

EUSDR Report June 2012

Priority Area 4

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS

1. OVERALL PROGRESS

1.1. State of play

[Work done so far on policies, actions and projects; Any lessons learned, positive or negative; Next steps/ challenges? What, if anything, is missing in order to achieve the planned goals? Please describe the most important outcomes and explicitly highlight events/ discussions/ results that are happening or being speeded up because of the Strategy. Please also be as concrete as possible, while bearing in mind that progress that may seem obvious to you may not be obvious to outsiders. Please emphasise, when appropriate, the issues that are specific to your Priority Area]

After a lot of preparatory work and based on the success of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy (EUBSRS), the EU Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR) was put into practice on 8 December 2010 by adoption of two basic documents, namely the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2010) 715) accompanied by the Action Plan (by SEC(2010) 1489).

In February 2011, the responsible national ministries involved in coordination of Priority Areas (PAs) nominated the coordinators for region wide activities.

The new nominated coordinators were invited to 2nd Working Group Meeting of EUBSRS held in Gdansk, Poland on 16-17 February 2011 to gather lessons learned from EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy.

Hungary and Slovakia were appointed as coordinating countries of Priority Area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” (PA4). The first preparatory meeting on co-coordinating and sharing common activities between co-coordinators was held on 16-17 March 2011 (1st day in Budapest, Hungary and 2nd day in Bratislava, Slovakia). The main achievement of this meeting, besides personal contact of coordinators, was the reinforcement of the commitment of both parties for success of the EUSDR PA4.

The first highlighted event of the political commitment was the 1st Joint Meeting of PACs, NCPs and members of Steering Groups held in Gödöllő, Hungary on 09-10 May 2011 during the Hungarian EU Presidency.

The second highlighted event for EUSDR PA4 was a political kick-off meeting of the ministries responsible for EUSDR Pillar 2 Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region held on 26 May 2011 in Niederaltreich (Bavaria) at the Danube Summit. The Ministers or their appointed representatives signed the *Joint Declaration by the high level country representatives responsible for the coordination of the Pillar ‘Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region’ (PA4: HU & SK, PA5: HU & RO, PA6: DE & HR)*. This event and the Joint Declaration expressed strong will and commitment to the cooperation on a high political level which marked the beginning of close cooperation of PACs and involved policy makers in the Environmental Pillar 2.

The active role of the Priority Area Coordinators has actually started on the Handover Meeting in Budapest on 9 June 2011.

In summary, the first half of 2011 until the Handover Meeting was the preparatory phase for implementation of EUSDR PA4.

After the preparatory process three Steering Group meetings has been organized by PACs within PA4:

- **Kick Off Meeting in Bratislava (21 June 2011):**

The objective of the meeting was to establish a Steering Group (SG) for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Steering procedure and Rules of Procedure, targets of the Priority Area 4 proposed by Communication and further operational steps were discussed at the meeting.

The main achievements were (more details are available on www.danube-region.eu):

- participation: 6 EU MS (HU, SK, DE, AT, RO, SI), 2 non- EU Countries (RS, CRO), representatives of EC, International Commission for Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Secretariat
- draft version of the Rules of Procedures
- adoption of the following targets:
 - Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan;
 - Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s;
 - Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015;
 - Elaborate, adopt and implement sub basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub basins
 - Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species
- agreement on and nomination of action leaders (ICPDR, HU, SK, RO) and action partners (see Chapter 2)
- proposal of criteria for flagship project labeling

- **2nd Steering Group Meeting in Budapest (7-8 November 2011):**

The objective of the meeting was to give information about the work done since the kick-off meeting, to accept the rules of procedures and finalize the requirements concerning projects, to decide on criteria and labelling of projects and on issuing letters of recommendation (LoR) for nominated, discussed and agreed projects.

The main achievements were (more details are available on www.danube-region.eu):

- participation: 8 EU MS (HU, SK, DE, AT, RO, SI, CZ, BG), 2 non- EU Countries (RS, CRO), representatives of EC, ICPDR Secretariat, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Regional Environmental Center (REC)
- approval of Rules of Procedures
- accepted criteria of project labelling:
 - meet the targets of Priority Area 4 and/or be relevant to the PA4 Action(s),
 - be of macro-regional importance,
 - be realistic (technically and financially feasible),
 - provide a win-win solution (not in contradiction with other policy objectives),
 - have project leader, partners, deadline, agreed workflow & work packages and budget,
 - be approved by the Steering Group.
- 8 accepted projects for LoR (for details see Annex 2), such as:
 - Pro Tisza
 - SEE River
 - SEWABIS
 - Blue Danube
 - GoodWater
 - Danube Sediment
 - CC-WARE
 - FoWaP
- after meeting the Letters of Recommendation were provided for the accepted project mentioned above

- **3rd Steering Group Meeting in Bratislava (4-5 June 2012):**

The objective of the meeting was to give information about the work done since the 2nd SG meeting, to discuss and approve roadmaps of the PA4 actions, to give information about the Progress implementation Report of EUSDR PA4 and other business related to the facilitation of EUSDR implementation.

The main achievements were (more details are available on www.danube-region.eu):

- participation: 6 EU MS (HU, SK, DE, AT, RO, BG), 1 non- EU Countries (RS), representatives of EC, ICPDR Secretariat, International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), WWF, Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- discussed and approved Roadmaps of the Actions (see Annex 1)
- discussed and approved highlighted targets connected with actions and project proposals accepted before (see Chapter 2)
- 5 accepted project proposals evaluated by Criteria PA4 by a Written Procedure (see Annex 2):
 - PS-RED
 - SAVA Hydrology
 - SAVA Sediment
 - SAVA Alluvial Aquifers
 - ICZM Black Sea

Summarizing notes on targets and projects:

PA4 has five targets with 14 actions covering completely technical, research, financial, social, educational and communicational aspects of the PA. The targets connected with actions, indicating the highlighted target can be found in the next part of this report, “Progress by target”.

The SG decided that the highlighted target for PA4 will be the most comprehensive one: “Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan”.

The list and details of the projects issued with the LoRs can be seen in Annex 2. In order to immediately enter into the implementation phase, mainly projects ready to apply for funding in relevant funding programmes were supported.

Any lessons learned, positive or negative; Next steps/ challenges? What, if anything, is missing in order to achieve the planned goals?

The participation of non EU Member States (MSs) is very low. For detail see the Table below.

Table 1 Participation of Danube Region countries on SG meetings

meeting	AT	BG	BIH	CRO	CZ	DE	HU	MD	MO	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA
Kick-off	+			+		+	+			+	+	+	+	
2 nd	+	+		+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	
3 rd	+	+				+	+			+	+		+	

It is a big challenge even in the case of the MSs to ensure the presence of their representatives at the meetings. The registration forms, invitations, etc are sent out at least four times before a meeting. It seems that, apart from PACs, contribution of some Danube region countries to EUSDR is rather an ‘obligatory home work’ than a possibility. This kind of imbalance can hinder the EUSDR from working as it has been planned.

Despite all the mentioned obstacles in PA4 there are 8 projects issued with Letter of Recommendation and 5 projects are at this time candidates for LoR.

To evaluate the number of projects two facts have to be considered. First is the end of the 7year EU budgeting period which is now. There are no new financial resources and only the rest of money was available for project applications. The eight projects are based on this rests of funds and they were submitted immediately after 2nd SG meeting (held on 07-08 November 2011) to the Central and South European regional funding programmes (CEE and SEE) and LIFE+ 2011. The other considered fact is that the projects have to fit into the Roadmaps for the implementation of Actions, which have been accepted quite recently at the 3rd SG meeting on 4-5 June 2012. Without clear and explicit financial resources only the ongoing projects could be involved in the EUSDR at this state.

As it can be expected, the vital missing point is finance. After the first enthusiastic phase a lot of stakeholders may become quite disappointed as they will be confronted with the limited resources for next funding period 2014-2020.

Please describe the most important outcomes and explicitly highlight events/ discussions/ results that are happening or being speeded up because of the Strategy. Please also be as concrete as possible, while bearing in mind that progress that may seem obvious to you may not be obvious to outsiders. Please emphasise, when appropriate, the issues that are specific to your Priority Area]

The objective of PA4 is to reinforce implementation of EU Directives concerning restoration and maintenance of the quality of waters such as EU Water Framework Directive with Groundwater Daughter Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Nitrate Directive and Habitat Directive. So there is a synergy between EUSDR and water related directives. As a consequence, there is a new forum, new scene and new framework at macro-regional level for solving the tasks resulting from the listed directives which is not only speeding up the implementation of the EU water policy, but also doing it in a harmonised and very cost effective way.

To restore and maintain the quality of waters is a mandatory process for EU MS and strongly proposed for non-EU countries. Nevertheless, the non-EU countries continuously highlight lack of money and their position over obligation, as it is shown in practice of Danube River Basin Plan implementation meetings. Since the territory of EUSDR is only a bit larger as DRB, the strategy of EUSDR makes an implementation back up to EU Directives concerning water quality.

How? Through the targets – actions (roadmaps) – projects ‘triangle’ which can make a good “algorithm” for the processing. As for the fourth pillar - if the funding source will be ready, it seems to be better solution for sustainable development of the Danube region concerning water quality.

1.2. Process

[Work done so far on governance: PACs, Steering Groups, links with stakeholders; Significant changes in your work/network approach resulting from the Strategy (e.g. larger networks, more visibility), including any problems encountered and any solutions found; Links with projects from other Priority Areas; Publicity measures (such as website, stakeholder seminars, publications,...) etc. Please emphasise, when appropriate, the issues that are specific to your Priority Area]

The very first step was to setup the operational scheme after the PACs were enrolled in February 2011. Short explanatory guidance from DG Regio, Lab Group meetings and the 1st Joint Conference in Gödöllő, Hungary under the Hungarian EU Presidency helped to understand the role and the tasks of the NCPs, PACs and Steering Groups.

Operational work of PA4 actually launched in second half of 2011. This was the time of preparation and leading of 2nd SG meetings for all PAs. During this period there were many discussions and agreements, mainly via email exchange, on targets and actions concerning environmental PAs. Experience of environmental PAs (Pillar 2) has shown many common interest, cross-cutting issues and ways how to deal with problems.

