



EUSDR Annual Report of the Fourth Year

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

**Priority Area 5**

**“To manage Environmental Risks”**

co-ordinated by Hungary and Romania

June 2015

**EUSDR Report June 2015**  
**Priority Area 5**  
***To Manage Environmental Risks***

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS.....  | 1  |
| 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....  | 2  |
| 2. IMPLEMENTATION .....   | 3  |
| 2.1 POLICY DEVELOPMENT.....   | 3  |
| 2.1.1 <i>Progress made since last report</i> .....  | 3  |
| 2.1.1.1 <i>Alignment of funding</i> .....   | 3  |
| 2.1.1.2 <i>Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme</i> .....               | 4  |
| 2.1.1.3 <i>Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River</i> ..... | 5  |
| 2.1.1.4 <i>Follow up activities</i> .....   | 7  |
| 2.1.2 <i>Lessons learned</i> .....  | 7  |
| 2.1.3 <i>Outline on the future</i> .....  | 8  |
| 2.2 PROGRESS BY TARGET .....  | 8  |
| 2.2.1 <i>Target 1</i> .....   | 8  |
| 2.2.2 <i>Target 2</i> .....   | 9  |
| 2.2.3 <i>Target 3</i> .....   | 10 |
| 2.3 KEY ACTIONS/PROJECTS.....   | 10 |
| 3. GOVERNANCE.....  | 11 |
| 3.1 PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD ON THE GOVERNANCE OF THE PA .....                   | 11 |
| 3.2 LINKS WITH OTHER PRIORITY AREAS .....   | 11 |
| 3.3 PUBLICITY MEASURES .....  | 11 |
| 3.4 OUTLINE ON THE FUTURE .....   | 11 |
| 4. FUNDING.....   | 11 |
| 4.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SOURCES .....   | 11 |
| 4.2 DEVELOPING METHODOLOGIES/CRITERIA FOR SELECTING/ SUPPORTING PA RELEVANT PROJECTS.....             | 12 |
| 4.3 LESSONS LEARNED.....  | 12 |
| 4.4 NEXT STEPS AND CHALLENGES .....   | 12 |

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During this reporting period Priority Area 5 (PA5 - To manage environmental risks) focused on three main issues: alignment of funding, project development for improving the basin-wide flood protection capabilities and cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR) including the elaboration of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan.

The ICPDR prepared the first draft of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan, adopted it at its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting in December 2014 and published it on the ICPDR website for launching the public consultation process asking for comments until 22 July 2015. At the 13<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting in June 2015 the ICPDR adopted the updated version of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan and uploaded it on the ICPDR website to launch the intensified public consultation process.

The Council conclusions on added value of macro-regional strategies reiterated one of the underlying tasks of the countries of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the European Commission: to align available financial resources at the EU, national and regional level with the objectives, roadmaps and implementation plans of macro-regional strategies and to embed these objectives into the programming documents of the new 2014-2020 programming period in a coordinated way.

In order to provide a timely assistance in this process, and to identify joint priorities Priority Areas 4 „Quality of Waters” (PA4) and 5 „Environmental Risks” (PA5) took several steps to help facilitating this process and prepared a guidance document (“ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING – Operative programmes for EUSDR”) for the water management stakeholders in the Danube countries.

The 2013 and 2014 floods on the Danube River and its tributaries have proven that in spite of all the efforts the risk of flooding is still a real danger. Following all these events and political pressures the PA5 Priority Area Coordinators launched systematic consultations (Floods survey) with potentially all authorities, governments and other responsible institutions tasked with flood management, flood forecasting, flood rescue and civil protection, programming of EU funds and coordinating EUSDR at national level.

As a result of these consultations the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) document was developed. A list of measures and project ideas has been identified during the flood survey and compiled based on the discussions with the flood and civil protection professionals of the 14 Danube Region countries. The Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme will support projects and actions addressed in the Danube Flood Risk Management Plans set up by member states and the ICPDR by 2015 and supplement it with the list of measures and project ideas identified during the flood survey.

This document has been presented and discussed at different forums of EUSDR and ICPDR. As a result of a detailed discussion with the Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) of ICPDR the document was developed further and adopted by SG PA5. Project ideas of DR Oper & Cooper were added to the list of project ideas proposed by the EG for the DRFRMP and thus became part of the basin wide Danube Flood Risk Management Plan prepared by the ICPDR for the EU Floods Directive.

The report from the European Commission (EC) concerning the governance of macro –regional strategies as well as the earlier EC report on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), 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).

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities between the ICPDR and EUSDR PA4 and 5 a “Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation” has been developed in order to avoid potential duplications and overlaps and to define clear responsibilities; i.a. e.g. that all the activities concerning the cooperation in the water management at the level of the Danube River Basin are coordinated within ICPDR; the joint paper builds upon already existing structures and approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan as well as to contribute to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan.

During this reporting period PA 5 has used the financial support provided by PA10, namely the Technical Assistance Facility for the Danube Region Projects and the START – Danube Region Project Fund. Three project proposals (Danube Floodplain, DELOGFLOOD – START and HelpTeamUkraine) supported by PA5 have been awarded financing. Further the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has offered financing of a feasibility study on the “DAREFFORT” project proposal, which is meant to improve the harmonization of the flood forecasting systems in the Danube Region.

In the framework of the EUSDR, with the financial support of the Hungarian Government and the Technical Assistance money of the EUSDR, a flood protection capacity building training program was organized in Sarajevo by the Hungarian leadership of the Priority Area 5. Almost 60 participants attended the 4-days educational training program that was organized for flood protection professionals and municipality experts of Bosnia and Herzegovina between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, near Sarajevo.

As for the future PA5 is looking forward and got prepared with a minimum of five projects for the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme due in mid-September. We also face some evaluation of the results of the past four years and renewing our action plan.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **2.1 Policy development**

#### ***2.1.1 Progress made since last report***

During this reporting period Priority Area 5 (PA5 - To manage environmental risks) focused on three main issues: alignment of funding, project development for improving the basin-wide flood protection capabilities and cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR) including their elaboration of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan.

The ICPDR prepared the first draft of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan, adopted it at its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting in December 2014 and published it on the ICPDR website for launching the public consultation process asking for comments until 22 July 2015. At the 13<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting in June 2015 the ICPDR adopted the updated version of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan and uploaded it on the ICPDR website to launch the intensified public consultation process.

##### ***2.1.1.1 Alignment of funding***

The Council conclusions on added value of macro-regional strategies<sup>1</sup> reiterated one of the underlying tasks of the countries of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the European

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<sup>1</sup> GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting, Luxembourg, 22 October 2013

Commission: to align available financial resources at the EU, national and regional level with the objectives, roadmaps and implementation plans of macro-regional strategies and to embed these objectives into the programming documents of the new 2014-2020 programming period in a coordinated way. Ministers of Regional Development agreed during the Second Annual Forum of the EU SDR that a cross-cutting programming and implementation process is necessary to ensure tangible results envisioned by the Strategy. The Regulation laying down common provisions of European Structural and Investment Funds<sup>2</sup> (ESIF) reinforced the mandate of the countries participating in Macro-regional Strategies to align the financing, Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes with the content and measures adopted in respective Strategies. Once the Partnership Agreements are concluded with the Member States, they need to draw up and submit their **“Operational Programmes”** (OPs) breaking down the investment priorities and objectives of the Partnership Agreements into concrete actions at the latest 3 months follow the submission of the Partnership Agreement. Once the OPs are adopted, they will be implemented by the Member States and their regions and then the MS will need to select, implement, monitor and evaluate project according to the priorities and targets agreed with the Commission.

**In order to provide a timely assistance in this process, and to identify joint priorities Priority Areas 4 „Quality of Waters” (PA4) and 5 „Environmental Risks” (PA5) took several steps to help facilitating this process and prepared a guidance document (“ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING – Operative programmes for EUSDR”) for the water management stakeholders in the Danube countries.**

Priority Area 4 and 5 helped facilitating the process by providing this strategic aid to

- contribute to the trans-boundary coordination of efforts and funding;
- confirmation of national priorities from the macro-regional perspective of the EUSDR;
- support bridging gaps and ongoing efforts needed to be speeded up or promoted.

This document has been distributed to the Steering Group members of PA4 and PA5 to help them negotiating the position of the EUSDR in the national programmes.

### ***2.1.1.2 Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme***

The 2013 and 2014 floods on the Danube River and its tributaries have proven that in spite of all the efforts the risk of flooding is still a real danger. With increasingly frequent recurrence of extreme floods (2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013 and 2014) countries have to mobilise new methods and potentials in macro-regional cooperation in order to provide a high level of protection under changing and more and more challenging conditions.

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<sup>2</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; **REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013** OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal

The lessons learnt during the 2013 flood on the Danube River made the Scientific Committee of Central Flood Management Board (OMIT TT) of Hungary turn to the Priority Area 5 coordinator (PA5 PAC) to help the flood risk management by launching project and/or initiating international cooperation on improving data exchange for flood forecasting, exchanging information of flow control structures and new flood protection equipment and methods. Political leaders from the region and also from the EU called for further common efforts in the Danube Region for flood risk management and flood preparedness in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region based on the existing cooperation.

Following all these initiatives and impetuses the PA5 Priority Area Coordinators launched systematic consultations (Floods survey) with potentially all authorities, governments and other responsible institutions tasked with flood management, flood forecasting, flood rescue and civil protection, programming of EU funds and coordinating EUSDR at national level. The subject of the consultations was the needs of the Danube Basin countries to improve their flood protection capacities especially by coordination and cooperation on a Danube Basin, sub-basin or transnational level.

As a result of these consultations the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) document was developed. A list of measures and project ideas has been identified during the flood survey and compiled based on the discussions with the flood and civil protection professionals of the 14 Danube Region countries. The Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme will support projects and actions addressed in the Danube Flood Risk Management Plans set up by member states and the ICPDR by 2015 and supplement it with a list of measures and project ideas identified during the flood survey. This document has been presented and discussed at different forums of EUSDR and ICPDR. As a result of a detailed discussion with the Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) of ICPDR the document was developed further and adopted by SG PA 5. Project ideas of DR Oper & Cooper were added to the list of project ideas proposed by the FP EG for the DFRMP and thus became part of the basin wide Danube Flood Risk Management Plan prepared by the ICPDR for the EU Floods Directive.

The document includes best practices of the Danubian countries, lessons learnt from the floods of the last decade and list of measures/project ideas as follows:

- Improvement of flood forecasting
- Information exchange on the operation of hydraulic structures
- Coordination of operative flood management plans
- Development of elements of flood risk management plans for trans-boundary sub-units of common interest
- Exchange of flood protection techniques, technologies and experiences
- Develop an education/training network
- Enhance coordination of operative flood protection methods and equipment

### ***2.1.1.3 Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River***

The report from the European Commission (EC) concerning the governance of macro –regional strategies<sup>3</sup> as well as the earlier EC report on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

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<sup>3</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)

(EUSDR)<sup>4</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>5</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 a 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.

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.

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities between the ICPDR and EUSDR PA4 and 5 a “Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation” has been developed in order to avoid potential duplications and overlaps and to define clear responsibilities i.a. e.g. that all the activities concerning the cooperation in the water management at the level of the Danube River Basin are coordinated within ICPDR; the joint 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 and to contribute to the implementation of the ICPDR DFRMP by:

- Strengthening the network,
- Closer coordination,
- Early consultations,
- Meeting efficiency,
- Innovative approaches,
- Mutual recognition and visibility,
- Cross-sectoral cooperation,
- Strategic guidance and coordination,
- Priority setting and

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<sup>4</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>5</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

- Alignment of funding.

Details of this document can be found at [www.danubeenvironmentalrisks.eu/files/86](http://www.danubeenvironmentalrisks.eu/files/86).

The START-II topic list was elaborated jointly with the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group.

