

## **Next steps in Cross-border eRegion Development: Chamber Perspectives**

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### **EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION** **eLivingLab**

Contribution of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber:

#### **DANUBE BUSINESS FORUM - DBF**

As a result of the EU Danube Strategy Conferences held along the Danube in the first half of this year the proposal to hold a Danube Business Forum was brought up jointly by DG Regio and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. It was agreed, that more should be done to bring together SME via B2B meetings and the private sector with academia and the public sector of the Region. A periodical Business Forum should be a good solution.

Therefore DG Regio has included in its Action Plan on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

“To hold annual business forums bringing together Danube Region businesses, governments, regional organizations and the academia”

Lead: Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and other Austrian institutions fully support the suggestion of a yearly Business Forum to be held in Vienna. Regional Economic Chambers voiced their support during a Conference in Pecs as well as the Chamber IHK Bayern.

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber has substantial experience with the concept of such a Business Forum.

As an ideal theme for the first **Danube Business Forum** we would like to suggest a co-operation with the Universities of the Danube Region (ALADIN) on the topic

#### **ICT, IT-application**

The Forum should include:

Inaugural addresses of EU- and governmental representatives  
Application-oriented presentations of university / scientific experts  
IT-providers presenting practical experiences and solutions  
B2B marketplace for companies and institutions

Such an activity would perfectly fit into the Action Plan of DG Regio as well as the wider aim of the EU Strategy 2020.

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