

Supporting capacity building in the Danube region: The “Gaining with Training” project



Florian Setzen, director, Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg,
at the workshop “cross-border cooperation and civil society”
in Novi Sad

The Europa Zentrum – Institute and Academy for European Affairs in brief



Aim: To trigger mutual understanding of the peoples in Europe with professional information on the European integration process. Therefore, running an Institute and Academy for European affairs

Structure: Non-governmental, non-profit, non-party, with professional staff, supported by the land Baden-Württemberg and the city of Stuttgart as well as by donations etc.; working since 1976

Activities: Civic education and information activities on European integration issues, mainly in Baden-Württemberg

Project "Gaining with Training"



Aim: Know-How-Transfer via special trainings for potential project responsables with EUSDR project ideas

Partners in Baden-Württemberg: Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg (lead), Donaubüro Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Euro-Institut Kehl

Realization: 2012-2013

Places/Partners: Vukovar (Europski dom), Belgrade (Danube Competence Center), Oradea (Lampas Foundation)

Supported by: Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg



Gaining with Training



Content of the Trainings:

- basics of EU funding
- aims, contents, added value of the EUSDR
- Best practice in the field of cross-border cooperation
- EU funding programmes in more detail
- Know-How in project management
- workshops to work out concrete project ideas

Special aspects:

- trainings are followed-up with a „Coaching Phase“, in order to give assistance even after the trainings are finished
- project partners in Vukovar, Belgrade and Oradea did adapt training contents to their needs and filled out parts of the programme with their expertise
- Donaubüro Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Euro-Institut Kehl, Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg collected their competencies in an ideal way

Gaining with Training



Character as „Pilot“ Project:

Project has started at three different places (Vukovar, Belgrade and Oradea), with slightly different focus and groups of participants, but aims at continue on a broader basis

Gaining with Training



Outcomes so far:

- demand for the trainings was high
- motivation went up as soon as concrete progress and/or personal benefit seemed to be reachable („personal benefit“ in the sense of that it is mainly not someone else who decides about the success of the project)
- motivation seemed higher amongst NGOs and rather amongst younger people
- integration of local experts helped for contents and networking
- EUSDR should also make clear and transparent what it cannot be (namely an extra funding opportunity)
- cross-border or transnational approaches were rare and had to be triggered
- in the beginning it was hardly understood that the training was also in the (practical) interest of the Baden-Württemberg partners and not only meant as a means of „development aid“
- Development of quite some realistic project ideas within the workshops.

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