

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF EUSDR PRIORITY AREA

5 "To manage Environmental Risks"

Reported period: from 07/2015 to 06/2016

(FINAL VERSION)





Co-financed by the European Union and Land Baden-Württemberg

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AEWS	ACCIDENT EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM
APC	ACCIDENT PREVENTION & CONTROL
ARS	ACCIDENT RISK SPOT
CS	CONTAMINATED SITE
DTP JS	DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME JOINT SECRETARY
EEEOP	ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPERATIVE PROGRAMME
EFAS	EUROPEAN FLOOD AWARENESS SYSTEM
EG	EXPERT GROUP
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENI	EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT
EUSDR	EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
FP	FLOOD PROTECTION
FRMP	FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN
GWP CEE	GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE
ICPDR	INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE DANUBE RIVER
ІСРО	INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ODER
IMGIS	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
JEG	JOINT AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
JRC	JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
LOR	LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
LP	LEAD PARTNER
MS	MINING SITE
NC	NATIONAL COORDINATOR
РА	PRIORITY AREA
PAC	PRIORITY AREA COORDINATOR
PIAC	PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL ALERT CENTERS
R&I	RESEARCH & INNOVATION
RBMP	RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
SG	STEERING GROUP
SMF	SEED MONEY FACILITY
SP	STRATEGIC PROJECT
UNECE	UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
WFD	WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

During the reporting period from July 2015 to June 2016 PA5 team activities mainly focused on:

- improved flood protection with the development a flood risk management plan at basin level and to improve a regional flood forecasting system with an own project initiation to assist mainly the implementation of the Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC) and EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC):
- assistance in project generation, partnership search, networking, alignment of project funding,
- support of non-EU member states involvement into EUSDR processes
- enlargement of synergies with international organizations (ICPDR, Sava Commission, Carpathian Convention etc.) and stakeholders
- participation and preparation of events and meetings related to the EUSDR and PA5
- strengthening operational cooperation among emergency response authorities,
- anticipating of local and regional impacts of climate change and developing methodology for mitigation of its harmful effects.

The most significant step was made in relation to PA5 Action1 and in the framework of ICPDR: the 1^{st} Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin District (DFRMP) was prepared in December 2015, published by ICPDR at the beginning of 2016 and endorsed by the ministers of the Danube Countries at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 09/02/2016. This plan is the key strategic document for Danube basin-wide flood management for the period 2015 until 2021 closely linked with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 prepared in the same period and supporting the implementation of the Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC) and EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) in the Danube region. The Measures of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme prepared by PA5 are also part of the 1st DFRMP, expressing the needs of the Danube region countries on future improvements and project generation targets

Direct project generation activity of PA5 aimed mainly to improve flood forecasting system of the region:

- PA5 Team supported the **DAREFFORT** proposal (submitted to the 1st call of the DTP SO 2.1) for building up the project consortium. However, the proposal was rejected in the first round of the DTP, thus a revision and improvement of the proposal is planned for the second round with the involvement of external experts.
- PA5 Team also participated and followed the development of the **DANUBE SEDIMENT** project proposal (approved for the 2nd round of DTP 1st Call).

PA5 HU PAC also participates as Associated Partner in **WaterACE** (Water Footprint Sustainability Assessment To Improve The Integrated Management Capacity Of Water In Central Europe Regions) project which was submitted for the 2nd Call of INTERREG Central Europe in June 2016. **In assisting project generation,** PA5 SG **adjudicated 6 Letter of Recommendations** during the reporting period: for **2 transnational proposals** in the field of water scarcity & droughts, or flood forecasting (already submitted to DTP 1st Call) and **for 4 cross-border projects** mainly targeted flood forecasting and sediment management issues to mitigate flood risks in Danube sub-basins such as Prut-Siret, the Raba and the Lajta/Leitha.

Project applications were evaluated by PA5 SG and chosen for START and TAF-DRP funding.. In the 2nd call of START 2015 two PA5 projects were selected for financial support (E-FLOOD platform and MORCHFLOOD. In the 3rd call of TAF-DRP 2015 one PA5 project was selected for financial support (Oasis+) related to the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin District, the development of the Danube Floodplain Project has started. This project will address the whole river basin and will be focused on the coordinated non-structural measures for flood control.

Partnership search, networking and funding alignment was **facilitated by** PA5 team: the 2nd **Stakeholder Conference** of EUSDR on 19-20 November 2015 in Budapest was organized in cooperation

with PA4. This event altogether helped to consolidate existing cooperation and fostered further networking between the policy level, authorities, the higher education and private sector. In addition it created an important bridge between potential project applicants and financial funds, also to present country needs and to promote further project ideas.

With a view of strengthening cooperation with non-EU countries, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a Bosnian expert and organized a program for more than two weeks in autumn 2015 with the active contribution of PA5 team to get acquainted with Hungarian restoration projects, the practice of flood protection

PA5 experts also mediated between a Ukrainian NGO (Trans-Carpathian Agency for Investment, Innovation and Development) and PA10 in order to represent their project idea on waste management in the Ukrainian part of Tisza river basin since illegal waste dumps are environmental risk spots.

The case of Solotvino in Ukraine is another good example on cooperation with non-EU countries. As a result of all cooperation efforts, the disaster management services of Ukraine and Hungary have jointly requested the support of the European Commission in January 2016, in order to comprehensively map out the cross border environmental emergency situation at Solotvino salt mine (also affecting the Upper Tisza river section). EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated by DG ECHO and as a result - beside the continuous support of PA4 and PA5 - an international scoping mission was arranged and further high level discussion is ongoing. This coordination activity also helped to strengthen operational cooperation among emergency response authorities.

Besides the European Commission (DG REGIO and DG Environment, DG ECHO) and the Danube Strategy Point (DSP), PA5 continued the outstanding and close cooperation with ICPDR – based on the "ICPDR - Joint paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR" adopted in 2014, which is a key element in the success of the Priority Area.

Enlargement of synergies with international organizations is also evident on project level: by Sava Commission at the DAREFFORT project and by GWP CEE, REC and ICPO at WaterACE project initiation. A dialogue between EUSDR PA5 and the Carpathian Convention has started, to bring forward the collaboration - PA5 SG should make decision on acceptance of the Synergy Paper and Memorandum of Cooperation, which is already prepared.

PA5 cooperation with other Priority Areas:

- With Pillar B (PA4-PA5-PA6) held a joint Integrated Workshop for the Annual Forum in October 2015.
- With PA4 jointly organised a Stakeholder Conference in November 2015.
- With PA10 cooperates regarding the TAF and START procedures, and Danube Financing Dialogue.
- With PA 4: International conference 'Drought and Water Scarcity' in Bratislava was organized in May 2016 by PA4 PAC and PA5 SG for anticipating local and regional impacts of climate change and developing methodology for mitigation of its harmful effects.

ICPDR (also responsible for PA5 Action7) was asked in the Danube Declaration – adopted on 9 February 2016 at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting – to update the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy. This need is unequivocally in line with Action7. Therefore, in the future PA5 needs to focus more on climate change adaptation especially in connection with droughts, water scarcity, flash floods etc.

