



2015

## THE FORTH YEAR'S PROGRESS REPORT

EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Priority Area 4

**“to restore and maintain the quality of waters”**

Coordinated by Hungary and Slovakia





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30 June 2015

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

A: Action

DRBMP: Danube River Basin Management Plan

EUSDR: European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

GWP: Global Water Partnership

ICPDR: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

ICZM: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

JDS: Joint Danube Survey

MSP: Maritime Spatial Planning

NCP: National Contact Point

PA: Priority Area

PAC: Priority Area Coordinator

RBM: River Basin Management

SG: Steering Group

SWG: Standing Working Group

TA: Technical Assistance

TAF-DRP: Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects

WG: Working Group

WWT: Waste Water Treatment

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the frame of the reporting period of July 2014-June 2015 PA4 made important steps and achieved significant results towards implementing the overall goals of the priority area.

### 1.1. Achieved results and demonstrated synergies:

PA4 continued focusing on **PROJECT GENERATION, PARTNERSHIP SEARCH and NETWORKING** in the past 12 months:

- ◆ Relevant issues and topics were discussed within the frame of PA4: more than **15 PROJECTS AND IDEAS** were introduced in the frame of the Steering Group 8 and Steering Group 9 and at several ICPDR Working Groups where country representatives gave their feedback on the on-going activities and initiatives as well as next steps to be achieved.
- ◆ PA4 assisted **STAKEHOLDERS IN THEIR NETWORKING ACTIVITIES** and provided information about **possible partner searches**. With the help of Baden-Württemberg several project ideas and possible partners were identified.
- ◆ Several project preparatory meetings were held in Budapest and in Vienna concerning one of the flagship PA4 topics of **SEDIMENTS** with the main project partners and future lead beneficiaries and a **project proposal is being elaborated** that will be submitted at the next call of the Danube Transnational Programme.
- ◆ PA4 experts were actively **ASSISTING UKRAINIEN EXPERTS TO FIND PROJECT FINANCING POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR PROJECTS AIMING TO ESTABLISH LARGE WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**, a related workshop was organised in Budapest on 11 June 2015.
- ◆ Project preparatory meetings were organised for the sake of preparing a project proposal concerning the **TISZA DEVELOPMENT** plan and first draft of the project concept has been introduced and discussed in the frame of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tisza Group meeting (12-13 May 2015).
- ◆ PA4 in connection with consultation services provided within PA10 TAF-DRP searched for partners and prepared the project **“UTILISATION OF THE UNIQUE WETLANDS AND LAKES IN UNDERMINED AREAS”** for the 1<sup>st</sup> call of Central Europe INTERREG Programme. Moreover the meeting of the project partners was organised on June 16, 2015 in Slovakian site Novaky-Kos.
- ◆ PA4 assisted in searching for partners in PA4 projects as **IRRINOVATION - INNOVATIVE AND ECO-FRIENDLY IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGIES AND OTHER ADAPTATION METHODS TO FACE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE IN THE DANUBE CATCHMENT AREA**.

PA4 continued **DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE FINANCIAL POSSIBILITIES** in the 2014-2020 financial programming periods:

- ◆ PA4 held **several presentations for the Steering Group members**, invited many financial programme experts to the SG meetings and continuously informed members about the related submission deadlines.

- ◆ PA4 experts continued to be active in the **programming work and worked towards PA4 topics to be included in the DTP**.
- ◆ PA4 was active in **selecting the BEST 15 projects** from the submitted 40 project proposals submitted for **START funding** for PA4 topics and **voted on the best two projects** to be funded under the first call: **STAWA** (Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin) and **REWATER** (Revitalization of Eutrophic Waters for Different Degrees of Pollution and the Size of Water Areas) projects.
- ◆ PA4 continues to be active in the frame of restricted thematic second calls of START and TAF.

PA4 actively facilitates the **SUB-BASIN ACTIVITIES**:

- ◆ In the years of 2014-2015 in line with previous ICPDR agreement special attention was paid to the coordination of the **TISZA activities**. The Tisza Office has been established and was ceremonially opened in Szolnok in November 2014, in the heart of the Tisza River Basin. The Tisza Office’s main role – among others – is to support the ICPDR Tisza Group activities and to help the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by high representatives of the Tisza countries in 2011 in the frame of a Ministerial meeting.
- ◆ **Two Tisza Group Meetings were organised** in the reporting period: on 26-27 November 2014, in Szolnok, Hungary and on 12-13 May 2015, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- ◆ PA4 will be similarly paying attention to other sub-basins in the upcoming period.

PA4 achieved the following results and demonstrated **ADDED VALUE of PA4 regarding WATER POLICY** as follows:

- ◆ Further **STRENGTHENED COOPERATION** with many partner organisations in the field of water protection, such as the Global Water Partnership, the Danube Water Programme, the Carpathian Convention and the Joint Research Centre.
- ◆ Organised scientific stakeholder workshops focusing on **WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION** and water quality.
- ◆ Contributed to further research regarding the comprehensive **STUDIES RELATED TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS** such as a legal study on alternative collection and treatment of waste water (A5) and on phosphates (A7) assessing the situation in the EUSDR countries. For the update of the studies and obtain a current needs assessment concerning waste water treatment and phosphates in detergents **ORGANISED STUDY TOURS TO AND FOR NON-EU COUNTRIES** (to Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2015, to Serbia in July 2015, for Ukraine and Moldova planned in the upcoming months).

**Major steps were taken in the frame of THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE DANUBE RIVER (ICPDR)**, which is the platform mandated by the Danube countries for coordinating the IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD) and EU Floods Directive in the Danube River Basin. The drafts for the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Flood Risk Management Plan were prepared and public consultation launched. Both plans will be finalised by December 2015 and are the key strategic documents for Danube basin-wide water management for the period 2015 until 2021. Furthermore, the ICPDR

accomplished the assessments and published the Scientific and Public Reports of the Joint Danube Survey 3 - the world's biggest river research expedition of its kind - which was accomplished in 2013 already for the third time.

**Major steps were taken in the frame of THE INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION (ISRBC)**, where the 1st Sava River Basin Management Plan has been finalised and approved in the frame of the 5th meeting of the Parties on 2 December, 2014.

**A JOINT DOCUMENT OF SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE ICPDR, PA4 AND PA5 has been developed in 2014 and it was adopted by the Danube countries in December 2014** to outline common elements of the work, to seek for more strengthened cooperation and to specify issues/goals to be achieved by the different expert bodies.

PA4 continues **COOPERATING WITH OTHER PRIORITY AREAS:**

- ◆ With PA2 jointly organised a financing workshop in March 2015 in Budapest to provide information about financing possibilities.
- ◆ With PA5 jointly organised a study visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina where Bosnian water experts could participate at a PA5 Flood Workshop and PA4 experts could hold their waste water discussions.
- ◆ With PA6 initiated cooperation to share information related to the on-going issues specially related to the sturgeon project development.
- ◆ With PA 8 proposed the joint workshop focused on water treatment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Ulm.
- ◆ With PA7 SK NCP organises joint meetings.
- ◆ With Pillar B PAs (PA4-PA5-PA6) proposed a joint Integrated Workshop for the Annual Forum.
- ◆ With PA10 cooperates regarding the TAF and START procedures.

**DISSEMINATION ACTIONS** were completed:

- ◆ A new website was established for PA4 at: <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu>.
- ◆ PA4 brochures and folders were updated, revised, printed and disseminated at the conference “Water Resources Protection” organized by PA 4 in April 2015 in Bratislava. Paper A4 folders with the motive of the Danube Strategy were printed and disseminated at the above-mentioned conference;
- ◆ Article about on-going PA4 activities was published in the ICPDR Danube Watch (Regional efforts to restore water quality’ issue 2015/1) and another article was published in the Water Management Journal (Effective and sustainable utilization of water sources);
- ◆ Article in Water Management Journal 5-6/2015 was published informing about the conference “Water Resources Protection” organised by PA4 on 22-23 April 2015 in Bratislava.
- ◆ Two PA4 workshops, one panel discussion and one exhibition are planned to be organised in Ulm in October 2015 at the EUSDR Annual Forum. The related proposals were submitted to the Organising Committee.

The following pages introduce the details of the outcomes, outline lessons learned and emphasises issues specific to the Priority area in the reported period.

## **2. STATE OF PLAY- ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES OF THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION**

### **2.1. Policy developments**

The Action Plan introduces fourteen actions for priority area 4. The mission of PA4 is the improvement of the efficiency of the implementation of roadmap items by setting up a method and optimising the implementation of the action by making a plan for the implementation and making an optimised investment and financing plan for the roadmap item.

The **main challenges and significant water management issues** relevant for PA4 are

- (1) organic and
- (2) nutrient pollution
- (3) hazardous substances pollution
- (4) hydromorphological alterations.

The ICPDR is developing the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements, outlining specific measures such as reduction of pollution and impacts on hydromorphology in order to achieve the objectives of EU Water Framework Directive.

The PA4 PACs play an important role in the

- (1) alignment of funding process
- (2) in the cooperation with relevant institutions and
- (3) in facilitating the development of project proposals and set up of project consortiums.

In the frame of the Reporting period the following main outcomes can be summarised:

#### **Activities/ Documents developed during the progress period:**

1. Joint cooperation with the ICPDR (and Sava Commission) Adoption of the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 &PA5 Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for EUSDR Implementation and its annexes:
2. Development of the Draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and launching the Public Participation process – action carried out by the ICPDR;
3. Development of the Scientific and Public Report of the JDS3 – action carried out by the ICPDR;
4. Facilitating joint meetings between the Project Beneficiaries and relevant financial programs, project proposals in the topics of Sediments and Tisza river among others;
5. Adoption of the Multiannual Work Plan of EUSDR PA4.

### *2.1.1. Joint cooperation with the ICPDR*

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities of the EUSDR PA4 and 5, a paper on the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination has been developed. It was adopted in November 2014 by PA4 and PA5; it was adopted by the ICPDR in December 2014. The paper builds upon already existing approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan as well as to support implementation of the Danube River Basins Management Plan coordinated by ICPDR. (More information about the document can be found in subchapter 3.1.4)

In order to complete the joint paper a bilateral discussion was organised between the EUSDR and the ICPDR Secretariat on 8 September 2014 in Vienna, where a side meeting was also held between PA4 experts and the ICPDR expert to discuss the joint activities and agree on the steps to be made in the next half a year. The meeting was hosted by the ICPDR Secretariat. The SK PAC Team (Mr Frantisek Kolocany, Ms Andrea Vranovska,), the HU PAC Team (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Diana Heilmann), the ICPDR (Mr Raimund Mair) and at part of the meeting the Austrian SG member (Mr Karl Schwaiger) were present at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting is attached in **Annex 3**.

As a follow up activity of the joint paper another meeting has been organised on 19 February 2015 in Budapest. The main objective of that meeting was to discuss on the joint activities relevant for 2015 and to prepare for the next Steering Group meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management. The SK PAC Team (*Mr Dusan Ceresnak, Ms Andrea Vranovska, Ms Alena Kurecova*), the HU PAC Team (*Mr Laszlo Perger, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Diana Heilmann*), the ICPDR Secretariat (*Mr Raimund Mair, Mr Adam Kovacs*) and the Sava Commission (*Mr Samo Groselj*) representatives were present at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting is attached in **Annex 4**.

Beside the joint PA4-ICPDR-Sava Commission meetings the PA4 PAC, Mr László Perger, has also participated in the ICPDR main expert group meetings and Heads of Delegation meetings (River Basin Management Expert Group meeting, Ordinary meeting, Standing Working Group meeting) where among relevant ICPDR progress also PA4 on-going issues have been introduced and have been discussed. Moreover, PAC4 SK, Mr Vladimir Novak, Water Director, has been nominated as the Head of Delegation for Slovak Republic in ICPDR and he participates at relevant ICPDR meetings to provide the contribution from PA4 as well.

### *2.1.2. Development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015*

The ICPDR is developing the Danube River Basin Management Plan - Update 2015 based on the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, which sets strategic targets for water management on the basin-wide scale and which addresses the planning period between 2015 and 2021. In parallel, the first Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin is elaborated by the ICPDR according to the requirements of the EU Floods Directive, covering the same planning period. These plans aim to further protect and enhance the status of all waters and to ensure the sustainable, long-term use of water resources as well as the sustainable management of flood risks.

For the development of the management plans, representatives of civil society and stakeholders were called to contribute their views. The people of the Danube River Basin will be affected by the measures outlined in the plans, and therefore, they are given an opportunity to have a word on their development.

As of December 2014, the ICPDR provided the draft management plans for comments. The public was invited to submit comments to the ICPDR Secretariat until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015. Comments will be used as a basis for a review and finalisation of the plans until December 2015.

#### *2.1.3. Development of the Scientific and Public reports of the JDS3*

The Joint Danube Survey 3 (JDS3) was the world’s biggest river research expedition of its kind in 2013. JDS3 catalysed international cooperation between the ICPDR Contracting Parties. The general objective of the JDS3 was to undertake an international longitudinal survey that would produce comparable and reliable information on water quality for the whole length of the Danube River including the major tributaries on a short-term basis. The outcomes of the JDS3 cover the information gaps as necessary for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

After the monitoring survey was carried out in 2013 the samples were analysed and the results were processed to prepare a draft final report in summer 2014. This draft was reviewed by the relevant expert groups of ICPDR(MA EG, HYMO TG and RBM EG) and the revised report was adopted by the ICPDR at the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting. In parallel a JDS3 Public Report was prepared by the ICPDR. Both reports are available at: <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/jds3>. The results of the JDS3 were used for the preparation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015.

#### *2.1.4. Facilitating joint meetings with the Project Beneficiaries and financial program*

With the help of PA4 bilateral meetings have been organised between project beneficiaries and Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) representatives in May/June 2015 to discuss details of the project proposals to make sure that the project proposal meets the programme specific requirements. Moreover the representative of DTP was presented on 8SG Meeting in Bratislava in October 2014 and on 9SG Meeting in Budapest in June 2015.

#### *2.1.5. Adoption of the Multiannual Work Plan of EUSDR PA4*

For the 8th Steering Group meeting, based on contribution from the Hungarian and Slovakian PA4 coordinators as well as from the experts of the ICPDR and ISRBC an excel table has been developed to list the main on-going activities of priority area 4 (*Water quality*) in line with the Roadmap actions. (Please see it attached in **Annex 11**.) The main objective of the workplan and timetable is not to repeat the elements of PA4 roadmap but to include those activities, which are

- under implementation,
- financially covered or planned to be covered and
- relevant for the Danube countries.

### 2.1.6. *Lessons learned*

Detailed list of lessons learnt is included in chapter 5.

## 2.2. **Progress by targets**

The following pages give an overview on the main activities of the fourth year of implementation to achieve targets. More detailed information can be found in **Annex 1** of this document, which specifies both ICPDR specific and PA4 specific actions.

### **Target 1: Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan**

The target is linked to 8 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:

- Action 1: “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan”
- Action 3: “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”.
- Action 4: “To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”.
- Action 8: To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures
- Action 9: “To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”
- Action 11: “To promote measures to limit water abstraction”
- Action 12: “To strengthen general awareness and facilities exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region”
- Action 13: “To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply.”

Related to this target as an important activity the **Joint Danube Survey 3** has been finalised and the related reports have been published by the ICPDR.

The draft for the **Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015** has also been developed by the ICPDR within the progress period and the related **public participation process** has been launched in December 2014 and will last until 22 July 2015. The targeted Stakeholder Consultation Workshop ‘*Voice of the Danube*’ will take place on 2-3 July 2015 in Zagreb. (<http://www.icpdr.org/main/stakeholder-workshop-registration-started>).

**Conference “Water resources Protection” has been organised in Bratislava, Slovakia in 22-23 April 2015** aiming at to achieve active approach to water management, considering the specific conditions of the territory with the aim to mitigate the climate change impact (drought, water scarcity, floods) used for protection and sustainable utilization of water resources and provision of sufficient water amount for ecosystems.<sup>1</sup>

**Target 2: Reduce nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to the conditions similar to 1960s by 2020.**

The target is linked to 3 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:

- 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 6: “To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution”
- Action 7: “To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”.

Next to the ICPDR core activities linked to this target area (and introduced in Annex 1 of this document) PA4 is currently organising follow-up steps related to the **development of the following studies** to fulfil relevant milestones towards reaching target:

- ✓ Follow-up survey related to the Study on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements: EUSDR PA4 “Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements” ( **Action 5, Milestone 4**);
- ✓ Follow-up survey related the study to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents: EUSDR PA4 Study “Legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents -policy response on the overview report” (**Action 7, Milestone 2**).

Based on information exchange with the ICPDR and Sava Commission it was suggested that the follow-up activities on waste water infrastructure development should also focus on the problems of larger cities and middle-sized agglomerations besides the issues of small rural settlements. This is highly reasonable since the main challenges in Non-EU countries are linked to the non-existing, less developed or strongly perished waste water treatment facilities of these bigger agglomerations. In case of the phosphate-free detergents the main question to be addressed is what the main challenges of the Non-EU countries are to achieve the joint DRB management objectives and what is foreseen to be implemented in the frame of the joint programme of measures related to this topic.

General policy recommendations are aimed to be further developed via short study visits within the non-EU countries. The first visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina was arranged on 11 June

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<sup>1</sup>The conference documents are available at websites <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/conference-water-resources-protection> and [http://old.vuvh.sk/index.php/en\\_US/konferencie/medzinarodna-konferencia-ochrana-vodnych-zdrojov](http://old.vuvh.sk/index.php/en_US/konferencie/medzinarodna-konferencia-ochrana-vodnych-zdrojov).

2015. The visit documents are attached as **Annex 6**. Further common meetings and visits to Serbia, Ukraine and Moldova will be organised in the 2nd half of 2015.

**Target 3: Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015.**

The target is linked to 2 actions of the EUSDR PA4. These are the following:

- Action 14: “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea”
- Action 2: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”

The PA4 experts noted regarding Target 3 that the deadline of the set target is overdue and informed the EC regarding PA targets and their validity for the Danube Programme on 30/04/2015 that **Target 3 is to be prolonged**: the target for the Danube Delta Analysis Report that was originally foreseen to be achieved by 2013 is delayed and consequently the Danube Delta Management Plan is delayed. The Steering Group agreed at its 9th meeting with the prolongation of the target deadline.

**Target 4: Secure viable population of Danube sturgeon species.**

The target is linked to 1 action of the EUSDR PA4 to implement fully DRBM. This is the following:

- Action 10: “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”

In line with the previous reports two projects are specific for this target focusing on sediment issues and on sturgeon. The Priority Area is aiming to utilise available funds from 2015 also including funds from the Danube Transnational Program. The Priority Area puts strong emphasis on the development of the sediment project proposal via also supporting the proposal development. In July 2014 the ICPDR Secretariat organised a meeting in Vienna with participation of representatives from institutions of the three lead countries Hungary, Austria and Romania, where the contents of different work packages of the revised project proposal and next steps were discussed. Based on the meeting results, written exchange took place following the meeting. A second preparatory meeting was organised by Budapest University of Technology and Economics on 21 November 2014 in Budapest, followed by a third preparatory meeting on 16 February 2015 in Vienna. The Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) is now providing support for the elaboration of the proposal. Furthermore, an outline and project description was elaborated, which served for discussion at a project proposal elaboration workshop which took place on 8 April 2015 in Budapest. The project proposal is planned to be submitted at an upcoming call of the Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme in autumn 2015. The ICPDR and the EUSDR provided financial and technical support for the project development and the formation of a consortium and set aside funds from the TA2 budget the development of the sediment project.

The PA4 also facilitating discussion among project beneficiary and financial programmes to specify programme criteria and to make sure that the project proposal meets the programme

related requirements. More details on on-going activities are introduced in **Annex 1**. Furthermore, DG Regio via the Priority Area and the ICPDR assists financially to the development and implementation of Sturgeons projects. Support was provided for the preparation of project proposals in the frame of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force. Related to this, a “Feasibility study summarising the important elements on ex-situ conservation for sturgeons in the DRB” was finalised in March 2015. The study provides important input for the implementation of the successful application under “EUSDR Start” for the project “STURGENE” (Ex-situ survey to preserve sturgeon genetic diversity in the Middle and Lower Danube). The project aims to provide the necessary knowledge base, mobilise stakeholder support, and develop a roadmap for actions for securing the gene pool of endangered Danube sturgeon species. Furthermore, a LIFE project proposal on the restoration of sterlet populations in the Upper Danube was considered for financing by the European Commission. These projects provide important input for key elements of the Strategy and Programme “Sturgeon 2020” which was elaborated under the umbrella of the EUSDR.

**Target 5: Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins**

The target is linked to 1 action of the EUSDR PA4. This is the following:

- Action 2: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”

On 4 November 2014 organised by the Middle-Tisza-District Directorate and National Directorate for Water Management (Hungary), facilitated by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and EUSR PA4 and PA5 experts, the National Tisza Office have been established and was ceremonially opened in Szolnok. The Tisza Office’s main role – among others – is to support the ICPDR Tisza Group activities and to help the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by high representatives of the Tisza countries in 2011 in the frame of a Ministerial meeting.

During the progress period 2 Tisza Group meeting have been organised: one in Szolnok, Hungary on 23-24 November 2014 and one in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In both meetings the delegation of all the five countries of the Tisza River Basin (Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia) as well as EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR have been represented. NGOs and other international organisations were also presented. The minutes of the meetings are attached as **Annex 7**.

## Projects supported by PA4 Letters of Recommendation and Letters of Merit in 2014/2015:

- **Irrinovation project:** The project aims to promote water efficient irrigation technologies and policies, which should also be energy efficient by using an integrated approach. Climate change is an element, which induce the problem and the solutions, to be explored within the project, should also reflect the aspects of climate change. The focus, however, is on the collection of good practices dealing with the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change considering water demand issues (related to irrigation), which objective clearly met the goals of the PA4 Action 11, Milestone 1 ‘Collection of good practice example dealing with limiting water abstraction’.

The project proposal has received a letter of recommendations on 8 April 2015. The project partners are: HU-D-SI-PL-IT. \_The application has been submitted under the first call for proposals of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme on 13th April 2015. The project passed through CE administrative control. Currently it is waiting for the pre-selection of step 2.

### 2.3. Key actions in PA4 activities (2014-2015)

Since the last progress report, several events has been organised in connection to the restoration and maintenance of waters. PA4 PACs were presented also on several meetings to disseminate results and to discuss specific elements of the Roadmap. The following table summarizes the main events relevant from the priority area implementation and dissemination activities point of view.

#### 2.3.1. Main events relevant from the priority area point of view

**Table 1 - Main events relevant from the priority area implementation and dissemination activities point of view**

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 07/14 to 06/15)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
11 July 2014 Vienna, Austria	START - Danube Region Project Fund – PA1	Vienna, Austria – Practical workshop on START programme – rules and decision making process
8 September 2014 Vienna, Austria	ICPDR, NCPs, PA5 and PA4 meeting	Vienna, Austria – meeting about the Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy on EUSDR Implementation;
8 September 2014 Vienna, Austria	ICPDR, PA4, A meeting	Vienna, Austria, meeting of PA4, ICPDR and A regarding further steps in PA4 activities implementation
10 October 2014 Bratislava, Slovakia	NCP SK – PA meeting	Meeting of NCP Slovakia with the priority areas
14 October 2014,	PA4 SG8 meeting	Discussion about PA4 on-going issues, progress to be

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 07/14 to 06/15)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
Bratislava, Slovakia		presented (details see in Chapter 4)
30-31 October, Munich, Germany	40th RBM EG meeting	PA4 PAC presentation about the progress achieved by PA4 – outcomes of the SG8
4November 2014, Szolnok, Hungary	Ceremonial inauguration of the Tisza Office	Facilitated by the EUSDR PA4 and the ICPDR PS the Tisza Office – among other – will help the organisation of the ICPDR Tisza Group activities
21November, Budapest, Hungary	Sediment Meeting	Project proposal preparatory meeting, organised by the Budapest technical University and facilitated by the ICPDR, the PA4 and PA5
26-27 November 2014, Szolnok, Hungary	21st Tisza Group meeting	In line with the updated Memorandum of Understanding of the Tisza Group signed in 2011, supported also by the PA4 a meeting has been organised to continue the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group
3 December 2014 Bratislava, Slovakia	Blue Danube workshop	Aiming for the preparation of the project “Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River”.
8-10 December 2014	ICPDR 17 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting	1) Discussion about the ICPDR on-going activities, special focus on the Draft of the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015; 2) Final adoption of the EUSDR/ICPDR Joint Document; 3) PAC presentation about the on-going PA4 activities.
26-27 January 2015 Vienna, Austria	2nd Stakeholder Conference organised by PA10	Strengthening the Urban Dimension of the Danube Region – Urban Platform Danube Region
28-29 January 2015, Ispra, Italy	ISPRA mtg	The Danube water nexus: assessment benchmarking and water scenarios: presentation about PA4 activities.
13 February 2015, Stuttgart, Germany	PAC meeting	Annual forum, PAC financing discussions.
18 February 2015, Brno, Czech Republic	3 <sup>rd</sup> Blue Danube Workshop	Discussion on objectives and methodology of project dealing with reducing pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River
19 February 2015, Budapest, Hungary	PA4-ICPDR – Sava Commission Joint mtg	Discussion of joint activities relevant for PA4
20 March 2015 Vienna, Austria	Practical workshop to the START programme	Information about the second call
25 March 2015 Bratislava, Slovakia	NCP SK – PA meeting	Meeting of NCP Slovakia with the priority areas
22-23 April 2015 Bratislava, Slovakia	Water Resources Protection Conference	Conference on Water Resources Protection organised by PA4 SK
23-24 April 2015, Prague, Czech Republic	41th RBM meeting	Discussion on the updated draft of the DRBMPlan – Update 2015 and presentation about the PA4 activities in the frame of the meeting
8 April 2015 Budapest, Hungary	Sediment workshop	Project preparation with the organisational team, assisted by the ICPDR and PA4

Timetable as agreed in the Grant Agreement (from 07/14 to 06/15)		Key activities conducted
Date	Activity according to the project	
8 May 2015, Brussels, Belgium	PAC meeting	DTP consultation, PA4 participation
12-13 May 2015, Cluj Napoca, Romania	Tisza Group Meeting05-	Project preparation, Tisza RBM Plan state of play.
2-3 June 2015, Zagreb Croatia	13 <sup>th</sup> StWG Meeting ICPDR	Discussion about ICPDR activities with special focus on the updated draftDanube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and Tisza Group activities, PA4 presentation about PA4 activities.
9 June Budapest, Hungary	SGM9	PA4 activities presentations, Nexus presentations, PA4 relevant projects, information about financial possibilities
10-12 June 2015, Jahorina, BiH	Visit to Non-EU Countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina	Alternative waste water treatment for small rural settlements and phosphates PA4 delegation discussions with Bosnian water experts
16 June 2015 Novaky, Slovakia	MINE WETLIFE meeting	Meeting of the project partners regarding project “Utilisation of Unique Wetlands and Lakes in Undermined Areas”
24-25 June 2015 Budapest-Braistlava-Vienna	NCP-PAC meeting: The Floating Conference	Strategic concept, EUSDR inthe OPs, Communication needs, financing of PACs, Annual Forum.

