

Sturgeon 2020

Achievements and perspectives 2016-2017

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- Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy
- International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

DSTF

**Danube Sturgeon Task Force – established in 2012
in the frame of EUSDR PA 6**

**EUSDR PA 6
Biodiversity**

**EUSDR PA 4
Water quality**

**Target: to secure the revival of
Danube sturgeons and other
indigenous fish species by 2020**



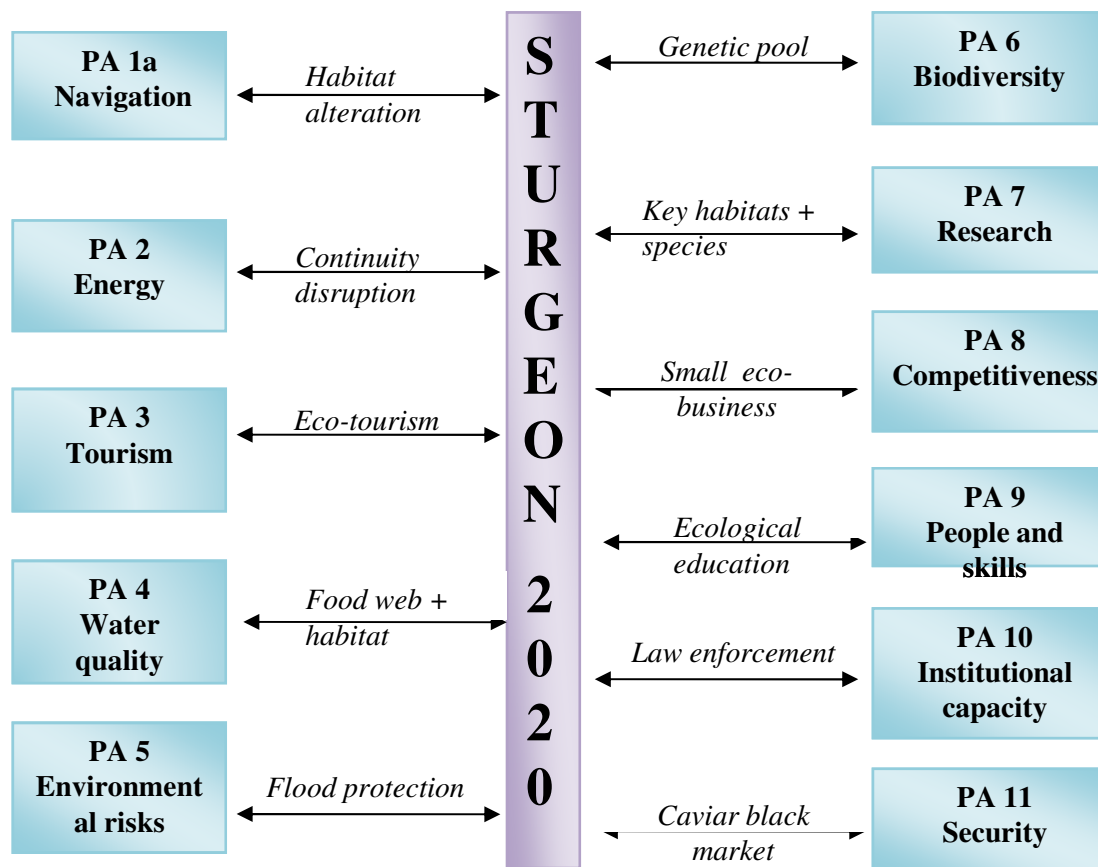
Sturgeon 2020

(based on Sturgeon Action Plan, 2005)

