

MEMORANDUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR CREATING BRIDGES FOR EUROPE BAD URACH, GERMANY, 24th-28th July, 2017

Participating in this seminar, members of the “Danube-Networkers”, which is a international Network of educational, cultural, social and environmental organizations and citizens from 12 Countries in Danube Region seize the opportunity to stipulate the following:

All sectors of society, and particularly the civil sector, should continue making great and effective inclusive efforts towards social development and participation of citizens. Integrative capacities of the Danube region, European States and European Union have diminished while trying to cope with massive and diverse phenomenon of social exclusion; young people, older people, people who are jobless, refugees, and many others are or can get excluded. Therefore, they need to be mobilised and supported particularly by organisations that are close to them.

Not only economic but also **relational and cultural precarisation, as well as digital exclusion**, lead to **an identity crisis** of our societies **threatening not only national but also European cohesion and openness**.

Social development is not a clear concept, if it is not accompanied by actions. Therefore social, economic and cultural development in the Danube region and all Europe require mobilisation of the inhabitants and all vital forces of the region (politicians, professionals, institutions, organisations, enterprises) by promoting intercultural dialogue, by respecting diversity.

Danube-Networkers initiate local, regional, and transnational activities and projects based on collective scientifically grounded learning for better and peaceful living. Such learning fosters participative responding of all generations to current and urgent social issues in the Danube region and all Europe.

Knowing that research, collective learning, open discussion and collective action have always been a powerful mechanism of inclusion, members of the Danube-Networkers will continue investing their research, learning, knowledge and common endeavors into **social, economic and cultural development** of particularly people in later life but also other generations, in the Danube region and all Europe.

Being active in social development linked with the territory of the Danube region, Danube-Workers will continue encouraging citizens and organisations to take an active part in the implementation and further development of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), particularly in the field of social development and social and digital inclusion,

Danube-Workers will continue encouraging citizens of all ages, particularly those in later life, to advocate the democratic values and procedures, to understand the roots and mechanisms of populism; to be able to express their own opinion and by that oppose the oppression.

The core aim of Danube-Workers will remain to increase, through learning, the capacity and responsibility of individuals, groups and associations in civil society **to act in the name of fundamental human rights. United by diversity the Danube-Workers will continue increasing European awareness and consolidating European identity.**

In order to build up sustainable structures civil society organisations with these aims and objectives like Danube-Workers with their non-profit organization Danube-Workers for Europe e.V. (DANET) and Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) need to be financially supported by the European Commission and national funding programs.

Done in Bad Urach, 28th of July, 2017