Dissemination of EUSDR and PA5 activities were realized through PA5 website, which is regularly update with most important news to make the public aware of EUSDR issues. Furthermore, the participation in the organisation of the Danube Day events in Hungary (Budapest) and the cooperation with Ukraine (Tiszakóród-Galabor) were also effective. PA5 team also elaborated a brochure at the end of the reporting period about the achievements of the priority area which will be published next month.

2 PROGRESS OF THE PA

2.1 PROGRESS ON POLICY LEVEL

2.1.1 POLICY AREAS AT FOCUS

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

Cooperation with ICPDR, flood risk management planning and implementation process, integration of the environmental risk management with the protection of the water quality, cooperation with Non-EU countries, awareness raising.

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

- Most of the activities on the environmental risk management in the Danube River Basin are closely related with the activities developed within ICPDR and there is a need to coordinate main actions. Moreover the ICPDR is responsible for a large part of the PA5 actions.
- Flood risk management is the most prominent risk within the Danube River Basin and development and implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin District has been committed by all ICPDR countries.
- Integration of the environmental risks with the water quality and water status is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive. In this respect there is an ICPDR EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation.
- Cooperation with Non-EU countries is essential for the successful implementation of the PA5 actions. As most of these actions deriving from the EU legislation which is non-binding for the countries which are not Member States we need a special attention and approach in this direction.
- Awareness raising is a key element in managing environmental risk related to both natural and manmade risks.

2.1.2 MAIN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

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

- ICPDR Heads of Delegation approval of the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin District, endorsed by the Ministerial Declaration 09/02/2016;
- Strengthening cooperation with Non-EU countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted Mr. Amir Hujic (Head of Department of the International Affairs Sector-BHEPA-Department for EU and projects), representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina and organized a more than two week program between the 20st September and 7th October 2015 with the active contribution of PA5 team to get acquainted with Hungarian restoration projects, the practice of flood protection on smaller rivers and urban flood protection facilities, the activities of the Operation Center of Budapest Waterworks, and also with the work of the transboundary water committees and DTP JS., including on-site visits and presentations from experts.
- The case of Solotvino in Ukraine is another good example on cooperation with Non-EU countries. Fact finding mission of HU NC and PA4 PAC to Ukraine in July 2015, to discuss the environmental risks management options of the Solotvino Salt Mine area. As the follow up of the site visit and the negotiations with the active coordination of the Secretariat for the Danube Region Strategy Ministerial Commissioner of Hungary and PA4 and PA5 experts, the disaster management services of Ukraine and Hungary have jointly requested the support of the European Commission in January 2016, in order to comprehensively map out the cross border environmental emergency situation at Solotvino. EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated by DG ECHO and as a result, beside the continuous support of PA4 and PA5, an international scoping mission was arranged finally at the first week of July 2016.
- Improving the public awareness on environmental risks during the celebration of the Danube Day.

2.1.3 POLICY LESSONS LEARNED

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

Mutual cooperation between ICPDR resulted in mutual benefits. ICPDR is a good platform for countries involvement at the political level in the PA5 actions, particularly for the development of proposals for strategic projects at the Danube Basin level.

Key topics of EUSDR PA5 were addressed in the Danube Declaration adopted at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting 2016.

The successful 2nd Stakeholder Conference helped to consolidate existing cooperation and fostered further networking between the policy level, authorities, the higher education and private sector. In addition it created an important bridge between potential project applicants and financial funds. Participants also expressed their needs for such events.

Wider dissemination activities have to be arranged to strengthen cooperation with regional and international organisations as well as commencing new connections with the Carpathian Convention and other macro-regional strategies of the EU.

Project development (DAREFFORT project proposal was submitted to the DTP 1st Call but it was rejected) and support of transnational and cross-border initiations (LoR was adjudicated for 2 transnational and 4 cross-border projects, 3 projects received START-TAF funding after PA5 selection) are able to strengthen basin wide and sub-basin wide activities as well as cooperation of relevant international and regional organisations. Involvement of external experts should be necessary in project preparation to more securely reach our goals.

There is a need to continue coordination between the PAs particularly between PA5, PA4 and PA6 in order to create a synergy between actions.

2.1.4 **FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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

- Implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan in close cooperation with ICPDR and with the support of transnational and cross-border project generation
- Further development of actions related to man-made risks
- Update of the ICPDR Climate change adaptation strategy for the Danube River Basin
- Selection/development of strategic projects stakeholder involvement and partners search seminars
- Further strengthening cooperation between EUSDR and other macro-regional strategies to share best practices and governance practices
- Further strengthening cooperation with non-EU countries
- Further coordination with PA4 and PA6
- *Further promoting public awareness.*

2.2 PROGRESS ON PA'S TARGETS

Table 1: Progress on targets during the reporting period

PA Targets	Prog	gress during the	reporting peri	iod			
(number and wording of the target)	Completed	d Satisfactory Delayea progress progress		Other	Clarifications		
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	(<i>c</i>)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	(f)		
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.		х			Targets of PA5 were modified in 2016 as part of overall revision & update of EUSDR Targets with regards to all PAs. <u>The new Target</u> is : <i>To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015, the ICPDR report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015 (due in 2016) and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation.</i>		
2. Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans – due in 2015 under the EU Floods Directive – to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change.		Х			Targets of PA5 were modified in 2016 as part of overall revision & update of EUSDR Targets with regards to all PAs. <u>The new Target</u> is: : <i>Provide and enhance continuous support to the</i> <i>implementation of the Danube Flood Risk</i> <i>Management Plan – adopted in 2015 in line with the</i> <i>EU Floods Directive – to achieve significant</i> <i>reductions of flood risk events by 2021, also taking</i> <i>into account potential impacts of climate change and</i> <i>adaption strategies.</i>		
3. Update of the accidental risk spots inventory at the Danube River Basin level by 2013.		X			Targets of PA5 were modified in 2016 as part of overall revision & update of EUSDR Targets with regards to all PAs. <u>The new Target</u> is: <i>To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots</i> (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances.		

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

Two out of the three Targets progressed well; for the 3^{rd} Target the work is continuous and still ongoing. In the current reporting period the biggest progress has been achieved with the 2^{nd} Target due to the accomplishment by the ICPDR of the 1^{st} Danube Flood Risk Management Plan (DFRMP) at the beginning of 2016. PA5 contributed to the 1^{st} DFRMP with the Measures (project proposals) of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme which are part of the DFRMP (Annex II). As the Target has reached its original goal with this, the text was modified to support the implementation of the already adopted 1^{st} DFRMP, as the Target has still high importance.

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

The implementation of the 1st Target that deals with water scarcity and droughts and climate adaptation was delayed, due to the fact that the Priority Area's focus was rather on floods following the extreme floods of the recent years (2013 and 2014) on the Danube River.

