

**European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**

**Priority Area 4**

**Summary Minutes**

of the 6th Steering Group meeting of Priority Area 4

December 2013Table of Content

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Summary Minutes of the 6th Steering Group meeting of Priority Area 4

Opening of the meeting

The 6th Steering Group (SG) meeting of Priority Area 4 (PA4) of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region took place in Vienna, Austria on the 12th December 2013 in the Balassi Institute – Collegium Hungaricum back to back with the ICPDR 16th Ordinary meeting and 6th Steering Group meeting of PA5.

The meeting was opened by Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis Kupper Hungarian PAC assistant.

Mr Márton Méhes, Director of the Collegium Hungaricum welcomed the participants and as a member of PA3 he highlighted the importance of the EUSDR. Mr Méhes announced an exhibition of the Collegium Hungaricum about the Danube and kindly invited the particpants to visit the exhibition on the‘ *The Human. The River’*, featuring through the Danube countries. In the frame of the meeting the representatives of the European Commission, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Bavaria, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia were presented. Representatives of the ICPDR and Sava Commission also gave important inputs during the meeting. Ukraine has been participated in the PA5 meeting and was also intended to take part on the PA4 szeering group meeting, but due to governmental commitment the Ukrainian representative had to leave Vienna before the 12th December 2013. From Romania the Secretary of State and from Hungary the EUSDR Government Commissioner were participating on the meeting. From Hungary State Secretary responsible for Water, Péter Kovács, also participated on the meeting. In the frame of the PA4 SG 6 meeting the highest country participation has been reached.

List of participants can be found in **Annex 1.**

Ms Kocsis-Kupper announced that Mr László Perger resigned from his position due to family reasons and from the middle of October 2013, Mr Ottó Szabó was officially appointed as priority area coordinator in Hungary.

In Slovakia, Andrea Vranovska was nominated as PAC for the period of 15 September – 31 November. As of 1st December Ing.Dušan Čerešňák, Director General of Water Department, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic has been appointed as PAC for PA4 in SK. Ms Vranovska would remain in the team and would act as PAC assistant.

Approval of the Agenda

Due to the regrettable illness of the new HU PACMs Kocsis-Kupper chaired the meeting. She proposed two small changes in the Agenda:

* Mr Raimund Mair was kindly asked to give short information about the outcomes of the ICPDR 16h Ordinary meeting.
* Ms Kocsis Kupper asked the participants to agree that agenda item on programming would be shifted to the afternoon, since Government Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy, Mr Balázs Medgyesy (due to his official obligations), could only arrive following the lunch.

There were no objections against the proposals.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper kindly asked the delegates/alternates/observers to specify their formal positions within the EUSDR to facilitate future communication between PACs and SG members/observers. PAC (HU) will circulate a list of the SG members, observers and countries. PA4 relevant countries and observer organisations are kindly asked to update the list in line with the latest information.

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 1:**PAC (HU) will circulate a list of the SG members and observers and countries and the PA4 relevant organisations are kindly asked to update the list in line with the latest information (related table see in* ***Annex 2****).*

Progress within PA4

PA4 acknowledges that water quality is a world- wide significant policy issue and its aim (in line with the Action Plan) is to improve water policy and to reach good status under the Water Framework Directive. Following the second year of implementation of the EUSDR the Priority Area 4 has achieved important milestones such as it completed the identification of the operational steps, with targets and milestones that were revised and accepted by the Steering Group (SG) and as a result, the Roadmaps to the Action Plan for PA4 has been finalised to achieve the identified goals of the Action Plan for the Strategy.

The Steering Group serves as a platform to examine the results of the implementation and the achievements of the targets set for PA4, to facilitate alignment of funding and to identify institutions playing significant role in the implementation of the Action Plan. The SG also outlines gaps and make steps to fill in gaps where further activities are needed to reach objectives and targets set in the Action Plan.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper listed the main added values and summarized the main messages related to PA4 activities as follows:

* PA4 working structure is politically embedded in a way to ensure financial and human sources where mostly needed towards the realisation of the Action Plan;
* The ratio of participation in the meetings is improving, and in the frame of the SG 6 meeting 11 countries and the European Commission were presented;
* PA4 is one of the priority areas, which takes efforts toward facilitating Aignment of Funding;
* PA4 is one of the priority areas, where coopeartion with international organisations (ICPDR and ISRBC) can serve – in long term – an example.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper summarized the main progress taken in 2013:

1. PA4 facilitated relevant policy processes in line with the already existing policy developments to reach objectives of PA4 outlined in the Action Plan (discussion with relevant main policy actors concerning water quality including the UNECE - Helsinki Convention, DG Environment, ICPDR, Sava Commission, Danube Commission, JRC, REC, ASEM, Water boards-bilateral commissions);
2. Steps were taken in line with the objectives of the EUSDR action plan to fill in gaps towards reaching goals outlined in the Roadmap and to set up consortiums to implement tasks and objectives of the priority area;
3. Coordination and harmonisation of tasks/steps listed in the roadmap with relevant institutions and organisation to achive goals indicated in the EUSDR Action Plan (e.g. ICPDR, ISRBC) has been started;
4. Macro-Regional Conference has been organised in September 2013 to support objectives of PA4 activities and to offer new scientific and technical solutions to fill in gaps outlined by PA4;
5. PA4 explores possible financial sources and facilitates that national programming process can fit to the objectives of the EUSDR;

## Facilitating policy process within PA4

For the implementation of the Strategy, the European Commission proposed a Communication[[1]](#footnote-2) and an Action Plan, which were formally endorsed by the European Council in June 24, 2011. **The Strategy** seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region. One of the main roles of the **Priority Area Coordinators (PACs)** is to provide technical assistance and advice during the implementation of the Action Plan and to work in consultation with the Commission, and relevant EU agencies and national/regional bodies.

