

# PRIORITY AREA 4

# WATER QUALITY

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS

## Cooperation with IAWD

- DSP assisted a joint meeting on 19/12/2023 to initiate discussion
- PA4 prepared the draft cooperation document in January 2024
- Memorandum of Understanding with IAWD was signed in March 2024
- Partners met at the National Participation Day in Vienna on 9 April 2024
- Agreed to inform each other about main events and cooperate, invite each other to the meetings



<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/eusdr-pa4-cooperation-agreement-signed-with-iawd/>

## Recent activities

- 13th EUSDR Annual Forum, Vienna (2024-06-20-21)
- ICPDR Standing Working Group Meeting, Bratislava (2024-06-25-26)
- Brochure on water reuse prepared (2024-06)
- EUSDR PA5 Steering Group Meeting, Bucharest (2024-07-02)
- Hungarian Hydrological Society Annual Assembly, International Session, Szolnok (2024-07-04)
- Chat with the Presidency, online (2024-08-23)
- Meeting of EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators, Neusiedl am See (2024-09-11-12)
- 18th International Symposium on Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering, Strbske Pleso (2024-09-11-13)
- ICPDR Pressures and Measures EG meeting, online (2024-09-24-25)
- DANURELY-WS Kick-off meeting, online (2024-09-25)
- ICPDR 15th Joint Statement Meeting, Vienna (2024-09-26)
- GEMS, INTERREG Europe project, National Kick-off meeting, Bratislava (2024-09-26)
- Trilateral meeting, Budapest (2024-10-01)
- Sludge utilization options: study to be prepared, survey gone live recently

# UTILIZATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE SURVEY

PA4 with a company Trenecon prepared a study related to sludge in the Danube region few years ago.

Currently an update and further research is ongoing to collect the opinion of our SG members and carry out a survey in relation to the **utilization of sewage sludge**.

Participants in the survey are kindly asked to fill in the form and contribute to the dissemination of good practices concerning the utilization of sewage sludge and related products.

The results of the survey are going to be incorporated into a report for the EUSDR. The survey takes only a few minutes to fill.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejh1XBhuKka\\_ADia5gpzBEaM3OmKrftaLpk-UTu9ylaTY-UQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejh1XBhuKka_ADia5gpzBEaM3OmKrftaLpk-UTu9ylaTY-UQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)



# WATER REUSE BROCHURE

The regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse for agricultural irrigation (the water reuse regulation) aims to encourage and facilitate safe reuse of treated wastewater in agricultural irrigation in the EU.



by 2030 water stress and scarcity will probably affect half of Europe's river basins  
38% of the EU population was affected by water scarcity in 2019.



<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/the-water-reuse-regulation-its-main-requirements-and-situation-in-the-danube-region/>



Water reuse could grow from the 1,1 billion m3 per year of 2015 up to 6 billion m3/year in 2025.



- Potential risks of water reuse in the Danube Region
- Opportunities of water reuse in the Danube Region

# 13<sup>th</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum

20-21 June 2024, Aula der Wissenschaften, Wollzeile 27A, Vienna

<https://danube-region.eu/danube-events/13th-eusdr-annual-forum/>

<https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EUSDR-Annual-Forum-2024-Programme-A4-V3.pdf>

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum  
of the EU Strategy  
for the Danube Region  
20 – 21 June 2024  
Vienna, Austria

Full  
programme

Cooperation in the  
Danube Region:  
Now more than ever!  
Shaping Transformation,  
Creating Opportunities

## 20 June 2021

08:00 – 08:45 Registration @ Aula der Wissenschaften

08:45 – 09:30 Opening of the 13th EUSDR Annual Forum

09:30 – 10:45 The Danube Region: Diversity and  
integration - opening lecture, state of the region  
report, high-level panel discussion

11:15 – 12:30 Mayors' Talk: Cities as transformation hubs  
of the Danube Region - High-level panel  
discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:30 **Green transition: Shaping transformation,  
creating opportunities** - Keynotes and  
thematic parallel sessions

16:00 – 17:30 Geopolitics, stability, prosperity and future  
perspectives in the Danube Region -Keynote  
and high-level plenary panel

19:00 – 22:00 Danube Party @ Palmenhaus

Sessions 1 – 3 CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATION	Sessions 4 – 6 WATER & ECOLOGY	Sessions 7 and 8 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
Sustainable energy transition	Sustainable (waterway) mobility along the Danube	Skills and education for the green transition
Circular economy	Eco systems and water quality	Arts and culture as discursive spaces for transformation
Place-based Innovation in Brownfield Reindustrialisation	Managing environmental risks: droughts and floods	



### Session 5:

Is the water clean and passable enough for fish to survive?

Session host: EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality.