#### ***2.1.1.4 Follow up activities***

With the approaching opening of the first call of the Danube Transnational Programme, PA5 focuses on project proposal preparations. In this reporting period the following proposal are prepared:

- „**Danube Floodplain**” project (in cooperation with the ICPDR). It has been supported by the Technical Assistance Facility of PA10 ([http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/technical\\_assistance\\_facility-drp](http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/technical_assistance_facility-drp)). The technical proposal is ready and building of the consortium is on the way.
- “**Danube Sediment Management**” project has been initiated by ICPDR and is a joint venture of PA4 and PA5. It is supported by the ICPDR and the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The proposal is ready for submission.
- “**DELOGFLOOD – START**” project and
- “**HelpTeamUkraine**” project both are supported by the START programme of PA10 (<http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/start-overview>),
- “**DAREFFORT**” project, which would be the implementation of the first measure of the DR Oper & Cooper document. The project idea is being prepared and discussed in the PA5 Steering Group and the ICPDR FP EG.
- “**DANICE**” project: This project will deal with the icy conditions and the risk of the icy flood in the Danube basin. The project topic is indicated in the ICPDR DFRMP Annex-2. The Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management (OVF) is volunteered to form the consortium and setup the project, preferably for the first call of the Danube Transnational Fund in autumn, 2015. It was introduced on the STWG of PA5 at its initial stage.

In the framework of the EUSDR, with the financial support of the Hungarian Government and the Technical Assistance money of the EUSDR, a flood protection capacity building training program was organized in Sarajevo by the Hungarian Coordinator of PA5. Almost 60 participants attended the 4-days educational training program that was organized for flood protection professionals and municipality experts of Bosnia and Herzegovina between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, near Sarajevo. Feedbacks from the Bosnian-side are very positive. The training program is an integral part of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Program’s implementation.

#### ***2.1.2 Lessons learned***

- The TAF and the START initiative proved that there is a strong expectation of the new tenders. We don’t exactly know the number of TAF applications but the 1<sup>st</sup> START call produced 59 valid applications giving a tough job to the Steering Group (SG) to select the best two.
- The queries we receive show that even larger number of application will be submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme. We already know that a large number of consortia are being set up and a lot of efforts have already been put in early writing of project proposals.
- We still have to work on communication. It should be strengthened to let stakeholders know that EUDRS is about macro regional (e.g. large) projects and strategy. Many stakeholders,



including ministries, municipalities, universities, NGOs etc. think of smaller, local projects and they are disappointed to hear that EUDRS is not a source of money for those.

- Participation on the SG meetings have recently increased. Countries have started to understand that they have to be there and raise their voice to be in the main stream of EUSDR.
  - The “Floods survey” proved that
    - = we can do better flood management (at least in most of the countries) and this is even more valid for the transnational dimension,
    - = public relation and dissemination of the results are of prime importance as in many countries people have a false believe that they are safe from flooding,
    - = there is strong solidarity in the Danube Basin and we have to use this potential,
    - = information exchange and international knowledge transfer can bring the region to an equal level of skills,
    - = we can do better flood forecasts (more reliable, longer lead time etc.) if the potential in the international cooperation is better used (this is mainly true for the downstream countries)
- to mention a few.

### **2.1.3 Outline on the future**

- The immediate task of the SG is to make sure the most important project proposals for the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme be ready in good quality. These would be the basic elements on the roadmaps to reach our targets.
- Some of our Actions have come close to be finished. On our next SG meetings we will have to decide on their future. Some have to be continued like Action 1 - “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin”, which is due by the end of 2015, but its measures and its revision, which is due in 6 years’ time, need be followed up and supported. Some have already reached their goals like Action 6 - “To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution”, in which the Accident Emergency Warning System has been upgraded by the ICPDR, put in operation and running smoothly. In this case the SG shall decide on continuation or changing to another action.

## **2.2 Progress by target**

Priority Area 5 has got three targets and 8 Actions. The following will summarize the progress target by target using the results of the underlying Actions.

### **2.2.1 Target 1**

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

- Action 7: “Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research”.
- Action 8: “To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods”.

The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy has been finalised and was adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna. Specific chapters on climate change adaptation are included in the draft “Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015”. The issue is also addressed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Flood Risk Management Plan.

Based on a query made by the River Basin Management Expert Group of ICPDR countries and the main sectors have been identified where water scarcity and drought is considered a serious issue (not all countries in the Danube Region are concerned). Relevant steps were taken to address the issue in the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015. At the current stage, a further exchange on the topic in the frame of the ICPDR via the exchange of best practice examples was indicated by the Danube countries to be the preferred approach.

### 2.2.2 Target 2

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

- Action 1: “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin
- Action 2: “To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)”.
- Action 3: “To extend the coverage of the European Floods Alert System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning systems”
- Action 4: “To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets”

The ICPDR at the 13<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting adopted the updated version of the DRAFT DFRM Plan – Update 2015, including its annexes and maps, as of 15 May 2015 and asked the Secretariat to publish the updated version of the draft “DFRM Plan – Update 2015” on the ICPDR website for launching the intensified public consultation process and asking for comments until 22 July 2015.

The DR Oper & Cooper document has been adopted by the PA5 SG. The implementation has been started with the preparation of the DAREFFORT project proposal and with flood protection capacity building training program that was organized in Sarajevo by the Hungarian leadership of the Priority Area 5 and with the financial support of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

A project concept was handed in by Romania under EUSDR PA5 in spring 2015 for receiving Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) support towards the elaboration of a Danube Floodplain Project. The application was successful and TAF support was granted. The technical project proposal has already been finalized and the project consortium is being set up.

The European Flood Awareness System is running operationally with the participation of all 14 Danubian countries.

The roadmap based on the results of the SEERISK project has been prepared. This is the basis for the implementation of Action 4 which start soon.

### 2.2.3 Target 3

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

- Action 5: "To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances”
- Action 6: “To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution

In most of the countries the data collection process is on-going for which new templates have been developed by the Accident Prevention and Control EG of ICPDR. The revised ARS and CS inventories are expected to be available in September 2015 but till spring 2016 at latest, the basin-wide analysis is planned to be conducted in autumn 2015/spring 2016.

Although visualization of the risk hot spots is a sensitive issue, the Accident Prevention and Control EG of ICPDR agreed that a certain spatial detail for the visualization (mapping with coordinates) is needed. The assessments of the ARS and CS inventories might be executed in autumn 2015/spring 2016 once the country data are available.

The updated draft document on guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas has been finalised and presented at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention. Testing of the method is planned in the frame of the Danube Delta projects and further feedback/update is expected based on the experiences.

The Danube Accident Emergency Warning System has been upgraded by the ICPDR and is running smoothly. Regular tests are being organized by the ICPDR.

### 2.3 Key actions/projects

Action 1: “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level” is considered the most important one for PA5. All other actions are contributing to the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan (DFRMP) in one way or another.

The draft DFRMP – Update 2015 has been prepared by the FP EG of ICPDR and launched for an intensive public consultation. The final version is due by the end of 2015 (after the feedback of the public consultation will be incorporated into the text).

The DR Oper and Cooper document was compiled as a result of the Flood Survey executed by PA5 after the extreme flood of 2013. It lists a set of measures/project ideas that can help improving the basin wide flood management capabilities of the Danubian countries. These project ideas have been taken on board by the ICPDR FP EG and included into the DFRMP for joint execution.

The key project proposals under preparation are the

- „**Danube Floodplain**” project. It is supported by the Technical Assistance Facility of PA10 ([http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/technical\\_assistance\\_facility-drp](http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/technical_assistance_facility-drp)) and by the ICPDR. The technical proposal is ready and building of the consortium is on the way.
- “**Danube Sediment Management**” project is a joint venture of PA4 and PA5. It is supported by the ICPDR and the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The proposal is ready for submission.
- “**DELOGFLOOD – START**” project and

- “**HelpTeamUkraine**” project both are supported by the START programme of PA10 (<http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/start-overview>),
- “**DAREFFORT**” project, which would be the implementation of the first measure of the DR Oper & Cooper document. The project idea is being prepared and discussed in the PA5 Steering Group and the ICPDR FP EG.
- “**DANICE**” project: This project will deal with the icy conditions and the risk of the icy flood in the Danube basin. The project topic is indicated in the ICPDR DFRMP Annex-2. The Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management (OVF) is volunteered to form the consortium and setup the project, preferably for the first call of the Danube Transnational Fund in autumn, 2015. It was introduced on the STWG of PA5 at its initial stage.

### **3. GOVERNANCE**

#### **3.1 Progress Made Since the Last Reporting Period on the Governance of the PA**

- The work of the PA5 SG has been well established during the first year of its operation. Since then the PA5 Steering Group meets twice a year. Between two meetings the communication is done via E-mails.
- The participation on the SG Meeting has been problem. Not all countries show up and the participation is not steady. Efforts are made to improve the situation especially with regards to the participation of the non-Member States (use of the TA project). As for the last two SG meetings participation has increased significantly (e.g. 8 and 10 countries)

#### **3.2 Links with other Priority Areas**

- An informal cooperation among the PACs of Pillar II has been developed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar II PAC’s meeting was organized in Vienna in October 2012. The Annual Stakeholder Seminar N°1 and 2 were jointly organized. Since then the other meetings were used for harmonizing the Pillar II activities.

#### **3.3 Publicity measures**

- The new WEB site of PA5 has been launched in spring 2015. The content of the former (e.g. Groupspaces) WEB site has been moved to the new site. A responsible “WEB master” has been nominated to keep the homepages alive.

#### **3.4 Outline on the future**

- Major efforts will be put into project preparation. The SG should encourage and supervise the preparation of the project proposals mentioned in Sub-Chapter 2.3. We would like to see a minimum of 2-3 winning projects in the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme.
- The revision of targets and actions have to be done during the coming SG meetings.

### **4. FUNDING**

#### **4.1 Funding Opportunities and Sources**

During this reporting period we used the financial opportunities provided by the PA10 TAF and START facilities.

From TAF sources the “**Danube Floodplain**” project proposal writing was financed. The technical part of the proposal has been prepared and the setting up of the consortium is due in mid-September 2015.

From the START facility 2 proposals out of the 59 valid application have been awarded financing. The contracts with the Lead Partners of the “**DELOGFLOOD – START**” and “**HelpTeamUkraine**” project proposals have already been signed and the project preparations have started.

Further the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has offered financing of a feasibility study on the “DAREFFORT” project proposal.

The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also financed a flood protection capacity building training program that was organized in Sarajevo by the Hungarian leadership of the Priority Area 5. Almost 60 participants attended the 4-days educational training program that was organized for flood protection professionals and municipality experts of Bosnia and Herzegovina between the 9th and 12th of June 2015, near Sarajevo.

#### **4.2 Developing Methodologies/Criteria for Selecting/Supporting PA Relevant Projects**

During the START selection process PA5 has developed a set of selection criteria. This was fine tuned for the START programme, but it can provide a solid base for future proposal selection.

We have received 59 valid proposals to review in a fairly short time. The PACs have developed a score table for the evaluation and made a preliminary ranking of the proposals. In spite of this preselection all 59 proposals were circulated among the SG members for comments and ranking. Finally 15 proposals with the highest scores were sent to PA10.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> START and 3<sup>rd</sup> TAF call PA5 provided the PA10 PACs with a set thematic focuses based on the DR Oper & Cooper document and the DFRMP of ICPDR.

#### **4.3 Lessons Learned**

The START selection process flooded the PA5 SG (as well) with project proposals. Evaluation of this large number of proposals have put the SG members under pressure. But finally the best 4 and best 15 proposals were selected and ranked. To our great surprise two proposals were selected for funding but out of the first four. The first and 15<sup>th</sup> were chosen by PA10 referring to a more even territorial distribution.

The PA5 PACs felt that this overruling of the decision of the SG was unfair. It was not declared upfront that the territorial distribution will play a role in the awarding procedure and it was not declared at all that the territorial balancing will be made in PA5.

For the future a more transparent selection procedure should be defined and rules should not change during the selection phase.

#### **4.4 Next Steps and Challenges**

PA5 just as the other priority areas has provided “thematic focuses” for the 2<sup>nd</sup> START and 3<sup>rd</sup> TAF call. This will steer the type of project proposals we would welcome. Because the two types of financing facilities are launched parallel to each other we expect very large number of applications thus a huge pressure on the SG members.

The major challenge of the coming year will be the launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme. The targets and actions of PA5 will be used by the evaluators for selecting the best proposals for financing. The National Coordinators have been part of the Programming Committee and later they will be part of the Monitoring Committee thus the representatives of EUSDR can have a voice during the selection procedure.

**Annex 1:      *Roadmaps to implement each action***

Comment: The black text shows you the whole story. The blue text highlights the progress made during the reporting period.



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks*

**Action 1 - “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin” -** This overarching plan or set of plans should set a basin-wide common understanding regarding the planned measures and joint solutions in order to avoid that problems are "exported to the neighbours". The action should promote Green Infrastructure and ecosystem based approaches providing long-term, sustainable solutions often at a lower investment and maintenance cost, ensuring spatial and functional connectivity and providing win-win solutions.

