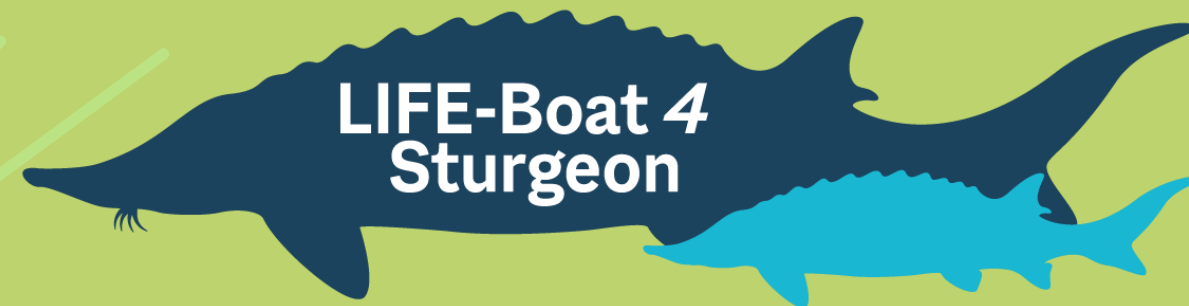
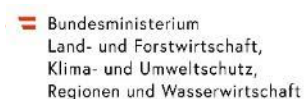


LIFE- Boat 4 Sturgeon



With the contribution of the LIFE-Programme
of the European Union

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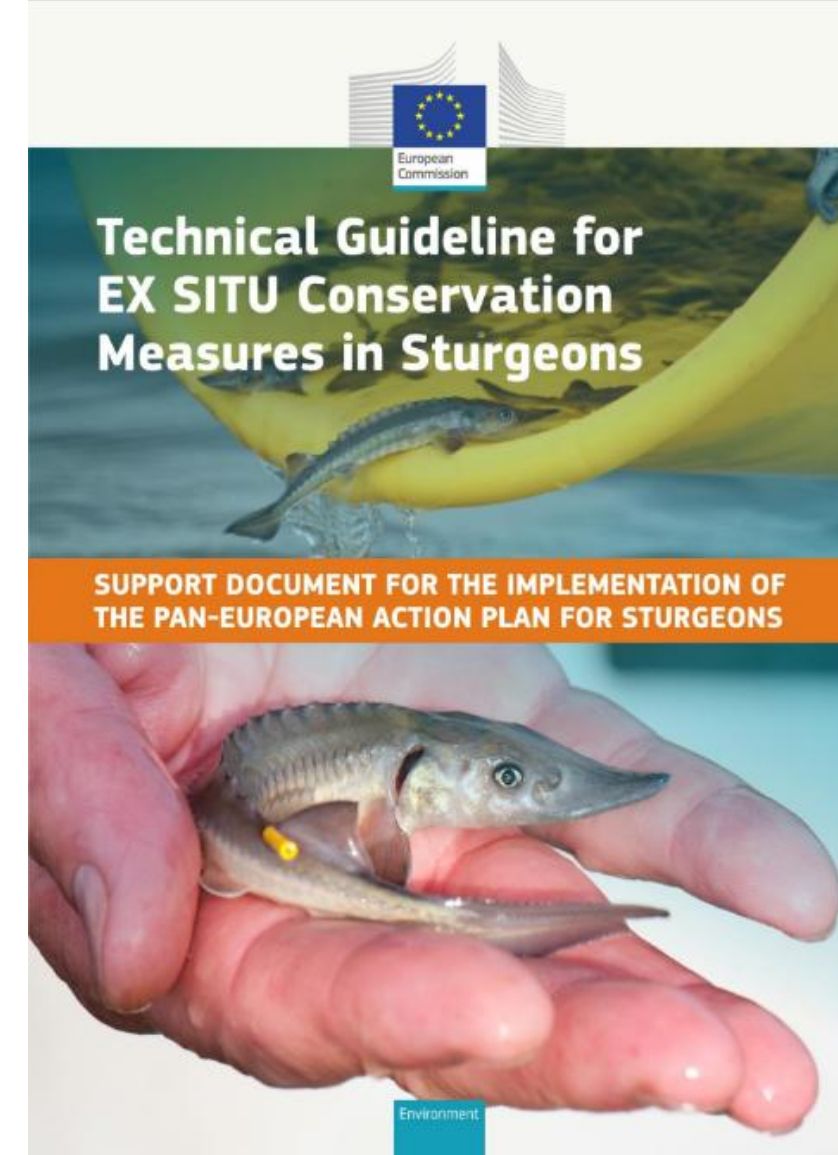


