

ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

Action 5: ***“To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements”.***

Action – This action is composed dual objectives to retain nutrients load. The first is aiming to reduce pollution of rivers from diffuse sources originated from very direct close and non suitable agricultural practice to water courses and /or standing waters (lakes). Buffer zones/strips made by condition considered can efficiently retain nutrients and pesticides coming from agricultural lands. They can work as nutrient barriers and consumer (e.g. such as forest’ strip). Secondly, in the case of small rural settlements the local and non-eligible or illegal solid waste and /or waste water disposals can increase the pollutant load to waters, too (water courses using as ‘landfill’). Alternatives of WWTPs as unique and nature-friendly, local treatment solutions should be applied wherever they are cost-effective and acceptable from sanitary point of view.

Milestone n°1. Survey of the situation on buffer zones

Work: Assessment of the situation in the Danube basin based on separate questionnaires regarding existing buffer zones/strips and their efficiency, solid Each country will give an assessment on the

- legislative background (focusing on supplementary measures, but in non EU MS including the compliance with EU legislation, too),
- current subsidy system (if any),
- progress in implementation of existing measures (present status + planned changes in the legal and financing system + already approved projects, important deadlines).

Answers on the questionnaires will be summarised and conclusions will be drawn for setting up preparatory projects and recommendations.

Output: Survey

Responsible: HU, ICPDR , PA4

Deadline: End of 2012.

Milestone n°2. Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment waste in small rural settlements

Work: Assessment of the situation in the Danube basin based on separate questionnaires regarding solid waste and wastewater disposals in small rural settlements. Each country will give an assessment on the

- legislative background (focusing on supplementary measures, but in non EU MS including the compliance with EU legislation, too),
- current subsidy system (if any),
- progress in implementation of existing measures (present status + planned changes in the legal and financing system + already approved projects, important deadlines).

Answers on the questionnaires will be summarised and conclusions will be drawn for setting up preparatory projects and recommendations.

Output: Survey

Responsible: HU, ICPDR,PA4

Deadline: End of 2012.

Milestone n°3: Promoting best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste and wastewater treatment for small settlements

Work 1: Analyses of solid waste and wastewater disposals completion of the summary paper based on outputs of **milestone no. 2** with available guidance of good practices applied by Danube region countries.

Output 1: Assessment, report and inventory on local waste disposals and good practices applied by countries

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2012

Work 2 Proposal for a supplementary, eco-friendly and site-specific waste water treatment units for less than 2000 PE small settlements where UWWTPs are financially feasible.

Output 2: Scenario(s) for local and site-specific solutions of waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements within the Danube region

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: End of 2012

Work 3 Preparatory paper for evaluating different solutions of establishing buffer zones (width of zone, only buffering pollutants or combined/harmonised with ecological rehabilitation and/or flood protection, limited agriculture and/or ecosystem services). Based on case studies, effectiveness in retention of pollutants (eligibility of solid waste disposals and their legalities), feasibility and costs will be considered in the evaluation process.

Output: Exchange of experiences. Inventory on good practices of buffer zones related agriculture and removing of illegal solid waste disposals

Responsible: HU, ICPDR, PA4

Deadline: June 2014

Milestone n°4: Implementation of pilot projects on nutrient buffer zones

Work 1 Projects generation and implementation

Output: Improved efficiency of the implementation. This activity will provide the appropriate small scale implementation: e.g. limited agricultural activity

Responsible: Danube region countries

Deadline: 2015

Work 2: Programme planning on common methodology and applying solution of buffer zones engineering to use it jointly in the Danube region countries integrating (if any) adjacent floodplain restoration works as ecological services combined with mitigation of nutrient contamination into surface waters.

Output: Common tools for improving surface water quality.

Responsible: Danube region countries

Deadline: 2015

Funding: EU

Milestone n°5: Promotion of the implementation of good practices

Work: Best practices and recommendations for policy makers based on the results of **milestone no. 3** .Output and dissemination in each country, integration to national

developing programmes and providing adequate financing (technical assistance/subsidy contract to farmers modifying techniques, application of GAP). Integrate results to RBMPs at Danube region level, sub-basins and national levels. Non EU members are also need to speed up their activities in this field. This work aims at strengthening the implementation in the period 2014-2020, however projects can be launched by now.

Output: Report on best practices and recommendations
Responsible: ICPDR, PA4
Deadline: end of 2015 and continuously

Milestone n°6: Implementation pilot projects and promotion of site-specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements

Work: To comply with water quality objectives of WFD in the Danube region in the field of decreasing of nutrient levels in waters by an economic and eco-friendly way by WWT in small settlements.

Phase 1: Programme proposal for technical and financing solutions for the Danube region countries reflecting their different circumstances of topography (hydrology), spatial and settlements planning, economy, financing possibilities and experiences of this special engineering.

Output: Base documents for generation of projects relevant for small settlements waste water treatment
Responsible: PA4, Danube region countries
Deadline: 2013

Phase 2: Projects generation based on documents focusing on know-how exchange (BAT) and applying the most suitable technical solutions to small regions and/or settlements concerned.

Output: Projects can be submitted to IFIs. Application of the most suitable technical solutions concerned small regions and/or settlements.
Responsible: Project leaders
Deadline: 2015