

EUSDR Report June 2013

Priority Area 5 *To manage Environmental Risk*

1. OVERALL PROGRESS

Priority Area 5 (PA5) not only deals with environmental risks like flood, drought, forest fires, storms, erosion, icing and water scarcity, but also with manmade risks. Further PA5 is also concerned with the operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities.

1.1. State of play

1.1.1. Progress made

The second year of the EUSDR can still be considered as apprenticeship in a sense that kind of a “first time ever” type events and tasks came forward. In the second half of 2012 we organised the 1st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar. We also participated on the 1st EUSDR Annual Forum. The first half of 2013 was all about the planning of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The **1st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar** was organised by PA4, 5 and 6 in Budapest on 6 Nov 2012. It attracted about 150 participants and high level representatives of the Governments of Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Germany and Croatia and the DG REGIO. The presence of the president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences accented that the EUSDR can rely on the scientific support of the academia. Besides the plenary session where general information on the EUSDR was given the three priority areas had a separate half a day seminars, which allowed the PAC to provide the stakeholder with first-hand information on the progress made and get feedback from the stakeholders on their expectations from the EUSDR.

The **1st EUSDR Annual Forum** ensured the PACs that high level support both from the Commission and from the politicians is there to help their daily work. A very short time was also given to PACs to present the first results of their priority area to the audience (“Presentations of project examples of PA 3 - Culture and Tourism, PA 4 -Water quality and PA 5 - Environmental Risks”). Prior to the Forum Commissioner Hahn received the NCPs and the PACs. He underlined that the first year of the EUSDR was a year to organize ourselves. He also stressed that the horizontal cooperation among the priority areas is a must. He highlighted the Pillar B (Environmental Pillar) cooperation and that of PA1 and PA6 as good examples. He ensured the NCPs and the PACs of strong political support.

High political level delegation visited the Danubian capitals on the event of “**Danube Parliamentarian Floating Conference**” May 20 - 25, 2013, Passau, Linz, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Ilok, and Belgrade. One of the key topics of the Conference was the flood risk management and the participants actively followed our presentations.

2013 is the year of planning the Multiannual Financial Framework. The EUSDR provided us with enough possibilities to get acquainted with the planning process and to provide the planners with the expectations and needs of the PACs. The process started with

- 3rd Meeting of National Contact Points and Priority Area Coordinators in Brussels, 30 – 31 January 2013 and then continued with

- Priority Area Coordinators meeting of the EUSDR in Sofia, Bulgaria on 29-30 April 2013;
- Workshop of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators and ETC Danube Programme Task Force in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 21 May 2013
- The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region in the programming process for 2014 - 2020: Second joint meeting; "Embedding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in European Structural and Investment Funds programmes" in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, 21 June 2013
- Financing was a priority theme of the 5th SG meeting. DG REGIO provided information about the actual state of programming of the OPs.

The Steering Group (SG) of PA5 met twice during this period. The 3rd SG Meeting was held in Bucharest on 4 Dec 2012 and the 4th one in Budapest on 30 May 2013. The major achievements per SG Meeting are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Achievements on SG Meetings

Meeting No.	Date/Place	Achievements
4	04/12/2012, Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The progress of road maps reviewed (See attached) - One project ("Danube WATER integrated management" – WATER) presented for Letter of Recommendation; decision to be taken via electronic voting
5	30/05/2013 Budapest,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 projects applied for Letter of Recommendations - Two projects were awarded LoR, the decision on one project was postponed because of late submission and three projects were withdrawn by the proposing country - Financing opportunities of the next MFF was discussed - The Budapest Danube Contact Point presented its activities and the financial support it can provide - The "Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy" programme of JRC was presented and discussed - The progress of actions and road maps was discussed (See attached)

The number of participants on each SG Meetings was fairly high though the participation of non EU Member States is very low. For detail See **Table 2**.

Table 2 Participation of Danube Region countries on SG meetings

meeting	AT	BG	BIH	CRO	CZ	DE	HU	MD	MNE	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA	EU	ICPDR
1 st	1			1		1	6		1	2	1		6		1	3
2 nd	1			2	1	1	1			6					1	2
3 rd	1			1		1	5			3			1	1	1	2
4 th	1						1			4	1				1	1
5 th	1					1	12			2			3	3	1	1

As it can be seen from the table above 4 out of the 14 countries have not shown up at all on the SG Meetings. Unfortunately two of them are Member States. Five (MS) countries and the ICPDR showed steady participation. The PACs and the NCPs should put pressure on the countries not showing up to be present on all meetings or at least to participate in the written procedures. For the 5th SG Meeting we used the TA facility to finance the travel and accommodation cost of each of the non-MS representatives. We find this opportunity very useful and intend to continue this practise.

Attendance related issues need significant efforts. For this various measures are introduced with measurable results expected. A financial mechanism was developed that allows covering travelling and accommodation costs of non-MS members of the SG Meetings. The Hungarian NCP, the Budapest Danube Contact Point and the Hungarian diplomacy initiated various cooperation platforms, projects and high level agreements to incorporate less active Danube region countries to the work of the SG. Three countries have already been addressed with the prospect of common projects and regular attendance.

On 18 October 2012, the Pillar II PACs met in Vienna to prepare the Pillar II Workshop in Regensburg. The discussion on the detailed programme continued via E-mails until the last moment. Bilateral efforts have been made with high level representatives of non-MS countries resulting in delegation of more active Steering Group members.

In the second year the following project proposal received **Letter of Recommendation** (for details See Annex 2):

- **Common HU-UA flood protection development Programme on the Upper Tisza:** To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods. This programme can serve as a model for trans-boundary (sub-basin) coordinated development programmes especially between MS and non-MS.
- **DREAM:** Danube River Research and Management

We are proud that the LoRs went to project proposals of high value and both include investment elements as well.

1.1.2. Outline on the future

Year 2013 was the year of an extreme flood. It affected the upper-Danube from Bayern down to Croatia and Serbia. HE Michael Spindelegger, Commissioner Johannes Hahn, HE János Áder president of Hungary and many of the foreign ministers of the Danube Region emphasized the need for internationally coordinated actions and confirmed that the EUSDR and PA5 is the right place to coordinate them. To respond to all of these incentives decided to launch – in close cooperation with the Flood Protection Expert Group of ICPDR – a survey among the Danubian countries to find out their needs for action at basin level to improve the capabilities in coping with flood risks. Although the survey has just started before the end of this reporting period the impression on common needs are: improved flood forecasting, enhanced information exchange (both data and operational rules), use of remaining financial sources from the present MFF, easier use of the solidarity fund (quick response from the fund, increase fund), coordination and harmonisation of the emergency response units/authorities, flood risk management investments to appear in the OPs etc. The survey continues in the second half of 2013 and will provide good bases to develop flood risk management programmes and projects.

1.1.3. Lessons learned

- The most important question is the (lack of) financing. The first question in all meetings: What can we do without financing? In this respect there is no progress since the last Annual

Report. On the contrary the information received shows that “there is no left over money” in the system.

- In spite of the pessimistic comment above we have to mention that a lot of efforts were put in the inclusion of the EUSDR into the OP programming. During our 5th SG Meeting we queried the SG Member if they were involved in the OP programming of their own country and the answers were positive. All SG members took part of the national programming of the OPs.
- The same happened at the PAC level as well as proven by the Brussels, Sofia, Ljubljana and the Stuttgart meetings (See above).
- We still have to work on communication. It should be strengthened to let stakeholders know that EUDRS is about **macro regional** (e.g. large) **projects** and **strategy**. Many stakeholders, including ministries, municipalities, universities, NGOs etc. think of smaller, local projects and they are disappointed to hear that EUDRS is not a source of money for those.
- We still communicate that the time left until the next financial period starts is not lost. It can be used to develop EUDRS project proposals to take a jump-start in 2014.
- Effort should be made to convince countries of the Danube region to take active part of the work of the SGs. Since the last Annual report we made progress. Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro and Czech Republic informed us that they would like to take a more active part in the EUSDR process. As mentioned above we consider the use of the TA contract for providing travel and accommodation to non-Member States members of the SG as a great opportunity to actively involve them into the work of the SG.
- The EIB Budapest Danube Contact Point has started its operation in this reporting period. The setting up of the “Common HU-UA flood protection development Programme on the Upper Tisza” programme shows that the help of a professional financing institution can greatly help the PAC in identifying and developing viable projects/programmes.

1.2. Process

1.2.1. Progress made on the governance of the PA

- The work of the PA5 SG has been well established during the first year of its operation. Since then the PA5 Steering Group meets twice a year. Between two meetings the communication is done via E-mails. The participation on the SG Meeting is a problem. Not all countries show up and the participation is not steady (See previous Chapter as well). Efforts are made to improve the situation especially with regards to the participation of the non-Member States (use of the TA project).
- An informal cooperation among the PACs of Pillar II has been developed. The 2nd Pillar II PAC’s meeting was organized in Vienna in October 2012 (See the previous Chapter).
- Within Hungary the NCP and the PACs meet regularly (once a week as a minimum). The NCP also convenes a meeting of the Hungarian representatives in the 12 Steering Groups and representatives of the relevant Ministries once a month. In this way we can follow the progress made in the other PAs. In PA4 and PA5 the work of the Hungarian PACs is assisted by nominated Action Leaders (14 and 8 respectively).
- Responding to the initiative of the JRC (Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy) we built up cooperation with the Hungarian Universities and research centres of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). As an outcome of this cooperation with the representatives the Pillar II PACs – together with the HAS and the Ministry of Regional Development started to

organize the 2nd Annual Stakeholder Forum (“Transboundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube Basin”) where time was provided for the Hungarian and foreign Academia, including JRC, to present their up to date sciences that can help the execution of the actions of the EUSDR.

