

Online Conference

8th Danube Participation Day

Digitalisation & Participation

Putting people at the centre of the digital transition

Monday, 25 October 2021 | 10.00 – 15.00 CET

Tuesday, 26 October 2021 | 10.00 – 12.00 CET

Version October 2021

In June 2020, the European Council endorsed the Council Conclusions on “Shaping Europe’s Digital Future” that recognised the contribution of digitalisation to economic cohesion, climate neutrality, and social inclusion. In doing so, the EU member states supported a vision of a “European society powered by digital solutions that are strongly rooted in common values, and that enrich the lives of all of us”¹. Furthermore, the European Union is already cooperating for a digital future with the accession countries through the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans and the EU Neighbourhood countries within the framework of the Association Agreements.

In the revised Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the European Commission and the partner countries of the Danube Region marked digitalisation as a cross-sectoral priority. This also impacts the capability to ensure meaningful eParticipation in a more digital environment of decision making.

Against the background of the high expectations of digitalisation as a booster for a sustainable, innovative, and prosperous future, this year’s Danube Participation Day aims at exploring the following questions:

- What are the preconditions for a citizens-centred digitalisation and why does it matter?
- How do procedures of digital decision-making and digital service provision need to look like in order to serve people’s needs?
- Is there a macro-regional eParticipation and how can the Strategy contribute raising eParticipation in the region?
- Which skills do civil society and public authorities need to engage in a citizens-centred digital transition?

The Danube Participation Day will provide the opportunity to discuss digital transformation on governance and participation in the Danube Region: What are the potentials and challenges of the digital transition? How do we need to re-design public services? What can we learn from current eGovernance initiatives and smart concepts? How can deliberative processes and meaningful participation of civil society look like in a digital arena? What could be the role of the EU Danube Strategy in supporting participation in digital decision-making procedures?

¹ European Commission (2020): Shaping Europe’s Digital Future, Manuscript, February 2020.

Agenda

(Disclaimer: This is a preliminary agenda. Programme might be subject to change.)

Day 1 | Monday, 25th of October 2021

Time (CET)	Topic
9:30 – 10.00	Accessing the platform
10.00 – 10.30	<p>Welcome & Opening Session <i>Michal Blaško Presidency EU Danube Strategy, Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization</i></p> <p><i>Slawomir Tokarski European Commission, DG REGIO</i></p> <p><i>Claudia Singer EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna</i></p> <p><i>Stefan August Lütgenau Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe</i></p>
10.30 – 10.45	Introduction Thematic Panels
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.30	<p>Parallel Panels</p> <p>Panel: Open Government & Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How to create a digital capital that puts people first?</i> <i>Klemens Himpele, City of Vienna</i> <i>Lessons learnt – fingers burnt: What can we learn on digital rural areas from the Smart Village project?</i> <i>Peter Niederer, Swiss Center for Mountain Regions/SmartVillage</i> <p><i>Moderator: Milan Andrejkovič, DataLab</i></p> <p>Panel: Co-designing policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Public Management revisited – Creating services for people with people</i> <i>Tina Jukič, University of Ljubljana/COGOV</i> <i>Co-creating a city: Lessons learnt from Smart City Budapest</i> <i>Gábor Kerpel-Fronius, City of Budapest</i> <i>Co-designing public spending</i> <i>Daniel Klimovský, Comenius University Bratislava</i> <p><i>Moderator: Claudia Singer, EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna</i></p>
11.30 – 12.30	Lunch Break
12.30 – 13.00	<p>Parallel Panels</p> <p>Panel: Trust in (e)Government & (e)Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Facilitating trust through meaningful citizens engagement</i> <i>Serge Novaretti, European Commission, DG CNECT</i> <i>eParticipation in rural areas</i> <i>Rositsa Sredkova, Association Development Initiative – Kardzhali Decides</i> <i>How can public administrations be transformed into open, innovative, and collaborative governments?</i> <i>Peter Triantafillou, Roskilde University/TROPICO</i> <p><i>Moderator: Milan Andrejkovič, DataLab</i></p> <p>Parallel Panels</p>

12.30 – 13.00

Panel: Accessibility & Digital Skills

- *How digitalisation improves access to social services and care*
Katja Vonhoff, Diakonie Baden-Württemberg/D-CARE Lab
- *MELIA Observatory - Media & digital literacy for sustainable democracies*
- Erika Ursic/Matevz Tomsic, FUDS/MELIA Observatory
- *Capacity building for eParticipation*
Iva Taralezhkova, Citizens Participation Forum Bulgaria

