EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 4
Online, 09.06.2021

DSP Update, 06/2021

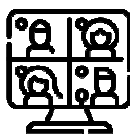# Update of the Activities & the way forward in 2021

Activities 2021

    a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR PRES

    b. Embedding process

    c. Monitoring & Evaluation

    d. Communication

    e. Capacity Building

    f. What's next?

a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR Presidency

Online Meetings

DSP supported the **EUSDR SK PCY** in organising an online NC meeting (01/2021), NC-PAC meeting (03/2021) and PAC informal consultation on EUSDR roadmaps (03/2021).
PACs were supported by DSP in organising their online SG meetings (11&12/2020) as well stakeholder meetings and/or WG meetings (upon request).
DSP technically supported the organisation of **EuroAccess** webinars for the funding tool

Documents

The **Needs Assessment** for closer cooperation in SGs to enhance the participation of the different stakeholder groups of the EUSDR participating states was published in 02/2021. The **EUSDR Implementation Report 2019** on EUSDR activities and key priorities was published in 12/2020.
→ www.danube-region.eu

Streamlined communication

DSP is the coordinating and connecting structure between countries & key implementers of the EUSDR acting as a **communication hub**. DSP supported the **EUSDR SK PCY** in preparing the further Embedding process and Discussion Paper .

MRS support

DSP provides on a regular basis **information about MRS** (NC/PAC and NC-PAC meetings) and participated with the **EUSDR SK PCY** in the 4th meeting of the **MRS TRIO PCY** (03/2021). The DSP actively supported the 2nd **EU MRS WEEK** organised by the EC (03/2021) e.g. in the Cross embedding NDICI workshop.
In addition DSP is member of the **INTERACT Working Group** (and its sub-WGs) including the regular exchange with other MRS in regards of the embedding process.

a. SUPPORT FOR PACS, NCS & EUSDR PCY

- **Needs Assessment on the engagement in Steering Groups (SGs)**

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
Needs Assessment on the engagement in
Steering Groups (SGs)

The Needs Assessment has been published on the EUSDR website and can be downloaded from there:

https://danube-region.eu/about/key-documents/

b. EMBEDDING PROCESS

- **Summary**

01/2020

EUSDR TASK FORCE

formed for embedding the EUSDR into EU Programmes (EMB-DR); suppor for strategic planning and programming of the ESI/IPA III/ NDICI funds in 4 meetings held so far

05/2020

SHORTLIST STRATEGIC TOPICS

three strategic topics per Priority Area (PA) to be included in the relevant national/regional operational programmes was generated and endorsed in 10/2020.

01/2021

MA NETWORKS

- ESF MA Network since 2015
- ERDF/CF MA Network est. 01/2021
- IPA/NDICI programming authorities network est. 04/2021

03/2020

EUSDR EMBEDDING TOOL

elaborated as rolling document based on a screening of available funding instruments. In this matrix, for each action and strategic topic possible funding instruments are suggested.

11/2020

MA LEAFLET

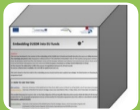Embedding a nutshell provided to MAs in the Danube Reingion incl. embedding formats.

b. EMBEDDING PROCESS

- **Recap: tools elaborated**

The Guidance Paper for Embedding of the EUSDR
- comprehensive instructions for the EUSDR Embedding process including a table filled in by Priority Areas to provide up to three strategic topics (per PA) and detailed description of each strategic topic (shortlist)

The EUSDR Embedding Tool (Annex 1a)
- Actions of the EUSDR AP and of the shortlisted strategic topics, which have been in each case allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds as well as to the Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019 and 2020

Sources for content of funding instruments (Annex 1b)
- a compilation of funding instrument sources to support PACs in their selection of strategic topics and NCs in approaching the MAs.