EUSDR PA 4 SG, Bratislava, 25-26.04.2017

Sturgeon 2020

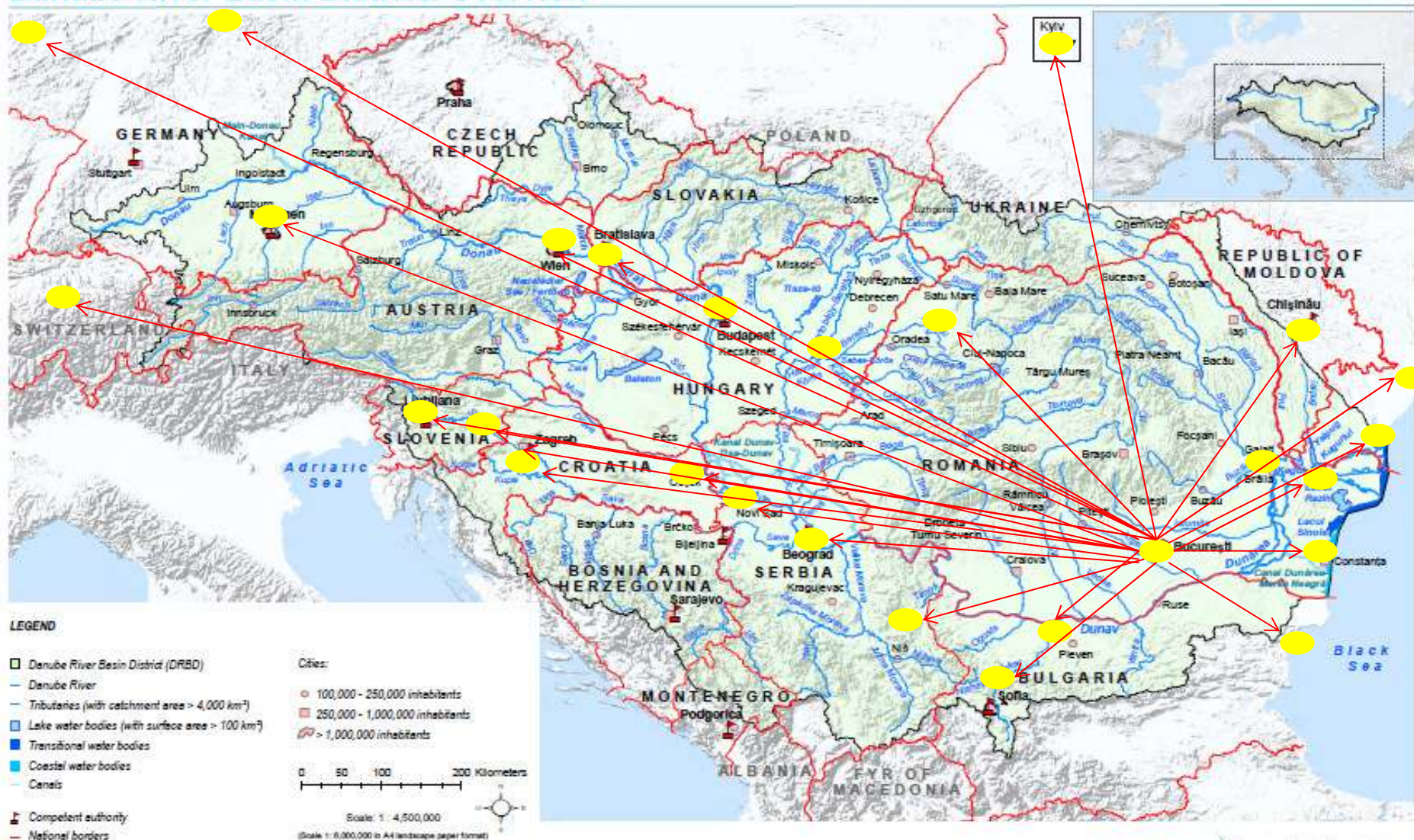
Requires horizontal coordination with all the PAs



Geographic area: Danube Basin and NW Black Sea

Danube River Basin District: Overview

MAP 1



This ICOPR product is based on national information provided by the Contracting Parties to the ICOPR (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA) and CH, except for the following: EuroGlobalMap v2.1 from EuroGeographics was used for national borders of AT, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, RO, RS, SK and UA; EDR data was used for national borders of AL, ME, MK; Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) from USGS Seamless Data Distribution System was used as topographic layer; data from the European Commission (Joint Research Centre) was used for the outer border of the DRBD of AL, IT, ME and RS.

Vienna, December 2009

Sursa: www.icpdr.org

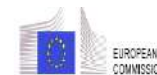
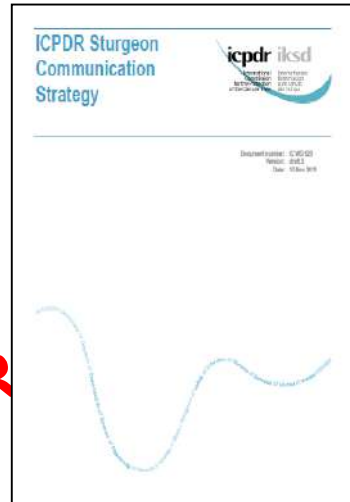
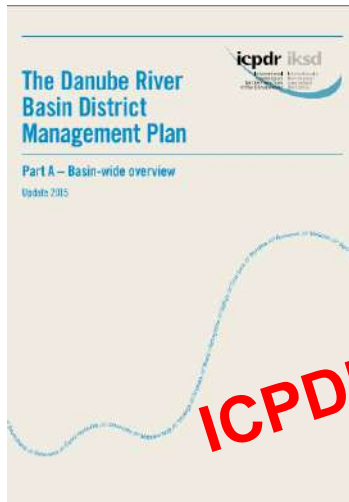
www.icpdr.org