- The cooperation with ICPDR continued flawlessly. The PACs report on the progress of the EUSDR at the Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR in June and also at the Ordinary Meeting in December. This provides an opportunity to discuss EUSDR topics with the Head of Delegations of the 14 Danubian countries. More operative exchange of information is done at the level of the ICPDR’s Expert Groups. Priority Area 5 has got a strong link to the work done in the Flood Protection Expert Group and the River Basin Management Group. The PACs report to each of these Expert Groups twice a year on their regular meetings. On the other hand representatives of the ICPDR Secretariat attend the SG Meeting and report back on the progress made in those Actions that are coordinated by ICPDR. A best practise document on the ICPDR-EUSDR cooperation was presented at the “Workshop of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators and ETC Danube Programme Task Force” in Ljubljana (21 May).

1.2.2. Outline of the significant our work/network approach resulting from the Strategy

- We built up a cooperation with the Academia (See above)
- The cooperation with the NGOs continued
 - DANET Conference in Kráľovský Chlmec on 21-22 June 2012
 - DANET Closing Conference in Budapest on 12-14 December 2012
 - Friends of the Danube Macro-regional Strategy Conference in Budapest on 31 May 2013.
- Cooperation with the ASEM countries (“ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue: Seminar on the Role of Water in Sustainable Regional Development Strategies”) in Budapest on 20-22 June 2012.
- The cooperation with the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region 14.3 Flagship Project (“Working on Macro-Regional Risk: Joint Approaches and Challenges”) started before the Regensburg Annual Forum and continued in Brussels on 13-14 May 2013. This meeting with the EUSBSR colleagues opened the door to the cooperation among the civil protection organisation of the two macro-regions.
- We visited the DG ENV on 27 May 2013 to build up as strong political support with the DG ENV as we have with the DG REGIO.

1.2.3. What, if anything, is missing in order to streamline the governance of the PA (progress not depending exclusively on your PA)? What are you planning to improve in the governance of the PA (progress entirely depending on your PA).

- We would appreciate an up to date list of NCPs, PACs and SG members to help better communicating among us. This would require a more structured/regulated nomination and/or cancellation of players and setting up a central database that is available for all participants of the EUSDR processes. The list available on the central EUSDR homepage is out of date. The nomination of SG members basically comes from the country (in ideal cases

from the NCP) nominating a new member, but the withdrawal of the former SG member is never done. Thus in each cases the PAC should start investigating who is replacing who.

1.2.4. Outline on the future. Next steps and challenges.

- We have to intensify the work of the SG. The potential new funding sources and the use of the TA grant (See above) will definitely help.
- Further strengthening the bilateral efforts to mobilise the – so far not too active – Danube Region countries as well will boost participation of SG members in the work of the Steering Group.
- We should put more efforts in developing project proposals to better reflect a macro-regional focus (2-3 to start with) to be able to use the opportunities of the next MFF. The revisiting of the roadmaps is required for this work.
- We should further strengthen our cooperation with all the emergency response authorities and with the climate adaptation stakeholders in the Danube Region to better cover the scope of PA5.
- Following the May-June 2013 extreme flood PA5 with strong political support has launched a survey to find out what the EUSDR could do at basin wide level to cope with the similar events (Due to the timing only the start of this process is reported here. Most of the survey will be done in the second half of year 2013).

1.3. Funding

One of the core activities of the EUSDR is the alignment of funding for the interventions and goals proposed and endorsed by the European Commission and the European Council in the Action Plan. Roadmaps and Milestones further identified for the implementation of the Action Plan in the respective Steering Groups.

Programming of PA5 specific interventions was an agenda point in the SG5 meeting. The DG REGIO and Hungarian NCP broadly introduced the state of play, tasks and legislative background of programming Macro Regional Strategies to 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, while SG members provided a preliminary snapshot of national implementation of OP programming especially in the fields of PA5. One of the major topics of SG6 will be the detailed methodology of programming as well as highlighted gaps to be financed, following the Annual Forum and related ministerial meetings that also has financing in the top of the agenda. It was requested from Interact that mainstream programmes to be covered in the thematic workshop of the Pillar 2.

The Danube Transnational ETC programme is expected to have a important role in macroregional coordination, assessment, monitoring, support of institutional cooperation and planning. Via National Contact Points the PA5 requested to that management of environmental risks be incorporated to the OP. The proposal was well received and was passed with support to the Task Force preparing the programming of the OP.

1.3.1. Progress made since the last reporting period on identifying funding opportunities and sources: use of existing funds, new financial instruments, etc. (including comparisons with the last reporting period);

- The EIB Budapest Danube Contact Point has been set up in this reporting period. They provide us with expert advices on financing possibilities and they also follow the emerging financing opportunities.
- Unfortunately we were not successful applying for (existing) funds. This actually was the problem of charging a lead person who was overloaded with other tasks and could not spend enough time on writing a good proposal on time. The selection of the lead person should be more carefully done in the future.
- All participating countries reported their involvement in OP programming (See above), which should remain a continuous, priority task of the SG and its members till the end of year 2013. We should use the momentum and the links that were built up to make sure that the first calls already have got strong EUSDR elements.

1.3.2. Progress made since last reporting on developing mythologies/criteria for selecting/supporting PA relevant projects (including comparisons with the last reporting period);.

- The selection process and the criteria for PA5 and Pillar II worked all right. We felt that a good balance between the selected/rejected project proposals developed, thus we don't feel at the moment the need for changes. But we follow the evolution of the selection/labelling practice in the EUSDR and will make the necessary changes when relevant.

1.3.3. Opportunities and challenges regarding the funding of relevant projects.

- We are looking forward to the new MFF and the opportunities it provides for the EUSDR project proposals. We focus on developing new project proposals (*See Sub-Chapter 1.3.1*).
- We plan to use the TAF by PA10 as soon as we see the new calls and their primary targets/axes.

1.3.4. Lessons learned, positive or negative.

- We need support in identifying financing possibilities for PA5 project proposals. We feel that the EIB Budapest Danube Contact Point can provide the necessary help.

1.3.5. Next steps

- We are waiting to see the first outcomes of the TAF by PA10.

2. PROGRESS BY TARGET

2.1. Target 1

Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the Floods Directive – to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change.

2.1.1. Name the actions that contribute to each target.

Action1: To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin

Action2: To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)

Action3: To extend the coverage of the European Floods Alert System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning systems

Action 4: To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
1	1	Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A: Prepared by the end of 2011 Deadline: end of 2011
	2	Preparation of flood hazard and flood risk maps: Templates for flood risk mapping was prepared and adopted by the end of 2012 Deadline: end of 2012
	3	Preparation of flood risk management plan for Non-Member States: “Common Hungarian-Ukrainian flood protection development programme on the Upper Tisza” has been developed til June 2013 Deadline: June 2013
	4	Preparation of flood risk management plan: The basin-wide goals of the flood risk management plan discussed and agreed Deadline: end of 2013
2	1	Succesful implementation of the Morava-Thaya Basin initiatives: In progress Deadline: End 2013

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
	2	Development of a Master Plan for the restoration of Floodplains of the Danube and its tributaries from spring to its discharge into the Black Sea: Project proposal partially addressing the task is prepared, financing is to be ensured (Lead Partners: Romania and WWF; most of the consortium partners identified) Deadline: 31 May 2013
	3	Organisation of national and regional workshops concerning the Danube Floodplain restoration: No information as yet Deadline: End 2013
3	1	Establishment of the three operational EFAS centres for hydrological data collection, computation, and dissemination of EFAS information: Three centres were awarded contracts to start establishing the operational centres. This task was concluded for the computational centre in September, for the dissemination centre in October and the hydrological data collection centre in November. Deadline: End of August 2012
	2	Operational running of EFAS at the operational centres: A full operational EFAS is running in all three centres since autumn 2012. Deadline: End 2013
	3	Following the changes in the operation of contact all partners to modify the partnership agreement and contact the remaining hydro/meteorological services responsible for flood forecasting to become a new partner: All 14 partners are approached to renew the conditions of access because of the new operational setup (See Milestone no.1). Contacts to the corresponding authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been established via a project to build up national flood early warning systems in the Balkan countries Deadline: End 2013
	4	Annual training on EFAS: Information and training on EFAS was given at the 7th annual EFAS meeting in Norrkoping, Sweden (12-13 June 2012), as well as at the 8th annual EFAS meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (24-25 April 2013) including also the Danube partners Deadline: Mid 2012 and mid 2013
	5	Bi-monthly bulletins distributed to all EFAS partners providing a summary of on-going work, hydro-meteorological situation and description of case studies: The bi-monthly EFAS bulletins are freely available on http://www.efas.eu/efas-bulletins.html . Deadline: Continuous
	6	Specific ICPDR training workshop on EFAS: A ½ - 1 day training specific to EFAS is envisaged during one of the next ICPDR meetings. Deadline: End 2014

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
	7	Find financing possibilities for EFAS beyond 2013: Supporting letter was sent to Brussels. The European Commission has foreseen budget to continue the initial operations of GMES/COPERNICUS including an operational EFAS. Once the multi-annual financial framework of the European Commission which includes the GMES/COPERNICUS budget has been approved the funding of EFAS will be established. Deadline: June 2013
4		The Action plan is being developed. The preparation of Action 4 is done partially by the ongoing SEERISK project.