MA Leaflet to embed the EUSDR into EU programmes 2021 – 2027
- the how, the why, the what summary of EUSDR embedding for representatives of managing/programming authorities, NCs, PACs and other stakeholders working on embedding into EU programmes

EUSDR EMBEDDING – FROM WORDS TO ACTION! Discussion Paper
- discussion paper on further potential tools and processes for embedding initiated under the SK EUSDR PRESIDENCY

For EUSDR embedding process and the EUSDR tools elaborated, please visit:

https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/

b. EMBEDDING PROCESS

- **Where do we stand? What's next?**

SCREENING

Feedback received by NCs after screening the suggested strategic topics for their feasibility and suitability with regards to embedding on the national level in consultation with their programming/ managing authorities

EU BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE
#EUBudget

European Commission

© European Commission

NEXT STEPS

SHORTLIST

Preparation of 3 strategic topics (per PA) and detailed description of each strategic topic (shortlist).

- Further prioritisation of the shortlisted topics
- EUSDR EMBEDDING – FROM WORDS TO ACTION! Discussion Paper on further potential tools and processes for embedding initiated under the SK EUSDR PRESIDENCY
- Work within the MA & programming authorities networks (ERDF/CF & IPA/NDICI)

c. MONITORING & EVALUATION

- **Monitoring of the Embedding process**

Aim: to depict the EMB outcomes and how EU funds contribute to the development and implementation of the EUSDR – on two levels
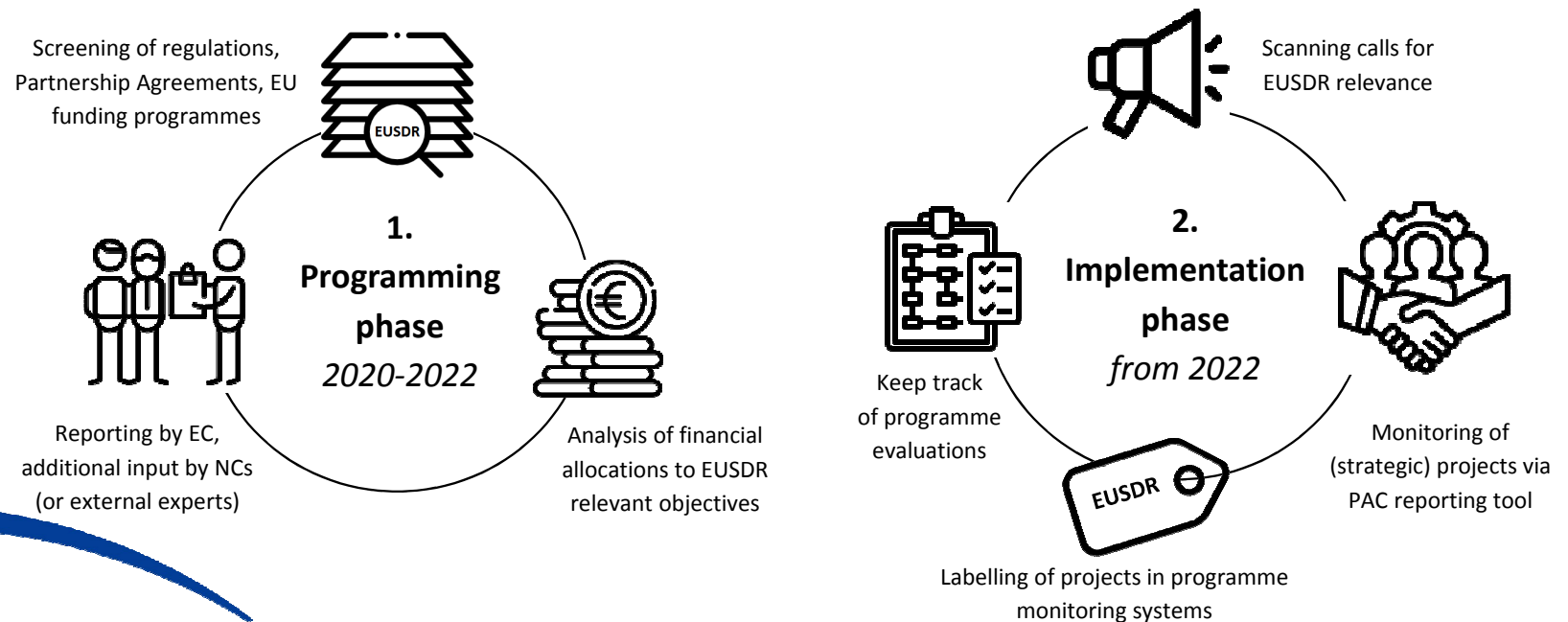