Connection of the Danube Basin – Black Sea

Sturgeons marked and released in the Danube reached the coasts of Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia (source: DDNIRD, Tulcea)



Political support in the DRB



Brussels, 6-4-2013
COM(2013) 181 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

concerning the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

Funding

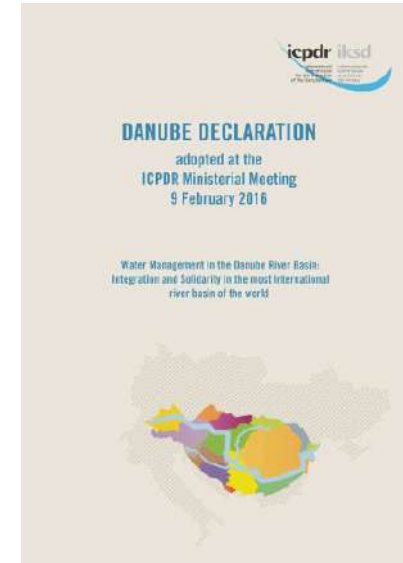
EUSDR programs, European Investment Bank, Partners for Water (NL)



EUSDR PA 4 SG, Bratislava, 25-26.04.2017

Political support in the DRB

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Ministerial meeting, Feb. 2016



we *reaffirm* our intention to establish the Danube Sturgeon as the flagship species for the Danube River Basin hereby desiring to advance broad public awareness and political commitment for the Danube sturgeons and the ecosystem of the Danube River Basin as a whole.

(37) *welcome* and *support* the progress made on sturgeon issues in the framework of the EUSDR, in particular the Program “Sturgeon 2020” elaborated by the Danube Sturgeon Task Force, as well as the sturgeon fishery bans being in force in Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Austria and *offer* further coordination with the ICPDR in those areas where the ICPDR is holding key competences.

25-26.04.2017

Connection with Black Sea area


DSTF participation to the 3rd Black Sea Stakeholder Conf., Odessa, UA, June 2016

Panel 2: Fostering Marine Research and Innovation Cooperation in the Black Sea

Conference on the blue < X

https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/conference-blue-economy-black-sea_en


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 **CALENDAR**

Conference on the blue economy of the Black Sea




Start date : 14/06/2016

End date : 14/06/2016

Where: Odessa, Ukraine

European Commission,
Food, farming and fisheries,
Events/Conf/Fairs

Cooperation in maritime affairs and the potential of the blue economy in the Black Sea have gained visibility and attention in the recent years. Government representatives and private stakeholders operating marine and maritime



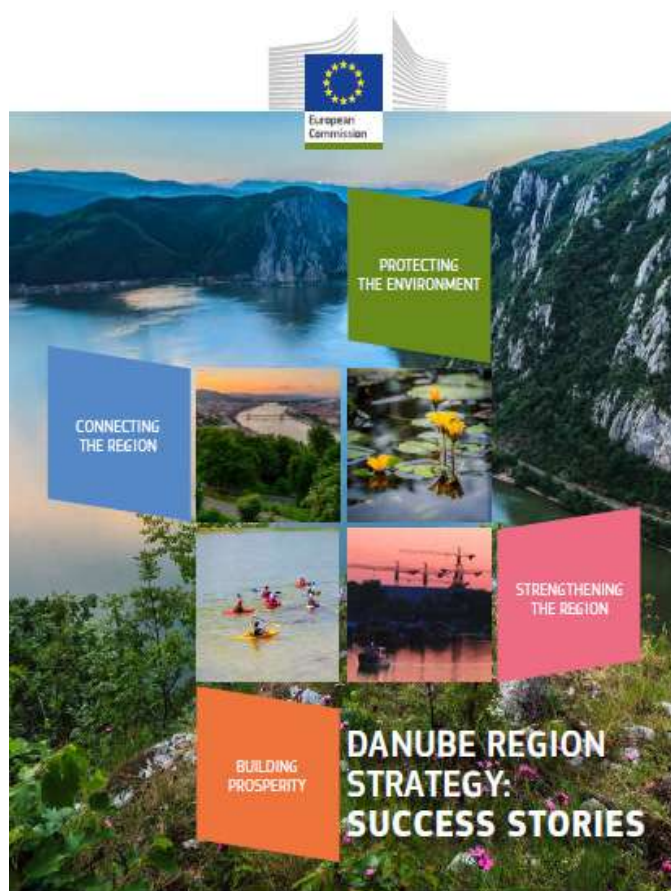
5th eusdr forum.png ^

Show all X

Ask me anything

11:27 PM
3/17/2017

Sturgeon 2020 – a success story of the EUSDR



Uncontrolled fishing, fuelled by the high price paid for caviar, has resulted in the decimation of sturgeon in the Danube. In 2012, the Danube Sturgeon Task Force came to the rescue.