2.1.2. *What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the planned targets?*

- Action 4: “To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets” need be developed end executed. The preparation of Action 4 is done partially by the ongoing SEERISK project.
- Financing is needed (Action 1, 2 and 4)
- New projects/programmes need be developed (Action 1, 2 and 4).

2.1.3. *Lessons learned, positive or negative. Outline the opportunities and challenges regarding the achievement of the targets.*

- Lack of financing,
- Lack of calls.

2.1.4. *Outline on the future. Next steps*

- See 2.1.2.

2.2. Target 2

To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts based on the 2013 update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation, in the Danube River Basin Management Plan to be adopted by 2015

2.2.1. *Name the actions that contribute to each target.*

Action7: Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research

Action8: To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
7	1	Danube Climate Adaptation Study: : The Study has been finalised in January 2012 and is available, together with the Annex on the ICPDR website: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm Deadline: January 2012

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
	2	Danube Climate Adaptation Workshop: The Workshop was organised on 29-30 March 2012 in Munich. Deadline: March 2012
	3	Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy: The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy has been finalised and was adopted at the XVth Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna. The Adaptation Strategy is available for download on the ICPDR website: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm Deadline: End 2012
	4	Check the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy for completeness: In chapter 8.2 of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy, knowledge gaps and further research requirements were identified. Deadline: End 2012
	5	Revision and update of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy: Not relevant yet Deadline: End 2018
8	1	Exploring areas stricken by droughts and water shortage, problem management in the Danube region: The work is ongoing in the frame of the ICPDR on the issue of water scarcity and drought. A questionnaire on the issue was developed and feedback provided by the Danube countries, to be discussed at the 37th RBM EG Meeting on 9-10 May 2013 in Sarajevo. Deadline: End 2015
	2	Measurement of land use aspects of protection against flood, and developing recommendations for the application of land use aspects in flood risk management plans: Not relevant yet Deadline: End 2017
	3	Development of spatial planning research program and methodology for the sake of harmful effects mitigation of climate change: Not relevant yet Deadline: End 2018
	4	Principles of climate-friendly city structure and integration of climate-aware architecture solutions in the regulation of different sectors: Not relevant yet Deadline: End 2021

2.2.2. *What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the planned targets?*

- See 2.1.2.

2.2.3. *Lessons learned, positive or negative. Outline the opportunities and challenges regarding the achievement of the targets.*

- See 2.1.2.

2.2.4. Outline on the future. Next steps

- See 2.1.2.

2.3. Target 3

Update of the accidental risk spots inventory at the Danube River Basin level by 2013.

2.3.1. Name the actions that contribute to each target.

Action5: To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances

Action6: To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution

2.3.2. Progress made since the last reporting period on the achievement of the targets (please treat each target individually) of your PA (explain the political, technical and governance aspects contributing to/affecting the achievement of the targets, including comparisons with the last reporting period).

Action	Milestone	Milestone: Progress
5	1	ICPDR Accident Risk Spot Inventories: In progress. Five countries have already sent the inventories Deadline: End 2014
	2	ICPDR Accident Risk Spot Inventories Maps: Not relevant yet Deadline: End 2014
	3	ICPDR Guidelines and good practices for Tailing Management Facilities: A new draft is currently prepared Deadline: End 2014
6	1	AEWS system upgrade and refining: The AEWS 2.0 has been developed and the ICPDR at its 15th Ordinary Meeting agreed with bringing it into full operation by 1 March 2013. Deadline: end 2013
	2	Regular AEWS maintenance: The test took place on 21 January 2013 and was intended to prepare PIACs for the official launch of the upgraded system. All PIACs participated actively in the test and were able to carry out their essential tasks during an accident. The updated system proved to be ready for use and was officially launched on 1 March 2013. The APC EG agreed that a 24/7 preparedness test will be organized in autumn 2013. Deadline: End 2013
	3	International standardization of AEWS: The negotiations between the APC Expert Group of ICPDR and the DG ECHO MIC are in progress. Deadline: End 2015

2.3.3. *What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the planned targets?*

- See 2.1.2.

2.3.4. *Lessons learned, positive or negative. Outline the opportunities and challenges regarding the achievement of the targets.*

- See 2.1.3.

2.3.5. *Outline on the future. Next steps*

- See 2.1.2.

Annex 1: Roadmaps to implement each action

Action 1 - “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin”

Milestone n°1: Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A

- *Work:* EFD Article 4(2) stipulates that based on available or readily derivable information, such as records and studies on long term developments, in particular impacts of climate change on the occurrence of floods, a preliminary flood risk assessment shall be undertaken to provide an assessment of potential risks. For the Danube River Basin District a single roof report on preliminary flood risk assessment will be prepared on the level A describing the approaches taken by the countries including the coordination aspects. The report will also address the topics from the EU Reporting Sheet on preliminary flood risk assessment including description of coordination of the identification of the areas of potential significant flood risks (APSFR) within an international river basin district in accordance with the EFD article 5(2).
- *Output n° 1:* Preliminary flood risk assessment report;
→ *Responsible:* FP EG

→ *Deadline:* end 2011

Output no 1: Ready. Presented to the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR. Report adopted by the Heads of Delegations. Report sent to Brussels.

Milestone n°1 completed.

Milestone n°2: Preparation of flood hazard and flood risk maps

- *Work:* EFD requires that Member States shall, at the level of the river basin district, or unit of management, prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps, at the most appropriate scale for the areas identified under Article 5(1). The preparation of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps for areas identified under Article 5 which are shared with other Member States shall be subject to prior exchange of information between the Member States concerned. The ICPDR will use the templates developed at the EU level as well as the outcomes of the FLOODRISK project to develop its templates by the end of 2012 and to prepare flood hazard and flood risk maps by the end of 2013.
- *Output n° 1:* ICPDR templates for flood risk mapping (2012);
- *Output n° 2:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A (2013).
- *Output n° 3:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A endorsed by the SG (2013).
→ *Responsible:* FP EG

→ *Deadline:* end 2013

The ICPDR maps are based on of the EU document "Reporting of spatial data for the Floods Directive (Part II); Guidance on reporting for flood risk and hazard maps of spatial information" and the templates and basic layout of the flood hazard map and flood risk maps were agreed by the FP EG. All countries were asked to provide the Secretariat with draft data before the 23rd FP EG meeting in March 2013. Draft data were received from AT, DE, BA, RO and SK and the Secretariat prepared the following maps for the FP EG discussion:

- (i) map of hazard and flooding scenarios;
- (ii) map on risk and population;
- (iii) map on risk and economic activity;
- (iv) map on risk and IPPC installations and
- (v) two maps on WFD protected areas. Technical details of these maps were discussed and a number of amending proposals were adopted. The flood hazard areas are going to be submitted via DanubeGIS as shape files in cooperation with the IMGIS EG. For preparation of risk maps the data are collected by the template developed by the Secretariat..

DANUBE FLOODRISK project finished. "Harmonized Manuel of Data & Methods"; "Harmonized Manuel of Maps" and the "Danube Flood Hazard and Risk Atlas" printed.

Output n° 1: Prepared and adopted by the ICPDR FP EG.

Output n° 2: Due in Dec 2013.

Output n° 3: Due during the last quarter of 2013.

Milestone n°3: Preparation of flood risk management plan for Non-Member States

- *Work: Where an international river basin district, or unit of management referred to in Article 3(2)(b), extends beyond the boundaries of the Community, Member States shall endeavour to produce one single international flood risk management plan or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin district. In order to help coordinating this activity the following work need be done:*

Preparation of projects proposals and provision of funding for the preparation of flood risk management plans for Danube Region areas of Non-Members States.

- *Output n° 1:* Project generation (June 2013).
- *Output n° 2:* Final flood risk management plan integrated into the respective flood risk management plan of the MSs (22 Dec 2015).

→ *Responsible:* SG, FP EG

→ *Deadline:* June 2013 and 22 Dec 2015

Output n° 1: "Common Hungarian-Ukrainian flood protection development programme on the Upper Tisza" has been developed.

Output n° 2: Not relevant yet.

Milestone n°4: Preparation of flood risk management plan

- *Work: On the basis of the maps referred to in EFD Article 6, Member States shall establish flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the river basin district, or unit of management referred to in EFD Article 3(2)(b), for the areas identified under EFD Article 5(1) and the areas covered by Article 13(1)(b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of EFD*

Article 7. Member States shall establish appropriate objectives for the management of flood risks for the areas identified under EFD Article 5(1) and the areas covered by EFD Article 13(1)(b), focusing on the reduction of potential adverse consequences of flooding for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, and, if considered appropriate, on non-structural initiatives and/or on the reduction of the likelihood of flooding.

Flood risk management plans shall include measures for achieving the objectives established in accordance with paragraph 2 of EFD Article 7 and shall include the components set out in Part A of the Annex to EFD.

Flood risk management plans shall take into account relevant aspects such as costs and benefits, flood extent and flood conveyance routes and areas which have the potential to retain flood water, such as natural floodplains, the environmental objectives of Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC, soil and water management, spatial planning, land use, nature conservation, navigation and port infrastructure.

Flood risk management plans shall address all aspects of flood risk management focusing on prevention, protection, preparedness, including flood forecasts and early warning systems and taking into account the characteristics of the particular river basin or sub-basin. Flood risk management plans may also include the promotion of sustainable land use practices, improvement of water retention as well as the controlled flooding of certain areas in the case of a flood event.

