



2016

THE FIFTH YEAR'S PROGRESS REPORT

EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Priority Area 4

“to restore and maintain the quality of waters”

Coordinated by Hungary and Slovakia

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A: Action
DRBMP: Danube River Basin Management Plan
DSP: Danube Strategy Point
DTP: Danube Transnational Programme
EC: European Commission
EU: European Union
EUSDR: European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
GWP: Global Water Partnership
ICPDR: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management
ISRBC: International Sava River Basin Commission
JDS: Joint Danube Survey
MS: Member States
MSP: Maritime Spatial Planning
NCP: National Contact Point
PA: Priority Area
PAC: Priority Area Coordinator
RBM: River Basin Management
SG: Steering Group
SWG: Standing Working Group
TA: Technical Assistance
TAF: Technical Assistance Facility
WG: Working Group
WFD: Water Framework Directive
WWT: Waste Water Treatment
UWWTD: Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Question 1: Summary of progress achieved during the reporting period.

The main outputs of the EUSDR Priority Area 4 (PA4) “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” are to coordinate and manage the implementation of the PA4 targets elaborated in detail into 14 actions of action plan (Roadmap). The main activities are focused on supporting the protection of water resources, assistance mainly in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), improvement of fish migration, promotion of measures addressing agricultural pollution, facilitation of sub-basin activities. The PA4 provides assistance in project generation, partnership search, networking, alignment of project funding, dissemination and deepens synergies with international organizations (ICPDR, Sava Commission, Carpathian Convention, GWP, EIP, etc.)

The project objectives contribute to smooth implementation of PA4 activities aiming at improvement of water quality in the Danube Region.

Within the reported period of project implementation between July 2015 and June 2016, the PA4 team focused on the coordination, management and monitoring; supporting the projects and searching for financial possibilities; organisation and participation at PA4 related meetings and events; implementation of Roadmap activities and dissemination of PA4 achievements. Above all in the reporting period PA4 was concentrating on new **project preparation and assisting in setting up project consortia**’s to use available financial funding possibilities.

Two **strategically important project proposals** were prepared and submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme for funding: towards strengthening the **Tisza river basin cooperation and for the development of the update of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan** (JOINTISZA project) and the project proposal in the subject of sediment issues (DANUBE SEDIMENT project). The **Danube Sediment** major objective is to review the current status of the sediment regime of Danube including the inputs of major tributaries and to 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 morpho-dynamics along the Danube. Both proposals were approved by the DTP JS in the first selection phase and the consortiums developed and submitted their proposal for the 2nd round.

The PA4 team continued **focusing on Non EU countries and especially focusing on their waste water needs**: PA4 HU team visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia in July 2015 and PA4 SK team held discussions with Ukraine and Moldova in September 2015. The PA4 HU team also implemented a secondment program for a Bosnian water expert in summer 2015.

The PA4 HU team held further discussions and study trips to Ukraine related to the **environmental risks management options of the Solotivno Salt Mine area**. The EC was informed about the risk at Commissioner level. Following the mission and based on a joint initiation, high level discussions are currently ongoing among Hungarian-Ukrainian and EC representatives that resulted in further joint missions promoted by DG ECHO in 2016.

The PA4 achieved the following results and demonstrated added value regarding water policy as follows: further **strengthened cooperation** with many partner organisations in the field of water protection, such as the ICPDR, Global Water Partnership, the Carpathian Convention, the EIP Water, the OECD and the Joint Research Centre: cooperated in joint project preparation, joint event organization or further discussions.

Research documents and studies were prepared on:

- Transboundary water cooperation in the European Union: a hydro-political gap assessment, and
- Water Quality Cooperation in the Danube Region –A Hungarian perspective (prepared for OECD)

The PA4 organised and participated on several scientific **stakeholder workshops and seminars** in the reporting period, namely focusing on

- Integrated horizontal cooperation between PAs of the EUSDR Pillar B;
- Horizontal cooperation with professional international organizations (JRC, ICPDR, SAVA COM, Carpathian Convention, etc.)
- Cooperation possibilities with non-EU countries in UWWT issues;
- European funding opportunities in the water sector (2nd Stakeholder Conference, November 2015, Budapest,)
- Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the Conditions of Climate Change (Drought and Water Scarcity) (international conference, May 2016 Bratislava.)

At the EUSDR 4th Annual Forum the PA 4 Integrated workshop provided a platform for the ceremonial signature of the **Joint Declaration between the ICPDR Tisza Group and Carpathian Convention** which is really important sub-basin initiative relevant for PA 4.

An important initiative is the **Memorandum of Cooperation between EUSDR PA4 and the Carpathian Convention**, which has been discussed and approved in the PA4 Steering Group in the first half of 2016 and is ready to be signed.

Major steps were taken in the frame of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), which is the platform mandated by the Danube countries for coordinating the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and EU Floods Directive in the Danube River Basin. **The Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and the 1st Danube Flood Risk Management Plan** were prepared and adopted in December 2015 and endorsed by the Ministers of the Danube Basin countries in February 2016. Both plans are the key strategic documents for Danube basin-wide water management for the period 2015-2021. Furthermore, the ICPDR accomplished the assessments and published the **Scientific and Public Reports of the Joint Danube Survey 3** - the world's biggest river research expedition of its kind - which was accomplished in 2013 already for the third time. In the reporting period important steps were taken on sturgeon conservation with the successful application for a LIFE project and the elaboration of a feasibility study on sturgeon ex-situ conservation measures.

The PA4 team contributed to **further investigation** regarding the comprehensive studies related to specific actions such as alternative collection and treatment of waste water (Action 5, hereunder A5) and on phosphates (Action 7, hereunder A7) assessing the situation in the EUSDR countries: the PA4 SK team prepared a questionnaire related to the assessment of financial needs of the Danube countries for the implementation program on building and updating urban waste water treatment technology; while the PA4 HU team cooperated with international environmental students polishing the studies for A5 and A7 on alternative collection and phosphates.

Relevant issues and topics were discussed within the frame of PA4: **8 projects and ideas** were introduced in the frames of the Steering Group 10-11 and at several ICPDR Working Groups

where country representatives gave their feedback on the on-going activities and initiatives as well as next steps to be achieved.

The PA4, after SG approval, issued 5 Letters of Recommendation for the projects in the reporting period:

- Utilisation of unique lakes and wetlands in undermined areas;
- Development of urban waste water treatment plants in Trans Carpathian region;
- Strengthening cooperation between river basin management planning and flood risk prevention to enhance the status of waters of the Tisza River basin;
- Sustainable sanitation in small settlements of the Danube Region and Sediment-quality Information,
- Monitoring and Assessment System to support transnational cooperation for joint Danube Basin water management.

The project CleanRiver - creation of feasibility study for improvement of wastewater treatment facilities in Ukraine and project SANDANUBE- Sustainable sanitation in small settlements of the Danube Region were approved for START funding and is waiting now for submission to the DTP. Regarding TAF-DRP funding the Development of integrated management system for real time monitoring of water quality in the Danube Delta (MQDELTA, proposed by Romania) and Construction of Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment Plant in Hirbovat (CSSWTP, proposed by Moldova) were adopted for TAF support.