Moderator: Claudia Singer, EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna

13.00 – 13.15

Introduction World Café

World Café Session I

Parallel Sessions

Trust in (e)Government & (e)Participation

- *Moderator: Milan Andrejkovič, DataLab*
- *Tech. assistant: Vanesa Lux, Foster Europe Foundation*

13.15 – 13.40

Accessibility & Digital Skills

- *Moderator: Stefan August Lütgenau, Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe*

Open Government & Transparency

- *Moderator: Thomas Prorok, Centre for Public Administration Research*
- *Tech. assistant: Laura Szitar, Foster Europe Foundation*

Co-designing policies

Moderator: Claudia Singer, EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna

13.40 – 13.50

Coffee Break

World Café Session II

Parallel Sessions

Trust in (e)Government & (e)Participation

- *Moderator: Milan Andrejkovič, DataLab*
- *Tech. assistant: Vanesa Lux, Foster Europe Foundation*

13.50 – 14.15

Accessibility & Digital Skills

- *Moderator: Stefan August Lütgenau, Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe*

Open Government & Transparency

- *Moderator: Thomas Prorok, Centre for Public Administration Research*
- *Tech. assistant: Laura Szitar, Foster Europe Foundation*

Co-designing policies

Moderator: Claudia Singer, EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna

14.15 – 14.45

Wrap-up | Closing Session

Stefan August Lütgenau | Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe

Day 2 | Tuesday, 26th of October 2021

Time (CET)	Topic
9:30 – 10.00	Accessing the platform
	Welcome & Opening Session
10:00 – 10.10	<p><i>Claudia Singer EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna, Austria</i></p> <p><i>Stefan August Lütgenau Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe, Austria</i></p>
10.10 – 10.30	<p>Introduction & Interactive Reflection on Aspects of Participation & Digitalisation</p> <p><i>Claudia Singer EUSDR Priority Area Coordination 10/City of Vienna</i></p>
10.30 – 11.00	<p>Panel: A macro-regional vision on digitalisation that puts people at the centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Tomáš Jucha, Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Slovak Republic</i> ▪ <i>Andreea Pena, Danube Strategy Point (DSP), Romania</i> ▪ <i>Iva Taralezhkova, Citizens Participation Forum, Bulgaria</i>
11.00 – 11.30	<p>Discussion with the audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reflecting & prioritising the results from the world café discussion</i> ▪ <i>What can macro-regional networks contribute to improve participation and digitalisation in the Danube Region?</i> ▪ <i>If you could send one message to the board of NCs regarding digitalisation & participation, what would it be?</i>
11.30 – 12.30	<p>Closing Session</p> <p><i>Stefan August Lütgenau Danube Civil Society Forum/Foster Europe, Austria</i></p> <p><i>Igor Studennikov, Centre for Regional Studies, Ukraine</i></p>

Technical requirements

The meeting will be conducted with Zoom. The meeting link will be provided to all registered participants prior to the event.

Required equipment: PC/Laptop/Tablet with internet/Wi-Fi connection; smartphone with internet connection.

Danube Participation Day

The Danube Participation Days are the annual platform for stakeholders in the Danube Region for participatory governance in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The conference – that is held back to back with the EUSDR Annual Forum – offers the opportunity to exchange, network, and further develop ideas and projects on participatory governance in the Danube Region. The 8th Danube Participation Day is a side event of the 10th EUSDR Annual Forum hosted by the Slovak EUSDR Presidency.

dcsf.danubestrategy.eu/event/8th-danube-participation-day | capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/danube-participation-day

Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” (PA 10) of the EU Danube Strategy

Priority Area 10 (PA 10) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) aims at stepping up institutional capacity and cooperation. In accordance with the EUSDR Action Plan, Priority Area 10 addresses institutional capacity-building at local, regional and national level, involvement of civil society in public governance, increasing local development and better spending as well as increasing absorption rates of EU funds. Priority Area 10 is coordinated by the City of Vienna and Slovenia.

capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu/

Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF)

The Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) is the platform for civil society dialogue and networking in the Danube basin under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). It functions as the interface for structured consultations between civil society and public and private authorities on the regional, national, and EU level as well as to international and intergovernmental organisations active in the region.

The Danube Civil Society Forum is dedicated to support civil society organisations in the Danube basin. It aims to promote and enhance civil society participation and networking in the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.

dcsf.danubestrategy.eu/

Participation Day
in the EUSDR