



## **Danube Governance Forum**

### **Improving Governance Together**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Haus der Ingenieure (House of Engineers)**

Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna

Language: English

**[www.bacid.eu/forum](http://www.bacid.eu/forum)**

**Twitter: #BACID17**

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## Content of the Forum

The Danube Governance Forum: *Improving Governance Together in the Western Balkans and the Danube Region* is the final event of the programme **Capacity Building of the countries in the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup> (BACID)**, funded by the Austrian Development Agency and implemented by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research.

At this occasion we would like to gather stakeholders with whom we have been cooperating in the past years to discuss the topics identified as priorities in improving governance of the countries in the Region on the way to the European Union, while promoting the cooperation of the public sector – national and local institutions – with civil society, science and the business sector. Besides ministries, local governments, NGOs and other organisations from the Western Balkans, the event will bring together our partner public institutions and private organisations from the whole Danube Region, as well as representatives of the EU and international organisations that are supporting European integration and public administration reforms in the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova.

Our partners are invited to present their challenges and achievements and discuss possible solutions to be further developed through future Danube Governance Hub activities.

Thus the Forum will focus on:

- improving the capacity of public administration within the Danube Governance Hub
- enabling local governments to fulfil EU-standards and deliver better services

During the three years of the BACID implementation we have been contributing to these goals through hands-on support to the partners from the Region and know-how exchange, while making synergies with other actions. As a result, we have developed a database of governance tools used in the Region in public administration reforms to be further assessed, revised and harmonized under the Danube Governance Hub. On the other side, we have elaborated a series of guidelines and publications in order to support local governments during their preparations for EU accession, among which the publication “The Future of Europe – Built on Strong Municipalities: Impact of the European Union on Local Authorities” gathers experiences of Austrian and local governments from the Region in the field of municipal finances, municipal services, EU integration and use of EU funds.

The existing materials and collected experiences shall serve as basis for the Forum discussions that will take place in the setting of open dialogues with all stakeholders aimed at giving directions to further Danube Governance Hub activities.

All information about the Forum will be available at: [www.bacid.eu/Governance\\_Forum\\_2017](http://www.bacid.eu/Governance_Forum_2017).

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<sup>1</sup> The Region of the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova includes Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska) and Moldova

## Target group

The Forum is primarily targeting civil servants, representatives of public institutions and local governments from the Western Balkans and Moldova, civil society organisations, local government associations, regional networks such as ReSPA and NALAS, Austrian organisations, as well as businesses and science sector.

## Objectives and results

The objective of the Forum is to agree on the priorities in improving governance of the countries in the Region on their way to the European Union, while promoting the cooperation of the public sector – national and local institutions – with civil society, science and the business sector.

The expected results of the Forum are prioritized success factors and determined common next steps in modernisation of public administration in the Region.

## Methodology

### ❑ Open dialogue with round tables

The Forum is divided into two consecutive sessions, with parallel discussions around four tables at each session. The topics to be discussed are identified as the most important by the beneficiaries of the implemented BACID activities.

Each table has moderator and several panellists, with other participants around the table joining the discussion. The panellists will be invited to share their thoughts on two main questions in order to identify necessary factors for achieving success in the field and further steps that could be assisted through the Danube Governance Hub. The interventions of panellists will serve as basis for further exchange of experiences and discussion among participants.

The results of the discussion will be put by the moderators on pin-boards, to be further assessed by all participants.

### ❑ Summing up of the results and prioritization

After the table discussions, the participants will be invited to make a round and prioritize the content presented on the pin-boards. The final results will be presented at plenary and addressed through future activities of the Danube Governance Hub.

### ❑ Market place

The participants have been encouraged to promote their projects and/or organisations via presentations, posters, printed materials, interactive presentations or other media at the market place in the foyer.

## Contact Information

For all information about the event, please contact Mr. Tobias Etzlstorfer, KDZ, at: [tobias.etzlstorfer@kdz.or.at](mailto:tobias.etzlstorfer@kdz.or.at) or by phone: +43 1 892349212.

## AGENDA

Monday, December 4, 2017

8:30 – 17:00

### Welcome

Moderation: Alexandra Schantl

**08:30** Registration of Participants &  
Welcome Coffee

**09:00 - 10:30** Opening of the Forum

**Thomas Weninger** – Secretary General,  
Austrian Association of Cities and Towns

**Robert Zeiner** - Director Programmes  
and Projects International,

Austrian Development Agency

**Kelmend Zajazi** - Executive Director,  
Network of Associations of Local  
Authorities of South-East Europe  
(NALAS)

**Goran Pastrovic** – Program Manager,  
Regional School of Public Administration for  
the Western Balkans (ReSPA)

BACID Programme – looking back  
and forward

**Thomas Prorok** - KDZ-Centre for Public  
Administration Research, Austria

Participants Get Together

**10:30 – 11:00** Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 13:00 Open Dialogue 1: Sustainable Reform of Public Administration

