



## Summary minutes

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>European Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR) – PA 11 6th Meeting of the Steering Group</b>		
<b>Venue: Ministry of Interior, Budapest, Hungary</b>	<b>Date:</b> 26 November 2013	<b>Start:</b> 9.00	<b>End:</b> 16.30
<b>Participants:</b> Annex 1			
<b>Agenda:</b> Annex 2			
<u>Essential results:</u>			
<b>I. Opening and keynote speech</b>			
<b>1. Priority Area Coordinators (PACs)</b>			
<p>The principle aim of the meeting is to review the achievements under PA 11 during the last six months. For the first time a review is made on finalized projects, as well as on ongoing and planned ones. The II PA 11 Progress Report was highly praised by the European Commission. At the EUSDR II Annual Forum commissioner J. Hahn emphasized on the good example for political support demonstrated for the activities within PA 11. We are on the right track but we cannot allow ourselves to lose momentum. The importance of obtaining concrete and tangible results was underlined. At the first call PA 11 did not submit any project proposals under the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) but this financial tool should be used as it provides good opportunity for financing planned projects. The transparency (increased publicity, visibility and participations) of the activities within PA 11 is essential. The building of trust at the different levels is highly important in order to cooperate successfully (working together not competing).</p>			
<b>2. Keynote by the EU Commission</b>			
<p>The political will for the activities within PA 11 reconfirmed at the Ministerial conference (May 2013, Munich) is a success. Strengthening of police cooperation in the Danube Region is one of the notable results achieved within PA 11. The platform for the cooperation is established but we still need to go further. The efforts of PA 11 to actively involve all the EUSDR countries were highly praised. Two project proposals, approved by PA 11, have been submitted to ISEC and the DARIF project was put as an excellent example for a flagship project during the II EUSDR Annual Forum. The efforts for guarantying financing for the 2014-2020 period are still ongoing. Security would not be a main priority, so other financial sources must be identified.</p>			
<b>3. Hungary as a host of the meeting</b>			
<p>The EUSDR plays an essential role in shaping our future as the Danube river is an important tool for solving a lot of economic problems. The EUSDR already is becoming a platform and it provides excellent possibilities both to EU member states and non-EU countries to work together. PA 11 has a key role for the other PA as the matter of security is of primary importance in changing the region. PA 11 is open for horizontal cooperation; very important is the implication of topical issues, such as cybercrime. Hungary is fulfilled being part of the successful mechanism of EUSDR cooperation.</p>			

## **II. State of Play of the finalized projects/activities within PA 11 in the second half of 2013**

- 4. European Anticorruption Training (EACT)** – the first project within PA 11, led by Austria, was supported by EU-program ‘Prevention of and Fight against Crime’ (ISEC). Anticorruption experts from EU member states, the Western Balkans and Europol participated in different working groups under the framework of the EACT project. Draft of the EACT manual is prepared. This manual contains the best practices and how these can be reached. During the whole time-frame and process of EACT, participants used the innovative and secure online database platform EPE (Europol Platform for Experts), which ensures that the secure exchange of information, documents, case studies and expertise as well as the preparation for the upcoming meetings were available for the participants on a consistent basis. Excellent feedback from the participants in the different activities within the project was received. Austria is verifying the prolongation of the EPE-Platform usage for EACT. Furthermore, Austria informed about a possible follow-up project: SIENA. The member states would have a direct access to SIENA for anti-corruption authorities network. SIENA provides the experts with a tool for direct connection between themselves and will be financed by ISEC. Aim could be a data exchange on the basis of SIENA. That project could be financed by ISEC. Austria would check how to link this project to PA 11.
- 5. Rule of Law** – The project Rule of Law was led by Bulgaria and Germany, with the financial support of Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The project started in 2012; the principle aim of the project was to improve the cooperation in the information exchange in three very important points - conflict of interest prevention; criminal and civil asset forfeiture and addressing organized crime-corruption nexus. The Max Plank Institute elaborated the study - “Fighting corruption in the Danube Region - an overview of potential capabilities and limits of national anti-corruption measures“. The study outlines the best practices. It is based on the specific methods and approaches of the Danube Region countries in their fight against corruption. The results of the workshops and the scientific expertise outline the strategic directions for further development of the cooperation in prevention of and fight against corruption in the Danube Region. The project is a stable platform for exchange of information and expert knowledge in the regions of the Danube Region and Western Balkans. In 2014 a decision will be taken for implementation of a second phase of the project in 2015-2016.
- 6. Cyber Symposium**  
Cybercrime is strongly gaining importance as the number of people online is rapidly growing. This topic was included in the list of priorities of the security cooperation of PA 11 on the approval of the Ministers of Interior in the Danube Security Conference (6<sup>th</sup> May 2013, Munich). The cybercrime symposium held in Stuttgart in October 2013 is considered as a first step towards establishing a network of Danube Region agencies competent in fighting cybercrime.  
The aim of the symposium was to bring together experts working in this field, to exchange experience and best practices, and to develop networks. 140 experts from all EU member states and neighbouring countries participated in the symposium. The project was very successful. What lies ahead is to build a network of police law enforcement authorities, economic actors, researches and other stakeholders and to elaborate a cross-border combating strategy. A bigger project that involves more countries may be considered during the next programming period (2014-2020), as well as a catalogue of standards with the equipment that can be used. Baden-Württemberg appealed to the member states to lead such a project. Baden-Württemberg offers support for this might-be-project.