### 2.3.2. Main achievements within the reporting period

#### ***Sediment issues and consequences in the Danube river***

Sediment transport is one of the key processes influencing all significant water management issues and is closely linked to measures implemented by flood risk management, hydropower, navigation, agriculture, drinking water production, water quality and ecology.

The whole sediment regime in the Danube basin has been undergoing a significant change also affecting water related sectors and having impact in water management in long term as well.

To find out the details of sediment problems, to outline solutions and to draft joint policy recommendations to be further included in the next river basin management cycle, experts of the Danube countries agreed to develop a project proposal relevant for the whole Danube River Basin. The ICPDR provided financial and technical support for the project development and set aside funds from the TA2 budget. At its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting in December 2014, the ICPDR underlined its continuing interest in sound sediment management. A financial support is also ensured by PA4 for the main leader Budapest University of Technology and Economic (BME) for the facilitation of the project proposal development. After several preparatory meetings and discussions in Budapest and in Vienna in 2014-2015, on 8 April 2015 the BME organized a one-day workshop in Budapest, with more than thirty participants from the Danube countries, to discuss about the main tasks and actions of the sediment project proposal, which is now under preparation.

The main goal of the meeting was to establish a consortium and a project team, to formulate tasks as well as to outline clear list of expected deliverables, the envisaged outcomes and results to be reached within the project. In the frame of the workshop more than twenty institutions / organizations were represented by national and international experts from ten countries.

The main discussion of the workshop was focusing on the possible content, expected results and deliverables of each workpackage (WPs). The participants suggested on future WP leaders and additional participating partners (e.g. involvement of hydropower sector).

Among the envisaged project outcomes/results, sediment monitoring network, guideline in sediment transport monitoring, maps e.g. showing surplus deficit, graphs concerning spatio-temporal development of sediment transport, sediment balance scheme/graphs as one central outcome, creation of sediment quantity database in GIS, list of practical measures as well as recommendations on how to handle sediment quantity problems were listed.

The workshop was an important step towards the development of the proposal and concluded with an action programme for the post-workshop period.

The project consortium has developed the draft project proposal, which will be further submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme. The PA4 experts assisted project preparation to be in line with the DTP and organized bilateral discussion with the representatives of the Programme and the project leaders on 26 May 2015.

***Strengthening sub basin activities by the establishment of the Tisza Office and organisation of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Tisza Group meetings***

On 4 November 2014 organised by the Middle-Tisza-District Directorate and National Directorate for Water Management (Hungary), facilitated by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and EUSR PA4 and PA5 experts, the Tisza Office have been established and was ceremonially opened in Szolnok, in the heart of the Tisza River Basin. The Tisza Office main role – among others – is to support the ICPDR Tisza Group activities and to help the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by high representatives of the Tisza countries in 2011 in the frame of a Ministerial meeting.

As a next step on 26-27.November 2014 the 21<sup>st</sup> Tisza Group meeting has been organised by the Tisza Office, facilitated by the EUSR PA4 and ICPDR PS experts.

*The main focuses of the Tisza Group meetings were:*

- Report “Progress in the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the Tisza River Basin”
- 2013 Update of Tisza Analysis Report (TAR)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan
- Discussion on the Tisza project concept paper toward the development of a Tisza Project proposal.



- *Organisation of 2nd workshop on Blue Danube project*

On December 3, 2014 the 2nd workshop on Blue Danube project was organised in the Water Research Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia. The project Blue Danube serves as preparatory phase for the bigger project “Development of concepts for reducing the accumulation of pharmaceutical residues in the Danube River”. The aim of the project is to solve the problem with the residues of pharmaceuticals in the Danube basin. The present water treatment plants operating in the area do not clean the water from antibiotics, hormones and other pharmaceutical metabolites, moreover, the legislation in this field is not fully determined yet. Therefore the project topic is really topical and needed.

Main objectives of the second workshop were to introduce the companies and institutes participating in the project; to discuss the development of specific technical concepts for water management using nano-scale materials; to define the next steps and possible working options in relation of the project implementation and to clarify the work packages and distribute the responsibilities among the project partners.

The Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop are in **Annex 5a**

The third workshop was organised on February 18, 2015 in Brno. The participants have discussed the technology, analysis of particular pharmaceuticals, methods of their removal and detection limits, competitive technologies, legislation and funding.

The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop are in **Annex 5b**.

### **3. GOVERNANCE**

#### **3.1. Progress on the governance**

##### *3.1.1. Steering Group meetings organised within the third year of implementation*

During the fourth year of implementation two steering group meetings were organised to discuss main activities of the priority area and outline next steps to further facilitate the work.

##### *3.1.2. 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting*

On 14 October 2014, the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting of PA4 has been organised in Bratislava, Slovakia with the following main objectives:

1. To present the Joint Document of Cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR and discuss how it will be approved with the Steering Group;
2. To present the START projects, explain how the best 15 projects were selected and to discuss the way how the top 4 projects will be selected for the submission to the Priority Area 10;
3. To discuss on recent activities related to PA4 and give information on the planned events;
4. To present information about the different possibilities for project financing including the new Danube Transnational Programme, Horizon 2020, Life, Central Europe.

The meeting was attended by the SG members or their substitutes of the following Danube countries: AT, CZ, HU, HR, SK, MD, ME, and DE and by the representatives of EC DG Region, ICPDR, Sava Commission and GWP (the detailed list of participants is attached). The participants appreciated the cooperation between EUSDR and the ICPDR, the preparation of the Work Plan and the detailed information that they could obtain about the financing possibilities.

**Annex 8** provides detailed information about the SG 8 meeting.

Following the SG meeting the Joint Document and the Start applications ranking was put into written consultation procedure and as a result the Joint Document was approved by the SG and the Start applications were ranked, the two projects that PA4 suggested for funding via Start funds were selected. (REWATER and STAWA)

### 3.1.3. 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting

On 9 June 2015 the 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting of PA4 has been organised in Budapest.

The main objective of the meeting was to give an overview about the on-going activities of the priority area on water quality (PA4) of the EUSDR, the ICPDR and the Sava Commission and to explore on financial options by introducing the new financial programmes, specially the Danube Transnational Programme and the LIFE Programme. Next to the introduction of financial programmes the meeting also served as a platform to introduce 13 new project initiatives closely linked to PA4 activities and to present cooperation with several Nexus partners.

The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management. More than thirty participants from eleven countries (At, BiH, CZ, De, HR, HU, RO, RS, SK, SI, UA) were presented at the meeting including seven steering group members as well. The SK and HU PAC Teams, the ICPDR Secretariat, the Sava Commission, the GWP-SEE, the Baden Württemberg Ministry of the Environment and Climate Protection and Energy Sector, the Danube Water Programme, the Szent István University and Carpathian Conventions representatives as well as project representatives were also presented at the meeting.

During the meeting the SG decided

- That *target 3 will be updated and the updated text will be further communicated to the high level meeting of the EUSDR.*
- *The PA4 Team will develop the Annual Progress Report in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and will circulate it to the PA4 Steering Group country members for comments before submitting the document to the European Commission. The final document will also be uploaded to the website.*
- *The PA4 will give additional information on the on-going sub-basin activities in the frame of the next steering group meeting.*

The At delegate noted **regarding the DTP that wording of target related results 2.3** (*‘Better integrated plans and developed solutions to further protect and enhance the status of all waters and to ensure the sustainable, long-term use of water resources in the Danube region strongly interlinked with sound flood risk management’*) is restrictive and should be reconsidered.

The ICPDR delegate appreciated PA4 Team to ensuring platform for the introduction of topic of DRBM Plan and the JDS 3 outcomes for the EUSDR Annual Forum.

**Annex 9** provides detailed information about the SG 9 meeting.

**Annex 11** includes the updated workplan of the priority area on water quality.

#### 3.1.4. Follow up of the Joint Paper on Cooperation with the ICPDR

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities of the EUSDR PA4 and 5 a paper on the ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination has been developed. It was adopted in November 2014 by PA4 and PA5; it was adopted by the ICPDR in December 2014. The paper builds upon already existing approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan as well as the Danube River basin Management Plan coordinated by ICPDR.

**Background:** The ICPDR, PA4 and PA5 in November 2013 agreed to prepare a joint document, where the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi between ICPDR and PA4/PA5 are clarified. They also agreed that the joint draft document once primarily agreed with the partners will be disclosed for the Steering Group members and will be submitted to the European Commission in 2014. In line with the above procedure PA4, PA5, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania (PACs) and the ICPDR started with the process and prepared their *Joint Documents*.

The document was discussed several times among the ICPDR and related NCs during 2014 and on 8 September 2014 in Vienna an agreement was reached between ICPDR, HU and SK related to the text. The Romanian party provided its consent. The document was ready for circulation on 03/10/2014. PA4 submitted it to its SG members on 06/10/2014 and provided a presentation about its content at the SG meeting on 14 October 2014. During the SG meeting several parties expressed appreciation of the document and welcomed the already visible good cooperation between PA4 and the ICPDR. (Please see further details in **Annex 8** of the SG 8 minutes.)

The main objectives of the document are:

- ✓ Outlining mandates;
- ✓ Setting clear overview on the separation of tasks and responsibilities;
- ✓ Seeking for options/procedures on how to make the best of both frameworks through complementarity and coordination synergy.

The document describes several options about how to reinforce synergy such as (1) Strengthening the network; (2) Closer coordination; (3) Early consultations; (4) Meeting efficiency; (5) Innovative approaches; (6) Mutual recognition and visibility (7) Cross-sectoral cooperation; (8) Strategic guidance and coordination; (9) Priority setting; (10) Alignment of funding.

Cooperation between EUSDR structures and those of the ICPDR is already on-going and should be further strengthened inter alia by firmly utilising the mandate, experience, past achievements and technical capability of the ICPDR for all water related issues in the Danube River Basin. Avoiding overlaps and avoiding the creation of parallel structures is a key principle that should be followed at all levels of cooperation.

The approved document is attached in **Annex 10**.

As a follow-up step a joint meeting has been also organised between P4-ICPDR PS and Sava Commission representatives in February 2015 in Budapest to discuss on common issues.

### 3.2. Links with other priority areas and organizations

The PA4 works in close cooperation with experts from **PA5**. PA5 expert input is strongly expected related to Tisza sub basin initiatives, where the flood and drought, as well as climate change related issues are also strongly relevant. Furthermore, with PA5 the PA4 experts jointly organised a study visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina in June 2015 where Bosnian water experts could participate at a PA5 Flood Workshop and PA4 experts could hold their waste water discussions.

With **Pillar B** PAs (PA4-PA5-PA6) proposed a joint Integrated Workshop for the Annual Forum. PA4 has also initiated cooperation with PAC of **PA6** to share information related to the on-going issues specially related to the sturgeon project development.

With **PA2** jointly organised a financing workshop in March 2015 in Budapest to provide information about financing possibilities. With **PA10** cooperates regarding the TAF and START procedures. With **PA 8** proposed the joint workshop focused on water treatment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Ulm. With **PA7** SK NCP organises joint meetings.

PA4 also cooperates with **other organizations**, particularly with the **Joint Research Center**, whose Water Unit is committed to deliver the following scientific products in 2015: Danube sediment budget and the Consensus water balance of the Danube. These products would particularly serve the Sediments project proposal (where the sediment budget was welcomed as a JRC in-kind contribution) and the Tisza initiative.

The JRC is providing scientific products for the ICPDR and the Sava Commission, namely:

- A nutrients model benchmarking between MONERIS (used by ICPDR for the Danube River Basin Management plan) and JRC model SWAT.
- Maps of chemical emissions for JDS3 chemicals.

### 3.3. Publicity

The following main dissemination activities were done or are on-going currently:

- Development of two dissemination documents (1) to summarize outcomes of the labelled projects and (2) to give overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2015-2012 (activity is on-going);
- Printing of folder (A4 size) with PA4 motive;
- Updating and re-printing PA4 information brochure;
- Participation in conferences, workshops;
- Website development;
- Presentation of the results and outcomes in the frame of the yearly Annual Forum;
- Article about PA4 activities published in Danube Watch;
- Article providing the information on Conference “Water Resources protection” in Water Management Journal 5-6/2015.

Based on the outcomes and experiences of the PACs there is a high interest towards the EUSDR and PA4 related activities specifically to analyse added values of the labelled projects as well as to summarize (explore) available project funds relevant in the coming 2015-2021 financial period. In line with needs PACHU facilitate the development of such dissemination documents and will publish them in 2015.

Based on the outcomes of the SG8 and decision made by the SG members two dissemination documents are planned to be prepared in 2015:

- (1) to summarize the outcomes of the PA4 labelled projects and
- (2) to give an overview on the future financial funds for the financial period of 2015-2012 (activity is on-going).

As an important activity – also as a joint result of the on-going harmonisation process between ICPDR and PA4 – PA4 experts from both Hungary and Slovakia, participated on relevant **ICPDR expert groups and tasks groups** to discuss relevant actions and disseminate the information on PA4 relevant on-going processes. The main activities of the PA4 were introduced in the frame of the ICPDR yearly meetings as well (Standing Working Group meetings and Heads of Delegation meetings.)

The **PA4 website** (set-up in the beginning of the dissemination process) is continuously used to share documents for discussions; it makes available the outcomes of the steering group meetings as well as used to publish other relevant information about PA4. Taken into account that there is a strong need to inform as wider scale of actors as possible PA4 (together with PA2 and PA5) has updated its website. The updated website is available from mid-December 2014 at: <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/>

Danube Watch 1/2015 issue an article has been published with the title of ‘Regional efforts to restore water quality’. The article can be downloaded from here: <http://www.icpdr.org/main/publications/regional-efforts-restore-water-quality>

The information about the conference related to Water Resources Protection focused on effective and sustainable water resources utilisation was published in the Water Management Journal No5-6/2015 (in Slovak)<sup>2</sup>

### 3.1. Governance structure of PA4 (Coordination of PA4)

Since 2011 both Hungary and Slovakia made steps to achieve and establish strong governance system for PA4. Due to family and health reasons, however, changes have happened in the personnel of PACs both in Hungary and in Slovakia.

In Hungary Mr László Perger PAC/PA4 was officially appointed as PAC in October 2014. Mr Perger is supported by three colleagues, working part-time for PA4. Prior to that date in 2014 Dr Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper was coordinating the HU PAC team.

In Slovakia as of 1 January 2014 Ing. Dušan Čerešňák, Director General of Water Department, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic was appointed as PAC for PA4 in SK until

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/uploads/files/Water\\_Management\\_Journal\\_5\\_6\\_2015.pdf](http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/uploads/files/Water_Management_Journal_5_6_2015.pdf)

the end of May 2015. Since June 2015 Mr Vladimír Novák, Director General of Water Section from the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, was nominated as PAC4 SK, Ms Andrea Vranovska acts as PAC assistant.

The HU and SK team cooperates well and discusses pending issues regularly by telephone, mail, skype and by bilateral meetings. The Hungarian and Slovakian PACs had a dense discussion period prior to the SG8 meeting aiming at to pre-select the proposals for the 8 SG. The aim of the pre-selection was to identify, for each Priority Area, applications that best fulfil the qualitative criteria established for the START Pilot-initiative.

SG attendance related issues still need significant efforts. For this various measures are introduced with measurable results expected. A financial mechanism was developed from the TA fund that allows covering the travel costs of non- Member States SG members to SG meetings. At the request of the PA4 to SG members and NCPs to mobilize administrations of non- MS Danube Region countries, the Hungarian NCP, the Budapest Danube Contact Point and the Hungarian diplomacy initiated various cooperation platforms, projects and high level agreements to incorporate all Danube countries to the work of the PA4.

### 3.2.Next steps

PA4 will ensure **assisting project developers** to complete their proposals relevant for Water Quality Priority Area that in order to be able to submit them in the upcoming calls of the DTP and other potential financial programmes. PA4 will ensure that with the help of the Steering Group the Priority Area **will select the projects to be supported by the START and TAF funding**.

In the upcoming months PA4 will continue organising the **study visits to and for Non-EU countries** and obtain updated information about Serbian, Ukrainian and Moldavian situation concerning waste water treatment and the phosphates in detergents.

Based on the obtained country assessments the previously prepared A5 and A7 Studies will be supplemented and further recommendations will be prepared.

PA4 plans to **continue cooperation with focus on Non-EU countries** and has proposed to organise a specific workshop related to the waste water situation of Non-EU countries in the upcoming Annual Forum in Ulm in October 2015.

PA4 will continue having **joint discussions** with the main coordination team PA4 SK-HU-ICPDR-Sava Commission prior the Steering Group meetings, the next joint meeting is planned in the autumn of 2015.

The **10<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting** is planned to be held in Bratislava in November 2015 or back to back ICPDR expert group meeting in October 2015.

In the upcoming period PA4 will continue **strengthen its dissemination activities** to elaborate new documents for the upcoming Annual Forum.

## 4. FUNDING

Activities and teams of PAC / PA4 are currently supported via own resources provided by the European Parliament (TA2) and by the Hungarian and Slovakian Governments. The priority area is using funds from the 2<sup>nd</sup> TA, in which contract the ICPDR is also a party beside HU and SK.

The Priority Area is aiming to utilise available funds from 2015 also including funds from the Danube Transnational Program.

### Project funding

PA4 puts strong emphasis on the **support of project initiatives and also facilitates two project proposals development** in the topic of SEDIMENT and strengthening of the TISZA (SUB) BASIN COOPERATION. It is the intention to submit at least two project proposals in the newly opening Danube Transnational Programme in 2015.

The priority area facilitates also the organisation of **meetings between project beneficiary and financial programme officers** to ensure that the project proposal objectives and elements meets the requirements indicated in the funding programme.

The PA4 projects IRRINOVATION and MINE WETLIFE were submitted in the 1<sup>st</sup> call Central Europe INTERREG Programme in April 2015. Both of them passed through administrative control and the result of quality assessment will be clear in September 2015

In other hand PA4 also issued a **Letter of Recommendation** in the progress period for the project proposal called IRRINOVATION. The project MINE WETLIFE was announced at 9SG Meeting to ask for PA4 Letter of Recommendation via writing procedure.

In the frame of the **Steering Group meetings** during the progress period information was given about the newly opening or opened funding possibilities and the project beneficiaries got opportunity to introduce their project initiatives as well.

PA4 sees the effectiveness in providing the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP). This support supplied to projects via PA10 presented a great potential for the future implementation of the projects. Consultation services of Hydrophil GmbH were provided to MINE WETLIFE project through TAF-DRP. On the base of final report recommendations, the consortium of 8 partners was set up and the project “Utilisation of Unique Wetlands and Lakes in Undermined Areas” was submitted in Central Europe INTERREG Programme, 1<sup>st</sup> call. The site visit of project partners was organised on June 16, 2015 and the Follow up report was provided to PA10.

In the frame of SG8 and SG9 the PACs introduced the selection procedure of **START projects**. Selected projects were/will be submitted to the Priority Area 10.

### Partnership agreement, operational programmes

The main task of the planning period was to mirror the priorities of EUSDR in the Operational Programmes for EU Member States and in EU financial instruments for non-member states. The structure and operation of EUSDR offered a stable cooperation platform for this, making it possible to identify common priorities and facilitating coherence and

collaboration between the programmes and policies developed in the Danube region. The precondition of the successful programming was the identification of the national priorities that require cooperation with other states in order to be achieved. According to the aforementioned the programming of Operational Programmes and Partnership Agreement was a topic of many SG meetings, specifically it was discussed during SG 6, 7 and 8.

### **Danube Transnational Programme/ETC Danube Programme**

In the frame of the **Steering Group meetings** the DTP officers have been invited to introduce the main priorities and indicators of the financial programme.

The priority area also facilitated the organisation of **meetings between project beneficiary and DTP officers** to ensure that the project proposal objectives and elements meets the requirements indicated in the funding programme.

**The technical assistance (TA)** granted to PACs by EU has a great emphasis ensuring the proper operation of PACs and their assistants, financing their participations in relevant meetings, workshops and public actions. TA also helps cover the costs of participation of non-Member States representatives on various PA4 meetings. Discussions related to the future financing of the Priority Areas are yet to be completed, and further will be decided based on the outcomes of the NCP-PAC-DSP discussions that were held on 23-25 June 2015. The future financing of the PACs will be determined by the new Technical Assistance contracts between PACs and DSP.

## **5. LESSONS LEARNED**

*From management point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- A clear need was formulated to strengthen on-going cooperation between PA4 and relevant institutions such as ICPDR and ISRBC. The Joint Document, adopted in December 2014 by all parties creates a good basis for the joint work. The joint document on cooperation between PA4/ PA5 and ICPDR can serve as a model to other priority areas on how to set up further links with relevant organisations. PA4 and ICPDR have already several steps, jointly organised in the spirit of the agreed document.
- Compared to the earlier (last) years significant step has been reached in the involvement of the Danube countries in the PA4 activities. However, there are still some countries where there is a need to better mobilise the experts and policy makers, through diplomatic bodies.
- It is still an important task to ensure the exchange at national level between PA4 Steering Group Members and experts in the ICPDR Expert Groups, taken into account the significant topical overlap.
- The PA4 Team has contacted the JRC experts and also the experts of DG Environment and invited them to their meetings to share knowledge in the topics, dealt within both PA4 and JRC. Due to time constrain JRC and DG Environment could not participate in the relevant PA4 meetings; however the information share among the institutions might be valuable in the future.

- PA4 proposed to elaborate a joint platform for common planning for PACs and SG activities to the EC to ensure harmonized planning of the different Priority Areas, in order to ensure the presence of all partners, including the EC at different meetings.

*From professional point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- PA4 is one of the priority areas with the widest scale of actions. Roadmaps were agreed to reach objectives outlined in the action plan. PA4 developed a workplan for the easier overview of the on-going actions, which might be a help in the long term management of the activities. The workplan is a ‘living document’ and should be further extended in line with the newly submitted and/or approved projects or further specified actions.
- Projects can give significant input to the actions and/or can serve as a pilot activities or good samples relevant in basin wide scale. Moreover, the project consortia provide an excellent platform for international knowledge and experience exchange.

*From policy and financing point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- Letter of Recommendations and Letter of Merits can serve as an important tool to support EUSDR PA4 related projects, however it is crucial to consider / take into account these tools in the decision making process during the distribution of the related financial funds.
- PA4 has collected information related to the state of play of the operational programming in the Danube countries to summarise how the EUSDR related activities are considered within the current financing period (2014-2020). It can be concluded that it is crucial to guarantee on national level the implementation of the WFD and in transboundary scale to ensure funds and support (labelled) projects with PA4 priorities to reach objectives set in the EUSDR action plan. Document on Alignment of Funding – developed by PA4 and PA5 – can serve as a model to other priority areas.

*From dissemination point of view the following main lessons learnt can be summarised:*

- Based on the outcomes and experiences of the PACs there is a high interest towards the EUSDR and PA4 related activities specifically to analyse added values of the labelled projects as well as to summarize (explore) available project funds relevant in the coming 2014-2020 financial period. In line with needs PAC HU facilitates the development of such a dissemination documents, will circulate it to SG members and will publish them in 2015.
- PA4 puts strong emphasis on the dissemination of its outputs via newly launched website <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/>, articles, brochures, folders, and placing roll ups during relevant events.

