



Editorial

Welcome to our first newsletter! It has been a productive second half of the year for PA3-EUSDR; from developing visions PA3_CLOSE project, to generating TOR for the activities included in the project in order to support implementation of the PA3 EUSDR objectives. We have been invited to attend several key events such as the Conference on Tourism and Navigation- Linz, Austria, NC-PACs meeting in Slovenia, PA3- SG Meeting in Slovenia. Also, we tried to share relevant information regarding financing possibilities, creating a link between managing authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Looking ahead to 2024, we will continue to focus on the main actions established in the PA3 Roadmap:

- **Establishing a comprehensive operational framework for the implementation of PA3 Action Plan as means of capacity building of SG Members and PA3 Stakeholders;**
- **Establishing a common framework to promote, develop and build knowledge in the fields of culture and tourism, as well as people to people contacts in the Danube Region;**
- **Improving the visibility of PA3 for a higher stakeholder engagement on the EUSDR implementation.**

In order to foster communication around PA3 activities it was elaborated this newsletter. If you wish to follow up on any of our updates, please reach out to us at irina.cozma@mdlpa.gov.ro

Your PA3-EUSDR coordination team,



Digital Skills

... Talks

Your 30-Minute Dive
with Digital Experts

Mark your calendar for
Six Online Talks



This year, the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform introduces a ground-breaking series of online events, the *"Digital Skills Talks"*, aimed at broadening its reach and engaging a diverse audience through immersive online interviews.

A Novel Approach: Breakfast, Lunch, and Afternoon Tea Discussions with Digital Skills Experts

The Digital Skills Talks redefine conventional online events, offering participants a unique opportunity to accompany their breakfast, lunch, or afternoon tea with engaging discussions led by industry experts and thought leaders in the field of digital skills. **The series is designed to be LIVE on the [@DigitalSkillsEU Facebook channel](#)**, ensuring an interactive experience for a dynamic exchange of ideas within a maximum timeframe of 30 minutes

Liège Declaration: Towards affordable, decent, and sustainable housing for all

Under the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union, at the invitation of Wallonia and its Minister in charge of Housing, Christophe Collignon, a European conference took place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Palais des Congrès in Liège, with the presence of the ministers exchanged views on two key themes:

- Best practices in resilient renovation and construction programs aligned with climate change;
- Diversification of funding sources: European recovery programs "Next GENERATION EU", zero-interest loans from the European Investment Bank, inclusion of private and alternative financing in programs for creating and renovating affordable and social housing for all. [more info](#)



The guidelines, published by the NEMO Working Group Sustainability and Climate Action, aims at empowering museums to participate actively in the pressing global issues of climate change and sustainability. It includes a convenient checklist and provides concrete solutions, from initiating climate impact assessments to integrating sustainability into working mechanisms and educating on climate change.

The guidelines support museums to make an active contribution to climate and environmental protection at all levels of the museum as well as to inspire action towards the sustainable development of society. These guidelines are suitable both for museums that are getting started and those that already have some experienced from working with ecological issues.

NEMO is accepting applications to a training opportunity on building strong relationships with regional communities from 23-25 May 2024 in Sibiu, Romania. Applications are welcome until 31 March. Apply until 31 March 2024

Open Call for Applications: ERIAC-Villa Romana Residency Programme

In their fifth consecutive collaboration, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) and Villa Romana are once again uniting to continue the residency programme in Florence, extending a unique opportunity to two talented Roma contemporary artists.

This exciting initiative draws upon the ground-breaking work, expertise, and vision of both institutions to realize a unique opportunity for international artists with self-declared Roma origin and marks a significant step in recognition of the importance of Romani contemporary art practice today.

Through the cooperation of Villa Romana and ERIAC, the residency offers artists the opportunity to focus entirely on their work, **Deadline:** Sunday, 31 March 2024
[continue reading](#)

Danube Region Programme 2nd Call for Proposals

The 2nd call for proposals of the Danube Region Programme is open from the 2 November 2023 until the 29 March 2024. The 2nd call is organised according to a one-step procedure where the applicants have to submit an application package, including a fully developed Application Form by 29 March 2024, 14:00 PROGRAMME SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants can request individual consultations for their project ideas with the [MA/JS](#) by sending an email to the Project Officer in charge of the programme specific objective addressed in their project proposal. For general advice and information, we recommend to consult the respective [National Contact Point](#).