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

- *Work:* EFD Article 4(2) stipulates that based on available or readily derivable information, such as records and studies on long term developments, in particular impacts of climate change on the occurrence of floods, a preliminary flood risk assessment shall be undertaken to provide an assessment of potential risks. For the Danube River Basin District a single roof report on preliminary flood risk assessment will be prepared on the level A describing the approaches taken by the countries including the coordination aspects. The report will also address the topics from the EU Reporting Sheet on preliminary flood risk assessment including description of coordination of the identification of the areas of potential significant flood risks (APsFR) within an international river basin district in accordance with the EFD article 5(2).
- *Output n° 1:* Preliminary flood risk assessment report;  
→ *Responsible:* FP EG  
  
→ *Deadline:* end 2011

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

**Milestone n°1 completed.**

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

- *Work:* EFD requires that Member States shall, at the level of the river basin district, or unit of management, prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps, at the most appropriate scale for



the areas identified under Article 5(1). The preparation of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps for areas identified under Article 5 which are shared with other Member States shall be subject to prior exchange of information between the Member States concerned. The ICPDR will use the templates developed at the EU level as well as the outcomes of the FLOODRISK project to develop its templates by the end of 2012 and to prepare flood hazard and flood risk maps by the end of 2013.

- *Output n° 1*: ICPDR templates for flood risk mapping (2012);
- *Output n° 2*: Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A (2014).
- *Output n° 3*: Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A endorsed by the SG (2014).  
→ *Responsible*: FP EG

→*Deadline*: end 2013

The ICPDR maps are based on of the EU document "Reporting of spatial data for the Floods Directive (Part II); Guidance on reporting for flood risk and hazard maps of spatial information" and the templates and basic layout of the flood hazard map and flood risk maps were agreed by the FP EG. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> FP EG meeting the first draft maps were discussed and the amendments in the map format were agreed. For the 24<sup>th</sup> FP EG meeting the revised maps were prepared by the Secretariat using the data from AT, BA, DE and SK:

- (i) map of hazard and flooding scenarios;
- (ii) map on risk and population;
- (iii) map on risk and economic activity;
- (iv) map on risk and IPPC installations and
- (v) two maps on WFD protected areas.

The flood hazard areas are submitted via DanubeGIS as shape files in cooperation with the IMGIS EG. For preparation of risk maps the data are collected by the template developed by the Secretariat. Using the national text contributions to the Secretariat prepared the first draft of the Summary Report on implementation of Article 6 of the European Floods Directive in the Danube River Basin District.

The national deadlines for map preparation reported by a number of countries at the 23<sup>rd</sup> FP EG meeting and reconfirmed at the 24<sup>th</sup> FP EG meeting extend until the end of 2014. Therefore, only a draft version of the ICPDR flood hazard and risk maps could be prepared for OM16 to obtain a general agreement of the ICPDR with the layout of the maps. These draft maps and text report will be uploaded on the ICPDR web-site so that the countries reporting to the EC can use the web-link to the ICPDR report in their national re-ports to the EC. The main challenge was to close data gaps. The collection of missing data continued in 2014 but there were still (partly or completely) missing map data from a number of countries. The ICPDR at the 12<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting therefore took note of the current version of flood hazard map and flood risk maps and encouraged the Contracting Parties to submit the missing data by 15 October 2014. This date was selected in connection to the deadline for preparing the advanced draft of the Danube flood risk management plan for the OM-17. 12<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting agreed with the Summary Report on implementation of EFD Article 6 in the Danube River Basin District and mandated the Secretariat to send this Summary Report and the version of flood maps as of October 2014 as informal information to EC. In early 2015 the flood hazard and risk maps were updated with missing information. The Report on Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps of the Danube River Basin District was send by the ICPDR to the EC as an informal information in May 2015.

DANUBE FLOODRISK project has been finished. “Harmonized Manual of Data & Methods”; “Harmonized Manual of Maps” and the “Danube Flood Hazard and Risk Atlas” printed.

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

*Output n° 2:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A was prepared by Nov 2014 and sent by the ICPDR to the EC in May 2015.

*Output n° 3:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A was endorsed by the SG on its 8<sup>th</sup> SG Meeting (27 Nov 2014).

### **Milestone n°2 completed.**

#### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The main challenge was to close data gaps. The collection of missing data continued in 2014 but there were still (partly or completely) missing map data from a number of countries. The ICPDR at the 12<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting therefore took note of the current version of flood hazard map and flood risk maps and encouraged the Contracting Parties to submit the missing data by 15 October 2014. This date was selected in connection to the deadline for preparing the advanced draft of the Danube flood risk management plan for the OM-17. 12<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting agreed with the Summary Report on implementation of EFD Article 6 in the Danube River Basin District and mandated the Secretariat to send this Summary Report and the version of flood maps as of October 2014 as informal information to EC. In early 2015 the flood hazard and risk maps were updated with the missing information. The Report on Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps of the Danube River Basin District was sent by the ICPDR to the EC as an informal information in May 2015.

*Output no 2:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A were prepared by Nov 2014 and sent by the ICPDR to the EC in May 2015.

*Output no 3:* Flood hazard and flood risk maps on the level A were endorsed by the SG on its 8<sup>th</sup> SG Meeting (27 Nov 2014).

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

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

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

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

→*Deadline:* June 2013 and 22 Dec 2015

*Output n° 1:* Non- Member States contributed with data and information to the draft Danube Flood Risk Management Plan of ICPDR at level A. However Flood Risk Management Plans are not yet in place in all countries.

“Common Hungarian-Ukrainian flood protection development programme on the Upper Tisza” has been developed.

*Output n° 2:* Not relevant yet.

#### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

*Two projects (development of a flood protection dike and building of a flood retention reservoir) have been selected by the responsible water authority for implementation. The ENI sources of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine CBC Programme starting in 2016 are planned to be used for financing these projects. Even in case of successful application the limited ENI fund would not cover 100% both thus further funding is needed.*

#### **Milestone n°4: Preparation of flood risk management plan**

- *Work: On the basis of the maps referred to in EFD Article 6, Member States shall establish flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the river basin district, or unit of management referred to in EFD Article 3(2)(b), for the areas identified under EFD Article 5(1) and the areas covered by Article 13(1)(b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of EFD Article 7. Member States shall establish appropriate objectives for the management of flood risks for the areas identified under EFD Article 5(1) and the areas covered by EFD Article 13(1)(b), focusing on the reduction of potential adverse consequences of flooding for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, and, if considered appropriate, on non-structural initiatives and/or on the reduction of the likelihood of flooding.*

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

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

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

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

- *Output no 1:* Table of Contents of the flood risk management plan (end 2013);
  - *Output no 2:* Draft flood risk management plan for public consultation (end 2014);
  - *Output no 3:* Final flood risk management plan (end 2015).
  - *Output no 4:* Flood risk management plan on the level A will be formally endorsed by the SG (2015) once this plan has been adopted by contracting parties of ICPDR as well as by ministerial conference scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- *Responsible:* ICPDR

→*Deadline*: 2015

- *Output no 5*: Project generation to support the implementation of the Program of Measures of the DRFM Plan.

→ *Responsible*: SG

→*Deadline*: Continuous

The ICPDR agreed upon the following basin-wide goals of the flood risk management plan:

- (i) Avoidance of new risks;
- (ii) Reduction of existing risks;
- (iii) Strengthening resilience;
- (iv) Raising awareness;
- (v) Solidarity principle.

These goals are linked with the respective measures. While the full list of measures will be provided at the national level, at the level of an international river basin district the focus has been given to the measures with the transboundary relevance. The plan provides clear figures summarizing the actions already taken/to be taken by the countries and/or figures characterizing the effects of the measures. The Secretariat developed a draft template for collection of information on measures distinguishing between the implemented, ongoing and future measures. The template is structured according to the agreed goals and refers to the types of measures from the EU guidance. The template has been distributed to the FP EG to collect the data. Before the 24<sup>th</sup> FP EG meeting only Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova submitted the completed templates. Most of the other countries will report on measures by February 2014. The prioritization of measures on the level A will be done after most of the national measures will be collected by the templates. All countries were asked to provide at the next FP EG meeting a short description of the national prioritization methodologies and to come up for the next meeting with suggestions of priorities for measures at the level A.

The Secretariat prepared the table of contents of the ICPDR Flood Risk Management Plan 2015. The FP EG browsed through the table of contents line by line and suggested the necessary revisions. The Secretariat was asked to update the table of contents of the ICPDR FRMP 2015 accordingly and send it to the FP EG for a quick feedback before it will be presented to OM16.

To have sufficient time for discussing the ICPDR Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 it was agreed to organize a workshop on this issue back-to-back to the next FP EG meeting.

At the ICPDR Flood Risk Management Plan Workshop the FP EG agreed that the plan will show the strategic level measures, i.e., the measures with transboundary effects and measures applicable in more countries of the basin such as awareness rising, warning systems or ice protection measures. The FP EG also agreed that selecting the strategic level measures is already a basic prioritization criterion and that the measures with downstream effect shall have the key priority at the basin-wide level. All FP EG members were asked to check the types of measures in the ICPDR template and come up with a recommendation for additional candidates for top priority measures by 31 July. By this deadline the countries were also asked to submit the completed questionnaires on measures, as well as information about natural water retention measures, links between WFD and FD and about the cost-benefit analysis.

The ICPDR at the 12<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting took note of the first working draft of the ICPDR flood risk management plan and asked the Contracting Parties to submit the national flood risk management measures using the agreed template as well as all additional information needed for preparation of the plan. The data collection for the plan was ongoing also in autumn 2014 and the plan was further discussed at the 26<sup>th</sup> FP EG meeting. The draft Danube Flood Risk Management Plan was submitted to the OM-17 for adoption and then for public consultation. At OM-17 the ICPDR (a) adopted the draft DFRM Plan, including its annexes and maps, as of 14 November 2014; (b) asked the Secretariat to publish the draft DFRM Plan on the ICPDR website latest by 22 December 2014 for launching the public consultation process and asking for comments until 22 July 2015; (c) took note of the proposed next steps for the elaboration and finalisation of draft DFRM Plan and asked the FP EG for the necessary data updates and the provision of outstanding data as soon as possible and latest until the end of February 2015; (d) asked the FP EG to prepare an updated draft DFRM Plan for adoption at the 13<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group Meeting for an intensified public consultation process and in preparation of the Stakeholder Conference; (e) asked the Secretariat to establish on the ICPDR homepage links to those websites where the updates of the national FRM Plans will be published; and (f) asked the delegations to publish the ICPDR draft DFRM Plan as well on the national level in addition to their updates of the national FRM Plans.

The ICPDR at the 13<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting

- adopted the updated version of the DRAFT DFRM Plan – Update 2015, including its annexes and maps, as of 15 May 2015;
- asked the Secretariat to publish the updated version of the DRAFT DFRM Plan – Update 2015 on the ICPDR website for launching the intensified public consultation process and asking for comments until 22 July 2015;
- asked the delegations to publish the updated version of the DRAFT DFRM Plan – Update 2015 as well on the national level in addition to their draft updates of the national FRM Plans;
- took note of the proposed next steps for the further elaboration and finalisation of the DFRM Plan – Update 2015 and asks the delegations for the necessary data updates and the provision of outstanding data as soon as available and latest until the end of September 2015;
- asked the FP EG to prepare the proposed final version of the DFRM Plan – Update 2015 for adoption at the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting.

**Output no 1:** Table of Contents of the flood risk management plan (end 2013); achieved

**Output no 2:** ICPDR Flood risk management plan submitted for an intensified public consultation.

**Output no 3:** Preparation of the Final Flood Risk Management Plan is on schedule (Due by the end of 2015).

**Output no 4:** Due to after the output 3 will be completed.

#### **Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme” (DR Oper & Cooper)**

One of the most important recent activities of Priority Area was the preparations of the “Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme” (DR Oper & Cooper). The “Flood Survey” – systematic consultations with all the Danubian countries in

order to improve their flood protection capacities by operative coordination and cooperation on a Danube-basin, sub-basin or transnational level – was closed in October 2014. Based on these findings the document; “Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme” has been completed. The Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme will support projects and actions addressed in the Danube Flood Risk Management Plans set up by member states and the ICPDR by 2015 and supplement it with the list of measures and project ideas identified during the flood survey.

