**The 3rd Participation Day of the EU Danube Strategy**

**Working towards sustainable development: Civil Society, Local Actors and EU Strategies**

**2-3 November 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia**

*jointly with the TP 5 Special Initiative of the EU LADDER Project and the 9th European Conference of Danube Cities and Regions*

In 2016 the partners of the EUSDR Danube Participation Days [PA 10 of the EUSDR, Danube Civil Society Forum(DCSF)] in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary for Civil Society Development in Slovakia, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions and the ARGE Donauländer decided to take cooperation one step further, and to cooperate with the EU LADDER Project to organise, at the beginning of the 5th Annual Forum 2016 in Bratislava, the 3rd Danube Participation Day of the EUSDR on the 2nd and 3rd November. This open and innovative meeting will bring together experts and high level representatives of regional organisations, institutions and networks representing civil society, academia and cities and regions. This will intensify the exchange and cooperation of relevant stakeholders in the Danube Region and the West Balkan with a view to develop participatory, multi-level governance, administrative capacities and a policy aiming at a stable and sustainable political, economical and social development of the region.

The first day hosted by the Plenipotentiary, EUSDR PA 10, DCSF, LADDER and Foster Europe focuses of resilient sustainable development (SD) as an issue of participative multi-level governance in the Danube Region and its macro-regional strategies. SD in its holistic approach is a touchstone for quality development of our societies as well for European integration and international cooperation in the Danube region. The second day will focus on the role and potential of local actors in making sustainable development in the Danube region possible. Hosting organization is the Council of Danube Cities and Regions and the City of Bratislava, cooperating with the ARGE Donauländer, the DCSF, the EUSDR PA 10 D-LAP, Foster Europe.

This setting reflects the multitude of actors active and necessary to cooperate in EU multi-level and macro-regional settings. It reflects further the demand for close and regular cooperation between state actors and civil society, the need for participation, transparency and subsidiarity.

We thank the City of Bratislava, the LADDER Project, Baden-Württemberg Foundation, EUSDR PA 10 and Foster Europe for making this event possible.

**Program**

***Wednesday, 02, November 2016***

**Tatra Hotel, Námestie 1. mája 5, 811 06 Bratislava-Staré Mesto, Slovakia**

**09:00 – 09:30 Registration**

**Moderation:** Anders **Bergström**, Policy Area Coordinator/Horizontal Action Coordinator, PA Education/HA Capacity, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Sweden

**09:30 – 10:00 Opening Speeches**

Martin **Giertl**, Plenipotentiary of the Government of Slovakia for the Civil Society Development, Slovakia

Stefan August **Lütgenau**, Danube Civil Society Forum, Foster Europe, Austria

Daniela **Urschitz**, City of Vienna, Priority Area 10 of the EUSDR, Austria

**10:00 – 12:00 Keynotes Resilient Sustainable Development in Politics and Society**

Andrej **Danko**, Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, TBC

Gisela **Erler**, State Counsellor for Civil Society and Civic Participation, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Franz **Fischler**, EU Commissioner 1995-2004, President European Forum Alpbach, Austria

Irene **Lucius**, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, Austria

Discussion (also using electronic online discussion platform SLIDO)

**12:00 – 14:00 Networking Lunch**

Presentation of the participative Art Project: ***Draw the Danube - Build a Bridge***, Joachim **Eckl**

**14:00 – 17:00 Workshops**

1. **Workshop: Open Government Partnership**– Moderation Martin Giertl, Plenipotentiary of the Government of Slovakia for Civil Society Development, Slovakia

*The WS will deal with the model and Slovak experience of Open Government as one example of inclusive participative governance.*

1. **Workshop: Energy** **and Environment**- Moderation Claire Roumet, Energy Cities, Belgium

*How to produce, use and save energy is an essential element of SD with a high potential and need of state-no-state actor cooperation. The WS will deal with examples of new energy concepts in the Danube region.*

1. **Workshop: Social innovation** - Moderation Stefan Barth, Agapedia Stiftung, Germany

*Social innovation is a cornerstone of innovative societies and decisive to deal both with demographic change and the incorporation of future generations.*

***Wednesday, 02, November 2016*** *(continued)*

1. **Workshop: Science - Civil Society** – **Participation**

Moderation Simon Vrečar, CEKTRA - Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Slovenia

*The WS will present examples of current and planned research as well as to investigate the absorption of scientific research for the work of states and civil society.*

1. **Workshop: Impact of consumer and producer behavior**- Moderation Martin Helmert, Italy

*In a market economy, consumer behavior is a decisive element in steering product development, production and market performance. The WS will discuss given and possible impact of consumer behavior on progressing SD in the Danube region.*

1. **Workshop: DEAR-Turning Local Ideas into Global Solutions** - Moderation N.N.

*Local initiatives are essential for the progress of SD as well as for raising awareness in the public. The WS will present and discuss examples of local initiatives from the field of SD.*

1. **Workshop: Infrastructure and Participation –** Moderation Timo Peters, State Ministry Baden-Württemberg, Germany

*Infrastructure projects have over the past decades mobilised a growing interest and debate among citizens and civil society. The WS will look into significant cases and debate general aspects of how to implement infrastructure projects in a participative way.*

**17:00 – 17:30 Coffee Break**

**17:30 – 18:00 Closing Secession: Harvesting the Day**

Andreja **Jerina**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NCP Danube Strategy, Alpine Strategy and Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, Slovenia

Anders **Bergström**, Policy Area Coordinator/Horizontal Action Coordinator, PA Education/HA Capacity, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Sweden

**19:30 Primatial Palace (City Hall)**

Welcome Reception and Dinner hosted by the Mayor of the City of Bratislava and President of the CoDCR Ivo **Nesrovnal**

Speakers:

Ivo **Nesrovnal**, Mayor of the City of Bratislava

Roman **Haken**, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), ECO Vice-President, Czech Republic

***Thursday, 03, November 2016, 9:30 – 11:30***

*9th European Conference of Danube Cities and Regions jointly with the 3rd EUSDR Danube Participation Day, ARGE Donaulände rand the EUSDR Urban Platform*

**Slovenské Národné Divadlo, Modrý Salón, Pribinova 17, 819 01 Bratislava-Staré Mesto**

**(Slovak National Theater, Blue Hall)**

**Moderaton:**

Andreja **Jerina**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Coordinator EU-Danube Strategy, EU-Alpine Strategy and EU-Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, Slovenia

Anders **Bergström**, Policy Area Coordinator/Horizontal Action Leader, PA Education/HA Capacity, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Sweden

**09:30 Opening**

Rudolf **Schicker**, City of Vienna, Coordinator of Priority Area 10 of the EUSDR, Austria

**09:35 –11:00 Keynotes**

Ivo **Nesrovnal**, Mayor of Bratislava, President CoDCR, Slovakia

Ugo **Poli**, Central European Initiative, Italy

Goran **Svilanović**, General Secretary of the Regional Cooperation Council (TBC)

Sonja **Licht**, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence)

Karl-Heinz **Lambertz**, First Vice-President, Committee of Regions, Belgium

**11:00 – 11:30 Discussion**

**Closing**

Ivo **Nesrovnal**, Mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia

*\*Program might be subject to change*