**Minutes**

**EU Strategy for the Danube Region | PA 9 „People and Skills” | Working Group 3: “To support Creativity and Entrepreneurship” Meeting**

**18 May 2015, Ruse**

Venue: Moxa Hotel, Bucharest, Romania

***Opening and Welcome***

Ms. Christina Kasparyan (WG3 Coordinator, BSC SME – Ruse, Bulgaria) welcomed participants at the meeting and apologised for the absence of Mr. Jorg Musterle (KulturKontakt, Austria) and of Mr. Rolf Ackermann, Germany, who apologised that they could not participate due to other commitments.

***Tour de table***

All participants have presented themselves and the organization they represent in PA 9|WG3. A total of 8 participants, representing 7 organizations and institutions from 5 EUSDR countries took part in the meeting (ref: List of participants).

***WG Update***

Ms. Christina Kasparyan briefed on the working group background activities and membership. New members were welcomed to the WG. More flexibility in participation of new organisations to the group is necessary for which the SG will be informed.

She recalled on the topics the WG had for its meetings so far: apart from the initial meeting in Vienna in 2012 when the group was formed the topic of the following meeting were as follows: 1) 1st meeting was about benchmarking on what has been done in the region in the field of creativity and entrepreneurship; 2) 2nd meeting was dedicated to discussion of project ideas – the creation of Centres of competences in the field of creativity in the Danube region was one of the project ideas that was later on developed and applied for START funding and was approved; 3) 3rd, current, meeting will focus on the funding opportunities for the project ideas identified so far.

A presentation of the START project has been done in order to get members of the WG that are not part of the project due to the limitation requirement for the number of partners. However, at a later stage more countries can be included, if there is interest.

***Funding opportunities***

*Danube Transnational Programme*

Ms. Kasparyan (BG) explained the programme’s draft structure and concluded that for the purposes of this WG activity Priority axis 1, investment priority 1b, specific objective 2: **Increase competences for business and social innovation** is identified as the most suitable option where WG’s project ideas can fit. She reminded that the first call for proposals under this specific objective are expected to be published in mid-September/ the beginning of October 2015 according to preliminary information but it is not yet confirmed.

Mr. Szabolcs Szolnoki (HU) commented that WG can ask the JTS about the feasibility of the project ideas.

Mrs. Oxana Draguta from the Moldavian Ministry of Education said that projects about business/entrepreneurial skill for primary school students are very topical and relevant for the WG activity.

Mr. Szolnoki (HU) added that the Central Europe JTS has underlined that projects in the field of acquiring entrepreneurial skills are very important and according to his opinion this WG should also have projects in this field.

Ms. Kasparyan (BG) said that it will be good if the WG members can develop the Centres of competences (CC) project and to have more partners even in countries beyond the START partnership. She explained to the Moldavian Ministry of Education, as a response to their question, what is the idea of the CC proposal. She advised that the Ministry can communicate with Ms. Tatyana Shevchenko that are partners of the CC project for more information, cooperation and synchronisation of activities. Ms. Kasparyan also added that the CCs could be of great use to the Ministry.

Ms. Sabina Baciu (RO) shared with the meeting participants a project idea about start-up competitions for young people, where members on the business idea teams could be representatives form a different faculty and in relation to this the CCs could provide a possibility for internationalization, because not always the best market for a start-up business is the local one. Ms. Baciu will send to the WG members a presentation on this project proposal idea and will expect a feedback who might be interested in the proposal.

Mr. Szolnoki (HU) pointed out that stakeholders are very important in the new Interreg programmes and proposed that may be it will be a good idea if the WG to have a project focused on stakeholders, i.e. partners outside the project partnership of the CCs, where an opportunity can be created for them to join the activities and services of the CC like study visits or travelling vouchers (proposed by Ms. Baciu).

*HORIZON 2020*

Ms. Kasparyan presented the project ideas of the WG coordinator:

1. H2020-SEAC-2015-1: CALL FOR MAKING SCIENCE EDUCATION AND CAREERS ATTRACTIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**Project idea:** Game design for introduction of creative thinking methods in science education (working title)

Ms. Kasparyan presented the call and the project idea, which is about creation of serious game for young people to make science careers attractive to them, incorporating the triangle creativity-science-entrepreneurship in order to build the perception in young people that science is a creative and entrepreneurial activity and asked WG members for opinions.

