



PA₄ Action Plan revision

PA₄ SG meeting
24-25 October 2018
Bratislava

Why EUSDR Action Plans revised?

- EUSDR targets revised in 2016 but Action Plan remained the one of 2010 – priorities evolve, Actions and Projects need to be updated, transformed or replaced. Action Plan is “rolling” and should be regularly reviewed in light of new, emerging needs and changing contexts
- The EUSDR implementation to be enhanced: **political commitment** and development of **joint transnational projects**
- Re-boosting the EUSDR **politically** and **involving non-EU countries** more strongly
- Emphasis on **monitoring** in order to be able to assess how well the planned objectives have been met. This requires more clearly defined indicators and targets better linked to the Action Plan
- Multiannual Financial Framework and cohesion policy legislative package **post-2020** under discussion, revision of EUSDR Action Plan should take them into account to align the priorities of the Strategy to EU policies

Why to discuss it now? - timelines

26 June 2018	Joint NCs and PACs meeting with Commissioner Corina Crețu in Brussels
July – September 2018	Identification of the needs of revision of the Action Plan by PAs
September – December 2018	<p>- Launching the consultation phase on the relevant EUSDR levels. The new DSP should coordinate and provide guidelines about the process.</p> <p>Consultation process at PA Steering Groups level with the support of the new DSP</p> <p>Organising discussions between PACs with the support of the new DSP</p>
1 st Q 2019	<p>A feedback from the Steering Group consultation process presented by each PAC during the PAC meeting organised by RO Presidency.</p> <p>Consultation process at NCs level</p> <p>A feedback from the PACs consultation process presented by the new DSP during the NCs meeting organised by RO Presidency</p> <p>Finalising the consultation phase with the support of the new DSP</p> <p>Submitting the results of the consultation phase to the Commission</p>
2 nd Q 2019	<p>Drafting phase – a revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan should be drafted by the Commission in consultation with the NCs and PACs</p> <p>Collecting comments on the revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan</p>

EUSDR BG Presidency orientation questions

- Starting from the existing Action Plan, which of the actions and projects of your PA have been completely realised/partially realised/not realised? Please enumerate the main circumstances having impeded the realization of the relevant projects. Are there actions that have not been yet realized but need to be kept for future implementation?
- With reference to your PA, what challenges do you see in the next 10 years? In your opinion, which one of these challenges could be addressed jointly by the EUSDR?
- Which one of these topics/challenges could be addressed jointly with other PAs?
- How do you see the embedding of your PA into the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027? How the PAs should be optimised in order to align the priorities of the EUSDR to the policy objectives included in the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027?
- Please suggest an integrated project, covering one or preferably more PA, with strategic impact and importance for the Danube region that you consider should be developed and implemented with the support of the European Commission and EUSDR Member States?

PA4 progress so far

- Progress assessed last time in 2016
- 5 Targets applicable for your PA;
- 14 Actions, applicable for your PA;
- 14 Roadmaps, establishing the link between the Actions and the Targets;
- 66 Milestones, identified in the Roadmaps;

The ,targets' of PA 4

1. **Achieve the management objectives** set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan;
2. **Reduce the nutrient levels** in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s;
3. **Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report** as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan;
4. **Elaborate, adopt and implement sub-basin management plans**, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins
5. **Secure viable populations** of Danube sturgeon species

PA4 actions (1-4)

- **Action 1:** “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan”
- **Action 2:** “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”
 - Project ideas: “To complete and adopt Danube Tributaries' River Basin Management Plans” and “To complete and adopt a Management Plan for the Danube Delta”
- **Action 3:** “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”
 - Project ideas: “To carry out the next Joint Danube Survey by 2013 and to complete the development of the existing Danube GIS Database” and “To establish and complete the Sava GIS”
- **Action 4:** “To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”
 - Project idea: “To implement the Blue Danube cooperation project to exchange technologies, experience and personnel in the field of urban waste water treatment”

PA4 actions (5-8)

- **Action 5:** “To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements”
- **Action 6:** “To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution”
- **Action 7:** “To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”
- **Action 8:** “To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits”

PA4 actions (9-12)

- **Action 9:** “To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”
- **Action 10:** “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”
 - Project ideas: “To make the feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gates”; “To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube” and “To examine biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin”
- **Action 11:** “To promote measures to limit water abstraction”
- **Action 12:** “To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region”

PA4 actions (13-14)

- Action 13: “To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply”
- Action 14: “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea”

Cohesion policy proposal – 5 policy objectives

- 1) a **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses;
- 2) a **Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the **Paris Agreement** and investing in energy transition, **renewables and the fight against climate change**;
- 3) a more **Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks;
- 4) a more **Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, **education, skills**, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare;
- 5) a **Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting **locally-led development strategies** and **sustainable urban development** across the EU.