In 1970, the survival of the fish was further jeopardised by the construction of the Djerdap hydroelectric power plant on the Serbian/Romanian border. This blocked the sturgeon's migratory route upstream along the Danube from the Black Sea to their spawning grounds. The species was also endangered by the systematic damming of the river and extraction of the gravel and sand where sturgeon lay their eggs.

Since 2012, the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF) has focused on rescuing the species. The DSTF's aim is to foster the synergies of existing organisations and support the conservation of native sturgeon species in the Danube River Basin and Black Sea by promoting the implementation of the 'Sturgeon 2020' programme which was launched in 2013.

The Danube Strategy has a crucial role to play in the success of this programme by facilitating communication at a policy level and establishing a constructive dialogue with other key stakeholders in the river basin.

Hatching a plan

Sturgeon 2020 is designed to attract political support, raise awareness of the importance of protecting sturgeon, and encourage the rapid implementation of EU legislation, international conventions and national laws.

Further measures cover the identification and restoration of key habitats, as well as reopening migration routes, analysis of the existing Danube sturgeon population, an inventory of sturgeon hatcheries and brood stocks, and knowledge exchange



Contribution to the synergies of the EU environmental policies

WORKING TOWARDS CREATING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE WFD, MSFD, AND THE HABITATS AND BIRDS DIRECTIVES

SELECTED CASE STUDIES



October 2015

Prepared by
THE N2K GROUP
European Economic Interest Group

Integrated implementation of the WFD, HD, MSFD

CASE STUDY 2

Sturgeon 2020: A Strategic programme for the Sturgeon in the Danube



Acipenser gaidenauensis © Foti-ARCO-NaturepLcom

Background

Sturgeons constitute an important part of the natural heritage of the Danube River Basin and the Black Sea. They are of unique value for biodiversity and serve as excellent indicators of good water and habitat quality, connectivity and ecosystem health. They can also be of significant importance from a socio-economic point of view since properly managed stocks can sustain the income of numerous fishing communities, especially in the lower parts of the Danube.

Until well into the 20th century, six sturgeon species lived across large parts of the Danube River Basin. Today, four out of the six species are critically endangered, one is considered vulnerable and one is extinct. The remaining species are all protected under the EU Habitats Directive in view of their extremely precarious condition.

Sturgeon stocks have since declined dramatically during the last century. Main pressures include the disruption of migration routes due to infrastructure projects, the loss of habitats and spawning grounds, pollution as well as overfishing of already diminishing stocks also for caviar trade.

Although now very restricted in range, different sturgeon species are still present within the whole Danube River Basin (in particular in the lower DRB, but with regard to the sterlet and ship sturgeon also in the middle DRB, and with regard to the sterlet in the upper DRB).

Working towards creating synergies between WFD, MSFD, and HD: selected case studies
Ecosystems LTD/N2K GROUP – October 2015

11

Added value of macro-regional strategies

Project and programme perspective
Final report of the study
February 2017



STURGEON 2020

Cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination for the revival of the Danube Sturgeon population

Name of the project: STURGEON 2020 | **Funding sources:** Different funding sources (e.g. LIFE programme, national funds, ERDF, seed money EUSDR) | **Amount of funding:** EUR 6 500 000 | **Timeline:** 2012 – on-going | **Lead partner:** International Association for Danube Research in cooperation with the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF – a group of sturgeon experts, NGO delegates, representatives of the ICPR, EUSDR and national governments) | **Project partners:** The programme comprises a series of international partners such as IAD, WWF, ICPR, WSOB etc. but also representatives of national authorities or local communities. | **Website:** <http://www.dstf.eu/>

Aim & rationale of the project

DSTF implements STURGEON 2020 to benefit the environment and the local communities along the Danube River through joint actions in the region. Sturgeon 2020 is a project based on the Sturgeon Action Plan adopted under the Bern Convention in 2005 (SAP). It aims at fostering the conservation of the sturgeon species in the Danube River and the Black Sea. DSTF also aims to support the fishermen of the region, who are currently the most affected group by the sturgeon fishery ban. The project supports the development of alternative income sources (e.g. eco-tourism, aquaculture, handicrafts production, local markets) for communities located along the Danube River.