The session aims to emphasise the importance of connectivity restoration and water quality in the Danube River for habitat conservation, particularly focusing on migratory fish species, including sturgeons as the Danube flagship species. The session will start with a brief introductory video on the negative human impacts on the living conditions of migratory fish. The impulse lecture will set the scene, followed by an overview of the importance of fish conservation, the maintenance of water quality and connectivity restoration including projects' achievements in the Danube River. The conclusion of the session will summarise required follow-up actions.

- Moderator: **Danka Thalmeinerová**, EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality
- Introduction: **Birgit Vogel**, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and **Márton Pesel**, EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality
- Impulse lecture: **Martin Mišik**, Association of Bratislava boating clubs
- Discussants:
  - Raimund Mair**, World Bank Water Global Practice – water pollution
  - Helmut Habersack**, BOKU Vienna – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and River Research (IWA) – sediments
  - Katarína Mravcová**, Water Research Institute, Bratislava – barriers
  - Balázs Horváth**, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) – migratory fish/sturgeon conservation



# 13<sup>th</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum – PA4 parallel session

Session aimed to emphasize the importance of connectivity restoration and water quality in the Danube River for habitat conservation, particularly focusing on migratory fish species, including sturgeons - Danube Flagship species.

Session Title	Is the water clean and passable enough for fish to survive?
Moderator	Ms Danka Thalmeinerová, EUSDR PAC
Introduction	Ms Birgit Vogel, ICPDR ES
	Mr Márton Pesel, EUSDR PAC4
Impulse Lecture	Short video on sterlet (PA4) <a href="https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/">https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/</a>
	Mr Martin Mišík, Association of Bratislava boating clubs
Topics	Mr Raimund Mair, World Bank – water pollution
	Ms Marlene Haimann, BOKU, – sediments
	Ms Katarína Mravcová, Water Research Institute – barriers
	Mr Irene Lucius, WWF – migratory fish/sturgeon conservation
Panel discussion	Moderated panel discussion - all presenters



# EUSDR reports/administration

- **Progress Report of PAC4 DRP project** – project report was submitted to DRP in [September 2024](#)
- **Evaluation report 2024-2025** – data collection ongoing
- **Updated flagships** – June 2024



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON MIGRATORY FISH



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON EMERGING SUBSTANCES

## Letter of Recommendation to projects:

- **Safeguarding Migratory Fish and their Habitats in the Danube River Basin and beyond (Acronym: DanubeLifelines)** - August 2024;
- **Horizon Ocean Mission for Enhanced Community-led Innovations in the Danube River Basin (Acronym: HOME-DANUBE)** - August 2024;
- **PassThem** - September 2024.



# Danube Youth Council



**OPEN CALL for the  
Danube Youth Council  
until 16/10/2024**



If you're between 18 and 29 years old and hail from one of these nine EUSDR countries - *Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Germany (specifically Bavaria), Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, or Slovakia* - **you're encouraged to apply by 16 October 2024.**

This is a fantastic chance to work together and gain valuable international experience with other Council members! The application form and the eligibility criteria are available here:

<https://danube-region.eu/danube-youth-council/>



## Planned PA4 activities/events in 2024

- **Plastic pollution workshop** – 3 October 2024 (tomorrow!)
  
- **Streamed live moderated discussion with prof Habersack (BOKU, Vienna)** – cooperation with PA7 Knowledge Society 18 October 2024, 11.00 AM  
Introduction of the guest; Short introductory presentation to the topic of the discussion; Moderated discussion (possible questions from the online participants); Wrap-up  
Moderator - Mr Tomas Tabis (PA7) - Director of the Department of European and International Science Policy at the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic
  
- **Danube Youth Leadership Stakeholders Roundtable - Empowering the Next Generation in Water Management** – cooperation of GWP CEE PA4, PA7 and DANUurely-WS project – 26-27 November 2024, SHMI, Bratislava  
Participants: DANUErely project partners, DANUErely Project Associated Partners (TBD) , EUSDR representatives, Youth target groups representatives  
More information will be announced by email and uploaded to PA4 website.

