

2014.

**PROJECT TITLE**

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AREA N°4**

(‘TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS’)

**AGREEMENT NUMBER**

CCI N°2012CE160AT124

**PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

Reported period: from 06/14 to 12/14





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PRESENTATIONS of the SG Meeting (on CD and paper copy only)

## 1. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The aim of the current project is to facilitate a stable, effective, inclusive and innovative governance system for the coordination of European Union Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 4 (EUSDR PA4) “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” and to strengthen the governance system for EUSDR PA4. The project co-beneficiaries are the Hungarian and the Slovakian Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). The Priority Area Coordinators are László Perger PAC Hungary (as of 27 October 2014, prior to that date Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper was the Acting PAC Hungary) and Dušan Čerešňák, PAC Slovakia, while the ICPDR is represented by Ivan Závadský, Executive Secretary.

The current report covers the period of July-December 2014. Please note that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year’s Progress Report, submitted in July 2014 provided information on the EUSDR PA4 activities carried out between June 2013 and June 2014.

In the reporting period several actions have been developed and results achieved in the frame of PA4 with the contribution of the ICPDR as well as other relevant organisations playing important role in the basin (such as the Sava Commission or the Carpathian Convention).

The main challenges and significant water management issues for the Danube River Basin and relevant for PA4 are (1) organic and (2) nutrient pollution (3) hazardous substances pollution (4) hydromorphological alterations. To outline specific measures in line with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives the Danube countries are developing the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) in the frame of the ICPDR.

The EUSDR PA4 PACs play an important role in the (1) alignment of funding process (2) in the cooperation with relevant institutions and (3) in facilitating the development of project proposals and set up of project consortiums.

In the frame of the Reporting period the following main outcomes can be summarised:

### **Documents developed/adopted:**

- Adoption of the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 &PA5 Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for EUSDR Implementation and its annexes:
  - Annex 1: ICPDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 2: EUSDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 3: Overview table ICPDR activities and related Danube Strategy actions
- Development of the Final Draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Development of the Scientific report of the JDS3 – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Adoption of the Multiannual Work Plan of EUSDR PA4;
- Development of dissemination documents to summarize the outcomes of the labelled projects and to give an overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2014-2020) (activity is on-going).

## Meetings organised, decisions made:

- Organisation of trilateral meetings with the PACs, ICPDR and the Austrian SG member;
- Organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting where the main financial options for 2015-2021 have been introduced;
- Strengthening sub basin activities by the establishment of the ICPDR Tisza Office and organisation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Tisza Group meeting;
- START call – 40 projects were submitted for PA4 out of which the best 15 projects were selected by the PACs and the best four projects were selected by the Steering Group and were submitted to PA10 recommending for financial support;
- Organisation of a Sediment project proposal development meeting and related report development (further activities are on-going);
- Organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop of Blue Danube project – preparation of the project “Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River”
- Participation at several ICPDR expert group meetings to share information and discuss common issues;
- Moldavian expert visit to Hungary;
- Bosnian water managers’ visit to Hungary;
- Consultancy on project adopted for financial support from PA10 EUSDR TAF-DRP assistance - “Utilization of the Unique Wetlands in Undermined Area Novaky - Kos”, acronym MINE WETLIFE.

## 2. DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The total duration is from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2015 – Please note that a 3 months prolongation will be requested until 30 June 2015 in a separate document. The current report covers the project period of July-December 2014.

## 3. ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND CONDUCTED

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 7/14 to 12/14)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
11 July 2014	START - Danube Region Project Fund – PA10	Vienna, Austria – Practical workshop on START programme – rules and decision making process
8 September 2014	ICPDR, NCPs, PA5 and PA4 meeting	Vienna, Austria – meeting about the Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy on EUSDR Implementation;
8 September 2014	ICPDR, PA4, AT meeting	Vienna, Austria, meeting of PA4, ICPDR and AT regarding further steps in PA4 activities implementation
14 October 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia	PA4 SG8 meeting	Discussion about PA4 on-going issues, progress to be presented (details see in Chapter 4)
30-31 October, 2014 Munich Germany	40th RBM EG meeting	PA4 PAC4 presentation about the progress achieved by PA4 – outcomes of the SG8
4 November 2014, Szolnok, Hungary	Ceremonial inauguration of the Tisza Office	Facilitated by the EUSDR PA4 and the ICPDR PS the Tisza Office – among other – will help the organisation of the ICPDR Tisza Group activities

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 7/14 to 12/14)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
21 November, 2014 Budapest, Hungary	Sediment Meeting	Project proposal preparatory meeting, organised by the Budapest Technical University and facilitated by the PA4
26-27 November 2014, Szolnok	21st Tisza Group meeting	In line with the updated Memorandum of Understanding of the Tisza Group signed in 2011, supported also by the PA4 a meeting has been organised to continue the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group
3 December 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia	Blue Danube workshop	Organisation of the 2nd workshop on Blue Danube project – preparation of the project “Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River”
9-10 December 2014	ICPDR 17 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting	1) Discussion about the ICPDR on-going activities, special focus on the Final Draft of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Integrated Danube River Basin Management Plan; 2) Final adoption of the EUSDR/ICPDR Joint Document; 3) PA4 PAC presentation about the on-going PA4 activities.

## 4. HOW WAS THE ACTION CARRIED OUT SO FAR?

### 4.1. Joint actions with the ICPDR

#### 4.1.1. Adoption of the EUSDR/ICPDR Joint documents – Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation)

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities of the EUSDR PA4 and 5, the paper of the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination has been developed and it was adopted in November 2014 by PA4 and PA5, it was adopted by the ICPDR in December 2014. The paper builds upon already existing approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan.

**Background:** The ICPDR, PA4 and PA5 in November 2013 agreed to prepare a joint document, where the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and *modus operandi* between ICPDR and PA4/PA5 are clarified. They also agreed that the joint draft document once primarily agreed with the partners will be disclosed for the Steering Group members and will be submitted to the European Commission in 2014. In line with the above procedure PA4, PA5, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania (PACs and NCPs) and the ICPDR started with the process and prepared their *Joint Documents*.

The document was discussed several times among the ICPDR and related NCs during 2014 and on 8 September 2014 in Vienna an agreement was reached between the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat, HU and SK related to the text. The Romanian party provided its consent. The document was ready for circulation on 03/10/2014. PA4 submitted it to its SG members on 06/10/2014 and provided a

presentation about its content at the SG meeting on 14 October 2014. During the SG meeting several parties expressed appreciation of the document and welcomed the already visible good cooperation between PA4 and the ICPDR. (Please see further details in **Annex 1** of the SG 8 minutes.)

The main objectives of the document are:

- ✓ Outlining mandates;
- ✓ Setting clear overview on the separation of tasks and responsibilities;
- ✓ Seeking for options/procedures on how to make the best of both frameworks through complementarity and coordination synergy.

The document describes several options about how to reinforce synergy such as (1) Strengthening the network; (2) Closer coordination; (3) Early consultations; (4) Meeting efficiency; (5) Innovative approaches; (6) Mutual recognition and visibility (7) Cross-sectoral cooperation; (8) Strategic guidance and coordination; (9) Priority setting; (10) Alignment of funding.

Cooperation between EUSDR structures and those of the ICPDR is already on-going and should be further strengthened inter alia by firmly utilising the mandate, experience, past achievements and technical capability of the ICPDR for all water related issues in the Danube River Basin. Avoiding overlaps and avoiding the creation of parallel structures is a key principle that should be followed at all levels of cooperation.

The approved document is attached in **Annex 2**.

#### *4.1.2. Development of a Joint Workplan*

For the 8th Steering Group meeting, based on contribution from the Hungarian and Slovakian PA4 coordinators as well as from the experts of the ICPDR and ISRBC an excel table has been developed to list the main on-going activities of Priority Area 4 (*Water quality*) in line with the Roadmap actions. The main objective of the Workplan and timetable is not to repeat the elements of PA4 roadmap but to include those activities, which are

- under implementation,
- financially covered or planned to be covered and
- relevant for the Danube countries.

The Workplan gives a realistic time-schedule on the actions planned and actions under implementation. The Workplan and timetable creates the basis of reporting and gives a transparent overview on the on-going activities.

The intention is to update the Workplan/timetable before each steering group meetings in line with the current progress and newly financed elements of the Roadmap.

The Workplan that was introduced in the frame of SG8 obtained appreciation of the SG members as it presents clearly the actions in a clearly comprehensive manner. Please see it attached in **Annex 4**.

#### *4.1.3. Participation on ICPDR expert group meetings to share information and discuss common issues*

In line with the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4/PA5 Joint paper and according to the on-going activities of the PA4, experts of the priority area coordination team participated in the relevant ICPDR expert group meetings and high level (Heads of Delegation) yearly meetings.

In the frame of the reporting period the PA4 Team participated in the following ICPDR EG meetings:



- 30-31 October 40th RBM EG meeting,
- 26-27 November 2014, Szolnok 21st Tisza Group mtg.
- 9-10 December 2014, Vienna, Austria, 17th Ordinary meeting of the ICPDR

#### *4.1.4. Strengthening sub basin activities by the establishment of the ICPDR Tisza Office and organisation of the 21st Tisza Group meeting*

On 4 November 2014 organised by the Middle-Tisza-District Directorate and National Directorate for Water Management (Hungary), facilitated by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and EUSDR PA4 and PA5 experts, the Tisza Office have been established and was ceremonially opened in Szolnok, in the heart of the Tisza River Basin. The Tisza Office’s main role – among others – is to coordinate the ICPDR Tisza Group activities and to help the implementation of the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by high representatives of the Tisza countries in 2011 in the frame of a Ministerial meeting.

As a next step on 26-27 November 2014 the 21<sup>st</sup> Tisza Group meeting has been organised by the Tisza Office, facilitated by the EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR PS experts.

*The main focuses of the Tisza Group discussion were:*

- Report “Progress in the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the Tisza River Basin”
- 2013 Update of Tisza Analysis Report (TAR)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan

*Next to the above-mentioned documents the following issues have also been presented:*

- Hungary informed the participants about the ceremonial inauguration of the national Tisza Office, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Szolnok, Hungary, and about their initiative on the issue of the ‘Memorandum of Understanding towards ensuring the coordination activities for the continuation of the ICPDR Tisza Group work’
- Joint Declaration of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Carpathian Convention
- Utilisation of the fund allocated by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget

**Annex 3** of this document includes the short - one-page summary - of the meeting outcomes.

In the frame of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting of the ICPDR Heads of Delegations the progress of the Tisza Group activities and the main outcomes of the 21<sup>st</sup> ICPDR Tisza Group meeting have been introduced.

The ICPDR – among others - took note that the ICPDR Tisza Group would utilise the fund allocated by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget directly for the update of the TAR and 2<sup>nd</sup> Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan and for development a project proposal.

The ICPDR also took note that Hungary would ensure the support of the ICPDR Tisza Group activities by the national Tisza Office in Szolnok in coordination with ICPDR PS.

The EUSDR PA4 will further facilitate the ICPDR Tisza Group activities jointly with the ICPDR PS and will help the Szolnok Office where needed.

#### *4.1.5. Organisation of Sediment project proposal development meeting and related report development (on-going)*

On 21 November 2014 a meeting has been organised in Budapest among the key partners to discuss on the next steps related to the sediment project development. PA4 was also facilitating the meeting. The project idea was also presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> SG meeting in Bratislava.

A financial support is also ensured by PA4 for the main leader Budapest Technical University for the facilitation of the project proposal development. The ICPDR has planned to provide financial support to the project development and set aside funds from TA2 budget. At its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting in December 2014, the ICPDR underlined its continuing interest in sound sediment management. In order to utilise the funds earmarked for preparation of the Sediment Project Proposal, Budapest Technical University, being nominated by Hungary as the project lead partner, was asked to finalise in cooperation with the Sediment Management lead countries Austria and Romania, related Terms of Reference until 16 January 2015, with clear responsibilities for the formation of the consortium and for delivering a concrete draft for the project proposal, agreed by lead countries, until the 13<sup>th</sup> ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting in June 2015.

#### *4.1.6. Organisation of 2nd workshop on Blue Danube project*

On December 3, 2014 the 2nd workshop on Blue Danube project was organised in the Water Research Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia. The project Blue Danube serves as preparatory project for the bigger project. The main aim of the Blue Danube project is the preparation of the project “Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River”.

Main objectives of the second workshop were to introduce the companies and institutes participating in the project; to discuss the development of specific technical concepts for water management using nano-scale materials; to define the next steps and possible working options in relation of the project implementation and to clarify the work packages and distribute the responsibilities among the project partners.

The Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop are in **Annex 8**.

## **4.2. Specific management related actions and PA4 specific issues**

### *4.2.1. Meeting with the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat*

On 8 September 2014 a meeting has been organised in Vienna between the ICPDR and EUSDR representatives to discuss the following main issues:

- Discussion on Joint Document between PA4 and ICPDR – preparation for adoption by all participants
- Specification of joint activities of PA4 for the 2015-2020 period
- Discussion on project preparation: (1) Tisza River Basin Activities; (2) Sediment Project; (3) Flood Action Plan

The high level meeting, where Ivan Zavadsky, the ICPDR Executive Secretary and István Joó, the Hungarian Ministerial Commissioner participated among EUSDR and ICPDR experts was very useful to finalise the discussions on the Joint Document.

The following discussion among ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 and the Austrian Host SG member was also very fruitful, as we could discuss on the planned activities and the upcoming SG meeting and relevant project preparation. The participants concluded that such meetings can help also in the further specification of joint activities.

#### *4.2.2. Organisation of the 8th Steering Group meeting*

On 14 October 2014, the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting of PA4 has been organised in Bratislava, Slovakia with the following main objectives:

1. To present the Joint Document of Cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR and discuss how it will be approved with the Steering Group.
2. To present the START projects, explain how the best 15 projects were selected and to discuss the way how the top 4 projects will be selected for the submission to the Priority Area 10.
3. To discuss on recent activities related to PA4, ICPDR, Sava Commission and to give information on the planned events, to present the Workplan and to introduce project ideas.
4. To present information about the different possibilities for project financing including the new Danube Transnational Programme, Horizon 2020, Life, Central Europe.

