

EUSDR Report June 2013

Priority Area 4

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS

1. OVERALL PROGRESS

1.1. State of play

After the organisational setup and the initial SG meetings of PA4 a refinement and extension phase commenced. The practical application of the total framework of operation (e.g. RoP, etc) of PA4 has been going on during the last year. The fine tuning of the rules resulted in some modifications of almost all documents prescribing the way of operation of the priority area.

The background and legitimation remained the same for the EUSDR in the reported period: notably helping effectively efforts for mitigating the global economic crisis in sustainable way in the Region; boosting major EU policy initiatives (mainly WFD and other connecting directives, strategies, especially Europe 2020 Strategy); balancing between environment, sustainability and economy working together for the Region development, bringing closer the MS and countries of the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. Progress of these areas primarily achieved by innovative transnational projects and with focus on transboundary issues. Note that the optimization and filling in the gaps in an optimal institutional and implementation mosaic is a prerequisite for our work.

The general scheme of EUSDR PA4 operation is set up as determined by the Actions (14) set by COM. The Actions are broken down into operational steps (roadmaps) done by the SG. The mission of PA4 is the improvement of the efficiency of the implementation of roadmap items by: setting up an efficiency model, optimising the implementation by using the model, making a plan for the implementation and making an optimised investment and financing plan for the roadmap item. Note furthermore that for effective operation and completing the foreseen targets, the PA4 also carries out preparatory works, such as scientific and optimization projects as equally important elements of this process.

The policy environment is defined on one hand by Water Framework Directive. The results of the programme of measures (PoM) of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) have to be submitted soon after the end of the reported period at the level of Member States. The basin-wide coordination which is foreseen under the WFD is ensured by the Member States via the ICPDR as coordination platform. The operation of the EUSDR is linked to these activities and is supporting them. With regard to the forthcoming planning period all tools necessary for the preparation of the new RBMPs have to be prepared, unified to the possible extent and have to be spread between the MSs and even to the non-MSs. There are initiatives for example on behalf of Ukraine for the participation in the classification and qualification of waters according to the EU WFD requirements and for the capacity building and cooperation in this specific field.

Further new policy element, issued by COM, is the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources. This document is summarising and defining the way forward after the first RBMP. The Blueprint was issued in November 2012, a week after the fourth SG meeting of PA4. The DG ENVI had the possibility to introduce the Blueprint, its conclusions and implications for the EUSDR on the fifth SG at the beginning of June 2013. The necessity to solve problems related to implementation of EU water policy was highlighted including *i)* Insufficient use of economic instruments, *ii)* Lack of support for specific measures, *iii)* poor governance, and *iv)* knowledge gaps.

To solve this problem, BLUEPRINT policy options embrace: continuation in enforcement of legislation, early action for uptake in 2015 RBMPs and the use of the new policy options (voluntary options, regulatory options, conditionality, and funding priority).

The 12 priority problems found by Blueprint impact assessment are the following:

- Lack of water pricing
- Lack of metering
- Lack of labelling of traded goods
- Land use/Agricultural impacts (NWRM)
- Inefficiency in buildings/appliances
- Inefficient water infrastructure
- Lack of water re-use
- Governance
- Target setting
- Drought management
- Understanding costs and benefits
- Knowledge base.

The EUSDR being a macro regional strategy serves by definition the required objectives of Blueprint:

- Better implementation
- More integration.

While the scope of the Blueprint applies for the whole EU, the territorial effect of EUSDR is limited to the Danube river basin. Therefore a deeper, focused analysis of conclusions of Blueprint specifically to the Danube countries is needed before those are incorporated in the work of PA4, the base analysis is to be completed by the end of 2013. Depending on the outcome of this analysis the targets, actions and milestones of PA4 might need modification in the future. This work has to be complemented by embedding to the roadmaps and OPs an equally substantial review process conducted by DG ENVI on the implementation of JPM of the RBMPs. This is even more challenging as this process has a longer timeframe and done on a per country basis.

The third new policy element is the JRC initiative for the cooperation between the JRC and the EUSDR. The initiative and concept paper issued by the JRC emphasises that many of the challenges identified in the EUSDR relate to areas where scientific support is crucial to ensure sound policy implementation. The JRC already has a strong scientific expertise on the Danube Region, acquired throughout different actions. In seven out of eleven Priority Areas identified in the Strategy the Joint Research Centre already has acquired scientific expertise and can provide an active scientific support. The Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy will directly or indirectly contribute to many Priority Areas, amongst them to PA4. In addition, the JRC can contribute to the expertise needed to ensure that the interdependencies between different Priority Areas are duly assessed and taken into account when implementing the EUSDR. The scientific cooperation and support will be subdivided into so called “clusters.” The most relevant cluster for PA4 is the Danube Water Nexus thematic cluster, (DWN), which will cover water quality and availability, preservation and restoration of water related ecosystems, and issues of navigation, water energy and agriculture.

JRC considers EUSDR and its PAs, Steering Groups and scientific actors of EUSDR countries as partners that may contribute to and benefit from the cooperation. Within DWN the following packages were proposed: quality and quantity database development, hydro-economic modelling

with validated models, scenario analyses with various sets of water related measures and climate scenarios. The outputs, according to the description of DWN description, would be:

- Scenarios of environmental and economic impacts of alternative water allocation measures across competing water-using sectors (agriculture, energy, industry, human consumption, environment) for the years 2030-2050, including an assessment of the provision/valuation of ecosystem services provided by aquatic ecosystems in the Danube river basin
- Methodology for modelling of water resources in the Danube river basin, integrating quantity, quality, ecology and hydro-morphology, in coordination with other tools at national and river basin level and extension to non-EU countries of the Danube Region
- Development of information supporting efforts of countries and international cooperation bodies in the implementation process of the WFD and planning of medium and long-term actions for the 2nd cycle of River Basin Management
- Policy relevant data products
- Seminars

The next steps related to implementation of DWN embrace:

- Model inventory (September 2013)
- Specification data needs (October 2013)
- Available scenario inventory, further scenario development needs (December 2013)
- Deliverable Danube database (June 2014)
- Deliverable Pilot River Basin results (December 2014)
- Deliverable Scenarios (land use and climate scenarios) (December 2014)
- Deliverable Integrated modelling toolbox (June 2015)
- Deliverable Impacts of scenarios (December 2015).

Apart from the key players the participation in SG meetings is generally low, especially for non EU Member States (MSs). The registration forms, invitations, etc. are sent out at least four times before a meeting to ensure the highest possible participation. One of reasons for non-MS countries could be the lack of financial resources. Therefore a part of the Technical Assistance budget will be dedicated to the travel costs of SG members from non-MS countries.

Despite all the mentioned obstacles in PA4 there are 8+4 projects issued with Letter of Recommendation. The plus 4 projects are the new ones with LoRs issued during the reported time period.

To evaluate the number of projects two facts have to be considered. First is the end of the 7 year EU budgeting period. There are no new available financial resources at the moment. The other fact is that without available financial resources only those ongoing projects were given LoRs that fit into the Roadmaps and were already financed, which is a severe limitation.

As it can be seen the Danube Programme could be a major step ahead, though it alone can not be considered as the universal solution for all the financing issues of EUSDR projects and other activities. At the moment the Task Force is working on the selection of main directions of financing,

because due to the limited budget only a part of acknowledged topics can be involved in for financing.

Among the prime objectives of PA4 is to reinforce implementation of EU Directives concerning restoration and maintenance of the quality of waters such as EU Water Framework Directive with Groundwater Daughter Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Nitrate Directive and Habitat Directive and in addition the Blueprint. So there is a synergy between EUSDR and water related directives, the strategy of EUSDR makes an implementation back up to EU Directives concerning water quality. To restore and maintain the quality of waters is a mandatory process for EU MS and strongly recommended for non-EU countries. The ICPDR is an important forum for the basin-wide coordination for the implementation of the WFD. Lack of financing or its proper coordination is among major gaps of proper implementation of river basin management. With the alignment of funding, ICPDR and the EUSDR – each one within its respective fields of action – will be able to make considerable contributions to the sustainable development of the Danube region concerning water quality.

1.2. Process

The framework of PA4 management remains unchanged. All the decisions are made by the SG in oral (during SG meetings) or written (outside SG meetings) procedure. The RoP is vastly unchanged, only one new form of labelling, Letter of Merit (LoM) was introduced. Usually a project proposal is submitted for getting a LoR, which is intended to be used to get financial support. There are some projects, which conform to the targets, actions and roadmaps and are essential for the implementation of EUSDR. Some of these are already financed from various sources at the date of submission for a LoR. The already financed state of these projects contradicts the purpose and wording of LoR. In these cases LoM is issued, which entitles the project to use the EUSDR Label.