The preparation of flood risk management plan for the Danube River Basin is a natural continuation of the implementation of the ICPDR Action Programme on Sustainable Flood Protection in the Danube River Basin. Flood risk management plan represents the next step after developing of flood action plans in sub-basins. The ICPDR will prepare a roof plan for the level A providing the general overview of the measures and highlighting the principles of international coordination in DRBD.

- *Output no 1:* Table of Contents of the flood risk management plan (end 2013);
- *Output no 2:* Draft flood risk management plan for public consultation (end 2014);
- *Output no 3:* Final flood risk management plan (end 2015).
- *Output no 4:* Flood risk management plan on the level A endorsed by the SG (2015).
→ *Responsible:* FP EG

→*Deadline:* 2015

Output n^o 1: The ICPDR discussed the basin-wide goals of the flood risk management plan and agreed upon following goals:

- (i) Avoidance of new risks;
- (ii) Reduction of existing risks;
- (iii) Strengthening resilience;
- (iv) Raising awareness;
- (v) Solidarity principle. These goals will be linked with the respective measures. While the full list of measures will be provided at the national level, at the level of the international river basin district the focus should be given to the measures with the transboundary relevance. The ICPDR Secretariat will develop a draft template for collection of the information on measures.

Output n^o 2 - 5: Not relevant yet.

Action 2 - “To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)”. Taking into account the new challenges brought by the effects of the climate change is clear that continue to use the same approach of only building levees alongside the river in order to keep the high level water inside will no longer work or will become a bigger threat to humans. Therefore we have to think to give back some of the floodplains and to leave more “room for rivers”. This new approach will be good both for reducing the flood risk and for improving aquatic environmental conditions

Milestone n°1: Successful implementation of the Morava-Thaya Basin initiatives

- *Work*: Protection of the ‘Donau March-Thaya-Auen’ wetland leading to the lowering of flood risks in the flooding areas and to the improvement of urban water courses.
- *Output n° 1*: Development of a plan and a strategy for promoting environmentally benign, soft, quality tourism, including leisure navigation
 - *Responsible*: Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia
 - *Deadline*: December 2013

Output n° 1: In progress

Milestone n°2: Development of a Master Plan for the restoration of Floodplains of the Danube and its tributaries from spring to its discharge into the Black Sea

- *Work*: Assessment of the existing projects and identification of the future possible areas where the floodplain could be restored and evaluation of the benefits for flood control and improvement of the aquatic environment including the connection between the main bed with the floodplain.
- *Output n° 1*: Development of an application to be submitted for financing from the EU funds
 - *Responsible*: ICPDR, Romania
 - *Deadline*: 31 May 2013

Output n° 1: Project proposal partially addressing the task is prepared, financing is to be ensured (Lead Partners: Romania and WWF; most of the consortium partners identified)

- *Output n° 2*: Development of Master Plan
 - *Responsible*: DRS countries
 - *Deadline*: June 2015

Output n° 2: No information as yet

- *Output n° 3*: Development of Master Plans for Large Tributaries
 - *Responsible*: DRS countries
 - *Deadline*: June 2021

Output n° 3: No information as yet

Milestone n°3: Organisation of national and regional workshops concerning the Danube Floodplain restoration

- *Work:* Development of the documents and organization of the workshops with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders in order to present the local and regional benefits of the wetland restoration as well as the Danube Floodplain Master Plan concept
- *Output n° 1:* 10 national winners identified in each of the 14 ICPDR countries
→ *Responsible:* ICPDR, Romania and Danube countries involved

→ *Deadline:* December 2013

Output n° 1: No information as yet

Action 3 - “To extend the coverage of the European Floods Awareness System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning system.”

Milestone n°. 1:

- *Work:* Establishment of the three operational EFAS centres for hydrological data collection, computation, and dissemination of EFAS information as part of the initial operational of GMES Emergency Management Service, which has entered its Initial Operation (GIO) phase following Regulation (EU) n°911/2010 of 22 September 2010 on “The European Parliament and the Council on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011 to 2013)”.
- *Output:* The winners of the public tenders for i) **EFAS computation centre** (European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts), ii) **EFAS dissemination centre** (Consortium of Swedish Meteorological Hydrological Institute, the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute) and iii) **EFAS hydrological data collection centre** (Consortium of the Andalusia Environment and Water Agency, and the Spanish private company ELIMCO Sistemas) will be setting up and establishing the EFAS operational centres according to specific contracts issued by the JRC.
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: End of August 2012

Done. Following a kick off meeting with all three centres in January 2012, the three centres were awarded contracts to start establishing the operational centres. This task was concluded for the computational centre in September, for the dissemination centre in October and the hydrological data collection centre in November. Meteorological data collection applications are continued to be onsite the JRC but by external contracts.

Milestone n°. 2:

- *Work:* Operational running of EFAS at the operational centres mentioned in Milestone 1
- *Output:* EFAS running operationally at each centre as a 7/365 service producing probabilistic early flood forecasting information twice daily which will be distributed daily to the EFAS Danube partners via a username and password protected website and daily summary updates on the flood situation in Europe to the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), the operational heart of the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection in Europe to assist aid management during trans-national flood crisis in the Danube river basin.
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: ending of GIO ERS in 2013 (initially, further continuation under discussion)

A full operational EFAS is running in all three centres since autumn 2012. The service is monitored by the JRC and a shadow system is maintained by the JRC for a minimum period of 6 months. Further development and adaptation of the system to end-user needs are being prepared by JRC. The first EFAS annual meetings since fully operation was held in April 2013 in Bratislava with a high participation of Danube partners.

Milestone n°. 3:

- *Work:* Following the changes in the operation of EFAS (See Milestone No 1) contact all partners to modify the partnership agreement and contact the remaining hydro/meteorological services

responsible for flood forecasting to become a new partner (incl. Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the last regions of the Danube to become EFAS partner)

- *Output:* Modified conditions of access for all EFAS partners and increase of EFAS partners
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: 31/12/13

All 14 partners are approached to renew the conditions of access because of the new operational setup (See Milestone n°.1). Contacts to the corresponding authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been established via a project to build up national flood early warning systems in the Balkan countries which is lead by the German Society of international cooperation (Gesellschaft fuer internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ). All cooperating partners of this project (Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina) have agreed to become EFAS partners. As soon as the new EFAS conditions of access are finalised those authorities will be contacted again.

Milestone n°. 4:

- *Work:* Annual training on EFAS, its methodologies, concepts, products and results for EFAS Danube partners
- *Output:* 1-2 day information day on EFAS for all partner organisations
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: August 2012 & August 2013

Information and training on EFAS was given at the 7th annual EFAS meeting in Norrkoping, Sweden (12-13 June 2012), as well as at the 8th annual EFAS meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (24-25 April 2013) including also the Danube partners. Furthermore, in the preparation of the operational EFAS centres a dedicated training was given to the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, which forms part of the EFAS Dissemination consortium, in 2012 at the JRC.

Milestone n°. 5:

- *Work:* Bi-monthly bulletins distributed to all EFAS partners providing a summary of on-going work, hydro-meteorological situation and description of case studies with special focus on Danube case studies if appropriate
- *Output:* Bi-monthly bulletins
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: regular bi-monthly

The bi-monthly EFAS bulletins are freely available on <http://www.efas.eu/efas-bulletins.html>. In the EFAS Bulletin for October – November 2012 the flood in the Drava, which mainly affected Austria and Slovenia, was analysed.

Milestone n°. 6:

- *Work:* Specific ICPDR training workshop on EFAS, its methodologies, concepts, products and results
- *Output:* 1/2 day information day on EFAS for ICPDR partners
→Responsible: JRC;
→Deadline: December 2014

A ½ - 1 day training specific to EFAS is envisaged during one of the next ICPDR meetings. The training would cover background information on EFAS and illustrate the interface that has been developed.

Milestone n°. 7:

- *Work:* Find financing possibilities for EFAS beyond 2013
- *Output:* Budget for the operation of EFAS beyond 2013
 - Responsible: JRC; PA5 coordinators
 - Deadline: June 2013

The European Commission has foreseen budget to continue the initial operations of GMES/COPERNICUS including an operational EFAS. Once the multi-annual financial framework of the European Commission which includes the GMES/COPERNICUS budget has been approved the funding of EFAS will be established.

Milestone n°. 8:

- *Work:* Early warnings for flash flood like events by using high resolution weather forecasts for the Danube river basin.
 - Further scientific definition, and development of the currently existing method in EFAS (mid 2014);
 - Expansion of the updated monitoring and warning system for the whole Danube Region (end 2014)
- *Output:* Flash flood early warning system. Monitoring network and data dissemination system.
 - Responsible: SG, the Flood Protection Expert group of the ICPDR, JRC
 - Deadline: 2014,

A flash flood early warning component has been developed by the JRC and on request of the EFAS partners is now fully integrated into EFAS. It is an extreme forecasting index for severe precipitation events that have a potential to lead to flash floods. Further information can be found here: A European precipitation index for extreme rain-storm and flash flood early warning, L. Alfieri, J. Thielen, DOI: 10.1002/met.1328

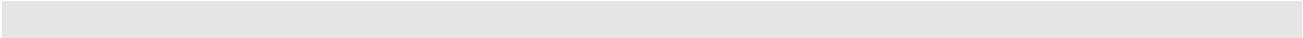
Flash flood warnings are sent out based on this indicator to all EFAS partners including the Danube region.

Currently work is ongoing to improve this flash flood warning by including outputs from EFAS such as state of the soil moisture, as this is an essential variable whether an extreme precipitation turns into an actual flash flood or not.

The Common Hungarian-Ukrainian flood protection development programme on the Upper Tisza also addresses the flash flood problems by introducing new, high resolution meteorological radar station in the region.