Achievements of the project

The DSTF coordinates a basin-wide sturgeon policy and best-practice management, legislation and enforcement controls, conservation of populations, and protection, management and restoration of habitats. So far, achievements of the project are:

- Networks for sturgeon conservation initiated in some of the Danube countries;
- Raised awareness at public and political level on the need to protect sturgeons and their ecosystems;
- Extension of current sturgeon fishery ban in the Lower Danube countries (where wild stocks still exist);
- Start of a dialogue between different authorities and levels of competences (fishery, biodiversity/ environment and water) on sturgeon conservation.

Relevance of macro-regional cooperation

The EUSDR gives DSTF and therefore STURGEON 2020 the support framework to make things happen. It put together a number of sectorial authorities (e.g. fisheries, water management, biodiversity, navigation) from the Danube countries that are now open to discuss the topic. The main advantage of the EUSDR is its integrated policy approach, which is particularly important in the field of ecosystem and biodiversity protection. This allows for harmonisation of measures between different areas. In the case of the STURGEON 2020, sectorial isolation often had negative impacts on the environment, particularly through projects for navigation melioration and hydropower. Now a joint dialogue is pursued to mitigate the environmental impact of major infrastructure developments on sturgeons' communities.

Without the EUSDR, it would have been very difficult to implement STURGEON 2020 in a coordinated way in all Danube countries at the same time. Without political agreement among all countries only a limited progress for its implementation would be achieved. The project contributes to the achievement of the EUSDR Priority Areas 5 "Biodiversity" and 4 "Water Quality", and overall, to biodiversity conservation and the improvement of the environmental quality in the Danube countries. The integrative approach and the complex measures foreseen by this programme, combining environmental protection with economic development, require interlinkages with all 11 Priority Areas of the EUSDR. Thus, horizontal coordination is needed among the EUSDR pillars, as it is the case with STURGEON 2020. The project partners consider that macro-regional strategies are important in terms of harmonising priorities and aligning funding for regional development, and hence, their implementation should be fostered.

Reflections

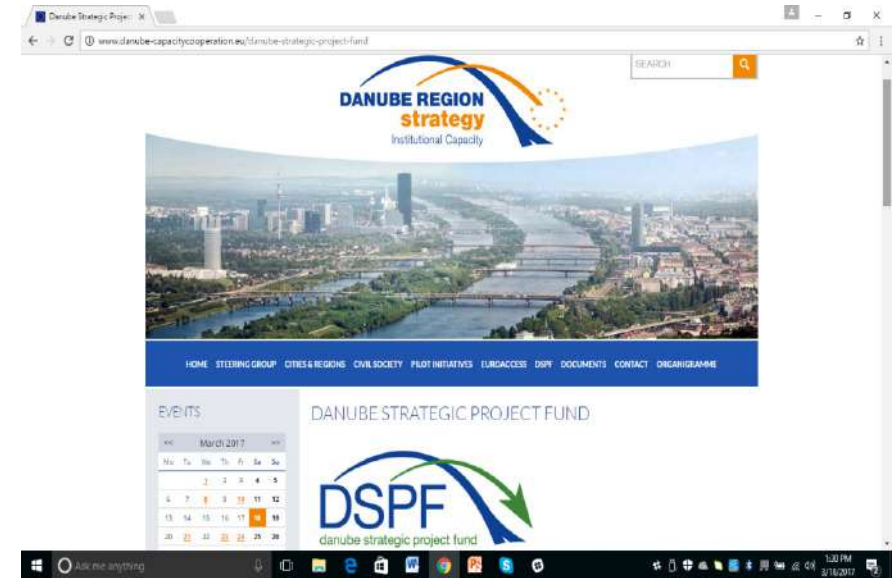
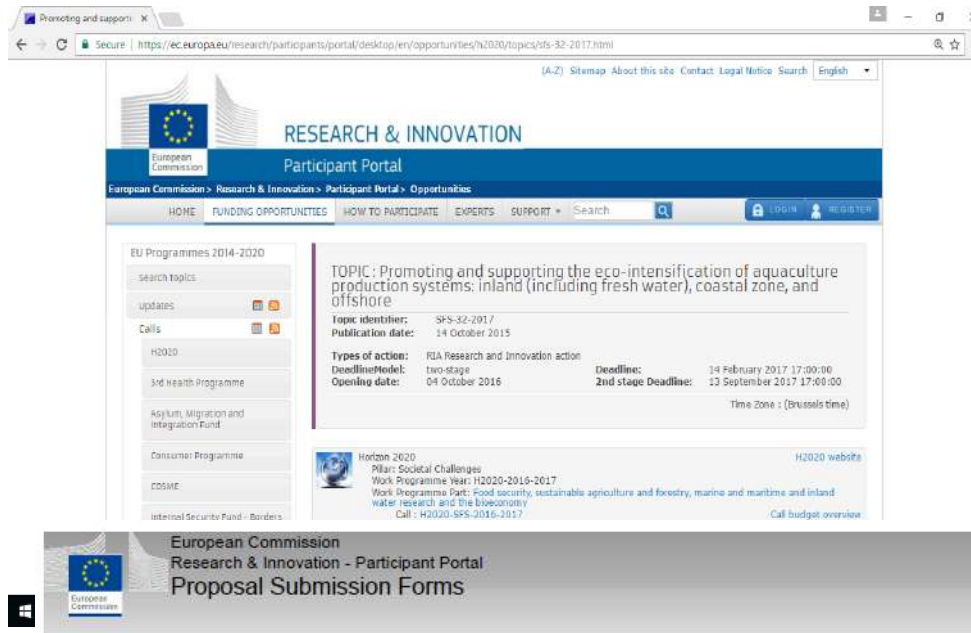
DSTF has still many things to do in future. The project promotes further action and also agreements at the political level. Considering the establishment of a macro-regional strategy for the Black Sea region it would be helpful to harmonize its priorities with the ones from the EUSDR. Project members consider that macro-regional strategies could be further improved by more awareness-raising, easier access and alignment of funding and link to the priorities of the macro-regional strategies.