The SG Members and the Members of the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group commented the document through more rounds until all comments and supplements were included and elaborated into the DR Oper & Cooper.

As a result of a detailed discussion with the Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) of ICPDR the document was developed further. Project ideas of DR Oper & Cooper were added to the list of project ideas proposed by the EG for the DFRMP and thus became part of the basin wide Danube Flood Risk Management Plan prepared by the ICPDR for the EU Floods Directive.

This points out to the settled relationship between the two bodies: ICPDR and EUSDR.

The adoption of the document (DR Oper & Cooper) by the PA5 SG Members was done on the next PA5 SG Meeting held in Budapest on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

For the implementation of Measure No. 1 of the DR Oper & Cooper a project proposal has already been formed and presented to improve the harmonization of the flood forecasting systems in the Danube Region. At this stage the project leaders are searching partners for the project which is planned to be submitted for the Danube Transnational Programme in autumn 2015 after having been approved by the SG and the ICPDR FP EG.

Also connecting to the Measures of the DR Oper & Cooper, a flood management training project was implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina in early June 2015 (Education and vocational training of Bosnian Herzegovinian professionals and municipality experts obligated to the direction of the protection) by the Hungarian Coordinator of Priority Area 5 and financed by the Department for International Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. This is part of the initiative commenced by PA5, in which Hungary is promoting a closer cooperation between institutions dealing with water management training in the framework of the Danube Region Strategy. The project idea got some added complements and details also in December 2014 when a delegation of Bosnian water management experts visited Hungary and met with the representatives of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and of the Danube Region Strategy and with professionals from the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management.

Output no 5: Project generation to support the implementation of the Program of Measures of the DRFM Plan. (Continuous)

### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

At the ICPDR Flood Risk Management Plan Workshop the FP EG agreed that the plan will show the strategic level measures, i.e., the measures with transboundary effects and measures applicable in more countries of the basin such as awareness rising, warning systems or ice protection measures. The FP EG also agreed that selecting the strategic level measures is already a basic prioritization criterion and that the measures with downstream effect shall have the key priority at the basin-wide level. All FP EG members were asked to check the types of measures in the ICPDR template and come up with a recommendation for additional candidates for top priority measures by 31 July. By this deadline the countries were also asked to submit

the completed questionnaires on measures, as well as information about natural water retention measures, links between WFD and FD and about the cost-benefit analysis.

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The SG Members and the Members of the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group commented the document through more rounds until all comments and supplements were included and elaborated into the DR Oper & Cooper.

As a result of a detailed discussion with the Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) of ICPDR the document was developed further. Project ideas of DR Oper & Cooper were added to the list of project ideas proposed by the EG for the DFRMP and thus became part of the basin wide Danube Flood Risk Management Plan prepared by the ICPDR for the EU Floods Directive.

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A project idea is being developed on a “Development of Regional Flood Forecasting System” and project partner are sought.





## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### **Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks**

**Action 2** - “To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)”. Protection against flood requires taking specific measures which can vary across the Region according to a series of geographical or hydromorphological elements. Building reinforced dykes and banks is not always the most sustainable way to protect an area from potential floods. Wetlands and floodplains (giving the rivers space) also contribute significantly to protecting and preserving biodiversity and eco-systems, they have a positive impact on water filtering and prevent erosion. In addition, they offer great potential for green tourism. This approach should be explored more systematically within the 17 Danube sub-basins.

Taking into account the new challenges brought by the effects of the climate change is clear that continue to use the same approach of only building levees alongside the river in order to keep the high level water inside will no longer work or will become a bigger threat to humans. Therefore we have to think to give back some of the floodplains and to leave more “room for rivers”. This new approach will be good both for reducing the flood risk and for improving aquatic environmental conditions

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

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

**Output n° 1:** A new breeding raft was introduced in a lake near Zwerndorf. The river tern (*Sterna hirundo*) are using the old as well as the new breeding raft at Zwerndorf very well. Due to the cool and very different weather conditions this spring, the young birds have very

different age distribution. In total 8 young birds and another 8 breeding birds breeding adult birds were counted. A great success and a new record at the site Zwerndorf!

The project has been finalized.

### **Milestone n°1 completed.**

#### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The project has been finalized.

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

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

*Output n° 1:* A project concept was handed in by Romania under EUSDR PA5 in spring 2015 for receiving Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) support towards the elaboration of a Danube Floodplain Project. The application was successful and TAF support was granted.

The project overall objective is to reduce the flood risk through floodplain restoration along the Danube and other DRB rivers. The specific objectives include the following:

- to develop a common approach on restoring the water storage capacity of floodplains, from upstream to downstream sections;
- to develop best practice on using 'green infrastructure' for sustainable flood risk management in the Danube River Basin;
- to contribute to the more effective implementation of the EU WFD and Floods Directive with their Programmes of Measures;
- integrating the requirements and opportunities related to other EU policies, notably the Nature Directives, Biodiversity and Climate policy, and of the 2020 Strategy;
- to foster cooperation among Danube Basin countries in using restored floodplains for flood management;
- to demonstrate the feasibility of integrated flood management, including a combination of classical and “green infrastructure” in selected floodplain areas;
- to stimulate stakeholder involvement and cooperation in floodplain restoration / flood management planning and implementation.

The project concept was presented at the meetings of the FP EG, HYMO TG and RBM EG during the respective meetings of the groups in autumn 2014, with the objective of helping to build the project consortium by inviting relevant institutions from the Danube countries to join the consortium.

The final report of the Technical Assistance Facility became available in January 2015. The document provides a basis for the possible future elaboration of a Danube Floodplain Project Proposal.

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The final report of the Technical Assistance Facility became available in January 2015. The document provides a basis for the possible future elaboration of a Danube Floodplain Project Proposal.

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

*Output n° 2: Not relevant as yet*

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

*Output n° 3: Not relevant as yet*

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

- *Work:* Development of the documents and organization of the workshops with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders in order to present the local and regional benefits of the wetland restoration as well as the Danube Floodplain Master Plan concept
- *Output n° 1:* 10 national winners identified in each of the 14 ICPDR countries
  - *Responsible:* ICPDR, Romania and Danube countries involved
  - *Deadline:* December 2013

*Output n° 1:* Not relevant as yet



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks*

**Action 3** - “To extend the coverage of the European Floods Awareness System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other's national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning system.” - A number of initiatives already exist in the field of cross-border or transnational emergency prevention and response, in addition to the European Civil Protection Mechanism. The EFAS system is an early warning system for floods, and one of the “basin-wide” measures in the current ICPDR's Flood Action Plan. It will be operational soon. However, there is a need to upgrade warning systems and coordinate civil protection from local to transnational/European levels across the area.

### **Milestone n°. 1:**

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

Done. Following a kick off meeting with all three centres in January 2012, the three centres were awarded contracts to start establishing the operational centres. This task was concluded for

the computational centre in September, for the dissemination centre in October and the hydrological data collection centre in November. Meteorological data collection applications are continued to be onsite the JRC but by external contracts.

**Milestone n°1 completed.**

**Milestone n° 2:**

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

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

The new developments of EFAS include an improved meteorological dataset for model calibration and model climatology, new hydrologic model calibration (more calibration points on the Danube), updating the EFAS thresholds and improved initial conditions (water balance) for the flood forecasts (based on the new calibration and higher density near real time meteorological stations).

Furthermore, the improved EFAS web interface includes now the visualization of initial conditions, anomalies and satellite products. Using ECMWF VAREPS the forecasts will be extended to 15 days.

EFAS operation funding has been secured until 2020 through Copernicus program (funding goes directly to partner consortia). JRC budget is foreseen for further EFAS developments.

The Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center as well as the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro are now EFAS partners. Furthermore, the Tisza River Basin Water Resources Directorate (Ukraine) as well as the Sava watershed agency (Bosnia and Herzegovina) have been invited to become EFAS partners.

**Milestone n°2 completed.**

**Milestone n° 3:**

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

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

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

The following Danube river basin countries have signed the new EFAS conditions of access which was necessary due to the transfer of EFAS into the fully operational phase (See Milestone n°.1): Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (Bavaria), Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Austria, Moldova, Germany (Bavaria), Ukraine and Montenegro. Contacts to the corresponding authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been established.

**Milestone n°3 completed.**

**Milestone n°. 4:**

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

Done. Information and training on EFAS was given at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual EFAS meeting in Norrköping, Sweden (12-13 June 2012), at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual EFAS meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (24-25 April 2013) and at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual EFAS meeting in Lelystad, Netherlands (8-9 April 2014) including also the Danube partners. Furthermore, in the preparation of the operational EFAS centres a dedicated training was given to the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, which forms part of the EFAS Dissemination consortium, in 2012 at the JRC.

The next EFAS annual meeting will be held on the 28-29 April 2015 at the Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC) of the EC in Brussels.

**Milestone n°4 completed.**

**Milestone n°. 5:**

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

Done. The bi-monthly EFAS bulletins are freely available on <http://www.efas.eu/efas-bulletins.html>.

**Milestone n°5 completed.**

### **Milestone n° 6:**

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

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

Not yet done. An overview of the latest EFAS developments and the EFAS performance during the Balkan floods 2014 was presented during the 26<sup>th</sup> FP EG meeting (16-17 September in Bucharest, Romania). It is currently planned to organize a specific EFAS training workshop focussing on the new EFAS partners in 2015. Participation is, however, not limited to new EFAS partners but can include also longer-term EFAS partners of the Danube river basin.

**Milestone n°6 completed.**

### **Milestone n° 7:**

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

Done. The European Commission has foreseen budget to continue the initial operations of GMES/COPERNICUS including an operational EFAS. The multi-annual financial framework of the European Commission to which the GMES/COPERNICUS budget is linked has been approved and the future funding of EFAS until 2020 has been established.

**Milestone n°7 completed.**



**Milestone n°. 8:**

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

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

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

Furthermore, landslide susceptibility information is now combined with the flash flood indicator to give a first estimate whether the area, affected by the heavy precipitation, has a high susceptibility to landslides. Currently work is ongoing to improve this flash flood warning by including outputs from EFAS such as state of the soil moisture and by incorporating information on the landslide susceptibility in the affected areas. This new flash flood warning is currently in test phase and is foreseen to be released for the operational EFAS during spring 2015.



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### **Priority Area 5 – To manage environmental risks**

**Action 4** – “To strengthen operational cooperation among emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets” – For risks that are common to an important number of countries in the region (i.e. floods and risks of other natural and man-made disasters listed in the action plan), it is important to strengthen cross-border cooperation and to ensure that civil protection authorities have a good understanding of each other's systems, available assets and potential gaps, working procedures, and that teams can also function smoothly in case of major emergencies involving bilateral, European, or international response. The development and use of common guidelines/procedures for risk mapping and assessment, early warning message and emergency response should also be considered. It is also important to address development of capacity for surveillance and response to Public Health Emergencies of International concern as well as to health threats of cross-border relevance. This issue is one of the requirements under the provisions of the new International Regulations.

### **Task 1: Harmonisation of the regional disaster risk assessment methods and measures, taking into account the specific effects of climate change to the region, for better disaster prevention.**

- **Milestone n°1**

Harmonization of preventive disaster risk evaluation method and tools (especially risk assessment and risk mapping), taking into account local specificities and data availability of the national, regional and local levels affected by the changing climatic events.

- Output n° 1: A common risk assessment methodology for the region developed and yearly updated. Results of projects like the LABEL, OderRegio, SEERISK and RomPHARE should be considered and leveraged on as well as the efforts of the European Commission together with member states on the methodology due to obligation resulting from article 5 of the new Union civil protection mechanism. The common risk assessment methodology should be conforming to the EU provisions.
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2016

- Output n° 2: Develop best practices in the usage of GIS applications for risk mapping in case of extreme weather related hazards.  
→ Responsible: SG  
→ Deadline: 2015

*Output no 2:* Progress is made: the “Guideline on climate change adaptation and risk assessment in the Danube Macro-Region” was published by the SEERISK project.

**Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The “Guideline on climate change adaptation and risk assessment in the Danube Macro-Region” was published by the SEERISK project.

- Output n° 3: Commonly set standards for risk mapping developed regarding the specific climate and/or extreme weather phenomena.  
→ Responsible: SG  
→ Deadline: 2018

**Milestone n°2:**

Establishment of the comparability of data/information systems about extreme climatic events in order to facilitate its exchange according to a commonly understood standard (i.e. the metric and the format of the hazard/disaster/impact of past events has to be harmonized to ensure comparability; common data standard should be developed as well for comparable likelihood/probability values.)

