

European Strategy for the Danube Region

Priority area 4 „Water Quality“

Activities, Plans and Events since 15th SG Meeting
Conclusions of the workshop on Art. 4(7) WFD

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PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

- **Coordination of PA4 and horizontal cooperation**
 - Trilateral meeting, 6/9/2018, Budapest – information, plans, PA4 Action Plan revision
 - NC, PAC and Commissioner Corina Cretu meeting, 26/06/2018, Brussels - Action Plan revision
 - PA7 SG meeting, 13/06/2018, Bratislava – presentation of PA4 activities
 - NC and PAC meeting, 25/05/2018, Sofia - Action Plan revision
- **Roadmap actions implementation**
 - Waste water treatment
 - Agriculture pollution
 - Sub-basin cooperation
 - Emerging substances (pharmaceuticals, microplastics)
 - MRS cooperation
 - Non EU countries cooperation
- **Project facilitation and partners search**
- **Alignment of funding**
- **Dissemination**

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

➤ Meetings and events

- 7th EUSDR Annual Forum, 18-19/10/2018, Sofia
- Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) - 27-28/09/2018, Budapest
- Workshop „New experience in implementation of Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube Region“, 12/09/2018, Bratislava, organized by PA4
- PLASTIC CUP (Pet Cupa) - 4-12/08/2018 (JOINTISZA event – joint organisation with PA5)
- Sturgeon Conference, 9-10/07/2018, Vienna
- International Plastic waste round table in the frame of the Danube Day events, 28/06/2018, Budapest, Hungary (JOINTISZA event – joint organisation with PA5)
- ICPDR 16th Standing Working Group Meeting, 19 – 20/06/2018, Regensburg
- Copernicus information day, 12/06/2018, Bratislava
- 9th Annual Forum of the Baltic Strategy, 4-5/6/2018, Tallinn – panel discussion
- ICPDR 47th RBM EG meeting, 15-16/05/2018, Koblenz
- „First macro-regional strategies’ workshop on water“ - 19/04/2018, Budapest – organized by PA4

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

First macro-regional strategies' workshop on water

19 April 2018, Budapest, Hungary

Participation of 4 MRS: EU Baltic Sea; Alpine, Adriatic and Ionian and Danube Regions Strategies

Outcomes of discussion and topics on future cooperation:

- 1. Funding** (need for the alignment of funding and embedding of the MRS relevant topics in the funding programmes and schemes post 2020; need for funding flexibility and availability regarding governance support; to support cooperation across thematic areas or the MRS;
- 2) Policy impact** (links between the MRS and policies; stronger national commitment to the MRS; to demonstrate MRS through strategic/macro-regional projects; mainstreaming water management topics into other sectors/topics dealt by the MRS; improve general awareness of MRS).
- 3) Stakeholder involvement** (building stakeholder networks; increasing public awareness on the MRS)

Besides lessons learned – to consider including „processes“ into MRS achievements (practice in Baltic Sea MRS)

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

Action Plan revision

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	Launching the consultation phase on the relevant EUSDR levels. The new DSP should coordinate and provide guidelines about the process. Consultation process at PA Steering Groups level with the support of the new DSP Organising discussions between PACs with the support of the new DSP A feedback from the Steering Group consultation process presented by each PAC during the PAC meeting organised by RO Presidency (6-7/12/2018, Vienna)
1st Q 2019	Consultation process at NCs level A feedback from the PACs consultation process presented by the new DSP during the NCs meeting organised by RO Presidency Finalising the consultation phase with the support of the new DSP Submitting the results of the consultation phase to the Commission
2nd Q 2019	Drafting phase – a revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan should be drafted by the Commission in consultation with the NCs and PACs Collecting comments on the revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan
2nd Q 2019	Publication of Commission Staff Working Document

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

Action plan revision

II. Consultation phase – PA Steering Groups and PACs (September – December 2018)

Guidance from EC (issues to be considered):

- the needs for revision of the Action Plan through analysis and assessing the current implementation
- challenges in the next 10 years
- topics/challenges that could be addressed jointly with other PAs
- embedding of PA into the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027
- align the priorities of the EUSDR to the policy objectives included in the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027

New Danube Strategic Point (DSP) – information related to AP revision:

- No changes in Priority areas focus
- 6-7 December 2018, Vienna – meeting NCs+PACs – further information

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

Action plan revision

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

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

Workshop

“New experience in implementation of Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube Region”

- jointly organised by PA4 EUSDR and ICPDR on 12/09/2018 in Bratislava
- Active participation of 6 Danube states (DE, AT, HU, RO, HR, SK)

Conclusions:

- The European Commission, DG ENV, is kindly asked to maintain cooperation with individual EU Member States to optimize the assessment process of applying exemptions from the environmental objectives according to Article 4(7) WFD for new infrastructural projects and human activities.
- It is recommended to use synergies in the implementation of relevant EU Directives in the field of environmental protection (including Habitats Directive, EIA and SEA Directives, Floods Directive and Renewable Energy Directive), based on already available national expertise on assessment procedures in order to reduce the administrative burden for EU Member States at national level.

