

Minutes of the 6th SG Meeting of PA9 in Bucharest on

Date: 29-30 October 2013

Place: Ministry for National Education, Romania

- **Welcome/Adoption of Agenda**

Clapan (RO) welcomes SG on behalf of the Ministry for Education of Romania. Mirtl (AT) states that the quorum is fulfilled according to the guidelines for the functioning of the Steering Group with 9 out of 14 countries. Agenda is unanimously adopted by the SG

- **Exchange of Impressions on the 2nd Annual Forum of the EUSDR and Conclusions of the Workshop of PA9 “Smart and inclusive Danube Region”**

SG members discuss their impressions of the 2nd Annual Forum. Mirtl (AT) welcomes the fact that the Vice-Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Victor Grosu, and the head of the ETF, Madlen Șerban, participated in the panels and thereby ensured the inclusion of the topic of education into the Annual Forum’s agenda. Both Grosu and Șerban stressed the role of human capital development in the framework of the EUSDR and underlined i.a. the role of entrepreneurship. The Strategy should go beyond projects and also develop policies. The side-meeting of the PACs and NCPs with Commissioner Hahn primarily dealt with the question on how to improve the governance of the EUSDR. Commissioner Hahn also mentioned the good participation of SG meetings within PA9. Hanak (PAC9, AT) and Mirtl (AT) participated at the panel of Annual Forum’s Working Group 3 “Smart and Inclusive Danube Region” and drew the attention on social and educational topics, whereas Vlăduț (RO) presented the project idea “Enhanced Competitiveness & Employability through Innovative Work-Based Learning in VET” to the public.

Tedovic (IOM) mentions the importance of third countries in the EUSDR and draws the attention on the SEE2020 Strategy which was due to be adopted. With regard to third country involvement, Krabatsch (EC) stresses that the EUSDR should also be integrated into IPA II programming.

- **Conclusions of the General Affairs Council on the added-value of Macro-regional Strategies/EC Report on macro-regional strategies**

SG welcomes the fact that education and the social dimension of the Strategy were included into the conclusions of the General Affairs Council. Mirtl (AT) stresses that PAC9 welcomes that there should be a “simple and reliable financial support of the Priority Area Coordinators”, as mentioned in the conclusions. SG discusses conclusions.

- **Priority Area 9 overall/ PA9 Report to the EC**

PAC9 delivered the second report of PA9 on the Priority Area by the end of June 2013. Mirtl (AT) expresses the gratitude of the PACs for the contributions by the SG members. Krabatsch (EC) welcomes the clear and concise report.

- **Working Area 1 “Performance of Education Systems”**

Mirtl (AT) reports on ERI SEE activities. Maravić (HR) develops on the fact that ERI SEE is due to become an international organisation. Krabatsch (EC) stresses the EC’s interest in this issue. Mirtl (AT) mentions that two projects within WG1 financed through the AT-CZ

CBC programme of the ERDF were labelled by the SG by means of a silence procedure. Kazich (DE) presents a project on in-service training for VET teachers and that country-specific approaches are required in this respect. He calls for further participants. Rolli (DE) presents Comenius project „E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S)” with 10 partners from the Danube Region which is starting in January 2014 and will be submitted for labelling by the SG.

- **Working Area 3 “Creativity and Entrepreneurship”**

Kasparyan (BG) gives an overview on best practices which were collected in Working Group 3 “Creativity and Entrepreneurship” after its first meeting on 16 April 2013 in Sofia. 10 practices were collected and will be made available on the EUSDR/PA9 website. Kupke and Pfister (DE) present project “Dunavision”. Krabatsch (EC) recalls that PA10 is also supporting initiatives dealing with citizenship and recommends getting in touch with PA10.

- **Working Area 4 “Lifelong Learning and Mobility”**

Stroie (RO) gives an overview on activities within Working Group “Work Based Learning (WBL) - a stakeholders’ collaborative approach”. First meeting was held jointly with ERI SEE cluster in Bucharest on 28 June 2013. Stroie calls for a further expression for interest in this framework.

- **Working Area 5 “Equity, Social Cohesion, Active Citizenship”**

Mirtl (AT) recalls the creation of a “Danube Youth Platform” in 2014, which will be led by Interkulturelles Zentrum Vienna. He refers to ongoing efforts in this respect, also within the upcoming 2nd Stakeholder Conference of PA9 on 5-6 December 2013.

-Working Area 2 “Cooperation in Labour Market”

-Working Area 7 “Poverty and Social Inclusion”

-Working Area 6 “Demography and Migration”

Tanja Dedovic, International Organization for Migration

- **Danube Programme**

Danube Programme is being negotiated by the Programming Committee which represents the 14 countries in the Danube Region. It has the same geographical coverage as the EUSDR. Thematic concentration might lead to several questions since DR programme will provide only up to 4 priorities whereas the EUSDR has 11 priorities. DR programme will support macro-regional strategies according to article 6 b) of the draft ETC regulation of the ERDF. Mirtl (AT) points out that a non-paper of PAC9 is under preparation in order to ensure the social dimension of the Danube programme. Krabatsch (EC) stresses that “there will be money for education”, but nothing is decided yet. 1st call is awaited for the end of 2014/beginning of 2015. Şerban (ETF) stresses that Danube Programme will matter in order to include 3rd countries in the DR.

- **Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)**

- **Project idea “Enhanced Competitiveness & Employability through Innovative Work-Based Learning in VET”**

Stroie (RO) presents project idea “Enhanced Competitiveness & Employability through Innovative Work-Based Learning in VET” which is led by KulturKontakt Austria and will receive support by the TAF-DRP. Şerban congratulates for the draft and calls for remaining realistic and not being over-ambitious. She states that there is a need for clarity and that the notion of “inventory of good practices” also needs further clarification. It is essential to insist on good quality in work-based learning.

- **Project idea “Danube Area Labour Market Ex-Change”**

- **Update Work Plan**

Work Plan is unanimously adopted by the SG. Some technical remarks are addressed by Tedovic (IOM).

- **2nd Stakeholder Conference of PA9 5-6 December 2013;
Workshop on Financing 6 December 2013**

Mirtl (AT) draws the attention to the 2nd Stakeholder Conference “Skills, Competences, Inclusion” which will be held on 5 and 6 December 2013 in Vienna as an Open Space Conference. He calls for further nominations by the SG members. A workshop on financing Action in the field of human capital will be held on 6 December (mainly Erasmus+, ESF and ERDF), back-to-back with the conference.

- **Any Other Business; Upcoming SG meetings; Annual Forum in Vienna 2014**

The 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR will be held on 26-27 June 2014 in Vienna. Baden-Württemberg proposed to organize the 4th Annual Forum in 2015. Mirtl (AT) proposes to hold the 7th meeting of the SG in springtime in order to prepare the 3rd Annual Forum in Vienna which will deal mainly with the issues of social inclusive prosperity and governance of the EUSDR. Şerban (ETF) invites the SG of PA9 to hold the next meeting in Torino at the ETF on 15/16 May 2014.