- *Output: data/information sharing system and standards agreed and established in the Danube Region.*  
→ Responsible: SG  
→ Deadline: 2018

**Milestone n°3:**

Enhancement of the research and innovation taking into account the regional specificities of climate change and the usability of the scientific material in specific adaptation measures.

- *Output: establishment of a regional research working group for sharing the best research practices and determine its possible adaptation to disaster prevention measures.*  
→ Responsible: SG  
→ Deadline: 2018

**Milestone n°4**

Development of a training module on the effects of climate change for disaster management experts and operational staff intervening in emergencies.

- Output n° 1: A training module and curricula agreed and developed amongst the DRS Member States.
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2017
- Output no 2: min. 120 regional experts jointly trained per two years on the effects of climate change to disaster management interventions.
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2018

## **Task 2: Build harmonised training and capacity of the flood rescue teams and civil protection operative units**

### **Milestone no 1:**

Harmonised training and capacity building of the flood rescue teams and civil protection units (volunteer and professional) in the Danube region. Enhancement of the interoperability of the assets and units to be deployed in case of flooding, extreme weather events and man-made disasters.

- *Output n° 1: regularly (1 per year) organised trainings for the professional and volunteer rescue teams of the region.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2018
- *Output n° 2: regularly organised (2 per year) exercises for the professional and volunteer rescue teams of the regional countries.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2018
- *Output n° 3: Establishment of an inventory on flood rescue and civil protection assets and capacities.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2018
- *Output n° 4: Development of common guidelines and procedures on bilateral, macroregional, European or international cooperation regarding flood rescue and civil protection assets and capacities in a harmonized framework with the EU civil protection mechanism*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2018

**Task 3: Establishment of the cooperation forum of the Danube basin municipalities and/or relevant institutions for better preparedness, awareness and data sharing during flood related interventions and other regional disasters.**

**Milestone n°1.**

Establishment of the operational management of the forum.

- *Output: operational management of the forum established with delegated contact points per country.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2020

**Milestone n°2.**

Awareness raising and sharing the experiences on the involvement of the population into the preparations for disasters (especially flooding) and the practices of the recovery measures.

- *Output n° 1: Best practice guideline, module and curriculum established for the training of trainers.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2020
- *Output n° 2: Analysis prepared on the preparedness of the inhabitants versus the risk exposure based on risk mapping of the localities.*
  - Responsible: SG
  - Deadline: 2020



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks*

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

### **Milestone n°1: ICPDR Accident Risk Spot (ARS) and Contaminated Site (CS) inventories**

- *Work:* Preparation of templates for the inventories of ARS and CS, data collection, risk analysis and providing support for the data collection at the national level, especially for non-EU MS.
  - *Output n° 1:* ARS and CS inventories available for all Danube countries
  - *Responsible:* ICPDR APC EG, Danube countries
  - *Deadline:* summer 2016
- *Project:* Integration of ARS and CS inventories into the ICPDR database
  - *Output no 2:* integrated ARS and CS inventories
  - *Funding:* EU
  - *Responsible:* ICPDR APC EG, IMGIS EG
  - *Deadline:* summer 2016

*Output n° 1:* In most of the countries the data collection process is on-going for which new templates have been developed. The revised ARS and CS inventories are expected to be available in September 2015 but till spring 2016 at latest, the basin-wide analysis is planned to be conducted in autumn 2015/spring 2016.

*Output n° 2:* Once the templates are available from all countries, the possibility of their integration into the ICPDR database will be considered and discussed with the IMGIS TEs of the ICPDR Secretariat.

**Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

In most of the countries the data collection process is on-going for which new templates have been developed. The revised ARS and CS inventories are expected to be available in September 2015 but till spring 2016 at latest, the basin-wide analysis is planned to be conducted in autumn 2015/spring 2016.

### **Milestone n°2: ICPDR ARS and CS maps**

- *Work:* The general objective is to produce ARS and CS maps, to illustrate the risk associated with possible accidental events in the DRB and to assess progress in the implementation of preventive measures addressing accidental pollution in the basin.
  - *Output n° 1:* Maps of ARS and CS available for the Danube Basin
  - *Responsible:* APC EG, IMGIS EG
  - *Deadline:* summer 2016

*Output n° 1:* Although visualization of the risk hot spots is a sensitive issue, the APC EG agreed that a certain spatial detail for the visualization (mapping with coordinates) is needed. Nevertheless, the individual countries can decide what spatial precision of the locations (facilities, agglomerations, administrative units, river segments or sub-catchments) they prefer to report. The assessments of the ARS and CS inventories might be executed in autumn 2015/spring 2016 once the country data are available.

#### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The ICPDR APC EG agreed that a certain spatial detail for the visualization (mapping with coordinates) is needed. Nevertheless, the individual countries can decide what spatial precision of the locations (facilities, agglomerations, administrative units, river segments or sub-catchments) they prefer to report. The assessments of the ARS and CS inventories will be executed in autumn 2015/spring 2016 once the country data are available.

### **Milestone n°3: Development of guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas**

- *Work:* The objective is to develop guiding principles and a checklist methodology for cross-border contingency planning. The document to be elaborated aims in particular to take into account transboundary issues in contingency planning and to allow for the harmonization of approaches in prevention of accidents affecting transboundary watercourses. An updated draft document has been elaborated by the UNECE Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG). The APC EG has been cooperating with the JEG in order to facilitate the preparation of the document.
  - *Output n° 1:* Guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas
  - *Responsible:* UNECE, APC EG
  - *Deadline:* end 2014

*Output n° 1:* The updated draft document on guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas has been finalised and presented at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention. It aims to take into account trans-boundary issues in contingency planning and to develop a methodology (checklist) that allows the harmonization of approaches used in prevention of accidents with potential impacts on trans-boundary watercourses. Testing of the method is planned in the frame of the Danube Delta projects and further feedback/update is expected based on the experiences. The ICPDR APC EG welcomed the new UNECE initiative and took note on the elaborated checklist, which can be useful for countries. They might make use of this valuable document, some new aspects can be added to the existing bi- or multilateral contingency practices.

**Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The updated draft document on guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas has been finalised and presented at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention. It aims to take into account trans-boundary issues in contingency planning and to develop a methodology (checklist) that allows the harmonization of approaches used in prevention of accidents with potential impacts on trans-boundary watercourses. The method has been tested in the frame of the Danube Delta projects and further update has been done based on the experiences. The ICPDR APC EG welcomed the new UNECE initiative and took note on the elaborated checklist, which can be useful for countries. They might make use of this valuable document, some new aspects can be added to the existing bi- or multilateral contingency practices.

**Milestone n°4: ICPDR Mining Site (MS) inventories**

*Work:* The aim is to extend our knowledge on accidental risk sites in the Danube Basin to the mining areas. Preparation of template for the inventories of MS (e.g. tailings facilities), data collection, risk analysis and data integration into the ICPDR database are intended to be accomplished. Support of the non-EU MS might be necessary.

- *Output n° 1:* MS inventories available for all Danube countries
- *Responsible:* APC EG, Danube countries
- *Deadline:* end 2016

*Output n° 1:* Not relevant as yet

**Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

This is a new milestone.





## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks*

**Action 6** - “To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution” - this should include the strengthening of the existing early warning system Danube AEWS, the availability of intervention-specific equipment such as spill-sorb, floating dams, etc, the harmonisation of contingency planning and the promotion of joint exercises. All this should be based on the information already collected by ICPDR which should be further expanded to establish the effectiveness of existing measures and take action where those prove to be insufficient. The work on this action shall be closely linked to the work under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (i.e. in terms of mobilisation of rapid intervention equipment and assets, harmonised contingency planning and response procedures, joint exercises and training).

### **Milestone n°1: AEWS system upgrade and refining**

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

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

Since its launch, the AEWS 2.0 has been in full operation, no alerts except for testing purposes were raised, several informal messages were exchanged and no malfunctions were recorded.

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

**Milestone no1 completed.**

### **Milestone n°2: Regular AEWS maintenance**

- *Work:* The AEWS tests will be organized with a view of checking the performance of the Danube AEWS. The major attention will be given to checking the preparedness (response time) of the Communication Units of the national PIACs as the recent tests revealed weakness in this aspect. Two unannounced tests will be organized each year out of which one will be targeting 24/7 preparedness while the second test will be more technical, checking an overall management of an accident including assessment of the threshold levels and thus involving the Expert Units.  
Every year during a meeting of the ICPDR AEWS experts a practical hands-on training on AEWS operation takes place, at which the Secretariat presents the AEWS system in detail, highlighting the frequently encountered problems and evaluating the performance of PIACs in the AEWS tests. The AEWS experts have then to disseminate the updated know-how on the system operation at the national level to the PIACs staff. To maintain high level of PIAC staff preparedness, organization of regular trainings on an annual basis will be continued.
- *Output n° 1:* Organization of regular performance tests of the Danube AEWS.
- *Output n° 2:* Regular training of AEWS Operators.  
→ *Responsible:* APC EG  
→ *Deadline:* end 2015

*Output n° 1:* The test took place on 21 January 2013 and was intended to prepare PIACs for the official launch of the upgraded system. The test was divided into five incidents in order to involve all PIACs. All PIACs participated actively in the test and were able to carry out their essential tasks during an accident. Some minor problems in use of the system during the test provided useful inputs for further optimization of the user interface. The updated system proved to be ready for use and was officially launched on 1 March 2013. The APC EG appreciated the new system considering it to be better than the previous AEWS and very convenient for the purpose. The main objective of the AEWS test in autumn 2013 was to check the functionality of the system, 24/7 operability of PIACs and basic usage of the system. The test has confirmed that the system itself is working as expected from a technical point of view and revealed several problems with delivery of SMS to some recipients. The reason was the change of the application interface of the external SMS gateway provider. The Secretariat adapted the system to avoid these interface problems in the future. The goal of the AEWS test in March 2014 was to check the functioning of the system and the cooperation of PIACs in handling an accident that propagates downstream a large international river. The test was successful as all PIACs participated actively in the test and

all PIACs were able to perform their essential tasks within the updated system: confirming receipt of an incoming message (report) and sending a warning message (report with warning status).

The test of the Danube Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) on 15 November 2014 was initiated on a weekend’s afternoon. Its main objective was to test the functionality of the system, 24/7 operability of PIACs and basic usage of the system. The test has confirmed that the system is working as expected without technical problems.

The goal of the AEWS test in February 2015 was to check the functioning of the system and the cooperation of PIACs in handling an accident that propagates downstream a large international river. The test was divided into 14 incidents in order to involve all PIACs. Each PIAC had the task of creating a report to re-request information to an upstream PIAC and to react on any such requests. All PIACs participated actively in the test and all of them except PIAC BG, were able to perform their essential tasks within the system: creating an incident report, confirming receipt of incoming messages, updating the report and closing the incident. Based on the lessons learned the APC EG agreed upon a number of small amendments of the Danube AEWS to further refine the system operation.

The Secretariat is ensuring the regular maintenance of the AEWS server. The log of system changes is available at <https://www.danube-aews.org/changelog>. To guarantee the timely incident report transfer keeping the possibility of back-up communication by fax was recommended by the Secretariat and PIACs were asked to provide their Fax numbers to the system.

*Output n° 2:* At the 5<sup>th</sup> APC EG meeting in April 2013 the Secretariat reviewed AEWS 2.0, presented the key features and demonstrated the system operation providing thus a basic regular training in the AEWS operation. 6<sup>th</sup> APC EG meeting served as a regular training of AEWS operation. An on-line help on the AEWS operation is available: <https://www.icpdr.org/aews/help>.

#### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

The test of the Danube Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) on 15 November 2014 was initiated on a weekend’s afternoon. Its main objective was to test the functionality of the system, 24/7 operability of PIACs and basic usage of the system. The test has confirmed that the system is working as expected without technical problems.

