

GWP Central and Eastern Europe Activities

Alžbeta Socháňová, GWP CEE

EUSDR Priority Area 4 - Water Quality
29th Steering Group Meeting

3-4 June 2025, Bratislava

With 2025 GWP embarks on its Water Investment Transformation Agenda

- ✓ **Scale up investment in climate-resilient water security mobilising USD 500 million that will leverage at least USD 15 billion by 2030.**
- ✓ **Strengthen global leadership and commitment for climate resilience water security and financial sustainability** through **expanded partnerships** with **G20, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and climate finance institutions.**
- ✓ **Enhance regional presence and impact**, establishing **decentralised GWPO Technical hubs** at continental level in **Africa, Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, and Europe.**
- ✓ **Establish the GWPO Transition Office in South Africa** to lead the transition and relocation of GWP's global secretariat.

Strong support from key stakeholders

- 'GWP is on the right track'
- 'Optimistic direction for the future'

Thematic Action Areas are expected to include:

- **Water and Climate:** strengthening climate resilience via water, including through mobilising investments in water for climate resilience.
- **Water Management Solutions to advance SDGs:** Large agenda around water, socio-economic development and ecosystems sustainability. Using SDG6 as entry point and SDG 6.5 (IWRM) and SDG 6.6 (ecosystem protection) indicators as initial metrics for water governance and management assessment.
- **Transboundary Waters:** Fostering transboundary water cooperation and governance for sustainability, peace and security, at the watershed level and in cooperation with the emerging global transboundary coalition as well as relevant basin organisations.
- **Water Disaster Preparedness:** Flood and drought risk management, planning and preparedness.

Cross-cutting Action Areas will include:

- **Gender equality and Water:** with a focus on gender mainstreaming and transformative programmes
- **Youth for Water:** in partnership with strategic allies who are leading on youth engagement.
- **Engagement of vulnerable and marginalised communities:** including a stronger focus on meaningful engagement of indigenous peoples.

Integrated Drought Management Programme in CEE

- Overview Report on Droughts in the Danube River Basin -

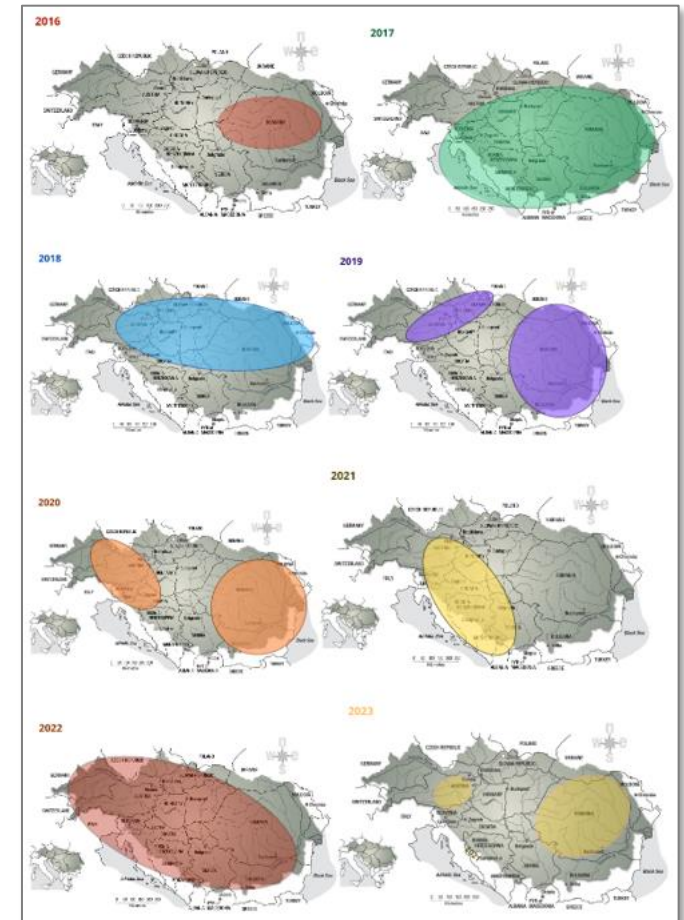
GWP CEE & Drought Management Centre for SEE jointly prepared the report:

- Collect, update and summarize recent situations on different parts of drought management
- Show existing approaches and best practices
- Define common approaches to improve drought management in the basin

Working with ICPDR on the list of:

- 10 suggestions for basin-wide activities on drought management
- Basis for discussions to prioritise possible future activities on the basin-wide/transboundary level

Danube River Basin droughts between 2016-2023



Policy
making

Drought
monitoring

Drought Impact
& Risk
assessment

Drought
Adaptation
Measures

Stakeholder
engagement

Integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in national drought management planning

- **GESI as an essential Tool for Drought Resilience**
- Collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and GWP CEE



ONLINE COURSE

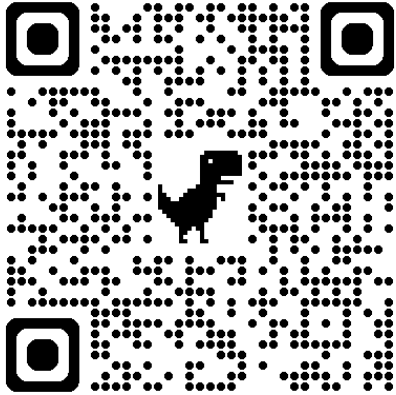
- **Provides practical tools to integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)** into national drought planning, based on real-world case studies and policy frameworks.
- **Developed by FAO, WMO, GWPCEE, and GWPSA**, the course is **freely available online**
- **Designed for policy-makers, technicians, and practitioners**, the course includes a **step-by-step guide** to applying GESI across all phases of drought management.

Go to the course





OPTimal strategies to reTAIN and re-use water and nutrients



OPTAIN aims to improve understanding and implementation of NSWRM for small agricultural catchments in Europe, identifying optimal conditions, locations, and combinations for maximum environmental and socio-economic benefits

GWP CEE has a role of co-leading the WP on Dissemination, Communication, and Learning Environment, and the WP on Case Studies and Harmonized Multi-Actor Approach (MARG)



Regional Dialogue Conferences organized to build knowledge on NSWRMs and their role in improving water/nutrient retention and mitigating the effects of drought: 05-06 February in Slovenia, 23-25 April in Sarajevo (in collaboration with the ICPDR) and on 22nd May in Budapest

Those Conferences provided a **platform for policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss effectiveness of NSWRMs, their implementation challenges, and how to improve policy frameworks to support their adoption**

Available in Autumn!

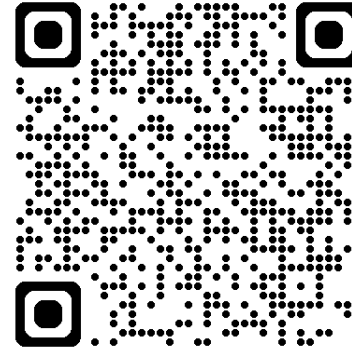
User-friendly online Learning Tool on Natural/Small Water Retention Measures (NSWRM) that will **PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO POSITION NSWRMs to retain water and nutrients in the landscape** will be available from September 2025