Mrs. Draguta (MD) agreed that this project proposal is a wonderful idea, because in Moldova they you like to make school and science interesting for the young people and currently they play games only outside school and not in school. So, this will be a wonderful idea to bring the games into school and thus make it more attractive.

Ms. Kasparyan commented that ‘science-entrepreneurship-creative thinking’ is the triangle that BSC SME would like to make happen, i.e. the proposed project idea is not only about gamification but about how to see science as a creative and entrepreneurial activity by the young.

Mr. Szolnoki shared that in Hungary the fastest developing start-up is called EasyMath, which is a platform for learning maths very, very easily. He agreed that it is a good project idea to stark work on ideas, upload profiles of start-ups and receive evaluation and feedback by experts.

Ms. Baciu also said that this is a good idea, but if the partnership does not manage to attract a ministry in the consortium, there will not be any impact on national level, so partners need to think on that too. She also shared an opinion that the partners of this project proposal should think also of attracting experienced partners that have already implemented successfully such activities and that could share their experience how to design the project activities so that have an optimal impact.

Ms. Anna Nemes-Nagy from Design terminal in Hungary agreed this is a good project idea too.

Ms. Baciu proposed another project idea, which could be applied with for the programme call next year: FabLab project about teaching students how to use cutting edge technology; also, caravans for schools to provide opportunity for the students to travel and see e.g. how a 3D printer works.

Ms. Kasparyan concluded that as a next step members of the WG3 of PA9 should see for the right partners in their countries. Partners from other countries can also be attracted. **Deadline for proposal submission: mid-September**

*Next steps:* till the end of next week (i.e. 31 May 2015) – feedback from WG members who is interested and who will participate in this project proposal.

1. H2020-ISSI-2015-1: CALL FOR INTEGRATING SOCIETY IN SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

**Project idea:** Science is attractive – community is meeting the science (working title)

Ms. Kasparyan said that according to her the idea of Ms. Baciu for the Fablab project better fits for this call. That call of H2020 is not as general as the one previously discussed and here the activities to be implemented in the project proposals are listed in the call documents.

*Next steps:* 1) e-mail sent by WG members till the end of next week (31 May 2015) for sending EoI to this project proposal or other project proposals that members have. 2) Members should also propose who will be the lead partner for these project proposal as the BSC SME (BG) could be a LP for only one project proposal, which in this case will be the CCs proposal for Danube Transnational Programme.

A discussion was held on the validation, registration and application procedures and requirements for Horizon 2020 and Interreg Danube Programme.

1. H2020-GARRI-2015-1: Call for developing governance for the advancement of Responsible Research and Innovation

**Project idea:** Responsible entrepreneurship in cross-innovation for the sectors of tourism, creative industries and food (working title)

Ms. Kasparyan explained that all three identified calls under H2020 programme were published at the same time, so the deadline for all of them is the same. She said that proposed project idea for this H2020 call covers the areas of interest to the BSC SME, but other areas can also be included. She continued that the project idea is to connect the three sectors and see how a product created by combining the three of them has an impact on environment and people, i.e. corporate social responsibility.

Ms. Edina Perazic from the Ministry of labour and social welfare of MN said that they are very interested in such a project and that in Montenegro they have such projects already running.

Ms. Baciu made two more project proposals: 1) How to label your business as a sustainable one – this could be another aspect of the project proposal of BSC SME; 2) Identification of good instruments/tools already developed in partner countries that can be implemented to SMEs and make them more sustainable and responsible. Ms. Baciu promised to talk to the Romanian Innovation Agency as they could be very interested to join the proposal and be its lead partner.

*CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME AND ERASMUS +*

Ms. Kasparyan pointed out that for the previous call of ERASMUS +: Key Action 2: Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances there was no interest among WG members except for the Romanian organisation ORICUM and she believes there will be more interested members for the call in 2015.

Mr. Szolnoki said that they have interests in both programmes and would like to find a project proposal partnership to join.

Ms. Kasparyan shared that the BSC SME project idea is related to gaming, especially in developing skills and creative thinking (design skills and understanding).

Mr. Szolnoki promised to send to the WG members information on a project called InnerCrafts under Interreg IVC that aimed at improving the state of art of crafts industries by proposing professional policy changes and improvements. He also announced an event on lead applicant running/meetings event, where participants can find potential partners for Interreg projects. The event will take place on 3rd June 2015 in the Prague.

With the completion of the agenda the meeting was closed.

Minutes taken by Iliana Draganova (BSC SME – Ruse)