



EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 4 „Water Quality” Activities

Embedding Discussions
13 June 2023

Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper

EUSDR Water Quality PA

Coordinated by



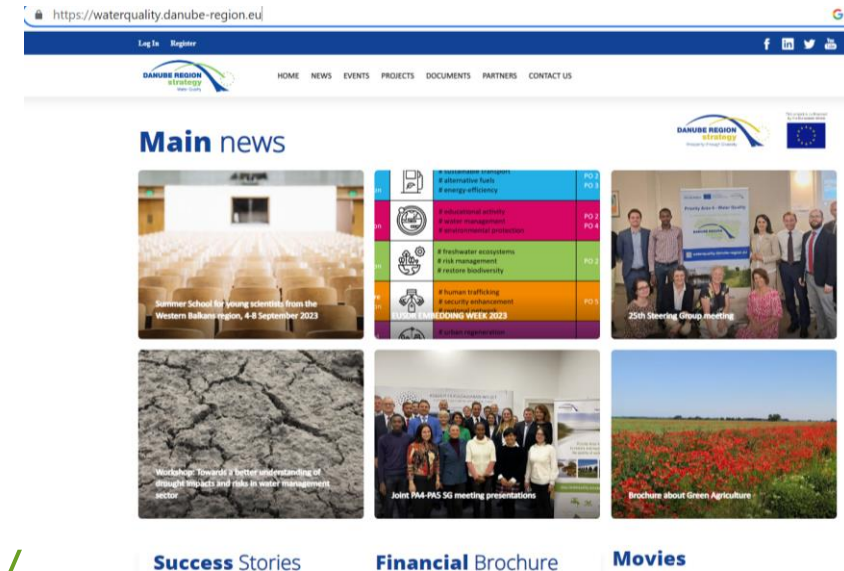
□ Hungary



□ Slovakia



□ Website: <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/>



EUSDR PA₄ renewed Action Plan



Action 1:
**HAZARDOUS &
EMERGING
SUBSTANCES**

**ACTION 2:
WASTE WATER**

**ACTION 3:
WATER &
AGRICULTURE**

**ACTION 4:
DRINKING WATER**

**ACTION 5:
MIGRATORY FISH**

**ACTION 6:
CLIMATE
CHANGE**

**ACTION 7:
TOOLS**

Education –
YOUTH topics

PA4 educational activities in the past years

- **The Danube cards: educational tool**

- <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/>

- **Animated Film: THE STERLET**

- <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/why-is-it-a-challenge-to-be-a-migratory-fish-species>

- **Water projects: success stories**

- <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/water-success-stories-2020-2022-brochure-completed>

- <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/the-brochure-on-water-success-stories-2017-2019-eu-strategy-for-the-danube-region-priority-areas-45-was-completed-the-brochure-contains-the-results-of-16-projects-relevant-for-the/>

- **Cooperating with DYC members since 2022**



PAC project plans for 2023-2028

SO2: To support policy development and policy initiatives related to water

Activity 2.1: Developing and preparing thematic policy initiatives, studies or recommendations

New Drinking Water Directive -workshop (SK 2023)

Implemented further policy initiatives and tools: Plastic conference (HU 2024)

Climate change reflected in agriculture – conference (SK 2025)