iNNO SED

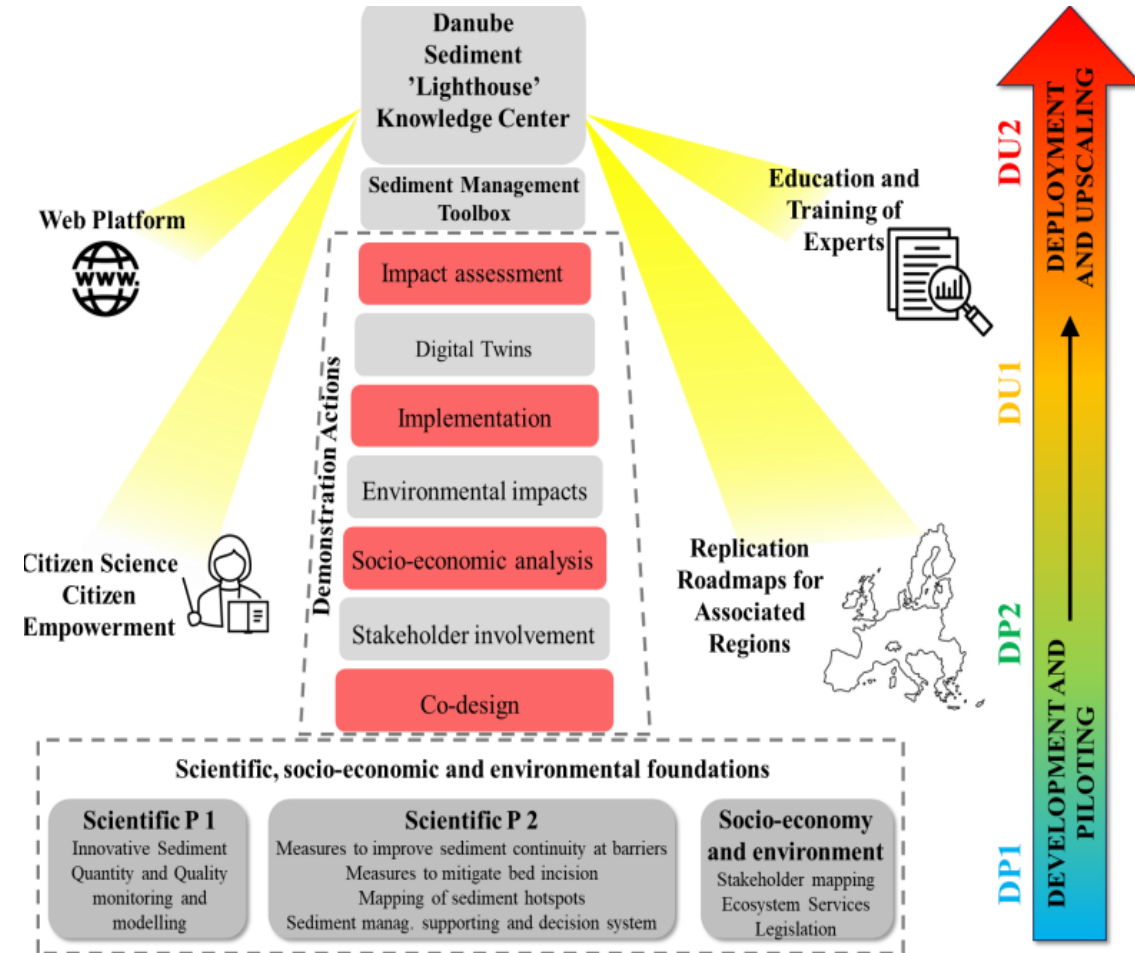


The primary objective of iNNO SED is to establish the Danube Sediment 'Lighthouse' Knowledge Centre and provide a generally applicable Sediment Management Toolbox



GWP CEE role is the co-lead of WP on communication & dissemination as well as on WP related to policy and stakeholder involvement

- **Project start date:** 1 September 2024
- **Project end date:** 31 August 2029
- **Project duration:** 60 months
- **Consortium:** 46 Funded Partners and Associated Partners
- **Budget:** 8 765 402,50 € Overall budget
8 103 720,88 € EU contribution





Danube4All: Restoration of the Danube river basin waters for ecosystem and people from mountains to coast

GWP CEE main roles:

- Co-leader for communication and dissemination
- Responsible for mapping and engaging with initiatives and organizations working with citizens

Highlights:

- Synergie activities with other projects in the area – DANUBE LIGHTHOUSE and Interreg Projects
- Launch of the Healthy Danube Network for Citizen Science
- Manual on NBS in river restoration

Stay Connected

- Project Website
- Subscribe to Newsletter
- Register to stakeholder event as part of DanubeSediment_Q2: [link](#)

The banner features a scenic view of a river with a sandy bank in the foreground and a bridge in the background. The text 'DanubeSediment_Q2 Stakeholder Event' and 'Sediment Management in the Danube' is prominently displayed in blue. Logos for 'Interreg Danube Region', 'Co-funded by the European Union', 'DanubeSediment_Q2', and 'DANUBE4all' are in the top right. A row of partner logos is at the bottom right, including BOKU, TUM, and others. The event details '17 June 2025 | 10:30 am' and 'BOKU River Lab | Vienna' are in the bottom left.