To reach the main objective of PA4, to improve water policy and to reach good status under WFD, discussion has been started with the relevant main policy actors concerning water quality including the UNECE - Helsinki Convention, DG Environment, ICPDR, Sava Commission, Danube Commission, JRC, REC, ASEM, Water boards-bilateral commissions

The main outcomes and results of the process was summarised by Ms Kocsis-Kupper as follows:

* important result related to policy process and as an outcomes of the discussions with DG Regio, DG Env. and with Commissioner Hahn, is that cooperation with ICPDR has been strenghtened in 2013. In addition to the Best Practice document prepared in 2013 due to this efforts a comprehensive document is under development focusing on common cornerstones of cooperation.
* Ms Kocsis-Kupper recalled DG ENV and PA meeting in 2013 where it was agreed that the EUSDR can significantly contribute to the implementation of the EU legislation on river basin management. The systematic cooperation in the future was also preliminary agreed on in order to incorporate the EUSDR strategy to the EU environmental and water policy process and also to ensure the embedding of the DG ENV’s major findings and efforts to the Danube Region Strategy process. It was agreed on that recent review on the River Basin Management and CIS carried out to frame and priories the tasks of the PA4. Focus areas were preliminary agreed as follows:
* buffer strips,
* priority substances,
* uniform monitoring network,
* early warning systems,
* cooperation with services, and initiative for the UWWT, and
* finally to enable non- EU countries for reasonable planning for implementation and use cohesion sources.

The relevance of the listed topics should be further discussed in the frame of the expert group meetings of the ICPDR and Sava Commission and list should be further adjusted based on the countries feedback.

* It was also agreed on that result of the continuous efforts of DG ENV to review the CIS in respective Danube Region countries will also be feed into the PA4’s workflow and that areas what ICPDR also addressees is the major interfaces of EU water policy and Danube basin wide efforts. It was also agreed that in the future there will be regular interchanges of recent tasks and development.
* The chairperson noted the outcomes of discussions with DG ENV had significant effects on the major areas of the macro-regional conference and the efforts of PA4 and the major results are also already incorporated as was appreciated by the representative of DG ENV representative in the discussions at the margins of the working group meeting at the Annual Forum.
* PA4 (PAC) ensures on-going discussions with DG ENV. Potential areas of cooperation has been agreed. It was highlighted that a systematic overview of the priorities based on the Blueprint findings should be outlined, the common implementation strategy (CIS) should be reviewed and potential synergies of the work of EUSDR should be explored. It would be especially helpful to have a review on the cross cutting issues. With regard the Blueprint the PA4 identified and screened the research and development options in 2013. Further on discussions were carried out with research institutes and policy experts, resulted in the macro regional conference findings (JRC, DG ENV, universities).
* Efforts to coordinate common activities a meeting was organised with the Joint Research Centre in 2013. PAC participated at the different water nexus meetings and the cooperation resulted in initiating the macro regional conference in Budapest in September 2013. JRC gave a presentation on the Multi-criteria hydro-economic optimisation of water resources in Europe to support the EU Blueprint to safeguard Europe’s waters and the Danube Strategy. JRC study on challenges and solutions related water demand and supply was introduced as well. The aim of the study is to stimulate EU countries to increase the efficiency of water use by 2020/2030. JRC as a key initiator of fact and science based policy support to the macro-regional water policy. To integrate the new water nexus being established by the JRC into the framework in to PA4 of EUSDR the PAC already invited the water nexus leaders to the SG to provide an overview and to discuss the nexus. PAC noted with appreciation the high interest from scientific institutions to take part within the water nexus and participated at various meetings to foster and deeper integration of research and science activities towards the implementation of PA4 actions in the Action plan. There are some good examples already of macro regional co-operations established between research institutions to joint forces with the JRC and to broaden the research to support the EUSDR. The PAC looks forward receiving similar good examples of cooperation in all SG countries. It would be timely to reflect to this process in the upcoming SG meeting and we look forward discussing it with JRC experts in the spring of 2014.
* Regarding institutional development and to fill out existing and future gaps Ms Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that new international expert position on watershed-planning in the framework of the EU SDR PA4, at the National Institute for Environment at the beginning of October 2013 has been established. The main objective is to carry out the task of Action 2 to greatly enhance sub-basin wide cooperations by ensuring follow-up activities of the ICPDR Tisza Group work and to provide continuation of the cooperation of the effected countries of the Tisza River Basin.
* In September 2013 a Macro-regional Conference has been organised aiming at to identify gaps towards reaching main targets and objectives set in the Action Plan. In the frame of the Macro-regional Conference the potential partners gave their presentation providing scientific overview and introducing methods to fill in existing gaps towards reaching goals of the Action Plan. In line with these feedbacks a set of existing gaps has been identified as the outcomes of the Conference. The chair thanked again for all SG members participated on the conference and contributed to the success of this event (More details are introduced in Chapter 5).

**Conclusion**: It was concluded that several activities were organised in 2013 in the frame of PA4 to facilitate policy processes and to ensure coherence between PA4 and relevant institutions.

## Steps to fill in gaps towards reaching goals of the Action Plan

The Priority Area Coordinators shall among others ensure the implementation of the Action Plan defined for the Priority Area by agreeing on planning, with targets, indicators and timetables, and by making sure that there is an effective cooperation between project promoters, programmes and funding sources.

The main activities facilitated by PA4 to implement actions outlined in the Roadmap and based on the relevant scientific methods introduced in the frame of the macro-regional conference in 2013 are the following:

* Facilitating the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan;
* Study development related to the situation on buffer zones and on management of solid waste;
* Study development related to issues water quality monitoring – early warning (Feasibility study on early warning water quality monitoring);
* Facilitating issues on small rural settlements, alternative waste water treatment possibilities for small settlements;
* Facilitating set up consortium to resolve Sediment issues;
* Urban Waste Water Treatment.

### Implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan

Action 1 of the Roadmap, aiming at to fully implement the Danube River Basin Management Plan toward reaching good status of the waters of the DRB. The ICPDR coordinates the overall implementation of the **Danube River Basin Management Plan (**DRBMP).

