



Young Citizens Danube Network

Budapest Declaration of the Young Citizens Danube Network

DRAFT

19.06.2011

Having gathered in Budapest from June 17th to June 19th 2011 the young generation of the Danube area exchanged ideas about the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.

The YCDN is grateful to all partners who made the first YCDN conference in Budapest happen and turn into a success. We wish to deepen this cooperation in the future for the benefit of the youth in the Danube region.

The YCDN calls for more support on all political levels and strongly emphasizes the need for institutionalizing the Young Citizens Danube Network. This will help to create a platform for successful youth involvement, to strengthen civil society, and to implement the Danube Strategy in an efficient and effective manner.

The YCDN encourages the Priority Area Leaders to include the YCDN in their steering committees in all of the Priority Areas.

In four workshops the YCDN has elaborated the following proposals:

Workshop A: National identity, myths and feeling

1. To increase academic exchange of students in the Danube region. We welcome the idea of an academic Danube Studies Program as already proposed in the Action Plan of the European Commission. Such a program should be conducted by Andrassy University Budapest in cooperation with partners such as the European Danube Academy.
2. To develop an internship program throughout the Danube countries.
3. To promote minority inclusion policies by forming school exchange networks in the countries of the Danube region.
4. To focus on the common heritage of the Danube region by organizing intercultural heritage camps and in order to enable active participation in reconsidering the common history of the Danube region.

Workshop B: Protecting the environment in the Danube region

1. Implement actions that stimulate producer companies to create better designs, trying to minimize end-of-life waste generation.
Additionally, implement actions that stimulate or selectively enforce extended producer responsibility.
2. To raise general awareness and exchange of good practice in solving environmental issues in the Danube Basin among decision makers at all levels and among NGOs and the young population of the region.

3. Considering the growth of the population and energy needs in the Danube region, sustainable and reasonable solutions for energy supply must be found as soon as possible. As the use of nuclear energy is against human well-being and the use of carbon energy contributes to climate change, most of electricity generation projects should be turned into the use hydro-energy.
4. Although we certainly agree on the motto: better hydropower plants than nuclear ones, we recommend to limit the size of hydropower plants taking into account the extremely adverse consequences of large dams. Also, we underline the need to avoid high-sensitive areas for the construction of hydropower plants. Furthermore, we demand more investments in technology improving the efficient use of water energy and the development of underwater turbines.
5. At the pyramid of renewable, we encourage projects that plan the use of those renewables with the smallest impact on the river ecosystem and environment.

Workshop C: Building prosperity in the Danube region

1. Finance Education in secondary school about the whole region with special emphasis on sustainability.
2. Introduction of results-oriented budgeting in all of the countries of the region.
3. Obligatory semester for university students in a country of the region (including language courses, etc.)
4. Obligatory internship for students of economics, political economy, etc. in the Ministry of Finance in one of the countries of the Danube region.

Workshop D: Strengthening the Danube region

1. We suggest initiating youth oriented campaigns in order to raise the awareness on trafficking prevention. These campaigns should be implemented by the youth itself.
2. We recommend to mobilize the youth to provide assistance to young victims of trafficking.
3. The YCDN will assist the facilitation of future youth conferences/seminars/forums targeting young experts in issues pertaining to trafficking in human beings.
4. We call for the establishment of a comprehensive database on groups particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings in the Danube region.

On the basis of the preceding policy recommendations and project proposals, the YCDN will formulate a strategy for a better involvement of the young generation in the Danube region