



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT  
DONAULÄNDER  
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ  
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ  
PRACOVNÉ SPOLOČENSTVO  
PODUNAJSKÝCH KRAJÍN  
DUNAMENTI TARTOMÁNYOK  
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH REGIJA  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH ZEMALJA  
COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU  
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE  
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ  
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ  
РОБОЧА СПІВДРУЖНІСТЬ  
ПРИДУНАЙСЬКИХ КРАЇН

## **ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DONAULÄNDER (Working Group Danube Region)**

**25th meeting of the work group of managing officers**

**18 September 2015**

**Stuttgart, Land (federal state) Baden-Württemberg, Germany**

### **DECISIONS**

***Decisions are indicated in this form.***

**25th meeting of managing officers**

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**Stuttgart, Land (federal state) Baden-Württemberg, Germany**

**D E C I S I O N S**

Item 1

**Opening address and welcome by the representative of the chair Baden-Württemberg, Suzana NEIB and the permanent chair of the work group of the managing directors, Regional Director of Lower Austria Dr. Werner SEIF**

**Decision on item 1**

Opening address and welcome by the chair representative  
Baden-Württemberg, Suzana NEIB and the  
permanent chair of the work group of the managing directors, Regional Director of  
Lower Austria Dr. Werner SEIF

***The report is taken note of.***

Item 2

**Approval of the agenda**

**Decision on item 2**

"Approval of the agenda"

***The agenda as Annex 3 is approved.***

Item 3

**Report on Baden-Württemberg's activities as chair**

**Decision on item 3**

"Report on Baden-Württemberg's activities as chair"

*The report is taken note of and the chair Baden-Württemberg thanked for its numerous activities.*

Item 4

**Reports from the work groups and technical working groups**

Item 4.1.

**Economy, Tourism and Transportation Work Group**

**Decision on item 4.1.**

"Economy, Tourism and Transportation Work Group"

**A) Tourism**

**1. Danube navigation conference**

*Professor Skoff has introduced the Danube navigation conference within the framework of the International Danube Organisation, which continues to have numerous participants every year. This conference should therefore also continue to exist in future to provide competent, cross-national answers to the numerous questions on navigating on the Danube in future. ARGE DL and RDSR support the Danube navigation conference ARGE "Donau Österreich (Danube Austria)" and/or ARGE "Donau – Straße der Kaiser und Könige (Danube – street of emperors and kings)" would be prepared to host the Danube navigation conference in future. This is to be done in agreement with Professor Skoff.*

## **2. Organisation of the 10 Danube countries**

*At the moment, 2 organisations are principally in charge of the collaboration of the 10 Danube countries in terms of tourism: For many years, this has traditionally been „Internationale Donau (International Danube),“ based in Vienna, and the Danube Competence Center (DCC) in Belgrade. Within the meaning of the EU strategy for the Danube region, it should therefore be clarified in which form and which organisation should in future coordinate the tourist collaboration of the 10 Danube countries and their regions. This is where the work group will provide support.*

## **3. Transdanube II**

*Transdanube II is a project of the EU strategy for the Danube region that is planned to be carried out in the project period 2017-2019 and that has been submitted by the Interreg V B Programme with 15 other partners from the entire Danube region from Germany to Romania. In this case, the expected funding rate would be 80%. The project will deal with the sustainable development of the Danube area in connection with public transport to increase mobility. The lead has already been submitted to the Austrian Environment Agency. ARGE DL and RDSR should give Transdanube II the possibility to communicate the content and implementation strategies via ARGE and RDSR as a multiplier.*

## **4. Cruises on the Danube**

*In the last few years, the Danube has become the world's most popular river when it comes to river cruises. Currently, round 175 cabin vessels with about 400,000 passengers frequent the Austrian area alone every year. Due to increasing competition, the shipping companies are constantly looking for new offers, especially in the area of national programmes. These programmes are a great opportunity to boost the entire Danube region and to increase added value. In addition, the shipping companies' extensive marketing leads to the intense promotion of international markets. It would therefore be in the interest of national tourism organisations of the Danube countries to increase collaboration with cruise companies to pool resources*

*when promoting the Danube region. ARGE DL and RDSR will initiate increased cooperation in this respect.*

**B) Economy**

**5. Proposal by the Coordinator for Priority Area 8 (Priority Area Coordinator 8/PAC 8) of EUSDR:**

- The members of the Economy Work Group of Arge DL and RDSR will receive information on Priority Area 8 of EUSDR and their activities on 29/30 October 2015 in Ulm, Germany, and also receive information on possibilities to cooperate*
- Prior to this, it would be possible to already assess measures and projects, in particular in the previously-mentioned work groups, including the work groups of PA 8 of EUSDR.*
  
- On this basis, The Economy, Tourism and Transportation Work Group will work on a draft of the "Economy" part until the end of the year, which will be approved in the Work Group meeting in the first half of 2016.*

**C) Transportation**

**6. Lead project initiated by ARGE DL**

*The cooperation project of the Danube region with the region of the western Black Sea is controlled by the work group. It includes drawing up a programme for the development of harbours on the Danube as well as the collaboration of river ports with the sea ports of the Black Sea. The project is based on the Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a cooperation between the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer and the regions of the western Black Sea and its harbours (Annex 2).*

*ARGE DL's and RDSR's projects will be supported by a project submission to the Danube Transnational Programme.*

*ARGE DL and RDSR will continue their political support for activities in the area of cooperation at the Black Sea.*

Item 4.2.