Stakeholder Seminar (Budapest, 6th November 2012)

Due to the overlaps within Pillar 2 and according to the general close cooperation among the Pillar 2 PACs, a joint Stakeholder Conference was organised. The joint meeting had the advantage that the target groups covered completely the topics of each PAs and a more broad variety of topics could be focussed on. As there are many overlapping themes, the discussions and workshop sessions could cover the environment-related issues all at once and it was realised that this attracted more interested stakeholder as compared to strictly PA-focussed event. The target auditorium was environmental NGO's as well as policy makers from all administrative levels and scientists, altogether approximately 150 people. Amongst the high level representatives there was the President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the NCP of Hungary who is the Government Commissioner of EUSDR, and the Romanian, Croatian and German governments were also represented. The high level representatives emphasised the political importance of EUSDR, while the scientific lectures gave an overview of the general problems and the advantage of regional co-operations. In the parallel workshops the three PAs went into details, covering topical tasks, like removal of pharmaceutical products from urban waste water, restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube, management of water supply under climate change, floodrisk assessment for the Danube floodplains, joint Disaster Management risk assessment and preparedness in the Danube macro region, nature protection in the Danube Region and establishment of Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Reserve.

Annual Stakeholder Forum (Regensburg, 27-28 November 2012)

“The First Annual Forum of the Danube Region Strategy offered the opportunity for Ministers and State Secretaries, representatives from the public and private sector, civil society, and academia to learn about numerous initiatives, projects and actions of the EUSDR. ... Success of the Strategy is also strengthened by cross-sectoral cooperation, which is evident through horizontal coordination between many Priority Areas, especially for transport and environment priorities, which should go hand-in-hand. Priority Area Coordinators worked in teams to organise six workshops. Various concrete examples of projects and initiatives were presented, from education and vocational training, to intermodal transport strategies, navigation projects, and initiatives aiming at environmental protection or innovation and business development.” This was reflected in agenda of Workshop 3 which was focused on environmental issues and navigation.

4th Steering Group Meeting in Budapest (6 November 2012):

The objective of SG4 meeting was to decide about new labelling mode of project ideas/completed projects (Letter of Acceptance, LoA), to issue Letter of Recommendation/Acceptance for nominated, debated and agreed projects, to review of progress of tasks drawn up in roadmaps, amend/modify roadmaps, to get prepared for Pillar 2 Stakeholder Seminar (StS) and EUSDR Annual Stakeholder Forum (StF). During the meeting all the mentioned tasks were done, the roadmaps were modified according to the proposal of the SG members.

5th Steering Group Meeting in Bratislava (5 June 2013):

On the meeting the representative of DG Environment presented the special requirements of “A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources” and its importance for the PA4, followed by a discussion on the topic. The subsequent presentation on the initiative of JRC for the scientific support for EUSDR, embracing the Danube Water Nexus, opened the discussion on effective participation of institutions and PAs on JRC activities. The financing issues were introduced in a presentation and discussion about the progress of the establishment of “Danube Programme” for financing the activities and projects of EUSDR. In the following the SG has discussed their involvement in the programming process 2014-2020, the progress and state of tasks drawn up in roadmaps, gave two LoRs to projects and gave information on recent activities and on planned events.

The SG meeting provided a possibility to inform SG members about the forthcoming macro-regional conference that was held on 11-12 September in Budapest. The preparation work was carried out in the majority of the reported period and it required large preparation activity in order to ensure high visibility, wide dissemination actions and mobilized high level political actors to cooperate in the areas related to PA4 actions. Detailed description on the process and of the cooperation results will be provided in the next Progress Report.

Governance

The cooperation of PA4's Hungarian and Slovak PACs has been free of any problems. The SG meetings were held on a rotating base in the two capital cities so far. When it is practical the SG meetings can be organised back-to-back with relevant meetings (standing working group or river basin management expert group) of ICPDR. This also might contribute to resolving the low participation in SG meetings especially for non-EU MSs. However it is not envisaged to duplicate the numerous bodies, standing and expert working groups and meetings of the ICPDR instead of the single PA4 SG and it is also important that SG members should be present as government representatives with a full mandate and not experts or representatives of line institutions.

Attendance related issues still need significant efforts. For this various measures are introduced with measurable results expected. A financial mechanism was developed that allows covering the travel costs of non- MS SG members to SG meetings. At the request of the PA4 to SG members and NCPs to mobilize administrations of non- MS DR countries the Hungarian NCP, the Budapest Danube Contact Point and the Hungarian diplomacy initiated various cooperation platforms, projects and and high level agreements to incorporate less active DR countries to the work of the PA4. Three countries are already addressed with the prospect of common projects and regular attendance. Other

active countries are also encouraged to join these efforts focusing to, but not limited to neighbouring countries.

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

The full list of events attended by PACs can be found in the TA progress reports, Annex 3.

Date	Main event, venue, topic	Results and Outcomes
5 November 2012	4 th SG meeting, Budapest	Roadmaps amended, modified to better reflect practical steps of implementation Preparation of StS Preparation for StF Modification of labelling procedure
6 November 2012	Pillar B Stakeholder Seminar, Budapest	Discussion of the content, results and approaches of projects and endeavours aimed to implement PA4 and Pillar 2 actions and roadmaps Governments, research and education institutions, civil partners and NGOs, businesses involved in the EU SDR PA4 / Pillar 2 process 150 Various types of stakeholders participated, IA high level policymakers, administration, experts, etc. from Danube countries
26-28 November 2013	Annual Stakeholder Forum, Regensburg	The activity of PA4 was presented and disseminated widely at the ASF
29 January 2013	3 rd meeting of National Contact Points and Priority Area Coordinators, meeting with the DG Environment, Brussels	
29-30 April 2013	Meeting of Priority Area Coordinators + Information workshop on the TAF-DRP organised by PA 10, Sofia	Discussion on Danube Transnational Programme/ETC Danube Programme, follow up: Ljubljana meeting
27 May 2013	Meeting with DG Enviro, consultation on the role and added values of EUSDR, Brussels	Work of PA4 and PA5 presented Political areas of cooperation discussed; Overview of priorities based on Blueprint Added value of EU SDR confirmed Next steps of cooperation identified
29 May 2013	Negotiations about the EUSDR PA4 Sediment Project, Vienna (Also in other	Maintaining the consortium of the applied research and modelling

	forums, continuous effort)	project that is the precondition of sustainability and cross sectoral development of the Danube secured. Discussions were held with DG MOVE and the Inland Waterways Coordinator, BUTE, BOKU and VUVH, FP7.
5 June 2013	5 th SG meeting, Bratislava	Decision on the integration of Blueprint to the work of PA4, Decision on the co-operation with JRC, Information about the establishment of Danube Transnational Fund, Review of progress of tasks drawn up in roadmaps, Issue of Letter of Recommendation /Merit
18-19 June 2013	ICPDR 11th Standing Working Group Meeting, Sarajevo	Highlighted discussion on the role of EU funding programmes, in particular Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme request on special status to priority projects agreed by the ICPDR contracting parties. ICPDR contribution to achieve the targets defined within the EUSDR specially for Priority Areas 4,

1.3. Funding

Overview

One of the core activities of the EU SDR is the alignment of funding for the interventions and goals a) proposed, identified and endorsed by the European Commission and the European Council in the Action Plan; and the b) Roadmaps and Milestones further identified for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by EU SDR countries in the respective Steering Groups.

The alignment of funding for various interventions and activities in different stages especially in terms of the most timely element of securing the future financial mix, notably cohesion policy and other EU financing instruments is a complex task involving Partnership Agreement and Operational Programme programmers, sectorial administration of participating countries and the European Commission that facilitates the preparation and implementation of these documents and receives the plans in various stages from all the countries involved.

PA4 contributes to this process at various ways. By elaborating roadmaps and implementation milestones common interventions are identified which might need EU co-financing. To incorporate EU funding in filling financial gaps the PA4 contributed to the process to support sectorial steering group members and sectorial administrations to establish a common base for programming of the EU SDR goals and interventions in operative programmes via active contribution and mobilizing PA4 partners and sectorial administrations via Steering Group members to the Bucharest and Stuttgart meetings of OP programmers and EU SDR partners. In terms of identifying financial gaps as well as in project level financial engineering the Budapest Danube Contact point offered assistance in a dedicated agenda point in a PA4 Steering Group meeting especially for medium and large scale interventions and EU SDR projects related water and environment.

Programming of PA4 specific interventions was an agenda point in the SG5 meeting. State of play, tasks and legislative background of programming MRS to 2014-2020 MFF OPs was broadly introduced by DG ENVI and NCPs present, while SG members provided a preliminary snapshot of national implementation of OP programming especially in the fields of PA4. 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 highlighted role in macro-regional coordination, assessment, monitoring, support of institutional cooperation and planning. Via National Contact Points the PA4 requested to that water quality and river basin management 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.