The meeting was attended by the SG members or their substitutes of the following Danube countries: AT, CZ, HU, HR, SK, MD, ME, and DE and by the representatives of EC DG Region, ICPDR, Sava Commission and GWP. The participants appreciated the cooperation between EUSDR and the ICPDR, the preparation of the Work Plan and the detailed information that they could obtain about the financing possibilities.

Please see the minutes of the SG meeting **in Annex 1**, including all presentations.

Following the SG meeting the Joint Document and the Start applications ranking was put into consultation and as a result the Joint Document was approved by the SG and the Start applications were ranked.

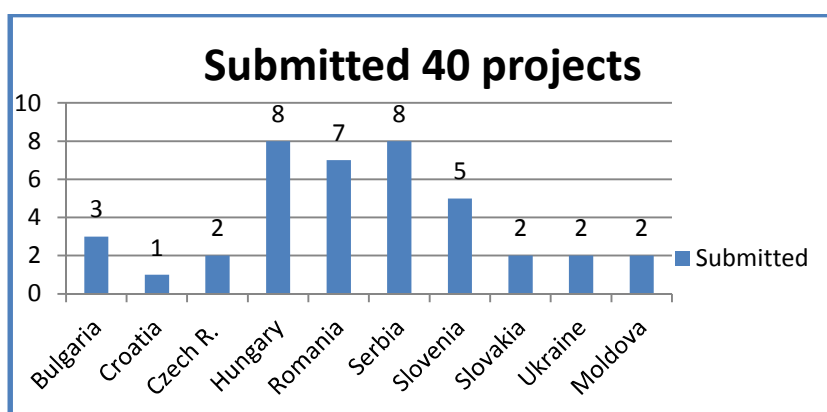
#### *4.2.3. START call – 40 projects to be submitted for PA4*

PA4 PACs have received the list of submitted projects one week prior the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting. The objective was to discuss and finally agree on the list of the best four project proposals in the frame of the SG8 to be able to further submit the selected proposals to the PA10. The Priority Area 4 planned to involve the Steering Group members in project selection process and in accordance with the originally announced deadline of selection procedure (October 21, 2014), PA4 organised the Steering Group Meeting on October 14, 2014.

Because of overloading of project applications which were sent to PA10, the PACs received the pre-selection made by PA10 on Friday, 3/10/2014. The link to the data of all projects belong to our priority area received from PA10 were at the same time sent to PA4 SG members. Nevertheless, it remained one week for PACs to make and negotiate the pre-selection of 15 projects which were submitted to SG members for voting.

The Hungarian and Slovakian PACs had a dense discussion period prior to the SG8 meeting aiming at to pre-select the proposals for the SG. The aim of the pre-selection was to identify, for each Priority Area, applications that best fulfil the qualitative criteria established for the START Pilot-initiative.

It was expected that PACs with the involvement of their Steering Group conduct a sound and documented pre-selection of project proposals which are best expected to contribute to the Action Plan of the Priority Area”.



The PACs used the following criteria for project selection:

- *Roadmap activities* (whether fits to the Actions and milestones specifically) and if yes, that is an added value.
- *Existing working process*, whether the proposal is part of an already on-going PA4 activity
- *Alignment of funding list*, whether it is on our adopted list.
- *Number of participating countries*, whether more countries are partners in the proposal
- *Danube territory*, whether the proposal would be implemented in Danube area
- *Transboundary impact*, whether the proposal would have a transboundary impact (macro-regional dimension)
- *Replicability*, whether its results are replicable in other countries.
- on the *partnership criteria*,
- whether the project is a *stand- alone project or part of a bigger project*
- whether professionally the application is clear.

The PACs proposed 15 projects to SG members. At the SG meeting, the SG members approved the selected 15 projects and decided to vote only for top 6 projects proposed by PACs. The voting procedure started on 17/10/2014 and the ranking was finalised and the final result was sent to SG members on 7/11/2014.

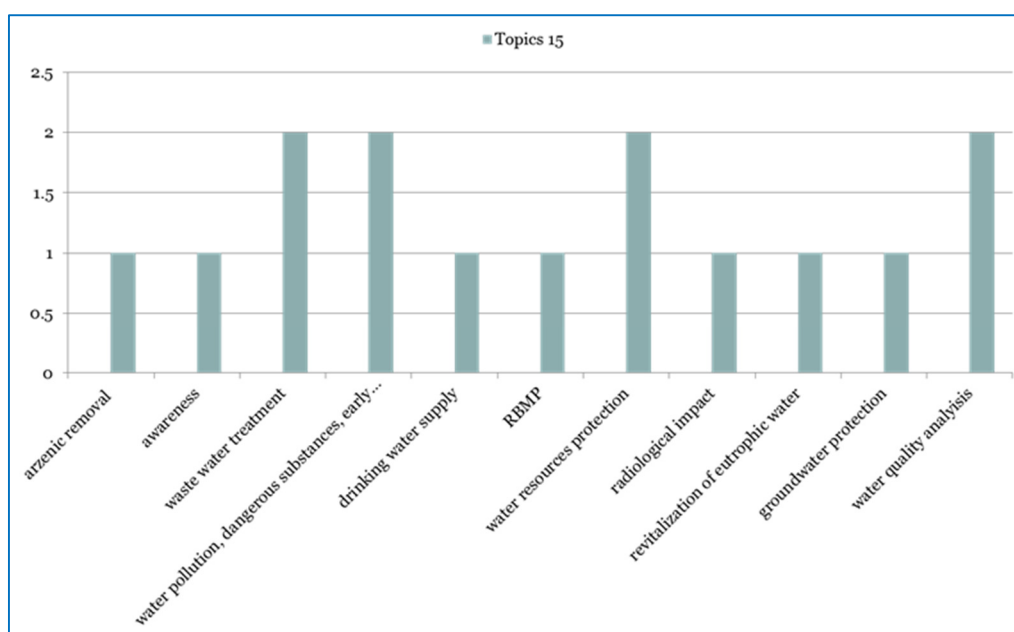
The result of voting was the following: 9 countries from 14 participated in the voting process (A, D, CZ, HR, HU, MD, SK, SLO, SRB) and Montenegro declared to be abstained.

The final table with the best six projects are the following:

Ranking	Acronym	Project No	No of points
1	STAWA	22	46
2	REWATER	36	35
3	LOCWAT 2020	9	34
4	RADIM	35	31
5	R-EWS	19	22
6	MICROMETINTERACT	21	21

The rest of 15 approved projects by PA4 SG members (9 projects) were ranked on the base of negotiations of PAC and their teams. PA4 PAC informed PA10 about the PA4 decision based on the above table. Currently the PACs are waiting for feedback from PA10 about which project will obtain funding.

It is clear, that several of the projects proposals have significant relevance to PA4 will not get support due to the high number of submitted projects. The topics of the selected best 15 are the following:



PA4 will search for possible options to finance – at least part – of the submitted project proposals to further facilitate the involvement of the actors in the EUSDR process.

#### 4.2.4. Please see detailed discussion and presentation related to the Start projects as part of **Annex 1. Development of dissemination documents**

Based on the outcomes and experiences of the PACs there is a high interest towards the EUSDR and PA4 related activities specifically to analyse added values of the labelled projects as well as to summarize (explore) available project funds relevant in the coming 2015-2021 financial period. In line with these needs PACHU facilitate the development of such dissemination documents and will publish them in 2015.

Based on the outcomes of the SG8 two dissemination documents are being prepared:

- (1) to summarize the outcomes of the PA4 labelled projects and
- (2) to give an overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2015-2012.

The documents are currently under preparation and will be finalised and distributed in 2015.

#### *4.2.5. Secondment of a Moldavian expert*

In line with the policy to exchange experiences with non- EU Danube countries, Hungary offered a possibility to a Moldavian expert to spend one month in Hungary. Between 3-28 November 2014, a secondment (Mr. Anatolie Pirlli), expert of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, has spent a period of one month in Hungary to learn about the EU water management related aspects and also to study how EU legislation is transposed to the national legislation system. **Annex 5** includes the program and summary minutes of the secondment period.

#### *4.2.6. Visit of Bosnian water managers in Budapest*

Similarly to serve the object of exchange of experiences, on 2 December 2014 a Bosnian water delegation visited the EUSDR team in Budapest to participate in a technical exchange visit related to water issues. PA4 presented its on-going works for the Bosnian delegation. **Annex 6** includes the program of the Bosnian visit.

#### *4.2.7. Website*

Taken into account that there is a strong need to inform as wider scale of actors as possible EUSDR PA4 (together with PA2 and PA5) is currently updating its website as the previous website reached its technical maximum size to upload document. The updated website will be available as of January 2015.

#### *4.2.8. Consultations on project Utilization of the Unique Wetlands in Undermined Area Novaky – Kos (acronym MINE WETLIFE)*

The project MINE WETLIFE was supported by financial support from PA10 EUSDR TAF-DRP in the second call, the acceptance letter from May 13, 2014. The consultations were provided by consultation company Hydrophil GmbH in the period July-December 2014. During this period Hydrophil GmbH provided the Inception, Intermediate and Final reports to the beneficiary (Water Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia).

General objective of the assignment was - (i) to provide contacts to possible partners, (ii) to support the beneficiaries in identifying the best option for project financing, and (iii) to provide the best consultancy service to get the project financed by the selected programme.

During the consultations the beneficiary was provided with potential project partners and an introductory contact with potential partners has already been conducted by WRI. Some of the partners will implement the agreed methodology of the project in their own sites and some will act as advisors.



Consultation company „Hydrophil“ has found potential financing tools providing the possibilities to finance the project as the whole or its separate activities. The most probable financial tool which should finance the entire projects seems to be the Central Europe Financial Mechanism (expected call at the beginning of the year 2015).

### **4.3. ICPDR specific actions**

#### *4.3.1. Development of the Final Draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP – action carried out by the ICPDR*

The EU Water Framework Directive requires the elaboration and regular update of Integrated River Basin Management Plans on the basin-wide level. The 1<sup>st</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) was adopted in 2009 and is now updated. According to public consultation requirements, a draft for the updated Plan was elaborated by the Danube countries in the frame of the ICPDR and adopted in December 2014 for launching public consultation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan will be finalised in December 2015 and sets the objectives, strategic priorities and agreed measures for the Danube River Basin and for the management period 2015 until 2021. The 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBM Plan is elaborated in close coordination with the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Flood Risk Management Plan according to the EU Floods Directive.

#### *4.3.2. Development of the Scientific report of the JDS3 – action carried out by the ICPDR*

The ICPDR is organising on a 6-years basis Joint Danube Surveys (JDS) with participation of experts and scientists from the Danube countries. JDS is the world's biggest river research expedition of its kind, further catalysing international cooperation between the Danube countries and the European Commission, united through the International Commission for the Danube River (ICPDR). The main objectives of JDS are to collect information on parameters not covered in the ongoing monitoring programmes, to have data that is readily comparable for the entire river because it comes from a single source, and to promote the work of the ICPDR and raise awareness for water management.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> JDS the practical sampling was carried out in summer/autumn 2013, followed by an extensive analysis stage which was in the meantime completed. The JDS3 scientific report was finalised and adopted by the Danube countries in December 2014.

#### *4.3.3. Project proposal development related activities*

The EU Grant which the ICPDR received in support of EUSDR implementation is used for consultancy services in support for the preparation of project proposals. The ICPDR discussed the use of the funds at its 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group Meetings in June 2013 and June 2014, where it was decided that priority actions in relation to sediment management and sturgeons, as well as on the Tisza and Sava sub-basin initiatives should be supported.

Resources of the Grant were in the meantime used for the sturgeon topic, facilitating a Technical Workshop on sturgeon migration at the Iron Gates which was held in Bucharest, as well as for supporting the preparation of a LIFE project application on in-situ and ex-situ sturgeon conservation measures, which was submitted in October 2014. The preparation of the Terms of Reference for the use of the remaining funds on sediment management and in support of the Tisza and Sava sub-basin initiatives is currently ongoing.

#### 4.3.4. *Development of Prut Management Plan and the Danube-Delta Analysis Report*

Activities to strengthen transboundary cooperation on water management in the Prut and Danube Delta sub-basins is currently ongoing.

The project “Environmental protection of international river basins (EPIRB)” has been started in 2012 and funded by the EU (ENPI). Among the five selected pilot river basins in the Black Sea region, the Prut River has also been chosen, where Moldova and Ukraine are currently developing a joint River Basin Management Plan according to the EU WFD requirements and in close exchange with the ICPDR. In August 2014 an ICPDR-EPIRB data collection workshop was organised and a training was organised on 11 December 2014, focussing on technical details of data provision. The project is planned to be finalised in the first months of 2015.

In the Danube Delta, a project financed by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is focusing on improved cross-border cooperation and to build capacities for introducing a river basin approach for the management of natural resources in the Danube Delta Region. A draft for the Danube Delta Analysis Report according to EU WFD requirements is currently under elaboration. The project is planned to be finalised in the first months of 2015.

### 5. HOW IS THE PROJECT GOING TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BUDGET HEADING?

The budget of TA covers the:

- Funding of the PAC assistants staff costs
- Financing of travel costs of PAC and its assistants
- Other related costs (service contracts, room renting, organisation costs)

The project is using its budget according to its budget line. The financial table of expenditure is submitted in a separate document. Please note that the project is going to submit a request for 3 months prolongation. The table of expenditures and the plans for modification are going to be submitted together with the prolongation request.

### 6. THE TRANSNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE PROJECT

The project has a **tripartite governance** ensuring wide spectrum of the development of the actions.

Both Slovakia and Hungary made significant efforts to ensure the broad participation of the countries in the steering group meetings. Compared to the earlier years the Priority Area reached important success in this respect having most of the countries represented in the meetings.