European Commissioner Johannes Hahn in his letter to high level officials of the Danube countries in 2013 highlighted the need for a coordinated response to flood disasters and called for mobilisation of all relevant actors through the Strategy. He also stressed that the work already done in the Priority Area 5 provides a good basis to such coordinated actions. During the last 2 years PA5 prepared a comprehensive action plan for flood forecasting, prevention, preparedness and mitigation for the Danube Region following the devastating floods of June 2013 and the last decade.

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 challenging conditions. The result of this long work is the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme with concrete project proposals to improve the flood safety of the Region based on all the 14 Danube countries' experiences. The project proposals are part of the newly prepared 1st Flood Risk Management Plan adopted by the ICPDR and endorsed at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting in February 2016.

However, in the future PA5 needs to focus more on droughts again especially in connection with the climate change. The work is still ongoing to reach the goals, as this Target is a long term and more and more relevant and important topic.

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

The Targets of the Priority Area have just been revised and updated accordingly in the current reporting period (2015/16) with the involvement of the ICPDR and the SG Members. The new revised Targets were adopted by the PA5 Steering Group on its 10th SG Meeting in Bucharest on 29 February 2016 and by the EUSDR National Coordinators and Commission on 23 May 2016 in Bratislava at the joint NC/PAC Meeting. Therefore in the coming reporting period there is no plan for updating the Targets.

2.3 PROGRESS ON PA'S ACTIONS

Table 2: Progress on actions during the reporting period

PA Targets	Progress on action for reaching the targets during the reporting period																
(number)	Al	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17
<i>(a)</i>	(b)	(<i>c</i>)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(<i>h</i>)	(<i>i</i>)	(j)	(k)	(l)	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(n)</i>	(0)	<i>(p)</i>	<i>(q)</i>	(<i>r</i>)
1.							ANS	ASP									
2.	ASP	ASP	ASP	APD													
3.					ASP	ASP											

Legend:

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

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

The Actions for the Targets remained the same during the reporting period and there was significant progress in the implementation of their roadmaps. Especially in case of Action 1 a lot of work has been done in the current period as well with the finalization of the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan and the update of the Danube River Basin Management Plan by the ICPDR. The progress of the Actions is also due to the fruitful cooperation with the ICPDR. Some were finished in the previous reporting periods. More focus should be given to some Actions that progress slower.

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

Some Actions' implementation is progressing slower, especially in case of Action 4 and Action 2. On the other hand, the roadmap of Action 4 was only adopted by the Steering Group in 2014 unlike the rest of the Actions which were set up (with their roadmaps) at the start of the Strategy. The absence of disaster management experts in the SG makes more difficult to progress within this Action as its activities are linked to the disaster management field. More involvement of the Steering Group Members would help to have the implementation more effective.

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

In the current reporting period when the review of the Targets was ongoing, the Action leaders of the PA5 Actions have also reviewed the relevant Actions and their roadmaps (with the milestones) they are responsible for. There was no need to modify or remove any of the Actions, except for Action 3, which was completed in its initial form. Only the modification of the roadmaps and milestones were necessary, which was done with the responsible Action leaders (ICPDR, JRC).

2.4 PROGRESS ON MILESTONES

PA Actions	Progress on milestones during the reporting period										
(numbers)	<i>M1</i>	М2	М3	M4	M5	M6	M7	<u>M</u> 8	M9	M10	
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	(<i>c</i>)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	<i>(f)</i>	(g)	<i>(h)</i>	<i>(i)</i>	(j)	(k)	
Al	MSP	MSP	MSP	MSP							
A2	МСср	MSP	MNS								
A3	MSP	MSP	MSP								
A4	MPD	MNS	MNS	MNS	MNS	MNS	MNS				
A5	MSP	MSP	MSP	MNS							
A6	MSP										
A7	MNS	MNS	MNS								
A8	MSP	MNS	MNS								

Table 3: Progress on milestones during the reporting period

Legend:

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

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

A significant share of the milestones have been finished in the previous reporting periods, and quite some have been completed in this period as well, due to the effective work of the Steering Group and the exemplary cooperation with the ICPDR. There are some milestones that progress slower than planned but most of them are expected to be finalized in the near future.

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

Considering some milestones, a more dedicated attitude of some Steering Group members would help to have some processes be more effective.

2.5 **PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES**

Table 4 Activities undertaken to progress on PA implementation

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
<i>(a)</i>	(b)
A1	 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. An updated draft DFRM Plan has been produced for adoption at the 13th ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting and submitted to an intensified public consultation process and to the Stakeholder Conference. Afterwards the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group reviewed the DFRM Plan at its 28th meeting and a number of corrections and revisions were made. Additional data was received from countries in October and November 2015 and were incorporated into the DFRM Plan. The final draft DFRM Plan was distributed on 6 November to the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group for last comments and corrections. After incorporation of all comments it has been uploaded for the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR. During public consultation comments on the DFRM Plan were received from Aarhus Centers Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, Danube NGOs, Lower Austria, German Waterways and Shipping Directorate, WWF and DEF. A separate set of comments was received from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop. An overview of comments including the agreed responses by the FP EG was developed and presented to the ICPDR. DFRMP was adopted by ICPDR in December 2015 and endorsed at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting in February 2016. In the current reporting period the PA5 PAC reported the progress of the Danube Region Strategy at the 28th and 29th Flood Protection Expert Group Meeting of the ICPDR in October 2015 (Budapest) and in May 2016 (Belgrade), at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in October 2015 (Budapest) and in May 2016 (Belgrade), at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in October 2015 (Budapest) and in May 2016 (Belgrade), at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in October 2015 (Budapest) and in May 2016 (Belgrade), at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in Oct
A2	 modern monitoring system with automatic stations (EAST AVERT), Drought Risk in the Danube Region (DRiDanube). The project proposal for Master Plan for the restoration of Floodplains of the Danube and its tributaries from spring to its discharge into the Black Sea has been made, but the application will only be submitted at the end of 2016. <u>The project was proposed with the aim to reduce the flood risk through floodplain restoration</u> along the Danube river and other significant tributaries as an effective contribution to sustainable flood management. The identification of potential floodplain restoration areas and a priority ranking considering flood retention potential and other aspects such as biodiversity conservation should guide the more effective and integrated implementation <u>of the EU Water Framework Directive</u>