Action 4 – *“To strengthen operational cooperation among emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets”*

The preparation of Action 4 is done partially by the ongoing SEERISK project.



Action 5 - “To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances” – this requires to work with the institutions/organisations concerned to reduce the risk to minimum levels and should include harmonisation of safety standards, increased awareness and capacity in accident response and joint crisis management.

Milestone n°1: ICPDR Accident Risk Spot Inventories

- *Work:* Preparation of templates for the inventories of ARS, collection of information and data and provide support for the data collection at the national level, especially for non MS
 - *Output n° 1:* ARS inventories available for all Danube countries
 - *Responsible:* APC EG
 - *Deadline:* end 2014
- *Project:* Integration of ARS inventories in the GIS systems and ICPDR databases
 - *Output n° 2:* databases on ARS inventories
 - *Funding:* EU, CPs
 - *Responsible:* APC EG, IMGIS EG
 - *Deadline:* end 2014

Output n° 1: In progress. Five countries have already sent the inventories

Output n° 2: Not relevant yet

Milestone n°2: ICPDR Accident Risk Spot Inventories Maps

- *Work:* The general objective is to produce ARS maps, to illustrate the risk associated with the sites posing a risk in the DRB, and assess progress in the implementation of preventive measures addressing accidental pollution in the basin.
 - *Output n° 1:* Maps of ARS in the Danube Basin.
 - *Responsible:* APC EG, IMGIS EG
 - *Deadline:* end 2014

Output n° 1: Not relevant yet

Milestone n°3: ICPDR Guidelines and good practices for Tailing Management Facilities

There is evidence and understanding that environmental degradation of transboundary watercourses has occurred on numerous occasions as a result of (TMF) failures. As risks are posed by Tailing Management Facilities (TMFs) in all categories (active, inactive, neglected, temporarily closed; and abandoned) there is particular concern regarding the large number of neglected, abandoned or orphaned TMFs where active monitoring or maintenance is not undertaken. The integration of risk reduction of mining accidents in the ICPDR Accidental Risk Prevention policy in line with the EU legislation, especially the Management of

Waste from Extractive Industries (2006/21/EC Directive) will be achieved through the preparation of a guidelines and set of good practices for TMF.

✓ *Output n° 1*: Guidelines and good practices for Tailing Management Facilities.

→ *Responsible*: APC EG, PM EG

→ *Deadline*: end 2014

Output n° 1: A new draft is currently prepared

Milestone n°1: AEWS system upgrade and refining

- *Work:* Rebuilding the AEWS system using then open-source software framework Drupal. Using open-source software will eliminate the risk of dependency from specific software companies and provide increased flexibility to adapt the system to future needs. Migrating new system to the new ICPDR virtual server to have a stable platform and minimize maintenance costs.
- *Output n° 1:* Danube AEWS based on an open-source software platform (2012);
- *Output n° 2:* Upgrade of AEWS design improving its applicability (2013).
→ *Responsible:* APC EG

→ *Deadline:* end 2013

Output n° 1: The AEWS 2.0 has been developed and the ICPDR at its 15th Ordinary Meeting agreed with bringing it into full operation by 1 March 2013. The system is built on the open source software Drupal and mostly on available modules, no license costs are required. Backup communication is available in the event that the Internet does not work.

Output n° 2: The AEWS design has been upgraded. It includes among others (i) updatable reports (one report instead of a number of separate messages) which provide consolidated information on an incident and a good overview of changes in report revisions; (ii) one simplified form minimizing the risk of selecting a wrong form or incident; (iii) simplified navigation and better overview on home page; (iv) possibility of comments (using a simple text form) on reports by other PIACs. A quick reference sheet and system usage tutorials for AEWS 2.0 were prepared by the Secretariat and received very positive feedback from the APC EG.

Milestone n°2: Regular AEWS maintenance

- *Work:* The AEWS tests will be organized with a view of checking the performance of the Danube AEWS. The major attention will be given to checking the preparedness (response time) of the Communication Units of the national PIACs as the recent tests revealed weakness in this aspect. Two unannounced tests will be organized each year out of which one will be targeting 24/7 preparedness while the second test will be more technical, checking an overall management of an accident including assessment of the threshold levels and thus involving the Expert Units. Every year during a meeting of the ICPDR AEWS experts a practical hands-on training on AEWS operation takes place, at which the Secretariat presents the AEWS system in detail, highlighting the frequently encountered problems and evaluating the performance of PIACs in the AEWS tests. The AEWS experts have then to disseminate the updated know-how on the system operation at the national level to the PIACs staff. To maintain high level of PIAC staff preparedness, organization of regular trainings on an annual basis will be continued.
- *Output n° 1:* Organization of regular performance tests of the Danube AEWS.
- *Output n° 2:* Regular training of AEWS Operators.
→ *Responsible:* APC EG

→ *Deadline:* end 2015

Output n° 1: The test took place on 21 January 2013 and was intended to prepare PIACs for the official launch of the upgraded system. The test was divided into five incidents in order to involve all PIACs. All PIACs participated actively in the test and were able to carry out their essential tasks during an accident. Some minor problems in use of the system during the test provided useful inputs for further optimization of the user interface. The updated system proved to be ready for use and was officially launched on 1 March 2013. The APC EG appreciated the new system considering it to be better than the previous AEWS and very convenient for the purpose. The APC EG agreed that a 24/7 preparedness test will be organized in autumn 2013. In spring 2014 a comprehensive test will be carried out simulating the case when a pollution plume in a river moves down-stream through the territory of several countries.

Output n° 2: At the 5th APC EG meeting in April 2013 the Secretariat reviewed AEWS 2.0, presented the key features and demonstrated the system operation providing thus a basic regular training in the AEWS operation.

Milestone n°3: International standardization of AEWS

- *Work:* In the Danube River Basin there are numerous independent international activities addressing the emergency response (e.g., UN/ECE IAN, CECIS EC MIC, ICPDR AEWS, NATO Disaster Response, IAEA system for reporting on nuclear accidents in cooperation with EC IRIX - International Radiation Information Exchange and ECURIE - European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange). Running all these activities, in parallel, leads to overloading the staff at the national alarm centres (established usually under the Civil Protection / Ministry of Interior). To strengthen the operational cooperation between the emergency response authorities, the UNECE proposed to adopt common standards by all existing warning systems to ensure their full compatibility. It also should be made sure that there is only one point of contact in a given country. This approach would eliminate any potential confusion during an accident management and, at the later stage, it could avoid using of parallel overlapping systems by making them fully compatible & complementary so that triggering one system would be recognized by the others. The ICPDR has been invited by the UNECE to join this standardization process and mandated at its 8th StWG meeting the Secretariat to participate in the process of standardization in notification on chemical accidents upon request of UNECE with the view of maintaining the Danube AEWS as the key warning system in the DRB.
- *Output n° 1:* Danube AEWS based on an international Europe-wide standard.
→ *Responsible:* APC EG

→ *Deadline:* 2015 and beyond

Output n° 1: The APC EG asked the Secretariat to contact the EC to explore the ongoing strategies and plans concerning development of integrated warning systems at the EU level and possibilities of linking such systems with AEWS. The Secretariat met in July 2012 with the Emergency Response Unit at DG ECHO to discuss the modalities of transferring AEWS information to DG ECHO MIC. It was suggested that such message sent to MIC by the Danube AEWS would be only considered as an information about a major pollution accident and not as a formal request for assistance as this competence would stay with the national civil protection units. For MIC such message would serve as a pre-warning on potential future assistance needs in the affected region. The APC EG at its 4th meeting did not support this option of sending the AEWS message to MIC because PIACs in some countries have no authorization at the national level to inform MIC.

Action 7 - “Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research” Initiatives in this research field should address specific concerns in the Danube Region. Research projects on the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, health, food security and the environment should be initiated. Furthermore, the international scientific cooperation in this field should be supported, while ensuring close coordination with overall action at EU level. A preparatory action "Climate of the Carpathian Basin" will be launched before the end of 2010. This action will contribute to regional climate variability and change studies, and applied climatology. It will also encompass an analysis of the vulnerability of water and ecosystems of the region to climate change impacts and other man-made pressures and on identifying potential adaptation measures, focusing on adaptive water management and ecosystem-based approaches. This work should be used at basin level.

Milestone n°1: Danube Climate Adaptation Study

- *Work:* Preparation of a study, summarising and assessing all existing information relevant for the adaptation of the water sector to climate change
- *Output n° 1:* Overview and assessment of latest available information as a basis for the development of the Danube Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
→ *Funding:* Germany

→ *Responsible:* Germany in the frame of the ICPDR

→ *Deadline:* January 2012 (accomplished); study can be downloaded from the following link:
http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm

Output no 1: The Study has been finalised in January 2012 and is available, together with the Annex on the ICPDR website: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm

Milestone n°2: Danube Climate Adaptation Workshop

- *Work:* Organisation and accomplishment of the workshop with participation of representatives from Danube countries and different water-related sectors and NGOs
- *Output n° 1:* Dissemination and discussion of the Danube Climate Adaptation Study towards the creation of a common understanding on expected climate change impacts on the water sectors in the Danube River Basin and discussion on adaptation needs
→ *Responsible:* Germany in the frame of the ICPDR

→ *Deadline:* March 2012 (accomplished); related documents and presentations can be obtained following the link:
http://www.icpdr.org/pls/danubis/danubis.wvw_main.main?p_siteid=1&p_cornerid=94648

Output no 1: The Workshop was organised on 29-30 March 2012 in Munich.