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

- According to the precautionary principle an Article 4(7) Test is recommended, if the Applicability Assessment results are uncertain.
- The Applicability Assessment considering all relevant and potentially affected quality elements is a main part of the procedure; therefore detailed data and hydromorphologically sensitive biological assessment methods are fundamental
- Quantification of potential effects is a general challenge; scenarios are useful as practical way for approximations
- Profound methodologies (e.g. on national level) are crucial for comparable results and (economical) planning security.
- To support the practical application of the Guidance document a workshop addressing inter alia the issue of maintenance should be organised
- It is considered a good practice to discuss project ideas and involve all interested stakeholders to the permitting procedures as early as possible in order to avoid unnecessary investments and burden on authorities as well as later conflicts.

PA4 „Water Quality“ activities

- It is recommended to exchange experience at European, Danube and/or national level regarding
 - the term „overriding public interest“ to be used in the permitting process,
 - typical project types and their impacts as well as
 - how to evaluate cumulative effects.
- A regular exchange of information to promote uniform law enforcement by training the project designers, EIA authors and authorities (knowledge transfer, guidance, checklists publicly available) should be fostered at national level.



PA4 projects

Under implementation:

- 1st DTP call – JointTisza, DanubeSediment, DriDanube, Camaro-D - capitalisation with other financial mechanisms projects
- 2nd DTP call – SIMONA (sediment quality), Danube Floodplain, Measures (sturgeon; former Revistur), DAREFFORT (Danube HIS preparation)
- Danube Strategic Project Fund - Danube Hazard

Submitted:

- 3rd INTERREG Central Europe call - DEEPWATER, WETLANDMONITOR, Trimonitor, EARTH, Plastic Cup – decision in Mid January 2019
- EEA and Norway Grants – WATERFOREVER – decision expected in October 2018

Under preparation:

- project on Environmental Assessment for Natural Resources Revitalization in Solotvyno through the preparation of a complex monitoring system (REVITAL I), HUSKROUA ENI CBC programme 2nd call
- Support to JOINTISZA + DanubeSediment implementation
- PA4 LoR for projects - Trimonitor, EARTH, Plastic Cup, LIFE IP MEDER

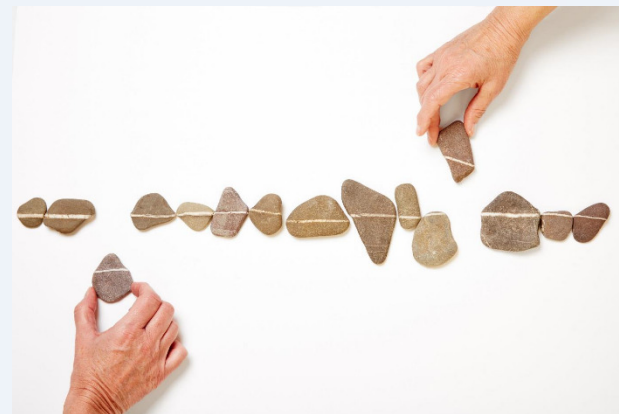
PA4 plans/events

- NC and PAC meeting, 6-7/12/2018, Vienna – Action Plan revision
- Follow up of the first macro-regional strategies' workshop on water, in the week 15 April 2019, Budapest
- Workshop on sustainable agriculture, summer (June?) 2019 (joint organisation with ICPDR)
- DTP seminar on governance, preparation of the call – 15/01/2019, Bratislava
- DriDanube conference – 7-8 May 2019, Vienna
- Study on water related activities of the macro-regional strategies and future potential cooperation areas, end of 2018
- Study on pharmaceuticals in water , 2019
- Cooperation with other macro-regions (Task Force)

PA 4 plans

Other plans:

- Cooperation in the frame of the Capitalisation process – „Water management Thematic Pole” - DanubeParkConnect, MEASURES
- JOINTISZA, DanubeSediment, Measure project – PA4 involvement
- Joint organisation of Pillar B events in 2019
- Focus on project funding, post 2020, embedding of EUSDR into EU funding schemes
- Emerging issues (microplastics, pharmaceuticals)
- Strengthening capacity building, involved in project preparation, implementation, networking
- Stronger involvement of SG members
- ICPDR expert group meetings



Thank you for your kind attention 😊

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