Due to the thematic overlapping of targets, actions and the benefits of mutual support triggered the needs of strong cooperation between PA4, PA5 and PA6, inside the Pillar 2. The first meeting of the (six) Pillar 2 PACs was held on 17 November 2011 in Vienna, where all parties agreed on the

- development of a common labelling procedure for Pillar 2,
- development of a common project data sheet, in MS Excel format, which serves as the application form for projects which are currently developed and want to apply for Labelling and to receive a Letter of Recommendation of PA 4, PA5 or PA6,
- development of a common set of criteria for labelling project proposals as EUSDR projects,
- development of the procedure for labelling process, describing the work flow on how to get labelled and give Letter of Recommendation to applicants,
- harmonizing the wording of Letter of Recommendation (based on the proposal of the Commission).

The PACs of Pillar2 are invited as observers to the other two PA’s Steering Group meetings.

The cooperation of PA4's Hungarian and Slovak PACs has been free of any problems. The SG meetings were held on a rotating base in the two capital cities.

Table 2 Highlighted activities of PACs in the reporting period, including SG meetings

Date	Event and venue
03 February 2011	Com. Johannes Hahn visit in Budapest. First meeting with HU PACs
16-17 February 2011	First PACs meeting between EUSDR and EUSBSR representatives at 2 nd EUSBSR workshop in Gdansk
16 March 2011	Preparatory meeting on co-ordination between HU and SK high gov. representatives in Budapest
17 March 2011	Preparatory meeting on co-ordination between HU and SK PAC4 nominated by own government in Bratislava
05 April 2011	EUSDR & EUSBSR meeting on PA4 and PA5 organized by GWP in Budapest
11 April 2011	Ministerial meeting of Tisza countries in Uzhorod on improvement of Tisza sub-basin cooperation connecting to PA4 Action2 (sub-basin)
28-29 April 2011	CASEE conference in University of Gödöllő, Hungary invited PA4 and PA5 for presentation
08-11 May 2011:	1 st EUSDR conference for NCPs, PACs and national coordinators in Gödöllő, Hungary
09 June 2011	Handover meeting from DG Regio to PAC4 in Budapest
09 June 2011	PAC4 participation in kick-off meeting of PA5 in Budapest
14-15 June 2011	PAC4 participation in 2 nd Labgroup Meeting, Budapest
16-17 June 2011	First PAC4 presentation in 9 th ICPDR Standing Working Group meeting in Kiev
21 June 2011	Kick off meeting of PA4 in Bratislava
29 June 2011	PAC4 participation in the Danube Day event in Budapest
06-07 October 2011	PAC4 participation in 3 rd Labgroup meeting in Belgrade organized by INTERACT in Vienna
24-25 October 2011	PAC4 participation in 2 nd SG meeting of PA6 in Zagreb
07-08 November 2011	2 nd SG meeting of PA4 in Budapest
16 November 2011	PAC4 participation in 17 th ICPDR Tisza Group meeting in Budapest
17 November 2011	PAC4 participation in 1 st Pillar 2 meeting in Vienna
18 November 2011	PAC4 participation in EUSDR Website meeting organized by INTERACT in Vienna
13-14 December 2011	PAC4 participation in ICPDR 14 th Ordinary meeting in Vienna
19-20 December 2011	PAC4 presentation in 'Ecoproblems' conference on TU Vienna invited by Dr Busek former vice chancellor
30-31 January 2012	PAC4 participation in 2 nd EUSDR conference for NCPs, PACs and national coordinators in Bucharest

17 February 2012	PAC4 participation in Danube Net (DaNet) for NGOs conference on PA4 in University of Komarno, Slovakia
19-20 March 2012	PAC4 participation in World Water Day in Vienna House, Brussels invitation by EP
22-23 March 2012	PAC4 participation on 1 st Danube Financing Dialogue (PA10) in Vienna
27 March 2012	PAC4 informal meeting with EIB representatives from Vienna on cooperation in funding
04 May 2012	PAC4 participation in 3 rd SG meeting of PA5 in Budapest
10-11 May 2012	PAC4 participation in 35 th RBM EG, ICPDR in Vienna
24-25 May 2012	PAC4 participation on 1 st Annual Stakeholder Conference of EUSDR PA1a, Bucharest
04-05 June 2012	3 rd SG meeting of PA4 in Bratislava
13 June 2012	PAC4 participation on AQUA Conference in Trenčín, Slovakia
14 June 2012	PAC4 participation on Danube Net for NGOs conference on PA4 in Szarvas, Hungary
27 June 2012	PAC4 participation on 10 th ICPDR Standing Working Group meeting in Innsbruck, Austria
28 June 2012	Meeting with Com. Johannes Hahn on work progress during his visit of Danube Region Countries, Slovakia and Hungary
28 June 2012	PAC4 participation in the Danube Day in Budapest

According to the above table of events, a very fast progress within the EUSDR PA4 is clearly visible.

There is no doubt about strong need of results and outputs to achieve and to move forward the implementation of EUSDR PA4. Although the PACs have made many efforts to mobilize SG members to be there and actively participate (letters and reminders sending at least four times before meetings), this action needs more improvements.

Other problem is that the Steering Group members of PA4 of the EUSDR do their steering work as an extra work to their daily work mainly in high governmental position, thus the efforts they can put in is limited. This can be the reason why some of the Steering Group members fail to participate in the respective meetings. Application of written procedures by Rules of Procedure approved by SG is an alternative chance but it is not only more complicated but also time-consuming.

Observers and Guests on SG meetings: the PACs from other Priority Areas of the Pillar Environment (PA4 & PA6), representatives of the European Commission (DG Regional Policy and DG Environment) and ICPDR and ISRBC are generally invited to participate in each Steering Group meetings. Though the SG meetings are not organised explicitly for NGOs, some of them such as WWF, REC and GWP representatives have participated in the meetings.

As for funding programmes, the PAC4 had direct discussion with relevant funding programmes during the last funding period together with PAC6 and the Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat

from Interreg IVB South East Europe Programme (JTS SEE) in Budapest on 11 October 2011. During this meeting the foreseen labelling procedure was presented to the JTS as well as a draft of a Letter of Recommendation to be issued for labelled projects. Intense discussion took place about the impact of a Letter of Recommendation issued by PACs which shall be submitted along with the main project application to the funding programme. As a result, it became clear that the SEE programme will not change their evaluation criteria within the current funding period. In fact, the Letter of Recommendation does not affect the project evaluation. Hence, the relationship between EUSDR and EU funding programmes needs to be rearranged and settled for the next funding period 2014 - 2020.

Website: the general EUSDR website is available on www.danube-region.eu, including specific sections for each PA (PA4 among them). In this section any visitor can read the invitations to SG meetings, minutes of SG meetings, LoR form, Rules of Procedure, Targets. All the drafts of the listed documents and project data sheets as well as LoRs issued until now are available only for SG members. The presentations of SG meetings are also available with restricted availability.

Stakeholder Conference: Due to the overlaps within Pillar2 and according to the general close cooperation among the Pillar 2 PACs, it has been agreed that the cooperation should also be visible to the outside. For this reason, it has been agreed among the Pillar 2 PACs that the Stakeholder Conference, which is foreseen for each PA of the EUSDR, shall be planned, organised and implemented jointly by the Pillar 2 PACs. A joint Stakeholder Conference has the advantage that the quantity of target groups is larger, as a more broad variety of topics will be focussed on. As there are many overlapping themes, the discussions and workshop sessions can cover the environment-related issues all at once and it is expected that this attracts more interested stakeholder as compared to strictly PA-focussed event. The joint Pillar 2 Stakeholder Conference was originally foreseen to take place in Budapest in June 2012 in order to link it with the Danube Day. Due to organisational restraints and after discussion among the PACs as well as with DG Regional Policy, it will actually take place in Budapest in September 2012. The target auditorium is environmental NGO's as well as policy makers from all administrative levels.

1.3. Funding

[Work done so far on identifying funding opportunities and sources: use of existing funds, new financial instruments, etc.. Please emphasise, when appropriate, the issues that are specific to your Priority Area]

Funding is crucial to make EUSDR PA4 operate. As it is generally known, the EUSDR started during the last two years of the current EU funding period 2007-2013. At present the most of the main funding programmes have prepared their last calls for projects, and in many cases it was too late for new project proposals and their developments. The limited funding opportunities definitely slow down the progress of the EUSDR implementation. Though there were some communications about funding in the Danube Region at national level, no systematic mechanisms to get access to these funding was revealed. As a consequence, the main attention was paid to the well known EU funding programmes to get funds for labelled projects. Two of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes, South East Europe Programme and Central and East European Programme were the most targeted ones for funding EUSDR PA4 related projects. Unfortunately, there is no

formal relationship at the moment between EUSDR project labelling and the CEE and SEE judgement for funding these projects.

For the topics and future projects of PA4 the other funding programmes, e.g. LIFE+ Programme and FP7 are only partly appropriate, mainly for funding of projects focusing on research activities.

The funding of high investment projects is possible through the EU Funds and EIB. The newly established Budapest Contact Point of EIB has started its operation in May 2012 and it aims exactly at the sector of high investment projects.

The funding opportunities for PA4 projects have to be identified project by project, depending on the type of project (research or investment, regional extent, etc). It can be clearly seen that funding of PA4 projects will be very limited until the next funding period. Due to this fact, it contradicts the demand of quick and visible results and “success”. Thanks to the phasing out the current funding period, some well prepared and essential projects may be refused. In such case, these project proposals can later be submitted again to another funding organisation for financing.

Despite these unfavourable conditions 8 Letters of Recommendation (LoR) were given by the PA4 SG to projects submitted to 2nd SG meeting held in Budapest on 07-08 November 2011. For continuous project managing (collecting, evaluating, LoR, etc.) the SG of PA4 evaluated 5 new project proposals at the 3rd SG meeting held in Bratislava on 04-05 June 2012.