# CONFERENCE ON MICROPLASTICS IN DRINKING WATER – FROM SOURCE TO TAP, 3 OCTOBER 2024



## Main goal of the conference

- Two new measures to enhance the EU water resilience and to improve water quality and quantity throughout the continent: **standard methodology to measure the presence of microplastics in water** and a delegated act to ensure that **reusing treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation is safe**.
- PA4 aims to discuss on the topic of **plastics and microplastics** in drinking water from source to tap in line with the obligations of EU directives. It also aims to capitalise the results of relevant projects (DRP, DTP, LIFE, horizon etc.) Presentations by DG MARE, JRC, WHO, ICPDR, projects and universities, citizen science.
- The conference will provide a possibility to discuss the topic of plastics and microplastics in drinking water from source to tap in line with the obligations of eu directives. it also aims to capitalise the results of **relevant projects** (DRP, DTP, LIFE, HORIZON etc.) from different European countries (including projects from Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain) and we shall have an update on microplastic pollution challenges and lessons learnt, also focusing on water resilience.
- 100+ registration



## Upcoming PA4 activities/events

### To be organised by PA4:

- **Trilateral meeting** – February-March 2025, Bratislava
- **29th SG meeting** – spring 2025, Bratislava/Budapest
- **Climate change reflected in agriculture** – conference; the second half of 2025, Bratislava
- ***Sewage sludge optimisation workshop based on the study and survey, Budapest; in 2025***

### Future....

Pharmaceuticals in water – conference 2026, Bratislava

Global practice on nature-based solutions, 2026 Budapest

Sediment management workshop 2027, Budapest

Wastewater treatment (e.g. removal of pharmaceuticals) – conference 2028, Bratislava



**Thank you for your attention**

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



# TRILATERAL MEETING

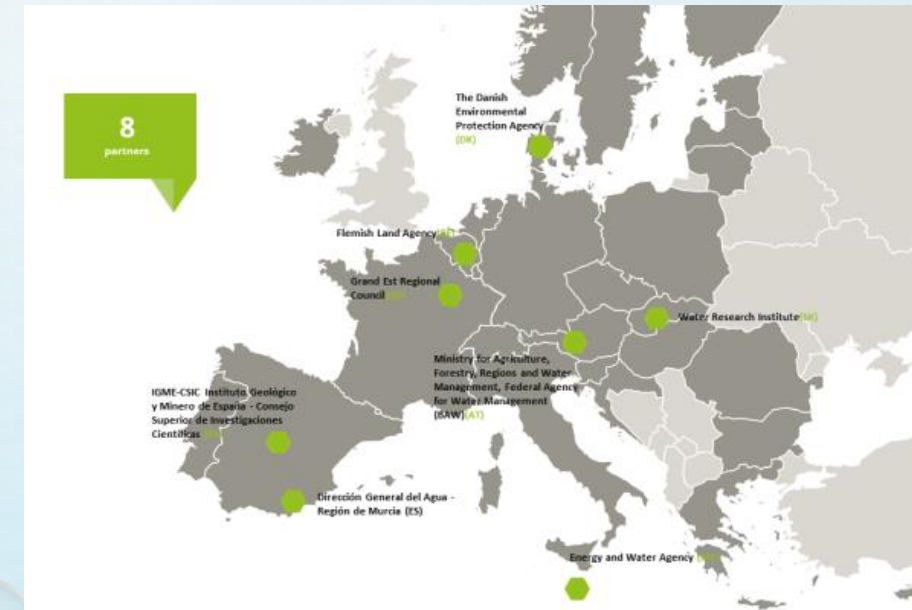
## Issues to be discussed:

- Sturgeon – WWF email
- Climate change reflected in agriculture – ICPDR workshop + DYC synergies? (GEMS)
- Sewage sludge survey and discussion to intensify-ws plans for 2025
- Carpathian Convention - 15th meeting online, 20-21/11/2024
- Stream with prof Habersack – topics?
- ICPDR RBM – PA4 participation?
- BiH PCY programme - water related topics?
- Event - Danurely WS



# Interreg Europe: GEMS

- Groundwater management in nitrate vulnerable zones with agriculture activities
- 04/2024 – 06/2028, budget: 1 890 899 EUR
- 8 Partners (2 from Danube Region – Austria, Slovakia)
- LP - Region of Murcia (DG Water) (ES)
- Project objectives: to enhance regional public policies in Europe regarding sustainable groundwater management polluted by high level of nitrates from agricultural sources. The project will explore the best practices in EU regions on the following topics: Data and monitoring, groundwater quality and pollution, policy, governance and stakeholders' engagement and integrated water management.



# DRP SMF: DANURELY-WS

- **Danube Region's Youth Leadership in Ensuring Resilience through a Proactive Approach in Water Sector**
- **09/2024 – 08/2025, budget: 112 000 EUR**
- **4 Partners, 6 ASP**
- **LP – GWP CEE**

**Project objectives: to develop main project proposal focused on activities to raise awareness, engage and build capacities, support youth networks and knowledge exchange, and drive youth – governance dialogue via:**

- 1. Knowing the youth, their interests, needs, and knowledge on water management issues.**
- 2. Enhancing skills for resilience building in water and related sectors, and enable intergenerational cooperation.**
- 3. Creating platforms for meaningful youth participation, knowledge co-creation, and leadership**
- 4. Channelling youth engagement, representation in decision-making and facilitating dialogue with young stakeholders**