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
<i>(a)</i>	(b)
	 (WFD) and Floods Directive (FD) through Programmes of Measures and Flood Risk Management Plans, mainly on win-win measures; integrating the requirements and opportunities related to other EU policies, notably the Birds and Habitats Directives, Biodiversity and Climate policy and of the 2020 The modelling of selected areas and feasibility studies will assess aspects of practical implementation at specific sites: The concrete change of land use aiming at increased flood retention with consideration of existing land users and land owners rights is a complex and sensitive task. Gaining practical experience how to successfully manage the various stakeholder interests (using cost-benefit analysis) will be useful for many areas in- and outside the DRB. The project will contribute to improve flood safety in the Danube basin together with ameliorating environmental conditions in the catchment. It will develop a common approach on restoring the water storage capacity of floodplains, from upstream to downstream sections, while maximising benefits for biodiversity conservation (e.g. restoring former sedimented or embanked arms of the Danube); also will develop best practice on using 'green infrastructure' for sustainable flood risk management in the Danube River Basin. The project will foster and impel cooperation among Danube Basin countries in using restored floodplains for flood risk management to demonstrate the feasibility of integrated flood risk management, including a combination of existing classical and "green infrastructure" in selected floodplain areas. It will stimulate and attract stakeholder involvement and improve cooperation in floodplain restoration/flood risk management planning and implementation.
A3	 The new EFAS flash flood warning system has been released in September 2015. This new system incorporates now information on local geomorphological (slope, land use type) and hydrological (soil moisture) conditions. An analysis of hindcasts has shown that the skill of this new flash flood indicator called "European Runoff Index Climatology" ERIC is increased in comparison to the old indicator. With the completion of milestone number 8 in the period all milestones of the action are finished.
A4	 In the development of best practices in the usage of GIS applications for risk mapping in case of extreme weather related hazard, the "Guideline on climate change adaptation and risk assessment in the Danube Macro-Region" was published by the SEERISK project. At the 4th Annual EUSDR Forum the PA5 had a joint panel discussion with the ICPDR on Improving the Flood Safety (the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan for Danube Basin and the synergies, projects of EUSDR PA5 and ICPDR), and an integrated workshop of the PA4-PA5-PA6 on Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region: Integrated Horizontal Cooperation. PA4 and PA5 jointly organized a second Stakeholder Seminar in Budapest. The conference of water related priority areas of the EUSDR touched the topics of European funding opportunities in the water sector, had networking session, and partner search for international project ideas, and had about 150 participants including SG members, representatives of DG REGIO, ICPDR, DSP and former winning project leaders. The SG of PA5 had its 10th meeting in Bucharest the new, revised targets were adopted: To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015, the report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015 (due in 2016) and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation.

PA Actions (numbers)	Activities undertaken during the reporting period to progress on PA implementation
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>
	 line with the EU Floods Directive – to achieve significant reductions of flood risk events by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change and adaption strategies. 3.) To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances.
A5	 Data are available from 8 countries, whilst data collection/revision is still on-going in the others. Preliminary risk assessments have been done based on the data available. The collection of outstanding data and the data revision will be finished by autumn 2016. Then the ICPDR APC EG will elaborate a report by summer 2017 including updated maps, detailed analyses and recommendations on measures to deal with the potential threats of the identified key sectors. Integration of the available ARS and CS data has been accomplished by uploading the country data to the DanubeGIS using the latest refined templates. Once the outstanding data are submitted the database will be completed. Draft online interactive maps have been developed by the ICPDR Secretariat based on the integrated database. The maps are available for all experts registered in the DanubeGIS and will be automatically updated upon any further data uploads. Once the outstanding data are submitted the maps will be finalised. The checklist and guidance document was technically finalized by the UNECE JEG and adopted by the UNECE Water Convention (http://www.unece.org/env/teia/guidelines.html). The adopted document will be published in 2016.
A6	• The test of the ICPDR Danube Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) on 03 November 2015 was initiated on a weekday's evening. 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 problems from a technical point of view. The main results of PIAC's operability are the following: 12 PIACs (MD, UA-Iz, RO, AT, BG, HU, SI, SK, UA-Uz, HR, CZ, DE) reacted within the 3 hours required response time, one PIAC (RS) reacted shortly after the 3 hours required response time and one PIAC (BA) did not react at all. Discussing the experience from the system operation the ICPDR Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group agreed that that report labels should be changed to have the name of the transboundary river at the first place, the PIAC code at the second place and the incident name at the third place by system default.
A7	• ICPDR was asked in the Danube Declaration to update the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy, which was adopted at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 9 February 2016.
<u> </u>	A chapter in the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 is dedicated to the issue of water scarcity and drought in the Danube River Basin. The Plan was adopted at the 18th ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 2015 where Danube countries representatives and European Commission also discussed the issue of water scarcity and drought. As a result the ICPDR River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG) was asked to elaborate a first draft of a report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015, the measures taken and lessons learned, for discussion at the 14th ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting in June 2016 and to be finalized for adoption at the 19th ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 2016.

2.6 EUSDR STRATEGIC PROJECTS

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

Title of project proposed by PA as ESDR SP during the reporting period	Date of PA meeting when the project was approved as potential ESDR SP	To which PA target the project is relevant?	Main project activities of the EUSDR SP	Targeted funding source(s) for the SP
(a)	<i>(b)</i>	(c)	(d)	(e)
Not relevant (SP selection process started in April 2016, only after the last SG meeting, therefore PA5 did not select any project until the end of the reporting period, but assessment of the most relevant initiations already started)				

Question 15: Were any of the projects included in Table 5 already approved for funding during the reporting period? If so, please complete Table 6 below with the information only for those projects.

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

Title of project proposed by PA as ESDR SP, approved for funding	Total amount of approved funding	Approved funding source(s) for the EUSDR SP
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	(<i>c</i>)
Not relevant	-	_

3 FUNDING

3.1 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN TERMS OF FUNDING

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

The PA5 Team has organised the 2nd Stakeholder Conference on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest in cooperation with PA4. At the 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the EUSDR more than 150 participants from 11 countries were presented, mainly from the Danube countries as well as including the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas (priority area on 'water quality' and 'environmental risks'), to present the results achieved and to provide detailed information about funding instruments from central funds to specific territorial cooperation instruments. Furthermore, the conference offered a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas.

The three main legs of funding sources of EUSDR projects during the reporting period were identified and used by PA5:

-Danube Transnational Programme (DTP)

-START/TAF-DRP

-INTERREG Central Europe

A project proposal; DAREFFORT (**Da**nube **Re**gion Flood **For**ecasting System) focusing on the development of an integrated flood forecasting system for the involved – currently – seven Danube Region countries – and listed among the projects of the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan prepared by the end of 2015 – was submitted to the 1st call of the **DTP** 2.1 specific objective. The project proposal implements the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme's (DR Oper&Cooper) first Measure. Organization of the Kick-off Meeting of the DAREFFORT project (Budapest, 29 September 2015) helped to build up the project consortium. However, the proposal was rejected in the first round of the DTP, thus a revision and improvement of the proposal is planned for the second round with the involvement of external experts.

However related directly to the actions and milestones of PA4 action plan, the PA5 HU Team also has been participated and followed the development of the DANUBE SEDIMENT project proposal, which has been jointly elaborated between ICPDR RBM EG, PA4 and PA5, Budapest University of Technology and Economics and other project partners. The DTP JS approved the project in the first selection phase of its 1st Call and the consortium elaborated and submitted their proposal for the 2nd round. The Danube Sediment major objective is to review the current status of the sediment regime of Danube including the inputs of major tributaries and to analyse pressures and impacts, assess the potential for restoration of sediment balance and propose actions to be taken in order to improve the sediment continuum and river morpho-dynamics along the Danube, which has influence on flood risks along the river.

