

## European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

### Priority Area 4 „Water Quality“ Activities between 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> SG Meeting

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21<sup>st</sup> PA4 SG Online Meeting  
09 June 2021, Bratislava, Slovakia

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

## Online events since the last SG meeting with PA4 participation in 2020:

- PA5 SG – 19 November 2020
- 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of COP Carpathian Convention online – 25 November 2020
- LIFE for Danube Sturgeons project virtual study visit – 25 November 2020
- Informal PAC/NC meeting – 27 November 2020
- Bo-Derec Project meeting – 1 December 2020
- PA6 SG meeting – 9-10 December 2020
- ICPDR Ordinary meeting – 15-16 December 2020
- OECD Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems – 15 December 2020
- European Green Deal online meeting – 17 December 2020

# PA4 - Events 2021

09 June 2021, Bratislava

## Online events since the last SG meeting with PA4 participation in 2021:

- EuroAccess Macro Region online tool webinar – 12 January 2021
- PAC workshop on successful EUSDR implementation - 19 January 2021
- Online workshop on rural wastewater management by ICPDR – 19/20 January 2021
- Climate online seminar on Norwegian Funds calls – 26 January 2021
- Interact online workshop on macro-regional cooperation – 12 February 2021
- PlasticFreeDanube project final conference – 23 February 2021
- NC/PAC meeting – 2 March 2021
- Trilateral meeting – 4 March 2021
- MRS week – 1-5 March 2021
- PAC informal consultations about Roadmaps – 30 March 2021
- Internal meeting of Pillar 2 on climate change actions/events – 14 April 2021
- ICPDR PM EG + NTG meeting – 15-16 April 2021
- ICPDR PP EG meeting – 21-22 April 2021
- ICPDR RBM EG meeting – 28 -29 April 2021
- MEASURES workshop – 10-11 May 2021
- DSTF General Assembly – 12 May 2021
- DSP workshop on stakeholders management – 26 May 2021

## PA4 planned events:

- **Sewage sludge workshop** – 10 June 2021
- ***Climate Change Adaptation Conference*** – 27 September 2021 Bratislava
- ***Pharmaceuticals Conference*** – autumn 2021 Bratislava
- **PA4 22 SG meeting** – autumn 2021, Budapest (tentative date: 19-20 October)
- **Trilateral meeting** – autumn 2021, Budapest (tentative dates: 9 or 14 September)
- ***EUSDR Annual Forum*** – 26-27 October 2021 Bratislava – hybrid version
- **Funding workshop** – autumn 2021
- **Planet 2021 Sustainability Expo** – 29 November – 5 December 2021, Budapest  
(<https://planetbudapest.hu/en>)

- EUSDR SK Presidency event (organized together with PA4 and MoE SR):
  - *Climate Change Adaptation Conference (27 September 2021, Bratislava)*
- Water retention in urban areas in the Danube Region
  - *Deliverable: Leaflet on water retention in urban areas and best practice examples in the Danube Region (DT1.1.6, 2021)*
- Fish migration
  - Deliverable: Leaflet - Promote measures to enable fish migration in the Danube River Basin (D.T1.1.8, 2021)
  - *Deliverable: Working meeting on migratory fish (DT1.1.7, 2020); PA4-ICPDR – postponed to 2022*
- Resource efficiency
  - Deliverable: Leaflet - Resource efficiency, effective water consumption and drinking water quality from source to tap (D.T1.1.10, 2022) – *planned to be finished in 2021*

- Hazardous and emerging substances in the Danube Region
  - *Deliverable: International workshop as platform for knowledge and best practice sharing related to pharmaceuticals in the Danube Region (DT1.1.3, 2021)*
- Waste water
  - Deliverable: Workshop on sewage sludge management in the Danube Region (DT1.1.1, 2021)
- Cooperation and Coordination of the PA
  - Deliverable: Funding workshop (D.T2.1.1, 2021) and Funding brochure (D.T2.1.2, 2021) to be organised in autumn 2021
  - Deliverable : Development of an educational tool (cards or short publication) (D.T2.2.3, 2021)
  - Deliverable: Development of a study as background document for pilot e-learning material (D.T2.2.3, 2021)
- Leaflets and publications: short movie on PA4 results

