

## Fourth Newsletter

### Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 4th DanubePeerChains newsletter. We are happy to present you the fourth newsletter of DanubePeerChains - Integrated capacity building and training programme for DANUBE area labour and business support organisations, local industry and entrepreneurs to enter innovative transnational value CHAINS as PEER-level collaboration partners.

**Get to know what we have achieved so far!  
Enjoy reading!**

## KEY FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

### ABOUT THE PROEJCT

DanubePeerChains has as main objective to empower Labour market Support Organisations (LSO) and Business Support Organisations (BSO) together with their target groups and further local high-potentials in a joint capacity building and training approach to upskill to high-qualified jobs in the Danube region and to gain sustainable recognition as PEER-level collaboration partners in innovative transnational value chains.

### PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

Share of highly educated individuals with low, basic, and above basic digital skills

Digital skills are higher overall for individuals aged 25 to 64 with high formal education, compared to all the individuals.

In all analyzed countries, more than a half of the highly educated individuals have basic or above basic overall digital skills and, in all countries, other than Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania this share raises above three quarters.

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### TRANSNATIONAL BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

Based on the collected data from the project partners, the transnational benchmark analysis had been prepared by INCSMPS and Biz-up. Results obtained from the qualitative and quantitative analyses emphasize differences, strengths and weaknesses of current know-how of labour and entrepreneurs and future potential, opportunities and threats of regional labour markets in value-chain relevant industries.

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### SUPPORT MEASURES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIES AND IMPROVING THE QUALIFICATION OF WORKFORCE ON DIGITAL ISSUES.

The support measures were evaluated on the basis of four criteria in all partner countries:

- Existence of programs to stimulate digitalization
- Existence of SMEs to support the development of SMEs
- Existence of regional programs to support SME development and digitalization
- Attracting European funds for SME development and digitization programs.

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### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SCHEMES SUPPORTING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Based on the collected data from 11 partner countries to collect the projects in the field of digital transformation, the analytics evaluation was developed with the help of 6 pre-defined criteria.

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### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

#### LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the coming period, the partners will organize digitization training for SMEs at local level. As part of the training, companies will have the opportunity to learn about new digitization opportunities and learn how each digitization solution can potentially help after it has been incorporated into a production process.

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#### ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Participants will choose between four different specialization courses that will be available online on the platform. The four topics are the following:

#### SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND OPORUNITIES IN WOOD AND FURNITURE INDUSTRY

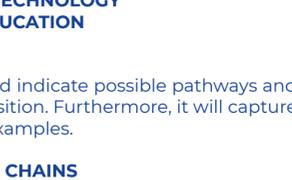
**Responsible:** University of Belgrade  
Through this training, you will understand why it is important for businesses to tackle sustainability issues in order to create more and better digitalization opportunities and what questions you need to ask, along your organizations' value chain, to change towards more sustainable practices and models.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL LEAN AND AUGMENTED REALITY TECHNOLOGY FOR A SUCCESSFUL DIGITAL TRANSITION OF BUSINESSES AND EDUCATION

**Responsible:** School center Škofja Loka  
The training materials within this topic will include good practices and indicate possible pathways and incentives for companies to take a bolder approach to the digital transition. Furthermore, it will capture a broader picture of the digital transition in the region/country with examples.

#### ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS THOUGH TRANSNATIONAL VALUE CHAINS

**Responsible:** IEC Tehnopolis  
This training will, among other things, addresses a theoretical perspective on how additive manufacturing serves as a stepping-stone for future research in the operations and supply chain management field by situating them in a landscape of merging physical and digital operational environments.



#### REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING

The development of ACTION PLANS will be done in close cooperation with stakeholders who will be given the opportunity to provide input during the workshops. The members of the consortium will also provide each other with feedback on their respective action plans. Finally, the Action Plans will be shared with regional policy-makers and relevant stakeholders. They will further be used to develop the Final DanubePeerChains STRATEGY and POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. Regional Action Plans and the Strategic Recommendations should then be shared with policymakers to feed into higher-level strategies, mainly EUSDR PA9 and PA10, and S3 STRATEGIES.

The geographical scope of the STRATEGIES is Austria, Slovenia, Romania, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The associated partner country Moldova will contribute with feedback in the framework of the peer review process. A total of 9 regional action plans will be submitted by end of 2022.



## PROJECT RELATED EVENTS

### Third steering committee meeting (online)

The third DanubePeerChains Steering Committee Meeting was held on the 2-3 December 2021 in an online format. Project partners discussed the dynamics of the implementation of planned activities, forecast for the rest of the project, and reviewed the progress of management, potential risks, and problems.



### Mobile World Congress

MWC Barcelona is the world's most influential event for the connectivity industry. It's where world leading companies and trailblazers share the latest thought leadership about the progression and future of connectivity.

The project presentation resulted in raising awareness of the DanubePeerChains project. Additionally, the representatives of IEC Tehnopolis presented the thematic of the project to the audience, created methodologies, strategies, and planned online and offline training.



### Third Steering Committee (Linz)

The third Steering Committee was held in Linz from 22nd to 23rd of March, at the premises of TECHCENTER Linz-Winterhafen. This was the opportunity for project partners to discuss the progress in thematic work packages, dynamics of the implementation of planned activities as well as the financial progress and forecast.

During the meeting, project partners participated in the workshops connected to the Regional Action Plans. The aim of the workshop was for partners to present the Regional Action Plans. They were also asked to think about their main conclusions at country-level.



## PROJECT PARTNERS