Project funding

Funding is crucial to make EUSDR PA4 operate. As it is generally known, the EUSDR started operating during the last two years of the current EU funding period 2007-2013. By now the most of the main funding programmes, including SEE and CE have closed their last calls for projects, and in many cases it was too late for new project proposals and their developments. The limited funding opportunities definitely slow down the progress of the EUSDR implementation. Though there were some communications about funding in the Danube Region at national level, no systematic mechanisms to get access to these funding was revealed.

Despite of the situation described above PA4 continuously collects information from EU funded projects and tries to learn from their experiences (such as LIFE, FP7, ERC) in order to find the actually available resources.

European Investment Bank Budapest Danube Contact Point

The funding of high investment projects is possible through the European Investment Bank (EIB). The Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCP) aims exactly at the sector of high investment projects. BDCP was launched by the European Investment Bank and Hungary (Ministry for National Economy, MNE) on the 15th June 2012 to support feasible and financeable projects in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. BDCP functions as a smart tool providing project cycle management, strategic advisory services, relationship management and financial expertise for EUSDR stakeholders. BDCP supports selected EU SDR projects in the field of transport, energy, water management and environment. BDCP facilitates the successful implementation of transnational projects with high added value, via:

- Strategic advisory,
- Project cycle management,
- Involving and coordinating stakeholders for transnational projects,
- Inviting seconded experts from EU member and non-member states to work jointly on selected projects, on a temporary basis, using technical and financial expertise of EIB/JASPERS.

The way of funding also includes financial engineering and alignment of funding. BDCP helps to assign optimal financing structure to projects via in-depth knowledge of available grant / financing instruments and via EIB liaison.

The macro-regional added-value comes by promoting and supporting the transnational and macro-regional concept, e.g.:

- BDCP promotes and supports the development of transnational and macro-regional concepts (i.e. feasibility studies). Essence of the macro regional concept lies within its transboundary character and multi-sectorial approach which allows for a broader and more complex focus by integrating every current or planned regional development or sector-specific strategy, plan and project with an effect on the region. This provides solid basis for comprehensive and sustainable regional developments within the Danube Strategy.
- Creating universal and repeatable macro-models (e.g. transport, flood management, waste management) for the benefit of similar initiatives

BDCP aims to work in close cooperation with all actors of the Danube Strategy including National Contact Points (NCPs), Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), Steering Group Members, EC, EIB, JASPERS and relevant project promoters.

Partnership agreement, operational programmes

The main task of the planning period was to mirror the priorities of EUSDR in the Operational Programmes for EU Member States and in EU financial instruments for non-member states. The structure and operation of EUSDR offered a stable cooperation platform for this, making it possible to identify common priorities and facilitating coherence and collaboration between the programmes and policies developed in the Danube region. The precondition of the successful programming was the identification of the national priorities that require cooperation with other states in order to be achieved. According to the aforementioned the programming of Operational Programmes and Partnership Agreement was a topic of SG5.

Danube Transnational Programme/ETC Danube Programme

The Danube Transnational ETC Programme (DP) will be a really substantial step ahead, nevertheless because of its limited amount (probably 10 million EUR) will not solve all the financing issues of EUSDR related projects and activities. The structure, way of operation is yet under development. The current state of discussions, negotiations is summarised below:

- An close link is needed between EUSDR and DP
- One of these topics should be the financing of preparatory steps of EUSDR projects, PACs should be involved in project preparations, selections and should involve the SGs and major stakeholders (e.g. ICPDR). Probably a non-exhaustive set of common labelling criteria and practice will be needed for all PAs. It is crucial to keep PACs well informed
- Obviously other financial resources are/will be needed as well, on a complementarity base
- Thematic objectives have to be defined and a selection is needed to make a subset as a mainstream of ETC DP financed objectives. Environment is one of the common elements of various subsets
- SGs should provide the link between DP and the political and strategy level of EUSDR and PACs should give the thematic expertise
- ETC DP needs a joint communication for all the PAs

PA4 followed additional region specific financing options that can support PA4 partners and projects. Additional financing sources can be provided inter alia by the following financial institutions:

- Danube Money Alliance,
- Danube Exchange,
- Danube Insurance,
- Danube Investment Funds,

and the following Danube region networks of business entities:

- Danube Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Danube Development Forum
- Danube Business Forum
- Bucharest Business Forum.

Despite of the above financial possibilities and the future plans the financial conditions in general were unfavourable during the last year period. Contrary to this 4 Letters of Recommendation (LoR) were given by the PA4 SG to EUSDR projects. Till the opening of major 2014-20 funding possibilities the main option practically is to prepare projects with high quality which have a really good chance for later financing.

As it was already indicated in the report, during the 2007-2013 EU funding period ten Letters of Recommendations has been issued by PA4 to confirm the link between the projects and the EUSDR targets/actions. As a lessons learned it was concluded that further provision would be necessary to better acknowledge EUSDR relevance of a project during the assessment process of the project proposals. In order to make LoRs more effective the FIS' decision making process should reward such projects with extra points. In line with the above mentioned experiences and lessons learned, in the frame of the 11th ICPDR Standing Working Group meeting, with the participation of the EUSDR PA4 coordinator, a resolution has been agreed asking the European Commission and relevant Committees working on the elaboration of the coming funding programmes to provide special status to priority projects agreed by the ICPDR contracting parties.

The technical assistance (TA) granted to PACs by EU has a great emphasis ensuring the proper operation of PACs and their assistants, financing their participations in relevant meetings, workshops and public actions. TA also helps cover the costs of participation of non-MS representatives on various PA4 meetings.

2. **PROGRESS BY TARGET**

The main responsible actors for the implementation of targets-actions-roadmaps can be found in Annex 1.

1. **Target: Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan**

This target covers 8 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are of very different aims and actors. While Action 1, 3 and 12 directly address reporting and PR tasks, Action 4, 8, 9, 11, and 13 goes more in details of the EU WFD tasks.

In the reporting and PR tasks (Actions 1, 3, 12) are driven by the ICPDR, building strongly on the data and judgement contribution of the EUSDR countries. Until now financing facilitation was only needed in case of the Action 3, Milestone 2 (Joint Danube Survey) and of the Action 12, Milestone 1 (Danube Day), where countries ensured the needed contribution. The Priority Area 4 gave added value with the promotion of the 2 programmes.

Actions 4, 8, 9, 11, and 13 are dealing with specific aims and are driven by different actors. Results are explained in the annexes. Projects' financing in most cases failed after submission. These projects are waiting on new financing possibilities. In action 8 important steps were made regarding preparation

1.1 *Action 1: "To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan"*

- The "Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Program of Measures in the Danube River Basin District" was finalised and adopted by the ICPDR in December 2012. The report includes an overview on the status of the implementation of the Joint Program of Measures from the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan.
- The ICPDR organised on 4-5 April 2013 a workshop to discuss progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Program of Measures from the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan, to learn about funding needs and potential funding instruments for actions, supported by presentations on practical examples for financing measures. The results provide relevant input towards the preparation of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan.

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

- The preparation of the Joint Danube Survey 3 is on-going. JDS 3 will take place during August and September 2013.

- The DanubeGIS system development and related discussions are currently on-going in the frame of the Information Management and GIS Expert Group of the ICPDR.
- During the preparation of the 1st Sava RBMP a comprehensive GIS database had been collected and processed. The data are stored in a common geo-database, which will be used as a core dataset for future Sava GIS. Regarding GIS system development, basic IT equipment had been acquired, but the whole system has not been established yet. It is expected that the first implementation phase will not be finished until the end of 2014. Funds and other necessary resources for implementation of steps 2 and 3 of the GIS development have not been secured yet.

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

- The Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Program of Measures in the Danube River Basin includes an assessment an overview on the measures taken and progress achieved by the Danube countries in extending urban wastewater treatment. Further detailed information can be obtained from report which is available on the ICPDR website.
 - The ICPDR organised on 4-5 April 2013 a workshop to discuss progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Program of Measures from the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan, to learn about funding needs and potential funding instruments for actions, supported by presentations on practical examples for financing measures. A key element of the Joint Program of Measures is the extension of urban wastewater treatment, which was specifically addressed in the frame of the workshop.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
- Blue-Danube - Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment

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

- The updated templates for inventories of accident risk sites (ARS), contaminated sites (CS) have been prepared by ICPDR and sent to the countries to fill in. Preparation of templates of the mining sites (MS) has been agreed, however, the preparation has been postponed until the finalization the ARS and CS templates.
 - The data collection process is on-going, 4 countries have submitted their contributions. Completion of templates of the ARS inventories in the draft form for all countries will be available by the end of November 2013. The final ARS inventories shall be available in the end of April 2014, together with the assessment of the potential dangers from environmentally relevant industrial plants, on the basis of the WRI (water risk index) to establish the accidental risk spots.
- Also four countries have sent the new inventories of the contaminated sites. Completion of templates of the CS inventories in the draft form for all countries will be available end of November 2013. The final CS inventories shall be available end April 2014.