New [matchmaking platform](#) - to help applicants find the right project partners and allow organisations within the programme's geographical area to join projects applying to the open call for proposal.

More info [here](#)

The **European Festivals Fund for Emerging Artists - EFFE**A, an initiative of the [European Festivals Association](#), opens a call to festivals to support emerging artists across Europe. EFFE A is a system built to empower festivals and offer emerging artists a platform to establish themselves on the international stage.

EFFEA Call#3 will support approximately **50 residencies** involving 50 emerging artists in the seat of 50 leading festivals in collaboration with a minimum of **one** (Discovery category) or **two partner festivals** (Springboard category) each. Approximately **40 grants of 8.000€** will be awarded under the Discovery category and **10 grants of 15.000€** will be allocated to the Springboard category. The artistic residencies should take place between 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025.

To learn more about EFFE A, the call details, eligibility criteria, and grant categories, explore the [how to apply](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) sections. You can find the call document and necessary templates on the [application page](#).

SEED MONEY FACILITY CALL is now open

Another relevant funding opportunity within the Danube Region Programme is now open - from 27 November, 2023 until 29 March, 2024. EUSDR Seed money facility (SMF) shall serve as a tool for kick-starting development of projects in line with the 12 priority areas of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Proposals submitted under the SMF call shall be aligned to at least one EUSDR PA and shall clearly address the EUSDR action plan and targets.

The objective of the seed money facility support is to prepare projects for further funding sources, regardless the financial instrument to be addressed by the project developed, be it national, mainstream EU, transnational or cross border or by any other public or private investor (such as IFIs) or public-private partnership available in the Danube Region.

More info [here](#)

Culture/heritage

Cities must use all of the resources available to them to improve citizens' quality of life, whether digital, physical or cultural. In Újbuda (HU), culture and digital platforms were combined to create a bottom-up creative cultural resource management tool to strengthen social cohesion. Alongside the digital sphere, a physical cultural institution was created, integrating local cultural and technological initiatives, bringing together the local community, public and private sectors. Cities can explore low-budget interventions as well as major investments. Chalandri (EL) focused on an ancient monument - in their case, the Hadrian Aqueduct - as a vehicle for urban regeneration and revitalising community life. Using a cross-sectoral approach, it co-creates local projects and cultural events with communities, valorising local history and improving care of water and natural resources. It can be adapted to other cities with different types of local heritage, to build trust and nurture communities. In Tilburg (NL), the city uses culture as an agent for social transformation. Developing a cultural ecosystem in an ethnically mixed and disadvantaged area helps bridge the gap between those in the margins, and the public services they interact with. More than 3 000 young people were reached through 150 projects, with positive effects on health, behaviour and public safety. More info [here](#)

„Danubius Young Scientist Award” competition is now open for nominations!

14 young scientists will be granted this award - one for each country that is part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region [Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine]*.

The award seeks to highlight the scientific work and talent of young researchers and enhance the visibility of the scientific community in the region. Moreover, the award encourages young scientists to engage in the scientific examination of the multifaceted issues and questions specifically related to the Danube Region.

Deadline to apply: 3 May 2024, [more info](#)

EMYA 2024 conference, European Museum of the Year Award, in which 50 museums, recently opened or substantially renovated from 24 countries, are candidates to this important distinction in European museology. The registration for 2024 European Museum of the Year Award conference and ceremony is now open! The closing date is Sunday, 21 April 2024.

Please get familiar with the guidelines and check the information [more info](#)

Project of the Month

Debate *on Integrating diversity and multilingualism in the elaboration of local/regional strategies.*

The initiative is part of the project PA3_CLOSE - Recovery through CuLture, tOuriSm and peoplE-to-people contacts in the Danube Region and aims to give greater visibility to the cultural dimensions of the **Priority Areas 3-culture, tourism and people to people contacts** of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, including activities and objectives that have an impact on the cultural and linguistic identity of communities in the Danube Region and the role of these components in the development of local and regional strategies.