## ANNEX1 -PA4 ROADMAP

### Legend:

White color

Finalised activities



Joint Activity of EUSDR PA4, ICPDR, ISRBC

ICPDR or ISRBC related activities

Activities to be further specified in 2015/2016

<b>PA4 ROADMAP</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>TARGET Deadline</b>	<b>Responsible actors</b>	<b>Status of the action and Progress in 2015</b>	<b>Results (available and expected results)</b>	<b>Next steps</b>	<b>Related Project and Funds</b>
<b>Action 1</b>	<b>To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan</b>						
Milestone 1	Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures	2012	ICPDR	Finalised and adopted in December 2012	Finalised document is available via the ICPDR website (www.icpdr.org)	FINALISED	-
Milestone 2	Facilitate the alignment of funding and the support of the JPM of 1st and 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan						
Output 1	Policy reflections and Plan on financing for 1st JPM	First quarter of 2013	EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR	Finalised: Workshop organised 4-5 April 2013	Envisaged and planned activity is fulfilled, workshop minutes is available via the ICPDR website (www.icpdr.org)	FINALISED	-
Output 2	Supporting documents to financing of 2nd Joint Programme of Measures	End of 2014 continued in 2015	EUSDR PA4 and ICPDR	In progress	Outcomes of the workshop as of 2013 4-5 April (see also output 1) Summary document to be prepared – ICPDR is including a chapter on financing JPM in the 2nd DRBMP. PA4 is developing a document on financing – the two documents will be harmonised.	Discussion with the ICPDR on the harmonisation of the work Development of the related document	-
Milestone 3	Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report	First half of 2014	ICPDR	Finalised	Adopted Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report published on the ICPDR website	-	-
Milestone 4	Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015	End 2015	ICPDR	Preparation ongoing	Draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015 published in December 2014 for public consultation until 22 July 2015.	Finalisation and adoption by ICPDR in December 2015	-

Action 2	To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level						
Milestone 1	Implementation of the 1st ITRBM Plan	2015 - ongoing	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)	Feedback on the progress of the Joint Programme of Measures has been prepared. A project proposal will be developed to the implementation of the plan and for the development of the 2nd ITRBMP.	-		
Project 1	Case studies on Tisza sub-basin	End 2012	ICPDR Tisza Group (HU, RO, RS, SK, UA)	Finalised: 2 case studies	Studies (agriculture and water management and climate change case studies) are available via the ICPDR website	FINALISED	
Project 2	Early warning water quality monitoring system on transboundary rivers	2020	Water Boards on sub-region	Preliminary Feasibility Study on early warning water quality monitoring system has been introduced to the ICPDR Tisza Group, Fund need to be ensured to continue with the process and to establish a pilot system.		Applying for the funding of a feasibility study.	
Milestone 2	Interim report on the 1st ITRBM Plan	End 2013	UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, (ICPDR Tisza Group)	Feedback on the progress of the Joint Programme of Measures has been prepared and should be endorsed in 2014 (activity is prolonged due to institutional changes of ICPDR Tisza Group coordination).	Report on the progress on the implementation of the Tisza JPM.	FINALISED	
Milestone 3	Strengthening of cooperation in the Tisza River Basin						
Output 1	Proposal for a framework for a long-term cooperation between Tisza countries	First half of 2013 – ongoing process	PA4, UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR	Proposal development is ongoing. Workshop is planned to be organised in the 2nd half of 2015.		Update Tisza project, discuss with project partners to ensure their continuous commitment	

Output 2	Alignment of funding and setup of the proposed framework	End of 2014 - ongoing process	Tisza Group PA4, UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group	(see information about Output 1 related project). It is planned to submit the project proposal in the frame of the Danube transnational Programme.		(see information about Output 1 and related project)	
Project	ProTisza (Promoting Strategic Partnership Enabling Cooperation in the Tisza River Basin)	2014 - ongoing process	PA4,UA, SK, HU, RO, RS, ICPDR Tisza Group	( Project proposal development is ongoing.	-		Pro-Tisza
Milestone 4	Development of the 2nd ITRBM Plan	End 2015- action will be prolonged	HU, RO, RS, SK, UA, ICPDR Tisza Group	Work related to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ITRBMP is started in 2014. Countries HoD decided to include this activity in the frame of the project proposal to be developed in 2015.	-	-	SEE RIVER
Milestone 5	Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report	2013 – prolonged action	MD, RO, UA, ICPDR	Draft report available – report development is ongoing	Draft Danube Delta Analysis Report is available – finalisation is ongoing	Finalisation in second half of 2015	ICPDR/ENV SEC project
Milestone 6	Danube Delta Management Plan	2015- prolonged action	RO, MD, UA	Consortium was set up for the development of the management plan.	DDMP to be developed		
Milestone 7	Prut Management Plan	2015- prolonged action	MD, RO, UA	The national plans for the Prut are merged into one plan, action expected to be finalised end of the year (prolonged action);	A training was provided by the ICPDR Secretariat for the EPIRB experts, on data provision to DanubeGIS. The Prut basin data was collected and incorporated in DRBMP 2015 Update.		SEE RIVER EPIRB Project
Milestone 8	Implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan	End of 2014	ISRBC	Activity is managed by the ISRBC, the SRBMP has already been developed as the first step	SRBMP developed - RBM Plan – The final draft of the “Sava RBM Plan” undergoing internal national procedures preceding the adoption	adoption of the plan	SEWABIS
Milestone 9	Update of the Sava River	2015	ISRBC				SEWABIS

	Basin Analysis						
Milestone 10	Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan	2017	ISRBC				SEWABIS
<b>Action 3</b>	<b>To continue to invest in and support the information collection system already developed by ICPDR</b>						
Milestone 1	ICPDR databases	end 2015	ICPDR	See information related to the relevant projects			
Project 1	Development of databases on inventories related to ARS, CS and MS	end of 2016	ICPDR	<p>The data collection process is on-going. The final ARS and CS inventories are planned to be available at the end 2015. Detailed analysis and database development are expected to be done afterwards.</p> <p>PA4 initiative: potential future joint activity with the ICPDR. It is suggested to set up a project to facilitate the implementation of this task.</p>	Final templates for the ARS and CS inventories.	Continuation of data collection, finalisation of the inventories and the related assessments. Mining sites should be further discussed.	
Project 2	Further development of TNMN database	end 2015	ICPDR	Slovakia in cooperation with the MA EG and the ICPDR Secretariat prepared TNMN Yearbook 2012.	TNMN Yearbook 2012	Continue the work	
Project 3	Development of database on inventories on Hazardous Substances	end of 2015	ICPDR	Draft template for preparing inventories of particular PS already selected is available. The ICPDR PM EG discussed and agreed on the preparation of the EDL inventories (Inventory of	Draft template for the PS inventory.	Reconsider the template, discussion on the upcoming PM EG Meeting. Start collecting data.	

				Emissions, Discharges and Losses of Priority and Priority Hazardous Substances) making use of the CIS Guidance No. 28 methodology and the results of its testing at the DRB. Detailed analysis and database development are expected to be done in 2015. Activities commenced on identification of Danube River Basin Specific Pollutants in the frame of the FP7 project SOLUTIONS using JDS3 results.			
Milestone 2	Joint Danube Survey 3	31/03/2015	ICPDR	JDS 3 final report has been prepared, adopted by the ICPDR and published.	Report published	Dissemination of the report	
Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Danube	30/09/2013	ICPDR	JDS 3 took place in August and September 2013	Samples collected	Analysis of samples has been completed	
Project 2	Preparation of JDS3 reports	31/03/2015	ICPDR	JDS 3 final report has been prepared, adopted by the ICPDR and published.	Report published	Dissemination of the report	
Milestone 3	Joint Tisza Survey 2						
Project 1	Monitoring survey on the Tisza River	2015	ICPDR Tisza Group	Discussion on the Tisza Survey is in progress in the MA EG. Funding is still missing	methodologically oriented survey was carried out in HU and RO supported by US IGERT funding	Raising funds for JTS2	
Project 2	Preparation of the JTS2 reports	2016	ICPDR Tisza Group	in line with the outcomes of project 1	-	-	
Project 3	Survey and assessment of hydro-ecology of the Tisza River	2015	HU, UA, SK, RO, RS	University of Debrecen set up a project consortium and developed a relevant project proposal	-	-	
Milestone 4	INSPIRE compliant Danube GIS	2015	ICPDR	Further development is in process. System	Danube GIS based on OpenGeo Suite launched in 2013 and used	Integration of UWWTP, PRTR, ARS, CS and MS	

				improvements and related discussion in IMGIS EG is on-going.	for data collection for ICPDR (DBA 2013, DRBMP 2015, DFRMP 2015)	inventories, Implementation of INSPIRE compliant web service	
Step 1	Refinement of system concept and preparation of implementation plan	2012	ICPDR	The implementation plan prepared.			
Step 2	Development of tools for integrated visualisation and interpretation of data	2015	ICPDR	New tools for data validation and uploading were developed and implemented. Web GIS based on Open Layers is in development. Discussion in IMGIS EG is on-going	Further improved data quality for data collected for ICPDR (DBA 2013, DRBMP 2015, DFRMP 2015)	Continue the work	
Milestone 5	Establishment and completion of the Savage’s						
Step 1	Setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities.	2012	ISRBC				
Step 2	Development of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services as well as basic application and/or decision support systems.	2015	ISRBC	Coordination between the two Secretariats is implemented to avoid duplications and inconsistencies in data collection of Savage’s and Danube GIS			
Step 3	Extension of common data model to accommodate additional themes and datasets and the establishment of the most advanced service components	after 2015	ISRBC				
<b>Action 4</b>	<b>To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities</b>						

	<b>across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure</b>						
Milestone 1	Updating the implementation programme of UWWT	End of 2012	ICPDR	Finalised. An overview on the measures taken and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	FINALISED	
Step 1	Information on national level of UWWTPs	End of 2012	ICPDR	Finalised. An overview on the measures taken and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	FINALISED	
Step 2	Revision and update of the ICPDR database on UWWTPs	End of 2015	ICPDR	Update of the information is on-going, analyses have been elaborated the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Assessments on the urban waste water sector have been incorporated into the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Finalization of the assessments for the DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	
Milestone 2	Financial planning for programme implementation						
Work 1	Facilitate dialogue among donors and IFIs on financing options of the urban wastewater treatment plants in the DRB	First half of 2013	ICPDR	Done. The ICPDR workshop on financing on 4-5 April 2013 specifically addressed the financing issues of the UWWTP's.		FINALISED	
Work 2	Workshop on financing	First half of 2013	ICPDR	Done. The ICPDR workshop on financing was held in Vienna on 4-5 April 2013.		FINALISED	

Work 3	Preparation of a financial plan for the implementation programme on update for the UWWT	First half of 2013	PA4, BDCP	(this work will be harmonised with Milestone 1 Step 1 and 2)			
Milestone 3	Technology developments						
Work	To promote investments to foster penetration, where necessary, of improved UWWT technology based on research or already proved “state of the art” technologies	2015	EUSDR Countries			-	
Project 1	New technology for specific contamination	2015	EIB BDCP			-	
Project 2	Blue Danube – “Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment”	2015	DE, BG	Submitted but rejected project	-	Submit the project	Blue Danube
<b>Action 5</b>	<b>To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements</b>						
Milestone 1	Survey of the situation on buffer zones	first half of 2013	HU, ICPDR , PA4	The questionnaire was circulated to the countries as first step in 2013. A PA4 smaller scale project to investigate on the legal background and about measures included in this legislation was completed in December 2013/2014 and the related studies were discussed at ICPDR platforms. An overview on the basic	Comprehensive Legal Study on buffer zones completed  Next steps to be done from 2016 in line with the ICPDR Agriculture Guidance document development process.	Elaborate further recommendations.	

				and supplementary measures, inter alia the buffer zones, and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM. Update is in progress. Based on discussion with the ICPDR and ISRBC the study will be further elaborated in 2016 in line with the development of the ICPDR Agriculture Guidance document.			
Milestone 2	Implementation of projects on nutrient buffer zones						
Work 1	Preparatory paper for evaluating different solutions of establishing buffer zones	June 2014	HU, ICPDR , PA4	Discussions started already based on the Buffer Study.		to be further discussed	
Work 2	Programme planning on common methodology and applying solution of buffer zones engineering	2015	Danube region countries	see description of M1			
Work 3	Projects generation and implementation	2015	Danube region countries	see description of M1			
Milestone 3	Survey of the situation on management of solid waste in small rural settlements	first half of 2013 and onward	HU, PA4	A PA4 smaller scale project to investigate on the legal background and about measures included in this legislation was completed in 2013 and the related studies were discussed at several ICPDR platforms in 2014. Based on discussion with the ICPDR and ISRBC a	Comprehensive Legal Study on the situation on management of solid waste in small rural settlements was prepared.	Elaborate further recommendations	

				pilot area need to be established to further investigate on this issue,			
Milestone 4	Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements	2013 and onward	HU, ICPDR, PA4	<p>To reduce water use and waste water amount a source separation scheme was presented in the frame of the macro-regional conference on the 11th September 2013</p> <p>A PA4 smaller scale project to investigate on the legal background and about measures included in this legislation was completed in December 2013 and the related studies were discussed at several ICPDR WGs, In 2015 it was agreed with the ICPDR and ISRBC that study visits will be organised to non-EU countries to (1) get an update of the country situation and specifics. (2) To identify the needs and possible projects to be set up. (3) To identify possible partners for waste water treatment projects, both for small settlements and also for bigger projects and to assist in looking for financial assistance. (4) Based on the findings further recommendations will be made.</p>	<p>Comprehensive legal Study on the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements was prepared.</p> <p>Background paper to study visit is prepared.</p> <p>First study visit is organised to BiH in 10-12 June 2015.</p>	Elaborate further recommendations	

Milestone 5	Promoting best practices in WWT and Programme of Measures for solid waste management and wastewater treatment for small settlements			Milestones are to be dealt with in line with the outcomes of M4.			
Work 1	Analyses of solid waste management and WWT	2014 and onward	HU, ICPDR, PA4	A PA4 smaller scale project to investigate on the legal background and about measures included in this legislation was completed in December 2013 and the related studies were discussed at several ICPDR WGs, were presented at the 7th SG Meeting.	Comprehensive legal Study on solid waste management was prepared.	Elaborate further recommendations	
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 non-feasible	End of 2013 and onward	HU, ICPDR, PA4	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project.			
Work 3	Generating policy response to the findings of the survey on waste management in small settlements	End of 2013 and onward	PA4	Partial Elaborate further recommendations			
Milestone 6	Implementation projects and promotion of site-specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements			LOCWAT project proposal submitted to START but was rejected. Further funds need to be explored.			
Phase 1	Programme proposal for technical and financing solutions for the Danube region countries reflecting their different circumstances	2013 and onward	PA4, Danube region countries, BDCP	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project; therefore its implementation has not started yet.			

	of topography			To reduce water use and waste water amount a source separation scheme was presented in the frame of the macro-regional conference on the 11th September 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	2015 and onward	Project leaders				
Milestone 7	Promotion of the implementation of good practices	end of 2015 and continuously	ICPDR, PA4	Discussions on the good agricultural practices have regularly been initiated at the ICPDR PM EG Meetings. An overview on the basic and supplementary measures and progress achieved by the Danube countries is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM and in the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Assessments and Annexes of the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM and the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Continuation.	
<b>Action 6</b>	<b>To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural</b>						

	<b>pollution</b>						
Milestone 1	Strengthen the cooperation between agriculture and water authorities	2013 and onward	SK, ICPDR	In progress. A preparatory assessment on cooperation between agriculture and water sector is part of „ <b>Tisza case study on agriculture and water management</b> “, ICPDR, Nov. 2012.	Tisza case study is available via the ICPDR website		GoodWater
Milestone 2	Implementation of Action plan	continuous	Project leaders, Danube countries				GoodWater
<b>Action 7</b>	<b>To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents</b>						
Milestone 1	Implementation of Regulation (EU) 259/2012	End of 2012	ICPDR, PA4	An overview on the legislative regulation of the P-free detergents and its implementation is available in the Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	Interim Report on the Imp. of the JPM.	-	
Milestone 2	Policy response on the Overview Report	2013	PA4	A PA4 smaller scale project to investigate on the legal background and about measures included in this legislation was completed in December 2013 and the related study was discussed at several ICPDR WGs, were presented at the 7th SG Meeting. In 2015 it was agreed with the ICPDR and ISRBC that study visits will be	Legal Study on policy response phosphates was prepared.	Continue the work Elaborate further recommendations	

				organised to non-EU countries to (1) get an update of the country situation and specifics. (2) To identify the needs and possible projects to be set up. (3) To identify possible partners for waste water treatment projects, both for small settlements and also for bigger projects and to assist in looking for financial assistance. (4) Based on the findings further recommendations will be made.			
Milestone 3	Scenarios calculation for P reduction in laundry and dishwasher detergents and incorporation in 2 <sup>nd</sup> DRBM Plan						
Output 1	Modelling of anticipated nutrients reduction effects due to P-free detergents	End of 2015	ICPDR	Effects on point source emissions have been assessed. Modelling with MONERIS is in progress.	First assessments on point source emissions are available in the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Continue the work.	
Output 2	Incorporation of model results in 2 <sup>nd</sup> DRBM Plan	End of 2015	ICPDR	Preparation of DRBM Plan – Update 2015 is on-going including incorporation of the assessments on P-free detergents.	P-free detergents and related management options are addressed by the updated draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Continue the work.	
<b>Action 8</b>	<b>To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote</b>						

	<b>remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits</b>						
Milestone 1	Inventory of polluted sites by upgrading of ‘hot spot’ inventory 2001	end 2015	ICPDR	In progress, ARS and CS templates have been sent out; data collection is on-going.		Continue the work.	
Milestone 2	List of activities and research needs	End of 2015	ICPDR, PA4	In progress, knowledge gaps and the necessary activities were discussed in the DBA Report and have been updated for the DRBM Plan – Update 2015.	Updated draft of the DRBMPlan – Update 2015 has been developed in the frame of the ICPDR which addresses these issues.	Continue the work.	
Milestone 3	Implementation of projects	End of 2020	Danube region countries, companies, to be defined as appropriate				
Milestone 4	Knowledge transfer	continuous	EU				
<b>Action 9</b>	<b>To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region</b>						
Milestone 1	Testing of the EU Guidance document on EQS Directive	Dec 2012	ICPDR	Finalised.	Finalised Report, preliminary draft ICPDR list of the relevant PS.	FINALISED	
Project	Testing of the Guidance to elaborate a draft ICPDR list of relevant priority substances at the DRB	Dec 2012	ICPDR	Finalised.	Finalised Report, preliminary draft ICPDR list of the relevant PS.	FINALISED	
Milestone 2	Inventory on emissions,	End of	ICPDR	In progress, draft template		Continue the work.	

	discharges and losses of priority substances	2016		has been elaborated for data collection. Template might be reconsidered.			
Project (planned)	Project proposal on emissions reduction of priority substances in the Danube Basin (PS – RED)	End of 2016	ICPDR	The project idea has to be discussed at the next PM EG Meetings.		Preparation of project proposal depending on results of discussions in PM EG	
Milestone 3	Harmonization of data available from various sources	End of 2016	ICPDR	In progress, available as a methodology and first draft list of relevant substances in the Danube River. Further harmonisation is intended using additional and/or updated information of different data sources available (TNMN, JDS3, PS EDL, E-PRTR, Waterbase, etc.) for the whole river network.		Continue the work.	
<b>Action 10</b>	<b>To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin</b>						
Milestone 1	Revision and update of the ICPDR ecological prioritisation approach for addressing longitudinal continuity interruptions in the Danube River Basin						
Work 1	Revision and update of methodology with support from EU Grant	End of 2012	ICPDR	Update of draft methodology finalised.	Updated draft methodology available	Work 2	
Work 2	Application of new methodology with updated data from 2013 data collection	During 2014	ICPDR	Updated draft assessments based on updated methodology available	Draft updated results available and incorporated into draft DRBM Plan – Update 2015	Update in autumn 2015 and finalisation	
Milestone 2	Application of the updated approach for Danube River	End of 2015	ICPDR	Draft results incorporated into draft DRBM Plan –	Draft results	Finalisation and adoption of DRBM Plan – Update	

	Basin Management Plan – Update 2015			Update 2015		2015 in December 2015	
Milestone 3	Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams	As soon as possible	RO, RS, ICPDR, PA4	Project “Fish migration at the Danube and Iron Gates” approved for funding by Dutch "Partners for Water Programme" in June 2013. Project was launched in September 2013 and was implemented by September 2014 Elaboration of LIFE sturgeon project proposal and feasibility study on ex-situ conservation measures – action carried out by the ICPDR;	Project results available in September 2014  feasibility study on ex-situ conservation measures – 2015 EUSDR/PA4/ICPDR TA finalised in March 2015	Implementation of project	Project “Fish migration at the Danube and Iron Gates”
Milestone 4	To carry out an assessment for restoration of the sediment balance in the Danube						
Project	Danube Sediment Management - Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin	End of 2014 and onward	HU, AT, BG, DE, SK, HR, RS, RO	8 April 2015 Sediment workshop – project proposal development is ongoing. First draft project proposal has been presented to the 13th ICPDR StWG Meeting.	Project proposal development is ongoing. Project proposal is to be submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme.	prepare a revised project proposal	Danube Sediment
Milestone 5	Assessment of the establishment of a hydro-morphological monitoring system for the Danube and tributaries	End of 2014	HU, Danube countries, ICPDR		-		
Milestone 6	Study on the improvement of longitudinal continuity of rivers with operational changes in existing	2014	HU, Danube countries		-		

	installations and low cost improvements in the light of the specific needs of various migratory fish species and taxa (coordination with PA6)						
Milestone 7	Examination of the biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin						
Project	Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin - SEWABIS	June 2014	SI, SK, BA, HR, RS		-		
<b>Action 11</b>	<b>To promote measures to limit water abstraction</b>						
Milestone 1	Collection of good practice examples dealing with limiting water abstraction	End of 2013 and onward	HU, PA5, ICPDR, PA4, GWP DS task Force	In progress. There is an ongoing project dealing with this topic (CC-Ware) and a finished project (CC-WaterS).	In progress, CC-WaterS	Continue the collection	CC-WaterS, CC-Ware
Milestone 2	Dissemination of results of the best practices and policies for decision-makers and stakeholders	First half of 2014 and onward	HU, ICPDR, PA4	Results were presented at the Macro-regional conference, 2013.			
Milestone 3	Integration of the results from the good practices collection into the Risk assessment and DRBMP – Update 2015	End of 2013 and 2015 (DRBMP) and onward	HU, PA5, ICPDR, PA4	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet			
Milestone 4	Pilot projects based on best practices of milestone n°1 and promotion	continuous	Project leaders	This milestone depends on previous, still on-going milestone/project, therefore its implementation has not started yet			CC-WaterS, CC-Ware
<b>Action 12</b>	<b>To strengthen general</b>						

	<b>awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region</b>						
Milestone 1	Danube Day 2012 held in 14 countries with more than 100 individual events	continuously every year for Danube Day, 30 November for review diary	ICPDR	On the 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2013 countries celebrated in national level the Danube Day <a href="http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/danube-day">http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/danube-day</a> , <a href="http://www.danubeday.org/">http://www.danubeday.org/</a>	pictures, interview etc. are available on the ICPDR website	review diary	
Milestone 2	Re-launch of the ICPDR Website as a tool to communicate accessible and appealing information on RBM efforts of the ICPDR as a contributing organization in implementation of some PAs of EUSDR. Link to the Danube region website	June 2012 for re-launch of the ICPDR website End of 2012 for including and linking EUSDR items	ICPDR, PA4	Finalised, ICPDR.org was re-launched in summer 2012. All contents of the website were reviewed, outdated information was removed, new contents added, <a href="http://www.icpdr.org">http://www.icpdr.org</a>  New website of PA4 has been launched in January 2015( <a href="http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news">http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news</a> )	ICPDR website is re-launched in 2012.  New website of PA4 has been launched in January 2015( <a href="http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news">http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news</a> )	Website update continuously	
Milestone 3	Organisation of the Danube Art Master as a basin-wide competition among schools and youth care facilities	June of every year	ICPDR	<u>Implementation of Danube Art Master 2015 is in progress with a new twist: children will compete through designing fancy dress outfits from objects</u>	Yearly competition is organised. In 2013 ceremonial event was organised in the frame of the Budapest Water Summit to the national winners of the Danube Art masters.	Continue the organisation	

				found at the river. See: <a href="http://www.danubeday.org/Danube_Art_Master">http://www.danubeday.org/Danube_Art_Master</a>			
Milestone 4	Information for the broad public on the progress report of the DRBMP implementation through an appropriate article in Danube Watch	15 December 2012	ICPDR, PA4	Finalised, <a href="http://www.icpdr.org/main/publications/danube-watch">http://www.icpdr.org/main/publications/danube-watch</a> .	Article is published and available via the ICPDR website.	Danube Watch articles	
Milestone 5	Information exchange on the progress, achievements and current events of EUSDR PA4 to strengthen of general awareness	continuous	PA4, ICPDR	On-going information through established media: Danube Watch, ICPDR.org, e-mail to ICPDR observer organisations	Article in Danube Watch published about the PA4 activities. Exchange at and reporting on the participation at the EUSDR Annual Forum through various ICPDR actors and media, for example: <a href="http://www.icpdr.org/main/icpdr-highlighted-3rd-eusdr-annual-conference">http://www.icpdr.org/main/icpdr-highlighted-3rd-eusdr-annual-conference</a>	Continue the exchange	
<b>Action 13</b>	<b>To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply</b>						
Milestone 1	Identify responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	End of 2012	SK, ICPDR	Finalised, list of the available national and trans-national associations is prepared	list of the available national and trans-national associations is available	FINALISED	CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-Ware
Milestone 2	Develop joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking	2013	SK, ICPDR, suppliers' umbrella organization	Completed. Conference was held on 16-17 December in Bratislava.	Conference findings are available	FINALISED	CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-

	water supply including transboundary issues on shared water resources		s				Ware
Milestone 3	Implementation of joint actions with responsible authorities, enterprises, associations responsible for drinking water supply	continuous	Danube countries and suppliers, BDCP	Conference “Water Resources Protection” April 2015, Bratislava – participation of responsible authorities and water supply enterprises.	Information available on link <a href="http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/conference-water-resources-protection">http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news/conference-water-resources-protection</a>		CC-WaterS, Pannon-Fertő, FoWaP, CC-Ware
<b>Action 14</b>	<b>To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea</b>						
Milestone 1	Development of specific project regarding the improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region	2012	RO	In progress, kick-off meeting on 11-13 March 2013.	Project planning in progress	Project activities	ICZM
Milestone 2	Provide contribution to the development of the ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea	30 November 2013	RO, BG, UA	In progress	-	These results will be coordinated (harmonized) with the activities of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and discussed within ICZM Advisory Group of the Black Sea Commission	
Milestone 3	Development of a project proposal concerning Black Sea marine environment	30 March 2013	RO	In progress, proposal is under development at the level of the Black Sea	-	Continue to develop the proposal.	

	protection considering the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and using the Maritime Spatial Planning			Commission			
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## ANNEX 2 LIST OF PA4 PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2014

<b>Name of the project</b>	Innovative and eco-friendly irrigation technologies and other adaptation methods to face climate change impacts on the environment and agriculture in the Danube catchment area (IRRINOVATION)
<b>Action related</b>	PA 4.11 To promote measures to limit water abstraction
<b>Countries involved</b>	Hungary, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Slovakia, Poland
<b>Funding</b>	Interreg Central Europe Programme 2014-2020 1st call. All the partners are liquid enough to cover the necessary own sources to the 80-85% ERDF co-financing. (Budget: 1,871,336.00 EUR)
<b>Stage of implementation</b>	Waiting for the pre-selection of step 2. Formal check has been done.
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main objective of the project is to identify <b>water and energy saving irrigation methods</b> and techniques for sustainable irrigation strategies in connection with the Europe 2020 Strategy.</li> <li>• The specific objective of the project is to extend environmental friendly technologies of irrigation to ensure efficient agricultural production while reducing water and energy consumption.</li> <li>• The project also has an effect on increasing the competitiveness of agriculture: less energy and water consumption used for irrigation due to the solutions offered by the project might result in lower prices.</li> </ul> <p>The objectives will be achieved through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>building</b> a strong <b>cooperation</b> between the key actors;</li> <li>• <b>sharing good practices</b> (know-how) for increasing effectiveness of water-saving: best water- and energy-efficient technologies and practices, better utilization of the ground-water reservoir capacity;</li> <li>• studies of renewable energy using for irrigation systems in different regions; <b>recommendations</b> about the required water quality for irrigation purposes;</li> <li>• examination of the collected practices through <b>PILOT project</b> using water balance and soil water movement modelling; elaboration of a <b>Joint Irrigation Strategy</b> for CE regions;</li> <li>• <b>dissemination of the project results</b> to propagate sustainable irrigation methods.</li> </ul>
<b>Involvement of the PACs</b>	Supply with Letter of Recommendation.
<b>Next steps</b>	To be discussed after approval of project.