The project has largely benefited from the EUSDR, which fostered the transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation in all Danube countries.

Perspectives



Submitted proposals



Horizon 2020

Call: H2020-SFS-2016-2017

(Sustainable Food Security – Resilient and resource-efficient value

Topic: SFS-32-2017

Type of action: RIA

(Research and Innovation action)

Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF)

Application form "B"

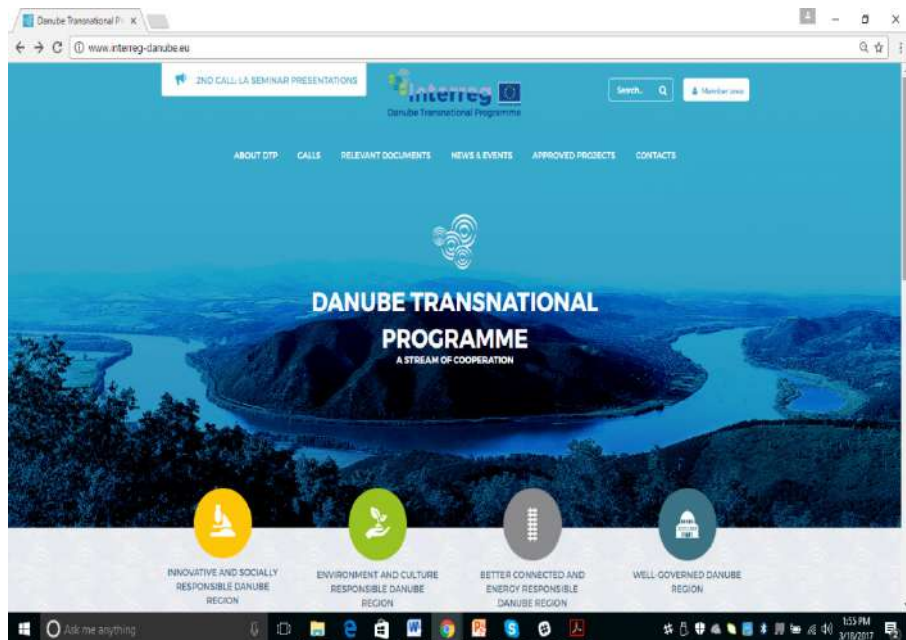
Type of project: "The implementation of an entire strategic project"

Project title of the DSPF project in English*	Developing an e-learning tool for Environmental Education for Primary and Secondary School in the Lower Danube Region
Project acronym of the DSPF project*	ELECAN
1 st Priority Area (PA) addressed*	PA 06 - Biodiversity, Landscapes, Air and soils
2 nd Priority Area (PA) Addressed*	PA 04 - Water Quality
3 rd Priority Area (PA) Addressed	PA 07 - Knowledge Society
Supporting Priority Area Coordinator*	Priority Area: PA 06 - Biodiversity, Landscapes, Air and soils Name: Dr. Florian Balázs

*All fields marked with an asterisk must be filled in for the application to be eligible!

