



Interreg



Danube Transnational Programme

DanubePeerChains

Integrated capacity building and training programme for DANUBE area labour and business support organisations, local industry and entrepreneurs to enter innovative transnational value CHAINS as PEER-level collaboration partners

Final project conference

Deliverable D.C.5.5

Lead Contractor of the Deliverable: PP3 CLUSTERO

November 2022

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Introduction

On the 18th and 19th of October, 2022 the Final conference of DanubePeerChain project was organized in the frame of the Sustainability Forum “Southeast Europe & Danube Region “.

[Sustainability Forum](#) aimed to strengthen cooperation between the countries of South-East Europe and the Danube Region for the achievement of the global objectives of sustainable development through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach in line with the SEE 2030 Strategy and the UN 2030 Agenda.

The main sustainable development goals promoted at the event were Decent work and economic growth-8, Industry, innovation and infrastructure-9, and Partnerships to achieve the goals- 17.

Concept and development

The Sustainability Forum was organized by the Department for Sustainable Development of the Romanian Government in cooperation with other stakeholders, such as, the Association of Business Incubators from Romania, the Romanian Cluster Association, The Institute of Corporate Governance and Sustainability-CORP, the university “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” from Iași, SC Arhipelago SRL, North-East Regional Development Agency, Imago-Mol Cluster, BioNest Cluster, Enterprise Europe Network regional representatives, Technopolis Scientific and Technological Park.

The forum theme encompassed several aspects ranging from the role of clusters in generating green, digital, and resilient value chains, challenges faced by the labour force, bio-based business models, ecological agriculture, sustainable communities up to precision medicine.

The Sustainability Forum was divided into the following parts:

On October 18th, 2022:

panel discussions – learning and getting inspired,
European Enterprise Network brokerage event

On October 19th, 2022

round tables & parallel workshops – generating know-how and best practices.

Representative speakers the first day of the forum were:

Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit- European Commission DG Grow, Industrial Forum, Alliances & Clusters;

Arslan Umet Ergezer, SEE 2030, Coordinator and Senior economic Policy analyst Regional Cooperation Council;

Barna Kovacs, Secretary General BioEast Initiative, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU;

Simion Berzoi, Investment Attraction Officer – EU4Moldova – Focal Region Programme

Laszlo Borbely, State Councilor and SDG Coordinator, Prime minister’s Office, Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

Terente Ciui, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Romania

Vasile Asandei, General Director, North East Regional Development Agency

Mihai Chirica, the mayor of Iași.

The Sustainability Forum was an excellent opportunity to exchange best practices and experiences gathered across several European cooperation projects such as DTP DanubePeerChains, DTP GoDanuBio, Interreg Europe InnoIndustry, and COSME MedicNest .

The final conference of the DanubePeerChains, organized within Sustainability Forum, was realized by the Romanian Cluster Association in collaboration with the European Clusters Alliance and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.



The final conference DanubePeerChains project is made up of the presentation of the results of the project in the first day of the forum and the workshop “Towards green, digital, and resilient bio-economy value chains. The Labour Force Perspective”, in the second day of the forum.

The results of the DanubePeerChains project were presented as follow:

- on October 18th, 2022 at panel discussions” Best Practice Exchange Session”, “Good practices from the Interreg DTP project DanubePeerChains” presented by ConPlusUltra project partner.
- on October 19th,2022, a hybrid workshop with the main topic “Towards green, digital and resilient bio-economy value chains. The Labour Force Perspective”, dedicated to challenges in the labor market with a special emphasis on existing value chains.

The workshop “Towards green, digital and resilient bio-economy value chains. The Labour Force Perspective” started with the welcome speech of the Mr. Terente Ciui, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Romania. Then, Mr. Antonio Novo, the president of European Cluster Alliance presented the role of clusters as drivers of industrial ecosystems.

The workshop continued with the presentation of the Romanian National R&D Labour Institute representative, focused on the subject of bio-economy as a solution for value chain disruptions. Then the German Cluster Mechatronics & Automation at Bayern Innovative’ representative shared their examples and practices. Another subject „Digital transition and sustainability in Slovenian VET institution“ was presented by Šolski center Škofja Loka’ speaker . The representative of Astrico Nord–Est Textile Cluster, Romania presented the topic skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling challenges of workforce in textile industry. The presentations were followed by discussions and exchanges of ideas with the audience.

Impact and conclusions

The forum was well attended with representatives from over 12 countries including Germany, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Austria, Slovenia, and Spain: national public authority, regional public authority, local authority, business support organizations, university and research institutes, SMEs, and NGOs as follows:

-120 participants in the first day of the forum;

65 participants of which 23 online and 42 in-person in Iasi, at the workshop in the second day of the forum.

This event was distributed on the social pages of the organizers and partners and also on Facebook.

The first day of the forum was live on facebook and had 1400 viewers.

Afaceri.ro

<https://www.facebook.com/Afaceri.ro/videos/645751987003114>

City Hall of Iasi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBj1asF491c>

The Final conference of DanubePeerChains project was promoted in September 2022, in the following newsletters: European Cluster Alliance Newsletter, PROSME newsletter, and CLUSTERO newsletter and Event Recommendation October 2022 of European Cluster Alliance.

The Final Conference of DanubePeerChains emphasised once again the role of clusters in triggering innovative processes at regional level and marked an important milestone in the integration of Moldavian clusters - strongly represented at the event into the wider Romanian and European cluster family.



A key takeaway is that the sustainable development of SMEs and clusters and the growth of their international competitiveness must be the result of the development and application of new technologies (e.g. digitalisation of SMEs and digital skilling of workforce).