Screening of regulations, Partnership Agreements, EU funding programmes

1. Programming phase 2020-2022

Reporting by EC, additional input by NCs (or external experts)

Analysis of financial allocations to EUSDR relevant objectives

Scanning calls for EUSDR relevance

2. Implementation phase from 2022

Keep track of programme evaluations

Monitoring of (strategic) projects via PAC reporting tool

Labelling of projects in programme monitoring systems

Image by the Danube Strategy Point, Source of icons: Flaticon.com

c. MONITORING & EVALUATION

- **EUSDR Monitoring Tool**

→ **one comprehensive Monitoring**
→ **no double reporting**
→ **strategic decision making support tool for NCs**

To be implemented as an online tool from 2022 (once in 2 years)

Reporting Period		Released in	Reference
2019	(1 year)	2020	"Old" Action Plan, PAC Reporting unchanged (EC, DTP reporting)
2020–2021	(2 years)	2022	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2022–2023	(2 years)	2024	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2024–2025	(2 years)	2026	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
…			

c. MONITORING & EVALUATION

- **Policy/Impact Evaluation**

- According to the *Evaluation Plan* and following the *Operational Evaluation* from 2019, a **Policy/Impact Evaluation will be conducted in 2021**

- To define the content and focus of the evaluation, a **SG DANUVAL meeting** took place in April 2021 (EUSDR Evaluation Plan and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the selection of a service provider were requested for feedback)
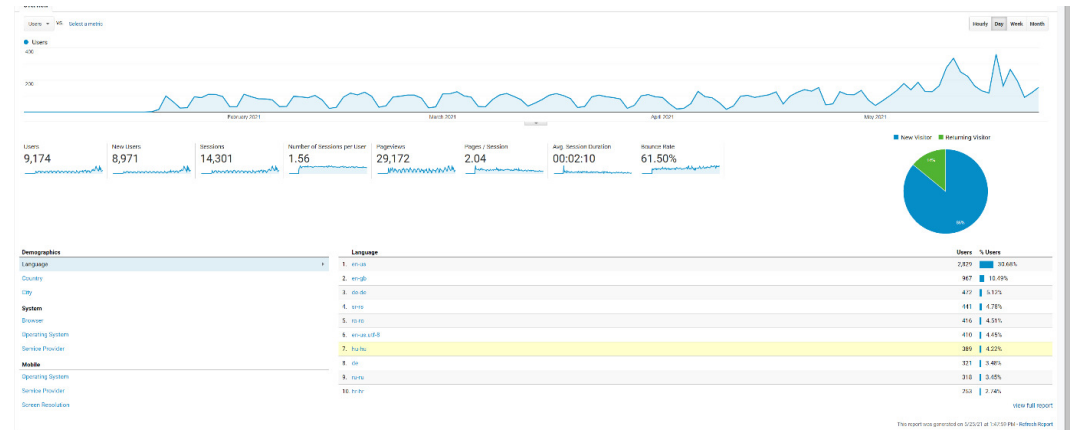
d. COMMUNICATION

- **EUSDR website**

- **www.danube-region.eu**

- Constantly updated with newest & most relevant information for the EUSDR target groups

- **Users:** 8.971 new users from Jan 2021 to May 2021

- **Average session duration**: 2:10 min (people who landed on EUSDR webpage spent about 2 minutes for reading)

- **NEW:** Documents on the EUSDR Communication Strategy and Visual Identity

d. COMMUNICATION
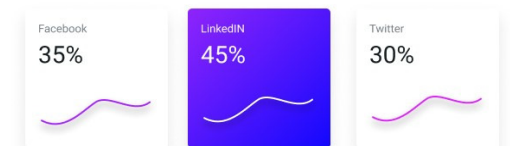
- **EUSDR social media platforms**

