

Meeting of the Danube-Networkers - July 11.-13. 2024, ILEU e.V.

Context: The social cohesion in the Danube countries and the social cohesion of Europe as a whole are threatened by many complex challenges. These challenges are the globalization, the demographic change, the digitalization, the climate change, migration, as well as the increasing social division due to growing nationalism and populism. As civil society groups and citizens, we can respond to these developments by informing each other and acquiring targeted knowledge, by taking a position and by looking for solutions together. Social participation, networking and European awareness are the key pillars of this approach.

Arrival 11 July 2024 (for participants attending the conference of the Baden-Württemberg Foundation and the State Ministry 10 July 2024)

Program (*changes possible*)

Thursday, 11 July 2024

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. various networking and project meetings

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Welcome

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Intergenerational *Workshop “Shaping the future together - How to use the human potential in the civil society”* with citizens of different age groups and countries, with various thematic subgroups as part of the project “Taking little steps towards change”

Location: Familienbildungsstätte, Sattlergasse 7, Ulm und Verschwörhaus Ulm, Weinhof 7

7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. Social gathering at the “Familienbildungsstätte”, Sattlergasse 7, Ulm

Friday, 12 July 2024

Conference “Strengthening civil society in the Danube region for a joint Europe“

Location: Edwin-Scharff-Haus, Neu-Ulm, Danube shore

9:00 a.m. Opening of the Conference

Registration: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Welcoming speeches

- Greetings from the **city of Ulm**, represented by the First Mayor **Martin Bendel**;
- Greetings from the **Baden-Württemberg State Ministry**, represented by **Mrs. Niombo Lomba**, Head of the Danube Region Service Office, Department VI – European Policy, Brussels State Representation, Cross-Border Cooperation;
- Greetings from the **Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH**, Stuttgart, represented by **Dr. Ágnes Sebestyén**;
- Greetings from the **Member of the Landtag „Grüne Fraktion Baden-Württemberg“** for Ulm and the Alb-Donaukreis, **Mr. Michael Joukov**;
- **Opening:** Carmen Stadelhofer, ILEU e.V., “We are all Danube-Networkers – Participation and networking, analogue and digital – it’s in the mix”

Impulse lectures

- **Gisela Erler**, former State Secretary, Berlin: *“Democracy and civil society in turbulent times” (online)*;
- **Petra Siegele**, Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OEAD), Vienna: *“Re-searching together across generations and borders - Citizen Science as a model”*;
- **Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf**, BAGSO Bonn /Age Plattform, Brüssel: *“The future needs intergenerational cooperation”*
- **Armin Pialek** German Foundation for Commitment and Volunteer Work (DSEE): *“The power of networks: community impact through virtual collaboration”*;
- **Stefan Barth**, Agapedia gGmbH / Netzwerk Zivilgesellschaft EUSDR, Stuttgart, Deutschland: *“Danube networking – challenges, demarcations, potentials”*

11:00 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. Coffee break

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Thematic working groups

W 1: Getting to know each other through joint cultural activities, analog and digital:

- Dr. Dusana Findeisen, Ass U3A, Ljubljana, Slovenia: *“No Europe without culture”*
- Marina Kuch, ILEU Ulm / Prof Emily Velikova, Univ Ruse, Bulgaria: *“Danube-Net-workers invite: Come together for connecting cultures” (DANECT: Come-together-online-Sessions)*

- Angela Pudda, Porto Torres, Italy, Elena Muste, Senior-Center 1, Cluj-Napoca, Romania,:
“Combining culture & travel, not just travelling”
- Elena Goertler-Reck, Almut Sedlmeier, Danube Office Ulm, Germany:
“Project Danube Guides Action 2“

W 2: Shaping the environment using citizen science as an example

- Petra Siegele, Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OEAD), Vienna:
“Supporting child- and youth friendly landscapes through participative analysis of urban green spaces.”
- Dr Harald Kutzenberger / Johanna Loicht High School BIOZ Vienna, Danube Landscapes Task Force:
“On the sustainable development of Danube landscapes at macro-regional and local level”
- Stefan Brändel, citizens science, in the Botanical Garden, University of Ulm:
“Botanical Gardens: Hubs of Biodiversity & Environmental Education”
- Lesya Loyko, Environmental organisation FORZA, Uschhorod, Ukraine:
“Protecting urban green through citizen power”