Till the opening of major funding possibilities the following more cost effective preparation steps can be done:

- To prepare projects with high quality which have a really good chance for financing
- To spread all current and vital information about the operation of EUSDR to all potential future actors of project applications.
- Preparation activity of PACs concerning labelling of projects, networking, support of project preparations, participation in workshops, conferences, collaboration with funding programmes to include EUSDR LoR in their decision-making procedure and to put PA4’s interests in their calls for proposals.

The technical assistance granted to PACs by EU has a great emphasis ensuring the proper operation of PACs and their assistants, financing their participations in relevant meetings, workshops and public actions.

1.4. Next steps

[Work foreseen in the coming months]

The following steps are foreseen until end of 2012:

Pillar 2 PAC cooperation

- Continuous participation in the SG meetings and other programmes of Pillar2 PAs.
- Development of further common procedures, documents, datasheets/databases.

Projects

- Encouraging project leader to develop projects by informing relevant stakeholders and professional networks, organisations
- Continuous monitoring of labelled projects, presentations to highlight their contribution to the implementation of EUSDR

Public Relations

Since the development of the Danube Region is highly promoted by EU DG Regio (commonly with other DGs concerned in relevant PAs), it is very important to disseminate every new information and make the implementation process of EUSDR PA4 visible (transparent) to involve all segments of society.

Highlighted organizations and institutions from governmental and non-governmental sectors, universities, professional chambers and associations are the target groups. One of the main goals of PACs is to inform these target groups.

To achieve this objective the following events are important:

- Participation in DanubeNet for NGOs (DaNeT) conferences (meetings and venues, dates under reorganization)
- Preparation and implementation of the 1st Joint Pillar2 Stakeholder Conference and Workshop in Budapest on September 2012 (Since an agreement is done and a permission is given by DG Regio Danube Team to postpone it from June to September 2012, preparation of Pillar 2 event is under preparation).
- Support for the 1st Annual Stakeholder Conference in Regensburg.

SG meeting

- Preparation of the next 4th SG meeting to be held in Budapest on the last quarter of 2012.

2. PROGRESS BY TARGET

[Remark: Please link the actions of the Action Plan to the targets proposed. If this link is difficult to establish, please indicate what needs to be done/ what is planned to solve this. Please also link the projects to the actions.]

In the following section each one of the targets is aligned with the relevant actions. The highlighted target was defined by the SG at the 3rd SG meeting held in Bratislava on 04-05 June 2012.

2.1. **Highlighted target for PA4: Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan**

2.1.1. *Action 1: “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan”*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - An interim report will be made by the end of 2012 on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures (hereinafter referred as JPM) as it is included in the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan 2009.
 - The dialog between the funding sources and national governments will be facilitated, exploring the existing and potential funding of the actions to support of JPM of 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan in the first quarter of 2013
 - The Danube Basin Analysis Report will be developed and updated according to Article 5 of the EU Water Framework Directive in the first half of 2014
 - The 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan will be developed according to the EU Water Framework Directive by the end of 2015.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - PS-RED Emissions reduction of Priority Substances in the Danube Basin

2.1.2. *Action 8: “To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits”*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - An inventory of polluted sites will be made using the updated (in progress) of the ICPDR inventories on Accident Risk Sites (ARS), Contaminated Sites (CS) and the new Mining Sites (MS) by the end 2012.

- A list of necessary activities and research needs will be made including a decision on the compounds that are considered pollutants by the end of 2013.
- Implementation of projects by finding the funds for the implementation, design of projects, preparation of feasibility studies and draft project documentations for selected sites of the final list. Tendering, issuing public procurement, contracting, selecting of supervisors of work and contracting with them by the end of 2020.
- Knowledge transfer, spreading of lessons learned, projecting of know-how
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.1.3. Action 11: *“To promote measures to limit water abstraction”*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction making an inventory on good practices by the end of 2013.
 - Integration of the results from the good practices collection into the Risk assessment and 2nd DRBMP by the end of 2013 and 2015 (DRBMP).
 - Implementation of pilot projects and promotion.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.1.4. Action 9: *“To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Testing of the EU Guidance document on EQS Directive on the inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances by July 2012
 - Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances, concluding the results by June 2013.
 - Harmonization of data from UWWTD and PRTR reports on priority substances from urban discharges by September 2013.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.1.5. *Action 3: "To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR"*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Collection of information and data to supplement the DRBMP by the end 2015.
 - Implementation of Joint Danube Survey 3 to produce comparable and reliable information on water quality for the whole of the length of the Danube including the major tributaries on a short-term basis by 30/09/2014.
 - Joint Tisza Survey 1 for monitoring the Tisza River, by 30/09/2013.
 - Completion of the existing Danube GIS Database to make it INSPIRE compliant by 2015.
 - Establishment and completion of the SavaGIS, after 2015.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.1.6. *Action 12: "To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region"*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Danube Day 2012 held in 14 countries with more than 100 individual events with the coordination of national efforts to organise local events; international media relations by 29 June 2012 for Danube Day
 - Re-launch of the ICPDR Website in a more user-friendly form as a tool to communicate accessible and appealing information on RBM efforts by June 2012.
 - Organisation of the Danube Art Master as a basin-wide competition among schools and youth care facilities by June 2012
 - Information for the broad public on the progress report of the DRBMP implementation through an appropriate article in Danube Watch by assigning editor, identifying sources, finding illustrations for article by 15 December 2012
 - Information exchange by maintaining website and updating with relevant events on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - CC-Ware - Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources
 - GoodWater - Strategies for development the water management instruments on water protected areas
 - Protection and Sustainable Use of Water Resources from Alluvial Aquifers in the Sava River Basin

2.1.7. *Action 13: “To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Identification of responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply in each country, including authorities responsible for protection of the water sources by the end of 2012.
 - Development of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply by 2013.
 - Implementation of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply by 2014.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - FoWAP - Forests for drinking water protection

2.1.8. *Action 4: “To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Update of the urban wastewater treatment plants implementation in the DRB by September 2012
 - Collection of national information on the status of development of UWWTPs and make proposals on upgrading technology of UWWTPs by the end of 2012.
 - Revision and update of the ICPDR database on investments by the end of 2013.
 - Facilitate dialogue among donors and IFTs on financing options of the urban wastewater treatment plants in the DRB and mobilization of financing of municipal investments through a workshop by September 2012.
 - To promote investments to foster penetration, where necessary, of improved UWWT technology based on research or already proved “state of the art” technologies by 2015.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Blue-Danube - Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment

2.2. Target: Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s by 2020.

2.2.1. *Action 6: “To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Strengthen the cooperation between agriculture and water authorities by holding workshops on agriculture and water management by November 2012.
 - Implementation of Action plan by designing and implementing the projects, cooperation of neighbouring countries and disseminating lessons learned according to Action plan developed.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.2.2. *Action 7: “To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012 updating of the current status of countries preparation of the P-free detergent ban and investigate options for extending the P and its compounds limitation as well to dishwasher detergents by the end of 2012.
 - Calculation of scenarios with MONERIS for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents and results of anticipated nutrients reduction effects by the end of 2013.
 - Facilitation of the implementation of JPM through enhanced stakeholders’ (AISE and representatives of detergent industry) dialogue.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.2.3. *Action 5: “To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Survey of the situation on buffer zones, assessment of the situation in the Danube basin with by the end of 2012.
 - Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment waste in small rural settlements with, questionnaires, assessment on the legislative background by the end of 2012.

- Analyses of solid waste and wastewater disposals and promotion of best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste and wastewater treatment for small settlements by the end of 2012.
- Preparation for the evaluation of different solutions of establishing buffer, inventory on good practices of buffer zones related agriculture and removing of illegal solid waste disposals by June 2014.
- Implementation of pilot projects on nutrient buffer zones by 2015.
- Promotion of the implementation of good practices, dissemination in each country, integration to national developing programmes, integration of results to RBMPs at Danube region level, sub-basins and national levels by the end of 2015 and continuously.
- Implementation of pilot projects and promotion of site-specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements by 2013, generation of projects to apply the most suitable technical solutions to small regions and/or settlements by 2015.
- List of projects associated with the action (Currently, by the end of June 2012, there is no project planned or under implementation associated with this action.).

2.3. Target: Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015.

2.3.1. Action 14: “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Development of specific project regarding the improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region, in progress, waiting for approval.
 - Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea coordinating with the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission and its Advisory by 30 November 2013.
 - Development of a project proposal concerning Black Sea marine environment protection including the planning of fishery, energy and transport activities by 30 March 2013.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - ICZM - Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region

2.4. Target: Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species.

2.4.1. *Action 10: “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”.*

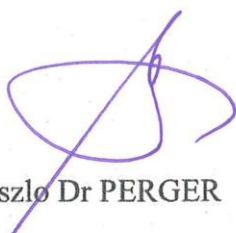
- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Revision and update of the ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin by the end 2012.
 - Application of the revised and updated ecological prioritisation approach for 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan by the end 2015.
 - Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams
 - Assessment project for the restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube and study on the improvement of longitudinal continuity of rivers with operational changes in existing installations by the end of 2014.
 - Examination of the biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin, integration of EU environmental directives in SRB by June 2014.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Danube Sediment Management – Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin

2.5. Target: Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins.

2.5.1. *Action 2: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”.*

- Progress in the implementation of the action:
 - Strengthening of cooperation, building partnership in the Tisza River Basin and implementation of the 1st ITRBM Plan by the end of 2012.
 - Development of the 2nd Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan based on the strengthened cooperation in the Tisza River Basin by the end of 2015.
 - Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report, including pressures and impacts, in cooperation with Moldova and Ukraine by 2013, Danube Delta Management Plan by 2015.
 - Implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan by 2014 and development of the Prut River Basin Management Plan by 2015. Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Analysis (characterization report) by 2015, development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan by 2017.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - SEWABIS - Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin

- ProTisza - Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin
- SEE River - Sustainable Integrated Management Of International River Corridors In SEE Countries
- Hydrology Study for the Sava River Basin
- Towards Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase (under implementation)



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25 June 2012

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Roadmaps to implement each action

Annex 2: Projects approved by the Steering Group

ROADMAPS TO IMPLEMENT EACH ACTION

Action 1: “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan”.