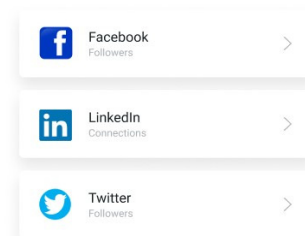**#EUSDR -** 7099 followers

/danube-region-strategy

2.258 connections

@EUSDR – 1.213 followers

d. Communication

NEW

• The EUSDR app

A smart app for the EUSDR promotion on mobile devices,
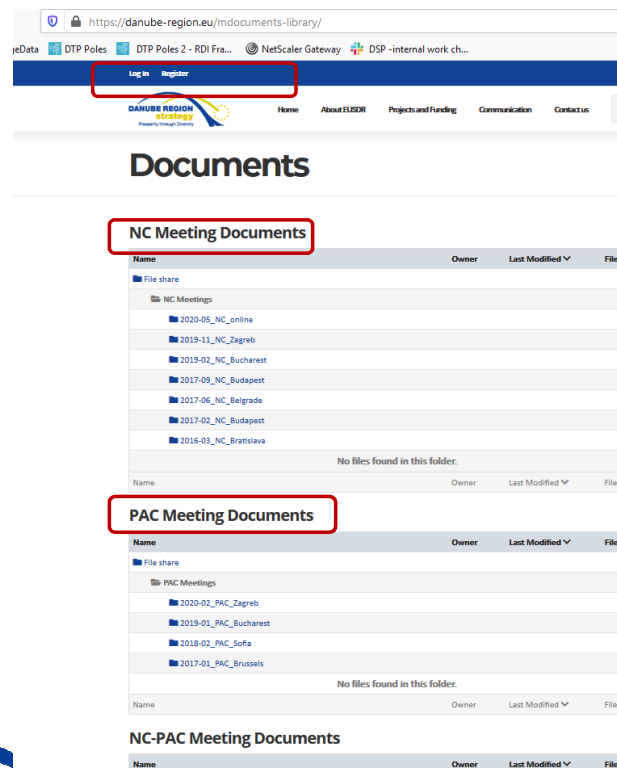available both for Android and iOS systems, providing the following:

- Search function
- User feedback
- Contacts of core stakeholders
- FAQ section
- Animated sections for interactivity
- Push-up notifications for news / newsletters published on the EUSDR webpage
- Connected to the webpage, the smart app takes over events calendar, news, publications etc.
- Entertainment section: tourist advice gastronomy, personalities in the Danube region, cultural routes etc.
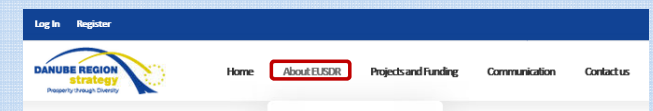
d. Communication

- **EUSDR Intranet**

https://danube-region.eu/mdocuments-library/

- For access to meeting minutes and presentations
- Login credentials will be sent to all NCs and PACs listed in the EUSDR mailing list, DG REGIO and DTP on Wednesday, 15/03/2021
- Login via: **https://danube-region.eu/my-account/**

  Then select „**About EUSDR – EUSDR Intranet**"

- Should you lose your login credentials, please contact office@eusdr-dsp.eu to reset your password
- In case you would like such a section for your SG on your PA site, please contact office@eusdr-dsp.eu