DanubeSediment_Q2 Stakeholder Event
Sediment Management in the Danube

17 June 2025 | 10:30 am
BOKU River Lab | Vienna

Logos: BOKU UNIVERSITY, TUM, and various regional and institutional partners.

The Human-Tech Nexus

Building a Safe Haven to cope with Climate Extremes

GWP CEE main roles:

- Leader for Transfer and Scalability WP
- Science – Art (individual flooding stories)
- Created and responsible for innovation transfer monitoring at 10 demonstrators
- Coordination among partners in WP and in SCT

2024 IN THE SPOT:

- 1st reporting to EC
- Monitoring of Amplification process at 10 demonstrators + Analytical tool developed to identify enablers and barriers of the innovation transfer
- 2 Performances of Playback Theatre + Individual stories data for sociology research
- 2nd Nexus Forum in Switzerland on Streaming Innovation into Policies

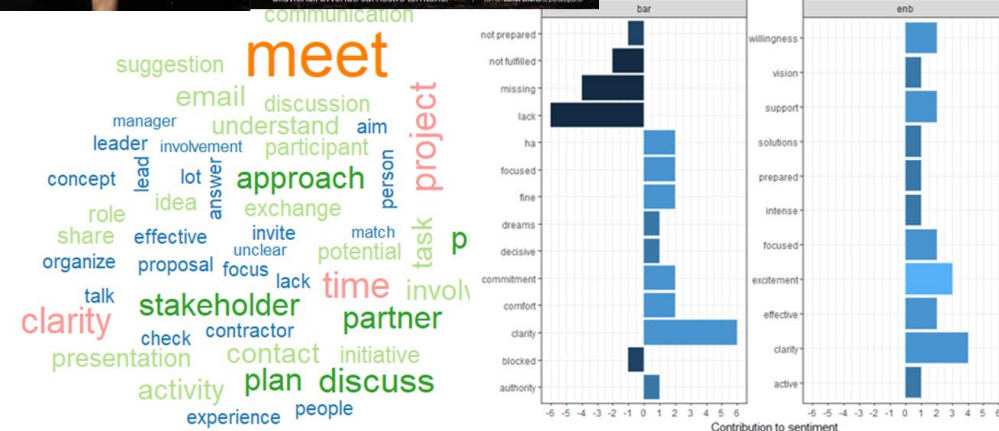
2025 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2nd reporting in EC (June)
- 3rd performance of Sci-Art project in CESENA, IT (May)
- 3rd Nexus Forum in Germany on Streaming Innovation into Policies (September)
- Initiating policy-making potential of 10 demonstrators



Playback theatre

Charts from the Analytical tool



DANUrely

Interreg Danube Seed Money facility project

Partnership:

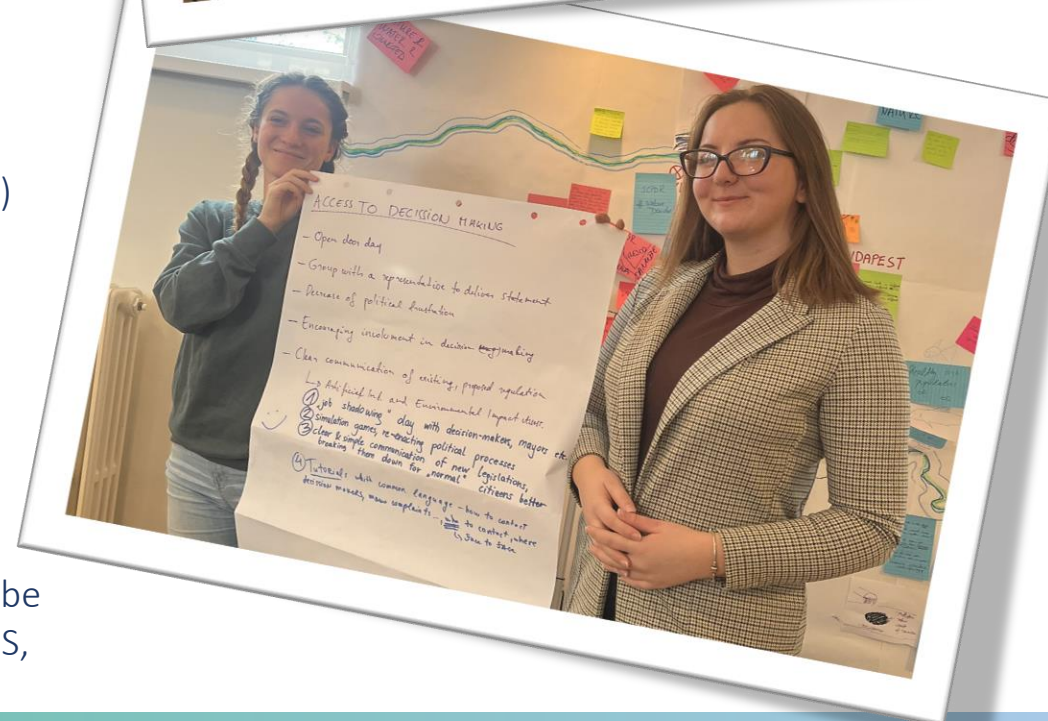
- LP: GWP CEE; PP: Water Research Institute – SVK; University of Belgrade – SRB; Ludovika University – HU
- ASP: ICPDR; Danube Rectors' Conference; International Sava River Basin Commission; Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure – SRB; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – HU; Comenius University – SVK; Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth -SVK

Scope of the project – youth in water sector:

- Understand youth needs and knowledge in water management (link to PA5 targets!!)
- Build resilience skills and promote intergenerational cooperation.
- Foster platforms for youth participation, knowledge-sharing, and leadership.
- Facilitate youth representation in decision-making and governance dialogues.

Aims of the project:

- To develop a concept for a standalone proposal/main project
- To discuss and design approaches designed for strategic youth leadership which can be fundable standalone, or as part of other proposals → WE ORGANIZED ROUNDTABLES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS



D-CLEAN

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



Interreg Danube 3rd call project – just launched (we will launch website shortly)

GWP CEE lead partner, Partners from AT, SI, CRO, SRB, RO, HU

Scope of the project: The D-CLEAN project aims to address the pressing issue of **wastewater and stormwater** pollution in the small settlements in Danube River Basin by rising awareness, building capacity, and identifying, testing and showcasing practical **sustainable/NBS solutions**.

Link with EUSDR priorities (PA4), ICPDR plans, new EU legislations (revised UWWTD)

Link with territorial needs and challenges: Local utilities face difficulties due to insufficient management skills, financial resources, and decentralized settlement needs.



LAREDAR

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



Kick-off meeting 3-5 June in Szolnok

GWP CEE is leading communication activities
Website and social media profiles launched

The main aim of the project is to focus on the **roles of lakes and reservoirs**, to observe their relevance in **flood risk control and reduction** and to create a useful tool that serves the targets of flood risk mitigation.

LAREDAR is expected to provide new insights into the relationship between reservoirs and floods along transboundary river sections, based on investigations in the pilot regions. The aim is not only to investigate the existing impacts of reservoirs holistically and at the catchment level, but also to suggest additional good practices that will improve flood risk management.

Support from EUSDR (PA4-PA5), ICPDR is Associated Partner





**Thank you for your
attention**

www.gwpcee.org