Cohesion policy proposal – policy objective 2)

- Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)
- Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)
- Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply)
- Water management and water resource conservation (incl river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)
- Waste water collection and treatment
- Commercial, industrial or hazardous waste management
- Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials
- Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
- Nature and biodiversity protection, green infrastructure

Actions and projects



Actions are defined as *important issues requiring intervention by the Countries and stakeholders to meet the objectives of the Priority Areas*. They do not necessarily require financing and can be:

- A new approach;
- An increased coordination in policy making;
- A support to an existing process;
- A networking initiative.

Projects are *concrete, have a start and an end date, usually require financing*. Projects in the Action Plan are presented as examples to stimulate further initiatives.

Actions and Projects:

- Should address identified priorities and be supported clearly by Countries, Commission services, stakeholders;
- Should reinforce existing EU policies;
- Should associate existing transnational bodies;
- Should have a macro regional impact;
- Should be smart (the Action Plan uses the term “realistic”);
- Should be mutually supportive.

Considerations behind a new proposal

- Past action implementation experience
- Considering developments since 2010
- Challenges for the next 10 years
- More political: fewer number of actions, headlines related to EU (future) policies (e.g. WFD, MFF, Cohesion policy proposal)
- Covering a broad set of issues from which priorities should be set
- Only topics in the first step that can be turned into (measurable) actions

Priority Area 4 „Water Quality” („Integrated water / river basin management”)

- Strategic objective: link integrated river basin management to the development of the Danube Region

1. Water quality management

- Water for human consumption
- Waste water treatment
- Water pollution prevention and reduction

2. Water resource conservation

- Water in the circular economy
- Climate change adaptation measures
- Water for ecosystems

3. Cooperation

- Active involvement of and dialogue with all stakeholders
- Territorial cooperation at different levels
- Enhanced knowledge base
- Information related to financing water needs, assistance to project generation

4. Other proposals

1. Water quality management

- Water for human consumption
 - ▣ protection and pollution reduction at source;
 - ▣ resource efficiency;
 - ▣ cost recovery;
 - ▣ safe supply via water quality early warning and safeguard zones;
 - ▣ managed aquifer recharge

- Waste water treatment
 - ▣ construction and maintenance: investment needs;
 - ▣ big and small settlements;
 - ▣ focus on non-EU countries;
 - ▣ strategic approach with EIB to fill the gaps;

- Water pollution prevention and reduction
 - ▣ monitoring and measures to prevent and reduce
 - hazardous substances pollution,
 - organic pollution,
 - nutrients pollution,
 - emerging pollutants: plastics and micro-plastics, pharmaceuticals, PFOS etc.

2. Water resource conservation

- Water in the circular economy
 - ▣ water demand management: smart irrigation, water balance, limit abstractions;
 - ▣ water re-use;
 - ▣ leakage reduction;
 - ▣ water saving culture

- Climate change adaptation measures
 - ▣ natural water retention measures (NWRMs) in urban areas, agriculture, hydro-morphology and forestry to improve water quality
 - measures wetland/floodplain reconnection,
 - re-meandering,
 - buffer strips;
 - ▣ water related urban planning

- Water for ecosystems
 - ▣ ecological flow,
 - ▣ river and habitat continuity with indicators and flagship species like sturgeon;
 - ▣ green infrastructure;
 - ▣ nature and biodiversity protection,
 - ▣ sediment management

3. Cooperation

- Active involvement of and dialogue with all stakeholders
 - with national and regional, urban and rural decision makers, public authorities;
 - with sectors (agriculture, industry, mining, hydropower, navigation etc.);
 - with the general public including awareness raising and education

- Territorial cooperation at different levels
 - at EU level and with non-EU countries taking into account the regional differences;
 - with other macro-regional strategies;
 - at EUSDR level with other PAs;
 - at Danube level with ICPDR based on the MoU by contributing to the implementation of DRBMP and its JPM;
 - at sub-basin level considering Danube tributaries (e.g. Sava, Prut, Tisza);
 - at river section level (upstream, middle, downstream, Danube Delta);
 - at OP level;
 - at trans-boundary project level with targeted result collection, capitalization, enhancing synergies;
 - including surface and groundwater as well as Marine coastal zones (impacts on Black Sea);
 - with other international commissions and organization related to water protection

- Enhanced knowledge base
 - improvement of databases and information platforms;
 - active involvement, information dissemination and best practice exchange, distribution of results;
 - use of research, development and innovation input

- Information related to financing water needs, assistance to project generation
 - alignment of funding and dissemination of related information
 - contribution to setting up project consortia, issuing Letters of Recommendation

4. Other proposals

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Procedure

- First discussion in PA4 SG and with ICPDR on 24-25 October 2018
- Written feedback expected by 15 November
- Next draft by 22 November to be shared with PA4 SG, ICPDR and PAC-NC meeting (6-7 December 2018)
- Further steps will be decided based on the information received in December, but consultations are planned with EUSDR PAs and other stakeholders before preparing a version to be brought to the political (NC) level

What to discuss now?

- Need to change anything?
- Is yes, what?
- Need to be „integrated”?
- Does the proposed structure make sense?
- Are topics OK or need to be extended / reduced?
- What are the priorities?
- What actions, projects can be associated?
- Procedure OK?