

2nd General Assembly

Executive summary

The second General Assembly meeting of the Danube Competence Centre was held in Belgrade, Serbia from December 2nd to December 4th 2010. The Assembly gathered representatives of 21 active member organizations as well as representatives of 2 associate members. During the session 6 organizations (1 from Croatia, 2 from Serbia, 1 from Bulgaria, 1 from Moldova, 1 from Romania) applied for active and associate membership which increased the number of members to 36.

Session started with Ms. Daniela Schily presentation of the DCC activity report for 2010. Ms. Schily pointed out the achievements of the organization which exists for only 10 months but managed not only to gather 36 members from 7 countries and from all three sectors – public, private and civic society, but also to position itself as an important stakeholder in the region and tourism sector. It was stressed that it is essential to engage more with media outlets in addition to large networking efforts during numerous conference participations and direct communication with relevant stakeholders.

The delegates as well discussed new organization management structures – merging position of the President of the organization and Chairman of the Board of Director in order to make Board more operational and accountable and to allow non-members to be part of the managing structure – particularly in case of large donors. Both changes of the Statute were accepted. New Board members are: Ms. Ankica Bilandzic (Cikloturizam, Croatia); Ms. Gordana Plamenac (Tourism Organisation of Serbia) ; Mr. Lubomir Popiordanov (BAAT, Bulgaria) ; Mr. Tiberius Tioc (Tioc Natur- und Studienreisen, Romania) ; Mr. Sevastian Botnari (National Association of Travel Agencies, Moldova) ; Mr. Christian Baumgarten (Nature friends, Austria) ;Mr. Oleksandr Voloshkevych (The Ukrainian Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine); Ms. Daniela Schily (GTZ) and Mr. Nebojsa Matijasevic (GTZ).

The delegates discussed and adopted the Membership fee proposal for 2011 which is attached to this report. The general opinion is that the structure is well elaborated and covers the majority of organization types – potential members.

Last part of the conference focused on the DCC plans for 2011 presented by Ms. Schily and Mr. Camernik – flagship event in 2011 will be “The Blue Week” which comprises of a number of activities starting on June 18th and ending on June 26th. The activities during “The Blue Week” will encounter: high-level conference (“Floating” conference with participation of representatives of tourism ministries/departments from 6 countries from Middle and Lower Danube and guests from EU Commission, Bundestag and political and tourism stakeholders from the Upper Danube (including visit to Vidin, Bulgaria); “The Blue Danube Festival” co-organized by Mehedin county and the city of Drobeta Turnu Severin (RO) and municipality of Kladovo (SER) and Danube environment protection workshop in cooperation with ICPDR. The networking events in 2011 will include organizing “The Danube Dialogue” -conference on the margins of the DCC participation on the Brussels Holiday Fair as a host region and participation on the Danube Forum at ITB (Germany).

The special attention will be given to the developments around implementation of the Danube strategy and positioning the DCC as a reliable and competent partner on tourism development issues. As the final statement, the 2nd DCC General Assembly adopted the Declaration (attached) as an open invitation for cooperation to all tourism stakeholders in the Danube region.

Prepared by:

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