### **ANNEX 3: MINUTES EUSDR PA4-ICPDR MEETING VIENNA 8 SEPTEMBER 2014**

#### **At the second part of the discussion also AT delegate participated**

HU team presented the topics to discuss

- The Workplan
- The SG agenda
- The financing issues
- The studies improvement

#### **Work plan**

We highlighted the need for dissemination, improvement of technical documents and overview of project actions, project generation. For this the HU team prepared a draft plan with proposed workshops, dissemination materials and study improvement that Diana showed to the participants. We agreed that Diana will send the draft plan by the end of the week (12. Sept), ICPDR and SK will comment and add its planned activities in the following week (19 Sept), then the plan will be sent to the SG members as a pre- SG meeting document.

We all agreed that it is a good practice and it will be very useful to have a detailed work plan listing and planning all workshops, studies, dissemination, meetings for PA4, so all parties can plan longer. We agreed that we shall also identify planned next events *asap*, so then can plan the meetings and participation more effectively. All parties appreciated the efforts in this regard.

#### **Upcoming SG meeting**

- Andrea sent the invitation and agenda to the members as draft, but that will be modified based on the current discussion.
- We agreed that we will not update the roadmaps now for the upcoming SG meeting, but we shall do it in the spring.
- Agreed that we will have joint reporting in the future and ICPDR will provide respective input.
- ICPDR will have a standardised item at the SG meetings, similarly the Sava Commission, what will also be useful for the preparation of the yearly progress reports.
- PA4 will get in touch with the Sava Commission regarding participation at the next PA4 Meeting and the provision of a presentation
- Will check the participation of Anna RG. for the SG meeting in 14 Oct.
- Agreed to the modification of the agenda: we agreed on the inclusion to the SG agenda the SK and HU NCPs both providing an introduction (to check the availability of Mr. Simko, Mr. Joó already confirmed). Agreed that Zsuzsa will ask Anna about participation and possible presentation and that we shall search for a speaker for Horizon 2020.
- ICPDR presentation will be brought forward to the introductory part, similarly the Sava Commission, and after that will continue with the projects and finances. In the projects section Sediments and Tisza will be listed.
- Andrea will modify the agenda accordingly and it will be resent to the SG members after all presenters are confirmed.

## Financing issues

For the SK financial plan that we received during the meeting we appreciated its preparation and agreed that it will need to be further elaborated, EUSDR to be included and we welcomed the grouping of the Actions. Nevertheless, Karl advised to pay attention to grouping as RBMP also includes pollution.

**TA:** Raimund informed us that in the Technical Assistance Contract the ICPDR contributes and plans to contribute financially to the following issues/projects:

- Sturgeons,
- Sediments,
- Tisza,
- Sava.

Raimund mentioned that one project on sturgeons is currently under elaboration in the frame of the Sturgeon Task Force and will be submitted to LIFE (in situ protection); in parallel, an ex situ study is under elaboration, providing pre-requisites for a potential project on this topic at a later stage. PA4 experts highlighted that we will need to have projects and studies that are part of the PA4 Action Plan as the TA provides financial contribution to reach PA4 aims, and Raimund assured that all issues contribute to the aim of PA4 actions, inter alia because the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan is one specific action of the PA4 Action Plan covering a broad range of activities, beside sub-basin initiatives. We agreed that we shall check the related TA reporting obligations and agreed to set up a timetable to comply with the EC requirements and that we shall prepare the reports together.

## Improving the A5 and A7 studies

We agreed that the A5 and A7 studies and recommendations need to be elaborated further and discussed possible options. Karl highlighted the focus of the Austrian interests in RBMP and PoMs and that all measures should focus on these. Mentioned that for the A5 and A7 reports the added value would be what the practice is for the on-going period and what will be necessary for the next period, especially paying attention to the situation and obligation of non EU states. For Pban he advised to focus on how to have non-EU countries on board. We noted that by the time of the upcoming SG meeting the further detailed elaboration of the recommendations is not realistic, but that we will examine different options.



## ANNEX 4: PA4- ICPDR- SAVA COMMISSION EXPERTS MEETING 19.02.2015, BUDAPEST

### MINUTES

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss on the joint activities relevant for 2015 and to prepare for the next Steering Group meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management. The SK PAC Team (*Mr Dusan Ceresnak, Ms Andrea Vranovska, Ms Alena Kurecova*), the HU PAC Team (*Mr Laszlo Perger, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Diana Heilmann*), the ICPDR (*Mr Raimund Mair, Mr Adam Kovacs*) and the Sava Commission (*Mr Samo Groselj*) representatives were present at the meeting.

Mr László Perger welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

### 1. Preparation for the SG8 meeting

Ms Kocsis-Kupper welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda item. The participants agreed that the next SG meeting date will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The meeting venue will be the OVF (General Directorate of Water Management, 1012 BUDAPEST, MÁRVÁNY UTCA 1/D). The main agenda items are planned to be the following: ICPDR results related to the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015 and short feedback on the results of JDS3. Outcomes of the study visits, Stakeholder Conference preparation, Sediment issues (BME and JRC to be invited), START projects-open calls, Sava Commission update on the relevant activities, Update of the Roadmap, Dissemination activities, Financing, Tisza Group activities.

**Conclusion:** The meeting will be organised on the **9<sup>th</sup> June 2015, in Budapest, Hungary**. Hungary will prepare the draft agenda and circulate it to the SK partner as well as to the ICPDR and Sava Commission.

**Conclusion:** HU PAC team will send the save the date notice to the SG members on the planned date of the next meeting.

### 2. Organisation of Stakeholder Conference

The HU PAC team mentioned that originally they were concerning organising the Stakeholder Conference in the last week of June 2015, for the sake of the Danube’s Day. Nevertheless, after it turned out that numerous other events are also planned for the same week (PAC/NCP planned meeting and other river basin conferences) the participants agreed that a Stakeholder meeting should be organised in the second half of 2015. Especially we took into account that on the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 the ICPDR will organise a Stakeholder workshop on the topic of the DRBMP and DFRMP (Danube River Basin Management Plan and Danube Flood Risk Management Plan). The ICPDR also indicated the possibility to give a role for the PA4 expert(s) in the frame of the ICPDR Stakeholder Conference related to the financing issues. This should be further discussed.

It is important – Mr Mair stressed – to harmonise the activities of the PA4, ICPDR and Sava Commission. The participants all agreed to this. It was also stressed that the PA4 Stakeholder Conference should be organised before the Annual Forum to be able to present the results in the yearly meeting.

Therefore we decided to organise the Stakeholder Conference in October 2015 and that it would focus on the outcomes of the Study roadshows in the topics of *waste water treatment in small rural settlements* and *phosphate ban*.

**Conclusion:** PA4 Stakeholder meeting will be organised in the beginning of October 2015.

### 3. Annual Forum - 2015

PA4 PACs informed the participants that the first inputs need to be sent to the EC by the 20<sup>th</sup> March on the topics of the Annual Forum. PA4 is linked to the Plenary session’ topic on Innovation. We are awaiting further information from the organizers. Based on the feedback of the ICPDR, the Sava Commission and PA4 PACs the following main topics have been identified:

- Outcomes of the Danube River Basin Management Plan (2<sup>nd</sup>) – main elements for the coming six years;
- JDS3 – technical report is now adopted;
- Projects supporting realization of the objectives of the PA4;(Sediment, LOWCAT, waste water treatment for small settlements, Burgerland-Sopron waterworks cooperation)
- Tisza River Basin developments – strenghtening sub-basin activities.

**Conclusion:**ICPDR and the Sava Commission were advised to send their written proposals related to the topics of the Annual Forum (prior 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015) to the HU and SK PACs.

### 4. Planning the study discussion visits – to the Non EU countries

The main objective of the agenda item was to discuss on the follow-up steps related to the studies developed in 2013/2014 in the following topics: situation of buffer zones; study related to legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of Phosphates in detergents; situation on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements; and situation on management of solid waste in small rural settlements.

For this agenda item a Roadmap document has been prepared by the HU PAC Team summarizing the main elements and outcomes of the available studies and suggesting discussion points for the visits.

In connectin to the topic on the situation on buffer zones the participants agreed that the topic would be further discussed when the ICPDR agricultural strategic document will be elaborated (this is a planned future activitiy which is under discussion to be launched in 2016 after the adoption of the DRBMP–Update 2015). This strategical document – as Mr Kovacs has indicated–would be part of the ICPDR intersectoral cooperation activities, such as the interlinkage between navigation and hydropower were during last years. Regarding the *solid waste* issue it was stressed that this topic is addressed by a different set of stakeholders and actors compared to water management. Therefore the way forwardcould be to focus first on a pilot area (e.g. Tisza River Basin) and than according to the results the issue can be further expanded if needed. The relevant Danube basin wide activities should also be taken into account.

The topics of P-free detergent (P-ban) and the alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements were agreed to be further investigated in the frame of the study – discussion visits.

Regarding the wastewater issues an important question what is the situation and how the countries need to proceed with proper treatment activities. Mr Kovacs called the attention that data availability can be a challenge specifically for the Non-EU countries. Mr Kovacs also stressed that the proper experts need to be found to get valuable data during the visits. Mr Mair and Mr Kovacs stressed that the existing challenge for Non-EU countries is to get urban wastewater treatment in place for large cities, what is in line with the priorities setting from theUrban Wastewater Treatment Directive, having more stringent deadlines for large agglomerations than for small rural settlements. For this reason it was suggested not to focus during the planned PA4 study visits, apart from P-free detergents, only on small rural settlements, but to more broadly have an exchange with Non-EU countries on their challenges and needs in relation to urban wastewater

treatment development. The results of the study visits could inter alia be communicated at the next EUSDR Annual Forum in order to raise political attention on the existing challenges.

The ICPDR also noted that there are information available at the ICPDR about the current status and progress of the UWWTD as well as the status in the Non EU countries (big cities). It was also suggested to check the website of the WB project “Danube Water Programme” (contact: Philip Weller).

In connection to P-free detergent topic Mr Mair offered to share an EU assessment study from 2009/2010 which was prepared during the negotiation process for the EU Regulation on P-free detergents. The planned activities on P-free detergents should aim to discover what the actual situation of the detergents market (production and consumption) is in the non EU countries and what political decisions are planned/foreseen to implement measures in order to reduce P-content in consumer detergents.

Regarding the organisation of the study-discussion visits the following were agreed:

- Two events would be organised, to where the agreed targeted countries would be invited. ICPDR suggested to organise regional meetings for the Sava countries and UA-MD. One event will be organized by the SK PAC Team and one event by the HU PAC Team.. SK PAC kindly offered to organise one of the meetings (e.g. in Kosice) where experts from both EU and Non-EU countries can be invited. The length of the day will be further agreed (2 or 3 nights).
- Mr Groselj offered to help to find/seek for the suitable experts in the Sava countries and will also help in the organisation issues.
- The ICPDR was kindly requested to help also in finding the suitable contact persons, experts to reach maximum efficiency of the meetings.
- Thematics should be similar for both study-discussion visits/events and than the logistic details can be further agreed.
- Regarding the date of the visits it was agreed that SK will organise the meeting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of May and HU in the middle of April (not to interfere with other ongoing PA4 events). Exact date of the visits still need to be agreed.
- ICPDR will send available information from the draft DRBMP to help the preparation for the meetings.

**Conclusion and next step:** Background paper and draft program will be prepared for the two topics (suggested by 10 March) also taken into account relevant ICPDR documents.

**Conclusion and next step:** countries to be further interviewed and contact persons need to be specified and nominated.

**Conclusion and next step:** Dates of the visits to be agreed.

## 5. Tisza River Basin activities

Ms Heilmann shortly summarized the ongoing Tisza sub basin (ICPDR Tisza Group) activities and indicated that the next Tisza Group meeting is planned to be organised between 12-13 May. Meeting venue is to be confirmed later. PA4 SK PACs will also be invited for the next meeting.

Ms Heilmann also indicated that a project proposal is planned to be developed for the TRB activities, which should be further discussed in the frame of the next Tisza Group meeting in May 2015.

## 6. Sediment issues

Mr Mair shortly explained that on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in Vienna a meeting has been organised on this topic.

The next meeting is planned to be held in Budapest on the 7-8th April. The meeting is planned to be a workshop where the further details of the project proposal will already be discussed.

Referring to the question of Mr Perger, Mr Mair also said that both BG and HR confirmed their intention to join the project.

The PA4 ICPDR TA support is now under development. Mr Mair indicated that further political support by PA4 would be welcomed for ensuring the project financing and mentioned also the involvement of the Bavarian Research Association in the elaboration of the project proposal.

Mr Groselj indicated that Sava Commission has already a protocol on sediment and a project has also been implemented related to this issue.

## 7. Water Resource Protection Workshop

Ms Vranovska informed the participants about the current status of the organisation of the workshop. The participants of this meeting have preliminarily received the draft agenda.

Mr Perger suggested to invite the JRC and the DG ENV to the meeting in case there is still room for further presentations. He also noted that sub-basins' representatives would also be useful to be invited (Tisza Group and Sava Commission). Mr Perger also ensured that he will nominate experts to the delineated topics from Hungary.

Mr Kovacs indicated that he would send contact details of a relevant study on microbial transport between surface and ground water bodies, which might also be of interest from the workshop point of view.

**Conclusion:** SK PAC thanked for the comments and it was agreed that feedbacks would be integrated into the updated program as much as possible.

## 8. Dissemination activities

Ms Kocsis-Kupper highlighted three topics:

- Website
- Layout for the reports
- Brochure development on financing and projects

In connection to the website Ms Kocsis-Kupper explained that in line with the SG8 meeting discussion and taken into account that there were several difficulties with the former supplier of the former website, Hungary arranged and supported the change of the service supplier and a new website is now available since the beginning of February 2015. The SG members of PA4 have been informed about the changes.

The new website address is the following: <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/>

Ms Kocsis-Kupper also stressed that it would be important to have common profile (e.g. layout) of the PA4 documents, and she suggested to use the one, which was already used for the third progress report. In case there are already documents available in a different format is not a problem, but it would be useful to start with this process.

It was also mentioned that two brochures development is under progress in line with the workplan and would be available by the next SG meeting. The SK PAC, ICPDR and Sava Commission would receive the final draft of the document for checking.

SK prepared folders for the dissemination activities and handed over 100 pieces to the HU partner. Mr Perger thanked for the transferred folders.

SK also indicated that they intend to update the former PA4 brochure, which gives general overview on the PA4 activities.

**Conclusion:** it is important to better disseminate the PA4 ongoing activities and available results and the dissemination activities should be strengthened in the future. Currently both Slovakian and Hungarian partners are developing brochures, which should be available by the next SG meeting.

**Conclusion:** it was suggested to use common profile (layout) for the PA4 documents in the future to reach better visibility.

## 9. Financing possibilities

See information under chapter 11.

## 10. Roadmap update

In line with the agreement made in the frame of the 8<sup>th</sup> SG meeting the roadmap will be updated in written form by the next SG meeting. SK PA4, the ICPDR and the Sava Commission will send their notes and comments to Ms Heilmann who will update the workplan.

**Conclusion:** The Workplan will be updated in line with the feedback of PA4 SK, HU, ICPDR and the Sava Commission. It is kindly requested to send the notes by the end of March 2015 to Ms Heilmann.

## 11. Technical Assistance prolongation *(the session continued without the Sava Commission as TA issues concern only 3 parties.)*

Ms Kocsis-Kupper informed the participants that the TA progress report has been completed and were sent to the EC. The HU team presented a copy of the document and the CD to the SK PAC and the ICPDR representative.

Based on information from the PAC meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 it is foreseen that from 2015 there will be direct contracts with the countries. There is an indication that the budget will significantly be reduced (from 100 000 EUR to 60 000 EUR per PACs). In the frame of the TA2 there is still a significant amount, which should be spent.

Regarding the TA2 3 months prolongation is suggested and the prolongation has to be submitted by 28 February 2015. A draft prolongation document was sent to the participants prior the meeting. We agreed that the SK and ICPDR would send to Ms Kocsis-Kupper their remarks and supplements to the draft, so latest by 28 February the request could be submitted. Ms Kocsis-Kupper reminded the participants to fill the financial section as well: to add one page to the excel file for SK and one page for ICPDR. She also advised to supplement the word document with planned actions.

The Final report should be submitted by the end of September 2015 (in case of a three months prolongation).

Ms Kocsis-Kupper will ask the EC how the money (in which timeframe) should be spent. It is a crucial question because of the support of the Tisza sub basin activities.

Ms Vranovska will ask the EC about the possibility of the interim payment since SK is run out of money.

**Conclusion:** The prolongation has to be submitted by 28 February 2015. SK and ICPDR should send their supplements prior 28 February.

## 12. Any other issues

**START:** Both the SK and HU PACs supported the idea not to open the start call in case it is not obligatory and the already available ranking list should be taken into account.. The STAWA project still did not get feedback from PA10. PAC HU would contact PA10 in this regard.

**ICPDR:** Mr Mair and Mr Kovacs shortly introduced the main activities of the ICPDR, which are inter alia the finalisation of the DRBMP – Update 2015 and publication of the JDS3 scientific results. Mr Mair also explained that in the frame of the ECONOMIC Task Group a chapter on financing possibilities will be developed (with the contribution of an German expert Me Eduard Interwies) and he suggested to involve PA4 HU (Ms Zsuzsa-Kocsis Kupper) in this process to harmonise the PA4 activity (brochure development) and DRBMP chapter development and also to facilitate the work from both side.

**SAVA:** Mr Groselj shortly summarised the ongoing SAVA Commission activities and he explained that the update of the Sava Analysis report is now ongoing. Several project and activities are focusing on flood having in mind the last year flood events. The ICPDR will also support the Sava Commission from the PA4 TA budget to develop the hydrological info system for the Sava.

**Financial Conference:** Ms Kocsis-Kupper informed the participants about the national financial conference, which will be organised on the 26th March 2015, in Budapest.

**International Water Conference.** SK PAC also informed the participants that smaller seminars will be held in national level on financial issues.

**LIFE-Coca Cola:** Ms Kocsis-Kupper called the attention to the LIFE integrated project proposal possibilities, which are still available options for further calls. The problem normally with Life projects is the ensurance of the own funds. Mr Mair noted that Coca-Cola has now allocated some budget for programs related to environmental issues. (6 years program). WWF is the organisation which facilitate the utilization of this budget.

Mr Perger thanked for the participation and wished safe trip home.

**ANNEX 5A: MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE BLUE DANUBE PROJECT WITH THE FOLLOWING TITLE: *DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPTS FOR REDUCING THE ACCUMULATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESIDUES IN THE DANUBE RIVER***

**December 3, 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia**

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

VENUE: Water Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

**Main objectives of this second workshop were:**

1. To introduce the companies and institutes participating in the project.
2. To discuss the development of specific technical concepts for water management using nano-scale materials.
3. To define the next steps and possible working options in relation of the project implementation.
4. To clarify the work packages and distribute the responsibilities among the project partners.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Danube countries: Germany, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia (the detailed list of participants is attached).

The meeting was chaired by Ms Andrea Vranovská and minutes were taken by Ms. Alena Kurecová.

The presentations, list of participants, Directive 2013/39/EU and the watch list of priority substances are attached.

**The final proposal of the meeting agenda was the following:**

09:00 – 09:30	Welcome by WRI and IPA and introduction of participants
09:30 – 10:30	Presentations of the partners: IPA by Mr Thomas Ackermann, WRI by Ms Andrea Vranovská and NMTC by Mr Mathias Werner
10:30 – 11:00	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
11:00 – 12:00	Presentations of the partners: ASIO by Ms Nina Tomečková, University of Ulm by Mr Andrei Sommer and LIMNOS by Mr Gregor Plestenjak
12:00 – 13:00	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>
13:00 – 13:45	Presentation with the title Technological concepts for water purification in Slovakia by Ms Livia Kijovská WRI interrupted by fruitful and exhaustive discussion
13:45 – 14:00	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
14:00 – 15:45	Overall discussion on concrete technological concepts for water purification in the Danube Area
15:45 – 16:00	Conclusion and final remarks

**1. Welcome, introduction, agenda**

**Mr Ackermann**, the project manager, welcomed all the participants and gave the floor to Ms Andrea Vranovská.

**Ms Vranovská** opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Then the participants introduced each other and said a couple of words about their work and involvement in the respected project.

**2. Presentations of partners – part A**

**Mr Ackermann** had the first presentation and he offered a short overview of the project which is focused on the purification of lakes and rivers in the Danube Area which is highly affected by pollutants from agriculture and industry. The project activities have two stages. The first stage means forming the consortium. Within the first stage 4 workshops are planned. The first workshop was held in October 2014 in Stuttgart, the second one was held in December 2014 in Bratislava, the third one is planned for February 2015 in Brno and the last one is going to be held in Ulm in May 2015. The second stage represents the definition of concrete R&Dproject (Research and Development). Next he spoke about the composition of consortium which can simply be defined by the line **Nanotechnology** (Fraunhofer IPA, University of Ulm and National Academy of Science in Ukraine) → **Water Treatment** (WRI Bratislava, ASIO and LIMNOS) → **Economical and Political Aspects** (European Academy of Science, NMTC and HTA). Finally within this first entry he offered a couple of words about the first workshop including the agenda and conclusions.

Then in his second presentation Mr Ackermann introduced his company. Fraunhofer is the largest organization for applied research in Europe having 60 institutes in 40 German cities. As much as 70% is funded by industrial partners and public research projects and 30 % is funded by the state and federal governments. Fraunhofer is divided into Fraunhofer IPA (institute for manufacturing engineering and automation) and Franhofer OPER (office for process engineering of functional materials and robotics).

**Ms Andrea Vranovská** had the presentation about the hosting organization – Water Research Institute. It has about 200 employees and it was established in 1951. It is a public organization governed by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. She introduced the main activities of the institute, spoke about 5 main departments and presented the projects the institute was involved in. Currently the institute provides the Priority Area 4 Coordinator of the Danube Strategy with the technical support, since Slovakia is involved in this priority area together with Hungary. At last but not least she mentioned the latest PA4 achievements.

**Mr Werner** had a presentation about the NMTC Company. The employees of NMTC have more than 15 years of experience in the area of nano- and micro-technologies and new materials. NMTC works at the cutting edge between technology and business. NMTC provides information and research beyond the nanotechnology hype and goes behind the numbers to provide relevant and focussed business and technology intelligence. The services of the company reach from consulting and evaluations to project management. The competence of NMTC in new materials is in several fields including diamond, amorphous metals, thin film technology and polymers for application areas reaching from electronics, microsystem technologies and sensors extending to light weight construction. The NMTC network is based on personal contacts with global companies, small and medium sized enterprises and research institutions in national and foreign countries. These contacts are extensively used for the benefit of NMTC customers. The customers of NMTC are both large companies and small and medium sized enterprises as well as research institutes and national and foreign governmental institutions. At last but not least Mr Werner introduced the project which the company is involved in.