## **III. State of Play of the running projects/activities within PA 11**

- 7. Setting up a Structure of a Danube River Forum (DARIF) project** – A kick-off meeting was held in September 2013. The purpose of the conference was to display the aim of the project and the steps of its implementation. They took note that the main goal of this project is the establishment of a regular cooperation platform, the Danube River Forum (DARIF) by mid-2015. The DARIF will enable participating countries to discuss arising issues in connection with criminal risk analysis, border and customs control, the safety and security of Danube river transport, information exchange and to take harmonised actions for better cooperation. Cooperation in DARIF will be performed at two levels: strategic decisions will be made by the Steering Group consisting of the leaders of the national law enforcement authorities, and practical cooperation will be carried out by Thematic Expert Groups. All five expert groups were presented - Criminal, Control, Safety, Operations, Information. A joint

declaration was approved. A visit to Mohács Border Crossing Point was organized. The first technical workshop is planned for 9-10 December 2013 (it took place); the aim is to reach common objective and to agree on the concrete implementation.

- 8. Horizontal cooperation – customs control on the Danube River** - In June 2013 representatives of PA 1a participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> PA 11 StGr meeting and agreement was reached to organise a joint expert meeting. The first informal meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Vienna. The aim was to discuss possibilities for joint cooperation on topics of mutual interest. Experience for the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region might be used. Uncoordinated checks of samples of goods and personal transport between the security authorities of the neighbouring states affected show that necessary thorough controls are lacking. A joint project could analyse the legal framework conditions and draw up proposals. The aim is to bring about more coordinated controls accompanied by better security. One result was outlining possible joint activities; The plan is a joint session in 2014. We want to harmonize these activities as soon as possible with the DARIF efforts.

**Austria commented on PORIS project idea** - The university of Graz is evaluating the PORIS project idea. Austria is sending PORIS experts to the DARIF workshop in December to Budapest. They will figure out the possibility of integrating the PORIS project idea within the DARIF project.

Concerning the **Danube Assessment Center** Romania maintained its project proposal. Romania will also propose other initiatives in the field, taken into account the financing opportunities in the budgeting period 2014-2020.

**The Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)** – PA 11 did not submit a project proposal during the first TAF call. The second call for submitting project proposals will start at about 20 January 2014 and will finish at the end of February 2014. One of the main criteria for the projects to be selected is to be of public interest and the limitation for the budget is up to 25 million €. One of the main problems met by the leading partner is the insufficient information about financing opportunities.

Every PA has the opportunity to submit up to two project proposals; PACs have to sign a letter of commitment. Projects must be in line with the funding criteria for TAF and also with PA. Call for submitting proposals to the Coordination Bureau until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

- 9. Presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum (28-30 October 2013, Bucharest).** The aim of the forum “Danube Region - stronger together, stronger in the world” was to take stock of the work done and the way ahead. Four parallel workshops were held, PA 11 took part in the Workshop (WS) 4 “Effective, Attractive and Safe Danube Region”. Among the main messages of the WS were: Publicity, visibility and participation are the keys in order to achieve the goals of the Strategy. The involvement of all levels (politicians, national and regional stakeholders, local communities, civil society, etc.) is not ensured, work is still to be done in this respect. The building of trust at the different levels is highly important in order to cooperate successfully (working together not competing).