**ICPDR is also a platform** where all Danube countries are involved and the ICPDR expert group meetings offered valuable possibilities to discuss issues relevant from the EUSDR PA4 point of view.

The joint cooperation of PA4 PAC Teams (Hungary and Slovakia) and the ICPDR within the project created good opportunities to the common work and facilitated the wider involvement of the Danube countries.

Another significant goal (also in a long term period) is the **stronger involvement of the non-EU countries** in the EUSDR implementation. In line with this objective in the second half of 2014 Hungary offered a one-month period for a secondment from Moldova and a visit of the Bosnian



managers was also organised in Budapest. The secondment programme ensured a rich technical programme in the field of water management and governance.

## **7. CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE PARTNERS**

Chapter 4 (actions carried out) gives detailed information on the main contribution, tasks managed and facilitated by the partners. All in all, the partners ensured during the progress period the smooth implementation of the activities and also made steps towards achieving the goals outlined in the Action Plan.

The PAC Teams (Hungary and Slovakia) organised the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting, where main on-going activities and issues have been discussed. Important agenda item was the one focusing on the financial funds of the 2015-2021 financial period. The Danube countries expressed the clear need to receive further information on this topic. For this reason a document is being prepared containing information about the financial possibilities for water quality projects.

Important step have been achieved also within the Tisza sub-basin cooperation. Supported by the Ministry of Interior and the Middle-Tisza District Water Directorate and facilitated by the team of the priority area 4 the 21<sup>st</sup> Tisza Group meeting has been organised to continue the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group.

Another important role/task of the priority area coordinators is to facilitate the project proposal developments in line with the actions of the Roadmap. During the progress period, organised by the Budapest Technical University and also facilitated by PA4, a meeting has been organised on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 related to the Sediment project preparations. Moreover, the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop of Blue Danube project (preparation phase of the project - Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River) was organised on December 3, 2014 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The ICPDR jointly with the PA4 PAC teams helped the project proposal development procedures as well as implemented actions indicated in the Action Plan (Final draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP, scientific report of the JDS3 finalised).

## **8. AUTO-EVALUATION SO FAR**

The chapters above (as well as chapter 9 on the specific results) prove the successful achievements of the reporting period. The Joint Document (between the EUSDR/ICPDR) will contribute in long term to reach goals and create, establish valuable results, outputs.

The EUSDR PA4 however seeks for further options to strengthen cooperation with Non-EU countries and to facilitate their involvement in the EUSDR implementation in the coming years and also to involve further all EU countries in priority area activities.

## **9. CONCRETE OUTPUTS SO FAR**

### **9.1. Joint achievements with the ICPDR**

- Adoption of the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 & PA5 Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for EUSDR Implementation /ICPDR Joint documents and its annexes (annexes not attached to this report):
  - Annex 1: ICPDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 2: EUSDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 3: Overview table ICPDR activities and related Danube Strategy actions – organigram of EUSDR PA4/PA5;

- Adoption of the Multiannual Work Plan of EUSDR PA4;
- Development of dissemination documents to summarize the outcomes of the labelled projects (activity is on-going)
- Development of dissemination documents to give an overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2014-2020 (activity is on-going);
- Strengthening sub basin activities by the establishment of the ICPDR Tisza Office and organisation of the 21<sup>st</sup>Tisza Group meeting;
- Participation on ICPDR expert group meetings to share information and discuss common issues;
- Organisation of sediment project proposal development preparatory meeting and related report development (on-going).

## 9.2. Specific management related achievements and PA4 specific issues

Documents developed/adopted:

- Adoption of the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 & PA5 Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for EUSDR Implementation /ICPDR Joint documents and its annexes (annexes not attached to this report):
  - Annex 1: ICPDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 2: EUSDR structure and responsibilities
  - Annex 3: Overview table ICPDR activities and related Danube Strategy actions – organigram of EUSDR PA4/PA5;
- Development of the Final Draft of the DRBMP – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Development of the Scientific report of the JDS3 – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Adoption of the Multiannual Work Plan of EUSDR PA4;
- Development of dissemination documents to summarize the outcomes of the labelled projects and to give an overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2014-2020 (activity is on-going).

Meetings organised, decisions made:

- Strengthening sub basin activities by the establishment of the ICPDR Tisza Office and organisation of the 21<sup>st</sup>Tisza Group meeting;
- Organisation of trilateral meetings of the Priority Area Coordinators and the ICPDR;
- Organisation of trilateral meetings with the PACs, ICPDR and the Austrian SG member
- Organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting where the main financial options for 2015-2021 have been introduced;
- START call – 40 projects were submitted for PA4 out of which the best 15 projects were selected by the PACs and the best four projects were selected by the Steering Group and were submitted to PA10 recommending for financial support.
- Organisation of a Sediment project proposal development meeting and related report development (further activities are on-going);
- Participation at several ICPDR expert group meetings to share information and discuss common issues;
- Moldavian expert visit to Hungary;
- Bosnian water managers’ visit to Hungary.

### 9.3. ICPDR specific achievements

- Development of the Final Draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Development of the Scientific report of the JDS3 – action carried out by the ICPDR;
- Project proposal development related activities on sediment management, sturgeons, Tisza and Sava sub-basin initiatives are ongoing
- Development of Danube Delta sub-basin report is ongoing
- Development of Prut Management Plan is ongoing

## 10. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

As it was already introduced earlier the following main dissemination activities are on-going currently:

- Development of two dissemination documents
  - (1) to summarize outcomes of the labelled projects and
  - (2) to give overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2014-2020 (activity is on-going);
- Participation in conferences, workshops in line with the Workplan;
- Website development;
- Presentation of the results and outcomes in the frame of the yearly Annual Forums.

## 11. LESSONS LEARNT

*From management point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- A clear need was formulated to strengthen on-going cooperation between PA4 and relevant institutions such as ICPDR and ISRBC. The Joint Document, adopted in December 2014 by all parties creates a good basis for the joint work. The joint document on cooperation between PA4/ PA5 and ICPDR can serve as a model to other priority areas on how to set up further links with relevant organisations. PA4 and ICPDR have already several steps, jointly organised in the spirit of the agreed document.
- Compared to the earlier (last) years significant step has been reached in the involvement of the Danube countries in the PA4 activities. However, there are still some countries where there is a need to better mobilise the experts and policy makers, through diplomatic bodies.
- It is also and still an important task to ensure the exchange at national level between PA4 Steering Group Members and experts in the ICPDR Expert Groups, taken into account the significant topical overlap.

*From professional point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- PA4 is one of the priority areas with the widest scale of actions. Roadmaps were agreed to reach objectives outlined in the action plan. PA4 developed a Workplan for the easier overview of the on-going actions, which might be a help in the long term management of the activities. The Workplan is a ‘living document’ and should be further extended in line with the newly submitted and/or approved projects or further specified actions.
- Projects can give significant input to the actions and/or can serve as a pilot activities or good samples relevant in basin wide scale.

*From policy and financing point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- Letter of Recommendations and Letter of Merits can serve as an important tool to support EUSDR PA4 related projects, however it is crucial to consider / take into account these tools in the decision making process during the distribution of the related financial funds.
- PA4 has collected information related to the state of play of the operational programming in the Danube countries to summarise how the EUSDR related activities are considered within the next financing period (2014-2020). It can be concluded that it is crucial to guarantee on national level the implementation of the WFD and in transboundary scale to ensure funds and support (labelled) projects with PA4 priorities to reach objectives set in the EUSDR action plan. Document on Alignment of Funding – developed by PA4 and PA5 – can serve as a model to other priority areas.

*From dissemination point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- Based on the outcomes and experiences of the PACs there is a high interest towards the EUSDR and PA4 related activities specifically to analyse added values of the labelled projects as well as to summarize (explore) available project funds relevant in the coming 2014-2020 financial period. In line with needs PACHU facilitate the development of such a dissemination documents and will publish them in 2015.

## **12. FURTHER PLANS AND WAY TOWARDS IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN**

For the 8th Steering Group meeting, based on contribution from the Hungarian and Slovakian PA4 coordinators as well as from the experts of the ICPDR and ISRBC an excel table has been developed to list the main on-going activities of priority area 4 (*Water quality*) in line with the Roadmap actions. (Details about the Workplan is introduced in chapter 4.1.2.)

The intention is to update the Workplan/timetable before each steering group meetings in line with the current progress and newly financed elements of the Roadmap.

The activities are planned to be implemented in line with the Workplan.

## **13. ANNEXES**

Annex 1: Minutes of the 8th SG meeting.

Annex 2: Joint Document on the cooperation between the EUSDR PA4/PA5 and the ICPDR.

Annex 3: Summary of the outcomes of the 21st ICPDR Tisza Group meeting.

Annex 4: Workplan of the PA4 (in line with the action plan and roadmap).

Annex 5: Program and summary minutes of the Moldavian secondment period.

Annex 6: Program of the Bosnian water expert's visit in Budapest

Annex 7: Notes of the meeting between EUSDR PA4-ICPDR experts-AT in Vienna

Annex 8: Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Danube Workshop

PRESENTATIONS of the SG Meeting

Budapest-Bratislava-Vienna, “ “ January 2014

Dr.László PERGER  
EUSDR PA4 co-PAC  
Hungary

Dušan Čerešňák,  
EUSDR PA4 co-PAC  
Slovak Republic

Ivan Zavadsky  
ICPDR Executive Secretary  
Vienna

## Annex 1 – Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting of the Priority Area 4

### Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting of PA4 - To restore and maintain the quality of waters – of the EUSDR

DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

VENUE: Water Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

#### **Main objectives of the meeting were:**

1. To present the Joint Document of Cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR and discuss how it will be approved with the Steering Group
2. To present the START projects, explain how the best 15 projects were selected and to discuss the way how the top 4 projects will be selected for the submission to the Priority Area 10
3. To discuss on recent activities related to PA4 and give information on the planned events
4. To present the information about the different possibilities for project financing including the new Danube Transnational Programme

The meeting was attended by the SG members or their substitutes of the following Danube countries: AT, CZ, HU, HR, SK, MD, ME, and DE and by the representatives of EC DG Region, ICPDR, Sava Commission and GWP (the detailed list of participants is attached).

The meeting was chaired by PAC SK Assistant Ms Andrea Vranovská and minutes were taken by Ms Alena Kurecová (PAC SK Assistant).

#### **The final meeting agenda was the following:**

09:30 – 09:35	Welcome by Mr Čerešňák, PAC 4 SK and introduction of the agenda
09:35 – 09:45	Welcome by Mr István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator)
09:45 – 09:55	Welcome by Mr František Koločány, (The Slovak Republic Government Office, Department of Cross-sectoral Priorities – National Coordinator)
09:55 – 10:00	Welcome by PACs 4 and introduction of participants
10:00 – 10:15	Summary of the activities done since the 7th SG meeting, information on 3rd Annual Forum (Ms Andrea Vranovská)
10:15 – 10:30	Information on ICPDR activities (Mr Raimund Mair)
10:30 – 10:45	Information on SAVA Commission activities (Mr Samo Groselj)
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

11:00 – 11:15	Presentation of joint document of cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper and Mr Raimund Mair)
11:15 – 11:30	Work plan of PA4 for upcoming period (2014 -2015) (Ms Diana Heilmann)
11:30 – 13:00	Project financing (Horizon 2020, LIFE, Danube OP, EIB) (Ms Anna Repullo Grau, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Mr Imre Csalagovits)
13:00 – 13:45	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:45 – 15:15	START – selection of 2 projects for support of PA4 (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper and Ms Andrea Vranovská)
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30 – 16:30	Current projects – information (Sediments – Prof. János Jozsa, Iron gate – feasibility study, Mr Raimund Mair)
16:30 – 16:45	Closing session (PACs)

## 1. Welcome, introduction, agenda

The 8<sup>th</sup> PA4 SG meeting was opened by PAC4-SK **Mr Dušan Čerešňák**. He warmly welcomed all participants, introduced the agenda and opened the meeting with giving the floor to **Ms Andrea Vranovská**, PAC4-SK assistant who chaired the whole meeting. The next speaker was **Mr István Joó**, Ministerial Commissioner at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator, who spoke about macro-regional strategies, facilitation of the proper funds use along the whole Danube Region, operative flood management and cooperation programme and highlighted that **Hungary specifically aims** to facilitate and help the proper and effective **use of available funds**, to set up consortiums and to develop projects proposals in line with the objectives of the priority area. Hungary has been putting significant efforts to integrate the Danube Strategy aspects and priorities into the Operative programmes and launched an initiative to strengthen cooperation between water related educational institutions.

**Mr František Koločány**, the Slovak Republic Government Office, Department of Cross-sectoral Priorities – National Coordinator, had few words about new programming period in which the concept of macro-regional strategies will be the most important tool. This concept is included in the most relevant regulations. Cooperation of EU countries and non-EU countries is really important. Concept on governance of macro-regional strategies is being prepared by the Council of the European Union. He also spoke about the improvement of cooperation between the Priority Areas and the ICPDR since the Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy which took place in October 2013 in Bucharest. That time the Commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn assigned the task to elaborate the joint document specifying the cooperation between the ICPDR and EUSDR. **Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper**, acting PAC4-HU highlighted the importance of the joint document of cooperation between the PA 4 and the ICPDR, she mentioned that PA4 would like to assists its members to provide information about financing possibilities and that the aim of the current SG meeting is also to decide about the projects that should be recommended for Start funding.. After that the participants introduced themselves.



