

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY IN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

WHAT IS A NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY?

National Participation Days (NPD), also called national hearings, are regular (at best annual) meetings of actively involved, interested or potential stakeholders of the EUSDR on the national level. The NPD specifically addresses civil society organisations and networks, local actors including academia, public authorities on the local and regional level as well as national institutions and experts active in the EUSDR institutions (a.o. Working Groups, Priority Area Coordinators, National Coordinators). The NPD should also be open to interested stakeholders from abroad such as PACs, academia, umbrella organisations (CoDCR, DCSF, RCC...) and civil society.

The National Participation Day :

- informs and prepares Civil Society and local actors about the supra-national activities of the EUSDR, the Annual Fora and the Annual Danube Participation Days.
- brings together the actors of the public sector at national and local level (ministries, regional administrations, cities, national agencies, NCP, PACs, etc.) and the interested stakeholders active at national level, thus furthering exchange of information at all levels.
- enables a large group of local actors to meet in view of possible cooperation in the macro-region
- gives EUSDR stakeholders the possibility to inform themselves about ongoing projects, calls or other possible financing programmes or instruments in the EUSDR

AIMS OF A NATIONAL PARTICIPATION DAY:

The NPD should be a forum for stakeholders to report from their work, experience, perspective and planning on both state and non-state level, for mutual information and opinion building on national level.

The NPD should be closely interlinked with the annual fora and the Danube Participation Days. For this the agenda of the NPD should reflect the outcome of the previous and the agenda of the upcoming annual fora and Danube Participation Days as well as the state of implementation, reform and progress of the EUSDR as a whole.

FORMAT

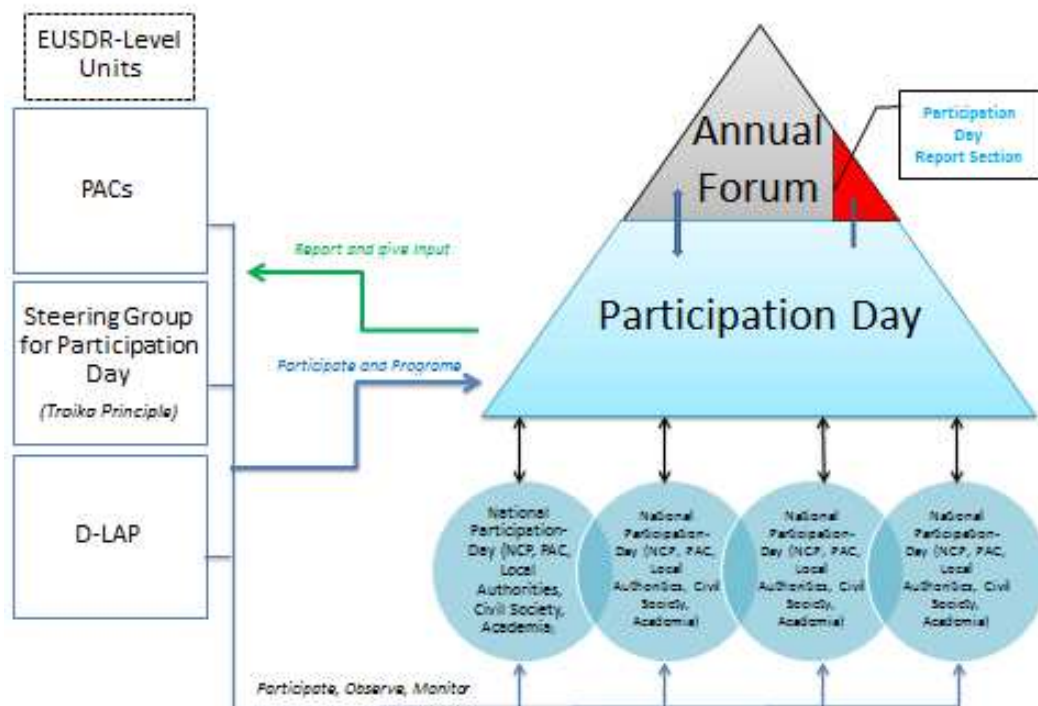
The experiences from other NPDs held so far show that the NPD should be held at a venue within easy reach, able to host up to 120 persons, and last not longer than a day. It should be organised either jointly by the NCP and civil society in coordination with PA 10 responsible for civil society and participation in the EUSDR or by civil society in coordination with the NCP and PA 10. In general the NPD should be a low hurdle event for participants and a low cost event for the organisers.

OUTCOMES

The NPD should:

- raise the level of national coordination, participation and knowledge on the national strategy within the EUSDR.
- inform participant on the current agenda of the EUSDR and foster direct links and contacts between actors from various fields of expertise (state and non-state).
- increase awareness on the national level and motivate potential actors to join the strategy and become active stakeholders.

Scheme of the participative structure in the EUSDR governance:



National Participation Days/National hearings have been held so far in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Austria. DCSF and PA 10 are happy to support all efforts to organise National Participation Days.