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

- The PM EG of the ICPDR organised a case study to test the EC Guidance Document No. 28 - Technical Guidance on the Preparation of an Inventory of Emissions, Discharges and Losses of Priority and Priority Hazardous Substances, in accordance with Article 5 of EQS Directive in the DRB. The first step consisted in the assessment of the relevance of the substances at the river basin level and the second one in a more in-depth analysis using riverine load approach.

The study was performed for the period 2008 – 2009 using measured substance concentrations and river discharge data. For the assessment of relevant priority substances the criteria described in the CIS Guidance No. 28 have been used. The twelve priority substances that have passed the relevance test for the DRB are considered as the new ICPDR List of priority substances.

The second step of the testing was the riverine loads approach. The load calculation has been applied taking as pilot the Danube River itself (without tributaries) for the twelve priority substances selected as being relevant at the DRB level. A statistical overview of the results of the second testing based on load calculation for the Danube River, is available.

- Milestone 2, Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances: The methodological approach described in the CIS Guidance no. 28 on the Preparation of an Inventory of Emissions, Discharges and Losses of Priority and Priority Hazardous Substances was tested based on the data easy accessible such TNMN, E-PRTR and UWWTD databases. The inventory on emissions, discharges and losses is an important milestone to be met and should be part of as basis of the analysis for the 2nd DRBM Plan. This first inventory will cover as priority the Danube River and its main tributaries (rivers with catchment area > 4000 km²). Only the relevant priority substances will be addressed in this first inventory. The appropriate templates have already been sent to the Danube countries by ICPDR. Filling in the templates with available data for relevant priority substances is on-going.
- Milestone 3, harmonisation of data: The Danube River (without tributaries) was chosen as case study for the analysis of interface between the E-PRTR, UWWTD and TNMN databases. The results obtained from the TNMN data analysis were correlated with the available information found the E-PRTR and the UWWTD databases. Different criteria were used for the latter two databases (E-PRTR, UWWTD) in order establish the relevance of substances. In conclusion, based on the information extracted from the E-PRTR, UWWTD and TNMN databases and considering the combined approach (emissions and riverine concentrations) the following substances have been set as being relevant at the Danube River level:
 - Priority substances: Cadmium and its compounds, Lead and its compounds, Mercury and its compounds, Nickel and its compounds, Benzo(g,h,i)perylene, Trichloromethane (Chloroform)
 - General parameters: Total organic carbon (TOC), COD, BOD5, ammonical nitrogen, total nitrogen, total phosphorus
 - Other pollutants (specific pollutants): Arsenic and its compounds, Copper and its compounds, Chromium and its compounds, Adsorbable organic halogens (AOX).

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

- Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction is in progress. There is an ongoing project dealing with this topic (CC-Ware) and a finished project (CC-WaterS).
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Climate Change and Impacts on Water Supply - CC-WaterS
 - CC-Ware - Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources

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

- In addition to 350 national events and activities organised by over 900 partner organisations throughout the basin, a number of noteworthy international events occurred on Danube Day 2012: (1) the passing of the fish flag happened between Hungary and Slovakia; (2) there was an international press release and press material including text modules and quotes provided for the countries; (3) post-Danube-Day questionnaires were used for the development of the calendar manuscript; calendars were disseminated in December; country reviews were published on the website; (4) a review article in Danube Watch provided an additional overview on Danube Day; (8) cotton bags in magenta and ochre were highly popular and received positive recognition in all countries.
- ICPDR.org was re-launched in summer 2012. All contents of the website were reviewed, outdated information was removed, new contents added.
- Danube Art Master 2012 concluded in 14 countries; continuation planned in the same way as 2013. 220 schools provided artworks, 708 artworks were submitted, in total 1466 children participated. The International Winner was selected by the PP EG in September, they will win an underwater camera, water-powered clocks will be given to the 10 best contributions. Communication was done via websites, flickr and Facebook.
- Danube Watch 3/12 had a focus on river basin management; Danube Watch 1/13 has pointed out that stakeholder consultation for the Danube River Basin Management Plan has started.
- Information exchange on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness: Ongoing information through established media: Danube Watch, ICPDR.org, e-mail to ICPDR observer organisations

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

- The detailed information about responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply in individual countries is problem to collect on whole Danube region. Available national and trans-national associations can serve as basic platform for next communication and cooperation in the context of EUSDR. To them belong:
 - European Federation of National Associations of Water and Wastewater Services (EUREAU) www.eureau.org and
 - International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) www.iawd.at.
 - Country participation in EUREAU and IAWD water supply associations as well as list of available water companies was created.

- In the milestone „Develop joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply including transboundary issues on shared water resources” the preparation of the structure of a workshop/conference will be the agenda of the next months.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Climate Change and Impacts on Water Supply - CC-WaterS
 - CC-Ware - Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources
 - Cross-border Water Supply Development in the Pannon-Fertő Region - Phase 3.
 - Forests for drinking water protection.

2. TARGET: REDUCE THE NUTRIENT LEVELS IN THE DANUBE RIVER TO ALLOW THE RECOVERY OF THE BLACK SEA ECOSYSTEMS TO CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO 1960S BY 2020.

This target covers 3 actions of the EUSDR PA4, action 5, 6 and 7. In Action 5 important preparatory steps within the PA4 were done towards project proposals facing the next financing period. Action 6 and 7 no financing was needed in the reporting period. **(Ezt az utolsó mondatot én húznám, mert nem egyértelmű, mit takar.**

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

- Survey of the situation on buffer zones is in progress. The draft questionnaire is under preparation, it will be finished by the deadline and then will be sent to the SG members to forward to the governmental bodies or any other actor who is entitled to reply.
- Survey of the situation on management of solid waste and of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements is in progress. The draft questionnaire is under preparation.

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

- Preparatory assessment on cooperation between agriculture and water sector is part of the „Tisza case study on agriculture and water management“, ICPDR, November 2012. With regard to Milestone 1, this report includes:
 - A discussion of the outcomes of the ITRBM Plan / Measures to reduce pressures from agriculture and improve interlinkages between water management and agricultural sectors
 - An overview of the stakeholders involvement in the dialogue between water management and agriculture, with illustration of good practices.

On this basis investigations were carried out to formulate recommendations focusing on policy, measures and implementation areas. On November 5-6 2012, the stakeholder seminar

was organised in Bucharest List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):

→ GoodWater - Strategies for development the water management instruments on water protected areas.

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

- The Milestone 1 “Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012” is in progress. The limitation of phosphates in detergents is considered as a cost effective measures for the reduction of nutrient loads in the Danube river system, particularly in the short term before an appropriate wastewater treatments system is put in place. The issue is addressed and an overview on the status regarding the limitations in the different Danube countries is provided in the Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Program of Measures.
- Phosphates in detergents constitute an important source of nutrients to be addressed in river basin management planning activities. Calculations of nutrient emissions, pathways and loads via the MONERIS model (which is improved and available online) used for the Danube River Basin is taking this into account. Updated model calculations on nutrients are part of the planning steps and on-going work for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Danube basin.
- Phosphates in detergents are addressed and part of the on-going discussions in the relevant Expert Groups of the ICPDR for WFD implementation.

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

This target covers Action 14 of the EUSDR PA4. No financing was needed in the reporting period because project proposal was still under development at the level of the Black Sea Commission.

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

- The kick-off meeting for partners and associate partners of the project “Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region, ICZM”, took place in Constanta between 11-13 March 2013. The main scope of the meeting was a review of partners input, setting-up a programme of actions, setting up of the working groups for further activities for Developing an ICZM common approach in Project area” (GA 1). Also within the GA 1, 3 WG meeting will be held in June 2013, (Sinop – Turkey), Odessa (Ukraine) and Constanta (Romania) with partners or associate partners providing the reference format for the study on status of ICZM, mainly analysing:
 - Institutions/ organisations in charge with different ICZM aspects at regional/ national levels;
 - Methodologies of delineation the coastal area used at regional/ national levels;
 - Screening of type of indicators used for classification of the coastal area/ beaches by the institutions/ organizations responsible;
 - Decision making process and public consultation procedures;
 - Significant stakeholders, both from public and private sector;
 - Sectorial approaches or fragmented tools possible to be integrated;
 - Challenges and specific issues to each Project region.

WG reports, will provide recommendations and conclusions that will be the base for further development of the ICZM study.

- In the milestone „Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea” the ICZM results will be coordinated (harmonized) with the activities of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and discussed within ICZM Advisory Group of the Black Sea Commission.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region

4 Target: Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species.

The aims mainly achieved. Sediment project was submitted but rejected, steps are done toward financing.