Action - “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan” - in the field of water management, cooperation between Danube countries is already well advanced mainly through the inter-governmental work which takes place under the umbrella of ICPDR and ISRBC. This Action Plan fully supports all the measures which have been agreed by the countries in the framework of their endorsement of the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) and its accompanying Joint Programme of Measures. Therefore the Danube Declaration adopted by the Ministers of Environment on 16 February 2010 entitled "Danube Basin: Shared waters – Joint responsibilities" is an integral part of this EUSDR Action Plan and is seen as the key information source for the identification, prioritisation and financial support of agreed measures in the countries of the Danube Region.

Milestone n°1: Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures

Work: Development of an interim report, according to the EU Water Framework Directive, on the implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures as included in the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan 2009. In this interim report should be presented responsibilities of all countries in effective implementation of JPM (“shared waters – joint responsibilities”).

Output: Overview on status of measures implementation

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2012

Milestone n°2: Facilitation of financial support of JPM of 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Work: Facilitate the dialog between the funding sources and national governments, explore existing and potential funding of the actions needed and mobilize funding to cover remaining financing needs, based of the assessment of JPM achievements.

Output: JPM workshop report

Responsible: EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR

Deadline: first quarter of 2013

Milestone n°3: Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report

Work: Development and update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report according to Article 5 of the EU Water Framework Directive

Output: Updated information inter alia on pressures, impacts, risk assessment

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: first half of 2014

Milestone n°4: 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Work: Development of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan according to the EU Water Framework Directive

Output: Information inter alia on water status in the Danube River Basin and jointly agreed Programme of Measures

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2015

Action 2: *“To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”*.

Action - “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”. The Danube has a number of important, international tributaries. For those, it is particularly important to develop specific river basin management plans (Tisza, Sava and Prut rivers). Where institutions are already established (e.g. the Sava Commission, Tisza Group), cooperation and exchange of information should be strengthened. Where this is not sufficiently the case (e.g. Prut), the process should be initiated or promoted. This also applies to necessary work in the Danube Delta where joint management agreements are necessary.

→ *Example of project - “To complete and adopt Danube Tributaries’ River Basin Management Plans” – this project is currently on-going for the rivers Tisza and Sava. For the Tisza, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine and Serbia are currently cooperating on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 and coordinated by the Tisza Group established in the framework of the ICPDR. The first draft of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan is under public consultation and should be finalised by the end of 2010. As regards the Sava, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia have signed a Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and established the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC). A full River Basin Management Plan is under preparation, with financial support from the European Commission, and should be completed by the end of 2011 (Lead : relevant river management body; Deadline : end 2011)*

→ *Example of project - “To complete and adopt a Management Plan for the Danube Delta” – the delta is one of the sub-basins identified within the wider Danube area. Much still needs to be done to develop joint data collection, joint research and joint initiatives in terms of delta water management. Despite complex socio-economic and political issues affecting the area, the three countries concerned (Romania, Moldova and Ukraine) have started cooperating more closely, with the support of the ICPDR. A full management plan should be prepared and agreed, possibly with the support of a project to be funded by the ENPI CBC Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova. (Lead: Romania, Ukraine and Moldova)*

Milestone n°1: Strengthening of cooperation in the Tisza River Basin and implementation of the 1st ITRBM Plan

Work: Tisza River Basin wide cooperation according to the MoU ‘Strengthening of Tisza River Basin cooperation Towards the implementation of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan supporting the sustainable development of the region’ signed by ministers of the countries of the Tisza River Basin on 11th April 2011 in Uzhgorod (UA) in the frame of the Tisza Ministerial meeting.

Output: Interim Report on the Implementation of the ITRBM Plan

Responsible: UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)

Deadline: End 2012

Project: Case studies on Tisza sub-basin

Output: Tisza case study on climate change, Tisza case study on Agriculture and water management

Status of the project: ongoing

Funding: EU Grant

Responsible: ICPDR Tisza Group (HU, RO, RS, SK, UA)

Deadline: End 2012

Project: ProTisza (Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin)

Output: To build a lasting partnership between riparian countries by increasing knowledge and applying and coordinating expertise on integrated water management approach across the Tisza River Basin. The project will (i) facilitate and strengthen institutional and technical cooperation between the five Tisza countries, (ii) support implementation of the ITRMP and other relevant initiatives, (iii) support development of documents for future tendering procedures and (iv) increase absorption capacities for using EU available funding opportunities.

Status of the project: planned project (project proposal submitted in the frame of the 4th Call of the SEE Programme)

Funding: EU

Responsible/Lead organisation: REC

Deadline: 2014

Project: Early warning water quality monitoring system on transboundary rivers

Output: The project provides a new security for transboundary rivers in case of any kind of accident or not detectable contamination not only for downstream countries. For upstream countries information can be obtained on quality of leaving water courses as proof.

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EU (preferably ETE/CBC project)

Responsible/Lead organisation: Water Boards on sub-region

Deadline: 2020

Milestone n°2: Development of the 2nd ITRBM Plan

Work: Development of the 2nd Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan according to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The updated Plan will be developed based on the strengthened cooperation in the Tisza River Basin (output Milestone n°1).

Output: Updated information inter alia on Tisza relevant pressures, water status and an updated and jointly agreed Programme of Measures

Responsible: HU, RO, RS, SK, UA

Deadline: End 2015

Milestone n°3: Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report

Project: Development of a Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report between the three countries Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, based on the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive –

Output: Updated information inter alia on pressures, impacts, risk assessment and improved harmonisation of monitoring activities through accomplishment of a Joint Danube Delta Survey

Status of the project: project ongoing

Funding: Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

Responsible: MD, RO, UA, ICPDR

Deadline: 2013

Milestone n°4: Danube Delta Management Plan

Project: Towards integrated river basin management and a joint monitoring system in the Danube Delta sub-basin, Romania-Ukraine-Moldova.

Output: Harmonised standards of and common approaches to water policy; Harmonisation and modernisation of the RO, UA and MD systems of environmental monitoring; Development of a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta sub-basin; Public access to information about the state of the environment and to encourage public participation in decision making related to the environment.

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: 2nd call of the ENPI CBC Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova

Responsible: RO, MD, UA

Deadline: 2015

Milestone n°5: Prut Management Plan

Project: The Development of the Prut River Basin Management Plan

Output: River Basin Management Plan for the Prut sub-basin based on WFD requirements.

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: Joint Operational Programme RO, UA, MD (concept note was handed in by 30 January 2012; Applicant: Prut River Basin Administration - Romania)

Responsible: MD, RO, UA

Deadline: 2015

Milestone n°6: Implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

Work: The 1st Sava RBM is expected to be adopted in December 2012. The Parties to the FASRB will implement measures as agreed upon Programme of Measures (PoM). ISRBC will assist in facilitation of the process on the basin level towards the IFIs for allocating funds for implementation of measures. The reporting will be coordinated by the ISRBC on the basis of information submitted by the Parties.

Output: Report on implementation of PoM

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: End of 2014

Milestone n°7: Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis

Work: Development of 2nd Sava River Basin Analysis (characterization report) according to Article 5 of the EU WFD.

Output: 2nd Sava River Basin Analysis

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: 2015

Milestone n°8: Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan

Work: Development of updated Sava River Basin Management Plan according to the requirements of the EU WFD.

Output: 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: 2017

Action 3: “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”.

Action - “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”, activities such as the Transnational Monitoring Network, the Danube Joint Surveys or the GIS (Geographic Information System) databases provide essential information necessary to identify key problems and take action in order to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Such tools need to comply to the measures, rights and obligations of the INSPIRE directive⁴⁵, be further supported by the countries involved and developed to meet new challenges and questions such as those connected to climate change scenarios or the migration of fish. There should be improvement in the standardisation of sampling and analysing methods and clear commitments to meet sampling and analysing targets.

→ Example of project - “To carry out the next Joint Danube Survey by 2013 and to complete the development of the existing Danube GIS Database”. In the field of water management, collecting and analysing data, further harmonization of other national monitoring and assessment methods, is of the utmost importance. To this effect, the existing work already completed needs to be further developed and monitoring of water quality needs to be a permanent feature. As far as the GIS system is concerned, it will be critical to make it compatible with the WISE system developed by the EU and to make results available to other key actors. (Lead: ICPDR; Deadline : 2013)

→ Example of project - “To establish and complete the Sava GIS” - the Sava GIS Strategy was adopted by the ISRBC in 2008. The main aim of the Sava GIS Strategy is to establish an effective and efficient (geo) information system and spatial data infrastructure to support a wide range of water management planning activities. In December 2009, a grant was received from the European Commission to support the ISRBC in preparing and implementing its river management plan. In this way, collected national data sets will be refined and verified and initial activities in the establishment of the Sava GeoPortal core functionalities will be performed. (Lead: ISRBC; Deadline : December 2013)

Milestone n°1: ICPDR databases

Work: Collection of information and data to supplement the DRBMP gaps and provide support for the DRPC implementation at the national level

Output: databases related to the A(ccidental)R(isk)S(ites) inventories, C(ontaminated)S(ites) inventory, M(ining)S(ites) inventory, emission discharges inventories, hazardous substances and TNMN

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: end 2015

Project 1: Development of databases on inventories related to ARS, CS and MS

Output: databases on inventories related to ARS, CS and MS

Status of the project: ongoing project

Funding: EU, C(ontracting) P(artie)s

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: end 2014

Project 2: Further development of TNMN database

Output: improved TNMN database

Status of the project: ongoing project

Funding: EU, CPs

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: end 2015

Projects 3: Development of database on inventories on H(azardous)S(ubstances)

Output: Emission inventories on HS

Status of the project: ongoing project

Funding: EU, CPs

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: end 2014

Milestone n°2: Joint Danube Survey 3

Work: The general objective of the JDS3 is to undertake an international longitudinal survey producing comparable and reliable information on water quality for the whole of the length of the Danube including the major tributaries on a short-term basis. The outcomes of the JDS3 should cover the information gaps as necessary for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Output: Expedition surveys for collecting samples, Technical & Public Report of the JDS3 and the database.