DriDanube and DAMWARM transnational projects also received a LoR from PA5 SG at the 10th SG Meeting in Bucharest. Both projects were submitted to DTP 1st Call Specific Objective 2.1, and the previous one was selected for the second round. Four other cross-border projects gained the appreciation of PA5 SG and was entitled for LoRs, three of them (EASTAvert, RAABFlood4Cast, PLATFORM) focused on flood forecasting improvements on sub-basin level (along the Prut-Siret, the Raba and the Lajta/Leitha rivers) and one, namely SEDDON-II on sediment management issues.

START and TAF-DRP project applications were evaluated by the PA5 Steering Group and summarized by the PACs and a list of selected START and TAF-DRP projects in the field of PA5 were sent to the Implementing Body of PA10.

In the 2nd call of START 2015 two PA5 projects were selected as winning projects by PA10 (same as the suggestion of PA5):

- 1. Establishment of Flood Forecasting platform for Drava and Mura River (E-FLOOD platform) (Lead partner: SI)
- 2. Quantification of morphological changes in river channels and its impact on flood risk (MORCHFLOOD) (Lead partner: CZ)

In the 3rd call of TAF-DRP 2015 in total 17 projects were selected by PA10 covering 8 PA-s, one PA5 project was selected:

Oasis+ Danube Loss Modelling Programme (Lead partner: HU)

INTERREG Central Europe also serves for 7 Danube Region countries as possible funding source. PA5 HU PAC participates as Associated Partner in Water ACE (Water Footprint Sustainability Assessment To Improve The Integrated Management Capacity Of Water In Central Europe Regions) project had been submitted for the 2nd Call of INTERREG Central Europe in June 2016. The project tackles the challenge of water availability (good quantity and quality) to protect natural water resources and their sustainable use in CEU regions. The main objective is to improve and promote the integrated water management capacities of CEU regions, addressing the three dimensions of water sustainability (environmental, economic and social) in an integrated manner. Water Footprint Sustainability (WFS) tool will be implemented in 3 pilot regions: Veneto will be a pilot case for drought, Lower Silesia for pollution, and Tisza Valley for floods due to land use change. Outputs will include prioritization of technological and management solutions to guarantee sustainable water management in terms of water availability and limiting risks related to water in each pilot region. Trainings, strategies and action plans will help to exchange lessons learnt along the Tisza river valley and also outside from the Danube watershed and will be channelized into the workflow of PA5 SG expert pool.

3.2 LESSONS LEARNED

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

Project generation and participation in other project initiations relating to the targets and actions of PA5 may have a significant effect on their implementation. With the help of project partnership PA5 PAC is able to catalyse networking between stakeholders and to channel project results into the work flow of PA5 SG, also influencing decision making process at the policy level. On the other hand, participation in transnational projects, such as DTP and INTERREG CE, helps to disseminate the standpoint and achievements (action plans, FRMP, RBMP etc.) of Danube macro-regional strategy among the stakeholders, at policy level and for the broad public. Project membership assists to enhance the visibility of the EU, since PA5 PAC activities would be related not only to the professional input but also to the work packages of communication. Better efficiency of project generation and submission would be able to reach with regular (annual) stakeholder conferences. PA5 SG generated project kick-off meetings also helps networking and strengthening project consortia.

START and TAF-DRP project funds are useful to support the elaboration of project initiations and LPs would be able to strengthen the partnership, to prepare further steps of the activities, or to evaluate the possible weaknesses of their projects.

3.3 <u>The future</u>

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

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

As next step the preparation of the Danube Floodplain project led by Romania and repeated submission of DAREFFORT projects to the 2nd Call of DTP at the end of 2016 would be essential to implement as parts of the Danube Basin FRMP and Action 1 and 2. PA5 HU PAC is planning a DAREFFORT workshop in relation with the repeated submission to strengthen the existing partnership and to broaden the network with the help of external experts and the involvement of ICPDR.

DTP SMF will replace the role of START and TAF-DRP funding sources from 2017, therefore PA5 SG will support relevant project proposals to apply for this fund, based on the good experiences of selected START and TAF projects.

PA5 SG has to encourage project submissions from the side of stakeholders with further organization of stakeholder conferences (as it was organized in November 2015). The successful 2nd Stakeholder Conference created an important bridge between potential project applicants and financial funds and brought together the potential partners and the participants expressed their clear need for such events in the near future as well.

Issuing of LoR documents also secures advances for projects to receive funding during their evaluation process (e.g. +1 point in HU-SRB and +2 points in HU-SK CBC Programmes were approved and +1 point expected in HU-RO CBC Programme if a project can highlight its EUSDR relevance). Therefore PA5 SG will continue the practice of LoR adjudication.

Labelling the most relevant project initiations of PA5 as SP would also improve project positions to receive different funding sources. Though the selection of SPs started only in April 2016 and PA5 did not labelled any project as SP until the end of the reporting period, nevertheless PA5 SG would concentrate more in the future on SP selection.

PA5 will continue to provide its active contribution for the restoration of Solotvino salt mine Ukraine in order to resolve environmental risk affecting the Tisa river and to help operational cooperation among emergency response authorities as it is covered by PA5 Action4 and 5.

PA5 identified ERASMUS+ and CEEPUS programmes as potential sources for capacity building at the higher education and R&I sector of the Danube Basin to support networking in relation with preparedness, or environmental risk, drought and water scarcity and flood management. INTERREG Europe and Horizon2020 would also be useful to strengthen cooperation with other macro-regional strategies and experts of the EU. Therefore PA5 SG would assess the possible usage of these sources and promote between the relevant institutions.

4 GOVERNANCE

4.1 ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF PA

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

10th PA5 SG Meeting in autumn 2015 was cancelled by the Romanian PA5 PAC and this event was rearranged on 29 February 2016 in Bucharest (postponed the originally planned SG Meeting in Budapest). Only the representatives of six countries took part on the SG Meeting, but ICPDR, GWP and Budapest Waterworks delegated their experts too, furthermore DSP and DG REGIO were also actively involved.

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

Table 7: Attendance of SG meetings

SG meeting	AT	BA	BG	CZ	DE	HR	HU	MD	ME	RO	RS	SI	SK	UA
10 th Bucharest 29/02/2016	X						Х	X		X		X	X	

4.2 <u>COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ACTIVITIES</u>

Question 21: Based on what has been reported in Section 2.5, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for coordination, cooperation and establishing links with other PAs? Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

Priority Area 5 has a very good relationship and cooperation with the other two priority areas of the same Pillar of the EUSDR ("Environmental Pillar"): PA4 – "water quality" and PA6 – "biodiversity". It is a lucky situation that both water related PAs (PA4 and PA5) is coordinated by Hungary (in case of PA4 the other co-coordinator is Slovakia and PA5 is co-coordinated together with Romania). Based on the connected topics of the PAs the water related priority areas of the Strategy (PA5 "environmental risks" and PA4 "water quality") organized their II. Joint Stakeholder Conference in the current reporting period on 19-20 November 2015 in Budapest with a great success with nearly 150 participants.