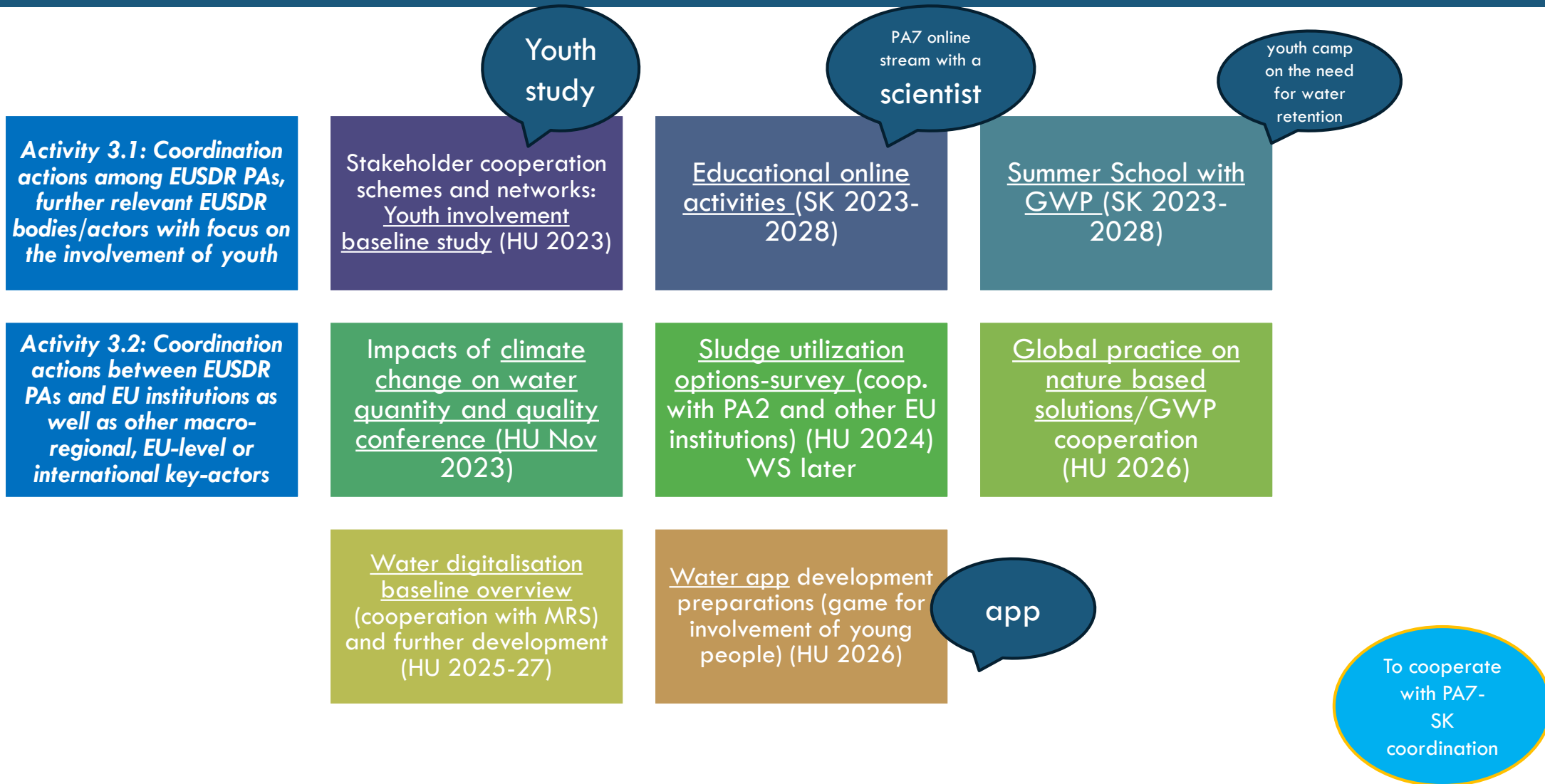
Pharmaceuticals in waters – conference (SK 2026)

Link to EUSDR Roadmap A1 – Policy documents: Sediment management WS (HU 2027)

Activity 2.2: Policy related further communication and dissemination actions

UWWT new directive dissemination (HU 2026)

SO3: To enhance coordination between core PA stakeholders



PA4 Flagship processes



1. Flagship process on emerging substances

- Tid(y)Up project and its potential continuation
- PlasticFreeDanube project
- CleanDanube project
- MapRiverPlastic project proposal
- Plastic brochure
- Small project on microplastic at WWTPs
- bo-DEREC-CE project
- Study on occurrence of pharmaceuticals in the waters of the Danube region
- Pharmaceuticals cooperation with the Baltic Strategy
- Planned pharmaceuticals conference

2. Flagship process on migratory fish

- MEASURES project
- We Pass project and its planned continuation
- Leaflet on promoting measures to enable fish migration
- Fish migration restoration document
- Study on effects of noise and waves on fish species

3. Flagship process on adaptation to climate change

- Climate Change Adaptation conference under the EUSDR SK Presidency
- Study and leaflet on water retention in urban areas
- Deepwater-CE project
- OPTAIN project
- DanubeFloodplain project
- IDES project
- LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS project
- Danube water balance planned project

PA4 related projects

Finalized:

- 1st DTP call: **JOINTISZA** (LoR), **DanubeSediment** (LoR), **DriDanube**, **Camaro-D**
- 2nd DTP call: **MEASURES** (migratory fish species), **SIMONA** (LoR; sediment quality), **Danube Floodplain**
- 3rd DTP call: **Danube Hazard m3c** (LoR), **IDES** (ecosystem services and water quality), **Tid(y)Up** (LoR; microplastics), **lifelineMDD** (Mura-Drava-Danube ecological corridor), **SaveGreen** (transnational ecological corridors)
- 3rd INTERREG Central Europe call: **DEEPWATER-CE** (Managed Aquifer Recharge), **boDEREC-CE** (pharmaceuticals), **TEACHER-CE** (water adaptation to CC)
- **ATSK: PlasticFreeDanube**
- **ATHU: AquaPinka** (LoR; Water solutions at the Pinka creek)

Under implementation:

- **HORIZON2020: OPTAIN** (LoR; Retain and reuse water and nutrients in small agricultural catchments)
- **LIFE: LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS** (LoR; Local water retention measures)
- **HUSKROUA: REVITAL I.** (LoR; UA Solotvyno saltmine exploration)
- **HORIZON EUROPE: DALIA** (Danube Lighthouse Innovation Action)

LoRs 2022:

MapRiverPlastic (macroplastic),
What-A-Way (sustainable services at local waterways), **DANUBELIGHT** (water innovation),
WETNUBE (demonstrations of wetland and floodplain restorations), **RESTORIVER** (restoration of urban riversides), **Aquatic Plastic** (plastic waste reduction), **Danube Water Balance** (Danube model and data repository)

Capitalisation – DTP + other financial mechanisms projects

Mostly
Interreg
funding

PA4 dissemination about funding

- PA4 provides regular information about embedding and alignment of funding: at every SG meeting and continuously...



EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
Priority Area Water Quality
Water-related funding

2022

THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

The Danube Region represents one fifth of the European Union's total area and is home to more than 115 million inhabitants. The region is comprised of 9 EU (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia) and 5 accession/candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine). The states show significant regional disparities in economic and social development. To increase growth and strengthen cooperation at a macro-regional level, the European Union in 2011 established the EUSDR. Nine years after the adoption of the EUSDR, the Danube Strategy was revised to align it with the new priorities and challenges of the region and better link the Danube strategy's actions with the new EU priorities like the European Green Deal.

<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/financing-water-projects-online-brochure-completed/>

'Alone is impossible'

EUSDR PA 4 – 'Water', a Platform for Cooperation



Since 2011: structured discussions with Steering Group members from 14 Danube countries, including from line ministries and water experts, directorates.

Strengthened institutional framework

Active participation in OP programming

Elaboration of project proposals, networking

New ones or under preparation

- PA4 – EUSBSR & EUSALP & EUSAIR + INTERACT cooperation on water issues
- PA4- Danube youth

Existing cooperations and joint declarations

- PA4 – DG REGIO and DG ENV
- PA4 - JRC - Danube Water Nexus & Danube Initiative (2013)
- PA 4 & ICPDR & SAVA Commission – Trilateral cooperation
- PA 4 - ICPDR – Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation (2014)
- ICPDR Tisza Group Carpathian Convention & Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE)- Joint Declaration (2015)
- PA 4 - Carpathian Convention – Memorandum of Cooperation (2016)

Thus, EUSDR PA₄ aims to

Contribute to achieve relevant EU water acquis/objectives,

promote the implementation process through projects,

develop/improve the Danube Region balancing among protection of the environment, sustainability and development

assist in finding partners and funding

cooperate with PA7 in education matters,

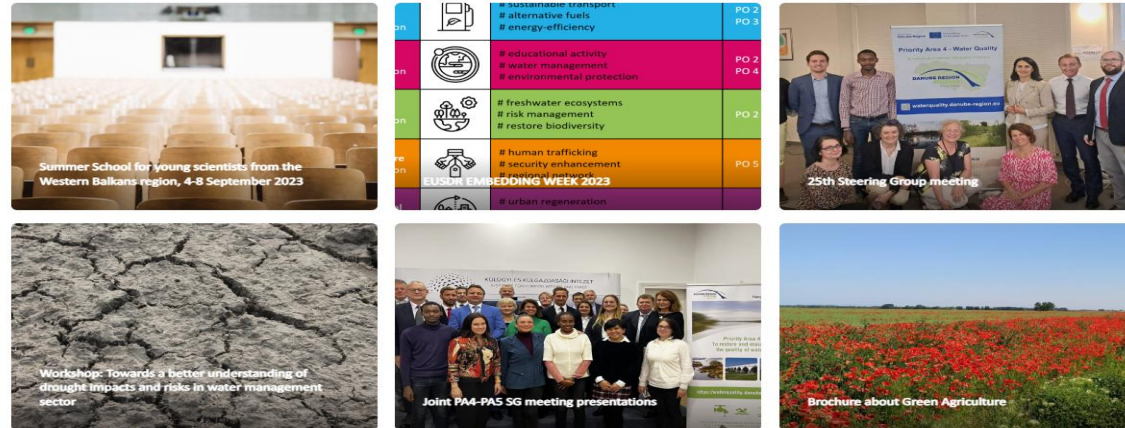
further with INTERACT related to education tools

to cooperate with different funding programmes

PA4 recently joined the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters Charter and looks forward cooperating with DG MARE in this regard.

<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/>

Main news



EUSDR Danube water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzdo58h-ukl&t=85s>

TEN years of achievement PA4:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfqY92aUFbQ&t=9s>

Thank you for your attention!