The PA4 team continued to be active in **dissemination**: prepared two brochures: brochure on agricultural pollution ‘EFFECTIVE REDUCTION OF DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION BY NUTRIENTS FROM AGRICULTURAL LAND’ and a general PA4 dissemination document ‘RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF WATERS’ - Supporting activities focusing on Non-EU countries towards achieving the Danube basin wide goals.

The PA4 team is currently working on brochures related to Drinking Water Directive and will further elaborate a brochure related to Urban Waste Water Treatment.

The PA4 SK team published an article about Priorities of Slovak EUSDR Presidency in water sector and another one on the international conference „Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity) in Water Management Journal.

The PA4 website is continuously updated with actual information and it also contains several supporting documents of this Annual Report. (<http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/>)

PA4 further **cooperates with other Priority Areas**:

- With Pillar B PAs (PA4-PA5-PA6) held a joint Integrated Workshop for the Annual Forum in October 2015.
- With PA5 jointly organised a Stakeholder Seminar in November 2015.
- With PA6 initiated cooperation to share information related to the on-going issues specially related to the sturgeon project development.
- With PA7 held a joint SG meeting in May 2016.
- With PA10 cooperates regarding the TAF and START procedures.

2 PROGRESS OF THE PA

2.1 PROGRESS ON POLICY LEVEL

2.1.1 POLICY AREAS AT FOCUS

Question 2: What are the policy areas (important policy topics/thematic issues) that the PA selected as main focus (i.e. priority) for work during the reporting period?

Cooperation with ICPDR, river basin management planning process, strengthening sub-basin cooperation: Tisza, Sava, Prut, Danube delta, awareness raising, synergies, NON-EU cooperation.

Question 3: What are the main arguments for selecting those policy areas as priority ones?

ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination – Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation.

2.1.2 MAIN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

Question 4: Based on what has been reported under section 2.1.1: what are the PA's main policy achievements and developments during the reporting period?

- Joint meetings with EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR and Sava Commission;
- ICPDR Heads of Delegations – approval of the update of the Danube River Basin Management Plan, organisation of ICPDR Ministerial Meeting 2016;
- Finalisation of the Danube Delta Analysis Report – coordinated by the ICPDR and supported by the ENVSEC Programme;
- Development of project proposal towards strengthening the Tisza river basin cooperation and for the development of the update of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (JOINTISZA project);
- Development of project proposal in the subject of sediment issues;
- The 2nd Stakeholder Conference was organised by the Hungarian partners on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest. At the 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region more than 150 participants from 11 countries, mainly from the Danube countries as well as including the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom, were present;
- Participation at the Brussels Danube Network Meeting on 12 February 2016 in Brussels with the aim to present PA4 activities and achievements.
- Participation in Conferences to disseminate results and achievements of PA4 (such as Mission (participation and presentation) to EIPWATER Conference and related workshop in the Netherlands (Leeuwarden) on 10-11 February 2016 and Mission (participation and presentation) to OECD water-quality workshop in the Netherlands (Hague) on 16-18 March 2016. Danube case study was prepared about the macro regional cooperation aspects of water quality, to be published in the OECD Water Quality Report in 2016.
- For facilitating of funding seeking PA 4 took part in a meeting ‘Promoting the EU macro-regional strategies in the Western Balkans’ held on 14 April 2016 in Sarajevo and organized by DG REGIO, UNDP and Regional Cooperation Council (Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Question 4: Based on what has been reported under section 2.1.1: what are the PA’s main policy achievements and developments during the reporting period?

- Strengthening cooperation with Non-EU countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Ukraine (organisation of field trip and missions in the subject of UWWT and accidental risk prevention).
- Fact finding mission to Ukraine in July 2015, to discuss about the environmental risks management options of the Solotivno Salt Mine area. In January 2016 the EC was informed about the risk through Commissioner Ch. Stylianides charging in Humanitarian Aid and Risk Management by Hungarian and Ukrainian authorities which activities were facilitated by the Hungarian National Contact Point. Following the mission and based on a joint initiation, high level discussions are currently ongoing among Hungarian-Ukrainian and EC representatives that resulted in further joint missions in the second half of 2016.
- A successful conference was organized by the Slovakian partners on Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the Conditions of Climate Change (Drought and Water Scarcity) on 17-18 May 2016 with more than 150 participants. The goal of the conference was to create the platform for experience exchange among experts dealing with drought and water scarcity issues and simultaneously it opened the space for the discussion about contributions of experts who could form the future trend of solutions directed to drought impact and water scarcity mitigation.
- Participation at 14th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR held on 16-17 June 2016 in Modrá, Czech Republic. The PA4 activities, achievements, projects and plans for upcoming period were presented and the cooperation with the key partner, ICPDR, was emphasised.
- The results of the PA were presented to the EC at director level (DG Regional Policy and DG Environment) in Brussels in April 2016 as good example on environmental cooperation.
- Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention - Memorandum of cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the European Union Strategy for Danube Region was approved by PA4 SG to be signed.

2.1.3 POLICY LESSONS LEARNED

Question 5: Based on what has been reported in sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2: what are the policy related lessons learned (positive or negative) from the PAs implementation during the reporting period (with focus on those that are important for the future EUSDR policy development)?

- The successful 2nd Stakeholder Conference created an important bridge between potential project applicants and financial funds;
- The 2nd Stakeholder Conference brought together the potential partners and the participants expressed their clear need for such events in the near future as well;
- Mutual cooperation between ICPDR and Sava Commission resulted in mutual benefits;
- Widespread dissemination activities are fostering the strengthened cooperation with regional organisations and international organisations as well as commencing new connections with the Carpathian Convention, EIP Water and the OECD;
- Successful project development procedures (two strategic project proposals were submitted to the DTP for the 2nd Round, such as the JOINTISZA and DANUBESEDIMENT) will further strengthen basin wide and sub basin wide activities as well as cooperation of relevant international and regional organisations.

- The successful conference on Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the Conditions of Climate Change brought together stakeholders and water experts and resulted in discussing cross cutting climate related issues.

2.1.4 FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Question 6: Based on what has been reported in section 2.1.3: what next steps and challenges for future policy development the PA finds important to share for further consideration discussion or development (incl. possible solutions to overcome the challenges)?

- Further strengthening sub basin cooperation, also to focus on Prut and Danube Delta.
- Further strengthening cooperation with Non-EU countries.
- Development of strategic projects – stakeholder involvement and partners search seminars.
- Further cooperation & coordination with the ICPDR (e.g. joint publications, project proposals, workshops, meetings, etc.)