At the 4th EUSDR Annual Forum held in Ulm on 29-30 October 2015 the three priority areas of the Environmental Pillar of the Strategy (PA4-5-6) organized an integrated workshop: "Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region". The joint workshop served as an outstanding example of horizontal and transnational cooperation between Priority Areas of the same Pillar of the EUSDR.

The PA5 co-coordinator participated at the international conference about water scarcity and drought (Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change") too organized by PA4 in Bratislava in May 2016. The goal of the conference was to create the platform for experience exchange among experts dealing with drought and water scarcity issues.

Also all Hungarian SG Members of the different priority areas meet on a regular 2-3 months basis to get to know what is going on in the field of each priority area.

Question 22: Based on what has been reported in Section 2.5, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for coordination, cooperation and establishing links with EU institutions (EC, EP, CoR, EESC, etc.) and/or other institutions (national, regional, international, as appropriate). Same applies also for activities for using the funding opportunities of the EC centrally

managed programmes. Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

Beside the European Commission (DG REGIO and DG Environment) and the Danube Strategy Point (DSP), PA5 has an outstanding and close cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) – based on the "ICPDR – Joint paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR" document adopted in 2014 – which is a key element in the success of the Priority Area. Both organizations work on the implementation of the jointly prepared proposals. Priority Area 5 has close links to the relevant ICPDR expert groups, in particular the Flood Protection, Accident Prevention and Control and the River Basin Management Expert Groups. The Priority Area Coordinators give a detailed report on the regular meetings of these. In the current period the PACs reported the progress of the Danube Region Strategy at the 28th and 29th Flood Protection Expert Group Meetings of the ICPDR in October 2015 (Budapest) and in May 2016 (Belgrade), at the Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in December (Vienna) and lately at the Standing Working Group Meeting in June (Modra). Representation at meetings is bilateral; the ICPDR Secretariat also attends the Steering Group meetings of PA5 and reports the progress of the Actions coordinated by the organization (5 Actions).

The two bodies – EUSDR PA5 and ICPDR – reinforced synergy between them in the field of flood protection also on the 4th EUSDR Annual Forum where PA5 organized a panel discussion with the involvement of the ICPDR informing the audience on the successful joint work of last year. There were highlighted the achieved joint results of PA5 and ICPDR such as the project ideas/proposals presented in the Annex II of the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan which includes the Measures developed by EUSDR PA5 in the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme based on the 14 Danube Region countries' needs. The Head of DG Environment was also among the presenters of the panel discussion organized by PA5.

PA5 had a co-operation also with the DTP during this period due to the fact that the 1^{st} DTP call opened in November 2015. PA5 HU expert also helped DTP JS to have delegated a Ukrainian representative on the 2^{nd} DTP Monitoring Committee Meeting in Sarajevo in order to facilitate conversation between EU and Ukraine to secure ENI funds from 2017 for the non-EU country.

In connection with the Technical Assistance Facility support (for 2015/2016 for the PACs) we have continuous cooperation with the DSP too.

The PA5 co-ordination in Hungary is in daily touch with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the General Directorate of Water Management and with the General Directorate of Disaster Management.

Question 23: Based on what has been reported in Section 2.5, please provide short description on what has been achieved with the undertaken activities for cooperation between the PA (PACs and SG) and the authorities dealing with ESIF funding and more specifically with the Managing Authorities and the Monitoring Committees of programs of interest to the PA. Please describe also any methods/tools that are put in place as a result (if applicable).

- PA5 expert was delegated by the Hungarian EUSDR NC to the 2nd MC Meeting held on 21-22/03/2016 in Sarajevo
- PA5 expert participated as an observer on Hungarian EEEOP MC Meeting held on 27/04/2016 in Budapest
- *PA5 expert fulfil an observer role at the CRO-HUN CBC Programme*
- PA5 expert participated on the EIA seminar organised by DG REGIO, DG ENV, JASPERS and HU EEEOP MA held on 21/06/2016 in Budapest

4.3 ACTIVITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

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

At the 4th Annual EUSDR Forum in Ulm (29-30 October 2015) the PA5 had a joint panel discussion with the ICPDR on Improving the Flood Safety (the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan for Danube Basin and the synergies, projects of EUSDR PA5 and ICPDR), and an integrated workshop of the PA4-PA5-PA6 on Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region: Integrated Horizontal Cooperation. These activities were suitable to inform broad audience on the successful joint work of last year. There were highlighted the achieved joint results of PA5 and ICPDR such as the project ideas/proposals presented in the Annex II of the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan which includes the Measures developed by EUSDR PA5 in the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme based on the 14 Danube Region countries' needs. The Head of DG Environment was also among the presenters of the panel discussion organized by PA5.

The 2^{nd} Stakeholder Conference was organised by PA5 in cooperation with PA4 on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest. At the 2^{nd} Stakeholder Conference of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region more than 150 participants from 11 countries, mainly from the Danube countries as well as from the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom were present. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas (Priority Area on 'water quality' and 'environmental risks'), to present the results achieved and to provide detailed information about funding instruments from central funds to specific territorial cooperation instruments. Furthermore, the conference offered a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas. The output is fulfilled; the activity has been partially financed from other (Hungarian) EUSDR financial sources.

In line with PA5 Action1 the 1st DFRMP has been adopted by ICPDR in December 2015 and endorsed by the Ministers of the Danube Countries at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 09/02/2016. PA5 contributed to the 1st DFRMP with the Measures of the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme which are part of the DFRMP (Annex II). During public consultation comments on the DFRM Plan were received from Aarhus Centers Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, Danube NGOs, Lower Austria, German Waterways and Shipping Directorate, WWF and DEF. A separate set of comments was received from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop and from ICPDR FP EG.

The PA5 HU experts participated in the organization of the Danube Day events in close cooperation with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture raising awareness on environmental risks of inland navigation and sturgeon protection as of 29 June 2016, in Budapest, Hungary. PA5 PAC was also involved into the organization and represented EUSDR at the joint Hungarian Ukrainian Danube Day events at Tiszakóród and Galabor villages. The opening ceremony took place on the Tisza river, at the mid-point between the two countries, where ICPDR delegation, ministries and local authorities were also represented from both sides. For the civil society music festival, environmental art games were organized.

PA5 webpage is continuously updated to inform stakeholders and the civil society about the most relevant issues of PA5 and EUSDR activities and events like Annual Forum, Stakeholder Conferences, Steering Group Meetings, visit of Bosnian expert, Danube Declaration, DTP call etc.

PA5 PAC participated and also on behalf of PA5 SG an ICPDR expert (as main owners of PA5 Action7 and Action8) held a presentation in Bratislava at "Effective Utilization of Water Resources in the conditions of climate change (Drought and Water Scarcity)" conference organized by PA4.

4.4 **PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

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

PA5 HU Team developed a brochure in May-June 2016 about the main objectives, activities and

achievements of the Priority Area (publication is expected in August 2016).