**To support the implementation and the alignment of funding of the** Joint Program of Measures **of 1st DRBMP and to facilitate the 2nd DRBMP the** PACs mobilized SG members and Danube countries to take active part in the programming process regarding 2014-2020 (<http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danubeprogramme/>). It also became evident during the last period that most of the countries weren’t really active in EUSDR related programming and this is an area where more efforts are to be provided.

There are initiatives on behalf of Ukraine for the participation in the classification and qualification of waters according to the EU WFD requirements and for the capacity building and cooperation in this specific field.

### Buffer zones and management of solid waste

In line with the Roadmap action 5 milestone 1 and 2 a survey on the situation of buffer zones and on the management of solid waste, on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements has been initiated by Hungarian PAC. HU PAC initiated an international research to investigate the gaps and prepare a study on the situation regarding the above topics in the Danube countries. The research reports will be circulated and dicussed in the SG and relevant working groups of the ICPDR and Sava Commission. For the development of the study Hungary used national sources and for the outcomes and results on buffer zones information will be available from all countries.

### Water quality monitoring

For the fulfillemnt of action 2 milestone 4, project 2 of the roadmap a very effective water quality model was identified by PA4 as a result of an intensive research and discussion process in 2013. A scientific model was presented to wide international audience at the macro- regional conference in September 2013. The base concept is ready for a unified early warning alert system for the territory of the Tisza river basin. This issue is very important as it affects all inhabitants in the Danube river basin and can improve water quality and thus would improve living conditions. Early warning function and effect based monitoring of water analysis are joined together comprising a cost effective integrated system which performs sampling, analysis and toxicity testing of surface waters. The selection of appropriate sampling locations is essential to characterise water bodies while reacting on industrial or other hot spots and also keeping record of water quality in country border sections. Due to the proper architecture of monitoring stations, data transmission and databases, together with a state-of-the-art communication system the international early warning function is also ensured. The modular structure of each monitoring station makes easy to react on varying analytical requirements, the frequency and speed of analysis results in quasi-continuous information about whole catchment areas. As a result of effect based monitoring only relevant samples are transported and analysed in labs resulting in decrease of running and investment cost of monitoring.

In the development of the study Slovakian experts are also involved. Study will be circulated to the SG members as soon as it is available.

### Small rural settlements, alternative waste water treatment possibilities for small settlements

According to the EU WFD, establishment of waste water treatment plants are obligatory in all EU countries independently from the size of the settlements.

The initial problem outlined in action 5 milestone 4 and 5 of the roadmap of PA4 arises from the settlement structure of agro-industrial regions of many countries resulting in large proportion of untreated waste water and substantial diffuse pollution of ground water and surface water.

The effect of loads caused by untreated waste water on water quality is a significant issue.

There is a wide scale spectrum of the natural technologies already exists for small settlements to solve waste water treatment related challenges. In line with the economical and ecological characteristics of the settlements a model should be adjusted to the characteristics to optimize this characteristics and needs. In the frame of the Macro-regional conference, organised in September 2013, the main cornerstones of the model has been outlined. The core idea of PA4 is a multi-criteria evaluation method with all the small scale water treatment equipment on one side, and a large number of ambient and social and economy parameter on the other side. With the multi-criteria evaluation method joined with GIS ambient and social database the most suitable small scale waste water treatment equipment can be determined.

A small settlement waste water treatment optimizations system was identified as a result of the cooperation with the Budapest Technical University (BME) for the integrated solutions for wastewater treatment in small settlements and rural areas in line with action 5 milestone 4 of the roadmap of PA4.

As a next step a survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements (A5M4) should be initiated and a pilot program should be outlined (A5M5) to offer and promote best practices in WWT for small settlements.

### Sediment issues and consequences in the Danube river

An international consortium was set up that brings together all Danube countries and that is able to provide a tool to preliminary assess hydrological monitoring and to serve needs of water use. The project was not funded yet, but as a result of joint efforts several social partners achieved a common understanding (including DG MOVE, navigational sector and other field representatives) to work on this issue together. PA4 had significant role in initiating the project and to facilitate the preparation of the project proposal. Colleagues of the ICPDR also played an important role in this initiative and also indicated that they are open to further discussions. PA4 launched negotiations in the frame of 2014-2020 Program in terms of outlining proper financing mix of the EU Structural and Investment Funds, the connected Europe Facility and the Horizon 2020. According to the infomation available all these sources can provide useful contribution to various elements of the project.

The sediment project identified by the Danube Countries focuses on the Danube bed situation and its problems. The relevance of the project started decades ago, but only slow and little steps were made towards a better knowledge of the real effects caused of human interventions into the nature. The proposed project deals with the effects of the hydropower plants (78 barriers along the Danube), the works of flood protection (causing a loss of the 80% of the original floodplain area) and the navigation (2411 km navigable waterway), river bed degradation (2 cm/year) in the upper and also the middle Danube. This project was also presented to wide international audience at the macro-regional conference in September 2013 and meets the objective outlined in the roadmap action 10 milestone 4 project. The base concept is ready for the establishment of adequate hydraulic laboratories, computer based simulations, but also field study sites for model calibration and validation are selected. With the project planning the building of cooperation between research institutions along the Danube River has already started.

### Urban Waste Water Treatment

A workshop was organised in April 2013 focusing on the topics of action 4 milestone 1 and 2 to discuss progress achieved in the implementation of the Joint Program of Measures from the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan, to learn about funding needs and potential funding instruments for actions, supported by presentations on practical examples for financing measures. A key element of the Joint Program of Measures is the extension of urban wastewater treatment, which was specifically addressed in the frame of the workshop.

Hungary recommended providing further funding for this task under the Danube Transnational Programme. The PA4 initiated contacts with the related waste water treatment services to establish working groups and preceded developing project ideas. It is also important to note that for the preparation of the financial plan for the implementation programme on the update for the UWWT indicated in action 4 the updated ICPDR database on UWWTPs are needed to be finalised. Actions between ICPDR and PA4 should be harmonised in time. The action should be further discussed also in the frame of the relevant ICPDR EGs.