2.2 PROGRESS ON PA’S TARGETS

Table 1: Progress on targets during the reporting period

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1. Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>The target is linked to 8 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1: “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan” • Action 3: “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”. • Action 4: “To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”. • Action 8: To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures • Action 9: “To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					<p>considered problematic for Danube Region”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 11: “To promote measures to limit water abstraction” • Action 12: “To strengthen general awareness and facilities exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region” • Action 13: “To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply.” <p>The Danube River Basin District Management Plan- Update 2015 has been developed by the ICPDR within the reporting period. The final stakeholder meeting ‘Voice of the Danube’ took place on 2-3 July 2015 in Zagreb. (http://www.icpdr.org/main/stakeholder-workshop-registration-started).</p> <p>Related to Action 4 prepared an Assessment Report on financial needs of individual Danube states for completion of waste water treatment</p>

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					<p>plants and sewerage systems in order to meet the goals of the Council Directive 91/271/EEC(http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/assessment-report)</p> <p>Related to Action 11 organised the international conference on Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity) (http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/conference-on-drought-and-water-scarcity)</p>
2. Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>The target is linked to 3 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 5: “To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements” • Action 6: “To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution” • Action 7: “To legislate at the appropriate level

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					<p>to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”.</p> <p>The policy draft documents prepared in previous reporting period related to Action 5 and 7 were further polished by two interns of the Central European University in spring 2016 during their practical environmental course.</p> <p>Related to Action 6 prepared a brochure on Effective reduction of diffuse water pollution by nutrients from agricultural land - brochure (http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/effective-reduction-of-diffuse-water-pollution-by-nutrients-from-agricultural-land-brochure)</p> <p>The Danube River Basin Management Plan Update 2015 includes comprehensive assessments on nutrient pollution and a program of measures, addressing also the impacts on the Black Sea.</p>
3. Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report as a step towards completion of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>The target is linked to 2 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 14: “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and

<i>PA Targets</i> <i>(number and wording of the target)</i>	<i>Progress during the reporting period</i>				<i>Clarifications</i>
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Satisfactory progress</i>	<i>Delayed progress</i>	<i>Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress</i>	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
the Delta management Plan					<p>Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 2: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level” <p>The Danube Delta Analysis Report has been developed in the frame of the ENVSEC Danube Delta project coordinated and managed by the ICPDR. The next step is the organisation of a consortium for the development of the Danube Delta Management Plan.</p> <p>Related to action 2 – a Tisza Declaration was signed and project JoinTisza prepared and submitted to DTP.</p>
4. Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>Action 10 related tasks are partially fulfilled</p> <p>In line with the previous reports two projects are specific for this target focusing on sediment issues and on sturgeon.</p> <p>The sturgeon issue is important also for EUSDR Priority Area 6 , to “Continue the ongoing work and efforts to securing viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020“ which is a shared target together</p>

<i>PA Targets</i> <i>(number and wording of the target)</i>	<i>Progress during the reporting period</i>				<i>Clarifications</i>
	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Satisfactory progress</i>	<i>Delayed progress</i>	<i>Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress</i>	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					<p>with PA4.</p> <p>In the frame of the ICPDR DRBM Plan – Update 2015a separate sub-chapter on sturgeons is included and several paragraphs of the ICPDR Ministerial Declaration 2016 are dedicated to this issue.</p> <p>The following main activities/projects were carried out or still ongoing elaborated by the Danube Sturgeon Task Force with the contribution of ICPDR related to the sturgeon issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex-situ survey to preserve sturgeon genetic diversity in the Middle and Lower Danube (STURGEON Project), financed by “EUSDR Start” • Preparatory monitoring study on sturgeon behaviour at the Iron Gate dams, financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) with involvement of experts from Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia • Project for the restoration of sterlet populations in Upper Danube (LIFE Sterlet), financed by LIFE, the EU Financial Instrument for the Environment

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
					<p>Currently a preparation of a Danube Sturgeon Project (Revistur) is ongoing aiming to submit in the next call of the Danube Transnational Programme. Key actions from “Sturgeon 2020” are planned to be addressed by the project. The project is led by BOKU Vienna and ICPDR, PA6 and PA4 representatives were participating in the project preparatory meeting.</p> <p>The Priority Area puts strong emphasis on the development of the sediment project proposal via supporting the proposal development. The Danube Sediment project (Title: Danube Sediment Management - Restoration of the Sediment Balance in the Danube River) major objective is to review the current status of the sediment regime of Danube including the inputs of major tributaries.</p> <p>The Priority Area is aiming to utilise available funds from the Danube Transnational Program.</p>
5. Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>Action 2 related tasks are partially fulfilled and development of remaining tasks is ongoing.</p> <p>The JOINTISZA project (Title: Strengthening</p>

PA Targets (number and wording of the target)	Progress during the reporting period				Clarifications
	Completed	Satisfactory progress	Delayed progress	Other: Satisfactory and delayed progress	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
basins					cooperation between river basin management planning and flood risk prevention to enhance the stats of waters of the Tisza River Basin) has been submitted to the 1 st call of the Danube Transnational Programme focuses on interactions of two key aspects, the river basin management and flood protection, taking into account the relevant stakeholders who have fundamental role in the Tisza River Basin Management planning process.

Question 7: Based on the information provided in Table 1 what is the PAs overall self-evaluation with regards to reaching the applicable targets? Any other positive experience or other important information to that respect that the PA considers necessary (or good) to be shared should be included here as well.

Several activities and tasks have been achieved during the reporting period, especially related to Target 1, 5 and 13, and partial achievement in implementation of Actions 2, 4, 6, 7 and 11. However still many tasks are yet to be completed as PA4 has 14 actions including 63 milestones and PA4 continuously work on their implementation.

Question 8: What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the progress in reaching the targets as previously planned?

To PA4 is working jointly with the ICPDR and Sava Commission to reach objectives outlined in the targets. For the successful completion of the targets necessary funds needs to be explored and further utilized by the PA4.

Question 9: Are there any plans (or needs) for revising/updating the list of targets, applicable for the PA? If so, please provide details.

No. The revision of targets were discussed by the SG (discussion already started at the 9th SG meeting) in the reporting period and the SG decided that only a timeline is to be modified related to Target 3. No further modifications are applicable to PA4.

2.3 PROGRESS ON PA’S ACTIONS

Table 2: Progress on actions during the reporting period

PA Targets (number)	Progress on action for reaching the targets during the reporting period																
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(q)	(r)
1	ACcp		APD	APD ACcp				APD	APD		APD ACcp	APD	APD				
2					APD	APD ACcp	APD										
3		APD												APD			
4										APD							
5		APD															

Legend:

ASP	actions, whose implementation is satisfactory progressing (according to what was initially planned in the Roadmap);
APD	actions, whose implementation is progressing with delays (comparing to what was initially planned in the Roadmap);
ACcp	actions completed in current reporting period;
ACpp	actions completed in previous reporting period(s);
ANS	actions, whose implementation has not started yet;

Question 10: Based on the information provided in Table 2, what is the PA’s overall self - evaluation regarding the progress in implementing the actions? A positive experience or other important information to that respect that the PA considers necessary (or good) to be shared should be included here as well.