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 30/09/2014

Project 1: Monitoring survey on the Danube

Output: Samples collected

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: ICPDR Contracting Parties, SEE Programme, donors

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 30/09/2013

Project 2: Preparation of the JDS3 reports

Output: Monitoring data collected, Technical & Public Report prepared

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: ICPDR Contracting Parties, donors

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 30/09/2014

Milestone n°3: Joint Tisza Survey 1

Project 1: Monitoring survey on the Tisza River

Output: Samples collected

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: ICPDR Contracting Parties (partly), SEE Programme, donors

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 30/09/2013

Project 2: Preparation of the JTS1 reports

Output: Monitoring data collected, Technical & Public Report prepared

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: ICPDR Contracting Parties (partly), SEE Programme, donors

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 30/09/2014

Project 3: Survey and assessment of hydro-ecology of the Tisza River

Output: Monitoring data collected, Technical & Public Report prepared

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EU

Responsible: University of Debrecen HU, research institutions of UA, SK, RO, RS and AT, HR as partners

Deadline: 2015

Milestone n°4: INSPIRE compliant DanubeGIS

Work: Completion of the existing Danube GIS Database complying with INSPIRE Directive

Output: Updated Danube GIS Database

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 2015

Step 1: Refinement of system concept and preparation of implementation plan

Output: System concept and implementation plan

Funding: ICPDR

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 2012

Step 2: Development of tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data

Output: Tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data

Funding: ICPDR, EU

Responsible: ICPDR IMGIS EG

Deadline: 2015

Milestone n°5: Establishment and completion of the SavaGIS

Work: Development of Sava GIS database

Output: Sava GIS database

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: after 2015

Step 1: First implementation phase (ongoing): Setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities.

Output: First implementation phase: Sava GeoPortal, tools, services and products in line with the preparation of the Sava River Basin management Plan.

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: ongoing - 2012

Step 2: Second implementation phase: Development of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services as well as basic application and/or decision support systems.

Output: Second implementation phase: Report services - query access and generating report/content by using predefined set of templates; Advanced Mapping Service; Content Management System Catalogue Service.

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: 2015

Step 3: Third implementation phase: Extension of common data model to accommodate additional themes and datasets and the establishment of the most advanced service components

Output: Third implementation phase: Dynamic reporting and mapping, On-line monitoring and observing, Advanced decision support systems, Various assessments (e.g. assessing compliance to various directives), Comparisons analysis across Sava River Basin.

Responsible: ISRBC

Deadline: after 2015

Action 4: ***“To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”.***

Action - ***“To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”***, Requirements under EU environmental legislation need to be fully met and EU funding possibilities need to be used effectively in order to ensure full primary, secondary and tertiary treatment as foreseen in EU legislation. In addition, the Danube countries which are not members of the EU are also being urged to speed up their investments in WWTP, as they pledged to do when adopting the DRBMP at the end of 2009. This need is particularly acute in large agglomerations such as the city of Belgrade. A full list of the facilities needed is available from ICPDR
→ Example of project - ***“To implement the Blue Danube cooperation project to exchange technologies, experience and personnel in the field of urban waste water treatment”***. The project initially involves the Danube cities of Ulm and Vidin and looks in particular at new technologies aimed at removing waste from pharmaceutical products. (Lead : University of Ulm; Deadline : 2014)

Milestone n°1: Updating for upgrading of UWWT

Work: Update of the urban wastewater treatment plants implementation in the DRB as an input into 2012 Implementation Report on JPM
Output: Input into 2012 WFD Implementation Report
Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: Sept 2012

Step 1: Information on national level of UWWTPs

Output: Collection of national information on the status of achieving UWWTP and make proposals on upgrading technology of UWWT Plants if needed to implement objectives committed in the 1st DRBMP
Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: end 2012

Step 2: Revision and update of the ICPDR database on investments

Output: Update of databases related to the UWWT plants in the DRB
Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: end 2013

Milestone n°2: Facilitate of funding seeking

Work: Facilitate dialogue among donors and IFTs on financing options of the urban wastewater treatment plants in the DRB
Output: Financing options available, Assistance related to technical and funding gaps available
Funding: MS, EIB BDCP
Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: Sept 2012
Step 1: Workshop for financing
Output: Mobilization of financing of municipal investments through a workshop
Funding: MS, EIB BDCP
Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: Sept 2012

Milestone n°3: Technology developments

Work: To promote investments to foster penetration, where necessary, of improved UWWT technology based on research or already proved “state of the art” technologies.

Output: Improving of UWWT technologies and “know-how” transfer in the Danube Region

Funding: MS, EIB BDCP

Responsible: EUSDR Countries,

Deadline: 2015

Project 1: Membrane technology for specific contamination

Output: New technology transfer to UWWTPs for non-eligible purification level or specific contamination

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EIB BDCP

Responsible: Project leader(s)

Deadline: 2015

Project 2: Blue Danube – “Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment”

Output: Applied research, development and technology transfer in the general field of micro and nanotechnology.

Status of the project: submitted project

Funding: LIFE+

Responsible: Germany (Ulm), Bulgaria (Vidin)

Deadline: 2015

Action 5: “To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements”.

Action – This action is composed dual objectives to retain nutrients load.

The first is aiming to reduce pollution of rivers from diffuse sources originated from very direct close and non suitable agricultural practice to water courses and /or standing waters (lakes). Buffer zones/strips made by condition considered can efficiently retain nutrients and pesticides coming from agricultural lands. They can work as nutrient barriers and consumer (e.g. such as forest’ strip).

Secondly, in the case of small rural settlements the local and non-eligible or illegal solid waste and /or waste water disposals can increase the pollutant load to waters, too (water courses using as ‘landfill’). Alternatives of WWTPs as unique and nature-friendly, local treatment solutions should be applied wherever they are cost-effective and acceptable from sanitary point of view.

Milestone n°1. Survey of the situation on buffer zones

Work: Assessment of the situation in the Danube basin based on separate questionnaires regarding existing buffer zones/strips and their efficiency, solid Each country will give an assessment on the

- legislative background (focusing on supplementary measures, but in non EU MS including the compliance with EU legislation, too),
- current subsidy system (if any),
- progress in implementation of existing measures (present status + planned changes in the legal and financing system + already approved projects, important deadlines).

Answers on the questionnaires will be summarised and conclusions will be drawn for setting up preparatory projects and recommendations.

Output: Survey

Responsible: HU, ICPDR , PA4

Deadline: End of 2012.

Milestone n°2. Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment waste in small rural settlements

Work: Assessment of the situation in the Danube basin based on separate questionnaires regarding solid waste and wastewater disposals in small rural settlements. Each country will give an assessment on the

- legislative background (focusing on supplementary measures, but in non EU MS including the compliance with EU legislation, too),
- current subsidy system (if any),
- progress in implementation of existing measures (present status + planned changes in the legal and financing system + already approved projects, important deadlines).

Answers on the questionnaires will be summarised and conclusions will be drawn for setting up preparatory projects and recommendations.

Output: Survey

Responsible: HU, ICPDR,PA4

Deadline: End of 2012.

Milestone n°3: Promoting best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste and wastewater treatment for small settlements

Work 1: Analyses of solid waste and wastewater disposals completion of the summary paper based on outputs of **milestone no. 2** with available guidance of good practices applied by Danube region countries.

Output 1: Assessment, report and inventory on local waste disposals and good practices applied by countries

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2012

Work 2 Proposal for a supplementary, eco-friendly and site-specific waste water treatment units for less than 2000 PE small settlements where UWWTPs are financially feasible.

Output 2: Scenario(s) for local and site-specific solutions of waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements within the Danube region

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2012

Work 3 Preparatory paper for evaluating different solutions of establishing buffer zones (width of zone, only buffering pollutants or combined/harmonised with ecological rehabilitation and/or flood protection, limited agriculture and/or ecosystem services). Based on case studies, effectiveness in retention of pollutants (eligibility of solid waste disposals and their legalities), feasibility and costs will be considered in the evaluation process.

Output: Exchange of experiences. Inventory on good practices of buffer zones related agriculture and removing of illegal solid waste disposals

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: June 2014

Milestone n°4: Implementation of pilot projects on nutrient buffer zones

Work 1 Projects generation and implementation

Output: Improved efficiency of the implementation. This activity will provide the appropriate small scale implementation: e.g. limited agricultural activity

Responsible: Danube region countries

Deadline: 2015

Work 2: Programme planning on common methodology and applying solution of buffer zones engineering to use it jointly in the Danube region countries integrating (if any) adjacent floodplain restoration works as ecological services combined with mitigation of nutrient contamination into surface waters.

Output: Common tools for improving surface water quality.

Responsible: Danube region countries

Deadline: 2015

Funding: EU

Milestone n°5: Promotion of the implementation of good practices

Work: Best practices and recommendations for policy makers based on the results of **milestone no. 3**. Output and dissemination in each country, integration to national developing programmes and providing adequate financing (technical assistance/subsidy contract to farmers modifying techniques, application of GAP).

Integrate results to RBMPs at Danube region level, sub-basins and national levels. Non EU members are also need to speed up their activities in this field. This work aims at strengthening the implementation in the period 2014-2020, however projects can be launched by now.

Output: Report on best practices and recommendations
Responsible: ICPDR, PA4
Deadline: end of 2015 and continuously

Milestone n°6: Implementation pilot projects and promotion of site-specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements

Work: To comply with water quality objectives of WFD in the Danube region in the field of decreasing of nutrient levels in waters by an economic and eco-friendly way by WWT in small settlements.

Phase 1: Programme proposal for technical and financing solutions for the Danube region countries reflecting their different circumstances of topography (hydrology), spatial and settlements planning, economy, financing possibilities and experiences of this special engineering.

Output: Base documents for generation of projects relevant for small settlements waste water treatment
Responsible: PA4, Danube region countries
Deadline: 2013

Phase 2: Projects generation based on documents focusing on know-how exchange (BAT) and applying the most suitable technical solutions to small regions and/or settlements concerned.