Milestone n°3: Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy

- *Work:* Further exchange and discussions towards the finalisation of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy based on input from the Danube Climate Adaptation Study, respective discussions at the workshop and the different expert bodies of the ICPDR during 2012
- *Output n° 1:* Finalised Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy

→ *Responsible*: Germany in the frame of the ICPDR

→ *Deadline*: December 2012

Output no 1: The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy has been finalised and was adopted at the XVth Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna. The Adaptation Strategy is available for download on the ICPDR website: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm

Milestone n°4: Check the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy for completeness

- *Work*: Check the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy to see if further topics need be covered
- *Output n° 1*: Gap analysis
→ *Responsible*: ICPDR

→ *Deadline*: Completed

Output no 1: In chapter 8.2 of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy, knowledge gaps and further research requirements were identified.

Milestone n°5: Revision and update of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy

- *Work*: In line with the step-wise and cyclic approach for the implementation of the WFD and EFD, it is proposed to check the need to update and revise the ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change. This should take into account updated information regarding the knowledge base on climate change and adaptation, in particular on climate change scenarios and water-related impacts in the Danube River Basin, and allow to take the results into account for the planning process of the 3rd DRBM Plan and the 2nd DFRM Plan, due by 2021.
- *Output n° 1*: Updated and revised Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy
→ *Responsible*: ICPDR

→ *Deadline*: 2018

Output no 1: Not relevant yet

Action 8 – “To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods”. Flood prevention activities imply the cooperation of national, regional and local authorities in terms of land-use and physical planning. Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Danube Region needs to be developed through increased cooperation, coordination and data exchange, as required under the INSPIRE Directive. Adequate land-use needs to be identified and agreed in an integrated way, and priority actions such as the promotion of sound forest and pasture management, the minimising of plough lands on the slopes of hills or the protection of biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems and natural river courses need to be taken across the Danube Basin area. Urban and housing development need to take account of climate change factors. Cities and towns in the Basin should be encouraged to share experience and best practice in this field.

Milestone n°1: Exploring areas stricken by droughts and water shortage, problem management in the Danube region

- *Work:*
 - a) Exploring areas stricken by droughts and water shortage, and classifying them into clusters taking into account of the impacts of climate changes (spatial characteristic of the exposure and sensitivity to climate change)
 - b) Developing special actions for each cluster to manage problems caused by droughts and water shortage
 - c) Assessment of the spatial characteristic of the adaptive capacity and adaptation options for each cluster
 - d) Elaborating integrated professional principles for transboundary regions
 - e) Preparing action plan
 - f) Preparing intervention plans
 - g) Implementing interventions
- *Output n° 1:* Executing intervention plans
 - *Responsible:* SG
 - *Deadline:* 2015 for Works a.)-f.)
end of 2020 for Work g.) (depending on Work f.)

Output no 1: In line with the agreed PA5 Target: „To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts based on the 2013 update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation, in the Danube River Basin Management Plan to be adopted by 2015”, work is ongoing in the frame of the ICPDR on the issue of water scarcity and drought. A questionnaire on the issue was developed and feedback provided by the Danube countries, to be discussed at the 37th RBM EG Meeting on 9-10 May 2013 in Sarajevo. Based on the results of the discussions, relevant steps will be taken to address the issue in the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan by 2015. In case measures are foreseen and agreed by the Danube countries to address water scarcity and drought, they are planned to be incorporated in the Joint Programme of Measures of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan.

Milestone n°2: Measurement of land use aspects (forestry, agricultural and land cover related land uses etc.) of protection against flood, and developing recommendations for the application of land use aspects in flood risk management plans.

- *Work:* Evaluating and comparing the land use of the flood prone area and land cover changes due to climate change; evaluating the land use of the regions exposed to flash floods taking into

account the climate change impact; developing model recommendations on land use changes, integration into flood risk management plans.

- *Output n° 1*: land use maps (current status and planned land use); flood risk management plans
→ *Responsible*: SG

→ *Deadline*: 2017

Output no 1: Not relevant as yet.

Milestone n°3: Development of spatial planning research program and methodology for the sake of harmful effects mitigation of climate change

- *Work*: Laying down principles; underlying R&D (spatial vulnerability assessment, spatial characteristic of mitigation capacity); delimitation of special areas (zones) regarding climate change sensitivity and vulnerability; developing spatial planning and regulation directives; action plan
- *Output n° 1*: spatial planning and regulation directives; action plans
→ *Responsible*: SG

→ *Deadline*: 2018

Output no 1: Not relevant as yet.

Milestone n°4: Principles of climate-friendly city structure and integration of climate-aware architecture solutions in the regulation of different sectors

- *Work*: R&D for understanding the maturation and dynamism of ‘urban heat islands’; erection of urban energy cycle model; elaborating planning and regulation directives for reduce heat-load; working out standard regulation background in connection flood-safe building construction and preparation of buildings for water shortage; action plans;
- *Output n° 1*: model of urban heat islands; planning directives for reducing heat-load; regulation
→ *Responsible*: SG

→ *Deadline*: 2021

Output no 1: Not relevant as yet

Annex 2 - Projects approved by the steering group

Name of the project	<i>Danube River Research And Management (DREAM) Programme</i>
Action related	<i>PA 5.02 To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”) See also PA4.01, PA4.02 and PA4.12</i>
Countries involved	<i>Slovakia: Slovak Academy of Sciences Slovakia: Water Research Institute Bratislava Hungary: University of Technology and Economics, Budapest Croatia: University of Osijek Serbia: University of Novi Sad Serbia: Jaroslav Cerni Institute Bulgaria: University of Ruse Romania: Technical University of Bucharest Romania: GeoEcoMar Czech Republic: University of Technology Brno Czech Republic: University of Life Sciences Prague</i>
Funding	<i>EUR 69 600 000; Competitive bidding for transnational and national financing sources</i>
Stage of implementation	<i>Planned</i>
Description	<i>There is an urgent need to integrate use and protection of the Danube River in a sustainable way. Research is of fundamental importance to derive monitoring strategies, modelling and engineering solutions to improve measures suited to reach a win-win situation between economic use and environmental protection of the Danube River. This will be strongly related to the Danube River Basin Management Plan. The project DREAM will provide an umbrella and the infrastructure for a set of research topics. These topics are interconnected and cover several disciplines, from basic research, to be represented by advanced hydraulic labs and sophisticated 3D models on high computational technology, to applied research, providing field data to mitigate hydrological extremes and to improve existing situations in water regimes, sediment regime, flood risk, drought problems, revision of bio-engineering measures, restoration of streams and flood plains, etc.</i>
Involvement of the PACs	<i>Letter of recommendation issued</i>
Next steps	<i>The programme will be executed project by project. Each project will be developed and financed separately. Looking for financing possibilities.</i>

Name of the project	<i>Common Hungarian-Ukrainian flood protection development programme on the Upper Tisza</i>
Action related	PA 5.08 To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods See also: PA5.02, PA4.02 and PA4.12
Countries involved	<i>Upper-Tisza-regional Water Directorate - Hungary - already involved, Tisza River Basin Water Resources Directorate - Ukraine - already involved, Budapest Danube Contact Point – already involved, Upper-Tisza-regional Nature protection, Environment and Water Authority - Hungary - comitted to be involved, Hortobágy National Nature Park Directorate Hungary - comitted to be involved, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Catastrophe Directorate - Hungary - comitted to be involved, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office - Hungary - comitted to be involved, State Department of Environmental Protection of Transcarpathian Region - Ukraine - comitted to be involved, State Environmental Inspectorate of Transcarpathian Region- Ukraine - comitted to be involved, Regional State Administration of Transcarpathia - Ukraine - comitted to be involved, State Emergencies Service of Ukraine in Transcarpathian region - Ukraine - comitted to be involved.</i>
Funding	NA
Stage of implementation	<i>Planned</i>
Description	<i>The flood levels are gradually increasing; the flood protection system of Upper-Tisza need to be developed urgently at Hungarian and Ukrainian side as well. For establishment of this complex development common standard flood level has been determined and on both sides national programs have started. In Hungary "Development of Upper-Tisza-regional Flood Protection System" and "New Vásárhelyi Plan", in Ukraine "Complex flood protection program of the Tisza Transcarpathian basin for 2006-2015", results of which will be integrated into the present program. The project realization will reduce flood risks in the Upper Tisza basin (including Romania and Slovakia), greatly enhance cooperation at sub-basin level, methodology and good practice of which could be used as a model in other areas of the Danube basin, help finding a coordinated, long-term solution to problems that cannot be dealt with on national level alone, will resolve important issues related to the implementation of the Danube Strategy.</i>
Involvement of the PACs	<i>Letter of recommendation issued</i>
Next steps	<i>The programme will be executed project by project. Each project will be developed and financed separately.</i>



PROJECT TITLE:
EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREA N°5 ('To Manage Environmental Risks')

CCI N° 201CE160AT092

PROGRESS REPORT

Reported period: from 06/12 to 12/12

Summary of the project

Title: To facilitate the starting phase of the coordination of Priority Area 5 “management of the Environmental Risks” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

General objective: To facilitate a stable, effective, inclusive and innovative governance system for this Priority Area

Priority Area 5 deals with environmental risks like flood and drought, but also with manmade risks, issues which require funding to support the activities in the Danube Region Strategy (DRS). For the moment is clear that a way forward should be laid out. This is why the most important work is to develop and adopt roadmaps for each action

Specific objectives are:

- To support the Priority Area Coordinators in their coordination work;
- To encourage the involvement of key stakeholders;
- To assure the use of cutting edge international knowledge.