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

- The 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan includes an ecological prioritisation approach for measures addressing river and habitat continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin. Discussions on the update of the approach are currently on-going in the frame of the ICPDR Hydromorphology Task Group. In September 2012 a workshop on River and Habitat Continuity was organised, where the update of the methodology for the approach was discussed. In the meantime a far advanced draft for the updated methodology is available. As next steps it is planned that the draft methodology is tested with data collected in the frame of the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis according to the WFD. Following the testing phase, the updated approach is planned to be finalised and to be part of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan.
- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - Danube Sediment Management – Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin

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

This target covers the action 2 of the EUSDR PA4. On Tisza level on-going discussion on financing is done.

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

- Two case studies were elaborated in the frame of the ICPDR Tisza Group, addressing important issues for the Tisza sub-basin. One case study is addressing agriculture and land use, and a second case study was elaborated on climate change and adaptation.

- Work on the elaboration of an Interim Report on the implementation of the 1st Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan is currently on-going in the frame of the ICPDR Tisza Group.
- The Sava RBM Plan was prepared and distributed to the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava RB (SI, HR, BA and RS) for their national adoption procedures. That process is currently in progress in all the Sava countries. Completion of the process cannot be expected before 2014.

Regarding implementation of the Plan it can be stated that formally there is no obligation to implement the (joint) Programme of Measures until the Plan is adopted by all the Parties. On the other hand, the sets of measures indicated in the Sava RBM Plan are fully based on the measures envisaged to implement either in the national plans of the Parties which are the EU members (SI) or those for which the accession countries (BA, HR, and RS) have declared that will be implemented (by 2015). In other words, it can be stated that the action is being implemented.

Due to the above mentioned reasons reporting on the implementation of the PoM for the 1st cycle will be done in 2015/2016.

- List of projects associated with the action (the full project data sheet can be found in Annex 2):
 - ProTisza - Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin
 - SEWABIS - Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin
 - SEE River - Sustainable Integrated Management Of International River Corridors In SEE Countries.

Budapest-Bratislava, 27 June 2013

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Annex 1: Roadmaps to implement each action

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures	2012	ICPDR	Finalised and adopted in December 2012	In progress.	-	-
Milestone 2	Facilitate the alignment of funding and the support of the JPM of 1st and 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan						
Output 1	Policy reflections and Plan on financing for 1st JPM	First quarter of 2013	EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR	Finalised: Workshop organised 4-5 April 2013	In progress	Continue the work	-
Output 2	Supporting documents to financing of 2nd Joint Programme of Measures	End of 2014	EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR	In progress	In progress	Continue the work	-
Milestone 3	Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report	First half of 2014	ICPDR	In progress, Document currently under development	-	Continue the work	-
Milestone 4	2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan	End 2015	ICPDR	In progress , Preparatory steps	-	Continue the work	-

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Implementation of the 1st ITRBM Plan	2015	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)	In progress	-	Continue the work	SEE RIVER
Project 1	Case studies on Tisza sub-basin	End 2012	ICPDR Tisza Group (HU, RO, RS, SK, UA)	Finalised: 2 case studies	In progress	-	
Project 2	Early warning water quality monitoring system on transboundary rivers	2020	Water Boards on sub-region	Discussion on-going	-	-	
Milestone 2	Interim report on the 1st ITRBM Plan	End 2013	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)	In progress, Work on the elaboration	-	Continue the work	SEE RIVER
Milestone 3	Strengthening of cooperation in the Tisza River Basin						
Output 1	Proposal for a framework for a long-term cooperation between Tisza countries	First half of 2013	PA4, UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group	In progress , Preparatory steps	-	To continue discussions	
Output 2	Alignment of funding and setup of the proposed framework	End of 2014	PA4, UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group	In progress , Preparatory steps	-		
Project	ProTisza (Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin)	2014	PA4,UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group	Submitted but rejected project, waiting for new submission	-	Submit the project	Pro-Tisza
Milestone 4	Development of the 2nd ITRBM Plan	End 2015	HU, RO, RS, SK, UA, ICPDR Tisza Group	-	-	-	SEE RIVER
Milestone 5	Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report	2013	MD, RO, UA, ICPDR	Draft report available	In progress	-	
Milestone 6	Danube Delta Management Plan	2015	RO, MD, UA	Project proposal was not supported under the last call	-	-	
Milestone 7	Prut Management Plan	2015	MD, RO, UA	Pilot project on-going on the Prut sub-basin, identified in the frame of an on-going EU project including	concept note was handed in by 30 January 2012; Applicant: Prut River Basin Administration - Romania	-	SEE RIVER
Milestone 8	Implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan	End of 2014	ISRBC	In progress		Continue the work	SEWABIS
Milestone 9	Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis	2015	ISRBC	In progress		Continue the work	SEWABIS
Milestone 10	Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan	2017	ISRBC			-	SEWABIS

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	ICPDR databases	end 2015	ICPDR	In progress	On-going	Continue the work	
Project 1	Development of databases on inventories related to ARS, CS and MS	end 2014	ICPDR	Work on-going for the preparation of ARS, CS inventories	-	Continue the work	
Project 2	Further development of TNMN database	end 2015	ICPDR	Discussions on-going in the MA EG on the content of the database	-	Continue the work	
Project 3	Development of database on inventories on H(azardous)S(ubstances)	end 2014	ICPDR	Templates for concluding inventories of PS already selected available. Work on-going	-	Continue the work	
Milestone 2	Joint Danube Survey 3	30/09/2014	ICPDR	The preparation of the Joint Danube Survey 3 is on-going. JDS 3 will take place during August and September 2013	On-going	Continue the work	
Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Danube	30/09/2013	ICPDR	Draft Cruise Manual prepared by the JDS3 Technical Coordinator. JDS3 Core Team selected. Communication strategy drafted. Preparation of the monitoring survey is on-going	On-going	Continue the work	
Project 2	Preparation of the JDS3 reports	30/09/2014	ICPDR	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project; therefore its implementation has not started yet.	-	-	
Milestone 3	Joint Tisza Survey 2						
Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Tisza River	2015	ICPDR Tisza Group	Discussion on the Tisza Survey is in progress in the MA EG. Funding is still missing	-		
Project 2	Preparation of the JTS2 reports	2016	ICPDR Tisza Group	-	-	-	
Project 3	Survey and assessment of hydro-ecology of the Tisza River	2015	HU, UA, SK, RO, RS, AT, HR	-	-	-	
Milestone 4	INSPIRE compliant DanubeGIS	2015	ICPDR	System development and related discussion in IMGIS EG is on-going		-	
Step 1	Refinement of system concept and preparation of implementation plan	2012	ICPDR	In progress		Continue the work	
Step 2	Development of tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data	2015	ICPDR	In progress		Continue the work	
Milestone 5	Establishment and completion of the SavaGIS						
Step 1	Setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities.	2012	ISRBC	In progress		Continue the work	
Step 2	Development of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services as well as basic application and/or	2015	ISRBC				

	decision support systems.						
Step 3	Extension of common data model to accommodate additional themes and datasets and the establishment of the most advanced service components	after 2015	ISRBC				

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Updating the implementation programme of UWWT	End of 2012	ICPDR	An overview on the measures taken and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM			
Step 1	Information on national level of UWWTPs	End of 2012	ICPDR				
Step 2	Revision and update of the ICPDR database on investments	End of 2013	ICPDR				
Milestone 2	Financial planning for programme implementation						
Work 1	Facilitate dialogue among donors and IFIs on financing options of the urban wastewater treatment plants in the DRB	First half of 2013	ICPDR	ICPDR workshop on 4-5 April 2013 specifically addressed UWWT.			
Work 2	Workshop on financing	First half of 2013	ICPDR	Workshop on 4-5 April 2013		-	
Work 3	Preparation of a financial plan for the implementation programme on update for the UWWT	First half of 2013	PA4, BDCP				
Milestone 3	Technology developments						
Work	To promote investments to foster penetration, where necessary, of improved UWWT technology based on research or already proved “state of the art” technologies	2015	EUSDR Countries			-	
Project 1	New technology for specific contamination	2015	EIB BDCP			-	
Project 2	Blue Danube – “Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment”	2015	DE, BG	Submitted but rejected project	-	Submit the project	Blue Danube