The PA5 website is refreshed with the most important news of the Priority Area or the EUSDR to make the public aware of EUSDR issues.

Communication with the Steering Group Members and Observers is done mostly via e-mails (beside the PA5 webpage).

1st DFRMP has been published by ICPDR at the beginning of 2016 – containing Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme prepared by PA5 – after public consultation and endorsed by the Ministers of the Danube Countries at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting on 09/02/2016.

4.5 <u>LESSONS LEARNED</u>

Question 26: Based on what has been reported so far in Section 4: what are the lessons learned (positive or negative), in terms of PA governance during the reporting period and what responses to those the PA considers as relevant?

First of all regular organization of Steering Group Meetings and the participation of SG members on these events are essential for governing the Priority Area. The financial support of non-EU SG members on participation of SG Meetings was secured by PA5 PAC, but not enough to sustain their motivation to be actively involved into EUSDR processes. Also the communication and coordination between co-coordinator teams should be improved. Therefore it would be essential if all SG members realize that active participation is their own interest to be able to channelize national needs, initiations and achievements for the SG and to help setting up transnational project partnerships and elaboration of project proposals, contributing to studies in relation with our common future challenges (eg. droughts, climate change, improved flood forecasting, reduced number of environmental risk spots, helping preparedness etc.) in the Danube Basin. Helping non-EU countries to get acquainted with EU policies, regulations, standards and best practices of the Danube region (like the 3 week study tour of Bosnian expert in Hungary) had a warm welcome and proved to be considerably useful.

Common activities with other priority areas mainly inside EUSDR Pillar B resulted the more efficient attainment of our goals, it should be sustained for the future.

Furthermore joint cooperation with ICPDR as it is stated in the "ICPDR - Joint paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR" of 2014 is also indispensable and helps the harmonization of tasks. Also the involvement of Sava Commission should be more active.

To broaden our network collaboration with other macro-regional strategies and with the Carpathian Convention would be suggested.

To enlarge PA5 good relation with DTP JS would be advised.

Observer ship in the MCs of CBC Programmes, and in national Operative Programmes helps to secure the embedding of EUSDR and the realization of investment projects in line with EUSDR targets and actions.

4.6 <u>THE FUTURE</u>

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

PA5 will continue the organization of SG Meetings with the active involvement of ICPDR and will support the participation of non-EU members too as it was practice in the past. The representatives of other macroregional strategies and the Carpathian Convention should be invited. PA5 PAC will also actively participate on the relevant ICPDR events.

More regular refreshment of PA5 website with news – to avoid short gaps which were sometimes evident

during the reporting period – and facilitating increased awareness of the single basin wide event; the Danube Day would be essential in the future to secure the stronger visibility of EUSDR.

Budapest Water Summit 2016 would be a great chance to disseminate the main targets, activities and achievements of EUSDR PA5 for the political level, experts and the water industry sector in the whole world. To facilitate networking PA5 HU PAC decided to organize the next PA5 SG Meeting back to back with the Budapest Water Summit event on 28-30 November 2016.

ANNEX I: ROADMAPS TO IMPLEMENT EACH PA ACTION

Table 8: Roadmap to implement an action

R OADMAP FOR A	CTION 1				
EUSDR Target to which the Roadmap is related	Target 2 – "Provide and enhance continuous supp 2015 in line with the EU Floods Directive – to acl potential impacts of climate change and adaption	hieve significant redu			
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 1 – "To develop and adopt one single over management plan at basin level or a set of flood r plans coordinated at the level of the international	isk management			2021
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone Responsible		Responsible ac	ctors for the milestone
<u>M1</u>	Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A	2018		ICP	DR FP EG
М2	Preparation of flood hazard and flood risk maps	2019		ICPDR FP EG	
М3	Preparation of flood risk management plan for Non-Member States	20.	21	SG, IC	CPDR FP EG
M4	Preparation of flood risk management plan	20.	21	ICP	DR FP EG
R OADMAP FOR A	CTION 2				
EUSDR Target to which the Roadmap is related	Target 2 – "Provide and enhance continuous supp 2015 in line with the EU Floods Directive – to ack potential impacts of climate change and adaption	hieve significant redu			
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 2 – "To support wetland and floodplain re effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and analyse and identify the best response to flood risk infrastructure"	more generally to Deadline (year) f		or finalising T the EUSDR <mark>Action</mark>	31 December, 2016
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone		Responsible ac	ctors for the milestone

M1	Successful implementation of the Morava-Thaya Basin initiatives	December, 2013		Austria, Czec	h Republic, Slovakia		
М2	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	31 December, 2016		Ŀ	Romania		
М3	Organisation of national and regional workshops concerning the Danube Floodplain restoration	2019		Romania and Danube countries involv ICPDR			
ROADMAP FOR ACTION 3							
<i>EUSDR Target</i> to which the Roadmap is related <i>Target 2</i> – "Provide and enhance continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan – adopted in 2015 in line with the EU Floods Directive – to achieve significant reductions of flood risk events by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change and adaption strategies"							
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 3 – "To further develop and improve the E Awareness System (EFAS) system for the Danube increase the links to national systems, to step up p at regional level (including better knowledge of ea systems) and to further promote joint responses to and to flood events in particular, including early v	river basin and to reparedness efforts uch other's national natural disasters	Deadline (year) fo implementation oj	or finalising f the EUSDR <mark>Action</mark>	2017		
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline j milest	0	Responsible ac	tors for the milestone		
M1	Create stronger links and synergies between EFAS and the national or regional early warning systems through improved data exchange	2017		JRC			
М2	Continuous adaptation and improvement of EFAS especially with regard to the EFAS partners from the Danube region	2017			JRC		
М3	Specific training on EFAS, its methodologies, concepts, products and results for EFAS Danube	end of	2017		JRC		

	partners with a special focus on the non-EU Danube countries partners		
ROADMAP FOR A	CTION 4		
EUSDR Target to which the Roadmap is related	Target 2 – "Provide and enhance continuous supp 2015 in line with the EU Floods Directive – to ach potential impacts of climate change and adaption s	ieve significant reductions of flood risk	ę .
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 4 – "To strengthen operational cooperation emergency response authorities in the Danube cou improve the interoperability of the available assets	intries and to	or finalising f the EUSDR Action 2020
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone	Responsible actors for the milestone
М1	Harmonization of preventive disaster risk evaluation method and tools	2018	SG
М2	Establishment of the comparability of data/information systems about extreme climatic events	2018	SG
М3	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.	2018	SG
<i>M4</i>	Development of a training module on the effects of climate change for disaster management experts and operational staff intervening in emergencies	2018	SG
М5	Harmonised training and capacity building of the flood rescue teams and civil protection units (volunteer and professional) in the Danube region	2018	SG
<i>M</i> 6	Establishment of operational management of a forum of the Danube basin municipalities and/or	2020	SG