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 2: PAC HU is requested to upload presentations following the meeting.*
* *Task 3: Feasibility study on early warning system and study related to buffer strips and solid waste will be introduced in 2014 in the frame of the ICPDR relevant EG meetings and circulated to the SG members and ICPDR relevant EGs.*

## 

## Coordination and harmonization of tasks with relevant institutions and organisation

Between 2011 and 2013 as a significant step PA4 agreed on the Roadmap to implement Action Plan outlined for PA4. Actions, milestones, deliverables and related projects have been identified and implementation of the roadmap has been started. The Roadmap has been formulated in a way that also includes several tasks, which are carried on in the frame of the ICPDR and Sava Commission.

Cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR and Sava Commission are crucial as it was also stressed by Ms Kocsis-Kupper in the frame of her presentation.

The Danube River Protection Convention clearly stipulates the mandate for framework for cooperation between its Contracting Parties at both technical and political level in terms of water management, water protection, flood protection and overall sustainable use of the Danube River on the territory of 14 states within the Danube River Basin. The ICPDR has also been tasked by the Danube Ministers to provide the platform for the implementation of the EU WFD and FD at basin-wide level. However, with the evolving and broadening scope of river basin management and the new opportunities provided by the implementation of the legal provision as well as the successive financial periods the great potential for cooperation and for a mutual support of the EUSDR and the ICPDR in relevant fields has not fully utilised yet, in order to exploit all the potential added value for Danube countries and their citizens. Therefore, the ICPDR representing the Contracting Parties to the DRPC, approached the National Contact Points of PA4 and PA5 and agreed to prepare a joint document, where the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi between ICPDR and PA4/PA5 will be clarified. The National Contact Points and Priority Area Coordinators agreed to channel their preparatory activities and drafting would start following to the meeting of high level representatives and PACs on PA4 and PA5 coordinator countries in the margin of the EU SDR Annual Forum in Bucharest, 2013 via this common pipeline together with ICPDR.

It was also stressed by the ICPDR representatives that cooperation between PA4, PA5 and ICPDR was discussed and highlighted in the frame of the ICPDR workshop organised in November 2013.

The HoDs of the ICPDR agreed to elaborate a draft joint document to clarify the respective roles and expectations towards generating maximum synergy between PA4, PA5 and ICPDR. The agreement was made in the frame of the 16th Ordinary meeting and the related resolutions can be found in the **Annex 4**. The document should clearly express the key cornerstones of water-related cooperation in the Danube basin and it t was also requested by the HoDs to jointly prepare a letter to Commissioner Johannes Hahn in cooperation with the EUSDR National Contact Points from HU, RO and SK, informing about the intention and progress in the development of a joint document, indicating above.

t was highlighted by the SG members (RO, AT) that precise setting should be outlined between the relevant organisations. It was also stressed that the best would be to discuss relevant issues in the respective ICPDR EGs. Ms Kocsis-Kupper appreciated the offer from the ICPDR and empahised that PA4 is open to any discussions and offered assistance for coopearation.

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 4: Joint letter from NCPs and ICPDR PS should be sent out as early as possible. The letter should be stated that a process was started. It should be signed by the NCP (HU, SK, RO) and the ICPDR.*
* *Task 5: A letter should be sent to the ICPDR EGs (via the ICPDR PS) about the intention to share ideas about the future work and ongoing process within the EUSDR PA4 with the ICPDR EGs members. Thank to the ICPDR members and Secretariate to contributing to the work of PA4 (stakeholder conference and SG meetings)*
* *Task 6: A joint document (demarcation document) will be developed in 2014 on the common fields of the ICPDR and PA4 and PA5.*

## Outcomes of the Macro –regional Conference

To gave an overview on the scientific and technical models as helping tools to fulfill gaps outlined in the Roadmaps of the EUSDR Pillar II and to involve wide range of staleholders in the overall process a Macro Regional Conference has been organised and held with 300 registered participants from many Danube countries in September 2013.

Following the coffee break Ms Kocsis-Kupper gave a presentation about the main outcomes of the Budapest macro-regional conference.

Next to governmental cooperation - as Ms Kocsis-Kupper told - the macro regional conference also gave a platform for scientific and technical discussions, where bottlenecks and gaps were recognised (e.g. early warning system). PA4 initiated further cooperation between potential partners of the Danube countries. The stakeholder conference facilitated further technical conultations and gave horizontal overview on relevant issues. Since one of the main task of the PA4 to ensure and create platform for stakeholders and partners to facilitate cooperation and to discuss existing gaps, the macro regional conference, organised in September 2013 following the high level section focused on specific issues of Pillar II (PA4, PA5 and PA6) introducing partners and relevant organisation of watershead management and water quality protection and discussed about existing gaps and on possible solutions to fulfill these gaps.

High level statements were presented from speakers from Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bavaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Commission; participants were coming from Slovakia, Austria, Ukraine, Moldova, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Italy and Hungary. The representatives of major international, regional and local water and environmental organisations were also present, such as the UNECE, the European Commission, the ICPDR, the IDM, the REC, the Sava Commission, the ASEM, the Slovak Water Research Institute (VUVH) and the JRC. Representatives of many scientific institutions as well as environmental and water consultants and experts also participated at the event. Ms Kocsis-Kupper emphasized the main messages of the presenters as follows:

***“****Innovation, new models and new strategies, as well as methods to improve the knowledge base and incorporate the contribution of science and innovation to the Strategy” said* ***Government Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy Mr Balázs Medgyesy.***

*“Enhanced water cooperation across borders is indispensable” said Ms.* ***Marianne Wenning, the Director from the European Commission****, Directorate General Environment welcomed the conference and noted that water is a precondition for human, animal and plant life as well as an indispensable resource for the economy and stressed that the demand for water is continuously growing in the world. She mentioned that on present trends about 40 % of global water supply is likely not be met by 2030 and that 47% of the EU water will fail to achieve good status by 2015. She called to step up our action at all levels.*

*“It is necessary to apply sustainable methods in order to preserve the status quo and for the sake of developing water management innovations” said* ***Zoltán Illés, State Secretary*** *in**the frame of the conference.*