### 3. Presentations of partners – part B

**Ms Tomečková** had a presentation about the company ASIO which is located in Brno and was established in 1993. In the company there are 80 employees. ASIO is a service company for the design, project management and procurement of technologies / processes for water, waste water and odour treatment. The research department currently employs 12 people who are active in the research of innovative waste water methods. There are already cooperation with the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, the Health Research Institute in London, BOKU Vienna, and the Slovakian Technical

University in Bratislava, the University of Gdansk in Poland, Liverpool University and CRIC in Barcelona. The department participated up to now in six FP7 and ten national projects with a budget of 1 million €. Some relevant projects are: NANOFLC, NANAPL, NANORADI that are about issues such as separation of nanoparticles, development of materials for air and water treatment and technology for hygienic and toxicological purification. Ms Tomečková introduced also Plasma Research Project since it is her field because she is focused on material engineering. ASIO is already working in the field of photo-catalytic oxidation and will contribute to the project with some ideas about water treatment methods and their implementation.

**Mr Sommer** had a presentation about the institute for micro and nano-materials which develops and researches in the field of materials science and micro/nanotechnology. Countless projects of DFG, BMBF, EU, ESA etc. have been supported and numerous publications show the corresponding competences. These findings are used mostly in industrial sphere. In July 2012 the University of Ulm already organized the first NanoDanube Workshop in nanotechnology with participants of the different Danube countries and also some members of different universities, research centres and companies. University of Ulm was established in 1967, there are 10 000 students and 200 professors working in 4 faculties: medical, engineering and computer science, natural science, mathematics and economics performing a combination of academic and industrial research. At last but not least he mentioned the 6<sup>th</sup> Danube Academy Conference which will be held in April 2015.

**Mr Plestenjak** had a presentation about LIMNOS Company. It is engaged in research, development and application of natural ecosystems for the protection and restoration of environment. They provide solutions that take into account the significance, structure and functioning of ecosystems. They try to develop sustainable environmental solutions using low-cost and natural technologies. Their activities range from waste water treatment, remediation of degraded soils and sediments, rehabilitation and revitalisation of standing water and streams. Main focus is put on development of constructed wetlands (CWs) for treatment of different kinds of waste water as a secondary or tertiary treatment stage. They also provide other solutions based on phyto-technologies. Current research is oriented towards a new technology for cleaning up polluted waters - floating treatment wetlands - FTW. Also new technology for sludge treatment (sludge drying reed beds – SDRB) is being under development.

#### **4. Presentation “Drinking watersupply, raw water quality, technology of water treatment, trends in water treatment and tap water quality in Slovakia”**

**Ms Kijovská** talked about different types of technological ways of water purification in Slovakia. She talked about public water supply, objectives of water treatment, technological processes used for water treatment, raw water quality, etc. There are 123 water treatment plants in Slovakia, out of which 73 are surface water related and 50 are ground water related and she described technological processes which are utilized here (e.g. aeration, mechanical filtration, single stage treatment...). At last but not least she talked about drinking water quality in Slovakia.

Moreover, she showed the efficiency of water purification using several technologies e.g. effectiveness of water recarbonisation (stabilisation of water and human health), effectiveness of water treatment technologies for the removal of cyanobacterial toxins (based on the type of water treatment). She presented application of selected separation processes for removing materials of various size.

## 5. Discussion

There was a rich discussion not only at the end of the meeting but also it was interrupting individual presentations. There was the question by **Mr Sommer** whether there is some information about ground water monitoring in connection with hormones and toxins whether they can come back from surface water to ground water because after some years this all pollution may penetrate into ground water and all people will be affected, not only the fish in surface water. Unfortunately there is no such monitoring. **Mr Werner** remarked that detection and filtration are the most important. Improvement of detection should be done, however, it is really complicated. **Ms Tomečková** remarked that qualitative and quantitative analyses are really important and evaporation of certain amount of volume can be seen in partial solution. Limit of qualification and detection is very essential. **Mr Werner** added that lifetime sensors are fundamental and he suggested to incorporate the company which would work in the field of sensors and this was approved and supported by **Mr Sommer**. **Ms Tomečková** suggested that WRI could elaborate the report on worst pollutants and other partners could provide the information about sensors. **Ms Kijovská** reacted that WRI has only little information about hormones from 2 or 3 waste water treatment plans in Slovakia and it is not sufficient. She suggested ELISA system for screening hormones. First it must be seen what is possible to be used. **Mr Ackerman** said that sensing methods and purification methods can be developed separately and then put together. Filtration and detection should be kept separated as long as possible and then be put together at the end. **Ms Vranovská** reacted whether there will first be some technology for which a pollution source will be found or a pollution source will be found first for which the technology will be consequently prepared. This issued remained open. **Ms Kijovská** suggested the Slovak University of Technology to participate. Moreover, she emphasised that the target list of pharmaceuticals has to be clear. It is then necessary to identify whether the active molecules or their derivatives or degradation products will be detected. **Mr Ackerman** suggested to define work packages which would not precisely follow the technology chain (see his presentation). **Ms Tomečková** provided a simple and transparent chart depicting the main responsibilities and next steps.

## 6. Conclusion

**Ms Vranovská** thanked all participants and expressed the pleasure to participate in the next workshop which will be held in Brno in February 2015. She wished participants a nice trip home and Merry Christmas.

## **ANNEX 5.B 3<sup>RD</sup> BLUE DANUBE WORKSHOP – MEETING MINUTES**

**ASIO, KŠÍROVA 552/45, BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC**

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

*5.1.1. The final meeting agenda was following:*

10:00 – 10:30	Registration of the participants, Welcome
10:30 – 10:45	Introduction: Mr. Michael Nowak, Fraunhofer, IPA; Financial reporting
10:45 – 12:00	Moderated discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technology</li><li>• Analysis</li><li>• Methods and detection limits</li><li>• Competitive technologies</li></ul>
12:00 – 12.30	Lunch
12:30 – 14:00	Moderated discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legislation</li><li>• Policy</li><li>• ENVI accumulation meta data</li><li>• Funding</li></ul>
14:00 – 15:00	Summarization, free discussion about the main topics

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Danube countries:  
Germany, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia (the detailed list of participants is attached).

### **Introduction:**

New representative of Fraunhofer IPA, Mr. Michael Nowak, B. Sc.

([michael.nowak@ipa.fraunhofer.de](mailto:michael.nowak@ipa.fraunhofer.de))

### **Administration and accountancy:**

- All the invoices will be send to coordinator, who will send the funding afterwards
- Coordinator will verify the possibilities of budget changes
- Planned conference in Ulm, 6<sup>th</sup> Danube Academies Conferences; Ulm, Germany; European Academy of Sciences and Arts, April 16/17, 2015 – coordinator will inform the beneficiaries about the possibilities of including the conference costs to the Blue Danube project
- Contact person: Thomas Ackermann ([thomasackermann@ipa.fraunhofer.de](mailto:thomasackermann@ipa.fraunhofer.de))

### **Main goal**

#### **Hormonal residue removal from the Danube River**

#### **Fraunhofer:**

Expectation of graphene filter membrane effectivity on molecular level

Combination of materials with silver nanoparticles – antibacterial effect (Ulm)

Reverse osmosis

Redox properties

TiO<sub>2</sub> UV-sensible

Desalination technology

Biofiltration

### **Water Research Institute**

Qualitative water Analysis

Organic pollutants trace analysis

Sampling (water sediment, sludge; passive sampling)

Water Framework directive

E2, E1, EE2, diclofenac

Degradation of estradiol to estrone

Limit of detection low for Instrumental equipment

Watch list – observation of concentration level – monitoring

Drinking water as an easier matrix

### **Limnos:**

Sludge management and solutions

Possibilities of other pharmaceutical waste removal – actual toxicity and already limited legislation

Technology readiness level

Treatment at the source

On-line library access: preferably Science Direct

### **ASIO:**

Competitive technologies – Advanced oxidation processes, plasma treatment (Fraunhofer will contact)

Possibilities of upscaling based on technology readiness level

Subcontracting possibilities of water analysis (Recetox – the meeting will follow)

Funding

Horizon 2020

- Water calls

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-water-2015-two-stage.html>

(or see description attached)

- Innovation actions 70 % funding x Research and Innovation actions 100 %

Eurostars

- Different conditions for different countries,
- Cut-off: 17 September 2015
- <https://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/>

### **Discussed topics:**

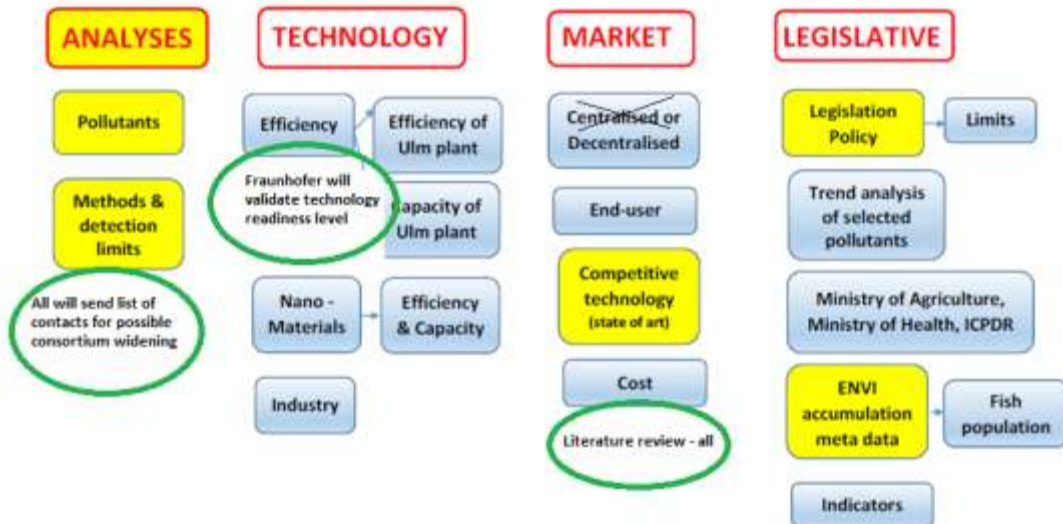
Legislation – not valid

Selective chemical sensors – question of widening the consortium, selectivity of membrane

Central x decentral treatment,

Technology readiness level – has to be verified by Fraunhofer,

Waste management – membrane concentrate, Literature review



Next meeting: May 2015, Ulm

## **ANNEX 6: PA4 TEAM VISITS IN THE NON-EU COUNTRIES: BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA**

### **Meeting with Bosnian water experts on 11/06/2015 in Jahorina,**

#### **Participants:**

##### **EU Strategy of the Danube Region (EUSDR)**

László Perger (LP) Priority Area Coordinator of Priority Area Water Quality- PA4, [perger.laszlo@ovf.hu](mailto:perger.laszlo@ovf.hu)

Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper (ZSKK) Senior Advisor EUSDR PA4 [kocsiskupperzs@t-online.hu](mailto:kocsiskupperzs@t-online.hu)

László Kóthay(LK) Chief Advisor EUSDR PA5 [kothay.laszlo@gmail.com](mailto:kothay.laszlo@gmail.com)

##### **Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH including the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, RS)**

BoskoKenjic (BK) Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation [Bosko.Kenjic@mvteo.gov.ba](mailto:Bosko.Kenjic@mvteo.gov.ba)

AmilaIbrulj (AI) Water Authority, SAVA River Watershed Agency Sarajevo, BiH [amila@voda.ba](mailto:amila@voda.ba)

Slavisa Savic (SS), Public Institution VodeSrpskeBijelina, RS [ssavic@voders.org](mailto:ssavic@voders.org)

#### **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

L P.: The aim of the meeting was to initiate discussions among EUSDR PA4 and BiH **to find out the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina regarding the wastewater issues and how the country plans proceeding with proper treatment activities.** The EUSDR PA4 representatives would like to **obtain information and needs assessment** in order to assists and try finding solutions for improvement.

EUSDR PA4 is aware that an existing challenge for Non-EU countries is to get urban wastewater treatment in place for large cities, what is in line with the priorities setting from the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWT), having more stringent deadlines for large agglomerations than for small rural settlements. Mr. Perger emphasised in his introductory remarks that EUSDR builds upon two basic documents: the Action Plan and the Communication. EUSDR have 11 priority areas, we represent the water quality priority area (PA4) that is coordinated by Hungary and Slovakia. One of the actions that PA4 is focusing on

is the waste water treatment plans improvement and building, and the other one is waste water collection and treatment for small settlements. The related requirements are deriving from the concerning EU legislation (UWWT Directive.) We all know that there are very different regions within the EUSDR; there are the developed western countries and the less developed countries in the south-east.

With the current mission **EUSDR PA4 plans to prepare a BiH mission report**, including the findings with the aim of finding possibilities for funding.

PA4 proposes to prepare a report including 6 chapters:

- I. What is the state of play in waste water problems in BiH?
- II. What are the differences with domestic and industrial waste water in BiH by their importance?
- III. What is the scale and degrees of different treatment levels in BiH?
- IV. Is there any mapping of sensitive areas of BiH as problematic wastewater (cleaned or not) discharged area?
- V. Who is the competent authority in treatment planning?
- VI. Ranking in problematic cities, towns and settlements.

EUSDR would provide the report to the EIB and to other funding instruments.

Discussion started in interactive way following partly the chapters.

BK: What is the actual approach to the investors?

L P.: There is a branch of EIB in Budapest who can help and we can also assist in finding alternative funding.

ZSKK added that a mandated expert group already prepared a study for this action for PA4 in 2013-2014 and as it was agreed by the PA4 Steering Group we shall visit the non EU countries, make a more detailed plan and to improve the findings and recommendations. She also mentioned that the visits were discussed and agreed with the ICPDR and Sava Commission experts, were presented to the SG members in the last SG meeting in Budapest on 9 June 2015. For the preparation of the mission the background document was prepared using the information available in the former PA4 studies, from the current ICPDR RBMP 6 draft and the Danube Water Programme reports. **ZSKK asked the Bosnian experts to update and supplement the PA4 background document with their findings to incorporate it to the BiH mission report.**

BK: BiH agreed with the EU to have large amount of funds, they are aware that this mission is important. Mr. Kenjic also highlighted that there are a lot of on-going activities in BiH.

BiH already has a project called *Strengthening capacities in BiH* by IPA, the project will be finished by Jan 2016.

That IPA project has 5 pillars:

1. Development of the RBMP of the Sava river basin;
2. Improvement of legal framework of BiH- 9 EU directives that will be amended;
3. Tariffs, problems with common utilities, the companies are not sustainable. (2 cities will be selected as an example), focusing also on the implementation of the EU directives and large investments;
4. Water information system;
5. Capacity building.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining the findings of this IPA project.**

## **I. STATE OF PLAY**

In BiH

AI: There are about 10 wwt plans that are functional in FBiH. Only about 10% of the collected wastewater is being treated. Many municipalities are not treated. Sarajevo had a wwt plan that was destroyed during the war. The World Bank(WB) is already financing a rehabilitation of the plant. At this plant primary treatment should be functional.

In RS, as entity in BiH: SS: 30% is collected in RS, 10% are being treated. There are 3 WTT plans in RS. One is in Trebinje in the Adriatic that was built in the 80-es 30.000 equivalent. The second is Bileca, 20.000 equivalent; it was built 5 years ago, financed by the WB. The third is in Bjeljani that was finished one month ago; its capacity is about 30.000 equivalent now, in the final phase it will reach about 60.000. SS mentioned that there was a project 5 years ago and a lot of data about WT capacity is available from the project. It was emphasised that there is nothing for small settlements.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining the WT treatment data details.**

BK: a decision was made to build a treatment plan in different places. There is the issue on the pressures and on the financial resources. For Bileca the WB provided part of the funding, but other parts were provided by the local authority and by hydropower industry. There is no clear list on the cities that have the treatment facilities. They have already finalised the significant water pollution issues and pollution is a key issue. They will list the programmes of measures and a plan on what to do next in the planning period. Bileca and Bjeljani have secondary treatment. AI mentioned that the system is not separated in many cities: there is only one plant both for plain water and for waste water. They have to create a new system for separating different waters in BiH.

## **II. MAIN PROBLEMS CONCERNED DOMESTIC/URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL WWT**

AI: The main problem is urban waste water. Industrial WW in BiH is problem, but not priority at this moment, because the industrial companies are obliged to treat their water before disposing. Some bigger industries already have their own treatment plans, the fact is that the quality of that treated water is still questionable and mostly not within the required amounts. The small companies (industries) in some period of time should have a waste water treatment plan to meet the required waste water discharge quality. "Any physical and legal person shall discharge wastewater into the public sewage system or otherwise, in accordance with the decision on wastewater discharge." FBiH Water law article 53

"The Federation Government shall adopt a rulebook on limit values of pollutants in waste water and other requirements with regard to the discharge of wastewaters into surface waters and the indirect discharge of wastewaters into groundwater, as well as a regulation on hazardous and priority substances on the proposal by the federal minister for the environment." FBiH Water law article 55

KKZS: Indeed, as the treatment would be solved with the permit requirements.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining the list and data of BiH WW treatment plants.**

## **III. LICENSING**

For the purposes of water management within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. the Federation, the following river basin districts shall be established:

1. **The Sava River Basin District** (hereinafter also the Sava RBD); and
2. The Adriatic Sea River Basin District (hereinafter also: the Adriatic Sea RBD).

The Sava RBD includes a part of the international river basin of the Danube (a part of the international Sava sub-basin) falling within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. the Federation of BiH.

**The River Basin District Agency** shall have the competence for issuing water deeds with respect to:

1. water abstraction of quantity exceeding 10 litres per second;
2. wastewater discharge from settlements with over 2000 inhabitants;
3. industrial wastewater discharge into surface waters;
4. indirect discharge of wastewater into groundwater;
5. artificial replenishments of groundwater;
6. extraction of material from Category I surface waters;
7. construction of hydroelectric power plants, when
  - the plant is located on Category I surface waters;
  - the plant is located on Category II surface waters and has a capacity exceeding 5 MW;
  - two or more plants are located on Category II surface waters, with a capacity exceeding 2 MW, and are located at the distance of less than 2 kilometres from one another;
8. construction of a water reservoir which is:
  - located on Category I surface waters,
  - located on the territory of two or more cantons;
9. construction of flood protection structures on Category I surface waters, and the construction of flood protection structures on Category II surface waters, which may affect:
  - Category I surface waters;
  - water property alongside Category I waters;
10. activities referred to in points 1 to 4 of paragraph 2 of Article 109 of this Law.

The **cantonal ministry** in charge of waters shall have the competence to issue water deeds for:

1. water abstraction of quantity not exceeding 10 litres per second;
2. wastewater discharge from settlements with up to 2000 inhabitants;
3. abstraction of material from Category II surface waters;
4. construction of hydroelectric power plants, when the plant is located on Category II surface waters with capacity of up to 5 MW;
5. construction of water reservoir located on Category II surface waters and within the territory of the canton concerned;
6. construction of flood protection structures on Category II surface waters, provided that the activities concerned do not affect Category I surface waters.

There are three agencies issuing permits in BiH, two in FBiH and one in RS.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining information about the licensing situation in BiH and RS as entity**

#### **IV. INDUSTRY AND MUNICIPAL WASTE**

Industry water and municipal water is different: for sewage there is no information on water quality. They generally monitoring water quality but do not monitor sewage system. Maybe the company, who has the plant monitors water, the experts could not confirm this. Bigger industries shall provide discharge water quality reports to the authority (how often it depends on amount of discharged

water). Smaller companies (with amount of discharged water less than  $< 20 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ ) are reporting twice a year. Companies that discharge more than  $>500 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$  of waste water have to send monitoring of waste (discharged) water reports monthly.

## V. SENSITIVE AREAS

In BiH: most waste water supply is coming from ground water. Only one surface water collection is in operation. Drinking water treatment plant Cerik at Lake Modrac that is used as water supply system for the part of city Tuzla but the rest is ground water. In the southern part of the country there is danger for ground water pollution as waste is not treated and gets to the soil. There is a project about the management of transboundary aquifers.

RS is in the same situation: 90% is provided by ground water, 10% from surface water. Banja Luka has a water supply system. Brcko and Teslic surface water. In most cases ground water is providing access to water.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining information about sensitive areas.**

## VI. PRIORITISATION

**The BiH experts will provide information on prioritisation.**

BK promised to send the docs to the agencies and ministries. They will provide figures and numbers and they will send the documents to us, hopefully in the upcoming 3 weeks.

BK further informed us during the mission that the ministry high level experts had a meeting last week with the World Bank and talked about the priorities and the WWT issue was identified as one of the first priorities in BiH. In BiH they need to analyse what to do next. There is a National Investment Committee that was established last month in BiH; its members are the ministers. They will decide about the priorities until 2020.

### Networking

KKZS added that the EUSDR is aiming to assist in networking and in partner finding for projects as well and we would try to find project partners in Non EU countries as well. One example of a project proposal is the Locwat2020 project that was supported by the SG and ranked third in the last call for START. LK will send the project proposal to BK and would appreciate finding a Bosnian partner.

**EUSDR PA4 would appreciate obtaining proposals for potential BiH partners for WWT for small municipalities projects.**

### Dissemination

ZSKK further added that the EUSDR PA4 would communicate the findings of the NON EU country missions at the next EUSDR Annual Forum in order to raise political attention on the existing challenges and would focus on waste water treatment needs. For this reason PA4 submitted a proposal to have a workshop on Non-EU waste water in the end of October in Ulm. **PA4 would welcome the assistance and cooperation of BiH experts in the workshop.** Further details will be communicated to BK as soon as the EC approves the Annual Programme.

### Detergents

ZSKK pointed to the issue of detergents, as it was also discussed in the last PS4 SG meeting and highlighted by the ICPDR experts that the topics of P-free detergent (P-ban) and the alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements is also to be further investigated.

IA explained that there is no additional information about detergents, BiH have no problems with that issue so far. The information that was included in the submitted background document and also in the ICPDR RBMP update covers all known information.

BK would like to receive a list from EUSDR of what is allowed and distributed in the EU concerning detergents.

### **Wrap up**

LP summarised that EUSDR would plan to have a programme for BiH related to waste water management in BiH, including two projects: one focusing on waste water treatment plants in cities and the other one is waste water in small settlements, as pilot project. He also emphasised that this was the first mission to the country and we plan to continue cooperating in the future.

BK: thanked the EUSDR experts for their mission and promised to provide information about the discussed topics, hopefully in the upcoming 3 weeks. BiH looks forward to cooperating with the EUSDR and hopes that as a result projects could be generated and funds achieved.

The minutes were prepared by ZSKK and commented by AI.



## ANNEX 7 - SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE 21ST ICPDR TISZA GROUP MEETING

### Tisza Group meeting between 26-27 November 2014. Szolnok, Hungary

*The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:*

#### **Future coordination of the ICPDR Tisza Group / Infrastructural arrangements**

- Hungary has been established the national Tisza office which will – among others – help in the coordination of the ICPDR Tisza Group activities. The ICPDR PS and the EUSDR PA4 experts will facilitate and help the on-going work, where needed. The activities will be coordinated via the ICPDR in line with the former procedures.
- Hungary will raise the issue of the ‘*Memorandum of Understanding towards ensuring the coordination activities for the continuation of the ICPDR Tisza Group work*’ to be discussed and agreed in the frame of the OM17 by the HoDs.

#### **Development of technical documents**

- The ICPDR Tisza Group informs the ICPDR HoDs that the document on the ‘*Progress in the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the Tisza River Basin*’ has been developed. The Tisza Group has agreed that no further adoption of the document is needed. The work should focus on the development of the future activities.
- The ICPDR Tisza Group suggested to jointly develop the document of the Tisza Analysis report update and 2nd Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan. It was agreed that a Roadmap is needed to be developed outlining the steps needed to be done to finalise the work – Tisza office (with the contribution of the ICPDR PS and EUSDR PA4) will develop the document. The document will be coordinated via written procedure and should be finalised until the next Tisza Group meeting.
- The Tisza River Basin Countries will internally consult on available human capacities related to the development of the joint TAR update and ITRBMP.
- The Tisza countries will decide on the procedure on national level whether the countries should coordinate or develop the chapters (coordination work or editorial chapter writing activity).

#### **Utilisation of the Fund offered by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget**

- *Background:* The ICPDR has allocated 20000 EUR budget for the Tisza Group activities from the EUSDR PA4 related technical Assistance support. The ICPDR Tisza Group discussed potential options for the utilisation of the budget – a decision is proposed to be taken by the HoDs of the Tisza countries.
- *Potential options:* (1) Development of a project proposal to support the preparation of the TAR update and 2nd ITRBMP; (2) Using the available budget directly for the development of the TAR update and 2nd ITRBMP (direct input to the editorial work of country experts – chapter development).

### **Adoption procedure of the Joint Declaration of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Framework Convention**

- The ICPDR PS will check the process, which can be legally accepted for the adoption of the document. The ICPDR PS will communicate the findings to the ICPDR Tisza Group and to the HoDs.

### **Relevant projects and project proposal**

The ICPDR Tisza Group took note on the on-going development introduced in the frame of the 21st Tisza Group meeting and asked the presenters to update the group on the developments when they are available.

## ANNEX 8 – MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> STEERING GROUP MEETING OF THE PRIORITY AREA 4

### PA4 - To restore and maintain the quality of waters – of the EUSDR

DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

VENUE: Water Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

#### **Main objectives of the meeting were:**

1. To present the Joint Document of Cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR and discuss how it will be approved with the Steering Group
2. To present the START projects, explain how the best 15 projects were selected and to discuss the way how the top 4 projects will be selected for the submission to the Priority Area 10
3. To discuss on recent activities related to PA4 and give information on the planned events
4. To present the information about the different possibilities for project financing including the new Danube Transnational Programme

The meeting was attended by the SG members or their substitutes of the following Danube countries: AT, CZ, HU, HR, SK, MD, ME, and DE and by the representatives of EC DG Region, ICPDR, Sava Commission and GWP (the detailed list of participants is attached).

The meeting was chaired by PAC SK Assistant Ms Andrea Vranovská and minutes were taken by Ms Alena Kurecová (PAC SK Assistant).