## 2. Presentation of the summary activities of PA4

**Ms Andrea Vranovská**, PAC4-SK assistant had a presentation about the activities within EUSDR Priority Area 4 which have been performed since the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting organized in Budapest. She also provided the information about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum which was organized in June 2014 in Vienna. Within the plenary session 3 – Inspired by Diversity – Ready for Action - Danube Cosmos PA4 organised the workshop “Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the policy of the European Union”. Workshop conclusions related to the implementation and functionality of macro-regional strategy are:

- Operative interconnection and mutual cooperation of EU SDR, ICPDR, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme and Directive EU 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive)
- Close cooperation and implementation support of PA4, PA5 and PA6 actions which relate to the common Pillar II – Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region
- The practical issues of the Danube Region anchored in EU SDR and ICPDR documents shall be solved on the base of scientific knowledge obtained within the JRC research

## 3. Presentation on the information about ICPDR activities

Ms. Kocsis-Kupper announced that in each SG meeting there will be a separate section provided to the ICPDR and ISRBC to present their progress and opinion. The SG members, namely Austria and Germany appreciated this approach and welcomed this practice for the future as well.

**Mr Raimund Mair** who is the Technical Expert on River Basin Management gave the presentation about the ICPDR activities. ICPDR coordinates the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive on basin-wide level. They have 15 contracting parties. River basin management is dealt within the WFD. Then he introduced the WFD implementation cycle and significant water management issues like organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution and hydro-morphological alterations. He mentioned that the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report with annexes and maps is being currently finalized. The draft of second River Basin Management Plan will be published in December 2014 and they will be finalised and adopted in December 2015. Some examples of the Danube River Basin Management Plans are urban waste water treatment, measures on agriculture, connectivity and fish migration and inter-sectoral cooperation. The report on the Joint Danube Survey 3 is being finalized. Implementation of EU Floods Directive is very important for the Priority Area 4 and 5. The First Danube Flood Risk Management Plan is under preparation, the draft will be ready in December 2014 and finalisation is expected in December 2015. The cooperation of the EUSDR and the ICPDR can be displayed in the Priority Areas 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Finally Mr Mair talked about ICPDR meetings and events and welcomed that PA4 PACs would be attending the events, mentioned the upcoming RBM EG, where Ms.Kocsis-Kupper would attend on behalf of EUSDR PA4 and reminded that the Ordinary Meeting of ICPDR will be held on 10 December 2014 where the PACs are also invited.

## 4. Presentation on the ISRBC activities relevant for the implementation of EUSDR

**Mr Samo Grošelj** gave the presentation about the activities of the Commission. Firstly he presented the overview of the Sava River Basin. Then he spoke about the projects within the Priority Area 4: Sava River Basin Management Plan; Biodiversity and Environment Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in SRB and Establishment of Sava GIS. The project within the Priority Area 5 is related to the spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increasing flood threat. He also mentioned other projects and activities among which are Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin; sustainable sediment management;

consideration of inter-sectoral linkages and Sava waterway rehabilitation. At last but not least he spoke about May 2014 floods – meetings and activities.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** had a few remarks after these presentations. She said that the 3 topics ICPDR highlighted are the issues that PA4 is also active and in which PA4 cooperates with the ICPDR, namely: waste water treatment, phosphates and buffer zones. She really appreciated the cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR saying that there is a big potential for future joint works.

She also highlighted the fact that the Sava Commission is also an important stakeholder of PA4 and pointed out that the experiences of the Sava Commission related to the Sediment issue should be used.

## 5. Presentation on the Joint Document of Cooperation between the Priority Area 4 and the ICPDR

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** gave the presentation about this document consisting of 10 pages plus annexes. The ICPDR, PA4 and PA5 agreed to prepare this joint document in November 2013, where the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi between ICPDR and PA4/PA5 would be clarified. Between January and March 2014 PA4 developed a draft document, which was sent to the ICPDR Secretariat as well as to the PACs of PA5 and to the NCPs of the coordinating countries. In March 2014 the ICPDR developed an ICPDR draft document: Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation focusing on EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination. The document was discussed several times among the ICPDR and related NCs during 2014 and on 8 September 2014 in Vienna an agreement was reached between ICPDR, HU and SK related to the text. The Romanian party which was not present at the meeting provided its consent. The document was ready for circulation on 3 October 2014 and the PA4 submitted it to its SG members on 6 October 2014. The basic objectives of the document are: outlining mandates; setting clear overview on the task separation and responsibilities and seeking the options how to make the best of both frameworks through complementarity and coordination synergy. The document is quite short, which was appreciated by the parties, and the annexes contain detailed descriptions that could be regularly updated. The improvement of cooperation is visible already now, e.g. PA4-PA5 team participate at ICPDR working groups, PACs participate in key ICPDR meetings, PA4 workplan was elaborated together with ICPDR in 2014, etc.

**Mr Mair** added a couple of words to this presentation. He said that the Chapter 4 of the document is very important because it indicates the synergies between ICPDR and EUSDR. He added that in the whole process the countries themselves are also important, not only the PA4 and ICPDR sphere distribution. **Ms Anna Repullo Grau** appreciated the efforts made, welcomed the final agreement and advised that this joint document should be sent to both commissioners – the previous one and the current one. The previous commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn is now responsible for IPA and ENI countries. **Mr Karl Schwaiger** and **Mr Klaus Arzet** (representatives of Austria and Germany respectively) expressed their satisfaction with the document. **Ms Marija Pinter**, representative of Croatia, added that Croatia has a very difficult position in terms of overlapping because it is the member of the ICPDR, ISRBC and therefore she really appreciates the effort connected to the document preparation.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** suggested to have 10 days silent procedure and after this period elapses and there are no objections from the countries, it means that the document will be approved by the Steering Group.



(Please note that the Document was accepted by the SG members in a silent procedure as agreed. Austria expressed its appreciation in writing.)

## 6. Presentation on the Work Plan for upcoming period (2014-2015)

**Ms Diana Heilmann** had a presentation about the PA4 Workplan 2014-15. The main objective of the workplan and the timetable is not to repeat the elements of PA 4 Roadmap but to include and specify the following activities: activities under implementation, activities financially covered or planned to be covered and the activities relevant for the Danube countries. Then she presented the workplan structure. She remarked that it is a living document and it is updated from one steering group meeting to the other one. **Mr Schwaiger** fully appreciated the form of the document to be really user-friendly, transparent and clear in comparison to the long and time consuming reading of the roadmaps. He suggested to organize a similar event to the Danube Day also within the Danube Strategy and to present dissemination activities in the next Annual Forum.

## 7. Presentation on project financing

**Ms Anna Repullo Grau** was the first speaker in this section. She spoke about the financial tool the Danube Strategy Point (DSP) in the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Brussels which will be established in the spring 2015. DSP will operate as a tool to support the implementation of the EUSDR and the coordination and interaction between its key stakeholders. In January next year its final shape will be clear. It is the financial tool to support Priority Areas Coordinators and Steering Groups. It should help to improve the work of the Danube Strategy and to include more DG Enviro and DG Regio in the strategies. This way the European Commission will be more involved. European Commission funding programmes have the objectives of the Danube Strategy in the concept, so this was the strategy is reflected in the Partnership Agreement and all operational programmes. The question is how this will be implemented in the practice. It is open for the operational programmes to decide, clear directions have not been set up yet.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** continued in this block by speaking about different financial programmes. She gave detailed information about the Central Europe Programme, Life Programme and Water Projects and Horizon 2020. Regarding the Central Europe, the first call is planned to be available in early 2015 and will be open for 2 months, there will be a web-based application form. There are 4 thematic objectives and 4 priorities. Priority 3 with the title “Cooperating on Natural and Cultural Resources for Sustainable Growth in Central Europe” is important for the PA 4. The co-financing rate differs for the EU countries, for instance for the Slovak Republic it is 85%. Budget is 246 million Euro out of which the first call covers 80 million Euro. She provided an overview about the Life Programme as well where she works as a regional coordinator of the external monitoring team for 10 years now. The current budget of the Life Programme is 3, 5 billion euro and 81% of the Life budget will go to projects which are divided into the following types: traditional, integrated, preparatory and capacity building projects. She highlighted the fact that the Life Programme can provide appropriate funding especially for water projects (many Danube related water projects were financed in the past), the new integrated projects could be useful to serve for the needs of the RBMPs and advised to consider the possibilities of the programme and referred to the website of the call. She also mentioned the Horizon 2020 funding which overall budget is 78,6 billion Euro, out of which 3 billion Euro is available for projects including water projects over 7 years. She mentioned that PA4 is collecting information on many financial possibilities and would share the consolidated information with the SG members.

**Mr Imre Csalagovits** spoke about the Danube Transnational Programme which is the follower of the South East Europe Programme with a total budget of 260 million EUR with 85% co-financing rate. (The main problem of the SEE Programme was the involvement of stakeholders, there was the need for more support and more stakeholders and more multicultural financing.) He mentioned two financial tools offered by the Danube Transnational Programme: Danube Strategy Point and Seed Money distributed also via PA10 EUSDR in the form of START - Danube Region Project Fund.

## 8. Presentation about the START selection of 4 projects for support of PA 4

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** introduced the selection procedure of START projects. Selected projects will be finally submitted to the Priority Area 10 and will have to meet 2 basic criteria: macro-regionalism and importance for PA 4. Not later than 18 November the Priority Area 10 will receive the list of selected projects – top 15 projects including 4 top projects. Ms Kocsis-Kupper offered the detailed explanation of the whole process – originally the Priority Area 4 received 40 applications altogether out of which 8 projects did not pass the formal check made by PA 10. Priority Area 4 Coordinators chose 15 projects out of those 32 and identified 6 best projects together as follows:

- Local waste water treatment solutions 2020 (LOCWAT 2020)
- Dissemination of the refined EWS study of Tisza basin (R-EWS)
- Microbiota and heavy metal interactions in the Romanian and Hungarian sectors of the Danube aquatic environment (MICROMETINTERACT)
- Radiological impacts of nuclear facilities to the Danube River Basin (RADIM)
- Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin (STAWA)
- Revitalization of Eutrophic Waters for Different Degrees of Pollution and the Size of Water Areas (REWATER)

The Steering Group agreed that there will be voting by email where all 14 Danube countries make their own ranking. Each country has one vote and will give maximum number of points to the best project (i.e. 6 points for the best project, then 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 point for the lowest project). Based on the number of points, the projects will be ranked from 1 to 6 and the selected top 4 projects will be advised to PA10 for financing. PA4 decision is only advisable, the final decision about project financing will be done by PA10. The country which will not reply by the deadline (7 days) is considered to agree with the final decision of ranking made by PACs. In case there is an equal vote then the PACs ranking prevails and there will be no second voting. (The countries voted in writing after the SG meeting as agreed and the result of the voting as follows:

Ranking	Acronym	Project No	No of points
1	STAWA	22	46
2	REWATER	36	35
3	LOCWAT 2020	9	34
4	RADIM	35	31

5	R-EWS	19	22
6	MICROMETINTERACT	21	21

## 9. Presentation on the information about current projects

**Mr János Józsa** from Budapest University of Technology and Economics had an interesting and alive presentation about the Danube Sediment Project. Firstly he gave a quick overview about the Danube River pressures and impacts and then he continued with selected-sediments related problems like intensive morphological changes in the river, increased sedimentation in side-arms and sedimentation in flood plain and shallow areas. Then he mentioned field measurement methods and added some examples of projects supporting the forthcoming Danube Sediment Project application. Finally he spoke about the Danube Sediment Project itself where the core partner countries are Austria, Hungary and Romania with the support of the ICPDR. He highlighted the basin-wide cooperation, included some information about stakeholders and offered preliminary work packages formulations and thanked the EUSDR financial support provided by Hungary for project preparation. Further partners and key stakeholders will be decided later, the next meeting of the experts are foreseen on 21 November 2014 in Budapest. The project is foreseen to be funded from the Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme and the planned project duration is 3 years.

**Mr Mair** spoke about the fish migration at the Iron Gates. Ensuring fish migration is really important because fish need access to habitats and spawning grounds from reproduction, e.g. sturgeons in the Danube River. Then he mentioned important political agreements and objectives and introduced the project Fish Migration Iron Gated I & II which was launched in 2013. Project duration is from September 2013 to September 2014. Key objectives of the project are: establishing fish passage possibilities at Iron Gates I & II, monitoring of sturgeon behaviour at Iron Gate II dam and elaboration of joint roadmap on next steps. The project funding is 260 000 Euro. The he introduced the activities done so far and drafted next steps, also highlighting that they look forward for PA4 support in the future as well, especially identifying financial assistance.

## 10. Closing session

In the closing session **Mr Joó, Ms Vranovská** and **Ms Kocsis-Kupper** thanked the participants for active participation in the SG meeting, appreciated the fruitful cooperation with ICPDR in implementation of PA4 activities and stressed the need for active co-operation at the performance of PA4 activities within the roadmap as well as at the preparation of financial instruments for the next programming period.

Ms. Kocsis-Kupper finally mentioned that the Tisza Office will be official opened on 4 November in Szolnok and also invited the SG members to think about potential issues that could be presented at the upcoming Annual Forum that will be held in Ulm in October 2015.



## Annex 2 - Joint Document on the cooperation between the EUSDR PA4/PA5 and the ICPDR



### ICPDR – EUSDR PA4 & PA5 COORDINATION

Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation

FINAL



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The report from the European Commission (EC) concerning the governance of macro –regional strategies<sup>1</sup> as well as the earlier EC report on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)<sup>2</sup>, have identified among various lessons learned one that is key: the need for strengthening synergies with existing bodies and initiatives such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). In a recent joint statement<sup>3</sup> in Vienna (June 2014) the relevant ministers and the EC “emphasized the importance of streamlining the interconnections between EUSDR and relevant regional institutions, while avoiding potential duplications and overlaps.” In this context, the statement particularly refers also to the ICPDR.

The opportunity for cooperation and for mutual support of EUSDR and ICPDR in relevant fields has not been fully utilised yet. This comes despite the obvious potential for synergies between the objectives and the processes of the EUSDR on one hand, and the ICPDR mandate, tasks and activities on the implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Floods Directive (FD) on the other. The modalities and cooperative framework in this document respects processes and mandates of both partners and provides a state of play as of June 2014.