Output: Projects can be submitted to IFIs. Application of the most suitable technical solutions concerned small regions and/or settlements.
Responsible: Project leaders
Deadline: 2015

Action 6: *To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution*

Action - "To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution". It is vital that key stakeholders from environment and agriculture (ministries but also farmers' associations and civil society) cooperate in order to jointly re-enforce concrete measures in reducing pollution from fertilisers and manure, using instruments such as Best Agricultural Practices and Green Farming. This work should expand to comply with the Nitrates Directive and lead to the full implementation in the region of a holistic/overarching plan to reduce nutrients discharge. In Member States, it can be supported by the 1st and 2nd pillars of the Common Agricultural Policy where such interventions already exist.

Milestone 1: Strengthen the cooperation between agriculture and water authorities agriculture

Work: Workshop on agriculture and water management with main goal to develop an Action plan to facilitate WFD objectives adjusted to the current discussion at the EU level to achieve WFD objectives

Output: Background doc (SK), Action plan, Workshop report

Responsible: SK, ICPDR

Deadline: November 2012

Milestone 2: Implementation of Action plan

Work: Designing and implementation of projects, cooperation of neighboring countries and disseminating lessons learned according to Action plan developed.

Output: Projects, workshops, activities identified in Action plan

Responsible: Project leaders, Danube countries

Deadline: continuous

Action 7: *“To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”*.

Action - *“To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”*. This key action is seen as a very cost effective pollution control initiative which can quickly and effectively reduce the nutrient pollution in the Danube region.

Milestone n°1: Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012

Work: Update of the current status of countries preparation of the P-free detergent ban and investigate options for extending the P and its compounds limitation as well to dishwasher detergents, based on Regulation (EU) 259/2012.

Output: Overview report

Responsible: ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2012

Milestone n°2: Scenarios calculation for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents

Work: Update of the scenarios calculation with MONERIS

Output 1: Results of anticipated nutrients reduction effects and presentation of management options

Responsible: ICPDR PM EG

Deadline: End of 2013

Output 2: New model calculations of the anticipated P and its compounds reduction due to P - free detergent ban on providing evidence for the phosphates and its compounds limitation in dishwashers detergents

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End of 2013

Milestone n°3: Facilitate implementation of JPM trough enhanced stakeholders' dialogue

Work: Dialogue with AISE and representatives of detergent industry and relevant stakeholders (such as WWF and others) establish future needed steps

Output: Clarity on the needed steps and intervention for DRB countries and the ICPDR

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: ongoing

Action 8: *To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures*

Action - "To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits"- Important to invest in research and innovation to reduce risks connected with the production of hazardous substances and their disposal, which can have disastrous consequences on the quality of ground and surface waters.

Milestone 1: Inventory of polluted sites

Work: Make use of the ongoing update of the ICPDR inventories on Accident Risk Sites (ARS), contaminated Sites (CS) and the new mining Sites (MS).

Output: first draft of inventories ARS, CS and MS

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: end 2012

Milestone 2: List of activities and research needs

Work 1: To agree on the necessary activities to protect water from pollution, e.g. decision on the compounds that are considered pollutants and on what can be done about the contaminated sites and sources in operation. The sites where further investigation is needed will be included in the implementation projects.

Output: List of sites that will be involved in EU SDR projects

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End of 2013

Milestone 3: Implementation of projects

Work: To find the funds for the implementation of the projects. Each country have to find the necessary sources for the implementation of the already prepared projects. Design of projects: preparation of feasibility studies and draft project documentations for selected sites of the final list. Tender procedure of already prepared projects. Issuing public procurement tenders, selecting the winner, contracting. Selecting of supervisors of work and contracting with them. Projects implementation.

Outputs: Cleaned sites, reduced loads to the environment, improved water quality

Responsible: Danube region countries, companies, to be defined as appropriate

Funding: EU, national budgets/funds for remediation, IFIs

Deadline: End of 2020

Milestone 4: Knowledge transfer

Work: Spreading of lessons learned, projecting of know-how (e.g. TWINNING projects) in site cleaning on former contaminated areas given illegal, hazardous substances deposits.

Responsible: Danube region countries

Funding: EU

Deadline: continuous

Action 9: ***“To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”.***

Action - ***“To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”*** and which are identified under REACH as substances of very high concern, through the preparation of Annex XV dossiers for identification of those substances and their with a view to their eventual inclusion in Annex XIV of REACH.

Milestone n°1: Testing of the EU Guidance document on EQS Directive

Work: Participate in the testing of the EU Guidance document on the inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances in support of EQS Directive implementation

Output: Testing report

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: July 2012

Project: Testing of the Guidance

Output: Pilot study – 2 phases, for further use in the preparation of national inventories

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EU

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: Dec 2012

Milestone n°2: Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances

Work: Prepare for concluding of first ICPDR Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances in support of EQS Directive implementation.

Output: Templates preparation, Collection of national information, interpretation of results, Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances in support of EQS Directive implementation.

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: June 2013

Project: Emissions reduction of priority substances in the Danube Basin (PS – RED)

Output: Harmonized methodology to conclude basin wide inventories of PS in a comparable and coordinated way; basin wide inventory of emissions, discharges and losses; possibility to use the inventory as the basis for pollution reduction actions to achieve comparable results.

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EU

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: December 2013

Milestone n°3: Harmonization of data

Work: Harmonise use of data from UWWTD and PRTR reporting on priority substances from urban discharges to ensure a joint report and provide first estimates of priority substances discharges by the end of 2013

Output: Reporting sheets available and input into Annex XIV of REACH

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: Sept 2013

Project: Contribution to REACH report

Output: Interface Emission inventory on hazardous substances and reporting on REACH

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: EU

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2013

Action 10: ***“To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”.***

Action - “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”. ICPDR has identified 900 spots where water flows are discontinued to the point of preventing fish migration. In the current DRBMP it is agreed that 108 migration aids will be built, which is a good start but which needs to be expanded in the coming years. It is also vital to implement fully the jointly agreed Sturgeon Action Plan and to invest into further research on fish migration routes and behaviour.

→ Example of project - “To make the feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gates”. The sturgeon and other fish population are decreasing because of the existence of big dams that prevent the fish migrating and thus reproducing. One of the biggest obstacles is the Iron Gate hydroelectric dam between Romania and Serbia. A feasibility study on the possibilities of fish migration through the dam should be carried out. (Lead: Romania and Serbia; Deadline: end 2012)

→ Example of project - “To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube”. Trans-boundary solutions need to be found for the problem of riverbed incision and the lack of sediment. Hydropower dams and dredging activities on the Danube cause serious problems in the balance of the sediment of the river system, which drives the deepening of the riverbed on free flowing river sections. Co-ordination within the framework of the Strategy will help ensure identification and implementation of best solutions. This is also an important project in relation to flood prevention.

→ Example of project - “To examine biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin” - The project should focus mainly on integration of EU environmental directives in Sava river countries. A system for efficient exchange of data will be established and know-how transfer between project partners and other relevant institutions in the Sava River Basin will be provided. The ecological status of the Sava River Basin will be evaluated on the basis of data collected. Outcomes of the project will serve as the basis for application of the EU directives and sustainable water management activities which are crucial for the Sava River Basin Management Plan, as well as the management of natural assets and protected areas. (Lead: ISRBC, Deadline: 2014)

Milestone n°1: Revision and update of the ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin

Work 1: Revision and update of methodology with support from EU Grant

Output 1: Updated methodology

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2012

Work 2: Application of new methodology with updated data from 2013 data collection

Output 2: Revised and updated ecological prioritisation approach

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: End 2013

Milestone n°2: Application of the approach for 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Work: Application of revised and updated ecological prioritisation approach as support in decision on Programme of Measures of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan

Output: Agreed measures on addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions

Responsible: ICPDR
Deadline: End 2015

Milestone n°3: Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams

Project: Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams

Output: Assessment on technical possibilities for restoring continuity and related costs

Status of the project: planned project

Funding: Still open; Discussions with FAO are ongoing but other possible financing mechanisms have to be investigated

Responsible: Romania and Serbia with support from ICPDR

Deadline: As soon as possible

Milestone n°4: To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube

Project: Danube Sediment Management - Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin

Output: Transparent harmonised database on sediments, sediment balance, pressures and impacts analysis, proposals for solutions for improving sediment transport and establishing a dynamic balance in the Danube River Basin

Status of the project: submitted project

Funding: the 4th call of the SEE Programme

Responsible: Lead Partner - Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Other partners from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia

Deadline: end of 2014

Milestone n°5: Study on the improvement of longitudinal continuity of rivers with operational changes in existing installations and low cost improvements in the light of the specific needs of various migratory fish species and taxa (coordination with PA6)

Output: Study on specific needs and operational regimes for various installations. Best practices and recommendations.

Responsible: HU, Danube region countries

Deadline: 2014

Milestone n°6: Examination of the biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin

Project: Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin - SEWABIS

The project will focus on integration of EU environmental directives in SRB. A system for efficient exchange of data will be established and the ecological status of the Sava River Basin will be evaluated on the basis of data collected.

Outputs: Common sampling strategies, protocols and methodologies developed; Status of biological diversity of taxa and habitats provided; Ecological and chemical status assessed.

Status of the project: submitted project

Responsible: Lead Partner: Jozef Stefan Institute (SI), Other Partners from SI, SK, BA, HR and RS

Funding: The project proposal has been submitted to TCP SEE

Deadline: June 2014

Action 11: *“To promote measures to limit water abstraction”*.

Action - *“To promote measures to limit water abstraction”*- As there is competition for water for various purposes (drinking water, irrigation, industry, energy) and in view of possible reduced levels of water available in the future, actions should be developed to establish a water abstraction management concept with special attention to water demand management, e.g. the promotion of efficient irrigation techniques in agriculture, the reduction of water usage in industry and the fostering of a water-saving culture, as per the European Commission's Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts in the EU.

Milestone n°1: Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction

Work: Collection of good practices dealt or dealing with management of water shortages and /or water demand issues (e.g. limiting water abstraction due to harmful climate change effect, ecological water needs, etc.).

