



WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Workshop Title: Protecting the environment in the Danube Region: Integrated horizontal cooperation

Date: 29/10/2015

Panelists / Facilitators:

Chair: Dr Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper EUSDR Water Quality Priority Area

Keynote speaker: Mr Georges-Stavros KREMLIS Head of Unit, Directorate General Environment

Dr László PERGER (EUSDR PAC PA4) Water quality

Dr László DOBI (EUSDR PAC PA5) Environmental risks

Mr Florian BALLNUS (EUSDR PAC PA6) Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils (PA6)

Mr Miklós MARTON (PA6 Steering Group Member) SOER 2015- The European Environment and the Danube Strategy

Mr Helmut HABERSACK (SEDIMENT Consortium and DREAM) The importance of SEDIMENTS

Mr Adam KOVACS (ICPDR) Transboundary pollution control in the Danube basin

Mr Harald EGERER (UNEP Carpathian Convention) Climate Change impacts on Soil and Water quality

Dr Edina CSÁNYI (European Investment Bank Advisory Hub) Environmental Project advisory

Summary of the session (max. 200 words)

Within EUSDR the environmental issues are associated with three priority areas (PAs), such as Water Quality (PA4), Environmental Risks (PA5) and Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality (PA6) and they all support the strategic objective of the EUSDR's Pillar 2 protecting the environment of the Danube Region. These Priority Areas address various aspects, specific tools and actions for the same geographic and ecological features: rivers and basins, lands and habitats. While focused actions in river basin management, flood protection, emergency preparedness, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and landscapes, soil protection and improvement of air quality are essential, these shared features also present the opportunity and obligation of cooperation within the Pillar of the EUSDR. Cooperation and synergy among the Pillar B Priority Areas of the EUSDR and also with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the UNEP Carpathian Convention is continuously on-going for the sake of our joint goal to protect the environment. The workshop underlined that there is a need for cooperation and that the effects of climate change, transboundary pollution or floods require harmonized and coordinated actions.

Key messages / lessons learnt (max. 200 words)

The environmental dimension of the EUSDR is prominent and the EUSDR can play an essential role in promoting sustainable development/environmental protection and in the implementation of the EU environmental acquis (including the Danube River Protection Convention) in the Danube macro-region. Integration/coordination between EUSDR Environmental Pillar Priority Areas and between the Environmental Pillar and the other Pillars is a key element for the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the Strategy. The EGTC and LIFE Programme 2014-2020 represent important legal and financial tools for the implementation of EUSDR environmental actions/projects. The most important global megatrend is the change of our climate system. The workshop demonstrated that the Danube Strategy plays a coordinating role and it provided a platform for the

signature of a Joint Declaration of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (represented by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention) on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin Within the Carpathian region.

Next steps / recommendations (max. 200 words)

Governance: The Pillar B Priority Areas will strive to develop horizontal cooperation with further PAs, such as PA1A – Inland navigation, PA2 - More sustainable energy and PA3 – Tourism. Pillar B PAs will further strengthen cooperation with international partner organizations such as Directorate General Environment, the JRC, the ICPDR, the Sava Commission and the Carpathian Convention.

Funding: A Joint PA4-PA5 Stakeholder Seminar will be organized on 19-20 November 2015 in Budapest titled: European funding opportunities in the water sector that will have a large networking session. EUSDR PA4-PA5 aims to assist and coordinate setting up successful projects in their thematic fields (proposals, such as Sediment, Joint Tisza, Darefort), and will further focus on partner search and the alignment of funding.

Technical issues in relation to pollution: Need of additional actions in the next management cycle in terms of measures implementation (point source emissions: non EU MS, diffuse nutrient emissions: particular importance). Prioritization and information exchange on accident risk mitigation to be facilitated. Further need to reduce knowledge gaps (sources of hazardous substances emissions, responses of marine ecosystem, future agricultural development).

Appendices:

- List of participants
- PPT Presentations
- Useful links / other relevant information