*HE* ***Ermina Salkičevic- Dizdarević, Deputy Minister Bosnia and Herzegovina, President International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River*** *noted that the ecosystems of the Danube River Basin are highly valuable in environmental, economic and social terms, and also noted that they are subject to increasing pressure and serious pollution from various sources and welcomed the cooperation among the Danube countries to overcome the environmental challenges.*

*Mr.* ***Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River*** *presented a topic on the Danube basin cooperation and referred to the Danube River Protection Convention (1994, Sofia) highlighting the cooperation mechanisms of the ICPDR with 15 contracting parties*

*“Sustainable land use, efficient water and land management, protection of biodiversity and flood prevention is necessary.” HE* ***Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary from the Slovak Ministry for Environment*** *further welcomed the conference and stressed that we have to pay attention to the conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem, including the management of riparian forests and the protection of the regional biodiversity.*

*Our Danube Region Strategy has lead us to wider frameworks of cooperation. “This strategic cooperation conveys the message of Central European solidarity” HE* ***Enikő Győri, Minister of State from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*** *mentioned that transboundary cooperation is necessary for the preservation and sustainable exploitation of water.*

*Mr.* ***Wolfgang Klug from the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health*** *noted the importance of cooperation in relation to the Danube and mentioned that Bavaria is also a Priority Area Coordinator (PAC) for the Danube Strategy, he specially emphasised that stakeholders will need to approach the PACs with project ideas as projects can still be financed in the upcoming financing period.*

*Mr.* ***Peng Qinghui, the Assistant to Secretary General, ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center****, China presented a topic on the ASEM cooperation mechanisms and highlighted that the water challenges in Europe and in Asia are similar, such as flood, drought and pollution and that there is a similar gap between water supply and demand in both continents.*

*“Smart and sustainable growth for the Region is to be ensured, joint monitoring of water quality, development of common databases and common river modelling systems and other coordinated measures are needed for effective, sustainable and joint policy making” Mr.* ***Normund Popens, the deputy Director General of the Directorate General Regional & Urban Policy, European Commission*** *pointed that the Danube Strategy is demonstrating that by working together, we can have a far greater impact than if we try to tackle problems in isolation and mentioned that when dealing with water management, the macro-regional approach is self-explanatory, since water does not recognise borders and its management requires strong coordination and cooperation across the countries.*

*The final speaker for the policy session was Mr.* ***Péter Kovács, the State Secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development****, who spoke about the Context of EU water policies and the EUSDR. He highlighted the international cooperation in the water sector and described the structure of the EUSDR and its connection to EU Strategy 2020. Mr. Kovács called the attention to the fact that there is close connection to DG Environment policies as most of Pillar B Actions are covered by Directives of DG Environment and that most of the EUSDR Water Quality (PA 4) Actions refer to the Water Blueprint issues. He also pointed to the connections of EUSDR to the activities of the ICPDR activities and to the activities of the JRC as the later initiated a ‚Scientific support to the Danube Strategy’, which main objectives are to gather scientific expertise and data. Mr. Kovács emphasised that the EUSDR can efficiently contribute to reaching the relevant EU environmental objectives.*

The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about scientific results and innovative methods which are essential to the implementation of the water-related goals of the EU Strategy for the Danube Macro-region. It was stressed in the frame of the conference that the EUSDR provides a comprehensive cooperation platform for macro-regions; builds on a legal context, offers a complex framework to coordinate, enhance and implement strategies in a multi-sectoral and transnational context and also for the first time it offers an opportunity for alignment of funding with cohesion policy instruments and other potential sources. To grasp the opportunities and potentials such a comprehensive framework provides participating countries and partners must make the best use of existing frameworks of cooperation and best practices as well as to find the innovative tools, models to complement them.

Ms. Kocsis-Kupper recalled further that for the preparation of the conference the full spectrum of PA4 related activities were investigated and concerned policy and scientific actors were identified by the PA4 coordinative team; contacts were established and work progressed in 2013. As a result, the main topics and actions of the Roadmaps of PA4 were included in the preparatory work, research organizations and policy makers were contacted to discuss progress and identify current and new methods for the PA4 actions.

Progress was visible among others in the topics of River basin management-challenges. The expert bodies of the ICPDR agreed that updating of the Danube River Basin District Management Plan (DRBMP) requires that a comprehensive study on sediment balance, on the pressures and impacts as well as on the measures needed will be performed. PA4 noted accordingly that the issue of Sediment is the most important link between water and other areas that use water bodies; and where PA4 initiated supplementing partners for a flagship project. The base concept is ready for the establishment of adequate hydraulic laboratories, computer based simulations, but also field study sites for model calibration and validation are selected and all these were introduced at the conference. With the project planning the building of cooperation between research institutions along the Danube River has already started. PA4 plans to promote it further through the Danube Transnational Programme. (A10, M4 of the Roadmap).

Ms Kocsis-Kupper noted that another important topic was progressing in 2013 and was further discussed at the conference: the Early Warning Systems and toxicology testing: the technical elaboration of methodology happened in 2013; research was done in this field and as a result the base concept is identified for a unified early warning alert system for the territory of the Tisza river basin with the use of Hungarian funds, the related results were demonstrated at the macro-regional conference. Now the feasibility testing will be on-going involving an international consortium and the results will be available in 2014 and will be submitted to the SG (The SG determined the task in A2 M1 p2).

In the topic of sanitations and waste water treatment, the PA4 initiated contacts with the related waste water treatment services to establish working groups and proceeded developing project ideas. A small settlement waste water treatment optimizations system was identified as a result of the cooperation with the Budapest Technical University (BME) for the integrated solutions for wastewater treatment in small settlements and rural areas (A13M2) and results were disseminated at the conference. As a major contribution to the reduction of water use and waste water amount a source separation scheme was presented, defining descriptive categories of yellow, brown and grey water and their possible paths within a rural/agricultural household and environment. Additionally, the drinking water linkages in Budapest example were also presented (A5 M4, M5, and M6).

Financial issues were put to the agenda based on the initiation of DG ENV.

