ideas for common projects, discussing common challenges, and identifying key players as potential partners and beneficiaries.







Member States are encouraged to coordinate calls for projects in the Priority Areas of the macroregional strategies that match the ESF thematic objectives and the Programme Strategies defined in the Operational Programmes







Thank you very much for your attention!







ESF Transnational Platform

What is the ESF Transnational Platform?

2nd meeting of Danube Region ESF MAs Munich, 7 July 2016

Toby Johnson, Team leader



E

Mailunhunhunhunhun

Social Europe



ESF Transnational Platform

Mutual learning

1



E

Social Europe



1. Thematic Networks



- MAs/IBs + national & EU stakeholders/experts
- Social innovation and gender are mainstreamed
- Impact relies on connection with national networks





3 meetings per year

Thematic Networks – timetable year 1				
TN	1st meeting	2nd meeting	3rd meeting	
Employment	14-15 Dec	20-21 Apr	12-13 Jul (Rome)	
Inclusion	10-11 Dec	14-15 Apr	18 Jul (web)	
Youth employment	14-15 Dec	10-11 Mar	20 Jun	
Learning & skills	1-2 Dec	9 Mar (web)	20-21 Jun	
Social economy	12-13 Jan	19-20 May (Warsaw)	11/12 Jul (web)	
Governance & PA	18-19 Jan	18-19 May (Sofia)	10-11 Nov (Bratislava)	
Simplification	9-10 Dec	25-26 May	6-7 Jul (Rome)	
Partnership	23-24 Nov	29 Feb-1 Mar	1 Jul (web)	
Migrants	22-23 Feb	7-8 Jun	c. 10-13 Oct	
Stakeholder panel			30 May	
Seminar			21-22 Jun	
Conference			Jan 2017	

Baseline studies, logical frameworks, work plans 4





Network participation

	Rou	ind 1	Round 2		
Thematic Network	Member States	Stakeholders	Member States	Stakeholders	
Employment	11	1	5	3	
Inclusion	8	7	8	13	
Youth employment	12	2	10	4	
Learning & skills	6	1	11	0	
Social economy	14	7	14	16	
Governance	9	0	10	1	
Simplification	12	0	15	0	
Partnership	3	3	6	6	
Migrants	10	5			
Average	9.4	2.4	9.9	5.3	





Trends in TN participation

- People from 27 MSs have taken part so far
- No. of stakeholders doubled
- More meetings hosted outside Brussels: Warsaw, Sofia, Rome, Bratislava...
- Confidence in web meetings growing but
- Large MSs underrepresented
- Social partners underrepresented





Mutual learning themes (1)

TN	Lead	MSs	Priorities for mutual learning
Employment	BEnl	11	 LTU: empowerment: prevention, outreach to unregistered LTU, job integration agreement support in transitions: one-stop shop, service quality transitions: training & work experience that produce marketable employees pathway to a longer active career promoting sustainable self-employment
Inclusion	ES	8	 integrated approaches to: active inclusion access to and modernisation of social services discrimination and support for marginalised groups
Youth employment	DE Benl CZ FI	12	youth mobilityNEETs: outreach, activation, service integration
Learning & skills	IT	11	 work-based learning systems for better skills recognition and validation of prior learning



Mutual learning themes (2)

Thematic network	Lead	MSs	Priorities for mutual learning
Social economy	PL	14	 financial instruments access to markets legal issues measuring social value
Governance	CZ	10	civil service professionalisation, performance assessment, process evaluation, human-centred design
Simplifica- tion	BEnl	23	practical tools, wider approach to simplification, implementation of simplification measures, harmonisation of rules and procedures
Partnership	EE IE	7	terminology, principles, audit of challenges and solutions, providing evidence of partnership added-value, brokering skills, self-assessment tool
Migrants		13	 different approaches/models of integration labour market access skills recognition




2. Events

Stakeholder panel

Took place: 30 May Attended: 13 target group NGOs, 1 TU, 2 local government

Findings:

- Many NGO umbrellas disconnected from ESF
- Only larger national NGOs can access ESF
- MA should implement ECCP
- Use TO11 or TA to build stakeholder capacity





Seminar – Transnationality in Progress

- 21-22 June, Bloom Hotel, Brussels
- *c.* 120 participants, mostly from Thematic Networks
- Workshops:
 - synergies between networks: employment + learning & skills / inclusion + youth / social economy + migrants / administrative reform + partnership
 - methodologies: partnership, CLLD, peer reviewing
 - social innovation: simplification, human-centred design, digital SI





ESF Transnational Platform

Co-ordinated calls and beyond...

