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INVITATION

CITIZENS' VOICE: Together. Stronger.

A civil society agora
in preparation of the 6th Annual Forum of EUSDR

Budapest, 29 September 2017

Venue: New Town Hall (Új Városháza), 1056 Budapest, Váci u. 62-64.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

as of 20/09/2017

Background and rationale

Macro-regional strategies (MRS) have become attractive and promising areas of EU policy-making. It started with the Baltic Sea Region in 2009 followed by the Danube Region in 2011; the two most recent ones cover the Adriatic and Ionian (2014) and the Alpine (2016) Regions.

Regardless of their degree of maturity Strategies face common challenges and have the potential to provide a new cooperation dimension to the 2020 Strategy and beyond. Involvement of various stakeholders including civil society actors is a must in the successful implementation of MRS.

Hungary holds the Presidency of the EUSDR this year and Budapest hosts its flagship event, the 6th Annual Forum in 18-19 October 2017.

The primary purpose of our "Citizens' Voice: Together. Stronger." event is to contribute to the successful preparation and holding of the 6th Annual Forum of EUSDR by specific means of civil society putting the whole process into a broader perspective with participants from all the 4 macro-regions. An other special feature of our event is its coincidence with the Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group.

Participants of the 6th Annual Forum of the EUSDR will be informed about the outcomes of our international meeting.

The event is hosted by the European House, a Hungarian civil society organisation assisted by the the National Federation of Hungarian Civil Society Organisations (TESZ), the Danubiana Network and supported by the Hungarian Presidency of the EUSDR, the Municipality of Budapest and the International Visegrad Fund.

9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30-10.45	<p>Opening plenary session</p> <p>Common concern, different approaches: for a successful implementation of macro-regional strategies (MRS)</p> <p>Appetisers from</p> <p>Balázs SZENECZEY, Deputy Mayor of Budapest</p> <p>István JOÓ, Ministerial Commissioner, Hungarian Presidency of EUSDR</p> <p>Marco ONIDA, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Brussels</p> <p>Roman HAKEN, Czech Republic, European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels</p> <p>Chair: Miklós BARABÁS, European House, Budapest</p> <p>The presentations are followed by a question and answer session</p>
10.45-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	<p>Debate 1</p> <p><i>The Danube Strategy: a case study from a civil perspective</i></p> <p><i>In focus: energy security and transportation</i></p> <p>Moderated by Stanka PARAC, Local Democracy Agency Subotica, Serbia</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <p>Rudolf SCHICKER, coordinator, Institutional capacity and cooperation, EUSDR, Vienna, Austria</p> <p>Rostislav TOMENCHUK, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics, Ukraine</p> <p>György MOLNÁR, National Federation of Civil Society Organisations, Hungary</p> <p>A moderated agora-type discussion with recommendations</p> <p>Debate 2</p> <p><i>Active citizenship in a macro-regional setting</i></p> <p><i>Why citizen involvement is indispensable in making macro-regional strategies a success story?</i></p> <p>Moderated by Éva HORVÁTH, Danubiana Network</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <p>Tony VENABLES, ECIT Foundation, Brussels</p> <p>Feri THIERRY, political consultant, Austria</p> <p>A moderated agora-type discussion with recommendations</p>

12.30-13.00	<p>Plenary session</p> <p>Reports from Debate 1 and 2</p> <p>Wrap-up of the morning session</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch break
14.00-14.15	Afternoon plenary session: introduction to the debates
14.15-15.45	<p>Debate 3</p> <p><i>The art of communication</i></p> <p><i>Best practices in reaching out ordinary citizens for the benefit of macro-regional strategies</i></p> <p>Moderated by Balázs PÓCS, communication strategist, Hungary</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <p>Katha TOTH, Danube Connects, Germany</p> <p>Nicos GIANNIS, European Expression, Greece</p> <p>A moderated agora-type discussion with lessons learned</p> <p>Debate 4</p> <p><i>More than a comment</i></p> <p><i>Preparation of a citizens' driven shadow document on the Commission Report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies (December 2016)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Mikko LOHIKOSKI, Horizontal action coordinator, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region , Turku, Finland</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <p>Roman HAKEN, Czech Republic, European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels</p> <p>László FLAMM, European House, Budapest</p> <p>A moderated agora-type discussion on the draft citizens' report</p>
15.45-16.15	<p>Closing plenary session</p> <p>Reflections from Debate 3 and 4</p> <p>Conclusions and next steps: citizens' contribution to shaping the future of macro-regional strategies in a post-2020 setting</p>

EN-HU simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Prepared by European House
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