Further topics and issues were widely presented at the conference, but could not be presented in details at the SG meeting. Ms Kocsis-Kupper stated that a conference paper was also prepared, the SG members were informed to see the details at: <http://groupspaces.com/WaterQuality/pages/stakeholder>

**Ms. Kocsis-Kupper summed the conclusions of the conference as follows:**

* The conference gave significant inputs related to the PA4 (as well as PA5 and PA6) actions.
* It promoted the PA4 relevant policy processes by ensuring discussions with relevant actors, institutions, organisations.
* The conference introduced innovative solutions for future challenges to be further built in the PA4 process e.g. possible methodologies for development of monitoring system or small scale waste water treatment plants.
* The main messages of the conference were the following:
* The EUSDR provides a comprehensive cooperation platform for macro-regions;
* The Danube Region Strategy has lead the countries to wider frameworks of cooperation;
* Water is a natural resource that cannot be supplemented with anything else;
* Macro regional and inter-sectoral cooperation is crucial;
* Member States must take the Danube Strategy into account as they plan the next generation of programmes under regional policy for 2014-2020;
* Strong added value of the Danube Strategy: joint responses to common challenges;
* Commitment of the Danube basin cooperation: need for more inter-sectoral cooperation;
* Stakeholders will need to approach the PACs with project ideas;
* Science and innovation is only possible with macro-regional cooperation;
* Coordination of international warning systems is crucial;
* Water challenges in Europe and in Asia are similar;
* A constructive dialogue, identification of common interests and political willingness are necessary for development of cooperation;
* There is a need for a Comprehensive Groundwater Utilization Plan for the Danube River Basin;
* The most successful projects are cross border/regional activities, multi stakeholder approach, framework type activities, involving stakeholders and partners;
* There is close connection between DG Environment policies and the EUSDR;
* The Danube Strategy can significantly contribute to the implementation of the Blueprint policy options.

## Financing of priority elements of the EUSDR PA4 activities

As it was already stressed in the earlier chapters the Priority Area Coordinators shall among others make sure that there is an effective cooperation between project promoters, programmes and funding sources.

PA4 is one of the two priority areas where special emphasis has been taken on the process of alignment of funding. It was facilitated in the frae of the SG6 meeting to discuss on the needs of the countries related to financing as well as on the possible roles of the EUSDR PA4 to ensure financial sources to the implementation of action plan between the 2014-2020 financing period.

As a first step Ms Anna Repullo-Grau from the DG Regio introduced the State of play of the programming in the Danube countries. She also introduced the system of financing in the frame of the EC.

Follwoing the presentation of Ms Repullo Grau, Government Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy Mr Balázs Medgyesy summarised the results of the questionnaire, circulated prior to the meeting to get a feedback on the main priority issues on national level in the countries and to outline the role of PA4 in the upcoming financing process.

Ms Anna Repullo-Grau, DG Regio introduced the State of play of programming in the Danube countries (presentation see in **Annex 7**). In terms of implementation and related programming it was highlighted that both Action Plans and Roadmaps are equally relevant. It has high relevance to outline priorities – said Ms Repullo-Grau. DG REGIO Unit on Macro-regional strategies were established[[2]](#footnote-3) among other to monitor integration of macroregional startegies into the national operative programmes. The Operative Programmes will be evaluated by the EC before approving them. The Danube Transnational program is a prioritised program to support the implementation of the EUSDR, but it is crucial that the strategy is reflected in all Operative programmes. The Danube Transnational Program is practically supporting the smaller preparatory actions. Due to this the PA4 SG has an important role in the preparation of the financial programming period for 2014-2020.

The implementation of the EUSDR will be supported by the programmes of the ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds and beyond) – told Ms Repullo-Grau. She also mentioned that a "macroregional strategy" is an integrated framework endorsed by the COM which may be supported by the ESIF among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to MS and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contribution to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Ms. Repullo-Grau mentioned that on the 6th October 2011 the European Commission adopted a draft legislative package for the Cohesion Policy for the funding period 2014 - 2020. According to the draft regulations, the European Territorial Cooperation will be continued and even reinforced as separate cohesion goal. The existing strands of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation will be maintained. According to the proposal, the European Commission has proposed that the present area of the South East Europe Programme Transnational Cooperation Programme will be covered in the next programming period 2014-2020 by two transnational programmes: Danube and South East Gateway (renamed later on Adriatic-Ionian). These two new programmes will support the development and implementation of two Macro Regional Strategies: Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Regions. The Danube programme area includes Austria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria) not whole territory); Hungary; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Ukraine (not whole territory).

The geography of the new Danube programme matches exactly the territory of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region adopted in 2011. The macro-regional strategy and the transnational programme are two different instruments developed for similar aims but acting on different levels and principles. Their matching territory and goals provide great opportunities for cooperation between the two: besides contributing to the Strategy’s thematic goals by realizing relevant cooperation projects, the programme might also support the institutional cooperation of stakeholders and institutions of the Danube Strategy.

Thematic priorities of the Danube programme will be defined in line with the relevant draft EC legislation, the national priorities of Partner States, and reflect the needs of the programme area. Topics to be addressed by programme priorities may include many of traditional transnational cooperation topics, like innovation, transport, environment, etc.

As new tools the

* integrated territorial investments (funding for several OPs to follow integrated investment strategy for a functional area), the
* integrated operations (an operation financed through several EU funds);
* joint Action Plan;
* EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) were listed.

Ms Repullo-Grau also outlined what in practice for the Steering Groups of the EUSDR could mean. She stressed that SG can be used to define priorities at the macro-regional level. It is also a platform for the exchange of programming documents (good practice) or to prepare project pipeline. Ms Repullo-Grau also mentioned that it is also suggested for countries to get involved in the programming process in the relevant countries (in coordination with NCP) and to influence the preparation of PA and OPs (national, regional, and ETC) to be able to influence the priorities and project selection criteria and to be able to participate in selection processes. She welcomed the proactive action of PA4 in this regard and recommended countries to cooperate.