#### **IV. Outlook for the forthcoming and future activities**

##### **10. Project proposals sent by Moldova**

The project “Rule of Law: Implementing a Comprehensive and Integrated Approach in Prevention and Fight against Corruption in the Danube Region” aims to enhance trans-border cooperation in order to prevent and fight against corruption in countries from the Danube Region and those within ENP through drafting and implementing comprehensive anticorruption policies, endowment of the state border crossing points with video surveillance equipment at national level, in compliance with the EU policy, in the area of fight against corruption.

The project “Border Management and Documents checking in the Danube Region” follows up strengthening cooperation in prevention and fighting against the attempts of using false and forged documents by criminal organizations as tools for trans-border crimes in the Danube and ENP countries, through elaborating and implementing trans-border policies at national level in compliance with the EU policy. The project is structured in two parts. Part 1 includes the establishment and development of a Documents Examination Centre within Border Police Directorate. Part 2 comprises the provision of a certain number of international workshops.

The project “National Coordination Center - cooperation with existing centers from the Danube states” project aims to enhance cross-border cooperation and information exchange between border surveillance and control authorities of the member states, also FRONTEX agency, in order to prevent and combat cross-border crimes through drafting and implementing comprehensive cross-border policies on operational information exchange in compliance with the EU policy.

**Comments and discussion** – The Czech Republic asked Moldova about the concrete activities planned in the framework of the projects (as for that moment there were not any concrete activities planned). PACs and EUBAM recommended Moldova to focus primarily on the Rule of Law project. Ukraine declared support for the Moldovian projects. Romania emphasized on the future operative program for cooperation both with Moldova and Ukraine in the next financial period.

**Comments by PACs** – The project proposals sent by Moldova are included in the Register of Project proposals kept by the Coordination Bureau. Moldova is supposed to identify the most important of the three projects. That could be the Rule-of-Law-project. The financial parameters, as well as concrete actions and steps within the projects should be filled-in. The PACs encouraged Moldova to submit revised project proposal(s) to the Coordination Bureau in order to start the procedure as soon as possible.

**eID Symposium and Workshop “Hungary, the Danube - Region and beyond”** - A conference will be held in Budapest probably in spring time 2014. This event is corresponding to PA 11 key objective III - System of border control and document inspection management within PA 11. But now the focus of key objective III will be on the security required for individual movements on the Internet. From now the key objective III will be dealing with these questions (eID). It is intended to draw up which solutions are already in place and which ones of them could, where appropriate, be expanded.

**11. Cooperation Southeast Danube Region** – the ISEC funded project will start in January 2014 with a kick-off conference on working level in Munich. The project aims at improving the cooperation in the region and developing a common strategy in the fight against drugs trafficking. A project brochure will be ready by February 2014. In September 2014 and 2015 two big conferences – in the content of AG Südost - will be held; in 2015 a joint Danube police operation will be carried out with a common review short time after.

## **V. Wrap up and conclusions**

- The way ahead is on security and safety.

- Political support to the work under PA 11 was given during the Ministerial Danube Security Conference, held in Munich in May 2013. Moreover, the ministers agreed for a new (fourth) area to be added to the other three already set areas of police cooperation – the fight against cybercrime, in view of its particular importance for security. Cybercrime will continue to be a topic of main interest within PA 11.

- In the area of the Rule of Law – the project led by Bulgaria and Germany is already finished and its follow-up may be linked with the respective Moldovian project proposal.

- Strategic planning started within PA 11 - as a result of joint and purposeful efforts, the Danube countries managed to outline a long-term vision for enhancing the cooperation between the law enforcement authorities along the Danube River through contact points for exchange of information. Very soon after the DARIF kick-off conference there are concrete results and this dynamic should be kept.

- The possibilities for horizontal cooperation will continue to be explored.

- The countries and organizations are invited to submit project proposals for TAF second call to the Coordination Bureau no later than 15 January 2014. PACs will carry out the pre-assessment and send the proposals to the Steering group members for approval (via electronic procedure). The proposal(s) approved will be submitted to PA 10, which will take the final decision about the funding.