Governance:

The grant will assure the implementation of the following tasks:

- **Coordination tasks:**
 - organization of Steering Group and Technical Meetings;
 - participation at events organized in connection with the implementation of the Strategy;
 - organization of stakeholder seminars in 2012 and 2013;
 - involvement of external expertise;
 - communication activities.
- **Technical Meetings** are to be organized between Priority Area Coordinators or with the Coordinators of the other two Priority Areas of Pillar II. Furthermore technical meetings shall be organized with the representatives of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Secretariat.
- **Communication Activities** shall aim to provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation, as well as, specific information on Priority Area 5 to promote public awareness regarding the Strategy and the 5th Priority.

Duration of the project: 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013

Activities planned and conducted:

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement		Key activities conducted
July	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Meeting with the Minister of Environment of Vietnam (30 July 2011, Budapest)
	Technical Meetings	Preparatory work for the 1 st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar started
August	Technical Meetings	Preparatory work for the 1 st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar continued
September	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	European Cooperation Day (21 Sept 2011, Budapest, Hungary)

	Technical Meetings	Preparatory work for the 1 st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar continued
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Participation on the ICPDR Flood Risk Mapping Workshop (26-27 Sept 2012, Graz, Austria) Presentation of DRS progress at the 22 nd Meeting of the Flood Protection Expert Group of the ICPDR (27 - 28 Sept 2012, Graz, Austria)
October	Technical Meetings	Preparatory work for the 1 st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar continued
	Technical Meetings	Meeting of Pillar B PACs? Preparatory discussion of the Pillar B Stakeholder Seminar and the Annual Forum (18 Oct 2011, Vienna, Austria)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation (done by Mr Perger, PA4 PAC) of DRS progress at the 36 th River Basin Management Expert Group Meeting of the ICPDR (23-25 Oct 2012, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the FLOOD-WISE Final Partner Meeting and Conference (22-24 Oct 2012, Maastricht, The Netherlands)
	Organization of Steering Group Meetings	Preparatory work for the 4 th SG Meeting started
November	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	1 st Pillar B Annual Stakeholder Seminar (6 Nov 2011, Budapest, Hungary)
	Organization of Steering Group Meetings	Preparatory work for the 4 th SG Meeting continued
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the Floodrisk2012 Conference (19-22 Nov 2012, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	1 st Annual Forum of the EUSDR (27-28 Nov 2011, Regensburg, Germany)
December	Organization of Steering Group Meetings	4 th Steering Group Meeting (4 Dec Bucharest, Romania)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the 15 th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR (11 Dec 2012, Vienna, Austria)

	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	The International Forum of the Danube Region, DANET Conference (13 Dec 2011, Budapest, Hungary)
	Organization of Steering Group Meetings	Finalization of the Minutes and other documents of the 4 th Steering Group Meeting (4 Dec 2012, Bucharest, Romania)
	Technical Meetings	PACs of PA 2, 4 and 5 meet twice a month with the Hungarian NCP
	Technical Meetings	The Hungarian NCP convenes a meeting of all Hungarian Members of SGs

How was the action carried out so far?

The TA project is there to facilitate the starting phase of the coordination of Priority Area 5. The implementation of the EUDRS in the area of PA 5 is going on smoothly.

- The Steering Group had its 4th Meeting in this reporting period.
- The major task for the SG was to execute, review and modify roadmaps for each of the Actions under PA5. Seven out of eight roadmaps have been finalized (the road map for Action 5.4 has not been developed yet). The roadmap of the Action 5.4 will be finalized before the next SG Meeting.
- The 1st Annual Stakeholder Seminar for Pillar B priority areas was organised on early 6 November in Budapest. Almost 150 participants registered and participated on the event.
- The dissemination is progressing. Meeting with NGOs was organised on several occasions.
- Special cooperation with ICPDR was set up. The information exchange is smooth at the level of Head of Delegations and Expert Groups too. The ICPDR is managing three of the PA5 Actions.

How is the project going to meet the objectives of the budget heading?

- a.) Due to the reorganisation of the company Péter Bakonyi works for we were not able to nominate assistants. Thus no costs are charged against the "Personnel costs" budget line. We do hope that in 2013 this problem will be solved.
- b.) A major cost item, the organisation of the 1st Annual Stakeholder Seminar will be shared by PA4 and PA5 TA.
- c.) From the Romanian side activities have been supported from the ministry's budget or the on-going projects budgets and no money have been spent from the Technical Assistance budget. This was due to the changes occurred at the organizational level of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Please describe the transnational dimension of the project

The TA is there to help the PAC to manage the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The EUSDR is a regional programme and the PACs should, by definition, work in an international surroundings:

- The Steering Groups, managed by the PACs, are composed of the representatives of the 8 Member States and 6 Non-Member States, the representatives of the EU and that of the ICPDR.
- The targets and the actions are all of macro-regional range.
- The projects supporting the actions should also be international (the scope of the project should cover at least three countries).
- The PAC in his/her dissemination activities should reach all 14 Danube Region countries.

What contribution was made by the partners?

- a.) Cooperation between the Romanian and Hungarian PACs

The cooperation between the PACs works smoothly. All tasks were executed jointly. Actions, presentations, reports, minutes etc. were discussed prior to the event and the agreed version was executed or presented. Hungarian partner got a lot of help from the Romanian side and also helped Romanian partner with technical (flood risk management) knowledge.

b.) Cooperation the SG Members

The work of the SG Members is mainly related to the SG Meetings. Their contribution is bringing in project proposals, helping the PACs in compiling list of stakeholders, evaluating project proposals for labelling, disseminating EUSDR information in their countries etc.

c.) INTERACT

We have received a lot of help from INTERACT (LabGroup) by providing us with different guidelines, seed of homepage, training on how to program the homepage, compiling a comprehensive list of financing opportunities.

Auto-evaluation so far

a.) Successes:

- The SG is up and working
- Rules of Procedures adopted
- Joint Pillar II Labelling Procedure adopted
- Seven projects were given EUSDR Relevant label and 5 Letter of Recommendations issued as follows:
 - Letters of Recommendation were issued to the projects
 - “Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin (Sava FRMP)”;
 - “Sustainable Operational Flood Forecasting in Real-Time and Water Resources Management (SOFTWARE)”;
 - “Water Pollution Contingency Management Plan for the Sava River Basin (WACOSS)”;
 - “DANUBE FLOODPLAIN”;

EUSDR Relevant project label to

- “SEERISK- Joint Disaster Management risk assessment and preparedness in the Danube macro region”
- Seven out of eight roadmaps are ready and approved by the SG
- The homepage is working

b.) Weaknesses:

- The activity of the SG Members is not high enough
- The participation on the SG Meetings is low (8, 6, 7 and 3 countries were represented on the first four meetings)
- Dissemination need be strengthened
- Homepage need be more informative
- Stakeholder involvement should be intensified.

Concrete outputs so far

Milestones reached so far:

- Action 1, Milestone 1: Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A → Done
- Action 1, Milestone 2, Output 1: ICPDR templates for flood risk mapping → Prepared
 - The FLOODRISK project successfully finished; Danube Floodrisk Atlas published
 - The “Manual of harmonized requirements on the flood mapping procedures for the Danube River” developed under the DANUBE FLOODRISK project delivered
- Action 1, Milestone 4: Table of Contents of the flood risk management plan → Draft Table of Content prepared and adopted
- Action 6, Milestone 1: AEWS system upgrade and refining → The system is ready, final testing and training will be done in the first quarter of 2013.

- Action 7, Milestone 1: Danube Climate Adaptation Study → The report on the “DANUBE STUDY – CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTA-TION” has been finalised by the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich.
- Action 7, Milestone 2: Danube Climate Adaptation Workshop → The Workshop was organised on 29-30 March 2012 in Munich
- Action 7, Milestone 3: Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy → The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy was approved by the XVth Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna

How was the action publicised and how have the results been disseminated so far?

We used the opportunities of conferences we got invitation to and personal contact as well. Conferences gave us the opportunity to meet

- Danube Network for NGOs,
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF),
- ICPDR.

The cooperation with ICPDR is done at two levels. The PACs report on the progress of the EUSDR at the Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR in June and also at the Ordinary Meeting in December. This provides an opportunity to discuss EUSDR topics with the Head of Delegations of the 14 Danubian countries. More operative exchange of information is done at the level of the ICPDR’s Expert Groups. Priority Area 5 has got a strong link to the work done in the Flood Protection Expert Group and the River Basin Management Group. The PACs report to each of these Expert Groups twice a year on their regular meetings. On the other hand two representatives of the ICPDR Secretariat attend the SG Meeting and report back on the progress made in those Actions that are coordinated by ICPDR.

We also used the homepage to provide information to the public, but our feeling was that it was less effective (no feedback from the homepage).

What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?

- a.) The lack of financing made people disappointed. This will create bad mood until financing is solved.
- b.) Communication need be strengthened to explain people that EUSDR is a macro-regional programme and it can only handle large macro-regional projects.
- c.) There is a need of strong political support to keep the momentum.

Are there any plans to improve the implementation and if so, how?

We get prepared for the next, 2014-2021, financial period by trying to generate project ideas that fit EUSDR and help the implementation. Romania will implement for the next two years another two projects related to Action 1, namely, “The prevention and protection against floods in the upper Siret and Prut River Basins, through the implementation of a modern monitoring system with automatic stations – EAST AVERT” and “Danube WATER integrated water management (WATER)”.