## Workshop on Sewage Sludge Management in the Danube Region for a Greener EU

- **10 June 2021, online**
- **Partner Event of the EU Green Week**
- Cooperation with ICPDR, World Bank and Sava Commission
- Linked to the ongoing **review of the EU Sewage Sludge Directive**
- **Builds on the EUSDR PA4 preparatory study** on sewage sludge management in the Danube Region
- **Goal of the workshop:** improve knowledge about sludge management in the Danube Region, discuss policy option for future sludge management with the European Commission in light of the EU Green Deal, share good technological practices.
- **Target groups:** national sewage sludge experts and interested stakeholders in the Danube Region and in Europe, policy makers, water and sludge managers and thematic coordinators



# WORKSHOP ON SEWAGE SLUDGE MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION FOR A GREENER EU

10 June 2021, online ([REGISTER HERE](#))  
EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

## 10:00 SESSION I: WELCOME NOTES

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper (EUSDR PA4)

Balázs Horváth, Priority Area Coordinator, EU Strategy for the Danube Region PA4 "Water Quality"

Stjepan Gabric, Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank

Ádám Kovács, Technical Expert-Pollution Control, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Dragan Zeljko, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission

## 10:15 SESSION II: SETTING THE SCENE

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper (EUSDR PA4)

**Keynote speech:** Revision of the Sewage Sludge Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive – Sylvie Grajales and Nele-Frederike Rosenstock, European Commission DG Environment

### Presentation block

Wastewater management in the Danube River Basin – Ádám Kovács, ICPDR

Preparatory study on sewage sludge management in the Danube Region – Attila Fürstand, Trenecan Ltd.

### Q/A block based on chat messages

## 11:15 SESSION III: POLICY

Moderators: Ádám Kovács (ICPDR) & Balázs Horváth (EUSDR PA4)

### Presentation block

Legislation and experience in Germany – Andrea Roskosch, German Environment Agency

Legislation and experience in Slovakia – Veronika Gregusova, Water Research Institute

Legislation and experience in Romania – Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Waters & Forests

Legislation and experience in Sweden – Agneta Thor Leander, VA SYD Water & Wastewater Regional Association

### Roundtable discussion block

Slovenia – Iztok Rozman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia – Chamber of Public Utilities

Romania – Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Waters & Forests

European Union – Sylvie Grajales, DG Environment

World Bank – Stjepan Gabric

## 13:00 LUNCH BREAK

## 14:00 SESSION IV: TECHNOLOGY & BEST PRACTICES

Moderator: Stjepan Gabric (WB) & Samo Groselj (ISRBC)

### Presentation block

Mitigation of hazardous substances in sewage sludge – Hans Peter Arp, Sludgeffect project

WALUE: Waste to Value for small/medium WWTPs – András Deli, UTB Envirotech

Wastewater sludge use in agriculture in Ireland – Aoife Kyne, Irish Water

Nutrient recovery from sludge in Austria – Lukas Egle, City of Vienna

Sludge biomethanization in Spain – Jose F. Cabeza, LIFE NEWEST project

### Q/A block based on chat messages

## 15:45 SESSION V: WRAP-UP & RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy wrap-up: Ádám Kovács (ICPDR) & Balázs Horváth (EUSDR PA4)

Technology & best practices wrap-up: Stjepan Gabric (DWP) & Samo Groselj (ISRBC)

## 16:00 CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP



## Climate Change Adaptation: Challenges and Opportunities in Water Management

- **Date** – 27 September 2021
- **Venue** – Bôrik Hotel, Bratislava
- **Goal of the conference** - contribute to series of discussions among policy and decision makers on what works and what methods are applicable, affordable and feasible in individual situations
- **Main focus** - sharing experience and best practices in climate change adaptation emphasizing (green) water retention measures and contributing to better water quality in the Danube Region
- **Target groups** - policy and decision makers at government bodies of Danube Region countries, international water related bodies, think tanks entities, NGOs, academic and research sector, land users, water service providers
- **New Water Policy in Slovakia** - underlines water retention in landscape and the conference is also linked with it

## Pharmaceuticals conference

- **Pharmaceutical Strategy EU** was approved at the end of 2020  
[https://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/strategy_en)
- **Previous steps** - In 2019 PA 4 SK facilitated elaboration of the study related to "Occurrence of Pharmaceuticals in the Waters of the Danube Region" in cooperation with the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of the Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava.
- **Date** – late autumn 2021
- **Venue** – Bratislava (or online???) tbc.
- **Goal of the conference** - contribute to visualization of the importance of this international problem and create the space for national and EU legislation experts in this field. Appropriate legislation update could contribute to solution how to decrease the concentrations of these chemical substances in water and this way to improve human health. Baltic Strategy - great inspiration for Danube countries to learn from their experience and practice.
- **Target groups** - policy and decision makers at government bodies of Danube Region countries, international water related bodies, think-tank entities, NGOs, academic and research sector (universities and research centres), pharma-companies