In 2013 several events were organised to discuss on the EUSDR future financing possibilities and about the needs of the future operational programmes, such as:

* 16-17 April Meeting between the national coordinators (NCPs) of the Strategy and the responsible for financial programming in the 14 partner countries, Bucharest,
* 29-30 April Meeting of Priority Area Coordinators, Sofia,
* 21 June A conference on the use of the future Structural Funds for the implementation of the Danube Strategy, Stuttgart,
* 28-29 October 2nd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Bucharest  and 3 rd Financing Dialogue, National Bank Romania, Bucharest.

In the frame of the 5th Steering Group meeting (5th June 2013, Slovakia), agenda items on financing the activities and project of EUSDR as well as on the involvement of SG members in the 2014-2020 programming process have already been started to be discussed. As a next step prior to the 6th Steering Group meeting, Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper circulated a questionnaire to the members of the Steering Group to collect information from the countries, EC and ICPDR related to the following main issues:

* Priority issues of water management in the Danube River Basin to be dealt with within the next programming period (PA4 relevance);
* State of play of the preparation in the countries related to the operational programmes;
* Danube Strategy integration into the planning process in the countries, role of SG members in the programming;
* Sources of funding is envisaged, operational programmes planned or established in the countries;
* Assistance needs from the PACs and from the Steering Group;
* National financing visions.

Austria, Czech Republic, Bavaria, Bulgaria, Croatia answered the questions and gave feedback, to facilitate the discussion. Government Commissioner for the Danube Region Strategy Mr Balázs Medgyesy summarised the main outcomes of the feedbacks highlighting that discussions in the frame of the 5th SG meeting was the first opportunity to program together and to discuss about the financing objectives related to EUSDR. Mr Medgyesy mentioned that based on the answers national priorities were vary in the countries. *Austria* indicated in its answers that each programme (also ETC) has been asked to consider for themselves, how synergies between the EUSDR and other needs and potentials (as also laid down by other EU-Strategies and Policy Objectives) in the area can be used most effectively. The national priorities in the *Czech Republic* related to the Danube are preparation of the 2nd Morava River Management Plan as well as the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Morava River Basin. Morava River Basin is part of the Danube River Basin. The CZ is a PAC for PA2, therefore it naturally focuses primarily on activities in the area of sustainable energy. Given the rather frequent floods, PA4, 5, 6 are also of prime importance for us.The *Bavarian* priorities related to the Danube cope with the objectives of the ICPDR and the EUSDR PA 4, 5 and 6 and are followed in an intensive exchange and harmonization with the two mentioned organisations. *Bulgaria* stressed that the national priorities are focused on major challenges of the Danube river, such as the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, through investments in environmental infrastructure to reduce the pollution of the Danube. Among others as a sample the Czech Republic experiences were mentioned where the Operational Program Environment 2014 - 2020 and other programs are in the state of preparation in accordance with EC requirements. The Czech Ministry of Environment is currently preparing the 4th programming document, including indicators and targets. The present strategy is integrated into the working version of the OP Environment 2014 - 2020, as an integral part, as well as in other relevant OPs.

The main messages of the discussion were the following:

* Discussion on financing should be arranged on high level but SG members should facilitate and define priorities at the macro-regional level in terms of technical input and priorities;
* Gaps identified by the reporting processes linked to the RBM by DG ENV or ICPDR or other related partners (felülvizsgálati procedúrák, amiket érdemes becsatornázni)
* ICPDR reports (RBMPs and SWMIs) should be checked to list priority issues;
* CZ stategic embedding approach could serve as a sample for financing; Ms. Kocsis-Kupper asked for the agreement of the Czech Steering Group members to disclose their replies to the questionnare as good example.
* PACs should also help facilitate the includions of priority issues into financing procedure having direct contact with the European Commission, but still it is part of the job of the SG members and the Commision according to the priotities set up by various partners.

It is also important that it is a practical job and it was stressed that the countries should identify relevant elements of financing mix and to find the common priority interventions. Mr Balázs Medgyesy mentioned that cooperation with the ICPDR and of the NCPs is crucial.

It was also highlighted that at this moment it is not fixed how the Letter of Recommendations and Danube Strategy Transnational program will be linked. In the frame of the Zagreb Task Force meeting, the programming was discussed. The EC highlighted that the countries are the member of the task force.

However programming is not a project based procedure the information (and related brochure) circulated by the Sava Commission is a good sample on harmonising common fields of activities in terms of programming and both the cooperation within the sub-basin and ongoing projects gave significant input to the programming process of the operative programmes.

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 7: Based on the countries input a document will be prepared on the programming. All SG members (who has not sent yet the answers) are kindly asked to send their feedback by mid of January 2014. The document should also suggest procedure to be followed during the last part of the programming period to ensure that the main objectives and actions of PA4 are properly represented in the next programming period.*
* *Task 8: The Sava Commission can serve as a sample when developing the programming document and it was kindly requested from the Sava Commission to introduce steps which were taken. Sample from the Checz Republic can be also included.*

Review of progress and state of tasks drawn up in roadmaps

To get an overview on the status of the implementation of the Roadmap of PA4, which was final agreed in the first half of 2013 by the SG members, Ms Andrea Vranovska introduced the roadmap step-by step, highlighting the main results, outcomes related to the specific actions (see **Annex 6**).

The Roadmap had been discussed already in the frame of the former SG meetings between 2011-2013. The current version of the roadmap is based on the agreement achieved in the last three years period. In line with the outcomes of the discussion the countries took note in the frame of the SG 6 meeting that further specification and clarification regarding the implementation of the given actions, projects might needed. Deadlines should be updated, where needed. (Roadmap, presented in the frame of the meeting attached in **Annex 6**).

Representative of the Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCP) circulated a handout to the participants of the SG meeting. It was agreed that in the frame of the next SG meeting an overview presentation would be given about the BDCP role and and main activities.

Related to A5M4 and A5 M6 (*milestones related to the survey on the situation on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements and implementation of pilot projects and promotins of site – specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE* settlementsit was noted that countries should think through about possible steps towards fulfilling this actions.