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**Milestone n°3: International standardization of AEWS**

- *Work:* In the Danube River Basin there are numerous independent international activities addressing the emergency response (e.g., UN/ECE IAN, CECIS EC MIC, ICPDR AEWS, NATO Disaster Response, IAEA system for reporting on nuclear accidents in cooperation with EC IRIX - International Radiation Information Exchange and ECURIE - European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange). Running all these activities, in parallel, leads to overloading the staff at the national alarm centres (established usually under the Civil Protection / Ministry of Interior). To strengthen the operational cooperation between the emergency response authorities, the UNECE proposed to adopt common standards by all existing warning systems to ensure their full compatibility. It also should be made sure that there is only one point of contact in a given country. This approach would eliminate any potential confusion during an accident management and, at the later stage, it could avoid using of parallel overlapping systems by making them fully compatible & complementary so that triggering one system would be recognized by the others. The ICPDR has been invited by the UNECE to join this standardization process and mandated at its 8<sup>th</sup> StWG meeting the Secretariat to participate in the process of standardization in notification on chemical accidents upon request of UNECE with the view of maintaining the Danube AEWS as the key warning system in the DRB.
- *Output n° 1:* Danube AEWS based on an international Europe-wide standard.
  - *Responsible:* APC EG
  - *Deadline:* 2015 and beyond

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

The ICPDR wrote a letter to the UNECE expressing its willingness to join the standardization process proposed by the UNECE aiming at adoption of common standards by all existing warning systems to ensure their full compatibility. So far no feedback has been received from the UNECE in reaction to the ICPDR proposal.



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks*

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

### **Milestone n°1:** Danube Climate Adaptation Study

- *Work:* Preparation of a study, summarising and assessing all existing information relevant for the adaptation of the water sector to climate change
- *Output n° 1:* Overview and assessment of latest available information as a basis for the development of the Danube Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
  - *Funding:* Germany
  - *Responsible:* Germany in the frame of the ICPDR
  - *Deadline:* January 2012 (accomplished); study can be downloaded from the following link: [http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate\\_adaptation\\_study.htm](http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm)

*Output no 1:* The Study has been finalised in January 2012 and is available, together with the Annex on the ICPDR website: [http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate\\_adaptation\\_study.htm](http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm)

**Milestone n°1 completed.**

**Milestone n°2: Danube Climate Adaptation Workshop**

- *Work:* Organisation and accomplishment of the workshop with participation of representatives from Danube countries and different water-related sectors and NGOs
- *Output n° 1:* Dissemination and discussion of the Danube Climate Adaptation Study towards the creation of a common understanding on expected climate change impacts on the water sectors in the Danube River Basin and discussion on adaptation needs
  - *Responsible:* Germany in the frame of the ICPDR
  - *Deadline:* March 2012 (accomplished); related documents and presentations can be obtained following [http://www.icpdr.org/pls/danubis/danubis.wv\\_main.main?p\\_siteid=1&p\\_cornerid=94648](http://www.icpdr.org/pls/danubis/danubis.wv_main.main?p_siteid=1&p_cornerid=94648) the link:

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

**Milestone n°2 completed.****Milestone n°3: Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy**

- *Work:* Further exchange and discussions towards the finalisation of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy based on input from the Danube Climate Adaptation Study, respective discussions at the workshop and the different expert bodies of the ICPDR during 2012
- *Output no 1: Finalised Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy*
  - *Responsible:* Germany in the frame of the ICPDR
  - *Deadline:* December 2012

*Output no 1:* The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy has been finalised and was adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna. The Adaptation Strategy is available for download on the ICPDR website: [http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate\\_adaptation\\_study.htm](http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/climate_adaptation_study.htm)

**Milestone n°3 completed.****Milestone n°4: Check the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy for completeness**

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

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

Specific chapters on climate change adaptation are included in the DRAFT DRBM Plan – Update 2015. The issue is also addressed in the 1st DFRM Plan. Different documents related to climate change adaptation were recently published by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, IUCN and UNECE. Furthermore, the ICPDR is also involved in the frame of the UNESCO Category II Centre on “Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change” at the Jaroslav Cerni Institute in Belgrade (RS). These activities and further ongoing research projects are expected to be useful for the potential update of the ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change following the adoption of both Plans.

#### **Milestone n°4 completed.**

##### **Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

Specific chapters on climate change adaptation are included in the DRAFT DRBM Plan – Update 2015. The issue is also addressed in the 1st DFRM Plan. Different documents related to climate change adaptation were recently published by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine, IUCN and UNECE. Furthermore, the ICPDR is also involved in the frame of the UNESCO Category II Centre on “Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change” at the Jaroslav Cerni Institute in Belgrade (RS). These activities and further ongoing research projects are expected to be useful for the potential update of the ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change following the adoption of both Plans.

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

- *Work:* In line with the step-wise and cyclic approach for the implementation of the WFD and EFD, it is proposed to check the need to update and revise the ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change. This should take into account updated information regarding the knowledge base on climate change and adaptation, in particular on climate change scenarios and water-related impacts in the Danube River Basin, and allow to take the results into account for the planning process of the 3<sup>rd</sup> DRBM Plan and the 2<sup>nd</sup> DFRM Plan, due by 2021. The Danube Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was taken into account for the elaboration of the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. A proposal for the revision and update of the Danube Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2018 is included in the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015.
- *Output n° 1:* Updated and revised Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy  
 → *Responsible:* ICPDR  
 → *Deadline:* 2018

*Output no 1:* Not relevant yet



## ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

### *Priority Area 5 – To manage environmental risks*

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

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

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



*Output no 1:* In line with the agreed PA5 Target: „To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts based on the 2013 update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation, in the Danube River Basin Management Plan to be adopted by 2015”, work is ongoing in the frame of the ICPDR on the issue of water scarcity and drought. A questionnaire on the issue was developed and feedback provided by the Danube countries, and discussed at the 37<sup>th</sup> RBM EG Meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting in May and June 2013. Based on the results of the discussions it can be summarised that water scarcity and drought is not considered at this stage as a significant water management issue at the Danube basin-wide scale but at national level in some countries. The main sectors which were reported by countries to be affected by water scarcity and drought include agriculture, water supply, biodiversity, other energy production, hydropower, navigation and public health. Water scarcity and drought was reported to be addressed by a number of countries in the national River Basin Management Plans, where specific measures are planned or already under implementation (e.g. increase of irrigation efficiency, reduction of leakages in water distribution networks, drought mapping and forecasting, education of public on water-saving measures, market-based instruments, wastewater recycling and rain water harvesting). Relevant steps were taken to address the issue in the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015. At the current stage, a further exchange on the topic in the frame of the ICPDR via the exchange of best practice examples was indicated by the Danube countries to be the preferred approach. In case more specific measures are foreseen and agreed by the Danube countries to address water scarcity and drought on the basin-wide scale, they are planned to be incorporated in the Joint Programme of Measures of the Danube River Basin Management Plan in future planning activities.

Output no 1 is on track.

**Progress made between July 2014 and June 2015:**

Relevant steps were taken to address the issue in the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015. At the current stage, a further exchange on the topic in the frame of the ICPDR via the exchange of best practice examples was indicated by the Danube countries to be the preferred approach. In case more specific measures are foreseen and agreed by the Danube countries to address water scarcity and drought on the basin-wide scale, they are planned to be incorporated in the Joint Programme of Measures of the Danube River Basin Management Plan in future planning activities.

Output no 1 is on track.

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

- *Work:* Evaluating and comparing the land use of the flood prone area and land cover changes due to climate change; evaluating the land use of the regions exposed to flash floods taking into account the climate change impact; developing model recommendations on land use changes, integration into flood risk management plans.
- *Output n° 1:* land use maps (current status and planned land use); flood risk management plans
  - *Responsible:* SG
  - *Deadline:* 2017

*Output no 1:* Not relevant as yet.

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

- *Work:* Laying down principles; underlying R&D (spatial vulnerability assessment, spatial characteristic of mitigation capacity); delimitation of special areas (zones) regarding climate change sensitivity and vulnerability; developing spatial planning and regulation directives; action plan
- *Output n° 1:* spatial planning and regulation directives; action plans
  - *Responsible:* SG
  - *Deadline:* 2018

*Output no 1:* Not relevant as yet.

***Annex 2 - Projects approved by the steering group***

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Name of the project</b>     | <i>Danube Flood Plain</i>   |
| <b>Action related</b>          | <i>Action 2 - “To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)”</i>   |
| <b>Countries involved</b>      | <i>Romania (Lead Partner), Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, Austria, Germany</i><br>Partnership is being further developed  |
| <b>Funding</b>                 | <i>&gt;3 million EUR</i>  |
| <b>Stage of implementation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project management</li> <li>- Review and update of national/international floodplain inventories</li> <li>- Modelling (hydrological, hydraulic, terrain models) of selected river areas for assessing the impact of the floodplain on reducing flood peaks</li> <li>- Development of a priority list of areas and measures</li> <li>- Demonstration of floodplain restoration and conservation at identified pilot areas</li> <li>- Preparation of a toolkit / best practice</li> <li>- Estimation of floodplain restoration and conservation scenarios for the flood risk</li> <li>- Communication, dissemination, awareness raising</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description</b>             | <p>The project overall objective is to reduce the flood risk through floodplain restoration along the Danube and other DRB rivers. The specific objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to develop a common approach on restoring the water storage capacity of floodplains, from upstream to downstream sections;</li> <li>- to develop best practice on using 'green infrastructure' for sustainable flood risk management in the Danube River Basin;</li> <li>- to contribute to the more effective implementation of the EU WFD and Floods Directive with their Programmes of Measures;</li> <li>- integrating the requirements and opportunities related to other EU policies, notably the Nature Directives, Biodiversity and Climate policy, and of the 2020 Strategy;</li> <li>- to foster cooperation among Danube Basin countries in using restored floodplains for flood management;</li> <li>- to demonstrate the feasibility of integrated flood management, including a combination of classical and “green infrastructure” in selected floodplain areas;</li> </ul> |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
|                                | - to stimulate stakeholder involvement and cooperation in floodplain restoration / flood management planning and implementation. |
| <b>Involvement of the PACs</b> | <i>Letter of Recommendation was issued</i>   |
| <b>Next steps</b>              | <i>Partnership will be built till mid-September 2015</i>   |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of the project</b>     | <i>Danube Sediment Project</i>   |
| <b>Action related</b>          | <i>Action 1 - “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin”</i>  |
| <b>Countries involved</b>      | <i>Hungary (Lead Partner), Austria, Romania, Germany, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia</i>  |
| <b>Funding</b>                 | <i>about 4.2 million EUR (being negotiated)</i>  |
| <b>Stage of implementation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Preparation</li> <li>- Project management</li> <li>- Sediment Data Collection &amp; Processing &amp; Analysis (including a limited monitoring in Pilot Studies; monitoring and data harmonization and providing practical outcomes for monitoring)</li> <li>- Sediment Balance (for the whole Danube River, including input from major tributaries)</li> <li>- Impacts and Solutions (assessment of pressures on sediments quantity) including Pilot Studies in three regions (Upper, Middle and Lower Danube). This would also include pressures and impact analysis and suggestions for sediment management measures. Risk analysis.</li> <li>- Stakeholder Involvement and Manual Development, Information &amp; Publicity</li> <li>- Danube Sediment Management Concept (synthesis of WP 2 to 5)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Description</b>             | <i>One of the main goals of the proposed project is to establish for the first time a Danube river basin sediment budget, identify reaches with surplus and deficit, river bed aggradation and degradation, sediment-related problems in flood risk management, drinking water production, hydropower generation, navigation, water quality and ecology, as well as gain knowledge and better understanding of sediment transport and morphodynamic processes in the Danube River.</i>   |
| <b>Involvement of the PACs</b> | <i>Letter of Recommendation issued</i>   |
| <b>Next steps</b>              | <i>The proposal will be submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Danube Transnational Programme</i>   |