## **Annex 1**

### **IV Steering Group Meeting**

#### **Priority Area 11 “Security”, European Strategy for the Danube Region**

*25-26 November 2013, Budapest*

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

##### **AUSTRIA**

Ms. Simone Baumgartner-Flotzinger - JHA Counsellor, EU-Affairs Department, Federal Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Christoph Saiger - Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, International Cooperation Department, Federal Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Andreas Nagy - Attaché of the Austrian Interior Ministry in Hungary

##### **BULGARIA**

Ms. Snezhina Marinova – Acting Director, EU and International Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Interior (PAC PA 11)

Ms. Blaga Stancheva – Coordination Bureau PA 11 (PAC PA 11)

##### **CROATIA**

Mr. Vjekoslav Majić - Police adviser, Service for Irregular Migration, Border Police Directorate, General Police Directorate, Ministry of Interior

##### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Ms. Petra Kratochvílová - EU Unit, International Cooperation and EU Department, Ministry of the Interior

##### **GERMANY**

Mr. Christian Hofmann - Desk officer, Federal Ministry of the Interior (PAC PA 11)

##### **GERMANY – THE FREE STATE OF BAVARIA**

Ms. Milena Thaller - Subdivision for International Police Cooperation, Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Building & Transport (PAC PA 11)

##### **GERMANY - BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG**

Mr. Ralf Rosanowski - Deputy Head of Division – Combating Crime, Prevention, International Police Cooperation, State Police Presidium, Ministry of the Interior

##### **HUNGARY**

Mr. Balázs Medgyesy - Government Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Judit Ferkócza - Deputy Head of Department for European Cooperation, Ministry of Interior

Ms. Mónika Herczeg - Senior expert, Unit of Migration and Border Management, Department of European Cooperation, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Péter Polgár - Project Assistant, Department of European Cooperation, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Gergely Mező - Project Manager, National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Info-communications and Group Coordinator (Information Exchange and River Information Service EG) in the DARIF project

#### **MOLDOVA**

Ms. Irina Mihalachi - Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Internal Affairs

Ms. Natalia Furtuna - Senior Expert, General Department of international relations and European integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### **ROMANIA**

Ms. Ramona Moldovan – Director, Public Policy Unit, Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### **UKRAINE**

Ms. Olga Ieromina - Senior expert, European Integration Unit, International Relations Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ms. Kateryna Chelousova - Senior expert, Directorate of interaction with the central bodies of executive power and military authorities, Ministry of internal affairs

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Mr. Daniel Ambrus – Head of Political Sector, Representation in Hungary

#### **PAC 10 Technical Support**

Ms. Elise Lindner - project manager, Wien Holding - Beschaffung und Service

#### **EUBAM**

Mr. Jean Van Acker - Strategy, Planning and Performance Adviser, EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM)

**Annex II**  
**European Danube Region Strategy**  
 Project area 11 – Security  
**VI Meeting of the Steering Group**  
 25-26 November 2013, Budapest

**Draft Agenda**

<b>25 November 2013</b>	
19.00 – 21:00	Dinner hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior Venue: Nádor Magyaros Boréletterem, H-1053 Budapest, Nádor u. 30
<b>26 November 2013</b>	Venue: Ministry of Interior, 1051 Budapest, József Attila utca 2-4., Press Hall
9.00 – 9.30	<b>Welcome statement by the hosts and Priority Area Coordinators</b> - Ms. Judit Ferkócza - Ministry of Interior, Hungary - Ms. Snezhina Marinova – Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria - Mr. Christian Hofmann – Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany - Mr. Milena Thaller – Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, Germany - Mr. Balázs Medgyesy – Government Commissioner, Hungary
9.30 – 9.40	Key-Note by the European Commission – Mr. Daniel Ambrus
9.40 – 10.30	<b>State of Play of the finalized projects/activities within PA 11 in the second half of 2013</b> - European Anticorruption Training (Austria) - Rule of Law – final conference (Bulgaria) - Cyber-Symposium (Baden-Württemberg)
10.30 – 10.45	<i>Group photo and coffee break</i>
10.45 – 11.30	<b>State of Play of the running projects/activities within PA 11</b> - DARIF project (Hungary) - Horizontal cooperation – customs control on the Danube river (meeting PA 1a, Vienna, October 2013) – (Berlin)
11.30 – 12.15	Technical Assistance Facility PAC 10 Technical Support – Ms. Elise Lindner
12.15 – 13.30	<i>Lunch (premises of the Ministry of Interior)</i>
13.30 – 13.45	Presentation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Forum EUSDR (Bulgaria and Bavaria)
13.45 – 14.30	<b>Outlook for the forthcoming activities</b> - Key objective III - System of border control and document inspection management - eID Symposium and Workshop “Hungary, the Danube - Region and beyond” (Berlin) - Cooperation Southeast Danube Region – (Bavaria)
14.45 – 15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.00 – 15.30	<b>Outlook for the future activities</b> - Project proposals submitted by Moldova
15.30 – 16.00	AOB
16.00 – 16.30	Wrap-up and closing remarks - <i>Priority Area Coordinators and Hungary</i>