Output: Inventory on good practices

Responsible: HU with coordination of PA5 and ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2013

Milestone n°2: Integration of the results from the good practices collection into the Risk assessment and 2nd DRBMP

Work: Integration of the results from the good practices collection into the Risk assessment and 2nd DRBMP

Output: input into analytical report

Responsible: HU with coordination of PA5 and ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2013 and 2015 (DRBMP)

Milestone n°3: Pilot projects and promotion

Work: Implement pilot project and promote achieved results

Output: projects and promotion activities

Responsible: project leaders

Deadline: continuous

Action 12: *“To strengthen general awareness and facilities exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region”.*

Action - *“To strengthen general awareness and facilities exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region” - It is very important that the population at large, and in particular young people, are aware of the challenges facing the region in terms of water quality and management. Existing initiatives such as Danube Day or the Danube Box should be built upon and expanded.*

Milestone n°1: Danube Day 2012 held in 14 countries with more than 100 individual events.

Work: Coordination of national efforts to organise local events; international media relations; support of national organisers with posters and give-away items; production of review diaries to present Danube Day.

Output: Posters; give-away items; reviews published online and in diary; a minimum of 100 events in all 14 countries of the Danube region

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: 29 June 2012 for Danube Day; 30 November 2012 for review diary

Milestone n°2: Re-launch of the ICPDR Website as a tool to communicate accessible and appealing information on RBM efforts of the ICPDR as a contributing organization in implementation of some PAs of EUSDR. Link to the Danube region website.

Work: Coordination of contractors responsible for the development of the more user-friendly website (for laic users as well); continuous publication of contents and new information relevant for water management in the Danube River Basin extending to EUSDR countries

Output: New website at www.icpdr.org

Responsible: ICPDR and PA4

Deadline: June 2012 for re-launch of the ICPDR website
End of 2012 for including and linking EUSDR items

Milestone n°3: Organisation of the Danube Art Master as a basin-wide competition among schools and youth care facilities

Work: Coordination of national experts and international organiser; supply with awards/prizes

Output: 10 national winners identified in each of the 14 EUSDR countries

Responsible: ICPDR

Deadline: June 2012

Milestone n°4: Information for the broad public on the progress report of the DRBMP implementation through an appropriate article in Danube Watch

Work: Assigning editor, identifying sources, finding illustrations for article; publication of Danube Watch Article with edition of at least 7000 copies

Output: Article of at least 2 pages in Danube Watch Magazine

Responsible: ICPDR and PA4

Deadline: 15 December 2012

Milestone n°5: Information exchange on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness

Work: Website maintaining and updating with relevant events (project catalogue, outputs, events, project news, etc.)

Output: Living websites (www.danube-region.eu and www.icpdr.org) on water quality relevant news in EUSDR region

Responsible: ICPDR and PA4

Deadline: continuous

Action 13: *“To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply.”*

Action - *“To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply”*. Drinking water supply is a challenging issue in the region, and there are great disparities between the existing infrastructures, with some networks suffering from aboveaverage leakage rates and below-average quality assurance levels. This could be improved by fostering intense cooperation between drinking water suppliers. Ways in which to implement the cost recovery principle and general water pricing issues should be discussed and experience exchanged.

Milestone 1: Identify responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply

Work: Each country identifies **responsible authorities and enterprises** for drinking water supply along its whole “path” from the source to the user, including authorities responsible for protection of the water sources.

Output: List of responsible actors, database

Responsible: SK, ICPDR

Deadline: End of 2012

Milestone 2: Develop joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply

Work: Development of joint actions (workshop/conference). Share of information about methods, guidelines concerning security of drinking water supply on different levels, etc.

Output: reports/documents of joint actions

Responsible: SK, ICPDR (coordination), suppliers’ umbrella organizations

Deadline: 2013

Milestone 3: Implementation of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply

Work: Implementations of outputs of joint actions, dissemination of information from milestone 2 (e.g. transboundary protection zones issues, common aquifer issues).

Output: projects, activities

Responsible: Danube countries and suppliers

Deadline: 2014

Action 14: ***“To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea”.***

Action - “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea” – This action is meant to make connection between the Danube River and the Black Sea. Danube River is the most important tributary for the Black Sea and any actions taken within the Danube River Basin will influence the Black Sea marine environment. In this respect the Integrated Coastal Zone Management will address the area at the interface between land and sea while the Maritime Spatial Planning will focus on the activities developed on sea. Within both this type attention will be given to the water environment quality.

Milestone n°1: Development of specific project regarding the improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region

Work: Coordination with the Black Sea countries in order to elaborate an application concerning the assessment of the ICZM implementation in the Black Sea Region

Output: A common and coherent ICZM approach within the region, base for sustainable development of the area and improvement of environmental quality, an integrated support for the stakeholders (local and regional authorities, private companies and NGOs) and an increased level of public participation in the decision-making process on environment protection using innovative methods.

Responsible: Romania

Deadline: 30 January 2012, waiting for approval

Milestone n°2: Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea

Work: Coordination with the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission and its Advisory Group on ICZM in order to contribute to the finalization and approval of a Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Output: An improved Strategy on ICZM

Responsible: Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine

Deadline: 30 November 2013

Milestone n°3: Development of a project proposal concerning Black Sea marine environment protection using the Maritime Spatial Planning

Work: Coordination with the Black Sea countries for developing an application regarding the planning of fishery, energy and transport activities within the Black Sea in order to protect the marine environment and to promote a sustainable use of the marine and coastal resources

Output: Background contribution to the development of the Maritime Spatial Planning in the Black Sea

Responsible: Romania

Deadline: 30 March 2013

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE STEERING GROUP

Name of the project	Blue Danube – Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment
Action related	PA 4.04 To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure
Countries involved	Germany, Bulgaria
Funding	527.807 € Life+ 2011
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The Institute of Micro and Nanomaterials in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences at Ulm University conducts applied research, development and technology transfer in the general field of micro and nanotechnology. More important, the institute has in the last years acted as an important intermediary between city policy requirements and related policy implementation strategies. The project leader, Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Fecht has contributed crucially to structural reform of the regional administration union in order to allow swift integration of eco-innovation technologies in regional waste water treatment plants (WWTP). To be a fully integrated partner in the administration union Steinhäule means an important role as advisor, expert of implementation and innovation driver.</p> <p>Moreover, in the field of water and wastewater industry, it is expected that nanotechnologies dedicated to environmental cleanup may evolve to levels of efficiency such that contaminant-affected areas might very well be “engineered” back to their original quality and thereby resetting the conditions for the restoration of their delicate environmental balance.</p> <p>Furthermore, the institute is well connected to the knowledge economy as well as the corresponding eco-innovation actors in Europe with regards to waste water treatment and can provide valuable technological expertise. As co-ordinating beneficiary and one of the major initiators of the reformed administration unions, the institute is strongly committed to engage in long-term co-operation with both public and university stakeholders in the Danube Region. This becomes crucial as the structure of an improved administration union requires not only that the</p>

	<p>long-term maintenance is ensured, but also good practice in administration, technology use and training of employees.</p> <p>Additionally, the institute delivers its experience with regards to EU funded projects and their management.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	<p>Supply with Letter of Recommendation.</p> <p>Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.</p>
Next steps	<p>To be discussed after approval of project.</p>

