**Date:** 18 June 2021; 09:00-12:00 AM

**Venue:** Online via Webex

**Stakeholder Workshop: Increasing participation of the Danube Region countries in Horizon Europe**

***Introduction of the survey results and follow-up***

**Outline**

In order to implement the updated [**EUSDR Action plan**](https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EUSDR-ACTION-PLAN-SWD202059-final.pdf) and contribute to enhancing the participation of the Danube countries in the European Research Area; the Priority Area 7 coordination team distributed in 2020 **two types of online questionnaires** focused on **mapping the participation of Danube region researchers in Horizon 2020.**

One of these questionnaires addressed **policy makers**, the other one was dedicated to **national contact points, agencies and/or applicants/potential applicants/and participants and other relevant stakeholders.** The questionnaire for policy makers was oriented on defining the strengths and gaps in terms of (non)participation of researchers from particular countries (regions) in Horizon 2020 and/or other European grant schemes. The questionnaire for participants (applicants) from the Danube Region was focused on the motives and barriers to the (non)participation in the Horizon 2020 programme.

The obtained answers helped in mapping the main reasons leading to participation, respectively barriers to participation in projects, and showed us both strengths in the national management of the programme, as well as gaps in terms of missed opportunities, policy shortcomings, national/regional support mechanisms for applicants, etc.

As a tangible result, an **analysis** [**“Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020”**](https://knowledgesociety.danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/sites/8/2021/05/PA7-analysis-on-H2020-participation.pdf) was published, describing the participation patterns in Horizon 2020 and the possible causes for the lower participation of researchers from particular Danube region countries.

In light of the conclusions from the above-mentioned Analysis, the EUSDR Priority Area 7 coordinators call for a stakeholders’ **Workshop on Introduction of the survey results and follow-up** on **18 June 2021** from **09:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (CET).**

**Who should participate?**

National policy makers, national contact points, participants, existing and potential future applicants (researchers, SMEs, NGOs, etc.) in framework programmes interested in: 1) results of the survey related to the Horizon 2020 and 2) Horizon Europe opportunities for the Danube Region countries. The participants will be also asked to share their opinion regarding the possible ways to increase participation in the EU framework programmes.

**Objectives of the workshop**

1. **Introduction of the analysis “Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020”.**
2. **Presentation of the possibilities for the Danube region researchers** (with a special focus on those with lower success rates and non-EU representatives) **to support their participation in Horizon Europe** (e.g. widening; synergies).
3. **Discussion of the best practices and lessons learnt from the Danube Region** on supporting participation in research programmes implemented on national level (selected upstream and downstream examples); e.g. special funding schemes supporting participation; special activities (promotion events or workshops dedicated for applicants); changes within Horizon 2020 support structures; etc.
4. **Identification of upcoming challenges and opportunities** related to Horizon Europe from the perspective of the Danube Region, which will be serving as inputs for **concrete policy recommendations** in order to enhance participation of the Danube region countries in Horizon Europe.

**Draft Agenda**

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome note on behalf of the EUSDR Priority Area 7 and on behalf of EC DG REGIO**

09:15 – 09:35 **Introduction of the results of H2020 survey** “**Participation of the Danube Region Countries in Horizon 2020”**

***Daniel Straka****; the Lead Author of the analysis from SOVVA*

09:35 - 09:50 ***Discussion***

09:50 - 10:10 **Presentation of Horizon Europe opportunities for the Danube Region countries**

***Karina Firkaviciute****, Policy Officer EC DG RTD*

10:10 - 10:20 ***Discussion***

10:20 - 10:35 **Lessons learned and upcoming challenges from the perspective of Austria**

*AT representative from BMBF*

***Martina Hartl****; Deputy Head of the Department for International Research Cooperation*

10:35 – 10:50 **Lessons learned and upcoming challenges from the perspective of Czechia**

*CZ representatives from MEYS and TACR*

***Lucie Núñez Tayupanta****; Head of the Unit of the European Research Area MEYS*

10:50 - 11:05 **Lessons learned and upcoming challenges from the perspective of Serbia**

*RS representative from MESTD*

***Viktor Nedovic*** *EUSDR PA7 Coordinator, University Professor*

11:05 – 11:20 ***Discussion***

11:20 – 11:45 **Closing remarks and farewell**