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## PRESS RELEASE

# 8 European countries together on the way to responsible research and innovation

The European Commission is determined to bridge the gap between the scientific community and society at large. As such D-STIR project (Danube framework for responsible research and innovation using socio-technical integration) connects technical experts with humanists in order to leverage maximal societal and business potential – i.e. implement Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). In European Union, RRI has emerged on the formal agenda in 2011.

15 partners from 8 European countries (Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) have launched D-STIR project in Košice, Slovakia. On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 kick off meeting has commemorated the co-working process of the project that began on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, and will last till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The partnership is led by South-East Regional Development Agency from Romania.

The main goal of this Programme is to develop coordinated policies and actions in the programme area reinforcing the commitments of the Europe 2020 strategy towards the three dimensions of **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**. D-STIR project is also important for Danube innovation framework conditions, as innovation does account for socio-economic impact and this project is implementing Socio-Technical Integration Research (STIR) method of research.

D-STIR project was approved within the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). Value of the project is almost 2 million Euros.

**Kick off meeting in Košice, Slovakia**, hosted by Cassovia Life Science, has shown that all partners are eager to reach and achieve project's goals and objectives. Later on in **launching event on 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, partners and participants were getting acquainted with STIR method and how to make our research responsible (input from Miklós Lukovics – First Hungarian Responsible Innovation Association). The event also served as a platform for presenting objectives, methods, main steps and the structure of D-STIR project with answering the question about how D-STIR project can actually help (input from Nina Irimia – South-East Regional Development Agency). This event was rounded with round table discussion about implementation of RRI in Slovakia, with highlighted questions about challenges and expectations (input from Martin Haranta - Cassovia Life Science).

Two more public events are planned in the projects duration time: **Mid-term event in April 2018, Bucharest** and **Final event, June 2019, also in Romania.**

For more information about D-STIR project please visit:  
<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/d-stir>

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#### **List of partners in D-STIR project:**

- South-East Regional Development Agency, Romania
- Cassovia Life Science, Slovakia
- First Hungarian Responsible Innovation Association, Hungary
- ELI-HU Research and Development Non-profit LTD, Hungary
- Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia, Slovenia
- Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic
- Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research and Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Romania
- Bwcon GmbH, Germany
- Country Government of Csongrad, Hungary
- Central Bohemian Innovation Centre, Czech Republic
- Development Agency Heart of Istria, Croatia
- Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ilfov County Council, Romania
- Kosice Self Governing Region, Slovakia
- Sarajevo Canton Planning Institute, Bosnia and Herzegovina