Nevertheless, the coming one year should be used also for refining the targets, actions and develop new projects.

Simona-Olimpia Negru
PA5 Coordinator

Péter Bakonyi
PA5 Coordinator



PROJECT TITLE:
EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREA N°5 ('To Manage Environmental Risks')

CCI N° 201CE160AT092

PROGRESS REPORT

Reported period: from 01/13 to 06/13

Summary of the project

Title: To facilitate the starting phase of the coordination of Priority Area 5 “management of the Environmental Risks” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

General objective: To facilitate a stable, effective, inclusive and innovative governance system for this Priority Area

Priority Area 5 deals with environmental risks like flood and drought, but also with manmade risks, issues which require funding to support the activities in the Danube Region Strategy (DRS). For the moment is clear that a way forward should be laid out. This is why the most important work is to develop and adopt roadmaps for each action

Specific objectives are:

- To support the Priority Area Coordinators in their coordination work;
- To encourage the involvement of key stakeholders;
- To assure the use of cutting edge international knowledge.

Governance:

The grant will assure the implementation of the following tasks:

- **Coordination tasks:**
 - organization of Steering Group and Technical Meetings;
 - participation at events organized in connection with the implementation of the Strategy;
 - organization of stakeholder seminars in 2012, 2013 and 2014;
 - involvement of external expertise;
 - communication activities.
- **Technical Meetings** are to be organized between Priority Area Coordinators or with the Coordinators of the other two Priority Areas of Pillar II. Furthermore technical meetings shall be organized with the representatives of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Secretariat.
- **Communication Activities** shall aim to provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation, as well as, specific information on Priority Area 5 to promote public awareness regarding the Strategy and the 5th Priority.

Duration of the project: 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014

Activities planned and conducted:

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement		Key activities conducted
January		Due to the illness of the Hungarian PAC the activity was restricted to E-mail communication till mid-March.
February		
March	Technical Meetings	Meeting with the Environment and Energy Efficiency OP programmers (26 March, Budapest, Hungary)
April	Technical Meetings	Preparatory meeting of the “Trans-boundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin” (12 April, Budapest, Hungary)
	Technical Meetings	Meeting with the Hungarian scientific institutions to prepare the meeting of

		the “Trans-boundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin” (30 April, Budapest, Hungary)
May	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Meeting with the EUSBSR 14.3 flagship project to boost cooperation among the emergency response authorities (13-14 May, Brussels, Belgium)
	Technical Meetings	Preparatory meeting of the “Trans-boundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin” Conference (15 May, Budapest, Hungary)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Participation on the “Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy” conference (16 May, Bratislava, Slovakia)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the Danube Parliamentarian Conference (23 May, Budapest, Hungary)
	Technical Meetings	Participation on the “Workshop of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators and ETC Danube Programme Task Force” (21 May, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the Danube Parliamentarian Conference (23 May, Budapest, Hungary)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Visit of DG ENV Protection of Water Resources Unit (27 May, Brussels, Belgium)
	Organization of Steering Group Meetings	5 th Steering Group Meeting (30 May Budapest, Hungary)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the Friends of the EUSDR Conference (31 May, Budapest, Hungary)
June	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Presentation of DRS progress at the 11 th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR (18-19 June, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
	To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation	Participation at the "Embedding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in European Structural and Investment Funds programmes" conference (21 June, Stuttgart, Germany)
	Technical Meetings	Following the May-June 2013 extreme flood PA5 with strong

		<p>political support has launched a survey to find out what the EUSDR could do at basin wide level to cope with the similar events (Due to the timing only the start of this process is reported here. Most of the survey will be done in the second half of year 2013).</p>
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Besides the activities listed above the Hungarian PACs met the Hungarian NCP weekly. The Local Organizing Committee of the “Trans-boundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin” Conference met every other week from June on.

How was the action carried out so far?

The TA project is there to facilitate the starting phase of the coordination of Priority Area 5. The implementation of the EUDRS in the area of PA 5 is going on smoothly.

- The Steering Group had its 5th Meeting in this reporting period.
- The major task for the SG was to execute, review and modify roadmaps for each of the Actions under PA5. Seven out of eight roadmaps have been finalized (the road map for Action 5.4 has not been developed yet). The roadmap of the Action 5.4 will be finalized before the next SG Meeting. The 5th SG Meeting reviewed the progress made (See the details in Annex 1 of the Annual Report).
- The organisation of the “Trans-boundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin” Conference started in the first half of year 2013. Due to the busy period of the key lecturers the original date (27-28 June) had to be modified and the Conference was shifted to 11-12 Sept 2013.
- The dissemination is progressing. Meeting with NGOs was organised on several occasions.
- Special cooperation with ICPDR was set up. The information exchange is smooth at the level of Head of Delegations (we meet twice a year at the Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meeting of ICPDR) and Expert Groups too. The ICPDR is managing three of the PA5 Actions.

How is the project going to meet the objectives of the budget heading?

- d.) Due to the voluntary dissolution of the company where Péter Bakonyi works for we were not able to nominate assistants. Thus no costs are charged against the “Personnel costs” budget line. We do hope that in 2013 this problem will be solved (it is solved in the second half of 2013).
- e.) During the first half of 2013 the TA contract was transferred from VITUKI to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary.
- f.) From the Romanian side activities have been supported from the ministry's budget or the on-going projects budgets and no money have been spent from the Technical Assistance budget. This was due to the changes occurred at the organizational level of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Please describe the transnational dimension of the project

The TA is there to help the PAC to manage the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The EUSDR is a regional programme and the PACs should, by definition, work in an international surroundings:

- The Steering Groups, managed by the PACs, are composed of the representatives of the 8 Member States and 6 Non-Member States, the representatives of the EU and that of the ICPDR.
- The targets and the actions are all of macro-regional range.

- The projects supporting the actions should also be international (the scope of the project should cover at least three countries).
- The PAC in his/her dissemination activities should reach all 14 Danube Region countries.

What contribution was made by the partners?

- d.) Cooperation between the Romanian and Hungarian PACs
The cooperation between the PACs works smoothly. All tasks were executed jointly. Actions, presentations, reports, minutes etc. were discussed prior to the event and the agreed version was executed or presented. Hungarian partner got a lot of help from the Romanian side and also helped Romanian partner with technical (flood risk management) knowledge.
- e.) Cooperation the SG Members
The work of the SG Members is mainly related to the SG Meetings. Their contribution is bringing in project proposals, helping the PACs in compiling list of stakeholders, evaluating project proposals for labelling, disseminating EUSDR information in their countries etc.
- f.) INTERACT
We have received a lot of help from INTERACT (LabGroup) by providing us with different guidelines, seed of homepage, training on how to program the homepage, compiling a comprehensive list of financing opportunities.

Auto-evaluation so far

- c.) Successes:
- The SG is up and working, the attendance increased a bit but further efforts needed
 - Rules of Procedures adopted
 - Joint Pillar II Labelling Procedure adopted
 - No projects were given EUSDR Relevant label (no new projects were identified), but 2 Letter of Recommendations issued for substantial and genuine EUSDR projects as follows:
 - Common HU-UA flood protection development Programme on the Upper Tisza
 - Danube River Research and Management (DREAM)
 - Substantial progress made in many of the Actions (See Annex 1 of the Annual Report)
 - The homepage is working
- d.) Weaknesses:
- The activity of the SG Members is not high enough (paying some of the expenses of non-MS members helped)
 - The participation on the SG Meetings is low (8, 6, 7, 4 and 6 countries were represented on the first five meetings)
 - Dissemination need be strengthened
 - Homepage need be more informative
 - Stakeholder involvement should be intensified.

Concrete outputs so far

Milestones reached so far:

- See the Annex 1 of the Annual Report

How was the action publicised and how have the results been disseminated so far?

We used the opportunities of conferences we got invitation to and personal contact as well. Conferences gave us the opportunity to meet

- Danube Network for NGOs (Friends of the EUSDR Conference),
- ICPDR.

The cooperation with ICPDR is done at two levels. The PACs report on the progress of the EUSDR at the Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR in June and also at the Ordinary Meeting in

December. This provides an opportunity to discuss EUSDR topics with the Head of Delegations of the 14 Danubian countries. More operative exchange of information is done at the level of the ICPDR's Expert Groups. Priority Area 5 has got a strong link to the work done in the Flood Protection Expert Group and the River Basin Management Group. The PACs report to each of these Expert Groups twice a year on their regular meetings. On the other hand two representatives of the ICPDR Secretariat attend the SG Meeting and report back on the progress made in those Actions that are coordinated by ICPDR.

We also used the homepage to provide information to the public, but our feeling was that it was less effective (no feedback from the homepage).

What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?

- d.) The lack of financing made people disappointed. This will create bad mood until financing is solved.
- e.) Communication need be strengthened to explain people that EUSDR is a macro-regional programme and it can only handle large macro-regional projects.
- f.) There is a need of strong political support to keep the momentum.

Are there any plans to improve the implementation and if so, how?

We get prepared for the next, 2014-2021, financial period by trying to generate project ideas that fit EUSDR and help the implementation. Further we also communicate with the OP programmers to represent the EUSDR in the next MFF. Romania will implement for the next two years another two projects related to Action 1, namely, "The prevention and protection against floods in the upper Siret and Prut River Basins, through the implementation of a modern monitoring system with automatic stations – EAST AVERT" and "Danube WATER integrated water management (WATER)".

We intend to collect project ideas that can be used for project development to start the next MFF.

Simona-Olimpia Negru
PA5 Coordinator

Péter Bakonyi
PA5 Coordinator