The ICPDR, representing the Contracting Parties to the DRPC, agreed with the National Contact Points of Priority Area 4 (PA4, Water Quality) and Priority Area 5 (PA5, Environmental Risks) to prepare this joint document, in which the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi for complimentary and joint activities of ICPDR and PA4/PA5 are clarified. The 16<sup>th</sup> ICPDR Ordinary Meeting formally endorsed this idea and tasked the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat to develop such a document jointly with the PA4 and PA5 counterparts.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) was signed in 1994 and entered into force in 1998. It stipulates the mandate and framework for cooperation between its Contracting Parties (CPs) in terms of water management, water protection, flood protection and overall sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies (2014)

<sup>2</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2013) 181 final

<sup>3</sup> Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Participating States of the EUSDR and of the EC. Issued at 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual EUSDR Conference in Vienna, June 2014.

use of the Danube River on the territory of the 14 main countries within the Danube River Basin (DRB). It is the overall legal instrument for cooperation and trans-boundary water management in the DRB. Its objectives are as follows:

- Ensuring sustainable and equitable water management;
- Conservation, improvement and the rational use of surface waters and groundwater;
- Controlling discharge of waste waters as well as of the inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances from point and non-point emission sources;
- Controlling floods and ice hazards;
- Controlling hazards originating from accidents (warning and preventive measures);
- Reducing pollution loads entering the Black Sea from sources in the Danube catchment area.

Responding to the obligations of the Convention, the Danube countries established the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), which has the mandate to ensure that countries fulfil the actions committed to under the Convention. The Commission is controlled and managed by the contracting parties, today 14 countries and European Union.

The Danube Ministers tasked the ICPDR to provide the platform for coordinating the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube River Basin in order to cover legal obligations of member states derived from the directive to coordinate among others a program of measures for the whole of the river basin district. The commitment to use the methods and meet the goals of the Directives was made by all ICPDR countries, i.e., not only EU Member States, but also candidate/potential candidate countries and countries which are not in the EU. The ICPDR also coordinates activities of its contracting parties at the Danube Basin level and key products such as the DRB Management and Flood Risk Management Plans, flood risk maps, etc.

Owed to considerations of efficiency, proportionality and in line with the principle of subsidiarity, the management of the Danube River Basin District (DRBD) is based on three levels of coordination:

- ⇒ Part A: the international, basin-wide level – the Roof Level;
- ⇒ Part B: the national level (managed through competent authorities) and/or the international coordinated sub-basin level for selected sub-basins (Tisza, Sava, Prut, and Danube Delta);
- ⇒ Part C: the sub-unit level, defined as management units within the national territory.

The information increases in detail from Part A to Parts B and C (see Figure 1).

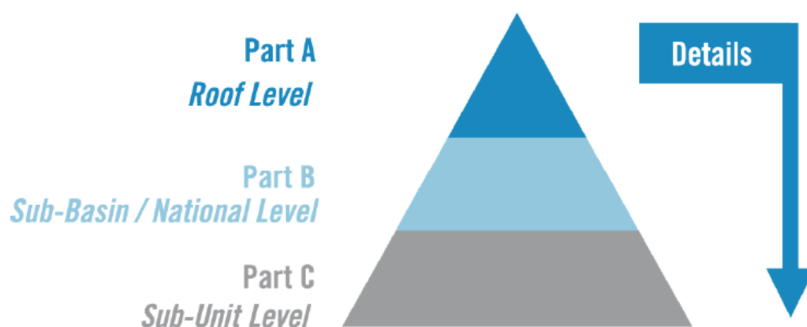


Figure 1: Overall structure of river basin management planning in the Danube basin.

The investigations, analysis and findings conducted in the frame of the ICPDR on the basin-wide scale (Part A) focus on:

- rivers with catchment areas >4,000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- lakes >100 km<sup>2</sup>;
- transitional and coastal waters;
- transboundary groundwater bodies of basin-wide importance.

Waters with smaller catchment and surface areas are subject to planning at sub-basin/national, respectively sub-unit level. All plans together provide the full set of information for the whole Danube River Basin District, covering all waters (surface as well as groundwater), irrespectively of their size.

In response to the danger of flooding, the ICPDR adopted the Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Prevention in the Danube River Basin in 2004. The overall goal of this Action Programme is to achieve a long-term and sustainable approach for managing the risks of floods to protect human life and property, while encouraging conservation and improvement of water related ecosystems. In line with the Action Programme, the ICPDR adopted 17 flood action plans for the sub-basins of the Danube in 2009. At the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting in 2010, the Contracting Parties committed themselves to making all efforts required to implement the EU Floods Directive throughout the whole Danube River Basin and to develop an international Flood Risk Management Plan in order to cover legal obligations of member states stemming from the directive to establish flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the river basin district.

The regular meetings of Ministers of ICPDR contracting parties endorse inter alia action plans and management plans, thus providing their full political commitment for implementation; in addition, they provide political guidance and ensure high-level governmental support to key strategic documents developed within the ICPDR. The next Ministerial Meeting is planned for 2016 to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP and the 1<sup>st</sup> DFRMP.



The ICPDR Expert and Task Groups involve representatives of all contracting parties as well as observer organisations. They have developed actions on key issues such as river basin management, flood protection, pollution control, monitoring of the quality of waters, accident prevention, information management and GIS as well as public participation. They constitute a basis for technical dialogue, and development of measures, to implement the EU WFD and EU Floods Directive and typically meet twice a year. Annex 1 provides overview of their structure and key tasks and responsibilities, as well as an overview of the 23 observer organisations of the ICPDR.

The mandate of the Priority Areas (and their Coordinators) of the EUSDR is established by the European Union. Following a request from the European Council, the European Commission presented in 2009 an EU Strategy for the Danube Region in the form of a Communication<sup>4</sup> and its accompanying Action Plan<sup>5</sup>. The European Council endorsed the Communication with its annexed Action Plan in April 2011.

The EUSDR facilitates and strengthens cooperative frameworks, which should utilise and support existing institutions, help Member States to implement EU legislation and should in particular support Member States and candidate countries in programming and effective use of EU funds and other financial mechanisms.

The Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and Council<sup>6</sup> has provided a definition of EU macro-regional strategies and sets out the provisions to embed them in the European Structural and Investment Funds programmes for 2014-2020. The Communication and Action Plan of the EUSDR identifies concrete actions and examples of projects in **11 thematic Priority Areas (PAs)**, with the objective of addressing the common challenges of the region, by increasing the effectiveness of policies at EU, national and local level by improved cooperation. Concerning **PA 4 and PA 5**, the identification of main issues is to a large extent based on previous work of the ICPDR, primarily from the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and the Danube Ministerial Declaration from 2010.

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<sup>4</sup> COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2010) 715 final

<sup>5</sup> Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region SEC(2010) 1489

<sup>6</sup> REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

PA 4 and PA 5, as the rest of priority areas, have a Steering Group (SG). Members of Steering Groups represent Governments of Danube Countries. The European Commission and its relevant Directorate Generals (DGs) also participate in Steering Groups, fulfilling their leading role in strategic coordination of macro-regional strategies. The work of each PA is coordinated by two Priority Area Coordinators (PACs).

This Communication mentioned above states that *“The coordination of each Priority Area is the task of EU Member States (in many PAs together with non-Member States). ‘Priority Area Coordinators’ (PACs), ensure implementation (e.g. by agreeing on planning, with targets, indicators and timetables, and by ensuring wide contacts between project promoters, programmes and funding sources, providing technical assistance and advice). This work will be trans-national, inter-sectorial and inter-institutional.”*<sup>7</sup> (PACs) work on the implementation (of the Action Plan) in close contact with the Commission, with all stakeholders involved, especially other countries, but also Regional and Local Authorities, Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Bodies.”

Based on the mandate of the Steering Groups and Priority Area Coordinators, their most important tasks are to ensure implementation of the action plan by appropriate measures of planning, coordination, facilitation and monitoring, especially through the following activities:

- find, involve, support partners (action leaders, observers, contributors, project partners) who can be involved in the implementation of the EUSDR and its action plan due to their specific experience, mandate, and capacities;
- establish networks and platforms or implement the tasks directly via the Steering Group and Priority Area coordination where such partners do not exist or are not ready or willing to implement Actions or elements of Actions from the Action Plan;
- prepare roadmaps (implementation plans) to the Actions listed in the Action plan for the EUSDR, facilitate and monitor their implementation, make adjustments to implementation measures as necessary;
- involve science and innovation as necessary to find efficient and innovative solutions for gaps and bottlenecks in the implementation of the Action Plan and utilize the potential for efficiency of EUSDR in the implementation process via better spending and more efficient macro-regional interventions, including cross cutting measures;
- facilitate the alignment of funding from the aspect of the Priority Area incorporating the measures of the EUSDR, the Action Plan and Roadmaps where relevant to the documents and operational programs of the European Structural and Investment Funds as well as other financing frameworks;
- coordinate cross cutting measures with sectorial administrations and other Priority Areas;

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<sup>7</sup> COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2010) 715 final

- assist the work of EUSDR partners to address bottlenecks or help in activities contributing to the implementation of EUSDR strategic documents;
- support projects and partners, issue labels and letters of recommendations for project proposals in line with the Strategy, facilitate to find project partners for project proposals, follow project results and incorporate them to the EUSDR framework and provide visibility for the outputs.

### 3. KEY ICPDR AND EUSDR ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS & RESULTS RELATED TO THE EUSDR PA4 & 5 ACTIONS

One of the ICPDR's key objectives is to ensure a coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive on the Danube basin-wide scale, thus supporting member states to meet their legal obligation stemming from the Directive to coordinate within the entire basin. In accordance with the Directive's requirements, the first Danube Basin Analysis Report was prepared in 2004. This was a substantial step towards the elaboration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> DRBM Plan), which was adopted by all ICPDR Contracting Parties in 2009 and which represents one of the most substantial milestones for integrated water resources management in the Danube Basin.

The Joint Programme of Measures, forming the central element of the 1<sup>st</sup> DRBM Plan, is currently under implementation and at the same time, activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WFD planning cycle is under preparation. The update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report forms the analytical basis for the elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBM Plan, which the ICPDR will finalize and adopt by the end of 2015.

In the past years, the ICPDR also put a major emphasis on inter-sectorial cooperation, which is a key for sustainable water management and for ensuring the achievement of the WFD environmental objectives. The “Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environment” from 2007 and the “Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development” from 2013 are outstanding examples for ensuring the sustainability of important sectors affecting the water environment. Furthermore, the first trans-boundary “Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change” was adopted in 2012, recognizing the fact that water is a central element to be addressed in the frame of climate adaptation activities.

A prerequisite for the assessment of the water status is reliable information on water quality. The Danube countries started to coordinate their efforts in water quality analysis in 1985 with the monitoring of trans-boundary river sections of the Danube under the Bucharest Declaration<sup>8</sup>. Later, these efforts were continued through the Danube River Protection Convention and since

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<sup>8</sup> Declaration of the Danube Countries to Cooperate on Questions Concerning the Water Management of the Danube. Bucharest, 1985.

1996, the ICPDR publishes annual reports on the water quality status based on the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN). This is the basis for a basin-wide water quality assessment, which provides data reflecting water quality trends including pollution loads discharged into the Black Sea. In addition, the TNMN contributes to a harmonization of water assessment approaches of different DRB countries. The TNMN is supplemented by periodic Joint Danube Surveys (JDS), research expeditions that provide centrally collected and more comprehensive data on parameters not covered by TNMN. These include in-depth biodiversity, chemistry, microbiology, hydro-morphology, isotope analysis and toxicology. To date, three JDS were held (2001, 2007 and 2013).

The Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) of the Danube River Basin is activated whenever there is a risk of trans-boundary water pollution, or when threshold danger levels of certain hazardous substances are exceeded. The AEWS sends out international warning messages to countries downstream to help the authorities put environmental protection and public safety measures into action. Thanks to this system, the adverse consequences of numerous accidents with the potential of causing trans-boundary pollution in the Danube River Basin could be mitigated effectively and timely in the past 20 years. For example, the AEWS was instrumental in providing information to downstream countries on the Ajka Red Sludge accident in Hungary in 2010.

The first milestone in the implementation of the Floods Directive under the ICPDR was to perform a preliminary flood risk assessment and identify those areas for which significant flood risks exist. A joint report was submitted to the European Commission in 2011. The next steps were to prepare flood risk and flood hazard maps in 2013, followed by the elaboration of flood risk management plans until 2015. The ICPDR also analyses the characteristics and consequences of major floods in the Danube River Basin and produces a joint statement on the lessons learned. So far, reports on floods from 2006 and 2010 were published, a report on floods from 2013 is currently being finalized.

Between 2011 and 2013, PA4 and PA5 both achieved important milestones such as the establishment of partnerships with existing partners working towards the implementation of the Action Plan and identified areas not covered by existing platforms, or the identification of operational steps, with targets, milestones and deliverables that were revised and accepted by the Steering Group. The Roadmaps to the Action Plan for PA4 and for PA5 have been finalised and their implementation has started. The Roadmaps were formulated in a way that also includes tasks, which are already carried out in the frame of the ICPDR and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

PA4 and PA5 contribute to facilitating the alignment of funding in a structured and systematic way and prepared a document on the priority interventions to be embedded to the EU programs of the

“2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework”. PA4 and PA5 are among the priority areas, where cooperation with international organisations (ICPDR and ISRBC) are highlighted examples.

Scientific and innovation partners are also contributing to the PA4 and PA5 in areas that need scientific inputs or models for further planning of cross cutting strategies (e.g. the Danube Sediment project consortium), optimization of sectorial investments and operation for more efficient coordinated measures, less costs, better spending (e.g. Upper Tisza flood monitoring and management investment and operation program) or better data (e.g. DanubeClim).

