



Meeting of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions and 7th European Conference of the Danube Cities and Regions Sunday 27th and Monday 28th of October 2013

"Bucharest Statement"

The participants of the Meeting of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions and the 7th European Conference of the Danube Cities and Regions, aware of the crucial role that cities and regions play in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, declare the following:

- Participative standards in the EUSDR must meet European standards in its governance structure. That means that regular consultation mechanisms as well as transparent and formal information policies should be installed between the European Commission, the national coordinating structures and institutions and representatives of Cities, Regions and the Civil Society in the Danube region.
- On the one hand, this involvement creates informed, responsible and active stakeholders and strengthens the ownership of the EUSDR-strategy, while on the other hand enhancing the legitimacy of administrative and political strategies and decisions related to the implementation of the EUSDR.
- The implementation of the place based approach in the EUSDR must be recognized and supported on a political and financial level, namely through:
 - the promotion of bottom-up, locally designed and owned strategies aimed at promoting growth potential in all local economies, especially using the capacity of the cities and city associations in the Region following the generally recognised principle of subsidiarity;
 - the advancement of strengthened local and regional institutions and local financing instruments that are able to assess and develop local economic assets as well as social and public needs, including housing, schooling and professional qualification overall security and crime prevention measures, as well as cultural offers;
 - the strengthening and improvement of public administration bodies, accompanied by a socially fair increase of status and income for public employees are promising measures for more administrative efficiency, the improved use of European subsidies, and the prevention of brain drain and irregularities;

- the institution of participative structures and processes, involving institutions and representatives of Cities and Regions and of the Civil Society , at all levels of governance, throughout the EUSDR.
- In order to facilitate this participation, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions, in cooperation with the Working Group of the Danube Regions (ARGE Donauländer), invites all cities, networks and regions to join the Council in the constitution of an "Urban Platform for the Danube Region", which should further cooperation and exchange at all levels of governance of the EUSDR.

Enclosure

Declaration towards an URBAN PLATFORM DANUBE REGION (*Draft*)