

State of play of EUSDR embedding in Hungary

The fact that the EUSDR has been endorsed by the EU during the Hungarian presidency in 2011, gave the initial push to the embedding process in our country. The following methods applied:

- Awarding extra points to EUSDR relevant projects during the selection process since 2011 in CBC programmes
- EUSDR relevant calls in some of the 2007-2013 mainstream Operational Programmes (regional and sectoral OPs)

As the new 2014-2020 EU financing period approached, the new legislation made it obligatory to refer to the macro-regional relevance at the level of different Operational Programmes through the following two key documents:

- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT between Hungary and the European Commission for the period 2014–2020
- Regional and sectoral Operational Programmes for the Period 2014-2020

Although the EUSDR relevance, as a horizontal objective, was specified in all the mainstream and CBC OPs where Hungary hosted the Managing Authority (MA), neither the PACs nor other actors of the EUSDR have been involved in the Monitoring Committees (MC), the body decides on project selection. In the lack of a standardized evaluation method, the assessment of EUSDR relevance was not unified in the different Operational Programmes.

The previous financing period paved the way for the successful EUSDR embedding, now in the 2014-2020 period, our objective is to fill in the frames with adequate content by the following actions:

- fostering the harmonization of project evaluation within the steering groups of different PAs (standardized project templates for LoR; promoting the LoR to different MCs). The aim would be to exchange LoR to extra points in the project selection process. *See the Hungarian position regarding flagships during the PAC meeting in 14-15 January*
- following a successful domestic lobbying activity the HU NC is a full or observer member in almost all the mainstream and ETC OPs covering a part of or the whole country. All the non-sensitive information is immediately shared with the relevant HU members of the EUSDR PAs.
- large scale infrastructure “priority” projects in the water sector (subject to restricted calls above 50 million EUR) are under preparation in close cooperation with PA4 and PA5 PACs under the coordination of the HU NC