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Survey of the situation on buffer zones	first half of 2013	HU, ICPDR , PA4	In progress. The draft questionnaire is under preparation, it will be finished by the deadline	-	Continue the work	
Milestone 2	Implementation of pilot projects on nutrient buffer zones						
Work 1	Preparatory paper for evaluating different solutions of establishing buffer zones	June 2014	HU, ICPDR , PA4				
Work 2	Programme planning on common methodology and applying solution of buffer zones engineering	2015	Danube region countries				
Work 3	Projects generation and implementation	2015	Danube region countries				
Milestone 3	Survey of the situation on management of solid waste in small rural settlements	first half of 2013	HU, ICPDR, PA4	In progress. The draft questionnaire is under preparation.		Continue the work	
Milestone 4	Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements	2013	HU, ICPDR, PA4	In progress. The draft questionnaire is under preparation.		Continue the work	
Milestone 5	Promoting best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste management and wastewater treatment for small settlements						
Work 1	Analyses of solid waste management and WWT	2014	HU, ICPDR, PA4				
Work 2	Proposal for a supplementary, eco-friendly and site-specific waste water treatment units for less than 2000 PE small settlements where UWWTPs are financially non-feasible	End of 2013	HU, ICPDR, PA4	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project; therefore its implementation has not started yet.			
Work 3	Generating policy response to the findings of the survey on waste management in small settlements	End of 2013	PA4	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet.			
Milestone 6	Implementation pilot projects and promotion of site-specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements						
Phase 1	Programme proposal for technical and financing solutions for the Danube region countries reflecting their different circumstances of topography	2013	PA4, Danube region countries, BDCP	This milestone depends on previous, still ongoing milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet.			
Phase 2	Projects generation based on documents focusing on know-how exchange (BAT) and applying the most suitable technical solutions to small regions and/or settlements concerned	2015	Project leaders				
Milestone 7	Promotion of the implementation of good practices	end of 2015 and continuously	ICPDR, PA4				

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Strengthen the cooperation between agriculture and water authorities	2013	SK, ICPDR	In progress, Preparatory assessment on cooperation between agriculture and water sector is part of „ Tisza case study on agriculture and water management “, ICPDR, Nov. 2012.	In progress	Continue the work	GoodWater
Milestone 2	Implementation of Action plan	continuous	Project leaders, Danube countries				GoodWater

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012	End of 2012	ICPDR, PA4	In progress, ongoing work , the issue is addressed and an overview on the status regarding the limitations is provided in the IRI of the JPM	-	Continue the work	
Milestone 2	Policy response on the Overview Report	2013	PA4	It will be realized in second half of 2013		Continue the work	
Milestone 3	Scenarios calculation for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents						
Output 1	Results of anticipated nutrients reduction effects and presentation of management options	End of 2013	ICPDR	In progress	-	Continue the work	
Output 2	New model calculations of the anticipated P and its compounds reduction due to P - free detergent ban on providing evidence for the phosphates and its compounds limitation in dishwashers detergents	End of 2013	ICPDR	Work ongoing. MONERIS model improved as a mgt tool, available online	-	Continue the work	
Milestone 4	Facilitate implementation of JPM trough enhanced stakeholders' dialogue	on-going	ICPDR	Phosphates in detergents are addressed and part of the ongoing discussions in the relevant Expert Groups of the ICPDR for WFD implementation			

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Inventory of polluted sites by upgrading of 'hot spot' inventory 2001	end 2012	ICPDR	In progress, ARS, CS templates sent, MS templates agreed.	-	Continue the work	
Milestone 2	List of activities and research needs	End of 2013	ICPDR, PA4	In progress	-	Development of the list, research needs	
Milestone 3	Implementation of projects	End of 2020	Danube region countries, companies, to be defined as appropriate				
Milestone 4	Knowledge transfer	continuous	EU				

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Testing of the EU Guidance document on EQS Directive	July 2012	ICPDR	Finalised.	In progress		
Project	Testing of the Guidance	Dec 2012	ICPDR	Finalised.	In progress		
Milestone 2	Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances	June 2013	ICPDR	In progress, appropriate templates sent to the Danube countries	-	Inventory development	
Project	Emissions reduction of priority substances in the Danube Basin (PS – RED)	December 2013	ICPDR	Planning ongoing	-	Submit the project	
Milestone 3	Harmonization of data	September 2013	ICPDR	In progress, Available as a list		Harmonisation	
Project	Contribution to REACH report	End of 2013	ICPDR	In progress, Available as a methodology		Continue the work	

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Revision and update of the ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin						
Work 1	Revision and update of methodology with support from EU Grant	End of 2012	ICPDR	Finalised.	In progress	Work 2	
Work 2	Application of new methodology with updated data from 2013 data collection	End of 2013	ICPDR	Advanced draft for updated methodology available; Application of updated methodology and testing planned for beginning 2014 with data from 2013 Update DBA	In progress	Continue the work	
Milestone 2	Application of the approach for 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan	End of 2015	ICPDR				
Milestone 3	Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams	As soon as possible	RO, RS, ICPDR, PA4	Project proposal handed in under Dutch "Partners for Water Programme" in February 2013 and approved in June 2013.		Funding	
Milestone 4	To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube						
Project	Danube Sediment Management - Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin	End of 2014	HU, AT, DE, SK, HR, RS	Project proposal rejected by SEE. During the 36th RBM EG Meeting in October 2012, the potential need for enlarging the project consortium with involvement of additional stakeholders (e.g. navigation and hydropower) was raised.	Planning ongoing	Submit	Danube Sediment
Milestone 5	Assessment of the establishment of a hydro-morphological monitoring system for the Danube and tributaries	End of 2014	HU, Danube countries, ICPDR		-		
Milestone 6	Study on the improvement of longitudinal continuity of rivers with operational changes in existing installations and low cost improvements in the light of the specific needs of various migratory fish species and taxa (coordination with PA6)	2014	HU, Danube countries		-		
Milestone 7	Examination of the biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin						
Project	Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin - SEWABIS	June 2014	SI, SK, BA, HR, RS		-		

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction	End of 2013	HU, PA5, ICPDR, PA4, GWP DS task Force	In progress. There is an ongoing project dealing with this topic (CC-Ware) and a finished project (CC-WaterS).	In progress, CC-WaterS	Continue the collection	CC-WaterS, CC-Ware
Milestone 2	Dissemination of results of the best practices and policies for decision-makers and stakeholders	First half of 2014	HU, ICPDR, PA4				
Milestone 3	Integration of the results from the good practices collection into the Risk assessment and 2nd DRBMP	End of 2013 and 2015 (DRBMP)	HU, PA5, ICPDR, PA4	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet			
Milestone 4	Pilot projects based on best practices of milestone n°1 and promotion	continuous	Project leaders	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet			CC-WaterS, CC-Ware

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Danube Day 2012 held in 14 countries with more than 100 individual events	continuously every year for Danube Day, 30 November for review diary	ICPDR	In progress, http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/danube-day , http://www.danubeday.org/	In progress	review diary	
Milestone 2	Re-launch of the ICPDR Website as a tool to communicate accessible and appealing information on RBM efforts of the ICPDR as a contributing organization in implementation of some PAs of EUSDR. Link to the Danube region website	June 2012 for re-launch of the ICPDR website End of 2012 for including and linking EUSDR items	ICPDR, PA4	Finalised, ICPDR.org was re-launched in summer 2012. All contents of the website were reviewed, outdated information was removed, new contents added, http://www.icpdr.org	In progress	Website update continuously	
Milestone 3	Organisation of the Danube Art Master as a basin-wide competition among schools and youth care facilities	June of every year	ICPDR	In progress, http://www.icpdr.org/main/danube-art-master-2012-czech-republic-wins-competition	In progress	Continue the organisation	
Milestone 4	Information for the broad public on the progress report of the DRBMP implementation through an appropriate article in Danube Watch	15 December 2012	ICPDR, PA4	Finalised, http://www.icpdr.org/main/publications/danube-watch .	In progress	Danube Watch articles	
Milestone 5	Information exchange on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness	continuous	PA4, ICPDR	On-going information through established media: Danube Watch, ICPDR.org, e-mail to ICPDR observer organisations	In progress	Continue the exchange	

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Identify responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	End of 2012	SK, ICPDR	Finalised, list of the available national and trans-national associations is prepared	-		CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-Ware
Milestone 2	Develop joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply including transboundary issues on shared water resources	2013	SK, ICPDR, suppliers' umbrella organizations	In progress, Preparation of the structure of workshop/conference is ongoing.	-		CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-Ware
Milestone 3	Implementation of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	continuous	Danube countries and suppliers, BDCP		-		CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-Ware

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

	Name	Deadline	Responsible actors	Progress 2013	Progress 2012	Next steps	Project
Milestone 1	Development of specific project regarding the improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region	2012	RO	In progress, kick-off meeting on 11-13 March 2013.	Project planning in progress	Project activities	ICZM
Milestone 2	Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea	30 November 2013	RO, BG, UA	In progress	-	These results will be coordinated (harmonized) with the activities of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and discussed within ICZM Advisory Group of the Black Sea Commission	
Milestone 3	Development of a project proposal concerning Black Sea marine environment protection considering the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and using the Maritime Spatial Planning	30 March 2013	RO	In progress, proposal is under development at the level of the Black Sea Commission	-	Continue to develop the proposal.	