An example for this structured partnership was the macro-regional water conference in September 2013, where major partner of PA4 and PA5 and policy actors concerning water quality including the UNECE - Helsinki Convention, DG Environment, ICPDR, ISRBC, Danube Commission, JRC, REC, ASEM, Water boards-bilateral commissions together with ministerial level representatives of the Danube Region and leaders of DG REGIO and DG Environment discussed the cooperation framework and the results of scientific contribution to PA4 and PA5. Main topics and actions of the Roadmaps of PA4 and PA5 were covered in this event from both expert and policy levels including governmental and institutional cooperation, partnership network of the PA4 and PA5, scientific and technical discussions. Activities facilitated by PA4 and PA5 to implement actions outlined in the Roadmap and based on the relevant scientific methods were discussed in the frame of this conference.

The attached table in Annex 2 provides an overview of EUSDR PA4, PA5 and ICPDR activities related to the EUSDR PA4 and PA5 actions and projects listed in the EUSDR Action Plan.

#### 4. HOW TO REINFORCE SYNERGY BETWEEN ICPDR AND EUSDR

Cooperation between EUSDR structures and those of the ICPDR is already ongoing and should be further strengthened inter alia by firmly utilising the mandate, experience, past achievements and technical capability of the ICPDR for all water related issues in the Danube River Basin. Avoiding overlaps and avoiding the creation of parallel structures is a key principle that should be followed at all levels of cooperation. The ICPDR received from its contracting parties a clear political mandate and the technical capacities for implementing WFD and EFD in the DRB; the momentum created by EUSDR would significantly boost progress in relevant processes by creating added value for both ICPDR and EUSDR also by making better use of measures available for macro-regional cooperation.

To achieve this objective, the coordination of all trans-boundary water management activities between PA4 and PA5 with the ICPDR EGs and TGs should be improved for the future. Furthermore, it is important to ensure an efficient information flow between the PA4 and PA5 SGs on one side and ICPDR EGs and TGs on the other. This requires better coordination at the national

level (an issue for the SG members, but also within the different countries and ICPDR EG representatives). EUSDR can help to facilitate financing different activities which are coordinated by the ICPDR.

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities of the EUSDR PA4 and 5, this paper builds upon already existing approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan:

- **Strengthening the network:** Danube countries should make all effort to strengthen the network at national level through both the PA4 and PA5 SG members and ICPDR EGs and TGs members, allowing direct consultation and cooperation at both national and basin-wide levels. The information flow, inter-agency dialogue and coordination of both ICPDR and PA4 and PA5 activities at national level are crucial for the anticipated synergy. Exchange and regular update of list of members of the PA4 and PA5 SG members and the relevant ICPDR EGs and TGs is a pre-requisite for making this network work;
- **Closer coordination:** Continuation of participation of the ICPDR Secretariat in SG Meetings and of PA4 and PA5 Coordinators in ICPDR key meetings;
- **Early consultations:** Discussion and coordination of relevant EUSDR activities with ICPDR EGs and TGs - current examples could be the buffer strips and/or the Tisza monitoring proposal - this should be discussed with relevant ICPDR EGs and TGs at an early stage. Project ideas (in form of project sheets) collected from countries via SG members by the PA4 and PA5 Coordinators to be circulated at the very beginning for consultation, for expert opinion and for coordination with existing ICPDR activities and technical work. Feedback and evaluation from the ICPDR EGs (and TGs) will be further used for the project development by countries / institutions facilitated by the PA4 and / or PA5 and for the identification of funding sources. Procedures of both mechanisms - the EUSDR and the ICPDR should be followed;
- **Meeting efficiency:** In order to increase the meeting efficiency and to reduce the Danube countries' travel load, the potential to organise back to back meetings of the SGs with relevant EGs (i.e. Flood Protection EG and River Basin Management EG) should be utilised, taking into account the financial obligations of PA4/PA5;
- **Innovative approaches:** Consideration of the "Lead Country Approach", as an innovative modus operandi which is used in the ICPDR. For example, the Danube Basin Climate Adaptation Strategy was developed with lead of Germany, but in close coordination with the ICPDR; a similar approach was used for the Hydropower Guiding Principles, where Romania, Austria and Slovenia had the lead in close coordination with the ICPDR. In these examples, lead countries provided the groundwork, and decisions were taken by the ICPDR. Certain projects recommended by the EUSDR PA4 or PA5 SGs could use this modality.
- **Mutual recognition and visibility:** To maintain the visibility of responsible actors (e.g. ICPDR, PAs, lead countries, etc.) appropriate credit must be given within all tables providing an overview of actions contributing to the EUSDR. Credits for work done should not be hidden within anonymous frameworks.



- **Cross-sectoral cooperation:** Danube countries and the ICPDR should increasingly benefit in meeting their national and regional policy goals from strengthened facilitation of cross-sectoral cooperation between different PAs as an important opportunity offered by the EUSDR.
- **Strategic guidance and coordination:** The ICPDR provides strategic guidance based on relevant key Danube Basin policy documents, e.g. DRBMP, DFRMP, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Guiding Principles for Sustainable Hydropower Development, etc., and in line with PA4/PA5 Action Plans. ICPDR EGs (and TGs) should actively generate project ideas to be introduced to PA4 and PA5 SG for discussion, further joint development and for the identification of funding sources. For PAs generated projects and initiatives, it would be useful to make use of the ICPDR EGs and TGs experience, views and opinions. Although there cannot be a general rule for deciding when to involve the ICPDR and/or the EUSDR concerning different projects, involvement and exchange should be pursued in case it is of relevance for each other.
- **Priority setting:** Measures and lines of action enshrined in the DRBMP and DFRMP, etc., adopted by contracting parties and endorsed by a ministerial conference, should receive high priority when submitted to funding programs, similar like PA4/PA5 alignment of funding;
- **Alignment of funding:** The EUSDR PA4 and PA5 support these measures and actions inter alia through projects development, facilitating direct financing support as well as via alignment of funding through Operative Programmes. Important additional political support could be generated also via the EUSDR PA4 and PA5 processes.

An example of a fruitful cooperation between the EUSDR and the ICPDR is the work towards improved sturgeon protection: PA6 is providing support on a specific issue where the capacity within the ICPDR is rather limited. The preparation of an EU funded project is ongoing, supported by the EUSDR Technical Assistance Facility via PA10, well-coordinated with ICPDR Expert Groups including regular exchange with the ICPDR Secretariat, as well as presentations and discussions in the ICPDR RBM EG and PP EG, Ordinary Meetings and the Standing Working Group meetings.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This paper emphasises the need to recognize the technical and political role of the ICPDR in the context of the EUSDR. The ICPDR also leverages on the opportunities the EUSDR provides, inter alia in terms of alignment of funding, contributions of PA4 and PA5 to ICPDR efforts as well as the political momentum provided by the EUSDR.

The ICPDR provides the legal basis of cooperation in the entire field of water management undertaken in the context of the DRPC within its legal mandate also to carry out relevant tasks outlined in the EUSDR Action Plan. EUSDR PACs, based on their mandate, coordinate activities in their respective PAs also by ensuring strong cooperation and mutual reinforcement with existing institutions, avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. Clearly defining and strengthening the ICPDR role within the EUSDR is very important as much as all the countries covered in the

Danube Strategy are Contracting Parties to the ICPDR. All the activities concerning the cooperation in the water management at the level of the Danube River Basin are coordinated within ICPDR, also taking into account specific joint actions which are jointly implemented by EUSDR & ICPDR.

The macro-regional approach is seeking more coherence between existing funds, institutions and policies in a given region. The EUSDR in line with this provides coordination in the alignment of funding. Macro-regional strategies should maximise the utilisation of regional organisations by strengthening synergies and complementarities, and avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. The ICPDR, as the responsible body for water management in the Danube River Basin, established by the Danube countries and the European Union, with experience and a periodically updated political mandate, is best placed to play a key role in the implementation of the Danube Strategy in its areas of competence, in close coordination with the Priority Areas 4 and 5 and their respective Steering Groups<sup>9</sup>. The ICPDR covers both technical work and political steering and the EUSDR and its activities are complementary in harnessing synergies. The EUSDR could easily address issues not covered by ICPDR (e.g. emergency response to floods and financial support). This is now of special importance as programmes for 2014-2020 are being prepared.

There is potential for strengthening a mutually beneficial cooperation and use of synergies between the ICPDR and the EUSDR in areas of restoration and maintenance of the quality of the waters and of the management of environmental risks. Clarifying open issues and developing an effective *modus operandi* between EUSDR and the ICPDR and implementing the principles and mechanisms of cooperation laid down in this paper would foster the implementation of the DRPC and key water-related EU legislation in the DRB. Increased cooperation between the ICPDR and EUSDR has the potential to bring significant benefits to the citizens and the environment of the Danube River Basin. This document contributes to seizing this opportunity and will be updated according to new developments in both platforms and gained experiences in cooperation and EUSDR implementation.

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<sup>9</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies (2014) and

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2013) 181 final



### Annex 3 - Summary of the outcomes of the 21st ICPDR Tisza Group meeting

#### Tisza Group meeting between 26-27 November 2014. Szolnok, Hungary

*The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:*

##### **Future coordination of the ICPDR Tisza Group / Infrastructural arrangements**

- Hungary has been established the national Tisza office which will – among others – help in the coordination of the ICPDR Tisza Group activities. The ICPDR PS and the EUSDR PA4 experts will facilitate and help the on-going work, where needed. The activities will be coordinated via the ICPDR in line with the former procedures.
- Hungary will raise the issue of the ‘*Memorandum of Understanding towards ensuring the coordination activities for the continuation of the ICPDR Tisza Group work*’ to be discussed and agreed in the frame of the OM17 by the HoDs.

##### **Development of technical documents**

- The ICPDR Tisza Group informs the ICPDR HoDs that the document on the ‘*Progress in the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the Tisza River Basin*’ has been developed. The Tisza Group has agreed that no further adoption of the document is needed. The work should focus on the development of the future activities.
- The ICPDR Tisza Group suggested to jointly develop the document of the Tisza Analysis report update and 2nd Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan. It was agreed that a Roadmap is needed to be developed outlining the steps needed to be done to finalise the work – Tisza office (with the contribution of the ICPDR PS and EUSDR PA4) will develop the document. The document will be coordinated via written procedure and should be finalised until the next Tisza Group meeting.
- The Tisza River Basin Countries will internally consult on available human capacities related to the development of the joint TAR update and ITRBMP.
- The Tisza countries will decide on the procedure on national level whether the countries should coordinate or develop the chapters (coordination work or editorial chapter writing activity).

##### **Utilisation of the Fund offered by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget**

- *Background:* The ICPDR has allocated 20000 EUR budget for the Tisza Group activities from the EUSDR PA4 related technical Assistance support. The ICPDR Tisza Group discussed potential options for the utilisation of the budget – a decision is proposed to be taken by the HoDs of the Tisza countries.
- *Potential options:* (1) Development of a project proposal to support the preparation of the TAR update and 2nd ITRBMP; (2) Using the available budget directly for the development of the TAR update and 2nd ITRBMP (direct input to the editorial work of country experts – chapter development).

### **Adoption procedure of the Joint Declaration of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Framework Convention**

- The ICPDR PS will check the process, which can be legally accepted for the adoption of the document. The ICPDR PS will communicate the findings to the ICPDR Tisza Group and to the HoDs.

### **Relevant projects and project proposal**

The ICPDR Tisza Group took note on the on-going development introduced in the frame of the 21st Tisza Group meeting and asked the presenters to update the group on the developments when they are available.










[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

### LEGEND

LEGEND	
	On-going ICPDR activity relevant from EUSDR PA4 point of view
	ICPDR and PA4 joint action
	On-going ISRBC activity relevant from EUSDR PA4 point of view
	PA4 specific activity
	finalisation of an action(target deadline) continuous activity
	Exact date to be further specified
	SK-comments



## Annex 5: Program and summary minutes of the Moldavian secondment period



KÜLGAZDASÁGI ÉS KÜLÜGYMINISZTERIUM  
DUNA RÉGIÓ STRATÉGIA MINISZTERI BIZTOSI TITKÁRSÁG

### **Secondment of Mr. Anatolie Pirlli, expert** **of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova**

**3-28. November 2014.**

#### **I. Program**

##### **02.11.2014 (Sunday)**

15:55 departure from Chisinau to Vienna (flight number OS 656)  
16:45 arrival in Vienna  
17:20 departure from Vienna to Budapest (flight number: OS 721)  
18:05: arrival in Budapest  
Transfer with taxi to the hotel.

##### **03.11.2014**

11:15-12:00: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, Room BC112 (1027 Budapest, Bem rakpart 47. Meeting with the Hungarian team:

- *Mr. István Joó* Ministerial Commissioner for EU Danube Region Strategy (DRS) and NC for Hungary;
- *Mr. Péter Kiss-Parciu*, Head of The Budapest Danube Contact Point;
- *Dorin Bolboceanu*, Second Secretary, Embassy of Moldova in Hungary
- *Anikó Túri*, Head of Section at the Secretariat of the DRS Ministerial Commissioner;
- *Tímea Kalmár*, Budapest Danube Contact Point;
- *Szilvia Nagy*, Secretariat of the DRS Ministerial Commissioner;
- *Ilona Tóth*, Department for International Development Cooperation
- *dr. László Dobi*, PA5 coordinator (PA5 PAC);
- *László Kóthay*, PA5 PAC senior advisor;
- *Anna Tardy*, PAC assistant
- *Zsófia Ekés*, PAC assistant.

12:00-13:00 Welcome lunch

Venue: Mandragóra Restaurant, 1027 Budapest, Kacsá u. 22.

