



Press release

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Discussion with Members of European Parliament at the final conference of the project DANET on the subject:

Active Ageing and Lifelong Learning as part of the Danube Strategy

At the final conference in Wiesneck, near to Freiburg, Germany, representatives of the European civic project “Danube Networkers – Neighbours at Work” (DANET) called for a stronger participation of the civil society in the Danube Strategy. In the face of the demographic changes along the Danube, the growing importance of active ageing and lifelong learning was pointed out by experts and seniors in the discussion with German EMPs Elisabeth Jeggle and Michael Theurer and the Romanian MEP Silvia-Adriana Ticau.

Over a year, more than 300 older and also some younger people from Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Austria, Romania and Slovenia were actively involved with topics like “Active ageing in Europe and solidarity between the generations”, “Migration as a challenge and minorities as a chance”, “Sustainability of cultural heritage and national and European identity” and “Ecology and environment”. These topics were discussed in local forums and via the Internet and at the end of each panel a common resolution was created. The results will be transmitted in the form of video documentation to all responsible MEPs and local political representatives.

The participants and other interested people have to be encouraged to play an active role as politically mature citizens in the further Danube processes. The European educational network “Danube Networkers” provides the necessary frame for both, the partner organisations and for active older citizens.

In the final seminar on 6-11th November 2011 in Studienhaus Wiesneck, 50 seniors and representatives of relevant institutions took part and presented the results of the project. The seminar included lectures as well as a European familiarising with the political situation in Europe. The seminar was carried out in cooperation with the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg.

For the conference with the MEPs on Wednesday, 9. November 2011, the participants were guests of the Seniors’ Studies Institute of the University of Education in Freiburg. Mrs Jeggle



came from Brussels to join the discussion personally at the University, Mr Theurer and Mrs Ticau took part in the discussion via the Internet. All of the MEPs supported the initiative that the civil society and lifelong learning have to be more present in the Danube Strategy. Mrs Jeggler stated that the new EU-Funding programs for the period 2014 until 2020 are being prepared and that the active participation of the Danube Networkers is very desirable and meaningful.

The Head of the Service Institute East-Europe of the Baden-Württemberg Foundation Mr. Karl-Heinz Kälberer took also part in the discussion. He introduced the different activities of the Baden-Württemberg Foundation in the fields of education and humanitarian aid in Eastern Europe and assured his support of the inclusion of the requests of the Danube Networkers in the Danube Strategy process. The representatives and participants of the project DANET were supported by the senior students of the University of Education, who also introduced their activities and accompanied the international guests in the city of Freiburg.

The final meeting had successfully finished yesterday. The responsible representatives of the Danube-Networkers will meet and carry on with the work on these topics at the European Conference of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Dialogue on 8-10.th of July 2012 that takes place within the 8th International Festival in Ulm/Neu-Ulm.

The European civic project DANET was implemented by the Centre for General Scientific Continuing Education (ZAWiW) of Ulm University together with five project partner organisations from Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria, Romania and Slovenia in the frame of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Commission. The project was sponsored by the European Commission, the Baden-Württemberg Foundation, the Heidehof Foundation and by other sponsors.

Information about DANET is under www.danet-at-work.eu

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