The PA4 has reached significant progress in the implementation of the targeted actions. Steps have been done in case of all actions, however, taken into account that most of the actions include several milestones, which have long term implementation period one actions (A1 – To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan) can be considered finalised according to the finalisation of the planned milestones. The Joint cooperation with the ICPDR, Sava Commission and other relevant international organisations has also facilitated the development of the tasks and PA4 could

avoid duplication of work. The harmonisation of the common tasks with relevant international organisations was also encouraged and appreciated by the experts, working in these processes (e.g. in ICPDR, Sava Commission and EUSDR).

Within the Action 11 of the Roadmap, PA 4 SK organized the conference Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the Conditions of Climate Change (Drought and Water Scarcity) on 17-18 May 2016. The event was a real success. The participation exceeded the expected numbers; the conference had up to 150 participants. The goal of the conference was to create the platform for experience exchange among experts dealing with drought and water scarcity issues and simultaneously it opened the space for the discussion about contributions of experts who could form the future trend of solutions directed to drought impact and water scarcity mitigation.

Within the Action 6 of the Roadmap, PA 4 SK prepared the brochure on agricultural pollution. The material was elaborated by the Water Research Institute agricultural expert Mr Radoslav Bujnovský who was also deeply involved in EUSDR issues as PAC SK in the past. The brochure was smoothly prepared and published in May 2016 and can be considered as a success.

Question 11: What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the progress in implementing the actions as previously planned?

The implementation of the actions was strongly decelerated in 2012-2015 since no suitable funds for the implementation were available. The newly available funds e.g. via the Danube Transnational Programme as well as other financial opportunities offer good possibilities to accelerate the implementation process. In 2015-2016 PA4 has supported the development of two strategic projects in the subject of sediment and Tisza sub-basin cooperation, which are fully linked to the objectives outlined in the PA4 Roadmap.

Within the Action 4 of the Roadmap, PA 4 SK elaborated the questionnaire related to the assessment of financial needs of the Danube countries for the implementation program on building and updating urban waste water treatment technology. The purpose was to gain information from all the Danube countries related to urban waste water treatment. The outcome of the questionnaire was about to reveal the financial needs of the Danube Region states for completion of waste water treatment plants and sewerage systems – amount of presently available financial resources from the Operational Programmes 2014-2020 and remaining costs needed to meet the Council Directive 91/271/EEC objectives – and to gain the summary of available technologies. PA 4 SK prepared 8 questions and sent them to the Steering Group members. Unfortunately out of 14 countries, only 5 replied (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Moldova). The low involvement of SG members feedback in the implementation of the activity related to urban waste water treatment was only slightly compensated by the interpretation of available data. In the future the behaviour of the SG members can hardly be predicted and can be perceived as a weak point also referring to the low participation at the PA4 SG meetings.

Question 12: Are there any plans (or needs) for revising/updating the actions, applicable for the PA? If so, please provide details.

Within the Action 13 of the Roadmap, PA 4 SK decided to prepare and publish a brochure concerning drinking water supply safety, namely Drinking Water Directive updates. This was planned to happen in June 2016, however, the works are still in progress and are expected to be finished by the end of August 2016. The reason for this postponing was unexpected organization of SG meeting by Slovak side on 25 May 2016 in Bratislava in the effort to be held back to back the 5th Financial Dialogue organized the day before in Bratislava as well. Normally it would have been the turn of Hungarian side to organize this SG meeting, since these meetings are organized twice a year and the autumn one was held in Bratislava in October 2015.

2.4 PROGRESS ON MILESTONES

Table 3: Progress on milestones during the reporting period

PA Actions (numbers)	Progress on milestones during the reporting period									
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
A1	MCpp	MCpp	MCpp	MCcp						
A2	MPD	MCpp	MPD	MPD	MCcp	MNS	MNS	MPD	MPD	MPD
A3	MPD	MCpp	MNS	MCcp	MCpp					
A4	MCcp	MCcp	MCcp							
A5	MPD	MNS	MPD	MPD	MPD	MNS	MSP			
A6	MCcp	MPD								
A7	MCpp	MCpp	MCcp							
A8	MPD	MCcp	MNS	MNS						
A9	MCpp	MPD	MPD							
A10	MCpp	MCcp	MSP	MPD	MNS	MPD	MPD			
A11	MCcp	MCcp	MCcp							
A12	MSP	MCcp	MCcp	MSP						
A13	MCcp	MCcp	MPD							

PA Actions (numbers)	Progress on milestones during the reporting period									
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
AI4	MCcp	MPD	MNS							

Legend:

MSP	milestones that are satisfactory progressing (according to what was initially planned in the Roadmap);
MPD	milestones that are progressing with delays (comparing to what was initially planned in the Roadmap);
MCcp	milestones completed in current reporting period;
MCpp	milestones completed in previous reporting period(s);
MNS	milestones, whose implementation has not started yet;

Question 13: Based on the information provided in Table 3, what is the PAs overall self - evaluation regarding the progress in reaching the milestones? A positive experience or other important information to that the PA considers necessary (or as good) to be shared should be included here as well

Out of the 63 milestones specified by PA4 experts in 2011/2012 more than the third have been completed.

Question 14: What, if anything, was/is missing in order to achieve the progress in reaching the milestones as previously planned?

The implementation of the milestones was slowed down in 2012-2015 since no suitable funds for the implementation were available. The newly available funds e.g. via the Danube Transnational Programme as well as other financial opportunities offer good possibilities to accelerate the implementation process. In 2015-2016 PA4 has supported the development of two strategic projects in the subject of sediment and Tisza sub-basin cooperation, which are fully linked to the objectives outlined in the PA4 Roadmap as well as fully linked to milestones specified by the Steering Group.

2.5 PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES

Table 4 Activities undertaken to progress on PA implementation

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
(a)	(b)
A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated (2nd) Danube River Basin District Management Plan was finalised in the frame of the ICPDR. The Danube Ministerial Meeting was organised for the endorsement of the document. The management plan includes a chapter on financing possibilities of the Joint Program of Measures.
A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tisza Declaration signed. JOINTISZA project for the strengthening of Tisza sub-basin cooperation has been developed and submitted to the DTP coordinated by the PA4 and NC/HU. Danube Delta Analysis Report has been finalised (coordinated by the ICPDR funded by ENVSEC).
A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Tisza Survey 2 related actions are included in the JOINTISZA project submitted to the DTP ICPDR accomplished the assessments and published the Scientific and Public Reports of the Joint Danube Survey 3. INSPIRE compliant DanubeGIS system has been developed by the ICPDR including tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data
A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICPDR database on UWWTPs were revised and updated, assessments on the urban wastewater sector were incorporated into the DRBM Plan – Update2015. PA4 with the coordination of NC HU is promoting the investment of improved UWWT technology in Non-EU countries. PA4 has organised study visits to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Ukraine to discuss on the status of UWWT development and about investment needs where relevant. Questionnaire and Assessment Report related to waste water treatment financial needs were developed in April 2016.
A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA4 is continuing the work in relation to the survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements. This work is linked to Action 5 and A7. The PA4 is aiming at to develop a short overview on the outcomes of the field studies organised in 2015. Discussions on the good agricultural practices are regularly initiated at the ICPDR PM EG/NTG Meetings. An overview on the basic and supplementary measures and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the DRBM Plan –Update 2015.