Projects approved in 2011

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

Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name of the project	GoodWater – Strategies for development the water management instruments on water protected areas
Action related	PA 4. 6: To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution
Countries involved	Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary
Funding	2.500.000 € South East Europe transnational programme funds; IPA funds, national funds.
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>The transnational project area is reach in water protected areas (WPA) and large ground and surface water resources. The area contains regions and pilot sites from Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Lombardia (IT). The degree of water pollution gives cause for concern. The project GOODWATER aims to provide implementation instruments, based on environmental basis for effective protection of water resources and enhanced and sustainable land use. The conflicts between political decided measures on WPA and intensive land use could be solved through a harmonized management strategy of WPA and improving the best practices and technologies. The project will deliver methodology for groundwater management related to water protection, spatial development and land use.</p> <p>The general objective is the sustainable development on water protected areas (WPA). Specific objectives: Identify water management problems on WPA; raise awareness through interactions with local groups; transnational recommendations by improving sustainable management on WPA; create models under efficient implementation water resources protected regimes; implement instruments for land use.</p>
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Projects approved in 2013

Name of the project	Cross-border Water Supply Development in the Pannon-Fertő Region – Phase 3.
Action related	PA 4.13 To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply
Countries involved	Austria, Hungary
Funding	86.000 EUR, EU Funds, National Contribution, Federal Contribution
Stage of implementation	Project in preparation
Description	The project aims at the cross-border connection of the water supply systems of Central and Northern Burgenland (AT) and the region of Sopron (HU) in order to improve the quality of drinking water, to preserve the water resources in a sustainable way and to decrease energy use, by shortening pumping distances. The predecessor project aiming at investment preparation and planning is under implementation co-financed by the AT-HU ETC Programme. The proposed project's main goal is to establish the infrastructure of the cross-border water supply system, enabling the transfer of drinking water between the involved regions. The project contributes to a strengthened cross-border cooperation and exchange of information between the involved institutions, to an increasingly safe water supply and an improved water quality, which goals are in line with Priority 4 of the EUSDR.
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	To be discussed after approval of project.

Projects granted with a Letter of Merit in 2013

Name of the project	ICZM –Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region
Action related	PA 4.14 To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea
Countries involved	Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Romania
Funding	627.100 € Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013”, 2nd Call
Stage of implementation	Planned
Description	<p>Taking into account that the action to which the above mentioned project is belonging, is meant to make connection between the Danube River and the Black Sea, and the Danube River is the most important tributary for the Black Sea, any actions taken within the Danube River Basin will influence the Black Sea marine environment.</p> <p>The project will support the improvement and development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management addressing to the area at the interface between land and sea while the Maritime Spatial Planning will focus on the activities developed on sea. Both of them will focus on water environment quality.</p> <p>Overall: To improve quality of maritime environment using common innovative methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans within the Black Sea region to assure the economical use of resources</p> <p>Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop common and coherent ICZM approach within the regions - provide integrated support for the stakeholders - increase the level of public participation in the decision-making process
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Recommendation. Participation in public events, networking with other projects and initiatives, strengthening links to policy level and participation in Project Meetings if necessary.
Next steps	After the approval of project the SG granted it with a LoM. Implementation of the project activities until the end of 2014.

Name of the project	Climate Change and Impacts on Water Supply - CC-WaterS
Action related	PA 4.13 To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply
Countries involved	Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Serbia
Funding	4 219 727 EUR, South East Europe (SEE) Transnational Cooperation Programme 1st call
Stage of implementation	Completed
Description	Climate change affects fresh water resources and may have significant impact on public drinking water supply. Land use activities exert pressure on water resources and are changing according to climate change. It is crucial for safeguarding future water supply to anticipate climate and land use changes and to assess their impacts on water resources. Danube Region is facing the challenge of ensuring water supply in a changing climate. Policy makers and water suppliers are required to develop sustainable management practice, considering existing and future effects of climate change. CC-WaterS identifies and evaluates impacts on availability and safety of public drinking water supply for several future decades. In order to achieve this goal in the most efficient way a multi sectoral and multi level approach is applied. The joint actions are performed on a transnational level in the Danube Region and in the Mediterranean representing different characteristic climates and topography.
Involvement of the PACs	Supply with Letter of Merit.
Next steps	The follow-up project CC-Ware is granted with LoR, and is under implementation.



PROJECT TITLE:
EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREA N°4 ('TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE
QUALITY OF WATERS')

CCI N° 2011CE160AT091

PROGRESS REPORT

Reported period: from 07/12 to 12/12

Summary of the project

The aim of the project is to facilitate the starting phase of coordination of EUSDR Priority Area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters”. The practical task was to strengthen the governance system for EUSDR PA4 in order to improve its stability, effectiveness and innovativeness.

Duration of the project:

The total duration is from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013.

Activities planned and conducted:

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 7/12 to 12/12)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
26-28 June	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on 10 th ICPDR Standing Working Group meeting in Innsbruck, Austria
9-11 July	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on ICPDR Tisza Group meeting, Lvov, Ukraine
18 October	Networking activities	Joint Pillar B meeting on common work remained till end of 2012, INTERACT, Vienna
23-25 October	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on 36 th ICPDR River Basin Expert meeting, Cluj, Romania
05 November	Steering meeting	Organising and leading of 4 th Steering Group meeting, Budapest, Hungary
06 November	Networking activities	Organising the 1 st Pillar B Stakeholder Seminar, Budapest, Hungary
26-28 November	Participation on EUSDR events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on the 1 st EUSDR Stakeholder Forum, Regensburg, Germany
11-12 December	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on ICPDR 15 th Ordinary meeting, Vienna, Austria
12-14 December	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation providing on the Danube Basin Forum organised for NGOs held in Budapest, Hungary

How was the action carried out so far?

The project has a dual governance system, for PA4 there are two countries defined by COM as coordinators, Republic of Slovakia and Hungary. First the cooperation of the two parties was clarified. The next step was the establishment of the Steering Group and its Rules of Procedures together with all the necessary forms for the management of EUSDR tasks, actions and projects. The basic operational document at EUSDR project level is the Letter of Recommendation, which is issued by the SG for the individual EUSDR projects. By elaborating and accepting all the basic documents the conditions for the operation of PA4 were established. The implementation of Actions will be guided by the roadmaps, which were made and revised at 3rd and 4th Steering Group meetings of PA4..

The operational steps were so far (from the beginning of TA Agreement):

- Organization of four SG meetings
- Approval of Targets of PA4
- Assignment of the 14 Actions to the Targets
- Definition of Highlighted Target
- Approval and labelling of 8 project proposals and an ongoing project
- Establishing and keeping up to date a website with access to the broad public
- Establishing a project database and proper input forms
- Breaking down of EUSDR PA4 Actions to operational steps (roadmaps) and keeping the roadmaps up to date
- Communicating the activities and projects of PA4 to stakeholders and to the public on international events
- Organisation of the first Stakeholder Seminar together with the other two Pillar B Priority Areas (PA5 and PA6)
- Participation in the first EUSDR Stakeholder Forum, in Regensburg
- Preparing an interim report for COM.

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

The budget of TA has covered the:

- financing of travel costs of PAC and its assistants
- funding of the PAC assistants staff costs
- expenses of the SG meetings held at Budapest and Bratislava

Please describe the transnational dimension of the project

As it was mentioned the project has a dual governance system, two countries, Slovakia and Hungary, has to work closely together for the success of this PA of EUSDR. Furthermore EUSDR itself is transnational as it is a macro regional strategy spreading over 14 countries. The scene of practical work is the Steering Group consisting of the representatives of the 14 countries, working by definition on a transnational base. All the projects, that LoRs were given to, have a definite transnational dimension in their partner countries and in their scope.

What contribution was made by the partners?

Our main partner is the co-PAC of EUSDR PA4, Slovakia. Our cooperation is free of any problems. The practical organisation of SG meetings are done by the hosting PAC. The documents of SGs are drafted by one of SK and HU, then through some refinement steps, on a consensus base the final and agreed document is made. So the contribution of our partner is either the preparation of drafts or

giving opinion on our drafts. The SG meetings are held on a rotating base in Bratislava and Budapest. The decision on the venue and help on accommodation, etc. is done by the host, the documents for the SG meeting are prepared mutually.

There are other partners as well such as strategic partner ICPDR, WWF, IAD and JRC as a new partner and scientific promoter and contributor in implementation process since declaration of deputy general director made on 1st Annual Stakeholder Forum in Regensburg on 27-28 November.