Hungary mentioned that milestone 2 work 3 (*Preparation of a financial plan for the implementation programme on update for the UWWT*) should be harmonised, in time, with Milestone 1 Step 2 ( *Revision and update of the ICPDR database on UWWTPs*).

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 9:* The countries took note in the frame of the SG 6 meeting that further specification of the Roadmap in respect of the status of the implementation of the actions are needed. SG members are asked to send their notes regarding this point with detailed clarification on the changes. (Roadmap, presented in the frame of the meeting see in **Annex 6)** *.*

New projects and any other issues

In the frame of the agenda item information was shared about the Technical Assistance Facility, which supports the development of project ideas. The Liberty Island project requested a PA4 label (and a Letter of Merit), and information about the project was prsented. An other ongoing initiative, the Danube Water Programme has also been mentioned as relevant programme to be introduced.

## Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects

In order to give momentum to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) for the programming period 2014-2020 and to support the preparation of projects with a clear EUSDR added-value, the European Commission has decided to establish a Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (hereafter called “TAF-DRP” or “Facility”).

The City of Vienna, in charge of the coordination of Priority Area 10 (PA 10) “To step up institutional capacity and cooperation” of the EUSDR as well as of the TAF-DRP, has entrusted the implementation of the TAF-DRP to the PA 10 Coordination office. PAC 10 Vienna is acting as “Managing Authority (MA)” for the purpose of this Facility.

The Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP) is an EU grant scheme to develop project ideas relevant to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, into **“bankable/fundable” project concepts.** Bankable/fundable projects are mature enough to either apply for funding from donors (private, public) and/or to EU programmes, and/or to start implementation with own resources. The Facility supports up to 40 selected project ideas to set up a clear pathway towards project implementation, through the provision of consultant services.

Consultant services are provided free of charge to selected project Applicants, up to a value of € 25,000 and for a duration of maximum 6 months.

Selected project ideas should be realistic and feasible, of public interest, show a clear macro-regional dimension and contribute to the objectives of the EUSDR (the project ideas should refer to one of the 11 Priority Areas of the EUSDR). The applicant is expected to show high commitment towards project implementation.  Support will be prioritised for project ideas where the TAF-DRP is expected to change the status quo towards project bankability/fundability.  
Relevant project applications will be pre-selected in each of the 11 Priority Areas. These applications will then be submitted by Priority Area Coordinators to the Managing Authority. The deadline for the first call was 10 September 2013.[[3]](#footnote-4)

The first call for project ideas was open between 24 May and 10 September 2013. On 22.10.2013, the results of the first call were communicated to project applicants:  
13 out of 21 applications were selected for this first call, stemming from 9 countries of the EUSDR, and covering almost all thematic Priority Areas of the Strategy.

Ms Andrea Vranovska introduced a PA10 relevant activity (TAF-DRP) to ensure financial possibility to develop project proposals. On the 3rd December 2013 a Review meeting was organised in Vienna about the first call of the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects.

The next call will be launced in January 2014 to support 30 days of consultancy work. It was also noted that there is a chance that a 3rd call will be opened but what is sure, that in January there would be a possibility which should be used. It was also highlighted that the meeting from where the information was gained was organised just prior to the SG6 and this was the reason why the PACs did not send details on the outcomes before the SG6.

It was agreed that PACs would inform the countries (SG members and observers) about the call and would create a list of projects to be submitted to the call. Countries will send their proposals and PA4 PACs will follow-up on the procedure to further submit the project ideas. Additional information would be asked from PA10 about TAF-DRP and will be shared with the SG members as soon as they are available (information about the call and template to be filled in).

## Liberty Island project - WWF

Diana Heilmann, on request of **WWF-HU**, introduced the Liberty Island project. The project management sent their request to get an EUSDR label and asked PA4 to issue a Letter of Merit (LoM). (Presentation about the project see **Annex 8**).

As the conclusion of the question of the ICPDR and Austria whether criterias for the Letter of Merit is exist, it was noted by some countries that criterias have already been developed for projects, which already been financed. For this specific project the SG members were waived the criteria system and in case no objections arrive in the coming two weeks the LoM could be developed. It was agreed that PAC will check whether criteria system for the approval of Letter of Merits exists and will circulate it to the SG members in case it is available (Note: the document on the’ *Description of project labelling procedure under PA4 and Pillar B*’ has been approved in the frame of the 4th Steering Group meeting, also including criteria system for projects already financed. Document is attached in **Annex 9**).

## Danube Water Programme

Ms.Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that Mr.Philiph Weller, project manager of the Danube Water Programme contacted the PA4 and provided information about the Danube Water Programme. A related leaflet introducing the programme and contact details was also distributed to the SG members during the meeting (More information is available on http://www.danube-water-program.org/. )

**Related Tasks:**

* *Task 10: Information will be circulated about PA10 TA 2nd call as soon as it is available. Countries are requested to issue project ideas to the deadline set by the PAC when ciculating the information. The format which should be filled in would be also attached to the information*
* *Task 11: LoM for the Liberty Island project can be issued following two weeks silence procedure, in case no objectsions from the SG members arrives.*

Annexes

**Annex 1**: List of Participants

**Annex 2**: List of SG members, observers relevant for PA4 (table to be updated)

**Annex 3**: State of Play presentation – Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper presentation

**Annex 4**: Resolutions of the ICPDR related to EUSDR activties (OM16,10-11 December 2013, Vienna)

**Annex 5**: Outcomes of the Macro-regional Conference (10-11 September 2013) - Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper presentation

**Annex 6**: Roadmap – presented by Andrea Vranovska, SK PAC Assistant

**Annex 7:** State of play of programming – Anna Repullo-Grau

**Annex 8**: Liberty Island appliction for LoM - WWF-HU

**Annex 9:** Description of project labelling procedure under PA4 and Pillar B

1. - COM(2010) 715 - 08/12/2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. DG Regional and Urban Policy Unit: D1 Competence Centre; Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation; Transnational and Interregional Cooperation [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu/pages/technical\_assistance\_facility-drp [↑](#footnote-ref-4)