CO-FINANCIERS



Previous efforts in the region

- Individual projects with restocking activities by different actors
- Genetic tests to confirm Black Sea/Danube origin have been implemented only occasionally
- Actions are not coordinated between countries – sometimes not even on national level
- Information exchange only informally between „acquainted“ researchers
- Actions are time limited by funding of projects
- captive broodstock came from private farms
- Monitoring of the released fish – often not included in projects



LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon

- Volume € ~11.822.000
- 12 partners, 8 countries, >17 donors
- 2022-2030
- Builds upon methods & results from LIFE-Sterlet
- Based upon Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons
- Embedded within the Networks of WSCS, DSTF & IUCN
- Scientific Advisory Committee with members from WSCS, NASPS....





Infrastructure

- **LIFE-Boat in Austria (BOKU) with Danube water**
 - broodstock holding & juvenile rearing
- **Pond farm and new juvenile rearing system in Hungary (MATE-AKI-HAKI) with Körös water**
 - broodstock holding & juvenile rearing
- **Hatchery Container SI (REVIVO) with Mura water**
 - Juvenile rearing



Broodstock & Reproduction

- Proven genetic origin
- Genetic diversity
- Pedigree based mating schemes
- Suitable infrastructure, risk reduction, risk splitting, failsafe mechanisms
- Principles for fish welfare
- State of the Art reproduction techniques, minimal invasive
- Exchange of data, gametes and animals between entities



Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*)

	N	haplotype	families
Mature ♂	20	9	14
Mature ♀	11	4	5
Subadult ♂	7	1	1
Subadult ♀	5	1	1
subadult tbd			
Juvenile ♂	21	3	3
Juvenile ♀	26	3+1	3+1
Juvenile tbd	94	3	3



Stellate sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*)

	N	haplotype	families
Mature ♂	8	1 (1)	
Mature ♀	11	3 (3)	
Origin tbd	3	3+1	3+1
Juvenile tbd	83	1	1



- Broodstock tested for Danube origin, genetic diversity & sex
- Broodstock purchases from RO, AT, DE & IT as of now



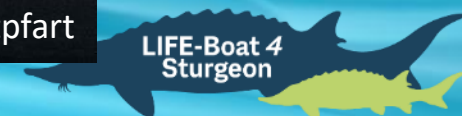
Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*)

	N	haplotype	families
Mature ♂	14	2 (2)	
Mature ♀	22	4 (6)	
Subadult ♂	10	1	
Subadult ♀	13	1	
subadult tbd	13	1	
Juvenile ♂			
Juvenile ♀			
Juvenile tbd	68	>2	
YOY 2025	>1000		3



Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*)

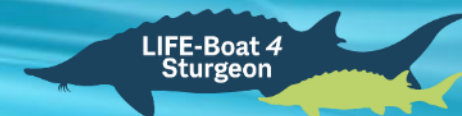
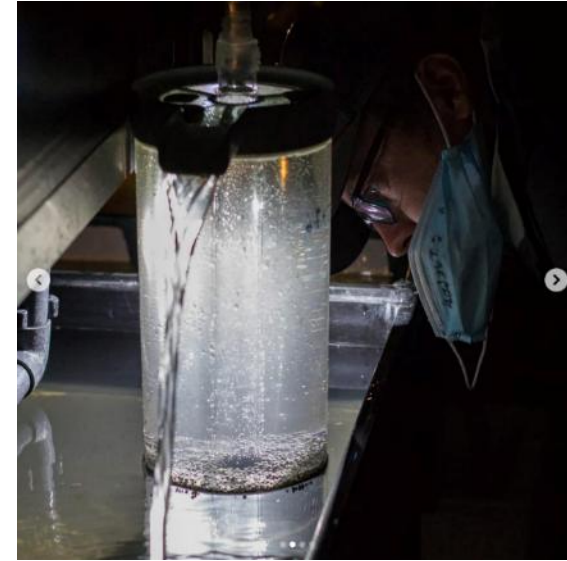
- Capture of wild broodstock
- >1.000 F1 of >23 maternal families as of 2025



Rearing

- State of the Art incubation & rearing
- River water for homing behaviour
 - Live feeds, no biological/chemical treatment of water
- Targeted release strategies
 - size
 - number
 - location
 - tagging (PIT, VIE, genetic)
 - genetic variation
 - timing

