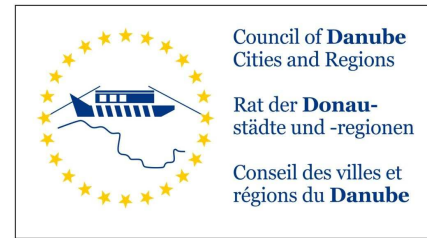




ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
DONAULÄNDER
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ
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DUNAMENTI TARTOMÁNYOK
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE
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COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ
РОБОЧА СПІВДРУЖНІСТЬ
ПРИДУНАЙСЬКИХ КРАЇН



“Brussels Agreement”

of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (RDSR)
and the Working Group of the Danube Regions (ARGE Donauländer)

Brussels, 26th March 2013

Final Version

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) has entered the crucial phase of implementation. At the 1st Annual EUSDR Forum on 28th/29th November 2012 in Regensburg, it was identified that the structures for the eleven focus areas have been established with the respective coordinators and the specific work on campaigns and projects has begun.

Realisation of the EUSDR will be successful if, in addition to the government level and policy, there is also a broad mobilisation of the economy, science, the media and civil society as a whole within the Danube region. The local and regional level plays a central role in this context. This is where the people live and work whose identification with the EUSDR and with Europe as a whole enjoys the best success when they experience tangible, positive changes in their everyday lives and, thus, an optimistic growth perspective.

The core purpose of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is to bring lasting peace, democratic governance, legal security, a clean environment, prosperity, education and social justice to the citizens living along the Danube.

The cities and regions are already committed to implementation of the EUSDR through an array of cross-border and trans-national projects. In accordance with the principle of the

EUSDR of not creating new institutions, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (RDSR) and the Working Group of the Danube Regions (ARGE Donauländer) are playing an active role in this process as political networks and are represented on the Steering Group for Focus Area 10 (“Improving institutional capacity and cooperation”). In the interests of continuing the optimisation of this work, the aim is to strengthen and intensify cooperation between the RDSR and the Working Community, Danube Regions and to bring task areas together. In this context, it should also be noted that the position of the regions (key term: principle of subsidiarity) has become weaker within the EU-Europe and a concentration to strengthen regional and municipal forces is imperative for the continued development of the EU.

With reference to

- The Joint Statement of the Standing Committee of the Working Group of the Danube Regions (ARGE Donauländer) and the Steering Committee of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions of 3rd November 2009 and in its continuation,
- The “Vienna Declaration” of the 6th European Conference of the Danube Cities and Regions of 25th September 2012,
- The corresponding recommendation of the 22nd Conference of the Heads of Government of the ARGE Donauländer of 21st October 2012 in St. Pölten,

the following **Agreement** is made:

The Council of the Danube Cities and Regions and the Working Group of the Danube Regions shall form a joint **Steering Committee** for future coordination of tasks and cooperation. The composition of the Steering Committee is regulated in rules of procedure. It is open to all members.

The RDSR and the ARGE shall form joint working groups, which take their focus from the eleven priority areas of the EUSDR and do the direct preliminary work for the same. The working groups shall appoint their directors.

The Council of the Danube Cities and Regions and the Working Group of the Danube Regions jointly affirm their readiness to support the EU Commission, but also national governments to the best of their ability as a strategic partner in the realisation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Regions and to undertake appropriate tasks. In accordance with the

principle of subsidiarity, they recognise in particular the interests of cities, communities and regions in the Danube region.

The RDSR and the ARGE intend to hold their first joint conference in autumn 2013. The Steering Committee is tasked with the preparation thereof. It will meet for the first time on 11th June 2013 in Vienna, defining its rules of procedure and creating a working plan.

As amended and confirmed.

St.Pölten, 22nd April 2013

Peter de Martin, General Secretary ARGE Donauländer

Otto Schwetz, Chair Working Group Transport and Shipping / ARGE Donauländer, City of Vienna

Peter Langer, General Coordinator RDSR