*Four Parallel Discussions*

Open Government for Transparency

**Moderator:**

**Bernhard Krabina** – KDZ-Centre for  
Public Administration Research, Austria

**Panellists:**

**Dardan Abazi** - Institute for  
Development Policy, Kosovo

**Nadica Josifovski** - Ministry of  
Information Society and Administration,  
Macedonia

**Gregor Eibl** – Danube University Krems,  
Austria

Quality Management as Driver of  
Public Administration Reform

**Moderator:**

**Thomas Prorok** - KDZ-Centre for Public  
Administration Research, Austria

**Panellists:**

**Lubomir Plai** – Common Assessment  
Framework Center, Slovakia

**Goran Pastrovic** – Regional School of  
Public Administration for the Western  
Balkans (ReSPA)

		<p><b>Marija Nikoloska</b> - Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Macedonia</p> <p><b>Samra Ljuca</b> - Civil Service Agency, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
Improving Services for Citizens and Businesses	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Gennadiy Kosyak</b> - Council of Europe</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Rahel Kahlert</b> - European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria</p> <p><b>Aleksandar Arsovski</b> - Association of the Units of Local Self-government of the Republic of Macedonia (ZELS)</p> <p><b>Irina Plis</b> - Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Moldova</p>	
Involving Citizens and Civil Society	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Fatos Mustafa</b> - Regional Youth Cooperation Office Western Balkans</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Radu Cotici</b> - Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Western Balkans</p> <p><b>Milos Djindjic</b> - European Policy Centre (CEP), Serbia</p> <p><b>Mirza Ajnadzic</b> – Association for Cultural and Media Decontamination, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><b>Roland Krebs</b> – SuperWien, Austria</p>	
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>MARKET PLACE IN THE HALL</b></p>	<p><i>Presentation of partners: posters, printed materials, interactive presentations etc.</i></p>
14:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Open Dialogue 2: Strengthening of Local Governments in EU Perspective</b></p> <p><i>Four Parallel Discussions</i></p>	
Better State Governance through Decentralisation	<p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Elton Stafa</b> – Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Boris Tonhauser</b> – Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)</p> <p><b>Alexandru Osadci</b> - Association of Moldovan Municipalities (CALM), Moldova</p> <p><b>Elisabeth Alber</b> – Eurac Research, Italy</p>	

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Activating Local Economy

**Moderator:**

**Alexander G. Welzl** - EUPro, Bureau for European Projects, Austria

**Panellists:**

**Bojana Kondic** – Municipality of Laktasi, Republic of Srpska

**Kelmend Zajazi** - Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

**Ljubica Kostic Bukarica** - Business Women Association of Montenegro

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Financing Municipal Investments with Public-Private-Partnerships

**Moderator:**

**Gerhard Sabathiel** – SA Consulting GmbH, Austria

**Panellists:**

**Andreas Kettenhuber** – Kommunalkredit, Austrian Bank for Infrastructure

**Nikola Aleksic** – City of Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska

**Gani Berisha** – Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), Kosovo

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EU-Funding of Municipal Services

**Moderator:**

**Marija Sosic** – KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria

**Panellists:**

**Aleksandra Vukmirovic** - Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM), Serbia

**Migena Kamberi** - Municipality of Kamez, Albania

**Ivana Lazic** - Interact Programme, Interact Office Vienna, Austria

**Susanne Böck** - EuroVienna, Austria

**Darko Mrvaljevic** - Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

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**16:00 – 16:30** *Coffee break + Prioritization*

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**16:30-17:00** Conclusions and Danube Governance Hub Developments

**Thomas Prorok** - KDZ Centre for Public Administration Research, Austria

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## Background Information

### ❑ BACID programme

The **BACID programme** has been implemented in a period of three years (2015-2017), aiming at strengthening national, regional and local governance structures of the target countries and preparing them for a possible accession to the European Union. The activities were carried out in three pillars:

- 1) **BACID Fund**: Small-scale grant scheme for know-how exchange between Austrian and partners from the target countries.
- 2) **Governance Forum**: Supporting good governance in the Region through exchange events and mentoring to selected public administrations.
- 3) **LOGON Danube**: Supporting the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy for South-East Europe through assistance to local governments.

All BACID activities are presented at the project website: [www.bacid.eu](http://www.bacid.eu).

### ❑ Danube Governance Hub (DGH)

The **Conference "Public Governance as the Foundation of European Integration"** took place in June 2016 in Vienna, with participants of public administration ministers from the Region as well as high representatives of the European Commission, the Austrian Government and other international and regional organisations. Under the umbrella of the BACID programme this event was organised in partnership with the Austrian Foreign Ministry, the City of Vienna, the PAC 10 "Institutional Capacity" of the EU Danube Strategy, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), as well as the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) (<http://www.bacid.eu/Conference>).

At this occasion the **Danube Governance Hub** (DGH) was initiated and supported by all stakeholders as an open networking platform accessible to all relevant committed partners from governments, international organisations, universities, NGOs and companies promoting the **Public Governance and Public Administration Reform (PAR) based on European values in the Danube Region**. The initiative was launched within the BACID programme by KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research and the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT) together with the Priority Area 10 "Stepping up Institutional Capacity and Cooperation" of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) hosted by the City of Vienna.

**The vision** of the DGH is a strong public sector with highly developed capacities based on European values, thus cooperating closely with business, science and the civil sector in order to ensure security and prosperity in the Danube Region including the Western Balkans ([http://www.bacid.eu/Danube\\_Governance\\_Hub](http://www.bacid.eu/Danube_Governance_Hub)).

The Danube Governance Hub pursues the following objectives:

- ❑ strengthening European values and instruments of public management
- ❑ initiating a forum for exchange on public administration instruments and strategies
- ❑ recognising the essential role of local governments
- ❑ improving public sector organisations by implementing pilot projects
- ❑ encouraging excellent leadership
- ❑ opening government for civil society and transparency
- ❑ profiting from evidence based management and policy making

The first Danube Governance Hub activities have been:

- ✓ Danube Governance Hub Forum: "Tools for Better Public Governance in the Western Balkans", organised in December 2016 in cooperation with the Council of Europe and ReSPA, with presence of institutions responsible for public administration reforms in the countries of the Region.
- ✓ Database of instruments on good governance used in the Danube region.
- ✓ Established partnerships with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, regional organisations that represent national and local governments in South-East Europe (RCC, ReSPA, NALAS), Austrian stakeholders active in the Region and NGO networks.