Transnationality in Progress Brussels, 21-22 June 2016

Toby Johnson & Aleksandra Kowalska



E



Timetable for 2016 co-ordinated call

National/regional calls published [optional preparatory phase] **Window for partnership building** Application deadline Project evaluation Projects start **Window for project implementation** Projects end Jan-Jun 16

May-Sep 16 30 Sep 16 Oct-Dec 16 Jan 17 **2017-2018** Jan 20 latest



Actual co-ordinated call timetables

MS	Themes	Opens	Closes	Budget
BEnl	employment, inclusion, youth (not mobility), learning & skills, social economy, refugees	26 Jan	30 Sep	€2.5m
FI	employment, inclusion, youth, learning & skills	15 Apr	3 Oct	
PL	employment, social integration, youth, lifelong learning, social economy, governance	Jun	30 Sep	€4.8m
SE	inclusion, youth, social economy, migrants	Apr	30 Sep	€7m
SI	social economy	July	31 Aug	€0.1m
BEfr	youth + ??	Sep?	Nov?	€3m





Calls outside the common framework

MS	Themes	Opens	Closes	Budget
BG	employment, inclusion, social economy,	Danube: Apr		€2.5m
	learning & skills, governance (TO 8-11)	EU-wide: Jun		€7.5m
PL	mobility (3 calls)		9/29 Jul	€21.5m
	employment, inclusion, youth, LLL, social economy, reconciliation, senior enterprise			€9.3m
	transnational learning networks		15 Apr	€2.3m
	all themes: transnational component added to national project	Apr, Aug		€4.6m
	welfare & integration co-operation models [optional call]		Dec	€4.8m
SE	all calls allow transnational component			





Oproep 357 Transnationaliteit

6 themes: employment, inclusion, youth employment, learning & skills, social economy, refugees.

All sub-themes except mobility

3 phases: prepare → implement → disseminate

Simplified cost options:

• Preparation: flat rate €15,000

• Implementation: staff cost + 40%. Unit cost = staff hours worked. All other costs paid from a 40% margin





Preparatory phase: flat rate €15,000	Deadline for applications: Projects submit: Implementation: Result: Report deadline:	 18 Apr 16 project proposal (idea) + draft budget for preparatory and implementation phases 1 Jun 16 – 30 Sep 16 desk research + partner search report 30 Sep 16 (= application for next phase)
Phase 1 – implementation: max. €255,000	Deadline for applications: Projects submit: Implementation: Result: Report deadline:	 30 Sep 16 final project proposal + final budget for implementation phase 1 Jan 17 – 30 Jun 19 implementation report + dissemination plan 30 Sep 19
+ if approved:		
Phase 2 –	Deadline for applications:	15 Jun 19
dissemination:	Projects submit:	dissemination strategy + budget
max. €30,000	Implementation:	1 Jul 19 – 30 Dec 19
	Result:	final report
	Report deadline:	31 Mar 20



How to maximise impact

Challenges:

- Administrative delays → **staggered** timetables
- Small budgets for co-ordinated calls
- → Narrow choice of partners

Solutions:

- Maximum flexibility for partnering
- Enable latecomers to join
- Build confidence & capacity of MAs
- → Wider participation in 2018





Flexibility – no artificial barriers to partnership

Partnerships are possible:

- between co-ordinated call(s) & flexible call(s)
- between projects in same theme
- cross-theme e.g. youth + learning & skills + social economy → social entrepreneurship training
- ESF project(s) + non-ESF project(s) e.g. other EU funds, non-EU funds, self-funded
- partnership with only one ESF project e.g. mobility
- same project in multiple TCAs



Integrating latecomers







Modular project design

2016

Co-ordination, dissemination, evaluation etc.			
SE	FI	PL	

Co-ordination, dissemination, evaluation etc.			
S E	FI	PL	LT



Building confidence & capacity in MAs

- Calls published on website with English summary
- Guidance notes
- Thematic networking
- Online fora
- Missions to regional meetings
- Telephone & e-mail support line
- Training seminar, autumn 2016





The website and database





Database functions

- Access via ECAS account
- Create organisation
- Create project
- Faceted **search** for partners (multiple filters)
- Free text search on whole site
- Read news and events
- Download documents
- Create & comment on discussion topics in 12 thematic fora (managed by Thematic Experts)

From the summer:

- Upload of TCAs
- MA approval of TCAs



Calls

So far 4 calls online with links to their MA sites:

- Flanders
- Germany (mobility)
- Finland
- Sweden

TRANSNATIONAL CALL 357 (BENL)

Add to your favorites

Type of call	2016 CC				
Call for project	Number / Short reference:	be/nl/001			
	Country:	Belgium (BE)			
	ESF region:	Dutch-speaking Belgium (BE-NL)			
	Title in the national language:	Oproep 357 Transnationaliteit			
	MA or IB involved: Work and Social Economy Department - ESF MA Flanders (BEnl)				
	Eligibility dates: 01/06/2016 to 30/12/2019				
	Links: Text of the Call - ESF Vlaanderen News on the Flanders Call - Europa ESF Transnationality				
	Attachments: 357_esf_oproepfiche_trans_2016_final.pdf				
	Submission deadline:	18/04/2016			
	Total budget:	€2500000			
	Themes:	Employment Inclusion NEETs Recent graduates			
	Apprenticeships Traineeships You	uth entrepreneurship Learning & skills Social economy			
	Migrants				



How project promoters use the partner search database

- 1. Use your ECAS account (or create one)
- 2. Create your organisation
- 3. Create one or more project ideas
- 4. Search for partners
- 5. Negotiate offline
- 6. Draw up and sign a Transnational Cooperation Agreement (**TCA**) between partners
- 7. Upload TCA
- 8. Each partner appends the TCA to their national project application





How Managing Authorities use the partner search database

- 1. Use your ECAS account (or create one)
- 2. (AEIDL creates 187 MAs as organisations)
- 3. Validate your organisation e.g. add additional contacts
- 4. Send calls + EN summary to AEIDL
- 5. Optionally screen organisations & projects
- 6. Approve [project + TCA] packages
- + Send news to AEIDL!





Function of the TCA





Approval of TCAs





3. Publications



Social Europe

http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=56

29



ESF Transnational Platform

Free text search

08/04/2016

07/04/2016

07/04/2016 Finland's national network

on transnational co-

Database

operation

News

-5

MORE INFO

hematic Networks complete

air first round of meetings

Finding project partners -

he ESF Partner Search

م

2

-

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



ABOUT THE ESF

ACTIVITIES SUPPORT IN YOUR COUNTRY

Share

ESF TNC Infoline

esf@aeidl.eu

Phone: +32 2 736 1890

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

Transnational cooperation in the ESF helps develop better and more effective employment and social policies and improve the delivery of reforms, essentially by enabling people to learn from experiences and good practice in other countries.

Transnational cooperation is implemented in three different ways:

 on the basis of common themes, whereby Member States benefit from an EU-level platform established and operated by the Commission (the Common Framework);

· without central coordination (the flexible approach);

· through a combined approach of the above.

The Common Framework

The Common Framework's primary focus is to bring together project promoters from different Member States and facilitate cooperation between them within transmational projects. It also serves as a forum for discussing issues relevant to the ESF between statesholders in the different countries.

On Europa, webpages dedicated to ESF transnationality

esf@aeidl.eu

+32 2 736 1890