#### **04.11.2014**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

General information on the Danube Region Strategy and the Budapest Danube Contact Point

#### **05.11.2014.** *Upper-Tisza Regional Water Directorate (FETIVIZIG)*

- 8:23 Departure to Nyíregyháza by train (Western Railway Station)
- 11:40 Arrival in Nyíregyháza
- 12:00 lunch at the Water Directorate
- 13:00 presentations:
- general presentation of the Upper-Tisza Regional Water Directorate
  - hydrological forecast, planning, operation
  - Water utilities in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, on-going and planned developments
  - Improvement of drinking water quality in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county
- 17:00 Dinner at the Water Directorate

#### **06.11.2014**

*Nyíregyháza: Upper-Tisza Regional Water Directorate (FETIVIZIG)*

- 8:00 Breakfast at the Water Directorate
- 9:00 Nyíregyháza, visiting the sewage works Nr. II
- 12:00 Lunch at the Water Directorate
- 13:00 visiting the waterworks in Kállósemjén
- 17:00 Dinner at the Water Directorate

#### **07.11.2014**

*Nyíregyháza: Upper-Tisza Regional Water Directorate (FETIVIZIG)*

- 8:00 Breakfast at the Water Directorate
- 9:00 visit in the reserve storage
- 9:30 visitation of the Hydrological Collection
- 10:00 visit in the Sóstó Zoo
- 12:30 lunch in the Bambusz Restaurant, in the Zoo
- 14:17 departure from Nyíregyháza by train
- 17:40 arrival in Budapest (Western Railway Station)

#### **10-11.11.2014**

*Budapest, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

#### **12.11.2014**

Departure (*exact time later*) to Baja by car (in the company of Mr. István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

10:00 Arrival to Eötvös József College to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Days

*Eötvös József College Water Management Polytechnic Department:* presentation of and information on the qualification and training of Hungarian water and flood management experts, decentralized wastewater management procedures

- Participation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Day (<http://conference.ejf.hu/>)
- lunch at the conference venue

- presentation of the professional profile and technical education of the Eötvös József College
- visitation of the Water Technology Training Centre

Accommodation (with breakfast): organized by Eötvös József College at Malom Club Panzió, Baja

### **13.11.2014**

*Lower-Danube Water Directorate, Baja:* meeting with the director, presentation of the work at water management at the Lower-Danube Water Directorate  
lunch organized by the Lower-Danube Water Directorate

Contact: Mándity Milán, [mandity.milan@aduvizig.hu](mailto:mandity.milan@aduvizig.hu)

Accommodation (with breakfast): organized by Eötvös József College at Malom Club Panzió, Baja

### **14.11.2014**

- participation on the International Water Management Conference and Exhibition (2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Day), organized by the Eötvös József College
  - presentation of leisure activities in Baja
- ~ 15:00 Departure to *Budapest* by car by the Eötvös József College

### **Week 3rd and 4th:**

#### **19-20 November 2014**

To support the smooth transport on 19-20 November the OVF (General Directorate of Water Management) ensure a minibus for the field-trip during the two days

The minibus will depart from the front of the OVF (Budapest, Márvány u. 1/D, 1012), according to the following time schedule

#### **19 November 2014**

**Program 1.:** 10:00 – 11:00 Visit at the Operation Centre

**Departure from the front of OVF:** 9.15

Venue: 1134 Budapest, Váci út 23-37.

Arriving back to the OVF at 12:00 – Lunch at the Hotel (or surrounding restaurants)

Guide (expert of the Waterworks): Pál Bartók

**Program 2.:** 14:00 – 16:00 Visit at the Budapest Waste Water Treatment Plant (BKSZTT)

**Departure from the front of OVF:** 13.20

Venue: 1121 Budapest, Nagy Duna sor 2.

Transport with Budapest public transport: minibus

Guide (expert of the Waterworks): Attila Deák

#### **Visit at the Szentendre Island on the 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**Program:** 09:00 – 12:00 Visit at the Szentendre Island (row of wells)

Departure from the OVF: 8.00

Venue: Szentendrei-szigeti Üzem-mérnökség (Tahi kútsor, Sziget II, Kisoroszi) – Debreczeny László

#### **Meeting at the Tahi bridge**

Guide (expert of the Waterworks): Debreczeny László

Arriving back to the OVF: 13.00

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: summary of experiences

Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCCP): information on financial possibilities, building and forming of industrial cooperation and relationships

## **26 November 2014**

Meeting with Péter Kovács, Head of Department (Ministry of Interior). Discussion was held about the transposition process of EU legislation into national law.

## **29.11.2014 (Saturday)**

11:20 departure from Budapest to Vienna (flight number OS714)

12:10 arrival in Vienna

12:40 departure from Vienna to Chisinau (flight number OS655)

15:15 arrival in Chisinau

## **Summary of the Secondment Program**

November 3rd – November 28th, 2014

### *Main tasks of the secondment*

- To retrieve experience and knowledge from the Hungarian partners (public institutions related to water management, private companies, educational institutions);
- To get familiar with achieved progress in EU SDR PA4 and PA5, for which the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova it's responsible at national level;
- To make an overall point of view concerning the water supply and sanitation sector in Hungary, its operation and regulation;
- To get familiar with the Hungarian experience regarding flood and water protection, main taken steps, distribution of the responsibilities and technical and used engineering constructions and technologies;
- Possibilities of financial cooperation and investments attracting for further water projects that Republic of Moldova intends to build;
- To strengthen the bilateral collaboration and build sustainable professional relationship.

### *Basis of the cooperation*

- European Union Strategy for the Danube Region;
- Protocol of the second session of the Moldovan-Hungarian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (Chapter 6: Cooperation in the field of flood and water management);
- National Action Plan on implementation of the RoM – EU Association Agreement for the years 2014-2016.

### *Visit in Nyíregyháza - Upper Tisza Regional Directorate (FETIVIZIG)*

- General presentation of the Water Directorate, main tasks, organization chart, activities;
- Presentation on hydrological forecasting;
- Water utilities in Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg county, functioning, on-going and planned projects;
- Improvement of the drinking water quality in the county, presentation of chemical and biological parameters of the groundwater in the region.

*Visit in Baja - Eotvos Jozsef College*

- 2nd Innovation Day Conference, presentations of the College profiles and specific of the water-related education system
- Presentations concerning EU SDR, and other topics related to water
- Water Technology Training Center. Great facility for future engineers

*Other important activities done during the secondment*

- Establishment of a dialog with the EIB representatives in order to identify future potential water projects, in which the bank could support the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova;
- Meeting at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Hungary with the Head of Department responsible for the legislation development for water sector at national level;
- Visit at the Operation Center of the Budapest Waterworks
- Main Waste Water Treatment Plant;
- Visit at the Szentendre island for the wells which serve for drinking water supply of Budapest and cover most of the consumption demand of the city;
- Anniversary Conference of the Hungarian-Dutch Water Committee. Presentations regarding experience sharing on the flood and water protection

*Targets to be achieved after the Hungarian experience*

- Strengthening of the dialog between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and water related institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Budapest Danube Contact Point, in order to build a constructive collaboration in field of flood and water protection. Implementation of the gained knowledge in the activity of the Moldovan institutions;
- Increasing the involvement of our Ministry in the Danube Strategy PA4 and PA5 activity;
- Maintaining a sustainable connection with the EIB, in order to identify feasible and viable water projects for the future implementation;
- Establishing a cooperation channel between the Technical University of Moldova and Eotvos Jozsef College, for the possibility of a student exchange program for water engineering students;
- Maintaining the dialog between our Ministry and General Directorate of Water Management specialists for sharing the experience of the harmonization and transposition of the Water Framework Directive and Urban Waste Water Directive into the Moldovan legislation and elaboration of a National River Basin Management Plan;
- Sharing the accumulated knowledge concerning the functioning and operation of the Hungarian water companies with the main water utilities from Moldova;
- Giving as an example to local authorities and municipalities, the waste water treatment plant nr.2 from Nyiregyhaza, to initiate the implementation of projects for building similar facilities.

**Annex 6: Program and summary minutes of the Bosnian visit to Budapest**

**Official visit of the Delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Budapest**

**30<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014**

**I. Agenda:**

**0<sup>th</sup> Day – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Arrival of the Delegation

**1<sup>st</sup> Day- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

Participation at the SEERISK Final Conference

08:15 Leaving from the Hotel to the Conference  
accompanied by Ilona Tóth

*Venue: Danubius Hotel Gellért (Szent Gellért Square 1., Budapest, 1111)*

08:00-08:45 *Registration*  
*accompanied by Szilvia Nagy for the day*

08:45 *Departure from Hotel Gellért to the Water Reservoir*

09:00-10:30 Visit to the Gellért Hill Water Reservoir

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-11:30 *Group photo*

11:30-12:30 Presentation on GIS-based flood modelling

12:30 *Departure to Hotel Gellért*

13:00-14:00 *Lunch (Hotel Gellért)*

14:00-14:10 Opening speech (Lieutenant General Dr. György Bakondi, Director General of NDGDM)

14:10-14:20 Welcome speech (István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy)

14:20-14:30 Response on behalf of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (Alessandra Pala, Project Manager, SEE Joint Technical Secretariat)

14:30-14:40 Adaptation to climate change in disaster management (Brigadier General Dr. Ferenc Tóth, Chief Inspector General for Civil Protection, NDGDM)

14:40-15:00 Presenting the SEERISK video, Presentation of the partners and the agenda (Ágnes Rajacic, Project Coordinator, NDGDM)

15:00-18:00 *Visit at the Parliament (TBC) – after back to the Hotel*



19:40            *Leaving the Hotel to the Gala dinner*

20:00-22:00   *Gala dinner (Hotel Gellért)*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014**

08:00            Leaving from the Hotel to the OVF

08:30            Arrival to the OVF (*address: Márvány Street 1/D, Budapest, 1012*)

08:30-09:00   Welcoming notes

**Ádám Zoltán Kovács**, Deputy State Secretary for International Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**István Joó**, Danube Region Strategy Ministerial Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and Trade

**Balázs Somlyódi**, Director General, General Directorate of Water Management

09:00-09:20   Water management in Hungary (Dr. László Dobi, Water Management Expert,  
General Directorate of Water Management)

09:20-09:40   Flood forecasting (András Csík, director, National Hydrological Forecasting Service)

09:40-10:00   Experiences of the 2013 year’s flood protection, flood plain management plan, flood  
mitigation procedures with reservoirs (György Orosz, Flood Protection Expert)

10:00-10:20   Q&A

10:20-10:40   *Coffee break*

10:40-11:00   Cooperation possibilities for the Danube Region countries in the field of water  
management education (Dr. László Dobi, Water Management Expert, General  
Directorate of Water Management)

11:00-11:20   Introducing the Priority Area 4 (Dr. László Perger, Priority Area Coordinator)

11:20-11:40   Introducing the Priority Area 5 (Dr. László Dobi, Priority Area Coordinator, Water  
Management Expert, General Directorate of Water Management)

11:40-13:00   Q&A

12:00-13:00   *Lunch*

13:00            Departure of the Delegation to home

## **Annex 7:**

**Vienna 8 September 2014**

**PA4 meeting (HU, SK and the ICPDR) --- at the second part of the discussion also AT delegate participated**

HU team presented the topics to discuss

- The Workplan
- The SG agenda
- The financing issues
- The studies improvement

### **Work plan**

We highlighted the need for dissemination, improvement of technical documents and overview of project actions, project generation. For this the HU team prepared a draft plan with proposed workshops, dissemination materials and study improvement that Diana showed to the participants. We agreed that Diana will send the draft plan by the end of the week (12. Sept), ICPDR and SK will comment and add its planned activities in the following week (19 Sept), then the plan will be sent to the SG members as a pre- SG meeting document.

We all agreed that it is a good practice and it will be very useful to have a detailed work plan listing and planning all workshops, studies, dissemination, meetings for PA4, so all parties can plan longer. We agreed that we shall also identify planned next events *asap*, so then can plan the meetings and participation more effectively. All parties appreciated the efforts in this regard.

### **Upcoming SG meeting**

- Andrea sent the invitation and agenda to the members as draft, but that will be modified based on the current discussion.
- We agreed that we will not update the roadmaps now for the upcoming SG meeting, but we shall do it in the spring.
- Agreed that we will have joint reporting in the future and ICPDR will provide respective input.
- ICPDR will have a standardised item at the SG meetings, similarly the Sava Commission, what will also be useful for the preparation of the yearly progress reports.
- PA4 will get in touch with the Sava Commission regarding participation at the next PA4 Meeting and the provision of a presentation
- Will check the participation of Anna RG. for the SG meeting in 14 Oct.
- Agreed to the modification of the agenda: we agreed on the inclusion to the SG agenda the SK and HU NCPs both providing an introduction (to check the availability of Mr. Simko, Mr. Joó already confirmed). Agreed that Zsuzsa will ask Anna about participation and possible presentation and that we shall search for a speaker for Horizon 2020.
- ICPDR presentation will be brought forward to the introductory part, similarly the Sava Commission, and after that will continue with the projects and finances. In the projects section Sediments and Tisza will be listed.
- Andrea will modify the agenda accordingly and it will be resent to the SG members after all presenters are confirmed.

## Financing issues

For the SK financial plan that we received during the meeting we appreciated its preparation and agreed that it will need to be further elaborated, EUSDR to be included and we welcomed the grouping of the Actions. Nevertheless, Karl advised to pay attention to grouping as RBMP also includes pollution.

**TA:** Raimund informed us that in the Technical Assistance Contract the ICPDR contributes and plans to contribute financially to the following issues/projects:

- Sturgeons,
- Sediments,
- Tisza,
- Sava.

Raimund mentioned that one project on sturgeons is currently under elaboration in the frame of the Sturgeon Task Force and will be submitted to LIFE (in situ protection); in parallel, an ex situ study is under elaboration, providing pre-requisites for a potential project on this topic at a later stage. PA4 experts highlighted that we will need to have projects and studies that are part of the PA4 Action Plan as the TA provides financial contribution to reach PA4 aims, and Raimund assured that all issues contribute to the aim of PA4 actions, inter alia because the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan is one specific action of the PA4 Action Plan covering a broad range of activities, beside sub-basin initiatives. We agreed that we shall check the related TA reporting obligations and agreed to set up a timetable to comply with the EC requirements and that we shall prepare the reports together.

