

IMPACT STORY

DANUBE
YOUTH
COUNCIL



BACKGROUND

The involvement of present and future generations in shaping our societies and the question of how to do it is high on the political agenda on a local, regional, national and European level.

In the Danube Region, in 2019, young people between 18 and 35 made up around 26 million, making the youth ratio almost 23,5%, slightly higher than the EU average.

Following the European trend of empowering youth in decision-making processes to address youth-related issues within EUSDR and considering the number of young people living in the Danube Region, it became necessary to involve them in implementing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.



THE IDEA

The idea to involve youth was identified in June 2021, when the **EUSDR Slovak Presidency proposed to draft a concept for the involvement of the young people living in the Danube Region**. Therefore, a Task Force Danube Youth Council was established.

The EUSDR National Coordinators mandated the Task Force Danube Youth Council to prepare and further elaborate the Danube Youth Council (DYC) concept - **a non-partisan, macro-regional body, its members representing their generation, not their countries**. A decision-making process within the EUSDR NCs followed. The concept was presented at the Annual Forum in Bratislava in October 2021, and in March 2022, the EUSDR National Coordinators endorsed it.



ESTABLISHMENT OF DYC

Symbolically, on the 9th of May 2022, the Danube Strategy Point launched the call.

80 young people between 18 and 28 years old, passionate about international & transnational cooperation, willing to share their ideas on how to shape the Danube Region and improve mobility, environmental protection, competitiveness, education and security in the Danube Region submitted their applications.

The **DYC** was established in **October 2022**, consisting of 28 young people from all 14 Danube Region countries.



THE ROLE OF DYC

The Council's activity aims at contributing to improving the capacity building, communication and cooperation among young people in the Danube Region. DYC provides a discussion platform for exchanging expertise and advice on youth issues and policies.

DYC members are already actively involved in the EUSDR governance meetings (National Coordinators meetings, Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) meetings). They are a vital body providing information & opinions to EUSDR NCs and/or PACs in areas related to youth policies and facilitating the embedding of youth policies into the governance of the EUSDR.

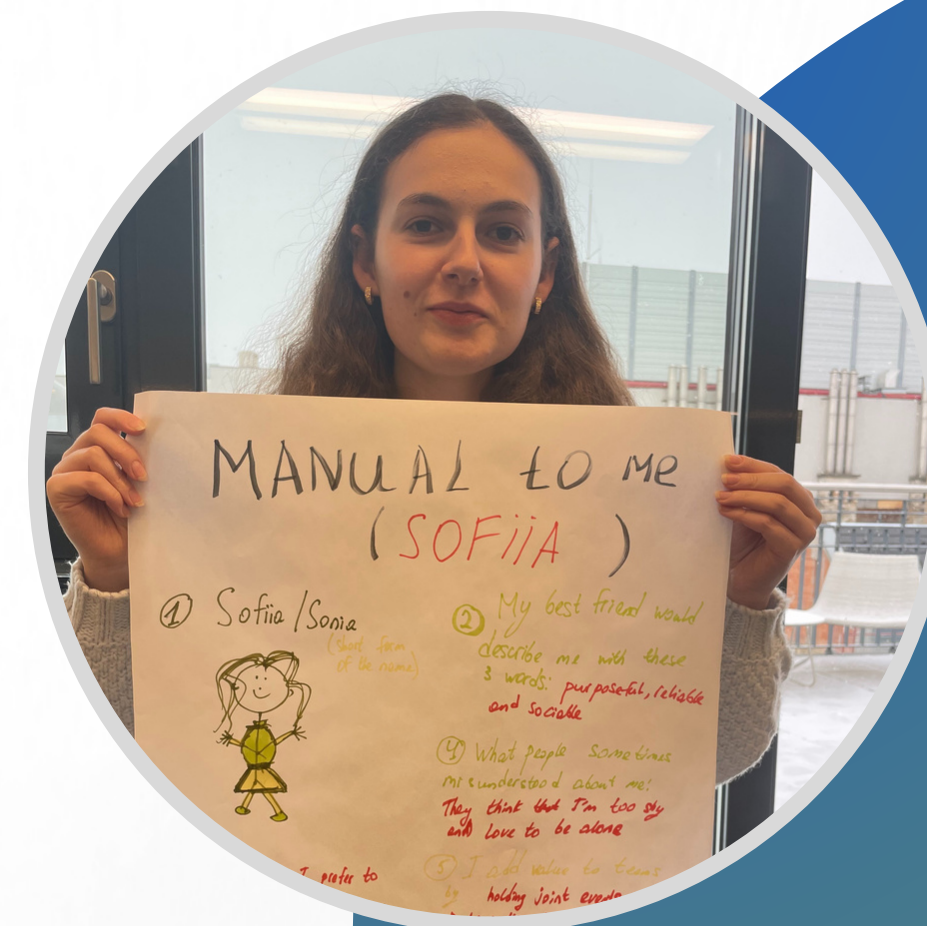


THE VISION

The members of the Danube Youth Council **provide a youth-focused link** to cohesion, EU enlargement, EU neighbourhood and other EUSDR-relevant policies on transnational, macro-regional, national, regional and local levels, connecting EUSDR youth policies to EU/European organisations as well as other macro-regional strategies.

The **vision of the Danube Youth Council (DYC)** is to provide the core decision-making bodies in the Danube Region Strategy with advice and recommendations to enable dynamic exchange and learning processes.

Danube Youth Council is **financed** between 2022 – 2023 **by the European Commission** and **co-funded by the City of Vienna**.





For more about the **Danube Youth Council**, visit: <https://danube-region.eu/danube-youth-council/>