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|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of the project</b>     | <i>Decision support tool for logistic operations of flood management – START</i><br>DELOGFLOOD - START   |
| <b>Action related</b>          | <i>Action 1 - “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin”</i>  |
| <b>Countries involved</b>      | <i>Hungary (Lead Partner), Slovakia, Partnership is being developed</i>  |
| <b>Funding</b>                 | <i>Not available yet</i>   |
| <b>Stage of implementation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Project management</i></li> <li>- <i>State of the art report on flood related logistic modelling</i></li> <li>- <i>Designing the decision support system architecture and its functions</i></li> <li>- <i>Strategic partnership building</i></li> <li>- <i>Discovering funding alternatives – prepare and submit an application for funding</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description</b>             | <p><i>DELOGFLOOD – START represents the preparatory phase for a large project “Decision support tool for logistic operation of flood management” (DELOGFLOOD). Despite the efforts that enhancing the accuracy of the flood forecasts (e.g. establishing the EAFS) there were serious flooding disasters in the recent years.</i></p> <p><i>The rapid and effective availability of the related information for supporting decisions is often causing problems due to their limitations and missing update, harmonisation and fast access of information.</i></p> <p><i>Based on recognised problems, an international consortium – including Hungary and neighbouring Danubian countries: Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia and Serbia – will be organised to apply for a project to give pilot solutions for the problems and promoting the activities of rescuing forces.</i></p> |
| <b>Involvement of the PACs</b> | <i>PA5 SG give support to the application to the START facility.</i>   |
| <b>Next steps</b>              | <i>Based on the START output a project proposal will be prepared for the next Danube Transnational Programme call.</i>   |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of the project</b>     | <i>HelpTeamUkraine – capacity building and improved cooperation of volunteer rescue teams for better flood and emergency protection</i>  |
| <b>Action related</b>          | <i><b>Action 4</b> – “To strengthen operational cooperation among emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets”</i>  |
| <b>Countries involved</b>      | <i>Ukraine (Lead Partner), Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic</i>   |
| <b>Funding</b>                 | <i>Not available yet</i>   |
| <b>Stage of implementation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Project management</i></li> <li>- <i>Study trip to Hungary and Czech Republic to learn foreign practises and experiences in Rescue Team management work and training.</i></li> <li>- <i>Feasibility study for the bases and training centre for rescue volunteers in Ukraine</i></li> <li>- <i>International joint training in Czech Republic</i></li> <li>- <i>Project application for other funding instruments</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description</b>             | <p><i>Due to reorganisation of the Ministry of Civil Protection of Ukraine in 2013, Rescue and Civil Protection Services fall into the governance of state administration within each region of Ukraine. After reorganisation, the Rescue and Civil Protection Service was left without a serious material base and cannot perform its duties to a satisfactory level. Similarly the volunteer rescue organisations have no equipment, material and knowledge to complement, supplement and assist the governmental rescues and fire protectors.</i></p> <p><i>The main objective of the overall project will be ti purchase the equipment needed for volunteer rescue organization and build bases for volunteer rescuers with training center in Transcarpatian Region of Ukraine.</i></p> |
| <b>Involvement of the PACs</b> | <i>PA5 SG give support to the application to the START facility.</i>   |
| <b>Next steps</b>              | <i>Based on the START output a project proposal will be prepared for the next Danube Transnational Programme call.</i>   |

**Annex 3 – TA Progress Reports**



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

CCI N° 201CE160AT092

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Reported period: from 06/14 to 12/14**



**Summary of the project**

**Title:** To facilitate the coordination of Priority Area 5 “Managing Environmental Risks” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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

Priority Area 5 (PA5) deals with environmental risks like flood and drought, but also with manmade risks, issues which require funding to support the activities in the Danube Region Strategy (DRS). The most important work is to facilitate international projects in the framework of the Priority Area 5 of the Strategy for the benefit of the stakeholders of the Danube Region.

**Specific objectives are:**

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

**Governance:**

The grant will assure the implementation of the following tasks:

- **Coordination tasks:**
  - organization of Steering Groups and Technical Meetings;
  - participation at events organized in connection with the implementation of the Strategy (e.g. PACs-NCs Meeting, Annual Forum etc.);
  - organization of stakeholder seminars;
  - involvement of external expertise;
  - communication activities.
- **Technical Meetings** are to be organized between Priority Area Coordinators or with the Coordinators of the other two Priority Areas of Pillar II. Furthermore technical meetings shall be organized with the representatives of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Secretariat.
- **Communication Activities** shall aim to provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation, as well as, specific information on Priority Area 5 to promote public awareness regarding the Strategy and the 5<sup>th</sup> Priority.

**Duration of the project:** 1 January 2012 to 31 July 2015

**Activities planned and conducted:**

| Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement |                   | Key activities conducted   |
|--|-------------------|--|
| July                                       |                   |  |
| August                                     | Technical Meeting | Flood Survey: Meeting with the representatives of Bosnian and Herzegovinian flood protection, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (To seek needs for enhancement of flood protection at basin level; 19 August; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| September                                  | Technical Meeting | Flood Survey: Meeting with the representatives of flood protection of  |

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
|          |   | Montenegro, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (To seek needs for enhancement of flood protection at basin level; 3 September; Podgorica, Montenegro)  |
|          | Technical Meeting   | Meeting between the ICPDR and the water related Priority Areas of the EUSDR; PA4 and PA5 (8 September; Vienna, Austria)  |
|          | Technical Meeting   | Flood Survey: Meeting with the representatives of flood protection of Moldova, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (To seek needs for enhancement of flood protection at basin level; 24 September; Chisinau, Republic of Moldova) |
| October  | To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Conference of Danube Parliamentarians (2-3 October; Budapest, Hungary)   |
| November | Organization of Steering Group Meetings                               | 8 <sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting of PA5 (27 November; Bucharest, Romania)  |
| December | To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation | 17 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR (9-10 December; Vienna, Austria)  |

Besides the activities listed above the Hungarian PACs met the Hungarian NC weekly.

### **How was the action carried out so far?**

The TA project is there to facilitate and ensure the coordination of Priority Area 5. The implementation of the EUDRS in the area of PA5 is going on smoothly.

- The Steering Group (SG) had its 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting in this reporting period. The major task for the SG and for the coordination in this period was to finalize and adopt the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) with Measures laying out concrete international project proposals that could be implemented in the near future (e.g. with the support of the Danube Transnational Programme) supporting the Actions of PA5. The “Flood Survey” – started in 2013 following the negative experiences of the extreme floods on the River Danube in 2013 and in 2014 – was completed in October 2014. Priority Area 5 carried out a systematic consultation series with all the 14 Danubian countries in order to improve their flood protection capacities by operative coordination and cooperation on a Danube-basin, sub-basin or transnational level. On these basis evolved the Danube Region Operative Flood management and Cooperation Programme document.
- We further strengthened the cooperation with ICPDR in the last period. The information exchange is smooth at the level of Head of Delegations (we meet twice a year at the Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meeting of ICPDR) and Expert Groups (FP EG), too. The ICPDR is managing five of the PA5 Actions.

- A special document on the “ICPDR – EUSDR PA4 & PA5 COORDINATION (Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation)” was developed and adopted by both the ICPDR Heads of Delegations and the PA5 Steering Group.
- We ensured the persistent coordination of the 14 countries by informing the Steering Group Members, by presenting the international proposals for the SG, by preparing the documents before sending them to the SG for comments/approval/voting.
- We also cover the journeys connected to the coordination activities of PA5 from the TA fund: staff and related costs of travel and accommodation. We also supported the non-EU member countries’ participation on the Steering Group Meetings from the TA fund.
- New website has been developed for the Priority Area 5.

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

- In November 2013 new members joined the Hungarian team of PA5 Co-coordinator.
- In 2013 the TA contract was transferred from VITUKI to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. During the first half of 2014 the VITUKI managed to transfer part of the advance payment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Since then we have begun to spend money from the Technical Assistance budget as well.
- The original TA contract was due to end at the end of 2014, but in December 2014 the contract has been extended until July 2015.

### **Please describe the transnational dimension of the project**

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

- The Steering Groups, managed by the PACs, are composed of the representatives of the 9 Member States and 5 Non-Member States, the representatives of the EU and that of the ICPDR.
- The targets and the actions are all of macro-regional range.
- The projects supporting the actions should also be international (the scope of the project should cover at least three countries).
- The PACs in their dissemination activities should reach all 14 Danube Region countries.

### **What contribution was made by the partners?**

- a.) Cooperation between the Romanian and Hungarian PACs  
All tasks are executed jointly by the Hungarian and Romanian PACs. Actions, reports, minutes, SG Agenda etc. were discussed prior to the event and the agreed version was executed or presented.
- b.) Cooperation the SG Members  
The work of the SG Members is mainly related to the SG Meetings. Their contribution is bringing in project proposals, helping the PACs in compiling list of stakeholders, evaluating project proposals for labelling, disseminating EUSDR information in their countries, commenting documents prepared by the coordination of PA5 etc.
- c.) Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Secretariat and its Expert Groups (especially the Flood Protection Expert Group - FP EG) is based on the „Joint paper on Cooperation and Synergies...“.  
We use the synergy and the cooperation with the ICPDR. From the very beginning three Expert Groups (EG) of ICPDR lead 5 of our 8 Actions. We invite ICPDR to all our SG Meetings and all other conferences, meetings where ICPDR can have an interest. We also participate and provide information on the progress and plans of PA5 on Flood Protection Expert Group Meetings of the ICPDR and on the ICPDR Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meetings. Further we are in „daily contact” with Mr Gombás, Chairman of the FP EG.

**Auto-evaluation so far**

## a.) Successes:

- The Steering Group is working on the basis adopted during the past years (Rules of Procedures), the attendance increased due to continuous efforts.
- The ICPDR prepared the first draft of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan, adopted it at its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting in December 2014 and published it on the ICPDR website for launching the public consultation process asking for comments until 22 July 2015. At the 13<sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting in June 2015 the ICPDR adopted the updated version of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan and uploaded it on the ICPDR website to launch the intensified public consultation process.
- A well established, closer, continuous cooperation has started with the ICPDR. At the beginning of September 2014 a meeting was organized in Vienna – initiated by EUSDR PA4 and PA5 – between the ICPDR and the water related Priority Areas: PA4 (Water Quality) and PA5 (Environmental Risks) as a good effort to strengthen synergies. The Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation between the ICPDR and the EUSDR PA4 & PA5 Coordination was finalized in September 2014 and was adopted by the Heads of Delegations of ICPDR and the PA4 and PA5 Steering Groups. The opening of the Tisza Office in Szolnok, Hungary in November 2014 – on which the ICPDR’ Executive Secretary was present as well – and which is going to support the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group again indicates a very strong cooperation of the two bodies.
- No Letter of Recommendation was given to projects in this reporting period, but 2 project proposals will be financed from the START – Danube Region Project Fund in the field of PA5 preselected by the PACs and their Steering Group and selected by PA10: the project DELOG-FLOOD with Hungarian lead partner and the project HelpTeamUkraine (HTU) with Ukrainian lead partner.
- For the Romanian proposal: DANUBE FLOODPLAIN project that was submitted for the 2nd call of DR TAF in 2014, the establishment of the project consortium has not been completed yet.
- One of the most important projects of Priority Area 5 in this reporting period were the preparation and finalization of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) with the involvement of the SG and the ICPDR. Following the strong political initiative, PA5 PACs launched systematic consultations with potentially all authorities, governments and other responsible institutions dealing with flood management, flood forecasting, flood rescue and civil protection, programming of EU funds and coordinating EUSDR at national level. The subject of the consultations was the needs of the Danube Basin countries to improve their flood protection capacities especially by operative coordination and cooperation on a Danube-basin, sub-basin or transnational level. Having consulted all the Danubian countries, we have collocated and finalized the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme in 2014 October. The adaptation of the document is due on the next SG Meetings. Right after the adaptation, PA5 intends to continue the work already started in connection with the implementation of the DR OPER & Cooper Plan, starting with Measure 1.

The DR Oper & Cooper has been presented and discussed on several forums including the EUSDR Annual Forum, the expert group meetings of ICPDR etc. (e.g. on the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (OM) of the ICPDR taking place in Vienna on 9-10 December 2014, where PA5 presented how the projects proposed in the DR Oper & Cooper document help implementing the measures of the ICPDR Flood Risk Management Plan.). The final draft was discussed again with the Flood Protection Expert Group of ICPDR in March 2015 and then submitted to the SG of PA5 for final approval.

- While the DR Oper & Cooper document was discussed some projects were already in preparation phase connecting to the implementation of the Measures of the document. An international project proposal to improve the harmonization of the flood forecasting systems in the Danube Region that would help improving the national flood forecasting capabilities has been introduced to the Steering Group on the 8<sup>th</sup> SG Meeting by the Hungarian Flood Forecasting Centre.
- Another project proposal is being prepared for the training of the flood protection professionals and municipality experts of Bosnia and Herzegovina that is due to be implemented during early summer 2015. This is part of the initiative commenced by PA5, in which Hungary is promoting a closer cooperation between institutions dealing with water management training in the framework of the Danube Region Strategy.
- Progress made in many of the Actions (See Annex 1 of the Annual Report).
- A new PA5 website has been designed.