Year	Color
2023	Red
2024	Blue
2025	Orange
2026	Green
2027	Red
2028	Blue
2029	Orange
2030	Green
Wild fish YoY (<20cm TL)	Pink



Release

Planned releases 1.6 Mio juveniles:

- 300.000 beluga sturgeon LD
 - 300.000 Russian sturgeon LD **(2023-2025: >117.000)**
 - 300.000 stellate sturgeon LD **(2023-2025: >7.800)**
 - 200.000 sterlets Mura, Drava
 - 200.000 sterlets MD, Körös, Tisza **(2023-2025: 200.000)**
 - 300.000 sterlets UD, Morava **(2023-2025: > 300.000 (mit LIFE-Sterlet >540.000))**
-
- Additional 677 1+ Russian sturgeons purchased tagged with PIT & VIE and released to Danube in RO
 - Provision of 500 PIT tags and VIE for YoY release of additional 2.000 stellate and 800 Russian sturgeons by Institute for Fishery and Aquaculture Galați & Danube Caviar



© Julia Altpfart



Monitoring

- First standardized approach in project partners
 - methods
 - Data storage
 - Data exchange
- Coordination with JDS5 and MonStur
- eDNA
- Mark-Recapture
- Cooperation with law enforcement in LD countries to reduce IUU fishing



© Paul Vecsei



Outreach

- 20 Events (5500 + visitors)
- 148 Tours (1700+ visitors)
- 2100 + Follower Instagram
- Highlights

- Danube Day 2024
- Mural Event younus
- Haus des Meeres
- Opening LB4S

- Press review

- 300+ online
- 13 Radio
- 24 TV
- 70+ Print
- 13 Scientific publications, 65 presentations



Sustainability

- Guarantee long-term sustainability of project actions
- Provide access for stakeholders to genetically proven sturgeon broodstock and juveniles for conservation issues in the DRB
- Development of a sustainability strategy and AFTER-LIFE plan

ADOPT A STURGEON

Adopt one of our broodstock sturgeons and make a lasting impact to save these species from extinction! Your sponsorship goes beyond a symbolic gesture but plays a crucial role in sustaining our conservation initiatives. Conservation efforts take time as sturgeons need up to twenty years to mature, therefore your contribution ensures a continued success of the conservation program. The adoption of one of our sturgeons guarantees long-term provision and safekeeping of our "Danube Dinos".

By adopting a sturgeon, you not only contribute to our conservation efforts but also have the opportunity to name your sturgeon. Additionally, you'll receive a personalized certificate and a sturgeon plushie, recognizing your support plus a yearly invitation to an event for all godparents. A sponsorship can last 5 or 10 years. Please fill out the form below.

47 Sturgeons

out of 1 321 have already been adopted



... ..



Beluga Sturgeons

€ 500 annual contribution

Benefits:

- choose a name for your sturgeon
- get a personalized certificate
- get a sturgeon plushie
- be invited to an event exclusively for godparents

INFO
ABOUT THE
SPECIES



Russian Sturgeons

€ 250 annual contribution

Benefits:

- choose a name for your sturgeon
- get a personalized certificate
- get a sturgeon plushie
- be invited to an event exclusively for godparents

INFO
ABOUT THE
SPECIES



Stellate Sturgeons

€ 150 annual contribution

Benefits:

- choose a name for your sturgeon
- get a personalized certificate
- get a sturgeon plushie
- be invited to an event exclusively for godparents

INFO
ABOUT THE
SPECIES



Sterlets

€ 50 annual contribution

Benefits:

- choose a name for your sturgeon
- get a personalized certificate
- get a sturgeon plushie
- be invited to an event exclusively for godparents

INFO
ABOUT THE
SPECIES

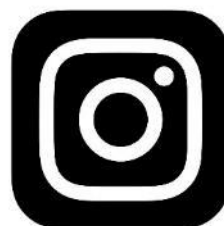


- Activities need to be maintained well after project end
- Broodstock of Danube origin will be made available to all range states as a shared resource with full transparency
- Breeding will be done based on pedigree to ensure wide diversity and eggs/offspring can be provided for releases or further on site rearing in countries with river water facilities (containers)
- Buy in of stakeholders from LD is required to maintain operation after 2030
- Other plans from countries should be made in cooperation
- A joint approach benefits all countries – as costs can be shared – the wild sturgeon populations are shared anyhow!





Thanks for the attention!



@sturgeon_conservation

PARTNERS



Wiener
Gewässer



BEZIRK
NIEDERBAYERN



CO-FINANCIERS



With the contribution of the LIFE-Programme of the European Union

