



## Summary Minutes of the 7th Steering Group Meeting in Bucharest/Romania on 1 July 2014

**Chairman:** Mr. Erwin Frankl, Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior

**Participants:** cf. list of participants

**Time of Meeting:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs

### I. Opening Speeches

**Mr. Bogdan Tohaneanu, state secretary, Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs,** stated that Romania was proud to host the 7th PA 11 Steering Group meeting. The fight against organised crime would remain a top priority in Priority Area 11. In addition, the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs would intensify efforts to have the PA 11 objectives included in the operational plan and the partnership agreement planned by the EU.

**Ms. Carmen Podgorean, Romanian National Coordinator for EUSDR,** reported on the contents and results of the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR, which took place in Vienna on 26 - 27 June 2014. She spoke about the state of play of the discussion about macro-regional strategy governance and, with a view to the EU's external borders, emphasised the strategic importance of Romania to Priority Area 11. She called on the other members to further integrate non-EU countries in the European Danube Region Strategy.

**Ms. Irina Cruceru, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy,** focussed on future options of funding and support for the Strategy and the projects involved. As regards the issue of security, she cited the DG HOME programme, ISEC, and the sections "border actions" and "shared management" of the ISF 2014-2020 which are important to PA 11. The transnational Danube programme will provide funds for EUSDR starting 2015. The PACs can request money for their activities from these funds. The planned "Danube Strategy Point" will also receive financial support from the Danube programme.



## II. Reports on previous events

### 4th Meeting of National Contact Points and Priority Area Coordinators

National Contact Points and Priority Area Coordinators convened in Vienna from 10 - 11 March 2014. The emphasis of the discussion was on future **macro-regional strategy governance**. A considerable number of Priority Area Coordinators warned the Commission against withdrawing from its political responsibility and, at the same time, deplored the lack of political support from the national governments. The Commission's representative stated that the Commission would continue to play a strategic role and, at the same time, would increase the responsibility of the Member States. A lot of Coordinators criticised that attendance at the steering group meetings was low and the participants often did not have clear mandates. Representatives of PA 11 did not share the criticism regarding the lack of political support and low attendance at the steering group meetings.

Ms. Podgorean and Ms. Cruceru provided further details on the governance discussion. The macro-regional strategy governance discussion shall be concluded this year.

Another important topic was the **introduction of START**. START is a new programme for financing EUSDR projects. (For further details please refer to Annex: Fact Sheet START)

### Danube – Black Sea Innovation Forum

The fourth edition of the Annual Danube-Black Sea Innovation Forum in the light of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region took place in Bucharest on 22-23 May 2014, with the aim to better tackle the common problems of our confluence area between Danube River, Danube Delta and the Black Sea coast. The focus was put on the good practices in the field of entrepreneurial education, establishing of new partnerships, networks and projects consortia.

PA 11 made a presentation reviewing the objectives and targets, and current work progress within our PA.

A workshop “Project Market Place”, aimed at identifying the most suitable interested stakeholders and consortia partners for the up-coming opportunities, calls and common EUSDR projects, was organized. PA 11 presented the project “Strengthening the Naval Transport Protection Capacities of Romanian Gendarmerie”.

An accent in the program was the International Competition for the Trophy “Black Sea - Danubian Social & Economic Innovator” – 2014. PA 11 and Romanian Gendarmerie were awarded with Diploma of Excellence for the Black Sea - Danubian Social & Economic Innovator.

### 3rd EUSDR Annual Forum (Vienna, 26 - 27 June 2014)

The three key issues of PA 11 participation in the Forum are:

**1. Meeting between PA 11 “Security” (EUSDR) and PA 15 “Fighting cross-border crime” (EUSBSR)**. The purpose of the meeting was to present the activities of both PAs and to discuss topics of mutual interest for future cooperation.



Three possible areas for future cooperation were identified: trafficking in human beings, fight against cybercrime and combating drug trafficking. It was agreed that the attendance of events within each PA might be useful for identifying common ground for initiating joint projects/activities.

2. **Workshop “Danube Cosmos”** took place within the Forum with the aim to present and discuss projects within each PA in front of future partners, possible stakeholders and broader public. PA 11 presented three projects within the framework of the workshop:

- *“Danube Excellence” – Security and safety of critical infrastructure, the transformation of regional best practices into a joint transborder university*”; presented by Dr. Ruediger Stix from Austria; currently no EUSDR project,
- *“Strengthening the naval transport protection capacities of Romanian Gendarmerie”*; Romanian project, funded by TAF
- *“Danube River Forum” (DARIF)*: Presentation about the state of play of the Hungarian project.