#### b.) Weaknesses:

- The activity of the SG Members, especially those from non-EU member states is still not high enough (paying some of the expenses of non-EU members helped), although their involvement to the work and information of the Steering Group has undoubtedly improved recently
- The participation rate on the SG Meetings has also improved, though there are still countries who have not shown up at all on the Meetings
- Dissemination needs to be strengthened
- Stakeholder involvement should be intensified.

#### **Concrete outputs so far**

Milestones reached so far:

- See the Annex 1 of the Annual Report
- ICPDR – EUSDR PA4 & PA5 COORDINATION Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation
- Finalized and adopted the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) document

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

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

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

The cooperation with ICPDR is done at two levels. The PACs report on the progress of the EUSDR at the Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR in June and also at the Ordinary Meeting in December. This provides an opportunity to discuss EUSDR topics with the Head of Delegations of the 14 Danubian countries. More operative exchange of information is done at the level of the ICPDR’s Expert Groups. Priority Area 5 has got a strong link to the work done in the Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG), the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group and the River Basin Management Expert Group. The PACs report to the FP EG twice a year on its regular meetings. On the other hand two representatives of the ICPDR Secretariat attend the SG Meetings of PA5 and report back on the progress made in those Actions that are coordinated by ICPDR.

We also used the homepage to provide information to the public, but our feeling was that it was less effective than sending the information to the Steering Group Members directly via e-mail to further disseminate it.

### **What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?**

- a.) Stakeholders are looking forward to the new financing possibilities: for the opportunities the Danube Transnational Programme could offer to implement the macro-regional project proposals.
- b.) Communication needs to be strengthened to explain people that EUSDR is a macro-regional programme and it can handle large macro-regional projects.
- c.) There is a need of strong political support to keep the momentum.

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

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

We are collecting international project ideas and project partners to implement the Programme of the DR Oper & Cooper in order to support implementation of DFRMP now that the financial opportunities will be available soon.

Simona-Olimpia Negru  
PA5 Coordinator

László Dobi  
PA5 Coordinator



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

CCI N° 201CE160AT092

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

**Reported period: from 01/15 to 06/15**

**Summary of the project**

**Title:** To facilitate the coordination of Priority Area 5 “Managing Environmental Risks” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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

Priority Area 5 (PA5) deals with environmental risks like flood and drought, but also with manmade risks, issues which require funding to support the activities in the Danube Region Strategy (DRS). The most important work is to facilitate international projects in the framework of the Priority Area 5 of the Strategy for the benefit of the stakeholders of the Danube Region.

**Specific objectives are:**

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

**Governance:**

The grant will assure the implementation of the following tasks:

- **Coordination tasks:**
  - organization of Steering Groups and Technical Meetings;
  - participation at events organized in connection with the implementation of the Strategy (e.g. PACs-NCs Meeting, Annual Forum etc.);
  - organization of stakeholder seminars;
  - involvement of external expertise;
  - communication activities.
- **Technical Meetings** are to be organized between Priority Area Coordinators or with the Coordinators of the other two Priority Areas of Pillar II. Furthermore technical meetings shall be organized with the representatives of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Secretariat.
- **Communication Activities** shall aim to provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation, as well as, specific information on Priority Area 5 to promote public awareness regarding the Strategy and the 5<sup>th</sup> Priority.

**Duration of the project:** 1 January 2012 to 31 July 2015

**Activities planned and conducted:**

| Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement |   | Key activities conducted  |
|--|---|---|
| January                                    |   |   |
| February                                   | To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation | Meeting of the EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators: information on the Danube Strategy Point and on the upcoming 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Ulm (13 February; Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg) |
| March                                      | Technical Meeting   | 27 <sup>th</sup> ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group Meeting (17-18 March; Zagreb, Croatia)   |



|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
|       | To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation | TAF-DRP (Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects) and START – Danube Region Project Fund Review Meeting (20 March; Vienna, Austria)  |
| April | Organization of Steering Group Meetings                               | 9 <sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting of PA5 (28 April; Budapest, Hungary)   |
| May   |   |   |
| June  | Technical Meeting   | 13 <sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR (2-3 June, Zagreb, Croatia)  |
|       | Technical Meeting   | Flood protection training program for Bosnian and Herzegovinian flood protection professionals and municipality experts obligated to the direction of the protection (9-12 June, Sarajevo (Jahorina), Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
|       | To provide general information of the Strategy and its implementation | Meeting of the EUSDR National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators in the framework of the “Floating Conference” (24-25 June; Bratislava-Vienna, Slovakia-Austria)   |

Besides the activities listed above the Hungarian PACs met the Hungarian NC weekly.

### **How was the action carried out so far?**

The TA project is there to facilitate and ensure the coordination of Priority Area 5. The implementation of the EUDRS in the area of PA5 is going on smoothly.

- The Steering Group (SG) had its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting in this reporting period with the highest representation of the participating countries.  
The major task for the SG and for the coordination was to finalize and adopt the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme with Measures laying out concrete international project proposals that could be implemented in the near future (e.g. with the support of the Danube Transnational Programme) supporting the Actions of PA5.
- We further strengthened the cooperation with ICPDR in the last period. The information exchange is smooth at the level of Head of Delegations (we meet twice a year at the Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meeting of ICPDR) and Expert Groups (FP EG), too. The ICPDR is managing five of the PA5 Actions.
- We ensured the persistent coordination of the 14 countries by informing the Steering Group Members, by presenting the international proposals for the SG, by preparing the documents before sending them to the SG for comments/approval/voting.
- We also cover the journeys connected to the coordination activities of PA5 from the TA fund: staff and related costs of travel and accommodation. We also supported the non-EU member countries’ participation on the Steering Group Meetings from the TA fund.
- New website has been developed for the Priority Area 5 and started to operate from February 2015.

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

- In 2013 the TA contract was transferred from VITUKI to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. During the first half of 2014 the VITUKI managed to transfer the amount of the grant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Since then we have begun to spend money from the Technical Assistance budget as well.
- The original TA contract was due to end at the end of 2014, but in December 2014 the contract has been extended until July 2015.

**Please describe the transnational dimension of the project**

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

- The Steering Groups, managed by the PACs, are composed of the representatives of the 9 Member States and 5 Non-Member States, the representatives of the EU and that of the ICPDR.
- The targets and the actions are all of macro-regional range.
- The projects supporting the actions should also be international (the scope of the project should cover at least three countries).
- The PACs in their dissemination activities should reach all 14 Danube Region countries.

**What contribution was made by the partners?**

## d.) Cooperation between the Romanian and Hungarian PACs

All tasks are executed jointly by the Hungarian and Romanian PACs. Actions, reports, minutes, SG Agenda etc. were discussed prior to the event and the agreed version was executed or presented.

## e.) Cooperation the SG Members

The work of the SG Members is mainly related to the SG Meetings. Their contribution is bringing in project proposals, helping the PACs in compiling list of stakeholders, evaluating project proposals for labelling, disseminating EUSDR information in their countries, commenting documents prepared by the coordination of PA5 etc.

## f.) Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Secretariat and its Expert Groups (especially the Flood Protection Expert Group - FP EG)

We use the synergy and the cooperation with the ICPDR. From the very beginning three Expert Groups (EG) of ICPDR lead 5 of our 8 Actions. We invite ICPDR to all our SG Meetings and all other conferences, meetings where ICPDR can have an interest. We also participate and provide information on the progress and plans of PA5 on Flood Protection Expert Group Meetings of the ICPDR and on the ICPDR Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meetings. Further we are in „daily contact” with Mr Gombás, Chairman of the FP EG.

**Auto-evaluation so far**

## c.) Successes:

- The Steering Group is working on the basis adopted during the past years (Rules of Procedures), the attendance increased a bit due to continuous efforts.

- A well established, close cooperation continued with the ICPDR based on the “Synergy”<sup>6</sup> document adopted in 2014. The Flood Protection Expert Group of ICPDR and PA5 has created a joint pool of project proposals that became part of the ICPDR’s Flood Risk Management Plan. Both bodies are working on the future implementation of those projects. For the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EUSDR – that is going to be organized in Ulm in October 2015 – the Priority Area 5 prepared a common proposal with the ICPDR as a joint contribution to the event. This also gives a good example of the very strong cooperation of the two bodies.
- No Letter of Recommendation was given to projects in this reporting period, but 2 project proposals will be financed from the START – Danube Region Project Fund in the field of PA5 preselected by the PACs and their Steering Group and selected by PA10: the project DELOG-FLOOD with Hungarian lead partner and the project HelpTeamUkraine (HTU) with Ukrainian lead partner.  
For the Romanian proposal: DANUBE FLOODPLAIN project that was submitted for the 2nd call of DR TAF in 2014, the project proposal has been prepared and setting up the project consortium is in progress.
- One of the most significant results of Priority Area 5 in the latest period was to finalize the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) with the involvement of the SG and the ICPDR, following the closure of the “Flood Survey” in October 2014 – a systematic consultation series with all the Danubian countries in order to improve their flood protection capacities by operative coordination and cooperation on a Danube-basin, sub-basin or transnational level.  
The ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) adopted the Programme of the DR Oper & Cooper on its last meeting in Zagreb, 17-18<sup>th</sup> March 2015: the Measures of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme have been included into the Annex2 of the “Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin District” of ICPDR to be completed in 2015.  
The document (DR Oper & Cooper) was also adopted by the PA5 Steering Group at the 9<sup>th</sup> SG Meeting in Budapest, 28 April 2015.  
This also points out to the settled relationship between the two bodies: ICPDR and EUSDR.
- For the implementation of Measure No. 1 of the DR Oper & Cooper an international project proposal has been introduced to improve the harmonization of the flood forecasting systems in the Danube Region (DAREFFORT) and is planned to be submitted for the Danube Transnational Programme in autumn 2015.
- Connecting to the implementation of the Measures of the DR Oper & Cooper, a flood management training project was implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina in early June 2015: a training program for flood protection professionals and municipality experts of Bosnia and Herzegovina financed by the Department for International Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. This is part of the initiative commenced by PA5, in which Hungary is promoting a closer cooperation between institutions dealing with water management training in the framework of the Danube Region Strategy.
- Progress made in many of the Actions (See Annex 1 of the Annual Report).

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<sup>6</sup> “ICPDR – EUSDR PA4 & PA5 COORDINATION (Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation)”

- The new PA5 website is ready and it is working from February 2015.

d.) Weaknesses:

- The activity of the SG Members, especially those from non-EU member states is still not high enough (paying some of the expenses of non-EU members helped), although their involvement to the work and information of the Steering Group has undoubtedly improved recently
- The participation rate on the SG Meetings has also improved, though there are still countries who have not shown up at all on the Meetings
- Dissemination needs to be strengthened
- Stakeholder involvement should be intensified.

### **Concrete outputs so far**

Milestones reached so far:

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- Finalized and adopted the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme (DR Oper & Cooper) document

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

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

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We also used the homepage to provide information to the public, but our feeling was that it was less effective than sending the information to the Steering Group Members directly via e-mail to further disseminate it.

### **What lessons have been learnt from this experience so far?**

- d.) Stakeholders are looking forward to the new financing possibilities: for the opportunities the Danube Transnational Programme could offer to implement the macro-regional project proposals.
- e.) Communication needs to be strengthened to explain people that EUSDR is a macro-regional programme and it can handle large macro-regional projects.
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### **Are there any plans to improve the implementation and if so, how?**

We get prepared for the next, 2014-2021 financial period by trying to generate project ideas that fit EUSDR and help the implementation. Romania will implement for the next two years another two

projects related to Action 1, namely, “The prevention and protection against floods in the upper Siret and Prut River Basins, through the implementation of a modern monitoring system with automatic stations – EAST AVERT” and “Danube WATER integrated water management (WATER)”.

We are collecting international project ideas and project partners to implement the Programme of the DR Oper & Cooper now that the financial opportunities will be available soon. In this respect:

- Hungary, Romania and Austria are working on a project proposal (supported by PA4 and PA5) on the Sediment continuity of the Danube to be submitted for the first call of the Danube Transnational Programme,
- Hungary is working on a project proposal on “Development of Regional Flood Forecasting System”
- Hungary has offered to revive the work of the Tisza Group by establishing a Tisza Office in Szolnok, Hungary (supported by PA4 and PA5)
- Two project proposals have been awarded financial support from the START project (PA10):
  - o “Decision support tool for logistic operations of flood management – START (DELOGFLOOD – START)
  - o HelpTeamUkraine – capacity building and improved cooperation of volunteer rescue teams for better flood and emergency protection.

Simona-Olimpia Negru  
PA5 Coordinator

László Dobi  
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