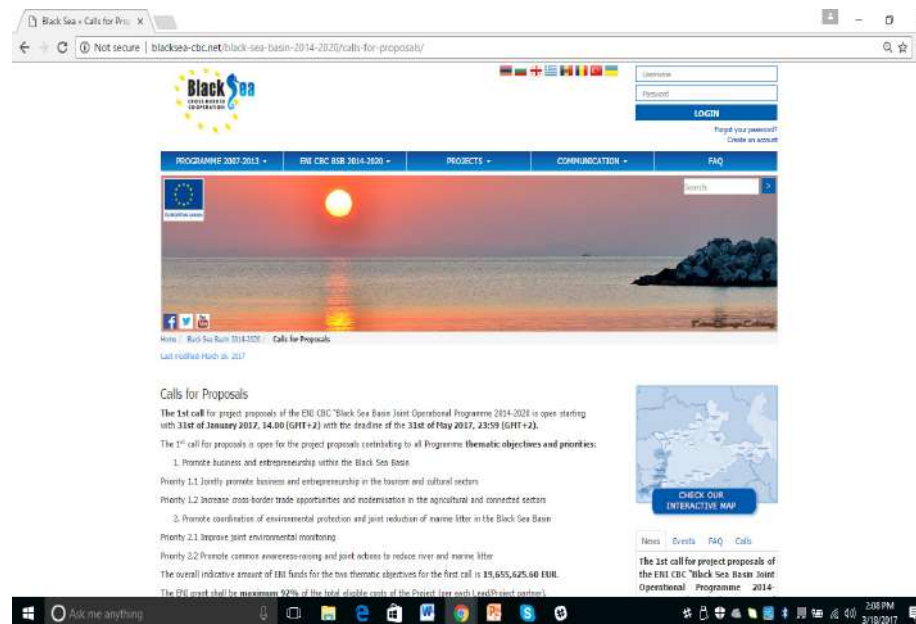
EUSDR PA 4 SG,

Proposals under development



Aquatic ecological corridors for migratory fish species in the Danube River Basin

Mitigating and preventing wildlife crime in the Danube – Carpathian area



Innovative technologies for in situ aquaculture of sturgeons in Black Sea coastal areas

Developing the funding strategy for Sturgeon 2020

Technical Assistance from the European Investment Advisory Hub to identify funding sources for the activities of Sturgeon 2020

Introducing the European Investment Advisory Hub

www.eib.org/infocentre/videotheque/introducing-the-european-investment-advisory-hub.htm

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Introducing the European Investment Advisory Hub

Date: 21 September 2015
Duration: 02:24

Introducing the European Investment Advisory ...