The contribution of diversity and multilingualism to the full expression of local/regional linguistic diversity; diversity and multilingualism as a key factor in the implementation of local and regional strategies; enhancing the linguistic and cultural potential of the region, essential for local cohesion; moving towards mutual understanding of coexisting cultures will be the overall objectives of the debate.

The debate will be organised in the form of a 4-hour panel discussion in a hybrid format.

<https://backstageproduction.webex.com/backstageproduction/j.php?MTID=m7ae5d820475d97f210984f53c106ca94>

Have you heard of Poesiomats?

A Czech invention that brings an innovative twist to the concept of urban furniture

They look like black periscopes sticking out of the ground and observing the urban landscape around them. Or they could be confused with an air pipe that connects to some grid hidden in the Netherlands. Meet the **Poesiomats – the urban poetry machines** that have taken over most of the cities in the Czech Republic, and recently also other places around the world.

The idea behind the Poesiomat, invented by café owner and cultural activist Ondřej Kobza, was to create a sort of **publicly accessible jukebox** for spoken word culture.

The first one of this type was installed in Prague's Míru Square in 2015 and since then they have become a common feature in other Czech cities, towns, villages and even castles.

Lending an ear to culture

The aim of the Poesiomat is to revive the appeal of poetry by making it easily accessible to the masses. According to the initiative's website, the poetry machines, however, can also contain lyrics, songs and sounds related to the specific place they are located in. In essence, that means that no two are alike in terms of their cultural content.

The poetry machines are made of steel and are about 180 cm tall, consisting of three assembled parts. Inside each of them there's a speaker and electronic software which contains 20 different mp3 files. Passers-by can spin a handle jutting out from one side of the machine and choose what to play.

On the photos, you see the Poesiomat in Brno, Czechia's second city. You will find it on Bratislavská Street there and you can hear Czech poets who had been interned in the local prison, authentic memories of political prisoners, but also poems, songs and texts of contemporary Czech and Roma authors.



COMMHERITOUR- project Kick-off Meeting 25-27 March 2024, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Cultural heritage is a crucial contributor to economic growth, balanced employment, community revival and territorial cohesion in the Danube Region (DR). COMMHERITOUR attends living heritage crafts as a source of socio-economic integration for rural/remote DR areas.

Partner regions involved own and care for the tradition of heritage-based crafts with specific 'flagshipcrafts' with tourism potential. As local ecosystems support valorisation with varied efficiency, they all face the challenge of crafts unevenly promoting economy, tourism performance and community cohesion.

COMMHERITOUR aims to maximize the contribution of cultural heritage crafts to economic

productivity, tourism performance and community cohesion, in a sustainable way. The project

enhances awareness of crafts heritage's inherent growth potentials and improves valorisation

capacities of communities by using inclusive models and transnationally applicable solutions

strengthening cohesion. COMMHERITOUR's transnational end-product is the HeriCraft Market, a digital platform of cross-cultural networking, showcasing crafts-related tourism attractions, sharing methods, inventions, and skill development curricula.



Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme- Unveil the Mysteries at Parta Neolithic Sanctuary!

The Oldest Sanctuary in the Banat region holds a mystical attractiveness, inviting curious people to unravel the secrets of the past. Parta Neolithic Sanctuary, a sacred testament spanning 6,000 years, stands as a silent witness to those who once stepped onto the primaeval lands along the Timiș River.

Using financial support from the European Union, the National Museum of Banat, in partnership with the Timis County Council and the Municipality of Novi Knezevac, succeeded in improving the Romanian-Serbian cross-border cultural infrastructure by building a new museum in the village of Parta that holds a one-to-one replica of the original sanctuary, safely protected by the museum`s curators.

Now, the National Museum of Banat extends an open invitation to all history enthusiasts, inviting people to join free tours of the fascinating Vinča-Turdaş culture. This Neolithic archaeological marvel from Southeast Europe dates back to 5400-4500 BC when our ancestors shaped the very fabric of civilization.