### 3. **NCPs and PACs meeting with EU Commissioner for Regional Policy**

**Johannes Hahn.** The main messages of Commissioner Hahn concerned the importance of identifying the best solution for each macro region; the main priorities in EUSDR agenda are energy, unemployment, fight against cross border crime, flood protection. EC continues to insist on the “bottom-up approach”. Other structures and services within EC will be also involved in the implementation of the Strategy, in addition to DG REGIO. The new financial perspective should serve as an opportunity; The implementation of the horizontal approach of cooperation is to be further developed.

### III. Reports on ongoing projects

#### Danube River Forum (DARIF)

Following an expert workshop in December on combating cross-border crime on the Danube, the first joint control operation including all EUSDR countries with direct access to the Danube was held on 8 - 10 April 2014. The results were reviewed in an extra workshop and are incorporated in the second control operation scheduled for 21 - 25 July 2014. The third operation is going to take place on 10 - 14 November 2014. A second expert workshop is planned for December 2014. Europol drew up a threat analysis directly linked to the Danube, which is made available to DARIF (for details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [PA 11 Steering Group Europol.pdf](#)). Priority areas are: trafficking in human beings and illegal goods, organised crime against property and environmental crime.

#### Workshop: Best Practice on Border/Customs Controls on the Danube

At the initiative of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, an expert workshop including German experts shall be held in close cooperation with DARIF. PACs from Germany



will meet representatives of competent German ministries beforehand to discuss the details. The workshop will then be introduced in detail.

#### Cooperation South-East Danube Region (CSDR)

A kick-off meeting at the working level in January marked the beginning of the anti-drug project in the Danube region. Two conferences will follow in Austria and the Czech Republic. In a ten-day exercise, it is planned that participants practice a controlled delivery from Moldova to Germany.

#### e-ID Symposium

The event is being coordinated with Hungary. It will probably take place in Budapest at the end of 2014.

#### Romanian Border Surveillance Integrated System on the Danube in Caras, Severin County

The Steering Group was informed about the already existing Romanian border surveillance integrated system on the Danube in Caras. (For details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [Border Surveillance Integrated System Romania.pdf](#))

#### Combating Organised Crime

Thorsten Geissler, Director of the Rule of Law Programme South East Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, holds out the prospect of a project for combating organised crime. It could be funded substantially by the KAS. The main objective would be the collection and exchange of information. Interested countries and organisations, particularly from South East Europe, are asked to participate in the project. They are asked to get in touch with KAS.

The proposal is supported by PAC (Germany/ Federal Ministry of the Interior). Subject to an examination of the contents of the project, Germany/the Federal Ministry of the Interior will consider participating in the project. It is important that a Member State from South East Europe take on the role of project coordinator.

#### EUSDR – Funding Priorities

Romania underlined the priority and importance of EUSDR for its government. Within PA 11 there are several proposed transnational project ideas of the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Thus the proposals encourage networking and cooperation between the EUSDR stakeholders dealing with security issues. (For details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [EUSDR Funding Romania.pdf](#))



#### IV. Dialogue

##### Horizontal Approach: Meeting of PA 1a and DARIF

The meeting of Hungarian representatives of DARIF and representatives of PA 1a in April 2014 met with success. Results: PA 1a will cooperate with DARIF in inland shipping customs affairs. (For details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [2014-07-01 PA1A PA11 SCOM Bucharest.pdf](#))

##### Setting up a network of centres for law enforcement cooperation. Networking between existing centres and those proposed under EUSDR

The project was proposed by Romania in the II steering group meeting. The contents of the project will complete and empower the data and information exchange through concrete tools between member states. PACs and representatives from Hungary asked, especially in the light of the achievements made by DARIF so far, that the project should be explained and put in concrete terms. Further details and explanations, why this project should be implemented in addition to DARIF was asked to be send to the Steering Group. The PACs emphasised that overlaps must be avoided. According to the present state of knowledge, the steering group cannot issue a letter of recommendation. (For details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [Police Cooperation network Romania.pdf](#))

##### Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) within the framework of EUSDR and project ideas of PA 11

PA 11 participates in the 2nd Call by TAF with three projects (of a total of 35 project ideas). Funding has been granted for a 6-month consultation prior to the implementation of the project, which has been going on since May.

##### *Cooperation in the area of booby-trap explosive systems and disposal of discarded ammunition*

Czech Republic project (for details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [Cooperation in the area of booby-trap explosive systems final.pdf](#))

##### *Combating corruption in cooperation with Danube region states*

Moldavian project (for details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [Moldova presentation.pdf](#))

##### *Strengthening the naval transport protection capacities of Romanian Gendarmerie*

Romanian project (for details please refer to the presentation on our website <http://groupspaces.com/Security/> - [Strengthening Capacities Romanian Gendermerie .pdf](#))