	relevant institutions for better preparedness, awareness and data sharing during flood related interventions and other regional disasters.								
<i>M7</i>	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	2020			SG				
ROADMAP FOR A	CTION 5								
EUSDR Target to which the Roadmap is related Target 3 – "To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances"									
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 5 – "To continuously update the existing during the second state of the second	2018							
Milestones	Definition of milestone	•	ed deadline for achieving the Responsible act		tors for the milestone				
M1	ICPDR Accident Risk Spot (ARS) and Contaminated Site (CS) inventories	201	17		CPDR IMGIS EG, Danube ountries				
M2	ICPDR ARS and CS maps	201	17	ICPDR APC E	G, ICPDR IMGIS EG				
МЗ	Development of guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas	201	17	UNECE, I	ICPDR APC EG				
<u>M4</u>	ICPDR Mining Site (MS) inventories	201	18	ICPDR APC E	G, Danube countries				
ROADMAP FOR A	CTION 6								
<i>EUSDR Target to</i> which the Roadmap is related <i>Target 3</i> – "To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances"									
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap	Action 6 - "To develop rapid response procedures of industrial accidental river pollution"	s and plans in case	Deadline (year) fo implementation of	or finalising ^f the EUSDR <mark>Action</mark>	continuous				

is related									
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone		Responsible ac	tors for the milestone				
M1	Regular AEWS maintenance and testing	contini	uous	ICPL	DR APC EG				
ROADMAP FOR ACTION 7									
<i>EUSDR Target</i> to which the Roadmap is related <i>Target 1</i> – "To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015, the report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015 (due in 2016) and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation"									
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 7 - "Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research"Deadline (year) for finalising implementation of the EUSDR Action2018								
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone		Responsible ac	tors for the milestone				
<u>M1</u>	Danube Climate Adaptation Study	201	8		ICPDR				
M2	Danube Climate Adaptation Workshop	Spring,	2018		ICPDR				
МЗ	Revision and update of the Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy	201	8		ICPDR				
ROADMAP FOR A	CTION 8								
EUSDR Target to which the Roadmap is related	Target 1 – "To address the challenges of water sc 2015, the report on the impacts of droughts in the adaptation"								
EUSDR Action to which the Roadmap is related	Action 8 – "To develop spatial planning and constinue to the context of climate change and increased three the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and increased three to the context of climate change and the context		Deadline (year) fo implementation of	or finalising f the EUSDR <mark>Action</mark>	2018				
Milestones	Definition of milestone	Planned deadline for achieving the milestone				tors for the milestone			

MI	Defining areas stricken by droughts and water shortage, problem management in the Danube region	2016	ICPDR
М2	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	2017	SG
М3	Development of spatial planning research program and methodology for the sake of harmful effects mitigation of climate change	2018	SG

ANNEX II: PA'S WORKPLAN FOR 1 YEAR

Table 9: PA's workplan for 1 year

Warkelan fan getivitieg	Corresp	onding	2016			
Workplan for activities	Actions	Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	(c)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Policy development activities:						
Decision on approval of Synergy Paper and Memorandum of Cooperation with Carpathian Convention	1,2,5,7,8	all				\boxtimes
Activities related to Strategic projects:				1	1	
Approval of proposals for Strategic Projects by PA5 SG and submitting for DSP	depending from the approved SPs	depending from the approved SPs				\boxtimes
Activities related to other projects:				1	1	
Approval and preparation of LoRs for 5 projects (DAMWARM, SEDDON II, EAST Avert, Raab Flood4cast, PLATFORM) relating to flood management	1	1: 3,4	\boxtimes			
Approval and preparation of LoR for DriDanube projects relating to droughts	7,8	7:5	\boxtimes			
and water scarcity		8:1,3				
Project preparation of WaterACE to submit with the observership of PA5 HU	1,7,8	1:4				
PAC for Interreg CE 2^{nd} Call		8:1,2,3		\bowtie		
		7:5				
Organization of DAREFFORT project preparation workshop in Budapest, HU	1	4				
Submission of DAREFFORT project proposal for the 2 nd Call of DTP	1	4				\boxtimes

	Corresp	oonding		2	016	
Workplan for activities	Actions	Milestones	Q1	2016 Q2 Q3 (e) (f) \square <th>Q4</th>	Q4	
(a)	<i>(b)</i>	(c)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Finalization and submission of the Danube Floodplain project application	2	2		\square	\square	\boxtimes
Coordination and cooperation activities:		-				1
Participation at the EUSDR PAC workshop organized by the DSP in Brussels	all	all				
Participation on PAC Meeting in Bratislava (SK)	all	all				
PA5 HU expert was delegated by HUNC to the 2 nd DTP MC Meeting in Sarajevo	all	all				
Participation on ICPDR FPEG Meeting in Belgrade (RS)	1,2,3,8	all		\square		
Participation on NC+PAC Meeting in Bratislava (SK)	all	all		\square		
PA5 HU expert participated on Hungarian EEEOP MC Meeting in Budapest	1,7,8	1:3				
		7:5		\boxtimes		
		8:1,2,3				
Participation on ICPDR StWG Meeting in Modra (CZ)	1,2,3,5,6,7,8	all		\square		
Participation on the international conference 'Drought and Water Scarcity' in	7,8	7:5		\boxtimes		
Bratislava organized by PA4 SK PAC		8:1,2,3				
Participation on EIA seminar of EEEOP MA, DG REGIO, DG ENVI and JASPERS held on 21/06/2016 in Budapest	1	1:3				
Participation on DTP PAC financing seminar in Budapest (HU)	all	all			\square	
Participation on ICPDR FPEG Meeting in Sofia (BG)	1,2,3,8	all				
Participation on European Week of Regions and Cities, Brussels	1,4,7,8	1:3,4			\square	
		4:1				
		5:1,4				

	Corres	ponding	2016			
Workplan for activities	Actions	Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>(a)</i>	(<i>b</i>)	(c)	(<i>d</i>)	(e)	(f)	(g)
		7:5				
		8:1				
Participation on the conference on "Transition Countries and Water as a Factor of Stability" organized by Jaroslav Cerni Institute, Belgrade	1,7	all				
Participation on Budapest Water Summit 2016	1,2,8	all				\boxtimes
Activities for involvement of stakeholders and civil society:				1	1	
Organisation of Danube Day event in Hungary (Budapest)	all	all		\square		
Involvement into the organization of joint Danube Day event of Hungary and Ukraine (Tiszakóród and Galabor)	all	all		\boxtimes		
Organization of Danube Day event in Romania (Giurgiu)	all	all				
Publicity and communication activities:						
Maintenance and regular update of PA5 website	all	all		\square	\square	\boxtimes
Preparation of information materials about EUSDR PA5	all	all				
Participation of PA5 HU PAC and expert on the 34 th Assembly of Hungarian Hydrological Society in Debrecen (HU) holding two presentations about EUSDR and the EUSDR embedding process	all	all				
Management activities:						
Organisation of the 10 th SG Meeting in Bucharest (RO)	all	all				
Organisation of the 11 st SG Meeting in Budapest (HU)	all	all				\boxtimes
Participation on the Annual Forum of the Danube Region	all	all				\boxtimes