Join the network of Cross-Border Ambassadors - deadline 29 March 2024

This is more than an opportunity; it is your moment to become an Ambassador for EU border regions, to share your ideas, lend your voice and experiences to actively shape European cross-border cooperation. The Border Focal Point Network, as an EU-wide professional network brings together experts on cross-border issues and is committed to nurturing a generation of informed, engaged, and passionate young Europeans to foster a more cohesive, integrated, and united Europe.

As an Ambassador, you will connect with European youth, professionals, and leaders from various European border

Being an Ambassador for such a vital element of EU Cohesion Policy that has a concrete impact on citizens' daily lives, reflects your commitment to positive change and your active role in shaping a more cohesive and integrated Europe. Ambassadors will have the chance to express their opinion on crucial topics for cross-border cooperation and contribute to our common European goals.

[apply here](#)

The new call “Youth4cooperation: the future of cooperation” is now open for proposals! DEADLINE: 3 April 2024

This call for proposals of the European Commission has the objective of selecting three beneficiaries which will secure the involvement of young people as a horizontal priority in territorial cooperation within Cohesion Policy. The inclusion of young people in the consultations will help shaping the post-2027 period, to make sure that youth voices and needs are fully taken into consideration in the next programming period 2028-2034. The voices of young people will be a positive and valuable addition to the reflection on the next for territorial cooperation.

So, are you an organisation working with youth in the pan-European scope? Are you interested in the future of regional policy and cooperation? Then this is your chance to consult young people and make their voice heard on the future of cooperation in Europe.

The three selected organisations will get EUR 10.000 each to use digital tools like social media, surveys and online workshops to conduct consultations towards young people, based on a set of questions elaborated by DG REGIO. The results of consultations will feed the next European Commission's proposal.

[apply here](#)

Macro-Regional Strategies promote Cohesion Policy



Commissioner Elisa Ferreira initiated the setting up of a High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy composed by representatives of academia, national, regional and local politicians, socio-economic partners and civil society. Throughout 2023 the Group reflected on how to develop and reform Cohesion Policy and on 20 February 2024 published its conclusions and recommendations in its final report "Forging a sustainable future together: cohesion for a competitive and inclusive Europe".

Chapter 3.2.4. of the Report: "A policy without borders" calls for the intensification of cross-border integration and cooperation. The reformed Cohesion Policy should focus on increasing the budget and enhancing coordination and concentration including use of macro-regional strategies or interregional cooperation to transfer good practices. It is rewarding to see that the macro-regional strategies are positively seen by the Report.

Against this backdrop it should be noted that the Commission will publish its 9th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion soon and the reflection on the future of Cohesion Policy will continue at the Cohesion Forum to be held in Brussels on 11-12 April 2024.

The Report of the High-Level Group is available [here](#)

Forthcoming events and deadlines

Deadline to apply to become a partner at the 22nd European Week of Regions and Cities

2 April 2024

[More info](#)

2024 Connecting Europe Days

Brussels, 2-5 April 2024

[More info](#)

European Youth Week

12-19 April 2024

[More info](#)

The Festival of the New European Bauhaus

Brussels, 17-21 April 2024

[More info](#)

Training on citizens engagement in EU cohesion policy

Brussels, 13-14 May 2024

[More info](#)

EUSAIR Annual Forum

Sibenik, 15-16 May 2024

[More info](#)

Baltic Sea Region Forum

Turku + online, 20 May 2024

[More info](#)

European Parliament elections

6-9 June 2024

[More info](#)

Strategies4Cooperation - 5th EU Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days

Brussels, 12-14 June 2024

PA3-EUSDR- SG Meeting (onsite), Vienna, 18 June 2024

EUSDR Annual Forum

Vienna, 20-21 June 2024

[More info](#)

Do you have an interesting news/story to tell? Would you like to share the results of your project? Are you planning an event and want to inform stakeholders in the four macro-regions? Send us your contribution to the April 2024 edition of our newsletter by April 15 and thank you in advance for your support and collaboration

Please send to email: irina.cozma@mdlpa.gov.ro

And know more about PA3-EUSDR

<https://cultureandtourism.danube-region.eu/>

and about our PA3-Danube Youth Council(DYC) members

<https://cultureandtourism.danube-region.eu/dyc-members-of-the-pa3/>