## Improving the A5 and A7 studies

We agreed that the A5 and A7 studies and recommendations need to be elaborated further and discussed possible options. Karl highlighted the focus of the Austrian interests in RBMP and PoMs and that all measures should focus on these. Mentioned that for the A5 and A7 reports the added value would be what the practice is for the on-going period and what will be necessary for the next period, especially paying attention to the situation and obligation of non EU states. For Pban he advised to focus on how to have non-EU countries on board. We noted that by the time of the upcoming SG meeting the further detailed elaboration of the recommendations is not realistic, but that we will examine different options.

## Annex 8:

**December 3, 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia**

### **Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Blue Danube Project with the following title:**

*Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River*

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

VENUE: Water Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

### **Main objectives of this second workshop were:**

1. To introduce the companies and institutes participating in the project.
2. To discuss the development of specific technical concepts for water management using nano-scale materials.
3. To define the next steps and possible working options in relation of the project implementation.
4. To clarify the work packages and distribute the responsibilities among the project partners.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Danube countries: Germany, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia (the detailed list of participants is attached).

The meeting was chaired by Ms Andrea Vranovská and minutes were taken by Ms. Alena Kurecová.

The presentations, list of participants, Directive 2013/39/EU and the watch list of priority substances are attached.

### **The final proposal of the meeting agenda was the following:**

09:00 – 09:30	Welcome by WRI and IPA and introduction of participants
09:30 – 10:30	Presentations of the partners: IPA by Mr Thomas Ackermann, WRI by Ms Andrea Vranovská and NMTC by Mr Mathias Werner
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	Presentations of the partners: ASIO by Ms Nina Tomečková, University of Ulm by Mr Andrei Sommer and LIMNOS by Mr Gregor Plestenjak
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation with the title Technological concepts for water purification in Slovakia by Ms Livia Kijovská WRI interrupted by fruitful and exhaustive discussion
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
14:00 – 15:45	Overall discussion on concrete technological concepts for water purification in the Danube Area
15:45 – 16:00	Conclusion and final remarks

## **1. Welcome, introduction, agenda**

**Mr Ackermann**, the project manager, welcomed all the participants and gave the floor to Ms Andrea Vranovská.

**Ms Vranovská** opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Then the participants introduced each other and said a couple of words about their work and involvement in the respected project.

## 2. Presentations of partners – part A

**Mr Ackermann** had the first presentation and he offered a short overview of the project which is focused on the purification of lakes and rivers in the Danube Area which is highly affected by pollutants from agriculture and industry. The project activities have two stages. The first stage means forming the consortium. Within the first stage 4 workshops are planned. The first workshop was held in October 2014 in Stuttgart, the second one was held in December 2014 in Bratislava, the third one is planned for February 2015 in Brno and the last one is going to be held in Ulm in May 2015. The second stage represents the definition of concrete R&D project (Research and Development). Next he spoke about the composition of consortium which can simply be defined by the line **Nanotechnology** (Fraunhofer IPA, University of Ulm and National Academy of Science in Ukraine) → **Water Treatment** (WRI Bratislava, ASIO and LIMNOS) → **Economical and Political Aspects** (European Academy of Science, NMTC and HTA). Finally within this first entry he offered a couple of words about the first workshop including the agenda and conclusions.

Then in his second presentation Mr Ackermann introduced his company. Fraunhofer is the largest organization for applied research in Europe having 60 institutes in 40 German cities. As much as 70% is funded by industrial partners and public research projects and 30 % is funded by the state and federal governments. Fraunhofer is divided into Fraunhofer IPA (institute for manufacturing engineering and automation) and Fraunhofer OPER (office for process engineering of functional materials and robotics).

**Ms Andrea Vranovská** had the presentation about the hosting organization – Water Research Institute. It has about 200 employees and it was established in 1951. It is a public organization governed by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. She introduced the main activities of the institute, spoke about 5 main departments and presented the projects the institute was involved in. Currently the institute provides the Priority Area 4 Coordinator of the Danube Strategy with the technical support, since Slovakia is involved in this priority area together with Hungary. At last but not least she mentioned the latest PA4 achievements.

**Mr Werner** had a presentation about the NMTC Company. The employees of NMTC have more than 15 years of experience in the area of nano- and micro-technologies and new materials. NMTC works at the cutting edge between technology and business. NMTC provides information and research beyond the nanotechnology hype and goes behind the numbers to provide relevant and focussed business and technology intelligence. The services of the company reach from consulting and evaluations to project management. The competence of NMTC in new materials is in several fields including diamond, amorphous metals, thin film technology and polymers for application areas reaching from electronics, microsystem technologies and sensors extending to light weight construction. The NMTC network is based on personal contacts with global companies, small and medium sized enterprises and research institutions in national and foreign countries. These contacts are extensively used for the benefit of NMTC customers. The customers of NMTC are both large companies and small and medium sized enterprises as well as research institutes and national and foreign governmental institutions. At last but not least Mr Werner introduced the project which the company is involved in.

### 3. Presentations of partners – part B

**Ms Tomečková** had a presentation about the company ASIO which is located in Brno and was established in 1993. In the company there are 80 employees. ASIO is a service company for the design, project management and procurement of technologies / processes for water, waste water and odour treatment. The research department currently employs 12 people who are active in the research of innovative waste water methods. There are already cooperation with the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, the Health Research Institute in London, BOKU Vienna, and the Slovakian Technical University in Bratislava, the University of Gdansk in Poland, Liverpool University and CRIC in Barcelona. The department participated up to now in six FP7 and ten national projects with a budget of 1 million €. Some relevant projects are: NANOFLC, NANAPL, NANORADI that are about issues such as separation of nanoparticles, development of materials for air and water treatment and technology for hygienic and toxicological purification. Ms Tomečková introduced also Plasma Research Project since it is her field because she is focused on material engineering. ASIO is already working in the field of photo-catalytic oxidation and will contribute to the project with some ideas about water treatment methods and their implementation.

**Mr Sommer** had a presentation about the institute for micro and nano-materials which develops and researches in the field of materials science and micro/nanotechnology. Countless projects of DFG, BMBF, EU, ESA etc. have been supported and numerous publications show the corresponding competences. These findings are used mostly in industrial sphere. In July 2012 the University of Ulm already organized the first NanoDanube Workshop in nanotechnology with participants of the different Danube countries and also some members of different universities, research centres and companies. University of Ulm was established in 1967, there are 10 000 students and 200 professors working in 4 faculties: medical, engineering and computer science, natural science, mathematics and economics performing a combination of academic and industrial research. At last but not least he mentioned the 6<sup>th</sup> Danube Academy Conference which will be held in April 2015.

**Mr Plestenjak** had a presentation about LIMNOS Company. It is engaged in research, development and application of natural ecosystems for the protection and restoration of environment. They provide solutions that take into account the significance, structure and functioning of ecosystems. They try to develop sustainable environmental solutions using low-cost and natural technologies. Their activities range from waste water treatment, remediation of degraded soils and sediments, rehabilitation and revitalisation of standing water and streams. Main focus is put on development of constructed wetlands (CWs) for treatment of different kinds of waste water as a secondary or tertiary treatment stage. They also provide other solutions based on phyto-technologies. Current research is oriented towards a new technology for cleaning up polluted waters - floating treatment wetlands - FTW. Also new technology for sludge treatment (sludge drying reed beds – SDRB) is being under development.

### 4. Presentation “Drinking water supply, raw water quality, technology of water treatment, trends in water treatment and tap water quality in Slovakia”

**Ms Kijovská** talked about different types of technological ways of water purification in Slovakia. She talked about public water supply, objectives of water treatment, technological processes used for water treatment, raw water quality, etc. There are 123 water treatment plants in Slovakia, out of which 73 are surface water related and 50 are ground water related and she described technological processes which are utilized here (e.g. aeration, mechanical filtration, single stage treatment...). At last but not least she talked about drinking water quality in Slovakia.



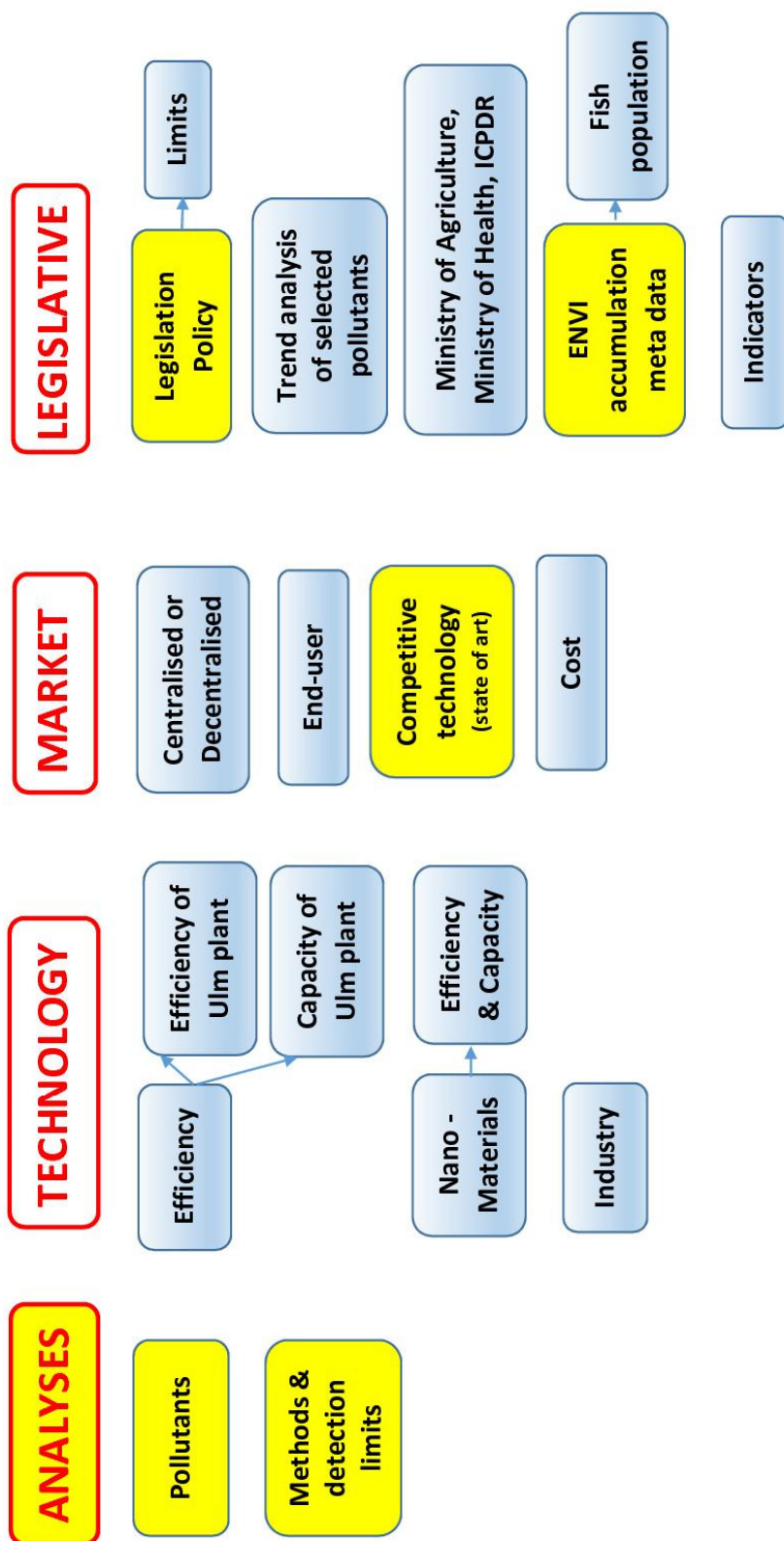
Moreover, she showed the efficiency of water purification using several technologies e.g. effectiveness of water recarbonisation (stabilisation of water and human health), effectiveness of water treatment technologies for the removal of cyanobacterial toxins (based on the type of water treatment). She presented application of selected separation processes for removing materials of various size.

## 5. Discussion

There was a rich discussion not only at the end of the meeting but also it was interrupting individual presentations. There was the question by **Mr Sommer** whether there is some information about ground water monitoring in connection with hormones and toxins whether they can come back from surface water to ground water because after some years this all pollution may penetrate into ground water and all people will be affected, not only the fish in surface water. Unfortunately there is no such monitoring. **Mr Werner** remarked that detection and filtration are the most important. Improvement of detection should be done, however, it is really complicated. **Ms Tomečková** remarked that qualitative and quantitative analyses are really important and evaporation of certain amount of volume can be seen in partial solution. Limit of qualification and detection is very essential. **Mr Werner** added that lifetime sensors are fundamental and he suggested to incorporate the company which would work in the field of sensors and this was approved and supported by **Mr Sommer**. **Ms Tomečková** suggested that WRI could elaborate the report on worst pollutants and other partners could provide the information about sensors. **Ms Kijovská** reacted that WRI has only little information about hormones from 2 or 3 waste water treatment plans in Slovakia and it is not sufficient. She suggested ELISA system for screening hormones. First it must be seen what is possible to be used. **Mr Ackerman** said that sensing methods and purification methods can be developed separately and then put together. Filtration and detection should be kept separated as long as possible and then be put together at the end. **Ms Vranovská** reacted whether there will first be some technology for which a pollution source will be found or a pollution source will be found first for which the technology will be consequently prepared. This issued remained open. **Ms Kijovská** suggested the Slovak University of Technology to participate. Moreover, she emphasised that the target list of pharmaceuticals has to be clear. It is then necessary to identify whether the active molecules or their derivatives or degradation products will be detected. **Mr Ackerman** suggested to define work packages which would not precisely follow the technology chain (see his presentation). **Ms Tomečková** provided a simple and transparent chart depicting the main responsibilities and next steps.

## 6. Conclusion

**Ms Vranovská** thanked all participants and expressed the pleasure to participate in the next workshop which will be held in Brno in February 2015. She wished participants a nice trip home and Merry Christmas.



**Remark:**  
Fields marked yellow are the topics for 3<sup>rd</sup> Blue Danube workshop (February 2015, Brno, CZ)