d. Communication

EUSDR 10 years celebration

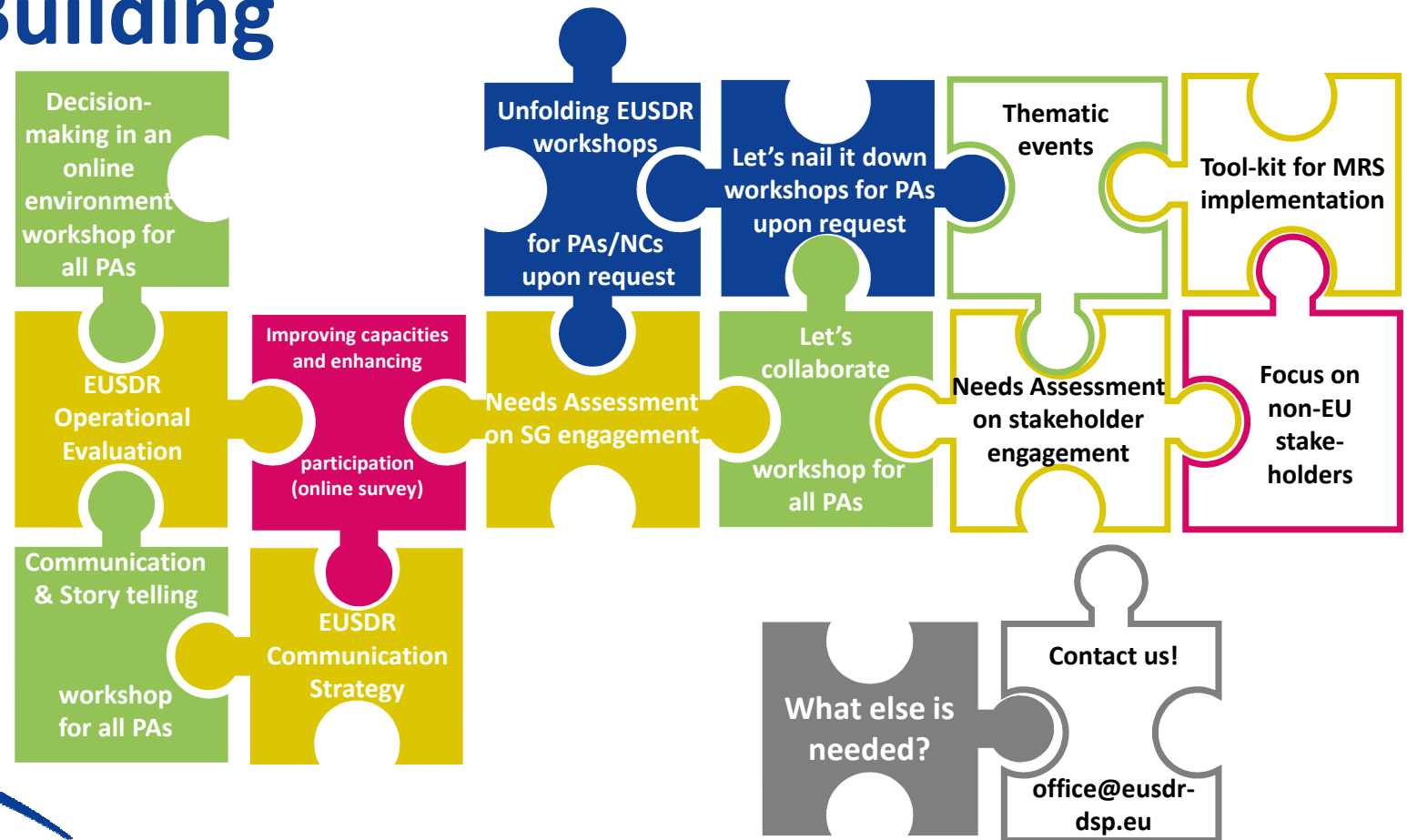#EUSDR10

e. Capacity Building

- **Process**

Publications

Events for EUSDR key stakeholders

Events for EUSDR key stekhodlers upon request

Decision-making in an online environment workshop for all PAs

EUSDR Operational Evaluation

Improving capacities and enhancing participation (online survey)

Communication & Story telling workshop for all PAs

EUSDR Communication Strategy

Unfolding EUSDR workshops for PAs/NCs upon request

Let's nail it down workshops for PAs upon request

Needs Assessment on SG engagement

Let's collaborate workshop for all PAs

Thematic events

Tool-kit for MRS implementation

Needs Assessment on stakeholder engagement

Focus on non-EU stake-holders

What else is needed?

Contact us!

office@eusdr-dsp.eu

f. What's next?

- **Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency**

Ukraine to be the first non-EU member state to chair EU Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR) in 2022

On February 17th, 2021, under the Slovak Presidency of the EUSDR and the unanimous decision of the EUSDR states towards the approval of Ukraine's chairing the EUSDR, Ukraine will hold the EUSDR Presidency from November 2022.