#### **The final meeting agenda was the following:**

09:30 – 09:35	Welcome by Mr Čerešňák, PAC 4 SK and introduction of the agenda
09:35 – 09:45	Welcome by Mr István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator)
09:45 – 09:55	Welcome by Mr František Koločány, (The Slovak Republic Government Office, Department of Cross-sectoral Priorities – National Coordinator)
09:55 – 10:00	Welcome by PACs 4 and introduction of participants
10:00 – 10:15	Summary of the activities done since the 7th SG meeting, information on 3rd Annual Forum (Ms Andrea Vranovská)
10:15 – 10:30	Information on ICPDR activities (Mr Raimund Mair)
10:30 – 10:45	Information on SAVA Commission activities (Mr Samo Groselj)
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 11:15	Presentation of joint document of cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper and Mr Raimund Mair)

11:15 – 11:30	Work plan of PA4 for upcoming period (2014 -2015) (Ms Diana Heilmann)
11:30 – 13:00	Project financing (Horizon 2020, LIFE, Danube OP, EIB) (Ms Anna Repullo Grau, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Mr Imre Csalagovits)
13:00 – 13:45	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:45 – 15:15	START – selection of 2 projects for support of PA4 (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper and Ms Andrea Vranovská)
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30 – 16:30	Current projects – information (Sediments – Prof. János Jozsa, Iron gate – feasibility study, Mr Raimund Mair)
16:30 – 16:45	Closing session (PACs)

## 1. Welcome, introduction, agenda

The 8<sup>th</sup> PA4 SG meeting was opened by PAC4-SK **Mr Dušan Čerešňák**. He warmly welcomed all participants, introduced the agenda and opened the meeting with giving the floor to **Ms Andrea Vranovská**, PAC4-SK assistant who chaired the whole meeting. The next speaker was **Mr István Joó**, Ministerial Commissioner at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator, who spoke about macro-regional strategies, facilitation of the proper funds use along the whole Danube Region, operative flood management and cooperation programme and highlighted that **Hungary specifically aims** to facilitate and help the proper and effective **use of available funds**, to set up consortiums and to develop projects proposals in line with the objectives of the priority area. Hungary has been putting significant efforts to integrate the Danube Strategy aspects and priorities into the Operative programmes and launched an initiative to strengthen cooperation between water related educational institutions.

**Mr František Koločány**, the Slovak Republic Government Office, Department of Cross-sectoral Priorities – National Coordinator, had few words about new programming period in which the concept of macro-regional strategies will be the most important tool. This concept is included in the most relevant regulations. Cooperation of EU countries and non-EU countries is really important. Concept on governance of macro-regional strategies is being prepared by the Council of the European Union. He also spoke about the improvement of cooperation between the Priority Areas and the ICPDR since the Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy which took place in October 2013 in Bucharest. That time the Commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn assigned the task to elaborate the joint document specifying the cooperation between the ICPDR and EUSDR. **Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper**, acting PAC4-HU highlighted the importance of the joint document of cooperation between the PA 4 and the ICPDR, she mentioned that PA4 would like to assist its members to provide information about financing possibilities and that the aim of the current SG meeting is also to decide about the projects that should be recommended for Start funding.. After that the participants introduced themselves.

## 2. Presentation of the summary activities of PA4

**Ms Andrea Vranovská**, PAC4-SK assistant had a presentation about the activities within EUSDR Priority Area 4 which have been performed since the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting organized in Budapest. She also provided the information about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum which was organized in June 2014 in Vienna. Within the plenary session 3 – Inspired by Diversity – Ready for Action -

Danube Cosmos PA4 organised the workshop “Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the policy of the European Union”. Workshop conclusions related to the implementation and functionality of macro-regional strategy are:

- Operative interconnection and mutual cooperation of EU SDR, ICPDR, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme and Directive EU 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive)
- Close cooperation and implementation support of PA4, PA5 and PA6 actions which relate to the common Pillar II – Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region
- The practical issues of the Danube Region anchored in EU SDR and ICPDR documents shall be solved on the base of scientific knowledge obtained within the JRC research

### 3. Presentation on the information about ICPDR activities

Ms. Kocsis-Kupper announced that in each SG meeting there will be a separate section provided to the ICPDR and ISRBC to present their progress and opinion. The SG members, namely Austria and Germany appreciated this approach and welcomed this practice for the future as well.

**Mr Raimund Mair** who is the Technical Expert on River Basin Management gave the presentation about the ICPDR activities. ICPDR coordinates the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive on basin-wide level. They have 15 contracting parties. River basin management is dealt within the WFD. Then he introduced the WFD implementation cycle and significant water management issues like organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution and hydro-morphological alterations. He mentioned that the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report with annexes and maps is being currently finalized. The draft of second River Basin Management Plan will be published in December 2014 and they will be finalised and adopted in December 2015. Some examples of the Danube River Basin Management Plans are urban waste water treatment, measures on agriculture, connectivity and fish migration and inter-sectoral cooperation. The report on the Joint Danube Survey 3 is being finalized. Implementation of EU Floods Directive is very important for the Priority Area 4 and 5. The First Danube Flood Risk Management Plan is under preparation, the draft will be ready in December 2014 and finalisation is expected in December 2015. The cooperation of the EUSDR and the ICPDR can be displayed in the Priority Areas 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Finally Mr Mair talked about ICPDR meetings and events and welcomed that PA4 PACs would be attending the events, mentioned the upcoming RBM EG, where Ms.Kocsis-Kupper would attend on behalf of EUSDR PA4 and reminded that the Ordinary Meeting of ICPDR will be held on 10 December 2014 where the PACs are also invited.

### 4. Presentation on the ISRBC activities relevant for the implementation of EUSDR

**Mr Samo Grošelj** gave the presentation about the activities of the Commission. Firstly he presented the overview of the Sava River Basin. Then he spoke about the projects within the Priority Area 4: Sava River Basin Management Plan; Biodiversity and Environment Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in SRB and Establishment of Sava GIS. The project within the Priority Area 5 is related to the spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increasing flood threat. He also mentioned other projects and activities among which are Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin; sustainable sediment management; consideration of inter-sectoral linkages and Sava waterway rehabilitation. At last but not least he spoke about May 2014 floods – meetings and activities.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** had a few remarks after these presentations. She said that the 3 topics ICPDR highlighted are the issues that PA4 is also active and in which PA4 cooperates with the ICPDR, namely: waste water treatment, phosphates and buffer zones. She really appreciated the cooperation between PA4 and ICPDR saying that there is a big potential for future joint works.

She also highlighted the fact that the Sava Commission is also an important stakeholder of PA4 and pointed out that the experiences of the Sava Commission related to the Sediment issue should be used.

## **5. Presentation on the Joint Document of Cooperation between the Priority Area 4 and the ICPDR**

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** gave the presentation about this document consisting of 10 pages plus annexes. The ICPDR, PA4 and PA5 agreed to prepare this joint document in November 2013, where the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi between ICPDR and PA4/PA5 would be clarified. Between January and March 2014 PA4 developed a draft document, which was sent to the ICPDR Secretariat as well as to the PACs of PA5 and to the NCPs of the coordinating countries. In March 2014 the ICPDR developed an ICPDR draft document: Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation focusing on EUSDR PA4 and PA5 coordination. The document was discussed several times among the ICPDR and related NCs during 2014 and on 8 September 2014 in Vienna an agreement was reached between ICPDR, HU and SK related to the text. The Romanian party which was not present at the meeting provided its consent. The document was ready for circulation on 3 October 2014 and the PA4 submitted it to its SG members on 6 October 2014. The basic objectives of the document are: outlining mandates; setting clear overview on the task separation and responsibilities and seeking the options how to make the best of both frameworks through complementarity and coordination synergy. The document is quite short, which was appreciated by the parties, and the annexes contain detailed descriptions that could be regularly updated. The improvement of cooperation is visible already now, e.g. PA4-PA5 team participate at ICPDR working groups, PACs participate in key ICPDR meetings, PA4 workplan was elaborated together with ICPDR in 2014, etc.

**Mr Mair** added a couple of words to this presentation. He said that the Chapter 4 of the document is very important because it indicates the synergies between ICPDR and EUSDR. He added that in the whole process the countries themselves are also important, not only the PA4 and ICPDR sphere distribution. **Ms Anna Repullo Grau** appreciated the efforts made, welcomed the final agreement and advised that this joint document should be sent to both commissioners – the previous one and the current one. The previous commissioner Mr Johannes Hahn is now responsible for IPA and ENI countries. **Mr Karl Schwaiger** and **Mr Klaus Arzet** (representatives of Austria and Germany respectively) expressed their satisfaction with the document. **Ms Marija Pinter**, representative of Croatia, added that Croatia has a very difficult position in terms of overlapping because it is the member of the ICPDR, ISRBC and therefore she really appreciates the effort connected to the document preparation.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** suggested to have 10 days silent procedure and after this period elapses and there are no objections from the countries, it means that the document will be approved by the Steering Group.

(Please note that the Document was accepted by the SG members in a silent procedure as agreed. Austria expressed its appreciation in writing.)

## **6. Presentation on the Work Plan for upcoming period (2014-2015)**

**Ms Diana Heilmann** had a presentation about the PA4 Workplan 2014-15. The main objective of the workplan and the timetable is not to repeat the elements of PA 4 Roadmap but to include and

specify the following activities: activities under implementation, activities financially covered or planned to be covered and the activities relevant for the Danube countries. Then she presented the workplan structure. She remarked that it is a living document and it is updated from one steering group meeting to the other one. **Mr Schwaiger** fully appreciated the form of the document to be really user-friendly, transparent and clear in comparison to the long and time consuming reading of the roadmaps. He suggested to organize a similar event to the Danube Day also within the Danube Strategy and to present dissemination activities in the next Annual Forum.

## 7. Presentation on project financing

**Ms Anna Repullo Grau** was the first speaker in this section. She spoke about the financial tool the Danube Strategy Point (DSP) in the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Brussels which will be established in the spring 2015. DSP will operate as a tool to support the implementation of the EUSDR and the coordination and interaction between its key stakeholders. In January next year its final shape will be clear. It is the financial tool to support Priority Areas Coordinators and Steering Groups. It should help to improve the work of the Danube Strategy and to include more DG Enviro and DG Regio in the strategies. This way the European Commission will be more involved. European Commission funding programmes have the objectives of the Danube Strategy in the concept, so this was the strategy is reflected in the Partnership Agreement and all operational programmes. The question is how this will be implemented in the practice. It is open for the operational programmes to decide, clear directions have not been set up yet.

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** continued in this block by speaking about different financial programmes. She gave detailed information about the Central Europe Programme, Life Programme and Water Projects and Horizon 2020. Regarding the Central Europe, the first call is planned to be available in early 2015 and will be open for 2 months, there will be a web-based application form. There are 4 thematic objectives and 4 priorities. Priority 3 with the title “Cooperating on Natural and Cultural Resources for Sustainable Growth in Central Europe” is important for the PA 4. The co-financing rate differs for the EU countries, for instance for the Slovak Republic it is 85%. Budget is 246 million Euro out of which the first call covers 80 million Euro. She provided an overview about the Life Programme as well where she works as a regional coordinator of the external monitoring team for 10 years now. The current budget of the Life Programme is 3, 5 billion euro and 81% of the Life budget will go to projects which are divided into the following types: traditional, integrated, preparatory and capacity building projects. She highlighted the fact that the Life Programme can provide appropriate funding especially for water projects (many Danube related water projects were financed in the past), the new integrated projects could be useful to serve for the needs of the RBMPs and advised to consider the possibilities of the programme and referred to the website of the call. She also mentioned the Horizon 2020 funding which overall budget is 78,6 billion Euro, out of which 3 billion Euro is available for projects including water projects over 7 years. She mentioned that PA4 is collecting information on many financial possibilities and would share the consolidated information with the SG members.

**Mr Imre Csalagovits** spoke about the Danube Transnational Programme which is the follower of the South East Europe Programme with a total budget of 260 million EUR with 85% co-financing rate. (The main problem of the SEE Programme was the involvement of stakeholders, there was the need for more support and more stakeholders and more multicultural financing.) He mentioned two financial tools offered by the Danube Transnational Programme: Danube Strategy Point and Seed Money distributed also via PA10 EUSDR in the form of START - Danube Region Project Fund.

## 8. Presentation about the START selection of 4 projects for support of PA 4

**Ms Kocsis-Kupper** introduced the selection procedure of START projects. Selected projects will be finally submitted to the Priority Area 10 and will have to meet 2 basic criteria: macro-regionalism and importance for PA 4. Not later than 18 November the Priority Area 10 will receive the list of selected projects – top 15 projects including 4 top projects. Ms Kocsis-Kupper offered the detailed explanation of the whole process – originally the Priority Area 4 received 40 applications altogether out of which 8 projects did not pass the formal check made by PA 10. Priority Area 4 Coordinators chose 15 projects out of those 32 and identified 6 best projects together as follows:

- Local waste water treatment solutions 2020 (LOCWAT 2020)
- Dissemination of the refined EWS study of Tisza basin (R-EWS)
- Microbiota and heavy metal interactions in the Romanian and Hungarian sectors of the Danube aquatic environment (MICROMETINTERACT)
- Radiological impacts of nuclear facilities to the Danube River Basin (RADIM)
- Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin (STAWA)
- Revitalization of Eutrophic Waters for Different Degrees of Pollution and the Size of Water Areas (REWATER)

The Steering Group agreed that there will be voting by email where all 14 Danube countries make their own ranking. Each country has one vote and will give maximum number of points to the best project (i.e. 6 points for the best project, then 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 point for the lowest project). Based on the number of points, the projects will be ranked from 1 to 6 and the selected top 4 projects will be advised to PA10 for financing. PA4 decision is only advisable, the final decision about project financing will be done by PA10. The country which will not reply by the deadline (7 days) is considered to agree with the final decision of ranking made by PACs. In case there is an equal vote then the PACs ranking prevails and there will be no second voting. (The countries voted in writing after the SG meeting as agreed and the result of the voting as follows:

Ranking	Acronym	Project No	No of points
1	STAWA	22	46
2	REWATER	36	35
3	LOCWAT 2020	9	34
4	RADIM	35	31
5	R-EWS	19	22
6	MICROMETINTERACT	21	21

## 9. Presentation on the information about current projects

**Mr János Józsa** from Budapest University of Technology and Economics had an interesting and alive presentation about the Danube Sediment Project. Firstly he gave a quick overview about the Danube River pressures and impacts and then he continued with selected-sediments related problems like intensive morphological changes in the river, increased sedimentation in side-arms

and sedimentation in flood plain and shallow areas. Then he mentioned field measurement methods and added some examples of projects supporting the forthcoming Danube Sediment Project application. Finally he spoke about the Danube Sediment Project itself where the core partner countries are Austria, Hungary and Romania with the support of the ICPDR. He highlighted the basin-wide cooperation, included some information about stakeholders and offered preliminary work packages formulations and thanked the EUSDR financial support provided by Hungary for project preparation. Further partners and key stakeholders will be decided later, the next meeting of the experts are foreseen on 21 November 2014 in Budapest. The project is foreseen to be funded from the Danube Transnational Cooperation Programme and the planned project duration is 3 years. **Mr Mair** spoke about the fish migration at the Iron Gates. Ensuring fish migration is really important because fish need access to habitats and spawning grounds from reproduction, e.g. sturgeons in the Danube River. Then he mentioned important political agreements and objectives and introduced the project Fish Migration Iron Gated I & II which was launched in 2013. Project duration is from September 2013 to September 2014. Key objectives of the project are: establishing fish passage possibilities at Iron Gates I & II, monitoring of sturgeon behaviour at Iron Gate II dam and elaboration of joint roadmap on next steps. The project funding is 260 000 Euro. The he introduced the activities done so far and drafted next steps, also highlighting that they look forward for PA4 support in the future as well, especially identifying financial assistance.

## 10. Closing session

In the closing session **Mr Joó, Ms Vranovská** and **Ms Kocsis-Kupper** thanked the participants for active participation in the SG meeting, appreciated the fruitful cooperation with ICPDR in implementation of PA4 activities and stressed the need for active co-operation at the performance of PA4 activities within the roadmap as well as at the preparation of financial instruments for the next programming period.

Ms. Kocsis-Kupper finally mentioned that the Tisza Office will be official opened on 4 November in Szolnok and also invited the SG members to think about potential issues that could be presented at the upcoming Annual Forum that will be held in Ulm in October 2015.



## **ANNEX 9 EUSDR PA4 -SUMMARY MINUTES<sup>9<sup>TH</sup></sup> STEERING GROUP MEETING**

**9 June 2015, Budapest, Hungary**

The main objective of the meeting was to give an overview about the on-going activities of the priority area on water quality (PA4) of the EUSDR, the ICPDR and the Sava Commission and to explore on financial options by introducing the new financial programmes, specially the Danube Transnational Programme and the LIFE Programme. Next to the introduction of financial programmes the meeting also served as a platform to introduce new project initiatives closely linked to PA4 activities and to present cooperation with several Nexus partners.

The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management. More than thirty participants from eleven countries were presented at the meeting including seven steering group members as well. The SK and HU PAC Teams, the ICPDR Secretariat, the Sava Commission, the GWP-SEE, the Baden Württemberg Ministry of the Environment and Climate Protection and Energy Sector, the Danube Water Programme, the Szent István University and Carpathian Conventions representatives as well as project representatives were also presented at the meeting.

### **13. Opening of the meeting**

Mr László Perger **HU PAC** welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. He introduced the meeting participants and gave the floor to Mr Frantisek Kolocany (Slovakian National Coordinator – Government of Slovakia, Department of Cross-sectional Activities) and to Mr Gabor Jenei (representative of the Hungarian National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DRS Secretary). Mr Kolocany mentioned that we are entering into a new programming period where macro-regional strategies play an important role. He further added that Slovakia will organise the Annual Forum in 2016 and one of their dedicated topic and focus will be on the protection of waters.

Mr Jenei highlighted that the Strategy gives us the opportunity to respond on common challenges via the realization of joint projects. He further noted that both the Hungarian coordination of the Danube Region Strategy and the PA4 coordinators have not just been fully supportive towards the projects, but have made concrete steps during the programming phase of the main donor Danube Transnational Programme to ensure that the most crucial water quality issues would fit in when calls will be opened.

Mr Vladimír Novák, Director General of Water Section from the Slovakian Ministry of Environment, the new PAC from Slovakia has also been introduced. Mr Vladimír Novák told that he has close cooperation with the EUSDR since the very beginning, taken into account that he was the former steering group member in Slovakia for PA1a. His aim is to strengthen the cooperation within the PA4 and he looked forward to the future cooperation with the countries.

Following the welcome notes Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper from the HU PAC Team introduced the main objectives of the separate sessions of the meeting. She noted that the EC representatives cannot be present in the meeting as the PA4 SG meeting overlaps with PA8 SG meeting in Ljubljana. Ms Kocsis-Kupper, however stressed that in the future it is important to ensure that the SG meetings are not coincide with each other to enable participation from the EC as well. She mentioned that she proposed a joint platform for common planning for PACs and SG activities to the EC to avoid situations like this. She further highlighted that DG ENV also promised participation in future SG meetings.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper gave the floor to the ICPDR and then to the SAVA Commission representatives to Mr Adam Kovacs and to Mr Samo Groselj to present their progress since the last SG meeting.

### **14. Information about the ICPDR activities**

Mr Adam Kovacs introduced the main on-going activities of the ICPDR.

Mr Kovacs told that three main documents have already been finalised or published as a final or draft report:

- The Joint Danube Survey 3 final report has been published,

- The Danube River Basin District Management Plan – Update 2015 draft report has been launched for public participation process together with the
- 1st Flood Risk Management Plan for the DRB draft report.

Mr Kovacs indicated to the participants that the public participation process will be finalised by the 22 July 2015, comments are welcomed by that date.

The public consultation process has various forms such as

- comments to be directly sent to the ICPDR,
- stakeholder consultation workshop, which will be held on 2-3 July 2015 in Zagreb,
- social media campaign via GWP or
- feedback via online questionnaires available at the ICPDR homepage.

Mr Kovacs gave a detailed overview about the Danube River Basin Management Plan - Update 2015, explaining the main outcomes related to the significant pressures from organic, nutrient and hazardous substances pollution as well as the hydromorphological alterations. He also gave some examples of the measures to be jointly implemented in the Danube River Basin District.

Mr Kovacs noted that the DRBMP - Update 2015 now includes a specific chapter on JPM (Joint programme of Measures) financing and he suggested to involve PA4 HU in the further development of this chapter to harmonise the PA4 activity (brochure development) and DRBMP chapter development and also to facilitate the work from both sides.

The main next steps towards the finalisation of the DRBMP were introduced as follows:

- 2-3 June 2015: Updated DRAFT DRBMP 2015 adopted at 13th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR;
- Intensified public consultation process – comments can be sent until 22 July 2015 ;
- 2-3 July 2015: Discussion at the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop (Zagreb) together with the draft Danube Flood Risk Management Plan;
- Autumn 2015: Update of the DRBMP 2015, including data update and incorporation of comments ;
- December 2015: Finalisation and adoption of DRBMP 2015 at the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR;
- 9 February 2016: Endorsement of DRBMP 2015 at the Danube Ministerial Conference.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 1**.

## **15. Information about the Sava Commission activities**

Mr Samo Groselj introduced the on-going activities of the Sava Commission, mentioning about the following main achievements and on-going work:

- The 1st Sava River Basin Management Plan has been finalised and approved in the frame of the 5th meeting of the Parties on 2 December, 2014;
- The development of the update of the Sava Analysis Report has been started;
- The development of 2nd Sava RBM Plan should be started as soon as first results from the analysis reports are available. He added that the project STAWA has started thanks to the START support and that is proposing a platform for efficient exchange of data and could be a basis for the examination of biodiversity and environmental status;
- Initial phase of the Sava GIS establishment is under process;
- On-going project activities in connection to climate change adaptation, sediment issues and sectoral interlinkages are launched;
- The Protocol on Sediment was harmonised and signature is expected in July 2015. He added that they are looking for funding measures for sediment management and implementation of the guidance.
- The Sava Commission is active in the UNECE Water Nexus and prepared a Feasibility Study for establishment of Sava Water Partnership, celebrated the Sava Day on 1 June 2015 with a cycling tour;
- Public participation processes are organised, the final workshop was held in May 2015.

More details of the presentation can be found in **Annex 2**.

## **16. Summary of PA4 activities and work plan for the upcoming period**

Ms Heilmann (PA4) introduced the topic and gave an overview on the current achievements since the 8th Steering Group meeting also introducing the changes indicated in the workplan.

She noted that the workplan was updated prior to the SG meeting in line with the agreement made in the frame of SG8.

### ***Management Activities***

#### *Achievements*

- Organisation of SG meetings – continuous;
- Update of the workplan and development of the PA4 yearly report (annual report - on-going);
- Organisation of meeting between PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC (19 February 2015, Budapest);
- Facilitating project proposal preparatory meetings and arranging bilateral meeting between project leader and financial program related to the sediment issues (26 May 2015 meeting organised between Sediment leaders and -DTP Joint Secretariat representatives).

### ***Development of policy documents, technical reports, studies, databases***

#### *Achievements:*

- Joint document between PA4-PA5-ICPDR adopted in 2014;
- JDS3 technical paper published by the ICPDR;
- Examination of the biodiversity and environment status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin (START – STAWA project promoted by PA 4 SG).
- Revitalization of eutrophic waters for different degrees of pollution and the size of water areas (START – REWATER project promoted by PA 4 SG)

#### *Updates in the workplan*

- Danube Delta Analysis Report development on-going (Prolonged action Target 3 to be changed in line with the prolongation);
- The national plans for the Prut are merged into one plan, action expected to be finalised at the end of the year (prolonged action);
- The development of the 2nd ITRBMP will be incorporated into a planned Tisza project proposal – LoR will be requested as soon as the proposal is available (written procedure);
- Study development on-going in line with the agreement with the ICPDR and ISRBC as follows:
  - Study related to buffer zones will be further investigated from 2016 in harmony with the ICPDR work on the 'Guidance Document on Agriculture'.
  - Regarding the solid waste issue it was concluded that this topic should focus first on a pilot area (e.g. Tisza River Basin) and then according to the results the issue can be further expanded if needed. The relevant Danube basin wide activities should also be taken into account.
  - The topics of P-free detergent (P-ban) and the alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements were agreed to be further investigated in the frame of the study – discussion visits. The organisation of study visits are on-going and will be organised in Non-EU countries in 2015.
  - Preliminary study on early warning water quality monitoring system has been introduced to the Tisza Group – further steps according to available funding.

### ***Workshops, Technical Events, Meetings***

### *Achievements*

- National Tisza Office has ceremonially handed over in November 2014;
- Two ICPDR Tisza Group meetings have been organised since the last SG meeting (November 2014 and May 2015);
- Organisation of meeting between PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC (19 February 2015, Budapest);
- Sediment project proposal preparatory workshops have been organised in November 2014 and in April 2015 in Budapest;
- 8 May Brussels - PA4 actively participated at the DTP programming discussions;
- 26 May 2015 – Sediment-DTP meeting was organised;
- SK organised a conference on Water Resources Protection under the auspices of the EUSDR PA 4 in April 2015;
- World Water Day - block of presentations devoted to Danube Strategy – The PA4 was promoted by a banner placed in the room;
- PACs participation was ensured in main ICPDR EG meetings and HoD meetings and so ICPDR Secretariat representatives were invited and presented to PA 4 events (SGs, etc.) as well.

### *Updates in the workplan*

- HYMO WS will be organised in Autumn 2015 (ICPDR);
- Workshop with ICPDR on P free ban is a pending issue. WS will happen according to the outcomes of the DRBM planning process and on-going study visits in Non-EU countries and the outlined needs.