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
(a)	(b)
A6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICPDR has launched a dialogue with the agricultural sector this year, which will last minimum of two years. The ICPDR has also outlined a list of actions to be achieved in the coming years. The objective is to strengthen cooperation between agriculture and water sectors and to develop guidance on sustainable agriculture to reduce nutrient emissions. Publication and dissemination of the brochure on effective reduction of diffuse water pollution by nutrients from agricultural land informing on necessity of environmentally efficient and cost effective measures, which address the problems of water pollution from agriculture – May 2016
A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of scenario calculations for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents developed by the ICPDR were incorporated to the DRBM Plan – Update 2015.
A8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of activities and research needs in relation to the control of the hazardous substances emissions was included into the DRBM Plan – Update 2015 (Joint Program of Measures). Data collection is on-going for risk assessment on accident risk sites and contaminated sites.
A9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICPDR prepared the first draft list of the Danube River Basin Specific Pollutants and presented it in the DRBM Plan – Update 2015.
A10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin was revised and updated; results and assessments were incorporated into DRBM Plan – Update 2015. Sturgeon restoration projects supported by the ICPDR have been/are being implemented (Feasibility study on ex-situ conservation measures, Preparatory study on sturgeon behaviour at the Iron Gates dam, Ex-situ survey to preserve sturgeon genetic diversity in the Middle and Lower Danube - STURGENE, LIFE project on sterlet restoration - STERLET) Development of DanubeSediment project proposal with the contribution of the PA4. Project proposal has been submitted to the DTP. PA4 participation in the REVISTUR (a basin wide harmonized approach to secure the REVival of Danube STURgeons’ – working title) project proposal preparatory meeting. Cooperation with PA6 in relation to sturgeon issues.
A11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the international conference Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity) in Bratislava – 17-18 May 2016
A12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danube Day events were organised with the involvement of PA4 PAC (http://www.danubeday.org/). Danube Art Master 2015 was organised in summer 2015 and its ceremonial event was held in December 2015.

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
(a)	(b)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU SDR activities and events were advertised and reported at the ICPDR homepage, in Danube Watch and through the ICPDR network. ▪ PA4 website is continuously updated with actual information (http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/) ▪ Publication of brochure on PA4 activities, achievements, projects and plans
A13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of the brochure on information of Drinking water directive update – in progress
A14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific actions taken in the progress period.

2.6 EUSDR STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Table 5: Projects identified and proposed by PA(PACs + SG) as EUSDR strategic project(SP)

The projects listed below as “strategic projects” were not approved by PA4 SG members as such; it is the first PACs proposal. The procedure of strategic project labelling was introduced to PACs in the time that it could not be presented to SG members at 11th SG Meeting held on 25 May 2016 in Bratislava.

Next to the below listed projects there are projects with strategic relevance also linked to the PA4 activities such as the Danube Floodplain projects aiming at among other to connect river bed and flood plain and has PA5 and PA4 relevance and the Revistur project focusing on sturgeon issues related to PA6 and PA4. These projects are discussed and introduced in the PA5 and PA6 reports.

<i>Title of project proposed by PA as ESDR SP during the reporting period</i>	<i>Date of PA meeting when the project was approved as potential ESDR SP</i>	<i>To which PA target the project is relevant?</i>	<i>Main project activities of the EUSDR SP</i>	<i>Targeted funding source(s) for the SP</i>
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>	<i>(d)</i>	<i>(e)</i>
DanubeSediment	08/11/2011	T4	<p>Review the current status of the sediment regime of Danube including the inputs of major tributaries.</p> <p>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 morpho-dynamics along the Danube.</p>	DTP
JoinTisza	20/10/2015	T5	<p>Improvement of the integration of the water management and flood risk prevention planning and actions in the next River Basin Management planning cycle, in line with the relevant EU legislations.</p> <p>Ensuring better embedding of flood risk management planning into the River Basin Management planning process and also encouragement of the involvement of relevant sectors (such as flood risk management, water resource management, urban hydrology management, drought management) and interested stakeholders.</p>	DTP

Question 15: Were any of the projects included in

Table 5 already approved for funding during the reporting period? If so, please complete Table 6 below with the information only for those projects.

Table 6: Proposed EUSDR strategic projects, which were approved for funding

The Fifth Year Progress Report – EUSDR Priority Area 4 ‘to restore and maintain the quality of waters’

<i>Title of project proposed by PA as ESDR SP, approved for funding</i>	<i>Total amount of approved funding</i>	<i>Approved funding source(s) for the EUSDR SP</i>
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>

3 FUNDING

3.1 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN TERMS OF FUNDING

Question 16: What is considered as PAs main achievement/s with regards to funding sources and opportunities for EUSDR projects? Short analysis relevant only to the duration of the reporting period needs to be provided.

The PA4 HU Team has organised the 2nd Stakeholder Conference on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest. At the 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region more than 150 participants from 11 countries were presented, mainly from the Danube countries as well as including the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas (priority area on ‘water quality’ and ‘environmental risks’), to present the results achieved and to provide detailed information about funding instruments from central funds to specific territorial cooperation instruments. Furthermore, the conference offered a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas. The output is fulfilled; the activity has been partially financed from other (Hungarian) EUSDR financial sources.

To promote the setting up of project consortia, the PA4 HU facilitated the setup of JOINTISZA project consortium as well as was strongly contributing in the development of EOI and final project proposal to be submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme. To facilitate the work the following preparatory meeting has been organised in the reporting period:

17-18 September 2015, Szolnok and Budapest, Hungary – JOINTISZA project preparatory meeting

18-19 April 2016, Szolnok, Hungary (Tisza Office) – the JOINTISZA project has been approved by the DTP JS and the consortium developed the proposal for the 2nd round. The Lead Partner with the contribution and support from EUSDR PA4 HU held the project preparatory meetings in Szolnok at the premises of the Tisza Office under patronage of Middle-Tisza Regional Water Directorate, Szolnok, the Directorate General of Water Management and Secretariat of Ministerial Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest, Hungary.

The PA4 HU Team has also participated and followed the development of the DANUBE SEDIMENT project proposal, which has also been approved to the 2nd round to the DTP 1st Call.

The PA4 SK team participated at the development of project idea related to utilisation of the wetlands and lakes in undermined areas in the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia. For this purpose was prepared the project “Utilisation of the Unique wetlands and Lakes in Undermined Areas” which was submitted in the 1st call of Central Europe INTERREG Programme. It did not pass through and the project idea was enlarged to more Danube countries and developed into new project proposal “Utilisation of post mining wetlands and lakes in Danube region” submitted in the 1st call of Danube Transnational Programme. The project idea is important for the Danube countries and it will continue in searching for financial sources.

