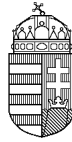




Office of the
Government of the
Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



14th Steering Group Meeting of the Priority Area 2

Budapest, 13 July 2017

Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
(1016 Budapest, Bérc utca 13-15)

1. OPENING REMARKS

Mr Pál Ságvári, HU Priority Area coordinator welcomed the participants on behalf of the HU-CZ coordination of PA2 and proposed a tour de table introduction, noting the changes of members of coordination and also the SG.

Mr Gábor Jenei, Deputy National Coordinator of the EUSDR in Hungary welcomed the participants of the meeting and highlighted the importance of transnational projects in the implementation of the EUSDR and drew attention to the HU PRES of the EUSDR in 2017.

Ms Pavla Kačabová, National Coordinator of the EUSDR from the Czech Republic also welcomed the participants and informed the participants briefly about the results of the Strategic Meeting held the day prior to the meeting.

2. REPORT OF THE PRIORITY AREA COORDINATORS: PROGRESS SINCE THE 13TH STEERING GROUP MEETING

Mr Pál Ságvári informed the participants about the activities of the PA2 since the last SG meeting, including events, studies, project generation and management, communication and promoting.

Ms Veronika Šiková introduced the upcoming tasks for the PA2 coordination, with a special focus on the Annual Forum of the EUSDR to be held in Budapest 18-19 October 2017. She also informed the participants about **minor changes in the PA2 Roadmap** (no changes in the content, only changes in phrasing) which will be circulated via email after the meeting. Ms Šiková also informed the participants about the decision made at the Strategic Meeting regarding **piloting**: the piloting of PA2 is planned to rotate between the CZ and HU side on a half-year basis.

Mr Cveto Kosec asked for further information regarding the Danube Free Sky initiative. **Ms Veronika Šiková** informed Mr Kosec that the initiative is part of the DANUBEPARKSCONNECTED project, which entered its implementation phase in 2017 and is financed via the Danube Transnational Programme. The aim of the Free Sky initiative is to ensure collision-free bird migration along the Danube flyway by finding technical solutions against bird collision with electricity wires, so it is connected to the work of PA2 as well.

3. STATE OF PLAY - STAKEHOLDER SEMINAR

1/2



Office of the
Government of the
Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



Mr Pál Ságvári informed the participants that the next Stakeholder Seminar is scheduled to be organized in autumn 2017 and a decision on the date is going to be made in the coming weeks. The seminar will focus on natural gas in the EUSDR and the discussion will be kicked off by the presentation of two studies, conducted by MUNI and REKK.

Mr Martin Jirušek presented the preliminary findings of their study on challenges and opportunities of the EUSDR natural gas sector and **Mr Tomáš Vlček** presented the comparison between the characteristics of the oil and the natural gas sector of the EUSDR.

Mr Péter Kaderják also presented the preliminary findings of the study conducted by REKK on risks and opportunities in the EUSDR national gas sector.

Ms Olga Bogdanova asked for further elaboration regarding the methodology behind the calculation of the prices mentioned in the presentation. **Mr Kaderják** informed her that the calculations are based on simulation, by a model which was developed by REKK (European Gas Market Model).

4. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Ms Veronika Šíková informed the SG that the coordination is working on the newsletters of PA2, which are planned to be sent out twice a year, summarizing the half-year-long activity of PA2. The first one is going to be sent out in summer 2017 and the second after the Annual Forum in October.

Ms Šíková reached out to the SG members seeking for their contribution to the Stakeholder Database, which has to be set up according to the Roadmap of the PA. A form is going to be sent out to the SG members who are asked to fill it in with the details of relevant stakeholders. The aim is to create a basis for dissemination of the activities of PA2 and to be able to involve more stakeholders in the workshops and seminars organized by PA2.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE 2017 ANNUAL FORUM IN BUDAPEST

Mr Félix Moldován informed the participants about the programme of the EUSDR HU PRES, the thematic focus of the EUSDR Annual Forum, as well as the events connected to the Forum. He gave a detailed description about the preliminary agenda of the Forum and invited the participants of the meeting to be present at the conference to be held 18-19 October in Budapest. He also emphasized that the second day of the Forum is organized in cooperation with the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, focusing on financing.

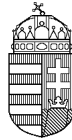
6. DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME

Ms Ana Leganel provided information about the links between DTP and EUSDR with a special focus on PA2 activities. She informed the participants about the 1st and 2nd call of DTP (10 proposals submitted under Specific Objective 3.2. MC decision in March 2018, indicatively) and Seed Money Facility (SMF); as well as the role of the DTP in the EUSDR Annual Forum. Ms Leganel drew the attention of the

2/2



Office of the
Government of the
Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



participants to the Launch Event of SMF to be held on 27 September 2017 in Vienna, and informed everyone that the call is scheduled to open at the end of this year.

7. PRESENTATION FROM DG RESEARCH – ENERGY RESEARCHES AND INNOVATIONS

Dr András Siegler's presentation focused on the 'background' work of energy issues, research and innovation with the topic of energy. He briefly mentioned the energy and sustainability-related points of the Juncker plan and emphasized the connections between the work of EUSDR PA2 and the goals set by Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. He also highlighted financial instruments relevant in the sector, especially Horizon 2020.

8. GREEN TRANSPORT PRESENTATION

Mr Szabolcs Vágvölgyi from Századvég Research Institute presented the preliminary findings of their study which will be the basis of discussion during the clean connectivity workshop of the EUSDR Annual Forum in November. The study covers the assessment of the alternative road fuels infrastructure and the development pathway to interoperability with a focus on challenges and opportunities for improvement.

9. POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION 'BEYOND THE BORDERS OF EUSDR'

14:35-15:20

Ms Eleonora Musco from the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention presented about the cooperation and joint activities of the Carpathian Convention and PA2. She briefed the audience about the joint workshop of the Convention and PA2 held in May on balancing bioenergy production and sustainable forest management in mountain areas.

Ms Nikoletta Oláh informed the SG members that EUSDR PA2 and EUSBSR Policy Area Energy are currently working on strengthening their cooperation and a concept paper of a future seminar co-organized by the two PAs was disseminated.

Ms Olga Bogdanova, Director of Energy Market and Infrastructure Department from the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, coordinator of Policy Area Energy of the EUSBSR in her presentation emphasized the EUSDR and EUSBSR are facing the same challenges and highlighted the importance of sharing best practices between the areas. She introduced the concept of flagship projects and raised a few examples of such projects and their area of work.

Mr Gál Körmendy introduced the CENTROPE region framework and highlighted that HU holds the PRES of the initiative in 2017. After providing information about the history of CENTROPE, he informed the participants about the focus and objectives of the HU presidency of CENTROPE. He also highlighted 3 event organized during the Hungarian presidency.

10. PROJECT PRESENTATION – DARLINGE

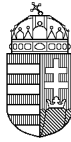
15:20-15:35

3/2





Office of the
Government of the
Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



Ms Annamária Nádor, Geologist from Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary and leader of Thematic Pole 8 of the Danube Transnational Programme introduced the DARLINGe project to the audience, together with the other 2 project (Energy Barge and 3SMART) from Thematic Pole 8. She also informed the participants about the progress of the DARLINGe project, in which the HU PA2 coordination is directly involved.

11. AOB & CLOSURE OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING

15:35-15:50

Ms Zsuzsa Bálintné Vörös informed the participants that all materials and presentations of the meeting will be distributed via email and will also be updated to the PA2 website. In his closing words **Mr Félix Moldován** summarized the discussion and expressed his hope that all participants will be present at the Annual Forum of the EUSDR as well.