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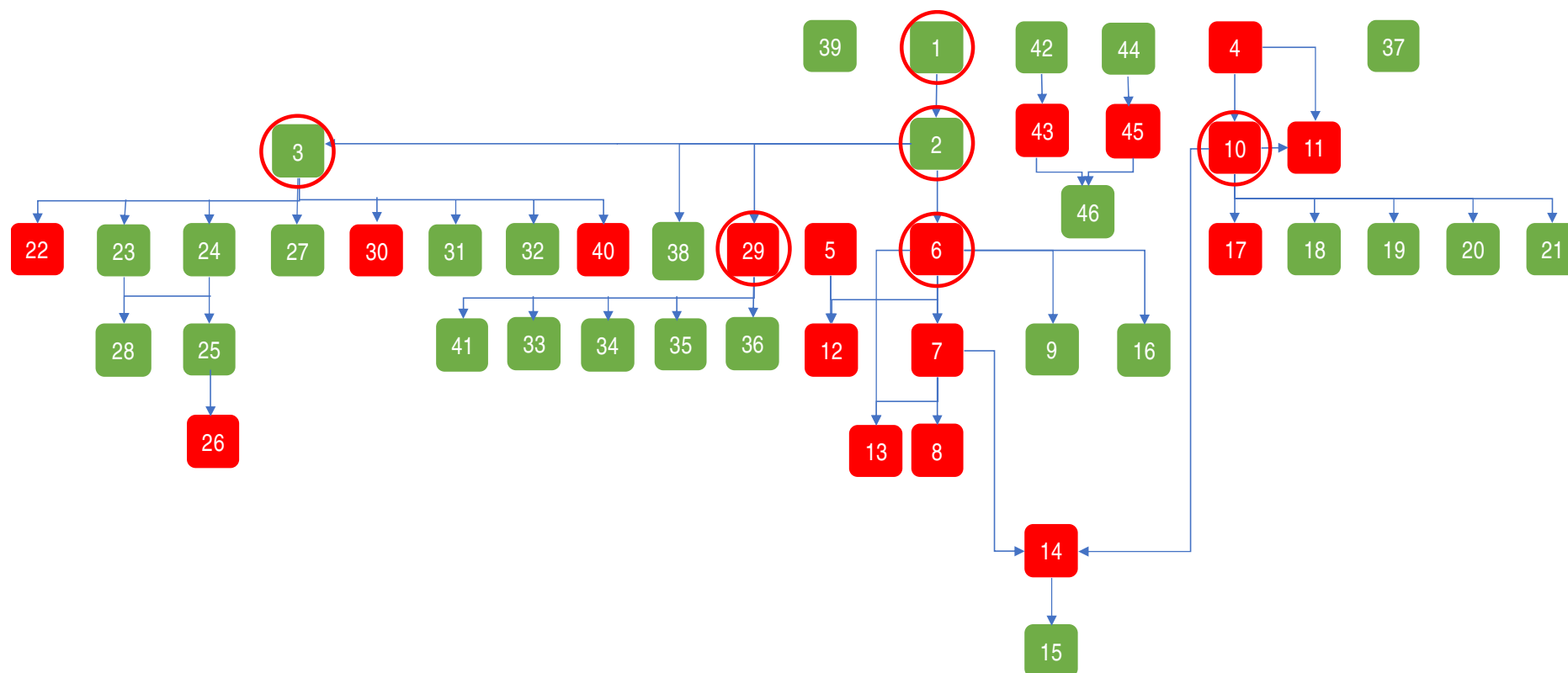
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Windows Taskbar: Ask me anything, File Explorer, Edge, Word, Chrome, Skype, Photoshop, PDF Reader, System Tray: 2:02 AM 3/18/2017

Multi-criteria analysis and selection of most urgent actions of Sturgeon 2020



Application to EUSDR Strategic Projects



EUSDR Strategic Project Data Sheet

Please return the completed form by e-mail to info@dstf.eu

Please note: Fields with orange background will be filled in by the Danube Strategy Point!

BASIC STRATEGIC PROJECT (SP) DATA			
Full SP title:	Sturgeon 2020 – a program for the protection and rehabilitation of Danube sturgeons		
Short project title (acronym):	STURGEON2020	Project logo:	
Project website:	www.dstf.eu	Project ID:	
Need and added value for EUSDR:	<p>Although sturgeons represent a great scientific, cultural, social and economic heritage of the Danube River Basin, they underwent a dramatic decline in the past decades, being today on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss and overexploitation. From the former 6 species inhabiting the Danube Basin, one is already extinct, 4 species are critically endangered and one is vulnerable.</p> <p>The Danube is considered the European Union's last river with functional, self-sustaining sturgeon populations. The countries represented in the ICPDR have designated sturgeons as the flagship species of the Danube River Basin. However, despite supportive measures taken by several Danube states (sturgeon fishery ban, restocking programs) the results of sturgeon surveys show a continuous population decline and an alarmingly low number of remaining individuals.</p> <p>The Program Sturgeon 2020 promoted by the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF) established in the frame of EUSDR – PA 06, is meant to reverse this declining trend by implementing a complex set of measures to contribute not only to sturgeon revival in the Danube River Basin and the adjacent Black Sea region, but also to enhance the wellbeing of local communities through the promotion of a sustainable use of natural resources. The program comprises actions in the field of scientific, technical, legal and financial capacity building, conservation in the natural habitats and in specially designed facilities, socio-economic measures in support of sturgeon conservation, and public awareness.</p>		

The project contributes to EUSDR targets:

PA 3 - Develop green tourist products along the Danube Region (eco-tourism)

PA 4 - Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species

PA 4 - Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (fish monitoring = BQE requested by WFD)

PA 6 - Continue the ongoing work and efforts to securing viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020

PA 6 - By 2020 strengthen the work on halting the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation...

PA 9 - Contribution to a higher employment rate in the Danube Region, especially through tackling youth and long-term unemployment

PA 11 - Developing strategic long-term cooperation between law enforcement actors along the Danube river by strengthening networks for cooperation by 2020.

A photograph of a pond filled with water lilies. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. Numerous large, round, green lily pads float on the surface, interspersed with several white water lilies in various stages of bloom. In the background, a dense stand of tall, thin reeds or grasses rises from the water. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Thank you for your attention

Contact:
cristina.sandu@dstf.eu