3.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Question 17: What are the lessons learned (positive or negative) during the reporting period, with regards to funding sources and opportunities for EUSDR projects and what responses to those the PA considers as relevant?

- The successful 2nd Stakeholder Conference created an important bridge between potential project applicants and financial funds;
- The 2nd Stakeholder Conference brought together the potential partners and the participants expressed their clear need for such events in the near future as well;
- Necessity of horizontal cooperation on cross cutting topics with PA5 – successful international conference “Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity);
- Successful project development procedures (two strategic project proposals were submitted to the DTP for the 2nd Round, such as the JOINTISZA and DANUBESEDIMENT) will further strengthen basin wide and sub basin wide activities as well as cooperation of relevant international and regional organisations;
- Dissemination of PA4 achievement and plans at PA4 website – www.danubewaterquality.eu and printed brochure facilitate the better dissemination of the achievements.

3.3 THE FUTURE

Question 18: Based on what has been reported so far in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, what next steps and challenges in terms of funding sources and opportunities for EUSDR projects that are important to be shared for further consideration, discussion or development (incl. possible solutions to overcome the challenges)?

Please answer also the same question with respect to better alignment of funding to support the PA and the EUSDR in general.

The PA4 will carry on activities in relation to the submitted project proposals and in case no funds are secured from the 1st call of DTP PA4 will organise follow-up actions to make sure that the targeted issues are supported with funds.

The PA4 will further develop and facilitate new project proposals and concentrate on its flagship/strategic projects.

The PA4 is also participating in the development of the REVISTUR project proposal, which objectives are strongly linked to target 4 of PA4.

The PA4 will continue organizing stakeholder seminars concerning funding possibilities and will encourage further networking among possible project partners for the sake of setting up further project consortia. PA 4 will continue active contribution and help providing to resolve environmental risk and the concerning salt water contamination into the Tisza River, touching international HU-RO-UA river sections.

The PA4 will continue its concentration on non-EU countries cooperation, mainly in the field of waste water treatment and drinking water supply.

The **Memorandum of Cooperation between EUSDR PA4 and the Carpathian Convention** has been discussed and approved in the PA4 Steering Group in the first half of 2016 and is ready to be signed.

4 GOVERNANCE

4.1 ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF PA

Question 19: Describe shortly any significant changes that have occurred during the reporting period on PA's governance in terms of organisation and functioning of PACs and SGs?

No changes occurred since the last Annual Report.

The PA has a **tripartite governance** ensuring wide spectrum of the development of the actions: the Hungarian and the Slovakian Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Beside these three actors also the International Sava River Basin Commission, Sava Commission (ISRBC) plays an important role for the PA.

The Priority Area Coordinators are Dr László Perger, Chief Advisor of the Directorate General of Water Management, Hungary and Mr Vladimír Novák, Director General of Water Section from Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. The joint work between EUSDR and ICPDR has been facilitated via joint meetings, usually to be held twice a year and by signing the memorandum on synergies.

The **Steering Group** of PA4 meets twice a year. For better and more effective coordination and more over for saving money, as well, the PAC coordinators strive to organize back-to back meetings with ICPDR and cover the participation of SG members from non-EU countries.

Question 20: Please provide in Table 7 the requested information on attendance (+/-) of Danube countries at SG meetings held during the reporting period.

Table 7: Attendance of SG meetings

SG meeting	AT	BA	BG	CZ	DE	HR	HU	MD	ME	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA
20 October 2015	x		x	x	x	x	x			x			x	x
25May 2016	x			x	x		x	x		x			x	x

4.2 COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Question 21: Based on what has been reported in Section 0, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for coordination, cooperation and establishing links with other PAs? Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

The PA4 has put strong emphasis from the beginning on the cooperation in the level of Pillar B, which includes actors from PA5 and PA6. In the last year the following main joint actions have been organised:

Joint Pillar B workshop was organized at the Annual Forum: Protecting the environment in the Danube Region: ‘Integrated horizontal co-operation’.

Joint work in case of sturgeon issues. Meeting in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture with aquaculture and fishery in the topic of Sturgeon Task Force 2020, presentation by PA4 PAC. PA4

is also involved in the relevant project proposal development of REVISTUR (a basin wide harmonized approach to secure the REVival of Danube STURgeons – working title). Tasks are coordinated by PA6 and Sturgeon Task Force.

JOINTISZA project – cooperation with PA4 in relation to the flood management issues.

2nd Stakeholder meeting organised by PA4 with the involvement of PA5.

Organisation of international conference “Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity)” on crosscutting topic with PA5

Important event definitely displaying the cooperation between individual priority areas was the 11th Steering Group meeting of the Priority Area 4 which was organized on 25 May 2016 in Bratislava together with the Priority Area 7 “Knowledge Society”. In line with the new present trend to organize the events “back to back”, both priority areas used the opportunity to organize their steering group meetings back to back the Fifth Financial Dialogue (Bratislava, 24 May 2016) and PAC and NCP meeting (Bratislava, 23 May 2016). The first part of the meeting was joint for both priority areas where important information about related activities was shared, including information about the projects. In the second part the meeting was split into separate sessions of both priority areas. This cooperation appeared really useful since many new contacts were established in relation to new project ideas.

Question 22: Based on what has been reported in Section 0, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for coordination, cooperation and establishing links with EU institutions (EC, EP, CoR, EESC, etc.) and/or other institutions (national, regional, international, as appropriate). Same applies also for activities for using the funding opportunities of the EC centrally managed programmes. Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

- The PA4 HU PAC provided a presentation and took part on a panel discussion on the 27-28 October 2015 JRC Annual Event
- Participation and organisation of workshops in specific topics relevant for PA4 at the EUSDR Annual Forum in Ulm on 29-30 October 2015. (Workshops on Protecting the environment in the Danube Region: ‘Integrated horizontal co-operation’, Improvement and cooperation possibilities in the water sector: Improvement and cooperation possibilities in the water sector with non-EU countries; Setting water management priorities until 2021 - The ICPDR Danube River Basin Management Plan-Update 2015)
- The Hungarian Team was invited to participate in a water study tour in 3-11 November 2015 in the Netherlands to visit water authorities and gain experiences from Dutch experts and the Dutch water management practices.
- On the 9 December 2015 Brussels, the PA4 Team reported about the priority area ongoing activities to the DSP in Brussels.
- The Hungarian PA4 Team members were participating on the relevant EUSDR events such as the PAC meeting held on 14-15 January 2016 in Brussels, Belgium
- The PA4 Hungarian Team was invited and spoke in the plenary event of the EIP Water Innovation Conference in the Netherlands and in the Water and Cities workshop for water quality on 10-11 February 2016, to disseminate the work of Danube Strategy.
- The PA4 SK team was invited to participate at the Brussels Danube Network Meeting on 12 February 2016 in Brussels with the aim to present PA4 activities and achievements.
- The PA4 Hungarian Team participated on the DG REGIO-DG ENV meeting organised by DG REGIO at directorate level discussing macro-regional strategies. PA4 HU expert introduced PA4 activities as good practices on 12 April 2016 in Brussels.
- The PA4 PAC also participated at the Water, Growth and Stability conference:

Transboundary Water Cooperation for Sustainable Growth and Stability in MENA in 26-28 April 2016 in the Regional Environmental Centre, in Szentendre and provided a presentation about EUSDR work.