The Danube Region, like other EU macro-regions, faces challenges beyond borders – pollution, climate change, unemployment or lack of connectivity – that affect the lives of over 115 million people. To this end, the countries in the Danube basin came together and established the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), identifying common needs, challenges

Ukraine will hold the EUSDR Presidency from November 2021 to November 2022

- approval of Ukraine's chairing the EUSDR Presidency on February 17th, 2021, under the Slovak Presidency of the EUSDR and the unanimous decision of the EUSDR participating states
- Oleksiy Chernyshov, Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine:

"Presiding over the Danube Strategy is a great responsibility for Ukraine and an opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries in the region. Each joint platform with the EU speeds up Ukraine's European integration path, especially when it comes to co-operation within one of the largest regions in Central Europe".

f. What's next?

- **EUSDR Strategic Projects/Processes *OR* EUSDR Flagships…**
  - Provide a **practical tool** for stakeholders and particularly the EUSDR participating states, to explicitly foster projects and processes with a strategic character;
  - Produce regional, national and international/transnational **visibility** for the EUSDR and its actions and targets while creating awareness among the general public and the EUSDR stakeholders;
  - Highlight the **progress achieved** in implementing the EUSDR and thus strengthening the internal and external **communication**;

f. What's next?

- **EUSDR Strategic Projects/Processes *OR* EUSDR Flagships...**
  - **Strengthen a sector or branch**, or generating value chains or model solutions to important common challenges faced within the Danube Region;
  - Contribute to strong and clear **strategic focus** of the activities and efforts undertaken within the EUSDR Priority Areas as well as highlighting the ambition and direction a PA has in a certain policy area;
  - Support and further encouraging **cooperation** among EUSDR participating states and/or regions;
  - Strengthen the ground to further **embed** the EUSDR strategic topics – jointly agreed by all participating countries of the EUSDR – **into EU funding programmes** 2021-2027 and beyond;
  - **Promote the EUSDR** and – through the implementation of strategic projects and processes – the idea of transnational cooperation and **cohesion policy** in Europe and the Danube region.

f. What's next?

- **EUSDR Strategic Projects/Processes – proposed scope and criteria**
    - Can be projects (single or grouped in clusters), processes, networks, platforms etc.
    - Can be planning/preparatory phase, in implementation/ongoing phase or completed

f. What's next?

- **EUSDR Strategic Projects/Processes – proposed criteria**

  a) **Connection to the EUSDR**: Deliver on or contribute to one or more targets and Actions described in the EUSDR Action Plan.

  b) **Macro-regional dimension**: Involve at least three EUSDR participating states (or at least two participating states and a neighbouring country) and have a high macro-regional impact (effect) in at least three participating states from the Danube Region.

  c) **Multi-level governance approach**: Involve different actors (e.g. policy makers, policy implementers, research institutions, civil society etc.) and/or several levels (supranational, national, regional, local) in the development/consultation and/or implementation process.

f. What's next?

- **EUSDR Strategic Projects/Processes – proposed course of action**

Guidance paper for identifying and listing EUSDR strategic projects/processes
- Guidance paper – including definition, purpose and criteria for EUSDR strategic projects/ processes – drafted by the DSP in consultation with the PAs, endorsed by the NCs

Identification of EUSDR strategic projects/processes
- Selection of strategic projects and/or processes by PAs
- Submission of the EUSDR strategic project/process template by the PACs to the DSP
- Support and collection of templates from all PAs by the DSP

Labelling completed
- List of EUSDR strategic projects and processes on the EUSDR website, regularly updated and maintained by the DSP
- 'Certificate' for each EUSDR strategic project/process provided by the DSP
- Distribution of EUSDR strategic projects and processes among NCs and other EUSDR stakeholders by the DSP

Communication measures for more visibility
- Promotion of EUSDR strategic projects and processes by the DSP through website, social media, publications and/or other communication tools
- Potential promotion on national and transnational level by EUSDR stakeholders

Source of icons: Flaticon.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?
Do not hesitate to contact us:
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