### *Dissemination Activities*

#### *Achievements*

- Reprint of the brochure on PA 4 activities in English. The brochure was updated, printed and distributed on Bratislava conference;
- Article to the Water Management Journal (issue May/June 2015) with the title “Conference Water Resources Protection” dealing with effective and sustainable utilization of water resources;
- Article in the Danube Watch ‘Regional efforts to restore water quality’ issue 2015/1;
- Website – new website launched in January 2015; (<http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news>)
- Printed A4 folders for papers have been prepared.

### **Next Steps:**

- Development of the 4th Annual Report of PA4.
- Facilitating project proposal preparatory meetings and arranging bilateral meetings between project leader and financial program related to the Tisza issues and also related to other project proposal development.
- Organising study visits in the topic of WWTP and P-free detergents to Non-EU countries.
- Preparation for the Annual Forum.
- Development and organisation of dissemination documents and activities.
- Decision to be made about the next round of START projects.
- Organisation of the next SG meeting.

Following the introduction of the achievements and planned next steps, Ms Heilmann indicated that the targets of the PA4 have been reviewed and in general the implementation of the roadmap is on-going in line with the agreed targets. However, in case of Target 3 ‘*Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015*’ the Steering Group is requested to review the deadlines of this targets and make decision on the update of the text to be in line with the current and on-going work. Taken into account that the work is on-going and the Danube Delta Analysis Report development is in progress Ms Heilmann suggested to leave the deadlines and keep the target text without indicating date for the finalisation.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper asked the SG members whether they approve the proposal to postpone the deadline of Target 3. The Steering Group agreed with the suggestion and it was agreed that the changes will be further communicated to the high level meeting of the EUSDR.

In connection to the Annual Report Austria stressed that the draft report should be circulated to the overall Steering Group before submitting it to the European Commission. It was agreed that the PA4 will develop the document in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and then it will be circulated to the PA4 Steering Group country members. The final document will also be uploaded to the website.

Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) requested the PA4 team to send the Annual Report in due time to review (two weeks is requested to check the document).

Austria also stressed that the update work program should be presented earlier to the Steering Group to enable the members to review the document.

*Conclusions:*

- 1. In line with the decision of the SG target 3 will be updated and the updated text will be further communicated to the high level meeting of the EUSDR.*
- 2. PA4 Team will develop the Annual Progress Report in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and will circulate it to the PA4 Steering Group country members before submitting the document to the European Commission. The final document will also be uploaded to the website.*

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 3**.

## **17. Tisza Group activities**

Following the introduction of the workplan Ms Heilmann introduced the ICPDR Tisza Group related activities:

- Ceremonial hand over event of the National Tisza Office took place on the 4 November 2014, in Szolnok
- Two Tisza Group meetings have been organised since October 2014:
  - 26-27 November 2014, Szolnok, National Tisza Office, HU;
  - 12-13 May 2015, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- The meetings were organised with active contribution of the PA4 team and the National Tisza Office-Szolnok, with the involvement of the ICPDR.

The main outcomes of the discussions were the following:

- Joint updated Tisza Analysis Report (TAR) and Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan will be prepared;
- The outline of the update of Tisza Analysis Report (TAR) and Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan was discussed;
- Information on the Danube Transnational Program by EUSDR expert was presented;
- Tisza Project concept as a first steps towards the development of a project proposal to be submitted in to the Danube Transnational Program has been introduced;
- Information on the utilisation of the fund allocated by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget has been discussed.
- The main outcomes of the discussions were introduced in the frame of the ICPDR STWG meeting in HoD level (resolutions).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>The STWG a) Took note on the steps achieved in the process of the development of the joint document of the up-dated Tisza Analysis Report and updated ITRB Management Plan; b) Took note of the draft Tisza Project Proposal Concept and asked the Tisza Group to develop a project proposal from the funds allocated via ICPDR Technical Assistance to also support the preparation of the updated ITRB Management Plan in coordination with the ICPDR Expert Groups.

Austria stressed and requested that not only the Tisza River Basin but also the other sub-basin activities should be equally presented and we should keep eye on the other sub-basins as well, in particular on those shared with Non EU member states such as the Prut basin. The SG agreed with the remark, but Mr Perger PA 4 Coordinator HU emphasized that Tisza sub-basin is the biggest and the most problematic catchment in the Danube Basin in responsible of the EUSDR. The SAVA Commission manages well the SAVA sub-basin problems in high level and the Danube Delta which is the biggest wetland area of EU is also handled by Romania and his neighbouring countries in frame of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM, see later in Chapter 9) project completed at the end of this year. There is no doubt that in the near future the PA 4 Coordination shall stimulate more progress in case of the Prut sub-basin improvement which is the fourth most important catchment in the EUSDR area.

#### *Conclusions:*

3. *The PA4 will give additional information on the on-going sub-basin activities in the frame of the next steering group meeting.*

## **18. PA4 Team visits in the Non-EU countries**

Ms Kocsis-Kupper introduced the planned activities related to PA4 visits to non-EU countries in the topic of alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphates free detergents.

- The Roadmap of Priority Area 4 of the EUSDR contains Action 5 “To promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements” and Action 7 „to legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of Phosphates in detergents”.
- In 2013-2014 a legal research document analysed the situation in the Danube basin on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements and another Study related to “Limit the presence of phosphates in detergents” for the utilization of PA4.
- As agreed by the PA4 SG the recommendations of the studies should be further developed and especially the situation of the non-EU countries should be further examined.

Planned trips: As agreed between PA4-ICPDR-Sava Commission representatives on 19 February 2015 in Budapest, study visits will be organised in 2015 in the topics of waste water treatment and phosphates in detergents.

The examined countries in the first round are:

- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Serbia
- Ukraine

Planned outcomes of the visits

- To get an update of the country situation and specifics.
- To identify the needs and possible projects to be set up.
- To identify possible partners for waste water treatment projects, both for small settlements and also for bigger projects and to assist in looking for financial assistance.
- Based on the findings further recommendations will be made.

Next steps:

**The first study trip is organised to Sarajevo on 11 June 2015. The Bosnian contact point is Mr Bosko Kenjic, the Bosnian SG member** from the Bosnia Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations also responsible of water management issues.

- The further visit dates will be decided in the summer period. Planned joint participation with ICPDR experts.

- PA4 would like to obtain the experiences gained through other programs (DWP and BW)
- PA4 plans to communicate the results of the study visits at the next EUSDR Annual Forum in order to raise political attention on the existing challenges.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that the first study visit will be organised in 10-12 June 2015, to BiH. A background paper has been developed related to the topics based on the study of PA4, the ICPDR DRBMP as well as based on results published on the website of the Danube Water Programme. The background paper has been sent to the Bosnian experts.

The next meeting will be organised to Serbia, planned in July 2015 together with the ICPDR representative in water quality.

Ms Vranovska (SK PAC Assistant) indicated that a meeting with the Ukrainian experts will be held in September and additional meeting is planned with Moldavian experts. It would be 2 day event consisting of 1 day presentations and 1 day site visit to a waste water treatment plant or a dam. Location would be in Kosice city or other relevant location in the Eastern Slovakia. The expected number of participants from Ukraine is 3 or 4 and the same from Moldova. Actually, the number of participants will depend on travel expenses related to pre-planned budget. Objective of the visit is to promote PA4 activities, especially focused on alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphate free detergents. Of course, the topics will be discussed and modified according to the needs of participants. The agenda of the visit will be circulated prior to the event.

Mr Jenei mentioned that the Hungarian EUSDR National Coordinator organised a bilateral meeting with the Ukrainian partners<sup>4</sup> (involving decision makers, experts and regional county leaders in the discussion process) to explore on the development needs in particular related to the area of drinking water, wastewater and solid waste management and to discuss on possible financing possibilities for Ukrainian projects fall within the scope of the EUSDR. The outcomes of this meeting should also be channelled in the final summary document of the study visits.

Mr Kovács (ICPDR) noted that in the frame of the PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC trilateral meeting (organised on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Budapest, HU) the participants discussed about possible topics to be further related to Action 5 and Action 7. Mr Kovács also stressed that two topics were agreed to be further investigated this year focusing on wastewater treatment infrastructure development and P-free detergents related policy processes in the Non-EU countries. However the EUSDR roadmap mainly focusing on wastewater treatment facilities in small rural settlements (less than 2000 PE) it was suggested to also deal with the problems of larger cities taking into account that the main challenges in Non-EU countries are linked to the non-existing or strongly perished waste water treatment facilities. The Serbian and the Croatian experts agreed to this proposal and Ms Kocsis-Kupper noted that they indeed will discuss the issues of large cities in their study visits.

In case of the P-free detergents Mr Kovács mentioned that the main question is what the political willingness of the Non-EU countries is to achieve joint DRB management objectives, and what is foreseen to be implemented in the frame of the joint programme of measures related to this topic.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 4**.

## 19. Update on financing possibilities

In the frame of this session Ms Alessandra Pala gave detailed information about the **Danube Transnational Programme** and following Ms Pala's presentation Ms Kocsis-Kupper introduced the financial possibilities offered by the LIFE program.

Ms Pala briefly introduced the Danube Transnational Programme, than she gave an overview about the priorities and specific objectives of the programme. Ms Pala also indicated the next steps in connection to the

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<sup>4</sup>The meeting would be organised on 11 June 2015, in the premises of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

1st call for proposal, highlighted the importance of the first strategic concept phase and she also stressed that the evaluation process timing will strongly depend on the number of submitted projects ideas (expression of interest). Ms Pala also gave positive reflection about the on-going development of the sediment project proposal; however she noted that this does not mean automatically the positive reviewing of the project proposal. Ms Kocsis-Kupper expressed PA4 appreciation for the cooperation and openness of the program representatives for offering bilateral discussions that proved to be very useful.

The full presentation about the DTP is attached in **Annex 5**.

Related to the presentation about the DTP Mr Schwaiger (AT, SG member) noted that wording of target related results 2.3 (*‘Better integrated plans and developed solutions to further protect and enhance the status of all waters and to ensure the sustainable, long-term use of water resources in the Danube region strongly interlinked with sound flood risk management’*) is restrictive and should be reconsidered. Ms Pala thanked for the note and she told that feedback will be taken into account.

Mr Schwaiger also noted that PACs and SG member’s communication during the evaluation procedure would be valuable.

Mr Kardoss (BME, Sediment project) thanked for the Danube Programme joint Secretariat for the possibility to discuss on the project framework and about technical details in the frame of a bilateral meeting, which was an important feedback to further clarify issues about the project.

Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that he was happy to hear about the positive feedback communicated by the Danube Transnational Programme on the sediment project, which is an important flagship project.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper gave a general overview on the **LIFE Programme 2014-2020**. She took specific emphasis on the Integrated projects (IPs), which tool is available for mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection.

This tool is aiming to implement Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017), in big scale including complementary actions with additional co-funding. Involvement of stakeholders is crucial. She called attention that **the deadline for submitting proposals is 1 October 2015**. The presentation about the LIFE program is attached in **Annex 6**.

Following the presentation about the LIFE programme Ms Kocsis-Kupper summarised the **START-TAF funding** EUSDR PA4 -2015 related information. The objective of START – Ms Kocsis-Kupper told, in accordance with Commission Decision C(2013) 6180 of 27.09.2013, is to “kick-start project development in the Danube Region and to facilitate the financing of transnational projects”. START is to help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop and implement their project ideas with a maximum amount of 10.000-20.000 EUR, while TAF is offering expert assistance.

The TAF-DRP and START Calls 2015 are Open Calls: any interested organisation in the Danube Region can download the application pack for each Call from the website of PA10: [www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu](http://www.danube-capacitycooperation.eu) and also from PA4: <http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/9-th-sg-meeting-1>.

She highlighted that there will be a short deadline for the submission of the proposals (**6th - 8th of July (until 12.00 CET) for Start and 24th -26th of June for TAF**). Ms Kocsis-Kupper highlighted that during the summer period PA4 will need to contact SG members about decision – making and that we will follow a written procedure for the voting.

There is a thematic PA4 restriction; currently the following topics are open for the START/TAF calls:

1) Integrated River Basin Management

Project objectives would focus on integrated river basin management and strengthening cooperation at sub-basin level (A2 of Roadmap).

2) Wastewater treatment

Project objectives would focus on the issue of wastewater treatment:- To building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure (A4 of the Roadmap) - To promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements (A5 of Roadmap)

3) Water resources protection and safeguarding of drinking water supply (A1 and A13 of Roadmap); Improvement of the retention capacity of the landscape (within A1 of the Roadmap)

Projects objectives would focus on protection of quality and quantity of water resources and retention of the water in river basin to protect the landscape against drought/flood. Both aspects will be evaluated in relation to climate change. Climate change itself is not involved in the PA4 Roadmap, but its impacts should be considered.

More information about the timeframe and eligibility criteria of the START-TAF funding is attached in **Annex 7**.

## 20. Nexus information

In the frame of the agenda item the current results and on-going activities of the Danube Water Programme (Mr Philip Weller), Global Water Partnership (Mr János Fehér) and UNEP Carpathian Convention have been introduced (Mr Harald Egerer). In the frame of the presentations the DWP, GWP-CEE and UNEP-CC representatives introduced the interlinkages of their activities with the EUSDR PA4 and explained the main outcomes results, which can be built into the on-going activities of the PA4.

Mr Weller informed the participants about the **Danube Water Programme**, which is a TA program financed by Austria (4.5M €) and other funds (2.1 M €). The programme supports water supply and sanitation (WSS) policy and utility reforms and is implemented jointly by the World Bank and IAWD. The programme itself is hosted in WB Vienna office with staff in DC and throughout region. The programme started 22 months ago.

To give a review of the sector IAWD developed 16 country reports together with a STATE of the sector summary report, all of which can be downloaded from the website Danubis.org. Mr Weller provided the country reports to the country representatives and noted that their reports complement the ICPDR data. He stressed that the operating costs recovery is causing most problems to the countries. He highlighted that 22,5 million people live in Europe without piped water and 28 million without flush toilet. He stressed the importance on capacity building and mentioned that further 6 million EUR is allocated for continuing their work in the next 3 years, until 2018. He also added that they have built an extensive network of national utilities water companies.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 8**.

Mr János Fehér’s presentation (**Global Water Partnership-CEE**) was focusing on the introduction of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and other EUSDR PA4 other actions of the GWP CEE. Their Integrated Development Program structures on drought management, drought monitoring and forecasting, and to reduce drought impacts. He highlighted that their organisation is active in 10 countries and involves 40 organisations. Mr Fehér also listed the coming events and activities for 2015 and highlighted their Technical Focus Paper on integrated water resources management and the WFD in CEE: lessons learnt.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 9**.

Mr Harald Egerer (UNEP- **Carpathian Convention**) gave an overview about the CC within his presentation and then he focused his presentation on the topic of climate change impacts on water and soil quality from a Carpathian perspective.

He mentioned that the Carpathian Convention was signed in 2003 in order to promote sustainable development in the region. They cooperate with the ICPDR on the Tisza basin and stressed that the Tisza is an important topic for them. In his presentation he mentioned that temperature increased 1,6 Celsius since the 50-ies and noted the growing likelihood of extreme weather events that would have an impact on soil quality, causing more drought. Mr Perger emphasized the nexus importance with the Carpathian Convention and asked to put into their priorities the PA 4 activities (high role of water quality management made by the PA 4 in the goals achievement of the Convention).

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 10**.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper thanked all Nexus presenters for their involvement and participation and expressed interest for future cooperation.

## 21. Project proposals relevant from PA4 point of view

In the frame of the agenda item the PA4 related initiatives, project ideas and project proposals have been introduced. Annex 9-20 includes the presentations about the following projects:

- TISZA Project concept (Ms Diana Heilmann)– presentation is attached in **Annex 11**,
- SEDIMENTS (Mr László Kardoss)– presentation is attached in **Annex 12**,
- Iron gate (Mr Adam Kovacs) – presentation is attached in **Annex 13**,
- LOCWAT (Mr József Pelosi) – presentation is attached in **Annex 14**,
- STAWA (Mr Samo Groselj) – presentation is attached in **Annex 15**,
- REWATER (Ms Alena Kurecova) **Annex 16** and MINE WETLIFE (Ms Andrea Vranovska)– presentation is attached in **Annex 17**,
- IRRINOVATION –(Mr Szabolcs Frank) – presentation is attached in **Annex 18**,
- TANKERPORT–(Mr Prof Gyula Záray ) – presentation is attached in **Annex 19**,
- Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region (Carmen Hawkins) – presentation is attached in **Annex 20**,
- Transboundary Water Cooperation (Mr Gábor Baranyai) – presentation is attached in **Annex 21**,
- Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine (Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin) – presentation is attached in **Annex 23**,
- ICZM– Mr Michael Costache – presentation is attached in **Annex 22**.

### *Specific notes related to the projects:*

- Ms Heilmann noted that as soon as the details of project proposal for the Tisza basin activities are available a Letter of Recommendation will be requested from the Steering Group via written procedure.
- Concerning the Sediment proposal Mr Schwaiger (At) noted the development and improvement of the proposal and highlighted to be more specific for the deliverables. Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that the status of the project proposal development was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR where the Head of Delegations welcomed the significant improvements of the proposal in comparison to the former version.
- IRRINOVATION project has received a LoR in the first half of the year 2015. The proposal was submitted to the CE programme and passed the first round. Mr Frank added that the project leader is planning to expand the circle of the partners with CZ participant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the call.
- In connection to the TANKERPORT project, focusing on shipping waste, AT stressed that the project idea should be also introduced in PA1a. Monitoring activity is an added value, but ship waste collection issues are also managed and dealt within PA1a. Important to avoid overlapping procedures. Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that COWANDA project also dealt with shipping waste collection with particular focus on the oily wastes. Link with the project should be set up. SK noted that COWANDA project had HU partner as well and offered providing the respective contact. It was suggested for the project to contact with the HU partner as well.
- The presentation of Ms Carmen Hawkins from Baden-Württemberg provided a great opportunity for networking. She shared their experience of exchange of knowledge and presented topics where their stakeholders would look for partners from the PA4 circles. During the breaks many interested SG members could exchange details for the sake of future possible cooperation and we agreed that in future SG meetings we look forward for BW participation and exchange of views. Mr Schwaiger (At) expressed to Baden Württemberg that we would welcome very much, if the SG will not only present projects with already well- established consortia but contribute in future to find partners for specific project ideas and to help to form consortia in an open and transparent way, as SG members know best their national institutions and thus could provide valuable support.
- Regarding the presentation of Mr Baranyai about Transboundary Water Cooperation, the countries expressed their interest related to the final results of the study and asked the PA4 team to circulate it when it is available.
- In connection to the presentation on the development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine (Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin) Mr Jenei (representative of NC HU) highlighted again about the bilateral meeting, which was planned to be organised to explore on the development needs in particular related

to the area of drinking water, wastewater and solid waste management and to discuss on possible financing possibilities for Ukrainian projects fall within the scope of the EUSDR.

- In connection to the REWATER project, Ms Kurecova introduced the project partners, objectives and activities and informed about the current status. The contract under the umbrella of PA10 should be signed in the near future and PA4 SK is helpful in communication between the project lead partner and the representatives of PA 10.
- In connection to the MINE WETLIFE project Ms Vranovska indicated that a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) will be requested from the Steering Group via written procedure. She said that this project was submitted for financing in the Central Europe Financial Mechanism (call consisting of 2 steps), already passed the formal checking and has been considered as eligible. Currently it is subject to the quality assessment. Before the end of September 2015 it will be clear whether it is invited to step 2 which will be opened from September to November 2015. The funding decision is expected at the end of February 2016.
- Finally Mr Costache provided a presentation about the Black Sea Coastal Zone region and their ICZM project, highlighting that the project would reach its final outcomes this year and will share the experiences with the SG members.

## 22. Upcoming events and closing of the meeting

- Progress report: June 2015
- Stakeholder Conference: Oct 2015
- Annual Forum: Oct 2015
- Next SG meeting

Ms Kocsis-Kupper summarised the outcomes of the discussion related to the development of the annual report of the PA4 saying that PA4 Team will develop the document in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and will circulate it to the PA4 Steering Group country members before submitting the document to the European Commission. The final document will also be uploaded to the website. The objective is to finalise the document preparation in June 2015 but the finalisation of the process will depend on the feedback from the countries as well.

Regarding the next SG meeting, Ms Vranovska said that SG10 will be organised in Bratislava in November 2015 after the Annual Forum in Ulm which can possibly be an advantage because this way all participants will be informed about it and certain issues can be discussed immediately after. There is one more option to organize the SGM 10 back to back ICPDR expert group meeting before the Annual Forum.

In connection to the Annual Forum Ms Kocsis-Kupper indicated to the SG that the suggestions of the PA4 Team has been approved and also supported by the organisers, which can be considered as a positive feedback in relation to the PA4 activities. Ms Kocsis-Kupper also noted that the proposals were agreed in the frame of the February preparatory meeting jointly with the ICPDR and ISRBC. There will be 3 workshops organised by PA4 and one exhibition. Ms Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that as soon as the programme is officially approved, PA4 will contact experts and as one workshop topic is focusing on Non-EU countries, PA4 hopes for the cooperation and participation of Non-EU experts as well.

Mr Kovacs thanked to the PA4 Team to ensuring platform for the introduction of the DRBM Plan and the JDS 3 outcomes.

Ms Carmen Hawkins introduced the programme framework of the Annual Forum. Details about the Annual Forum programme can be found in **Annex 21**.

Regarding the Stakeholder meeting it was indicated by Mr Perger that detailed information about the meeting will only be available in August/September of the year.

Mr Perger concluded the meeting, expressed appreciation for 11 countries representation, and thanked the Slovak partners, for the ICPDR, the Sava Commission and the Nexus partners for their cooperation. He thanked for the active involvement and contribution of the Steering Group participants during the day. **He highlighted that 13 projects and proposals were presented to the SG members during the meeting and that information on relevant financial possibilities were also shared. He stressed that PA4 will continue to be active in project generation and finding funding possibilities.**

Mr Vladimír Novák SK PAC thanked for the HU PA4 team for the organisation of the meeting and he told to look forward to the coming joint activity of the Priority Area.



# Agenda

## PA4 STEERING GROUP – 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING

DATE: 9 JUNE 2015

VENUE: Directorate General of Water Management

1012 Budapest, Márvány utca 1/c.

<i>Co-Chairs: László Perger and Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper</i>	
09.00 – 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
09.30	Welcome by the Host
09.35	Welcome by Mr Gábor Jenei on behalf of Mr István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator)
09.45	Welcome by Mr Frantisek Kolocany, Slovakian National Coordinator (Government of Slovakia, Department of Cross-sectional Activities, NC of Slovakia) (Ms Andrea Vranovska)
9.55	Welcome by PACs 4 and introduction of participants
10.10	Information on ICPDR activities (Mr Adam Kovacs) Information on SAVA Commission activities (Mr Samo Groselj)
10.40	Summary of PA4 activities done since the 8th SG meeting and Activities related to the Tisza: information on the meeting of the Tisza Group (Ms Diana Heilmann)
11.00	PA4 visits to Non- EU countries in the topic of alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphates (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Andrea Vranovska, Mr Adam Kovacs)
11.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.30	Update on project financing possibilities (CE, Danube OP, Horizon 2020, LIFE, ), Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Alessandra Pala, Danube Programme Joint Secretariat, 2nd START call (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper)
12.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
13.40	NEXUS information and current results: cooperation with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Water Partnership (Mr János Fehér)</li> <li>• Danube Water Programme (Mr Philip Weller)</li> <li>• Carpathian Convention (Mr Harald Egerer)</li> </ul>
14.20	PROJECTS: information about project proposals and project implementation related to PA4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TISZA- Ms Diana Heilmann</li> <li>• SEDIMENTS – Mr László Kardoss</li> <li>• Iron gate – Mr Adam Kovacs</li> <li>• LOCWAT –Mr József Palocsai</li> <li>• STAWA– Mr Samo Groselj</li> <li>• REWATER- Ms Alena Kurecova</li> <li>• MINE WETLIFE -Ms Andrea Vranovska</li> <li>• IRRINOVATION Mr Szabolcs Frank</li> <li>• TANKERPORT Mr Pál Hoffmann</li> <li>• Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region Ms Carmen Hawkins</li> <li>• Transboundary Water Cooperation in the EU - Mr Gábor Baranyai</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine- Mr. Kadar-Mr Nagorkin</li> <li>• ICZM – Mr Michael Costache</li> </ul>
16.45	Coffee break
17.00	Upcoming events and tasks discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress report: June 2015</li> <li>• Stakeholder Conference: Oct 2015</li> <li>• Annual Forum: Oct 2015</li> <li>• Next SG meeting</li> </ul>
17.30	Closing session (PACs)

### Annexes in paper copy

(The presentations were uploaded also to the website of PA4 in the same order

- Annex 1 – ICPDR, Mr Adam Kovacs, ICPDR activities
- Annex 2 – Sava Commission, Mr Samo Groselj, Sava Commission activities
- Annex 3 –Workplan, Ms Diana Heilmann
- Annex 4- PA4 Study trips to Non-EU countries, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 5 - Danube Transnational Programme, Ms Alessandra Pala
- Annex 6 – LIFE programme, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 7 – START-TAF funding programme, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 8 – Danube Water Programme, Mr Philip Weller, IAWD
- Annex 9 – GWP-CEE, Mr János Fehér
- Annex 10 – UNEP-Carpathian Convention, Mr Harald Egerer
- Annex 11 – TISZA Project concept, Ms Diana Heilmann
- Annex 12 – SEDIMENT project proposal development, Mr László Kardoss
- Annex 13 – Iron Gate, Mr Adam Kovacs
- Annex 14 – LOCWAT, Mr József Palocsai
- Annex 15 – STAWA, Mr Samo Groselj
- Annex 16 – REWATER, Ms Alena Kurecova
- Annex 17 - MINE WETLIFE, Ms Andrea Vranovska
- Annex 18 – IRRINOVATION, Mr Szabolcs Frank
- Annex 19 – TANKERPORT, Mr Pál Hoffmann
- Annex 20 – Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region, Ms Carmen Hawkins
- Annex 21 – Transboundary Water Cooperation, Mr Gábor Baranyai
- Annex 23 – Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine, Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin
- Annex 22 – ICZM – Mr Michael Costache
- Annex 24 –Annual Forum Planned Programme, Ms Carmen Hawkins

## **ANNEX 10 JOINT DOCUMENT ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUSDR PA4/PA5 AND THE ICPDR**



### **ICPDR – EUSDR PA4 & PA5 COORDINATION**

#### **Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation**

FINAL

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The report from the European Commission (EC) concerning the governance of macro –regional strategies<sup>5</sup> as well as the earlier EC report on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)<sup>6</sup>, have identified among various lessons learned one that is key: the need for strengthening synergies with existing bodies and initiatives such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). In a recent joint statement<sup>7</sup> in Vienna (June 2014) the relevant ministers and the EC “emphasized the importance of streamlining the interconnections between EUSDR and relevant regional institutions, while avoiding potential duplications and overlaps.” In this context, the statement particularly refers also to the ICPDR.