- The PA4 Hungarian Team was invited to present Danube transboundary cooperation in the related water quality workshop of the OECD in March 17-18 in The Hague and prepared a policy case study that would be included in the Water Quality policy report of OECD in 2016.
- Cooperation with international organisations is also ensured via Steering Committee meetings and project activities. International organisations (ICPDR, Sava Commission, GWP-SEE, REC, Carpathian Convention, WWF) effectively contribute in the work of the Steering Group. These organisations are also participating in the JOINTISZA project consortium.
- The PA 4 HU PAC took part on a Consultation organized for the Western-Balkan countries and by EU DG REGIO, UNEP and Regional Cooperation Council (BiH) in Sarajevo on 14 April 2016, dealt with facilitation of money sources and other promotions provided by EU Regional Strategies for better water and environmental management.

Question 23: Based on what has been reported in Section 0, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for cooperation between the PA (PACs and SG) and the authorities dealing with ESIF funding and more specifically with the Managing Authorities and the Monitoring Committees of programs of interest to the PA. Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

PA4 has organised meetings for the beneficiaries of the strategic projects with the DTP Joint Secretariat to ensure the suitable development of the Danube Sediment and JOINTISZA projects.

4.3 ACTIVITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Question 24: Based on what has been reported in Section 2.5, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for involvement of stakeholders, incl. civil society (e.g. stakeholder conferences, activities with national/regional parliaments, other events, networks, platforms, etc.). Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

The PA4 team organised visits to non-EU countries with the aim to cooperate and introduce EU legislation in the field of water (WFD, UWWTD) for the stakeholders. The focus of the meetings with Ukrainian, Serbian, Moldovan and Bosnian experts was to find common ideas for the future project generation.

The PA4 Team has organised the 2nd Stakeholder Conference on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest. At the 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region more than 150 participants from 11 countries were presented, mainly from the Danube countries as well as including the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas (priority area on ‘water quality’ and ‘environmental risks’), to present the results achieved and to provide detailed information about funding instruments from central funds to specific territorial cooperation instruments. Furthermore, the conference offered a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas. The output is fulfilled; the activity has been partially financed from other (Hungarian) EUSDR

financial sources.

The PA4 HU PAC provided a presentation and took part in a panel discussion on 27-28 October 2015 JRC Annual Event. The PA 4 HU Team actively participated at the Annual Forum in Ulm, Germany (29-30 October 2015) and have organised a workshop on ‘Protecting the environment in the Danube Region: Integrated horizontal cooperation’. PA4 experts actively participated in the organization and presentation in the Annual Forum workshop on Improvement and cooperation possibilities in the water sector with non-EU countries.

The PA 4 SK managed to organize a large event for 150 stakeholders. The international conference was entitled Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the Conditions of Climate Change (Drought and Water Scarcity) and was held in Bratislava on 17-18 May 2016. Conference output is the experience that drought and water scarcity issues require a complex, cross-sectoral and systematic approach comprised of the measures related to increasing water consumption effectivity, retaining water in landscape using natural and technical approaches, adopting effective water management measures and charging water abstraction. These measures shall be adopted following the bottom-up approach - at a local level (as municipalities) up to national and transnational level of the Danube Region and other European regions. Conference had highly positive feedback from participants; the experts could exchange their experience on multinational platform.

The PA4 PAC has presented about water quality issues in the frame of the national Danube Day events as of 29 June 2016, in Budapest, Hungary (Ministry of Interior).

PA4 is continuously is updating its website to inform stakeholders about the PA4 ongoing activities and achievements (www.danubewaterquality.eu).

4.4 PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Question 25: Based on what has been reported in Section 2.5, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for better publicity and communication (e.g. publications, website developments, etc.). Same applies also for activities for better communication of PA's results and work as well as those related to public debate(s) on the macro - regional approach. Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

- The PA4 Hungarian Team developed a general PA4 dissemination document ‘RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF WATERS - Supporting activities focusing on Non-EU countries towards achieving the Danube basin wide goals’.
- The PA4 Team is currently developing a brochure related to Urban Waste Water Treatment and its situation in the Danube River Basin (working title).
- The website is continuously updated with actual information.
- Members of the PA4 Team participated on the EIP international conference in 10-11 February 2016 achieving high publicity, presenting in front of 500 experts.
- The PA4 Hungarian Team was invited to present Danube transboundary cooperation in the related water quality workshop of the OECD in March 17-18 in The Hague and prepared a policy case study that would be included in the Water Quality policy report of OECD in 2016. The case study was also published on the EUSDR general website under policy section.

- PA 4 Information Brochure – completed and distributed
- Brochure on Effective reduction of diffuse water pollution by nutrients from agricultural land– completed and distributed
- Brochure providing the information on update of Drinking Water Directive – in progress
- Published article about Priorities of Slovak EUSDR Presidency in water sector in Water Management Journal 1-2/2016, in Slovak
- Published information on the international conference „Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity)“ organised by PA4 SK, 17-18 May 2016 in Bratislava in Water Management Journal 3-4/2016, in Slovak.

4.5 LESSONS LEARNED

Question 26: Based on what has been reported so far in Section4: what are the lessons learned (positive or negative), in terms of PA governance during the reporting period and what responses to those the PA considers as relevant?

- PA4 meetings organised back to back with ICPDR core events were better visited by countries and this initiative is highly respected by the members of the SG. Therefore PA4 is aiming to harmonise its events with ICPDR or other larger water quality, water management related meetings, conferences...etc.
- Trilateral meetings between ICPDR-EUSDR-Sava Commission facilitated better harmonisation of tasks between the three organisations.
- Joint SG meetings can have a value of further networking with other priority areas and ease the participation of EC and DSP.

4.6 THE FUTURE

Question 27: Based on what has been reported so far in Section 4: what next steps and challenges for better PA governance in the future that the PA finds important to be shared for further consideration (incl. possible solutions to overcome the challenges)?

- The PA4 Team will continue the good practice of trilateral meetings between ICPDR-EUSDR-Sava Commission, which helps more efficient harmonisation of tasks between the three organisations.
- Dissemination of PA4 outcomes in large conferences and international workshops such as the EIPWATER Conference or OECD workshop, JRC events, Brussels Danube Network Meeting and others served as good practices and should further consider such participation and presentations in the next progress period as well.