**Culture, Science and Education Work Group**

**Decision on item 4.2.**

"Culture, Science and Education Work Group"

***The Culture and Science Work Group of the ARGE Danube countries:***

- 1. will continue its efforts in terms of continued cooperation with the University of Krems – as already was the case in the past – with numerous events, in particular conferences, such as those on the potential of the strategy for the Danube region.***
- 2. will continue its cooperation with the Danube Rectors' Conference and its Permanent Secretariat based in Vienna – the institute for the Danube area and Central Europe; it will continue to strengthen this cooperation to improve higher education and research in the region as well as strengthen the scientific network in the Danube area in the future.***
- 3. will continue the culture and science events in the Danube area and continue to include all member countries in future, as, for example, was the case with the travelling exhibition „Die Wunderwelt des Jugendstils – Architekturdetails aus den Donauländern (The wonder world of art nouveau – architectural details from the Danube countries).” The Work Group is also invited to support the exhibitions of the member regions in future – e.g. the exhibition "Along the River of Men. Paintings from the Danube Countries", that was initiated by the current chair Baden-Württemberg.***
- 4. would like to thank the chair Baden-Württemberg for organizing the 3rd culture conference in Temeswar and kindly asks them to continue to organize this event.***

**5. kindly asks the next chair to continue to support this event.**

**6. The conference of the heads of government welcomes the cooperation with the Council of the Danube cities and regions and would wish to intensify the collaboration with ARGE Donauländer, particularly in cultural and scientific matters.**

Item 4.3.

**Sustainability, Energy and Environment Work Group**

**Decision on item 4.3.**

"Sustainability, Energy and Environment Work Group"

**A) regarding "soil protection and sustainable land use:"**

**1. ARGE Donauländer decides to increase collaboration with existing networks, such as SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region and ELSA European Land and Soil Alliance to disseminate best-practice examples and experiences in the Danube region with annual meetings.**

**2. Lower Austria offers to provide to the Danube regions the results from the lead projects "Humus management and regional production of organic fertilizers" and "raw-materials production for the processing sector" of the field "Sustainable agriculture and production optimization" in the Lower Austrian FTI Programme "Science Technology Innovation" as well as the projects "Soil map – soil information" and "erosion prevention with soil protection systems."**

**3. At a European level, the idea is to also implement within the framework of the Lower-Austrian energy programme 2020 and the integrated energy and climate-protection concept of Baden-Württemberg the integration and proliferation of current and future projects in the context of the EU strategy for the Danube region and Danube Transnational.**

**B )regarding "Energy and environment:"**

- 1. For planning and directing the activities of the Sustainability Work Group of ARGE Donauländer and the Council of the Danube cities and regions, the aim shall be to place the emphasis on using synergies with the respective projects and measures when it comes to energy issues which are being implemented within the "Europaregion Donau Moldau" project.**
- 2. The Work Group should particularly deal with the successful exchange of networks of regions and cities, e.g. the networks "Climate Alliance" and "e5."**

Item 4.4.

Civil Society, Local Players and Social Matters Work Group

**Decision on item 4.4.**

"Civil Society, Local Players and Social Matters Work Group"

**ARGE Donauländer decides to rename the common Civil Society, Social Politics, Women and Youth into "Civil Society, Local Players and Social Matters."**

**This will give the Work Group clearer contours and a link to the Danube Local Actors Platform of the EU strategy for the Danube area with joint cooperation and actions; furthermore, it is international standard to name the intended activities and addressees.**



Item 5

**Further cooperation development with the Council of the Danube cities and regions**

**Decision on item 5**

"Further cooperation development with the Council of the Danube cities and regions"

***The Council of the Danube cities is thanked for the report.***

Item 6

**Baden-Württemberg's report on the Annual Forum of EUSDR and Participation of ARGE Donauländer at the Annual Forum 2015 in Ulm**

**Decision on item 6**

"Baden-Württemberg's report on the Annual Forum of EUSDR and participation of ARGE Donauländer at the Annual Forum 2015 in Ulm"

***Baden-Württemberg is thanked for its report.***

Item 7

**Preparation of the conference of the heads of government in 2015**

Item 8

**Handing over of chairmanship and chairmanship of ARGE Donauländer 2015-2017**

### **Decision on item 8**

"Handing over of chairmanship and chairmanship of ARGE Donauländer 2015-2017"

*Since Slovakia will be chairing the strategy for the Danube region in 2016 and holding the EU Presidency in the second half of 2016, the aim is to use the created synergies in an optimal way for ARGE Donauländer.*

*ARGE Donauländer therefore decides that the Slovakian self-governing regions Bratislava and Trnava will be chairing ARGE Donauländer in 2016 and 2017 in consultation with the city of Bratislava.*

Item 9

### **Miscellaneous**

**Closing words of the chair of the work group of the managing directors.**

**Regional Director of Lower Austria Dr. Werner SEIF**