

***New opportunities for sustainable development through smart innovation
in the Danube - Black Sea Basin***

***~ Executive Summary of the Forum on the occasion of the European Maritime Day in Romania
and
International Day of the Danube (Bucharest, June 29, 2023) ~***

Under the aegis of the European Commission - DG MARE, as well as in cooperation with the Center Européen Robert Schuman in Scy-Chazelles (France) and with the financial support of the European Program "Citizens, equality, rights and values - CERV", on June 29, 2023, at the headquarters of the Consultative Council of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (SUERD) belonging to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinated by USH Pro Business, in the context of marking the **European Maritime Day in Romania**, as well as the **International Day of the Danube**, there took place the debate and adoption by consensus took place by the representatives of the civil society side of the **Roadmap** regarding Sustainable and Inclusive Development through the Interconnection of the Rhine, Danube and the Black Sea Basin and the Port of Constantza.

Its main initiator and promoter is the "Jean Bart" International Honorary Chair (CIO-SUERD), founded in 2012, through the partnership between the **EUROLINK-House of Europe Foundation** and the **Romanian Academy**, which represents the first Platform for the Internationalization of Education in Romania, specifically focused on the more requested interdisciplinary specializations in top fields, combining all learning methods, according to the express recommendations of UNESCO, the EU Council and the European Commission regarding **"Lifelong Learning"**: online, live, hybrid, blended learning. This educational platform has been providing professional certifications, recommendations and specialized advice for over a decade in the fields of: project management; ESG/sustainable development; integrated medical and social assistance services; marketing and promoting the Destination Management Organisations (DMOs); circular economy; urban development and innovation – smart & resilient city; bioeconomy, innovation and good governance; international diplomacy etc. At the same time, in partnership with "Euro Market" (Iasi), are available training courses in the field of Data Protection Office (DPO), GDPR and Sustainable Development.

The coordination is ensured by the Scientific Advisory Council under the academic authority of Prof. Dr. Habil Eric GILDER, currently associate professor of the **UNESCO International Chair** of the **"Lucian Blaga" University** in Sibiu, who also offered a presentation in favor of the expansion of alternative lifelong learning education as well in Romania. The General Coordinator of CIO-SUERD is Assoc. Prof. Sever AVRAM, Danube Regional Commissioner, who also moderated the entire works.

1. The mini-Forum took place with the kind support and in the presence of representatives of prestigious European/Romanian organizations and institutions, among which we mention: the European Commission - DG MARE and the Representation of the European Commission in Romania; World Center for Excellence of Destinations (CED-Montreal), affiliate member of UNWTO (World Tourism Organization); Steinbeis Foundation - Europe (Baden-Württemberg, Germany); Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Euro-Atlantic Center for Resilience (E-ARC) and EUSDR Office; Department for Sustainable Development of the Government of Romania; Romanian Academy; "Lucian Blaga" University Sibiu; the Union of Romanian Architects, etc.

From Brussels, the **Director General of the DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission**, Charlina VITCHEVA specifically addressed an official message of congratulations and best wishes to the organizers of the event in Romania. At the same time, the invitation was extended to all stakeholders motivated to join the EU Mission launched in 2022 within the **Horizon Europe Programme "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030"**, as well as to register their projects on the platform **"Sustainable Blue Economy"**, dedicated to the key areas of action regarding the recovery process and supporting the resilience / blue growth currently being implemented.

The debated document, generically called **RoadMap**, elaborated and proposed by the International Honorary Chair "Jean Bart" (CIO-SUERD), coordinator of the Local Communities along the Danube network within the Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR - Ulm, Germany), took into account the special dramatic conditions, from a geo-political and economic point of view, in which this event also took place, as well as in the margin of the **Three Seas Initiative**, which especially considers the future period after the ending of the war in Europe and targeted reconstruction. Starting from both the achievements and the still due components of the transposition into practice of the **EU Marine and Maritime Agenda**, the **Blue Growth Initiative** for research and innovation in the Black Sea, as well as the current geo-economic realities, a set of 7 **specific requests and proposals** were formulated, aimed at: completing and improving the legislative and administrative framework in Romania; refocusing the approach on the internal corridors of the Danube's tributaries through smart measures regarding navigability, tourism, biodiversity conservation, promoting excellence hospitality brands through DMOs, digitalization, etc.; inclusive urban innovation through territorial planning, urban standardization and participatory multi-level governance; the reintegration of the Port and the Municipality of Constantza as a flagship area in favor of interconnection with the area of the Rhine - the Upper Danube Basin; moving to the inclusive approach to reducing social gaps by increasing the degree of innovation, decision-making transparency and fighting corruption; the more pragmatic rethinking of territorial planning and cooperation, especially through "hard" transnational projects in favor of the growth, stability and prosperity of citizens.

On the other hand, both the head of the EUSDR Consultative Council, Dr. Costin LIANU, and of the EUSDR Office – Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Counsellor Dr. Valentin PANAIT, briefly evoked the picture of the current and immediate perspective challenges and opportunities closely related to the process of implementing the Danube Strategy during Slovenia's Presidency, as well as from the perspective of the guidelines foreshadowed by the October 2023 takeover of the EUSDR Presidency by Austria, a co-founding state in this matter, together with Romania. In the same context, the research/innovation projects with strong economic and entrepreneurial impact managed both by USH Pro Business and, on the other hand, by the consortium coordinated by the Steinbeis Foundation, of which the Danube Delta Institute is also a part, were evoked as good practices from Tulcea.

Consortiului Organizatoric al evenimentului: **Fundația EUROLINK – Casa Europei**, Membră EUNET – European Network for Education & Training, **Catedra Internațională Onorifică "Jean Bart" în sprijinul Strategiei UE pentru Regiunea Dunării** (CIO-SUERD), **Reprezentanța Dunăre-Marea Neagră a World Centre for Excellence of Destinations**, membru afiliat UNWTO – Organizația Mondială a Turismului, **USH Pro Business**, **Fundația România de Mâine - Universitatea Spiru Haret**.

2. At the end of the event, a short festive ceremony took place in which some organizations and personalities were awarded the **"Black Sea-Danubian Social & Economic Innovator" Title and Special Diploma of Excellence** for their special achievements in various areas of expertise and action : Maria ȚOGHINĂ, director of "Serviciul de Noapte" - Radio Romania News; Dragoș Cosmin Lucian PREDA, former Secretary of State/Communications Expert; CaleaEuropeana.ro portal; Claudiu VUȚĂ, "Project-E" coordinator (DW Romania partner); Black Sea Maritime CyberSecurity Center of the Constanța Maritime University; Călin George SILAȘ – "Banking Timisoara"; The CSR Agency; Vladimir MITEV - "Bridge of Friendship" (Sofia).

The Organizing Consortium of the event: EUROLINK Foundation – House of Europe, EUNET Member – European Network for Education & Training, International Honorary Chair "Jean Bart" in support of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (CIO-SUERD), Danube-Black Sea Representation of the World Center for Excellence of Destinations, affiliated member of UNWTO - World Tourism Organization, USH Pro Business, "România de Mâine" Foundation - Spiru Haret University.

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The full text of the Roadmap can be consulted on the website <http://ciosuerd.houseofeurope.ro/>

For conformity,
CIO-SUERD Technical Secretariat
c/o EUROLINK-House of Europe
Bucharest, June 30, 2023