ANNEX I: ROADMAPS TO IMPLEMENT EACH PA ACTION

Table 8: Roadmap to implement an action ---PA4 adopted roadmap is submitted

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
1	A1			
	Milestone 1	Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures	2012	ICPDR
	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
	Output 2	Supporting documents to financing of 2nd Joint Programme of Measures	End of 2014	EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR
	Milestone 3	Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report	First half of 2014	ICPDR
	Milestone 4	2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan	End 2015	ICPDR
3,5	A2			
	Milestone 1	Implementation of the 1st ITRBM Plan	2015	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)
	Project 1	Case studies on Tisza sub-basin	End 2012	ICPDR Tisza Group (HU, RO,

¹ Is to be continuously updated by the SG (Note: In several cases the implementation of actions are strongly linked to available project funds)

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
				RS, SK, UA)
	Project 2	Early warning water quality monitoring system on transboundary rivers	2020	Water Boards on sub-region
	Milestone 2	Interim report on the 1st ITRBM Plan	End 2013	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)
	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
	Output 2	Alignment of funding and setup of the proposed framework	End of 2014	PA4, UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group
	Project	ProTisza (Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin)	2014	PA4,UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group
	Milestone 4	Development of the 2nd ITRBM Plan	End 2015	HU, RO, RS, SK, UA, ICPDR Tisza Group
	Milestone 5	Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report	2013	MD, RO, UA, ICPDR
	Milestone 6	Danube Delta Management Plan	2015	RO, MD, UA
	Milestone 7	Prut Management Plan	2015	MD, RO, UA
	Milestone 8	Implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan	End of 2014	ISRBC
	Milestone 9	Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis	2015	ISRBC

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
	Milestone 10	Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan	2017	ISRBC
1	A3			
	Milestone 1	ICPDR databases	end 2015	ICPDR
	Project 1	Development of databases on inventories related to ARS, CS and MS	end of 2015	ICPDR
	Project 2	Further development of TNMN database	end 2015	ICPDR
	Project 3	Development of database on inventories on Hazardous Substances	end of 2015	ICPDR
	Milestone 2	Joint Danube Survey 3	30/09/2014	ICPDR
	Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Danube	30/09/2013	ICPDR
	Project 2	Preparation of JDS3 reports	30/09/2014	ICPDR
	Milestone 3	Joint Tisza Survey 2		
	Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Tisza River	2015	ICPDR Tisza Group
	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
	Milestone 4	INSPIRE compliant DanubeGIS	2015	ICPDR
	Step 1	Refinement of system concept and preparation of implementation plan	2012	ICPDR

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
	Step 2	Development of tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data	2015	ICPDR
	Milestone 5	Establishment and completion of the SavaGIS		
	Step 1	Setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities.	2012	ISRBC
	Step 2	Development of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services as well as basic application and/or decision support systems.	2015	ISRBC
	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
1	A4			
	Milestone 1	Updating the implementation programme of UWWT	End of 2012	ICPDR
	Step 1	Information on national level of UWWTPs	End of 2012	ICPDR
	Step 2	Revision and update of the ICPDR database on UWWTPs	End of 2014	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
	Work 2	Workshop on financing	First half of 2013	ICPDR
	Work 3	Preparation of a financial plan for the implementation programme on update for the UWWT	First half of 2013	PA4, BDCP

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
	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
2	A5			
	Milestone 1	Survey of the situation on buffer zones	first half of 2013	HU, ICPDR , PA4
	Milestone 2	Implementation of 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, PA4
	Milestone 4	Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements	2013	HU, ICPDR, PA4
	Milestone 5	Promoting best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste		

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
		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
	Work 3	Generating policy response to the findings of the survey on waste management in small settlements	End of 2013	PA4
	Milestone 6	Implementation 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
	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
2	A6			
	Milestone 1	Strengthen the cooperation between agriculture and water authorities	2013	SK, ICPDR
	Milestone 2	Implementation of Action plan	continuous	Project leaders, Danube countries

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
2	A7			
	Milestone 1	Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012	End of 2012	ICPDR, PA4
	Milestone 2	Policy response on the Overview Report	2013	PA4
	Milestone 3	Scenarios calculation for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents and incorporation in 2 nd DRBM Plan		
	Output 1	Modelling of anticipated nutrients reduction effects due to P-free detergents	End of 2014	ICPDR
	Output 2	Incorporation of model results in 2 nd DRBM Plan	End of 2014 / end 2015	ICPDR
1	A8			
	Milestone 1	Inventory of polluted sites by upgrading of ‘hot spot’ inventory 2001	end 2014	ICPDR
	Milestone 2	List of activities and research needs	End of 2014	ICPDR, PA4
	Milestone 3	Implementation of projects	End of 2020	Danube region countries, companies, to be defined as appropriate
	Milestone 4	Knowledge transfer	continuous	EU

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
1	A9			
	Milestone 1	Testing of the EU Guidance document on EQS Directive	Dec 2012	ICPDR
	Project	Testing of the Guidance to elaborate a draft ICPDR list of relevant priority substances at the DRB	Dec 2012	ICPDR
	Milestone 2	Inventory on emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances	End of 2014.	ICPDR
	Project (planned)	Project proposal on emissions reduction of priority substances in the Danube Basin (PS – RED)	End of 2014	ICPDR
	Milestone 3	Harmonization of data available from various sources	End of 2014	ICPDR
4	A10			
	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
	Work 2	Application of new methodology with updated data from 2013 data collection	During 2014	ICPDR
	Milestone 2	Application of the updated 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
	Milestone 4	To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube		

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
	Project	Danube Sediment Management - Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin	End of 2014	HU, AT, DE, SK, HR, RS, RO
	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
1	A11			
	Milestone 1	Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction	End of 2013	HU, PA5, ICPDR, PA4, GWP DS task Force
	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
	Milestone 4	Pilot projects based on best practices of milestone n°1 and promotion	continuous	Project leaders

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No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
1	A12			
	Milestone 1	Danube Day 2012 held in 14 countries with more than 100 individual events	continuously every year for Danube Day,	ICPDR
	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
	Milestone 3	Organisation of the Danube Art Master as a basin-wide competition among schools and youth care facilities	June of every year	ICPDR
	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
	Milestone 5	Information exchange on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness	continuous	PA4, ICPDR
1	A13			
	Milestone 1	Identify responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	End of 2012	SK, ICPDR
	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

No. of Target	PA4 ROADMAP	Name	TARGET Deadline ¹	Responsible actors
	Milestone 3	Implementation of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	continuous	Danube countries and suppliers, BDCP
3	A14			
	Milestone 1	Development of specific project regarding the improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region	2012	RO
	Milestone 2	Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea	30 November 2013	RO, BG, UA
	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

ANNEX II: PA’S WORKPLAN FOR 1 YEARS

Table 9: PA’s workplan for 1 year— The below timetable introduces the activities included in the Technical Assistance project, which supports the activities of the priority area.

	2015												2016											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	n	D
MEETINGS/ Technical and management activities																								
ICPDR Ministerial meeting																								
PA4 PACs-ICPDR-Sava trilateral meeting																								

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