Annexes

Agenda

DAY 1: Tuesday, October 18

09:30 – 10:00 EEST Conference Registration - City Hall Iasi

10:00 – 10:30 EEST Welcome & Introduction

Moderator: Mátyus Enikő, Association of Business Incubators Romania

Opening Remarks and Host Perspective

Mihai Chirica, Mayor of Iași City, Romania

László Borbély, State Councilor and SDG Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office, Department of Sustainable Development, Romania

Terente Ciui, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy Romania

Marius Sorin Dangă, vice-president of Iasi County Council

Vasile Asandei, General Director, North-East Regional Development Agency

10:30 – 12:10 EEST Plenary Session – Sustainable Growth & Economic Competitiveness: European perspectives for the next 7 years

Moderator: Mátyus Enikő

Orientation and Overview of Conference Day 1

Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit – European Commission DG GROW Industrial Forum, Alliances & Clusters

Arslan Umut Ergezer, SEE 2030 Coordinator and Senior Economic Policy Analyst, Regional Cooperation Council

Barna Kovacs, Secretary General BioEast Initiative, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

Ionuț Purică, Professor, Hyperion University of Bucharest, member of the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development

Anca Podrumaru, senior advisor at the Ministry of Economy

Conclusions of the plenary session

12:10 – 12:30 EEST Coffee Break

12:30 – 14:00 EEST Policy Round Table

Moderator: Daniel Coșniță, president, Romanian Cluster Association CLUSTERO

The aim of the session is to present national and regional policies enhancing sustainable transition of economic actors, detailing the capacity of these measures to be extended on an international level. Within this interactive session the audience will have the opportunity to address questions for the speakers.

Speakers of the session:

Ileana Luminița Bălălău, Director, Directorate of sustainable development strategies, programs and projects, Government of Romania

Rauf Alp Denктаş, Deputy Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Marko Savkovic, Senior Advisor, Department for Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro

Gisela Kemmer, Cluster Agency Baden-Wurttemberg

Simion Berzoi, Investment Attraction Officer – EU4Moldova – Focal Region Programme

Ovidiu Savu, Head of External Cooperation Office, North-East Regional Development Agency, Romania



14:00 – 14:10 EEST Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony (MOU) between Arhipelago and Regional Development Agency of Tirana

14:10 – 14:50 EEST Lunch Break

15:00 – 17:00 EEST Best Practice Exchange Session

Awareness raising, research and capacity building projects among Europe for green growth and bioeconomy development

Moderator: Nikolia Papadopoulou, Corporate Governance Institute and Sustainability CORP UAIC

Bioenergy Villages – creating prosumers through clusterization – learned lessons of GoDanuBio
Tihamér Sebestyen, scientific researcher, Green Energy Innovative Biomass Cluster

Fintech & Sustainability – How blockchain technology can contribute to social inclusion and implicitly to sustainability

Peter Barta, CIO/COO – Co-Fondator Enfineo

Sustainable Islands: Chalki, the first “GR-eco” island and Astypalea, the first smart and sustainable Mediterranean island

Pantelis Giannoulis – First Counsellor for Economic & Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Greece in Bucharest

Integrated capacity building to enter innovative transnational value chains as peer-level collaboration partners, Brigitte Hatvan, Conplusultra, Austria

Contributing to the health sustainable development goal by promoting digital technologies for new precision medicine ecosystems. The case of the MEDIC-NEST project

Carmen Mihai, cluster manager Imago-Mol Cluster Romania

BioNEst Cluster’s greenhouse system – from farm to fork and social to profit

Marcel Ionescu, Agricloud SRL founder and manager (an IoT specialized company for 4.0 agricultural solutions)

Startuppers training in Circular Economy using SEEDS m-learning solution

Doru Cantemir, Director, Ludor Engineering

Diversify the energy generation source in Albania, increase the sustainability and efficiency of its usage

Edmond Sheshi, Founder & Executive Director of NetRDA NGO in Albania

Agrotourism in focus for a sustainable development in Albania

Illir Rembeci, Director – Regional Development Agency of Tirana

Q&A session

17:00 – 18:00 EEST Role of Business Incubators in sustainable transition

Moderator: Matyus Eniko, coordinator of iNNoHUB Incubator

Topic: Most of the incubators are operating with a traditional business model, providing mainly financial, legal, management, advocacy and housing services. However, incubators can become important enablers of sustainable transition by integrating customized services for start-ups. The session aims to brainstorm sustainability business model related tools and instruments which can be used by the management of a Business Incubator.

Participants: Business Incubator operators.

17:00 – 18:00 EEST ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK Brokerage Event

The main objective of the international brokerage event is to gather all the relevant participants intending to go international, establish partnerships and/or apply for funding in order to implement joint projects for sustainable development.



DAY 2: Wednesday, October 19

Parallel workshops and working group meetings on specific topics as: bioeconomy, circular economy, energy efficiency, sustainable communities, biomass upcycling, good health and innovation, start-up ecosystem for sustainable development, reskilling, upskilling etc.

09:30 – 10:00 EEST Registration – Braunstein Palace Iasi

10:00 – 12:00 EEST Towards green, digital and resilient bio-economy value chains. The Labour Force Perspective

Hybrid event // link upon registration

Role of clusters as drivers of industrial ecosystems; bio-economy as a solution for value chain disruptions; skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling challenges; perspectives of the Danube Region

Moderator: Daniel Cosnita

Antonio Novo, president, European Cluster Alliance

Daniela Pasnicu, National R&D Labour Institute

Alojzij Kokalj, head of Business to business training center at School center Škofja Loka

Carmen Boiciuc, Projects Coordinator of Astrico Nord–Est Textile Cluster

Heiko Bartschat, head of the Cluster Mechatronics & Automation at Bayern Innovativ, Germany

Based on the results of DanubePeerChains project



Pictures



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