- **Water retention in urban areas in the Danube Region**
  - **Deliverable: *Study on facts, activities, measures and their financial assessment (DT1.1.5, 2020)*** <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/water-retention-in-urban-areas-in-the-danube-region/>
  
- **Waste water**
  - **Deliverable: *Preparatory study on sewage sludge management in the Danube Region (DT1.1.1, 2020)*** <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/preparatory-study-on-sewage-sludge-management-in-the-danube-region/>

## Water retention in urban areas in the Danube Region

*Study on facts, activities, measures and their financial assessment*

- **Focus** - on urban areas in the Danube Region
- **Objective** - to offer an overview about current status of knowledge about water retention and its management in urbanized areas of the Danube Region
- **Description:**
  - **current state of knowledge** on water capture and management of captured water in urbanized areas of the Danube Region in the conditions of ongoing climate change
  - **overview of legislative regulations** related to water capture and management in urban areas of the Danube Region;
  - **examples of best practices (AT, DE)** in water capturing and management of captured water in urbanized areas of the Danube region
  - **conclusions and recommendations** for improving the current situation
    - 1. proposal of effective and rational measures to improve the situation and well as their financial evaluation;
    - 2. proposal of effective and rational measures to improve the situation - technical solution;
    - 3. methods of terrain rainwater management including examples, cuts and construction solutions;
    - 4. rainwater retention from roads, examples, construction solutions;
    - 5. recommendations of aspects to be considered for capturing and utilizing water in urban areas in potential new project, which would be financed within the available EU financial mechanism.

**Kind request to SG members** – by the end of 2021 PA4 is going to produce a leaflet on water retention in urban areas – **we kindly ask SG members to provide us with practical examples from their countries.**

# Supported projects

09 June 2021, Bratislava

➤ *Finalized:*

- **1st DTP call:** JOINTISZA (LoR), DanubeSediment (LoR), DriDanube, Camaro-D
- **CBC AT-SK:** PlasticFreeDanube

➤ *Under implementation:*

- **2nd DTP call:** SIMONA (LoR; sediment quality), Danube Floodplain, MEASURES (migratory species),
- **3rd DTP call:** Danube Hazard m3c (LoR), IDES (ecosystem services and water quality), Tid(y)Up (LoR; microplastics), lifelineMDD (Mura-Drava-Danube ecological corridor), SaveGreen (transnational ecological corridors)
- **3rd INTERREG Central Europe call:** DEEPWATER-CE (Managed Aquifer Recharge), boDEREc-CE (pharmaceuticals)

- **HORIZON2020:** OPTAIN (LoR; Retain and reuse water and nutrients in small agricultural catchments)
- **HUSKROUA:** REVITAL I. (LoR)
- **CBC AT-HU:** AquaPinka (LoR)

➤ **Clean Danube** – activities postponed to 2021

➤ **LoRs:** Carpwet (Carpathian Wetlands Inventory), Innopack (climate resilient innovation packages), LIFE LOGOS 4 WATERS (local water retention measures), Tuzla (complex water management solutions)

➤ *Capitalization – DTP + other financial mechanisms projects*

*DSP plans:*

- *digital interactive brochure*
- *also a printed version of 2,000 copies*
- *dedicated to the main achievements in 10 years of EUSDR implementation*
- *PAs were supposed to deliver 2 main successes*

**PA 4 Main Successes:**

**1. Water quality protection – pollution from agricultural production and priority substances in water**

- brochure on *Effective reduction of diffuse water pollution by nutrients from agricultural land* issued in 2016
- workshop "*Trust-building between Water and Agriculture Sectors in the Danube Region*" on 4 October 2016 in Bratislava
- workshop "*Water and Agriculture*" on 24 October 2016 organized by the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava
- workshop "*Water – non-alternative source for life*" at the Annual Forum 2016 organized by SK PCY
- "*International Workshop on Water and Agriculture in the Danube River Basin*" on 6-7 November 2019 co-organized by PA4 and ICPDR in Budapest
- The study related to "*Occurrence of Pharmaceuticals in the Waters of the Danube Region*" was finished at the end of 2019.
- cooperation *among all macro-regional strategies*
- Danube Hazard m3c project

**2. Water quality protection – boosting sub-basin cooperation with the involvement of non-EU countries, public and all relevant stakeholders**

- JOINTISZA project and related activities
- publication *Plastic pollution of rivers in the Danube Region – Best practices towards reduction of plastic pollution* in 2019
- REVITAL I project

Thank you for your attention 😊