



Youth.DanubeSalon

Perspectives of the Danube Region's Youth for the Future of Europe

Youth Conferences: September 27, 28 & 29; 2021, Online

Youth.DanubeSalon: October 15, 2021
Baden-Württemberg State Representation, Berlin

Organized by:



Baden-Württemberg
STAATSMINISTERIUM



Baden-Württemberg
VERTRETUNG DES LANDES BEIM BUND

In Cooperation with:





Baden-Württemberg
STAATSMINISTERIUM

Youth.DanubeSalon – Perspectives of the Danube Region's Youth for the Future of Europe

What concerns the young people from the 14 countries of the Danube Region? What does Europe mean to them today and in the future? How do the younger and older generation in the Danube Region jointly assess difficult European issues such as migration or climate change? And what hopes do young people from non-member countries like Serbia or Ukraine associate with the European Union?

Let's find out together. In three online events in September 2021, young people from all 14 Danube countries will have the opportunity to discuss together and contribute their thoughts. The results will then be compiled and submitted as a contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

At the Youth.DanubeSalon on 15 October 2021, the participants can then discuss their ideas with politicians and the broader public - if the pandemic situation permits, also in presence at the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin.

An event of the Ministry of State Baden-Württemberg and the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin in cooperation with the Danube Youth Network, ILEU e.V., the Cultural Officer for the Danube Region, the Danube Office Ulm and the Agapedia Foundation.

Our participants

We call on young people aged 16 - 25 from the Danube Region and the Danube countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro, Czech Republic) to participate in the Youth.DanubeSalon in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Take this opportunity to contribute to the future of Europe and make your voices heard!

The Youth.DanubeSalon will consist of two parts: First, three Youth Conferences with up to 50 participants each will meet online (see also below for details). Afterwards, results will be presented and discussed with politicians and the broader public on 15 October in Berlin. All participants are again welcome to join this main part of Youth.DanubeSalon via an online link. In addition, a limited number of participants from the Youth Conferences will be invited in person to Berlin (incl. travel and accommodation for two nights).

Information and Registration

Registration is now possible on:

<https://beteiligungportal.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/informieren/konferenz-zur-zukunft-europas/aktivitaeten-in-bw/youthdanubesalon/>



Programme

Part I: Youth Conferences (Online)

All Youth Conferences will host up to 50 participants from all Danube countries. They will take place online (ZOOM) and combine input sessions with interactive group work.

1.1. Young people's perception from Non-EU Member States in the Danube Region – differences, similarities, chances

Young people from non-EU countries come from different cultural backgrounds having different opportunities in mobility, employability, education etc.. What cooperation and participation possibilities exist on the European level for young people from non-EU member states such as Ukraine, Moldova or Serbia? Since youth is also a cross-cutting issue in many EU instruments such as the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), young people need to be heard regardless of their country of origin. During this event, we will explore and discuss with youth about their perception of the EU and their own future, as well as chances and challenges for their active participation on national and international level.

Date and Time: 27 September, 16:00 – 19:30

Languages: English, Russian, Serbo-Croatian

Organized by: Danube Youth Network and Agapedia Foundation in cooperation with Ministry of State of Baden-Württemberg

1.2. Should I stay or should I go? – Perspectives for the younger generation in the Danube Region

Stay or Leave? This is an essential question for many young citizens in the Danube region. If questioned, many students report their desire to leave their home countries after graduation, often encouraged by their parents. In this event, young participants will discuss the situation back home, but also their personal expectations and motives for the future. They will reflect on the consequences of their decisions for their home regions and Europe in general.

Date and Time: 28 September, 16:00 – 19:30 (Time to be confirmed)

Languages: English and German

Organized by: Cultural Officer for the Danube Region and Donaubüro Ulm in cooperation with Ministry of State of Baden-Württemberg

1.3. Young and old shape the future of Europe together

The course of the Danube through a number of countries also causes cross-border effects on societies, culture and environment. Therefore, the river as well as the surrounding environments are an inclusive topic of the future, which concerns all groups of society and especially young people in the Danube region.

Young and old want to get involved and be involved in decisions to shape the future of Europe peacefully, in solidarity, in a living democratic process by reflections and proposals. In this



event, young and old along the Danube will jointly reflect on several key intergenerational issues for their own future, but also for the future of Europe: e.g. digitalisation and its use to foster cross-border exchange and cooperation between civil societies, effects of rapid demographic change in our countries, intangible cultural heritage as a crucial connecting element between Danube countries and generations and the mitigation of climate change.

Date and Time: 29 September, 17:00 – 20:30

**Languages: English, German, depending on language skills of registered participants
additionally Romanian and Bulgarian**

**Organized by: ILEU e.V. and Danube Networkers e.V. in cooperation with Ministry of State
of Baden-Württemberg**

Part II: Youth.DanubeSalon – Main Event

15 October 2021 online & on site

Baden-Württemberg State Representation, Berlin

Youth.DanubeSalon is scheduled to take place at the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin and will be available to all participants via live stream. If the pandemic situation permits, selected participants of the Youth Conferences (see also Part I), but also representatives of embassies of EUSDR countries as well as youth organizations and interested stakeholders will be invited to attend the event in person.

Timeline:

- 13:30** **Opening remarks**
Florian Hassler
State Secretary for Political Coordination and Representative to the EU
- 13:40** **Panel Discussion: Perspectives of the Danube Region's Youth
for the Future of Europe**
In this Panel discussion, participants of the Youth Conferences will be able to present and discuss their ideas and findings with representatives from the European Union and the State of Baden-Württemberg.
- Normunds Popens**
Deputy Director-General - DG REGIO, European Commission
- Florian Hassler**
State Secretary for Political Coordination and Representative to the EU
- Further political representatives (tbc)*
Representatives / Young Participants of the Youth conferences
- 14:45** **Short Break (15 Minutes)**
- 15:00 (tbd)** **Award Ceremony for the ShootByYouth Video Competition from the Danube
Region**
- 15:30** **Networking Reception (offline)**



Background

About the Conference on the Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a unique and timely opportunity for European citizens to debate on Europe's challenges and priorities. No matter where you are from or what you do, this is the place to think about what future you want for the European Union. The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission have committed to listen to Europeans and to follow up, within their sphere of competences, on the recommendations made. By spring 2022, the Conference on the Future of Europe is expected to reach conclusions and provide guidance on the future of Europe.

The Youth.DanubeSalon aims to bring in the ideas and perspectives of the younger generation from the Danube countries into this important process.

More information: <https://futureu.europa.eu/>

About the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together. The Strategy seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region. It involves nine EU member states (Germany – Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Czech Republic) and five non-member states (Serbia, Moldova, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro).

More information: <https://danube-region.eu/>

About DanubeSalon (Donausalon)

Since 2013, Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin has hosted the DanubeSalon (Donausalon), which usually takes place annually in parallel to International Tourism Fair Berlin (ITB) and attracts between 500 – 800 visitors, mostly from the Danube countries. Due to the Pandemic, Donausalon had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021. Instead, given the high importance of youth collaboration currently placed on youth collaboration within the EUSDR under Slovak EUSDR Presidency, but also given the occurrence of the Conference on the Future of Europe, it was decided to host the Youth.DanubeSalon in 2021 as a one-time event.

About the Shoot by Youth Project

Shoot by Youth is an interactive social movie competition for young people aged between 15 and 25 years old. The competition consists in gathering teams of 3 to 5 young persons from any country in the Danube region and giving you the opportunity to create short videos about a local issue in the town/region you live in. In the video, the competing teams must present a problem and a possible solution for that issue.

More Information: <https://shootbyyouth.com/>