W 3: Using digitalization and media competence

- Oliver Schmidt, Ulm, Germany: *presentation of the project “Don@u-online“* of the Baden-Württemberg State Center for Civic Education (Concept & realisation). Some of the students present examples of their work from Sofia, Bulgaria (National Mathematical-Scientific High School), Odessa, Ukraine (Middle school No. 90), and Ulm, Germany (Schubart-Gymnasium)
- Carmen Stadelhofer, ILEU e.V., Tomislav Milunov, Foundation for Humane Aging "Laza Lazarević", Ileana Iepure, Senior-Center Nr. 1, Cluj-Napoca, Romania,
“ViMA Danube – online platform. Communication across countries and languages”
- Patrick Morschhaeuser, Digital Agenda, Ulm, Germany:
“The age of AI: Potentials for Civil Society”
- Armin Pialek, DSEE - German Foundation for Engagement and Volunteering, Neustrelitz, Germany: *“Digital volunteering: Leveraging the impact of digital volunteering for international projects”*

1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Market of opportunities with integrated lunch, visit of the poster exhibition

2:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Thematic working groups

W4: Promoting cooperation through European caring projects using selected examples

- Johanna Kaiser, Karlsruhe, Germany, Diaconal Organisation of the Protestant Church in Baden e.V.:
“Creating impact: ‘Interreg funding’ as a way to foster transnational collaboration in the Danube Region”
- Mateja Softic, Iskriva, Škofja Loka, Slovenia (online):
“Towards an inclusive and accessible society with the help of ‘Interreg funding’”
- Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf, BAGSO Bonn /Age Plattform, Brüssel:
“Age Platform Europe as an international platform for older age”

W 5: Participation opportunities for civil society in the EUSDR through various funding programs

- Dr Ágnes Sebestyén, Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, Stuttgart, Deutschland:
“Perspective Danube“
- Ana Majuric, POUZ, Croatia:
“What is the Erasmus+ Programme“
- Ute Friederici-Breitig, ILEU, Ulm, Germany / Dejan Zagorac, Zaprokul, Belgrade Serbia:
“Intergenerational dialogue in a European context – the example of the DENTA project”
- Ana Zlibut, Writers League, Temeswar, Romania:
“Mobilities of the Erasmus + programme as an opportunity to broaden horizons and meet people in Europe”

W 6: The Empowerment of women

- Andrea Laux, Mine e.V., Stuttgart Germany:
“The International network of mothers' centres and how it strengthens democracy in the Danube region”
- Carmen Stadelhofer, ILEU, Ulm, Germany:
“Self-help for, by and with refugee women from Ukraine in Ulm”
- Monika Heitmann, Bulgarian-German Social Services St. Andreas e.V. (BDS):
“Romnja-Empowerment in Varna, Bulgaria”
- Galina Poliakova, Age concern, Kiev, Ukraine:
“Volunteering by older women in Ukraine during wartime”

4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Coffee break

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Cross-sector cooperation and creation of a sustainable engagement landscape in the Danube region

Presentation of the results of the working groups and declaration of collaboration by the networks

7:30p.m. social gathering in the community room of the *Petruskirche Neu-Ulm, Petrusplatz 2*

During the whole time:

- Poster exhibition of various Danube networks and organisations
- Exhibition of the results of the competition "Traces of Europe in my town"

Saturday, 13 July 2024 - public event

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the Danube stage in Neu-Ulm as part of the Danube Festival:

“Sing and swing along the Danube”

With participants of the conference from Serbia, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria and contributors from Ulm (Ukrainian choir Stefanie, Ukrainian children's choir, 2 German school choirs, dance group Saitenspringer, German-Bulgarian Association and others)

Accompanying program:

Theme tent on the Ulm side of the Danube, Wednesday, 10 July 2024, and Thursday, 11 July 2024, 2:00-8:00 p.m.: ViMA danube:
Virtual participation - Active in the Danube region and beyond - vima-danube.eu

Ukrainian women's market stall, Friday, 5.7. - Sunday, 14.7.24, 11:00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.: Homemade handicrafts - for the benefit of a children's home for war-traumatised children in Ukraine and an old people's home in Ukraine

Signed: Carmen Stadelhofer