Auto-evaluation so far

- Successes:

A well established and well managed operational structure

Website with access to the broad public updated continuously

13 labelled EUSDR project proposals among them:

already financed 3 projects

approved of 8 project proposals and supply with LoR

labelled of one ongoing project by issuing Letter of Merit

Action breakdowns into operational steps

Organised Stakeholder Seminar

- Weaknesses:

Mobilisation of a part of Danube countries, especially the non member, non candidate countries

Concrete outputs so far

- Organization of four SG meetings
- Approval of Targets of PA4
- Assignment of the 14 Actions to the Targets
- Definition of Highlighted Target
- Labelling of 9 project proposals (8+1 in two steps)
- An up to date a website with access to the broad public
- A project database and proper input forms
- Breakdown of EUSDR PA4 Actions to operational steps
- Communications of the activities and projects of PA4 to stakeholders and to the public
- Organisation of Stakeholder Seminar together with PA5 and PA6
- Participation in the first EUSDR Stakeholder Forum
- Interim report for COM

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

All activities of the PACs and SG were disseminated by a lot of presentations, meetings, conferences with or without the participation of the PAC of PA4.

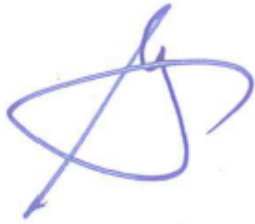
What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?

Establishing such a large scale management structure and checking and controlling a large extent European international strategic project, communication with stakeholders.

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

Even more effort is needed to make people understand EUSDR and the importance of PA4. This goes especially for the national administrations and for the institutions behind them so as to be able to create and contribute to those projects which will result the practical implementation of Targets and Actions. Further mobilisation of the least active countries is needed, through diplomatic bodies.

Budapest- Bratislava, 15 December 2012



Dr. László PERGER
EUSDR PA4 co-PAC
Hungary



Dr. Radoslav BUJNOVSKÝ
EUSDR PA4 co-PAC
Slovak Republic



PROJECT TITLE:
EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREA N°4 ('TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE
QUALITY OF WATERS')

CCI N° 2011CE160AT091

PROGRESS REPORT

Reported period: from 01/13 to 06/13

Summary of the project

The aim of the project is to facilitate the starting phase of coordination of EUSDR Priority Area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters”. The practical task was to strengthen the governance system for EUSDR PA4 in order to improve its stability, effectiveness and innovativeness.

Duration of the project:

The total duration is from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013.

Activities planned and conducted:

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 1/13 to 6/13)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
29 January 2013	Consultation in Brussels	PAC 4 visit and meeting in DG ENVIRO, Brussels to provide information on progress of PA 4 (To restore and maintain the quality of waters), connection to and fulfilment of environmental policies of EU at level of the EUSDR and show the contributed work with ICPDR countries
29-30 January 2013	Participation on EUSDR events	PAC 4 participation on the 1 st NCP/PAC meeting in Brussels
14-15 February 2013	Participation on international events	PAC 4 participation on kick-off meeting of CC-WARE project, one of the promoted one by PA4 LoR which is fully fitted to PA 4, in Ljubljana, Slovenia
14-15 March 2013	Participation on international events	PAC4 assistant participation in ICPDR HYMO Task Group meeting on Habitat and Migration Continuity, in Vienna, Austria
21-22 March 2013	Participation on international events Networking activities	PAC4 assistant participation at JRC Scientific meeting on promoting of the EUSDR work by Different Nexuses (focusing to Danube Water Nexus) in Ispra, Italy
9 April 2013	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentaion providing on sub-basin action in frame of the EUSDR, at 19 th ICPDR Tisza (Sub-basin) Group meeting in Budapest, Hungary
29-30 April 2013	Participation on EUSDR events	1 st PAC Meeting on financing of projects and TA in the next MFF, in Sofia, Bulgaria

9-10 May 2013	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and presentation on the EUSDR progress at 37 th ICPDR RBM EG meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia- Hercegovina
16 May 2013	Participation on international events, Networking activities	Pillar B participation on JRC High Level Event endorsing political and scientific commitment to the EUSDR promotion, in Bratislava, Slovakia
20-21 May 2013	Participation on EUSDR events	2nd PAC Meeting on financing of projects and TA in planned frame of the Danube Transnational Programme under discussion, in Ljubljana, Slovenia
27 May 2013	Consultation in Brussels	2 nd visit and PAC 4 and PAC 5 participation at DG ENVIRO to show progress
29 May 2013	Participation on international events	Informal meeting on future of the EUSDR ‘flagship’ project Sediment with lead partners of project at ICPDR, in Vienna, Austria
30 May 2013	Participation in EUSDR events	PAC 4 participation as Pillar B representative on 5 th PA 5 SG meeting, in Budapest, Hungary
05 June 2013	Steering meeting	Organising and leading of 5 th PA 4 SG meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia
18-19 June 2013	Participation on international events	PAC4 participation and Pillar B presentation providing in ICPDR 11 th Standing Working Group meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina

How was the action carried out so far?

During the previous reported periods the Steering Group and its Rules of Procedures were established, the Actions were broken down to Roadmaps and many Letter of Recommendations were issued. All the activities were presented and consulted at Stakeholder Seminar and Stakeholder Forum.

The main tasks and activities of the current half year reporting period was mainly the preparation to the next, 2014-2020 financing period, the programming of the national Operational Programmes, the establishment of the Partnership Agreement, the preparation of the ETC Danube Programme.

Over the financial background the initiative of the JRC for the scientific co-operation of EUSDR and JRC, the variety of Nexuses is a substantial step ahead.

In addition to all these the normal operation of EUSDR PA4 was going on, e.g. SG meetings, project initiation and donation of LoRs.

The operational steps were so far (from the beginning of TA Agreement):

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

The budget of TA has covered the:

- financing of travel costs of PAC and its assistants
- funding of the PAC assistants staff costs

- expenses of the SG meetings held at Bratislava

Please describe the transnational dimension of the project

The project has a dual governance system, two countries, Slovakia and Hungary, has to work closely together for the success of this PA of EUSDR. Furthermore EUSDR itself is transnational as it is a macro regional strategy spreading over 14 countries. The scene of practical work is the Steering Group consisting of the representatives of the 14 countries, working by definition on a transnational base. All the projects, that LoRs were given to, have a definite transnational dimension in their partner countries and in their scope.

What contribution was made by the partners?

Our main partner is the co-PAC of EUSDR PA4, Slovakia. Our cooperation is free of any problems. The practical organisations of SG meetings are done by the hosting PAC. The documents of SGs are drafted by one of SK and HU, then through some refinement steps, on a consensus base the final and agreed document is made. So the contribution of our partner is either the preparation of drafts or giving opinion on our drafts. The SG meetings are held on a rotating base in Bratislava and Budapest. The decision on the venue and help on accommodation, etc. is done by the host, the documents for the SG meeting are prepared mutually.

There are other partners as well such as strategic partner ICPDR, WWF, IAD and JRC as a new partner and scientific promoter and contributor in implementation process since declaration of deputy general director made on 1st Annual Stakeholder Forum in Regensburg on 27-28 November 2012.

Auto-evaluation so far

- Successes:

- A well established and well managed operational structure
- Website with access to the broad public updated continuously
- 13 labelled EUSDR project proposals among them:
 - already financed 3 projects
 - approved of 8 project proposals and supply with LoR
 - labelled of one ongoing project by issuing Letter of Merit
- Action breakdowns into operational steps
- Organised Stakeholder Seminar
- Prepared or partly prepared Partnership Agreements, ETC Danube programme

- Weaknesses:

- Mobilisation of a part of Danube countries, especially the Non- Member, Non-Candidate countries

Concrete outputs so far

- Organization of four SG meetings
- Approval of Targets of PA4
- Assignment of the 14 Actions to the Targets
- Definition of Highlighted Target

- Labelling of 12 project proposals (8+1+3 in three steps) with LoR and one with LoM
- An up to date website with access to the broad public
- A project database and proper input forms
- Breakdown of EUSDR PA4 Actions to operational steps
- Communications of the activities and projects of PA4 to stakeholders and to the public
- Organisation of Stakeholder Seminar together with PA5 and PA6
- Participation in the first EUSDR Stakeholder Forum
- Interim report for COM
- Contribution to the programming of Operational Programmes
- Contribution to the establishment of Partnership Agreement
- Contribution to the preparation of ETC Danube Programme
- Participation in JRC Danube Water Nexus Cluster

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

All activities of the PACs and SG were disseminated by a lot of presentations, meetings, conferences with or without the participation of the PAC of PA4.

What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?

Establishing such a large scale management structure and checking and controlling a large extent European international strategic project, communication with stakeholders and with relevant actors of DGs.

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

Even more effort is needed to make people understand EUSDR and the importance of PA4. This goes especially for the national administrations and for the institutions behind them so as to be able to create and contribute to those projects which will result the practical implementation of Targets and Actions. Further mobilisation of the least active countries is needed, through diplomatic bodies and by subsidizing their participation in SG meetings or other events.

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