Name of the project	ProTisza – Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin
Action related	PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
Countries involved	Ukraine, Slovak Republic, Romania, Hungary, Serbia
Funding	2.551.262,82 € South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE Programme), 4th Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The project will (i) facilitate and strengthen institutional and technical cooperation between the five Tisza countries, ii) support implementation of the ITRMP, WFD, FD and other relevant initiatives and EU legislation, iii) support development of documents for future tendering procedures and (iv) increase absorption capacities for using EU available funding opportunities.</p> <p>The project activities take place in the five Tisza countries based on the application form of the proposal submitted to the SEE Programme. Activities are divided into five interconnected work packages: 1. Project Management 2. Communication, Stakeholder Involvement and Networking 3. Tisza River Platform 4. Knowledge Exchange and Synthesis 5. Pilot Projects. Specific activities include: Elaboration of 3 transboundary pilot studies based on the needs of the countries, midterm roadmap for the establishment of an EGTC, preparing a project proposal for the second Tisza River Survey, analyses on adaptable water management across the TRB, considering climate change effects and their impacts on water quantity and quality, Action Plan for future investments, workshops and trainings, etc.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	Danube Sediment Management – Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin
Action related	PA 4.10 To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin
Countries involved	SDR countries or: Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary
Funding	3.000.000 € South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE Programme), 4th Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>Proper sediment management is an important factor for achieving environmental objectives of EU Water Framework Directive. The issues such as sediment contamination, sediment transport, sediment dredging or deposition have to be investigated carefully to make sure that programmes of measures will be designed in an effective way.</p> <p>The first overview of the problems concerning sediment quantity and quality in the Danube River Basin was presented in the ICPDR Sediment Issue paper published in 2006. This paper clearly formulated the need for further investigations in the sector of sediment management and this has also been underlined in the Danube River Basin District Management Plan in which the quantity and quality of sediments was not recognized as Significant Water Management Issue due to lack of data. All the purposed activities (data collection, data management, performance of sediment balance, solutions for restoration etc.) inherently have to be harmonized on a macro-regional level.</p> <p>The major objective of the project is to review the current status of the sediment regime of Danube including the inputs of major tributaries, analyse pressures and impacts, assess the potential for restoration of sediment balance and propose actions to be taken in order to improve the sediment continuum and river morphodynamics along the Danube.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	CC-Ware – Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources
Action related	PA 4.12 To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region
Countries involved	SDR countries or: Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece
Funding	1.985.000 € SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE Programme), 4th Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The project facilitates the development of national action plans for assuring sustainable drinking water supply by setting up a transnational strategy. The strategy will be based on assessment of water resources vulnerability under global changes and investigated management options for mitigating vulnerability (improvement of ecosystem services, land use regulation and demand management tools).</p> <p>The main activities can be divided in three groups.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerability of water resources in SEE. Identification of Vulnerability Indicators. Evaluation of water quantity & quality vulnerability. Integrated assessment and classification of drinking water vulnerability 2. Management options for mitigating vulnerability of drinking water resources. Analysis of relevant legislation and improvement of land use regulations. Ecosystem services assessment. Improvement of ecosystem services under climate change. Identification of benefits from improving water use efficiency and economic incentives for water management. 3. Transnational strategy for national/regional Action Plans. Development of an integrated transnational strategy. Establishment of framework for national implementation. Knowledge transfer to pre-accession SEE countries
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	FoWaP– Forests for drinking water protection
Action related	PA 4.13 To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply
Countries involved	Hungary, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic
Funding	2.245.259 € Central Europe Programme, 4th call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>Provision of high quality drinking water will be one of the biggest challenges in the future in the DRS as well. Forests exert specific impacts on hydrology. If managed according to water protection purposes, waters can be positively influenced by forests. Without the fulfillment of drinking water protection guidelines, forestry also may have adverse impacts on water quality and quantity. There are some lacks in knowledge and in regulations concerning the proper forest management in protection zones, but through transnational cooperation these gaps can be reduced. The possibility to secure drinking water sources in an environmental friendly way provides insights into relevant processes for all partner countries, which take place in different environments.</p> <p>General objective is to turn sustainable water and forest management policies into an effective implementation phase by defining good practices. The goal of forest management in water protection zones is the optimisation of the forest stability when the tree species composition is close to nature thus the third objective is to consider EU Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>The main steps in the project are the followings: Communication, knowledge management and dissemination. Preparation / dissemination of Handbook of good practices Stakeholder involvement. In case of the water management: Evaluation of status and threats of water resources in the demo areas. Water management practices and the status of the drinking water safety. Forest management: Description and rating of the actually applied silvicultural concepts and measures. Optimisation of forest management regarding drinking water protection. Assessment and evaluation on landscape scale.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	SEE River – Sustainable integrated management of international river corridors in SEE countries
Action related	PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
Countries involved	Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovak Republic, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania
Funding	2.100.000 € South East Europe Programme (SEE Programme), 4th Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The main target is to empower the stakeholders along the international SEE rivers to gain knowledge on planning and implementing decision-making processes for integrating the heterogeneous interests and objectives by developing and applying a common methodology for setting up frameworks for integrative and sustainable management of international river corridors considering diverse objectives of EU directives.</p> <p>The project activities are: a) the development of “SEE Good Practice Toolkit for Management of International River Corridors” – SEE RIVER Toolkit. b) Application of the toolkit on the Drava River Corridor and preparation of the Drava River Framework. c) Joint international workshops for agreement on common measures for future development of the Drava river and implementation of measures on 5 pilot areas in 5 riparian countries: IT, AT, SI, HR, HU. d) Application of the toolkit on 5 other international rivers in SEE: Soca, Neretva, Vjosa, Prut, Tisza. e) International and local workshops for agreement on future cooperation in managing the 5 rivers. f) Capacity building activities in 11 SEE countries for dissemination of the toolkit. g) Joint action plan for future cooperation of the SEE RIVER network.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	SEWABIS – Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin
Action related	PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
Countries involved	Slovenia, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia
Funding	1.490.000 € South East Europe Programme (SEE Programme)
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The project aims the harmonization of sampling protocols and methodologies for water, sediments and biota, especially for large rivers, data collection on chemical analyses, hydromorphology, biodiversity and invasive species, integration of flood risk management with SRB water management considering ecological status and climate change assessment, database on environmental status of SRB and its specific pollutants.</p> <p>The main activities are the cooperation and know-how transfer between institutions responsible for sustainable water management, development of transnational partnership via first Joint Sava Survey, integration of flood risk management with river basin water management by assessment of chemical pollution of water, sediments and biota, considering climate changes, establishing efficient data exchange and developing web based database on environmental monitoring data. To improve the sustainable development of the region. The project aims to support implementation of EU directives e.g. WFD and FASRB and fill the gaps of the existing Sava RBM plan and support development of the next cycle of SRBMP. Location: Sava riparian countries and Slovakia.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	GoodWater – Strategies for development the water management instruments on water protected areas
Action related	PA 4.12 To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region
Countries involved	Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary
Funding	2.500.000 € South East Europe transnational programme funds; IPA funds, national funds.
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The transnational project area is reach in water protected areas (WPA) and large ground and surface water resources. The area contains regions and pilot sites from Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Lombardia (IT). The degree of water pollution gives cause for concern. The project GOODWATER aims to provide implementation instruments, based on environmental basis for effective protection of water resources and enhanced and sustainable land use. The conflicts between political decided measures on WPA and intensive land use could be solved through a harmonized management strategy of WPA and improving the best practices and technologies. The project will deliver methodology for groundwater management related to water protection, spatial development and land use.</p> <p>The general objective is the sustainable development on water protected areas (WPA). Specific objectives: Identify water management problems on WPA; raise awareness through interactions with local groups; transnational recommendations by improving sustainable management on WPA; create models under efficient implementation water resources protected regimes; implement instruments for land use.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	PS-RED – Emissions reduction of Priority Substances in the Danube Basin
Action related	PA 4.01 To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan
Countries involved	Danube countries
Funding	500.000 € EU Funds
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The Danube countries have agreed through the provisions of the DRBMP to achieve the basin-wide vision for hazardous substances pollution aiming that “no risk or threat to human health and the aquatic ecosystem of the waters in the DRB and Black Sea waters impacted by the Danube River discharge”. According to Article 5 of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, Member States are obliged to establish an inventory of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Substances and to improve the knowledge and data available on sources of priority substances and ways in which pollution occurs in order to identify targeted and effective control options.</p> <p>This project will contribute to the implementation of the EUSDR, particularly for the Priority Area 4 and PA 6.</p> <p>The overall objective: to support the Danube countries implement the necessary measures, for progressively reducing pollution from PS and ceasing or phasing out of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substance. The specific objectives: to implement the EC guidance no.28, to perform a load approach, a regionalized pathway analysis and a source oriented approach</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	Hydrology Study for the Sava River Basin
Action related	PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
Countries involved	Bosna and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia
Funding	1.000.000 € EU funds, National Contribution
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>BA, HR, RS and SI have signed the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) in order to establish and implement a sustainable water management. Hydrology Report, prepared for the purpose of the Characterization Report (according to EU WFD) has indicated that the Hydrological Study of the Sava River Catchment finished in 1976 was the last study for the whole Basin. Other studies and projects have defined some of the water regime characteristics which do not apply to the whole Basin. The new Hydrological Study will, due to its fundamental character, provide an essential input for all projects of importance for implementation of the FASRB. It will address all meteorological and hydrological elements relevant for integrated water management in the SRB, based on mutually agreed methodology and period of analysis.</p> <p>The main objective is to analyze long period data to increase accuracy of calculations, account for anthropogenic impacts, evaluate time series and give a good prospective on climate change effects.</p> <p>The specific objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - determine general hydrological and meteorological characteristics; - define relevant water regimes; - asses water balance - analyze historical floods and droughts
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	Towards Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase
Action related	PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
Countries involved	Bosna and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia
Funding	1.500.000 € EU funds, National Contribution
Stage of implementation	Under implementation
Description	<p>There are as yet no examples of the fully fledged integration of sediment management into river-basin management. The Sava River Basin is a major sub-basin of the Danube River, located in South-Eastern Europe. With the conclusion of the “Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin” (FASRB) and the establishment of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), a framework for transboundary cooperation on the water resources management in the Sava River Basin has been made. According to FASRB, the ISRBC has developed a draft “Protocol on sediment management”. It serves as a basic legal document for future cooperation of the Parties in this particular field and it will oblige the Parties to cooperate on the development of the “Sediment Management Plan”.</p> <p>This activity is fully in line with the activities of ICPDR and UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (International Sediment Initiative) and European Sediment Network (SedNet).</p> <p>The main objective is to path the way towards the Sediment Management Plan in the SRB.</p> <p>Specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evaluation of sediment quality and quantity; - assessment of measures to prevent pollution of sediment and to control sediment processes; - measures to protect wetlands areas and retention spaces; - guidance for sediment disposal, treatment and use; - institutional arrangements.
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	According to the project documentation.

Name of the project	Protection and Sustainable Use of Water Resources from Alluvial Aquifers in the Sava River Basin
Action related	PA 4.12 To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region
Countries involved	Bosna and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia
Funding	1.500.000 € EU funds, National Contribution
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>Riverbank aquifers, formed in alluvium deposits, provide the most important source of drinking water in the Danube region. In 2011, Sava Commission has supervised the development of the “Sava River Basin Management Plan”, in which groundwater quality has been considered as significant water management issue. Groundwater quality is mostly endangered in urban areas and areas with intensive agriculture production, located on the alluvium plains of the Sava River and its tributaries. The project aims to increase the knowledge (scientific and applicative) and understanding of the processes within "river water - filtering media - riverbank filtered water" systems, since they represent an essential component in drinking water production. Both qualitative (e.g. contamination of river – river bank aquifer systems and water supply and sanitation systems by emerging pollutants and pathogens) and quantitative aspects (effects of droughts and floods, climate change) will be investigated.</p> <p>The main objective is to focus attention on vulnerability of alluvial GW resources to impacts of surface water pollution and impacts of reduced recharge due to climate change.</p> <p>The specific objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitate the sustainable utilization and management of the GW resources, and - protect from hazards (natural and man made), including climate change induced impacts.
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Name of the project	ICZM –Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region
Action related	PA 4.14 To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea
Countries involved	Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Romania
Funding	627.100 € Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013”, 2nd Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>Taking into account that the action to which the above mentioned project is belonging, is meant to make connection between the Danube River and the Black Sea, and the Danube River is the most important tributary for the Black Sea, any actions taken within the Danube River Basin will influence the Black Sea marine environment.</p> <p>The project will support the improvement and development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management addressing to the area at the interface between land and sea while the Maritime Spatial Planning will focus on the activities developed on sea. Both of them will focus on water environment quality.</p> <p>Overall: To improve quality of maritime environment using common innovative methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans within the Black Sea region to assure the economical use of resources</p> <p>Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop common and coherent ICZM approach within the regions - provide integrated support for the stakeholders - increase the level of public participation in the decision-making process
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.