The opportunity for cooperation and for mutual support of EUSDR and ICPDR in relevant fields has not been fully utilised yet. This comes despite the obvious potential for synergies between the objectives and the processes of the EUSDR on one hand, and the ICPDR mandate, tasks and activities on the implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Floods Directive (FD) on the other. The modalities and cooperative framework in this document respects processes and mandates of both partners and provides a state of play as of June 2014.

The ICPDR, representing the Contracting Parties to the DRPC, agreed with the National Contact Points of Priority Area 4 (PA4, Water Quality) and Priority Area 5 (PA5, Environmental Risks) to prepare this joint document, in which the particular mandates, responsibilities, tasks and modus operandi for complimentary and joint activities of ICPDR and PA4/PA5 are clarified. The 16<sup>th</sup> ICPDR Ordinary Meeting formally endorsed this idea and tasked the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat to develop such a document jointly with the PA4 and PA5 counterparts.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) was signed in 1994 and entered into force in 1998. It stipulates the mandate and framework for cooperation between its Contracting Parties (CPs) in terms of water management, water protection, flood protection and overall sustainable use of the Danube River on the territory of the 14 main countries within the Danube River Basin

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<sup>5</sup>Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies (2014)

<sup>6</sup>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 COM(2013) 181 final

<sup>7</sup>Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Participating States of the EUSDR and of the EC. Issued at 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual EUSDR Conference in Vienna, June 2014.

(DRB). It is the overall legal instrument for cooperation and trans-boundary water management in the DRB. Its objectives are as follows:

- Ensuring sustainable and equitable water management;
- Conservation, improvement and the rational use of surface waters and groundwater;
- Controlling discharge of waste waters as well as of the inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances from point and non-point emission sources;
- Controlling floods and ice hazards;
- Controlling hazards originating from accidents (warning and preventive measures);
- Reducing pollution loads entering the Black Sea from sources in the Danube catchment area.

Responding to the obligations of the Convention, the Danube countries established the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), which has the mandate to ensure that countries fulfil the actions committed to under the Convention. The Commission is controlled and managed by the contracting parties, today 14 countries and European Union.

The Danube Ministers tasked the ICPDR to provide the platform for coordinating the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube River Basin in order to cover legal obligations of member states derived from the directive to coordinate among others a program of measures for the whole of the river basin district. The commitment to use the methods and meet the goals of the Directives was made by all ICPDR countries, i.e., not only EU Member States, but also candidate/potential candidate countries and countries which are not in the EU. The ICPDR also coordinates activities of its contracting parties at the Danube Basin level and key products such as the DRB Management and Flood Risk Management Plans, flood risk maps, etc.

Owed to considerations of efficiency, proportionality and in line with the principle of subsidiarity, the management of the Danube River Basin District (DRBD) is based on three levels of coordination:

- ⇒ Part A: the international, basin-wide level – the Roof Level;
- ⇒ Part B: the national level (managed through competent authorities) and/or the international coordinated sub-basin level for selected sub-basins (Tisza, Sava, Prut, and Danube Delta);
- ⇒ Part C: the sub-unit level, defined as management units within the national territory.

The information increases in detail from Part A to Parts B and C (see Figure 1).

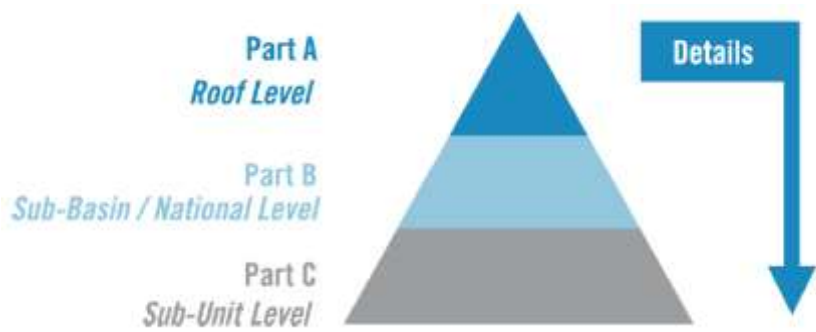


Figure 1: Overall structure of river basin management planning in the Danube basin.

The investigations, analysis and findings conducted in the frame of the ICPDR on the basin-wide scale (Part A) focus on:

- rivers with catchment areas  $>4,000 \text{ km}^2$ ;
- lakes  $>100 \text{ km}^2$ ;
- transitional and coastal waters;
- transboundary groundwater bodies of basin-wide importance.

Waters with smaller catchment and surface areas are subject to planning at sub-basin/national, respectively sub-unit level. All plans together provide the full set of information for the whole Danube River Basin District, covering all waters (surface as well as groundwater), irrespectively of their size.

In response to the danger of flooding, the ICPDR adopted the Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Prevention in the Danube River Basin in 2004. The overall goal of this Action Programme is to achieve a long-term and sustainable approach for managing the risks of floods to protect human life and property, while encouraging conservation and improvement of water related ecosystems. In line with the Action Programme, the ICPDR adopted 17 flood action plans for the sub-basins of the Danube in 2009. At the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting in 2010, the Contracting Parties committed themselves to making all efforts required to implement the EU Floods Directive throughout the whole Danube River Basin and to develop an international Flood Risk Management Plan in order to cover legal obligations of member states stemming from the directive to establish flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the river basin district.

The regular meetings of Ministers of ICPDR contracting parties endorse inter alia action plans and management plans, thus providing their full political commitment for implementation; in addition, they provide political guidance and ensure high-level governmental support to key strategic documents developed within the ICPDR. The next Ministerial Meeting is planned for 2016 to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP and the 1<sup>st</sup> DFRMP.

The ICPDR Expert and Task Groups involve representatives of all contracting parties as well as observer organisations. They have developed actions on key issues such as river basin management, flood protection, pollution control, monitoring of the quality of waters, accident prevention, information management and GIS as well as public participation. They constitute a basis for technical dialogue, and development of measures, to implement the EU WFD and EU Floods Directive and typically meet twice a year. Annex 1 provides overview of their structure and key tasks and responsibilities, as well as an overview of the 23 observer organisations of the ICPDR.

The mandate of the Priority Areas (and their Coordinators) of the EUSDR is established by the European Union. Following a request from the European Council, the European Commission presented in 2009 an EU Strategy for the Danube Region in the form of a Communication<sup>8</sup> and its accompanying Action Plan<sup>9</sup>. The European Council endorsed the Communication with its annexed Action Plan in April 2011.

The EUSDR facilitates and strengthens cooperative frameworks, which should utilise and support existing institutions, help Member States to implement EU legislation and should in particular support Member States and candidate countries in programming and effective use of EU funds and other financial mechanisms.

The Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and Council<sup>10</sup> has provided a definition of EU macro-regional strategies and sets out the provisions to embed them in the European Structural and Investment Funds programmes for 2014-2020. The Communication and Action Plan of the EUSDR identifies concrete actions and examples of projects in **11 thematic Priority Areas (PAs)**, with the objective of addressing the common challenges of the region, by increasing the effectiveness of policies at EU, national and local level by improved cooperation. Concerning **PA 4 and PA 5**, the identification of main issues is to a large extent based on previous work of the ICPDR, primarily from the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and the Danube Ministerial Declaration from 2010.

PA 4 and PA 5, as the rest of priority areas, have a Steering Group (SG). Members of Steering Groups represent Governments of Danube Countries. The European Commission and its relevant Directorate Generals (DGs) also participate in Steering Groups, fulfilling their leading role in

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<sup>8</sup> COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2010) 715 final

<sup>9</sup> Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region SEC(2010) 1489

<sup>10</sup> REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

strategic coordination of macro-regional strategies. The work of each PA is coordinated by two Priority Area Coordinators (PACs).

This Communication mentioned above states that *“The coordination of each Priority Area is the task of EU Member States (in many PAs together with non-Member States). ‘Priority Area Coordinators’ (PACs), ensure implementation (e.g. by agreeing on planning, with targets, indicators and timetables, and by ensuring wide contacts between project promoters, programmes and funding sources, providing technical assistance and advice). This work will be trans-national, inter-sectorial and inter-institutional.”*<sup>11</sup> (PACs) work on the implementation (of the Action Plan) in close contact with the Commission, with all stakeholders involved, especially other countries, but also Regional and Local Authorities, Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Bodies.”

Based on the mandate of the Steering Groups and Priority Area Coordinators, their most important tasks are to ensure implementation of the action plan by appropriate measures of planning, coordination, facilitation and monitoring, especially through the following activities:

- find, involve, support partners (action leaders, observers, contributors, project partners) who can be involved in the implementation of the EUSDR and its action plan due to their specific experience, mandate, and capacities;
- establish networks and platforms or implement the tasks directly via the Steering Group and Priority Area coordination where such partners do not exist or are not ready or willing to implement Actions or elements of Actions from the Action Plan;
- prepare roadmaps (implementation plans) to the Actions listed in the Action plan for the EUSDR, facilitate and monitor their implementation, make adjustments to implementation measures as necessary;
- involve science and innovation as necessary to find efficient and innovative solutions for gaps and bottlenecks in the implementation of the Action Plan and utilize the potential for efficiency of EUSDR in the implementation process via better spending and more efficient macro-regional interventions, including cross cutting measures;
- facilitate the alignment of funding from the aspect of the Priority Area incorporating the measures of the EUSDR, the Action Plan and Roadmaps where relevant to the documents and operational programs of the European Structural and Investment Funds as well as other financing frameworks;
- coordinate cross cutting measures with sectorial administrations and other Priority Areas;
- assist the work of EUSDR partners to address bottlenecks or help in activities contributing to the implementation of EUSDR strategic documents;
- support projects and partners, issue labels and letters of recommendations for project proposals in line with the Strategy, facilitate to find project partners for project

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<sup>11</sup>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Union Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2010) 715 final

proposals, follow project results and incorporate them to the EUSDR framework and provide visibility for the outputs.

### 3. KEY ICPDR AND EUSDR ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS & RESULTS RELATED TO THE EUSDR PA4 & 5 ACTIONS

One of the ICPDR’s key objectives is to ensure a coordinated implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive on the Danube basin-wide scale, thus supporting member states to meet their legal obligation stemming from the Directive to coordinate within the entire basin. In accordance with the Directive’s requirements, the first Danube Basin Analysis Report was prepared in 2004. This was a substantial step towards the elaboration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> DRBM Plan), which was adopted by all ICPDR Contracting Parties in 2009 and which represents one of the most substantial milestones for integrated water resources management in the Danube Basin.

The Joint Programme of Measures, forming the central element of the 1<sup>st</sup> DRBM Plan, is currently under implementation and at the same time, activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WFD planning cycle is under preparation. The update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report forms the analytical basis for the elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DRBM Plan, which the ICPDR will finalize and adopt by the end of 2015.

In the past years, the ICPDR also put a major emphasis on inter-sectorial cooperation, which is a key for sustainable water management and for ensuring the achievement of the WFD environmental objectives. The “Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environment” from 2007 and the “Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development” from 2013 are outstanding examples for ensuring the sustainability of important sectors affecting the water environment. Furthermore, the first trans-boundary “Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change” was adopted in 2012, recognizing the fact that water is a central element to be addressed in the frame of climate adaptation activities.

A prerequisite for the assessment of the water status is reliable information on water quality. The Danube countries started to coordinate their efforts in water quality analysis in 1985 with the monitoring of trans-boundary river sections of the Danube under the Bucharest Declaration<sup>12</sup>. Later, these efforts were continued through the Danube River Protection Convention and since 1996, the ICPDR publishes annual reports on the water quality status based on the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN). This is the basis for a basin-wide water quality assessment, which provides data reflecting water quality trends including pollution loads discharged into the Black Sea. In addition, the TNMN contributes to a harmonization of water assessment approaches of different DRB countries. The TNMN is supplemented by periodic Joint Danube Surveys (JDS),

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<sup>12</sup>Declaration of the Danube Countries to Cooperate on Questions Concerning the Water Management of the Danube. Bucharest, 1985.

research expeditions that provide centrally collected and more comprehensive data on parameters not covered by TNMN. These include in-depth biodiversity, chemistry, microbiology, hydro-morphology, isotope analysis and toxicology. To date, three JDS were held (2001, 2007 and 2013).

The Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) of the Danube River Basin is activated whenever there is a risk of trans-boundary water pollution, or when threshold danger levels of certain hazardous substances are exceeded. The AEWS sends out international warning messages to countries downstream to help the authorities put environmental protection and public safety measures into action. Thanks to this system, the adverse consequences of numerous accidents with the potential of causing trans-boundary pollution in the Danube River Basin could be mitigated effectively and timely in the past 20 years. For example, the AEWS was instrumental in providing information to downstream countries on the Ajka Red Sludge accident in Hungary in 2010.

The first milestone in the implementation of the Floods Directive under the ICPDR was to perform a preliminary flood risk assessment and identify those areas for which significant flood risks exist. A joint report was submitted to the European Commission in 2011. The next steps were to prepare flood risk and flood hazard maps in 2013, followed by the elaboration of flood risk management plans until 2015. The ICPDR also analyses the characteristics and consequences of major floods in the Danube River Basin and produces a joint statement on the lessons learned. So far, reports on floods from 2006 and 2010 were published, a report on floods from 2013 is currently being finalized.

Between 2011 and 2013, PA4 and PA5 both achieved important milestones such as the establishment of partnerships with existing partners working towards the implementation of the Action Plan and identified areas not covered by existing platforms, or the identification of operational steps, with targets, milestones and deliverables that were revised and accepted by the Steering Group. The Roadmaps to the Action Plan for PA4 and for PA5 have been finalised and their implementation has started. The Roadmaps were formulated in a way that also includes tasks, which are already carried out in the frame of the ICPDR and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

PA4 and PA5 contribute to facilitating the alignment of funding in a structured and systematic way and prepared a document on the priority interventions to be embedded to the EU programs of the “2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework”. PA4 and PA5 are among the priority areas, where cooperation with international organisations (ICPDR and ISRBC) are highlighted examples.

Scientific and innovation partners are also contributing to the PA4 and PA5 in areas that need scientific inputs or models for further planning of cross cutting strategies (e.g. the Danube Sediment project consortium), optimization of sectorial investments and operation for more

efficient coordinated measures, less costs, better spending (e.g. Upper Tisza flood monitoring and management investment and operation program) or better data (e.g. DanubeClim).

An example for this structured partnership was the macro-regional water conference in September 2013, where major partner of PA4 and PA5 and policy actors concerning water quality including the UNECE - Helsinki Convention, DG Environment, ICPDR, ISRBC, Danube Commission, JRC, REC, ASEM, Water boards-bilateral commissions together with ministerial level representatives of the Danube Region and leaders of DG REGIO and DG Environment discussed the cooperation framework and the results of scientific contribution to PA4 and PA5. Main topics and actions of the Roadmaps of PA4 and PA5 were covered in this event from both expert and policy levels including governmental and institutional cooperation, partnership network of the PA4 and PA5, scientific and technical discussions. Activities facilitated by PA4 and PA5 to implement actions outlined in the Roadmap and based on the relevant scientific methods were discussed in the frame of this conference.

The attached table in Annex 2 provides an overview of EUSDR PA4, PA5 and ICPDR activities related to the EUSDR PA4 and PA5 actions and projects listed in the EUSDR Action Plan.

#### **4. HOW TO REINFORCE SYNERGY BETWEEN ICPDR AND EUSDR**

Cooperation between EUSDR structures and those of the ICPDR is already ongoing and should be further strengthened inter alia by firmly utilising the mandate, experience, past achievements and technical capability of the ICPDR for all water related issues in the Danube River Basin. Avoiding overlaps and avoiding the creation of parallel structures is a key principle that should be followed at all levels of cooperation. The ICPDR received from its contracting parties a clear political mandate and the technical capacities for implementing WFD and EFD in the DRB; the momentum created by EUSDR would significantly boost progress in relevant processes by creating added value for both ICPDR and EUSDR also by making better use of measures available for macro-regional cooperation.

To achieve this objective, the coordination of all trans-boundary water management activities between PA4 and PA5 with the ICPDR EGs and TGs should be improved for the future. Furthermore, it is important to ensure an efficient information flow between the PA4 and PA5 SGs on one side and ICPDR EGs and TGs on the other. This requires better coordination at the national level (an issue for the SG members, but also within the different countries and ICPDR EG representatives). EUSDR can help to facilitate financing different activities which are coordinated by the ICPDR.

To ensure the coordination of all relevant activities of the EUSDR PA4 and 5, this paper builds upon already existing approaches and proposes some new practical elements for collaboration, including ways to initiate and develop projects to implement the EUSDR and the Action Plan:

- **Strengthening the network:** Danube countries should make all effort to strengthen the network at national level through both the PA4 and PA5 SG members and ICPDR EGs and TGs members, allowing direct consultation and cooperation at both national and basin-wide levels. The information flow, inter-agency dialogue and coordination of both ICPDR and PA4 and PA5 activities at national level are crucial for the anticipated synergy. Exchange and regular update of list of members of the PA4 and PA5 SG members and the relevant ICPDR EGs and TGs is a pre-requisite for making this network work;
- **Closer coordination:** Continuation of participation of the ICPDR Secretariat in SG Meetings and of PA4 and PA5 Coordinators in ICPDR key meetings;
- **Early consultations:** Discussion and coordination of relevant EUSDR activities with ICPDR EGs and TGs - current examples could be the buffer strips and/or the Tisza monitoring proposal - this should be discussed with relevant ICPDR EGs and TGs at an early stage. Project ideas (in form of project sheets) collected from countries via SG members by the PA4 and PA5 Coordinators to be circulated at the very beginning for consultation, for expert opinion and for coordination with existing ICPDR activities and technical work. Feedback and evaluation from the ICPDR EGs (and TGs) will be further used for the project development by countries / institutions facilitated by the PA4 and / or PA5 and for the identification of funding sources. Procedures of both mechanisms - the EUSDR and the ICPDR should be followed;
- **Meeting efficiency:** In order to increase the meeting efficiency and to reduce the Danube countries' travel load, the potential to organise back to back meetings of the SGs with relevant EGs (i.e. Flood Protection EG and River Basin Management EG) should be utilised, taking into account the financial obligations of PA4/PA5;
- **Innovative approaches:** Consideration of the "Lead Country Approach", as an innovative modus operandi which is used in the ICPDR. For example, the Danube Basin Climate Adaptation Strategy was developed with lead of Germany, but in close coordination with the ICPDR; a similar approach was used for the Hydropower Guiding Principles, where Romania, Austria and Slovenia had the lead in close coordination with the ICPDR. In these examples, lead countries provided the groundwork, and decisions were taken by the ICPDR. Certain projects recommended by the EUSDR PA4 or PA5 SGs could use this modality.
- **Mutual recognition and visibility:** To maintain the visibility of responsible actors (e.g. ICPDR, PAs, lead countries, etc.) appropriate credit must be given within all tables providing an overview of actions contributing to the EUSDR. Credits for work done should not be hidden within anonymous frameworks.
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation:** Danube countries and the ICPDR should increasingly benefit in meeting their national and regional policy goals from strengthened facilitation of cross-sectoral cooperation between different PAs as an important opportunity offered by the EUSDR.
- **Strategic guidance and coordination:** The ICPDR provides strategic guidance based on relevant key Danube Basin policy documents, e.g. DRBMP, DFRMP, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Guiding Principles for Sustainable Hydropower Development, etc., and in line with PA4/PA5 Action Plans. ICPDR EGs (and TGs) should actively generate project ideas to be introduced to PA4 and PA5 SG for discussion, further joint development and for the identification of funding sources. For PAs generated projects and initiatives, it would be useful to make use of the ICPDR EGs and TGs experience, views and opinions. Although there cannot be a general rule for deciding when to involve the ICPDR and/or the

EUSDR concerning different projects, involvement and exchange should be pursued in case it is of relevance for each other.

- **Priority setting:** Measures and lines of action enshrined in the DRBMP and DFRMP, etc., adopted by contracting parties and endorsed by a ministerial conference, should receive high priority when submitted to funding programs, similar like PA4/PA5 alignment of funding;
- **Alignment of funding:** The EUSDR PA4 and PA5 support these measures and actions inter alia through projects development, facilitating direct financing support as well as via alignment of funding through Operative Programmes. Important additional political support could be generated also via the EUSDR PA4 and PA5 processes.

An example of a fruitful cooperation between the EUSDR and the ICPDR is the work towards improved sturgeon protection: PA6 is providing support on a specific issue where the capacity within the ICPDR is rather limited. The preparation of an EU funded project is ongoing, supported by the EUSDR Technical Assistance Facility via PA10, well-coordinated with ICPDR Expert Groups including regular exchange with the ICPDR Secretariat, as well as presentations and discussions in the ICPDR RBM EG and PP EG, Ordinary Meetings and the Standing Working Group meetings.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This paper emphasises the need to recognize the technical and political role of the ICPDR in the context of the EUSDR. The ICPDR also leverages on the opportunities the EUSDR provides, inter alia in terms of alignment of funding, contributions of PA4 and PA5 to ICPDR efforts as well as the political momentum provided by the EUSDR.

The ICPDR provides the legal basis of cooperation in the entire field of water management undertaken in the context of the DRPC within its legal mandate also to carry out relevant tasks outlined in the EUSDR Action Plan. EUSDR PACs, based on their mandate, coordinate activities in their respective PAs also by ensuring strong cooperation and mutual reinforcement with existing institutions, avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. Clearly defining and strengthening the ICPDR role within the EUSDR is very important as much as all the countries covered in the Danube Strategy are Contracting Parties to the ICPDR. All the activities concerning the cooperation in the water management at the level of the Danube River Basin are coordinated within ICPDR, also taking into account specific joint actions which are jointly implemented by EUSDR & ICPDR.

The macro-regional approach is seeking more coherence between existing funds, institutions and policies in a given region. The EUSDR in line with this provides coordination in the alignment of funding. Macro-regional strategies should maximise the utilisation of regional organisations by strengthening synergies and complementarities, and avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities. The ICPDR, as the responsible body for water management in the Danube River Basin, established by the Danube countries and the European Union, with experience and a periodically updated political mandate, is best placed to play a key role in the implementation of the Danube

Strategy in its areas of competence, in close coordination with the Priority Areas 4 and 5 and their respective Steering Groups<sup>13</sup>. The ICPDR covers both technical work and political steering and the EUSDR and its activities are complementary in harnessing synergies. The EUSDR could easily address issues not covered by ICPDR (e.g. emergency response to floods and financial support). This is now of special importance as programmes for 2014-2020 are being prepared.

There is potential for strengthening a mutually beneficial cooperation and use of synergies between the ICPDR and the EUSDR in areas of restoration and maintenance of the quality of the waters and of the management of environmental risks. Clarifying open issues and developing an effective modus operandi between EUSDR and the ICPDR and implementing the principles and mechanisms of cooperation laid down in this paper would foster the implementation of the DRPC and key water-related EU legislation in the DRB. Increased cooperation between the ICPDR and EUSDR has the potential to bring significant benefits to the citizens and the environment of the Danube River Basin. This document contributes to seizing this opportunity and will be updated according to new developments in both platforms and gained experiences in cooperation and EUSDR implementation.

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<sup>13</sup> Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies (2014) and

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 COM(2013) 181 final

## ANNEX 11 – WORKPLAN OF PRIORITY AREA 4 (ACTUALISED FOR THE 9TH STEERING GROUP MEETING)

		2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>DEVELOPMENT OF Policy documents, technical reports, studies, databases</b>																													
Joint Document with the ICPDR	Related Action																												
Update of the Danube Basin Analysis Report	A1M3																												
2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan	A1M4, A3M1, A3M4																												
Alignment of Funding (A1M2)	A1M2																												
Development of the Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report	A2M5																												
Development of the Danube Delta Management Plan	A2M6																												
Development of Pnat Management Plan	A2M7																												
Development of the 2nd ITRBMP	A2M4																												
Finalisation and approval of the first Sava River Basin Management Plan	A2M10																												
Update of the Sava Basin Analysis Report	A2M9																												
Development of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan: First step development and finalisation of the Significant Water Management Issues (SWM) paper	A2M10																												
Examination of the biodiversity and environment status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin	A10M7																												
Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS	A3M5																												
Joint Danube Survey 3 (Final Technical Document) (survey held in 2013)	A3M2																												
Survey of the situation of buffer zones	A5 M1																												
Survey of the situation on management of solid waste in small rural settlements	A5M3																												
Survey of the situation on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements	A5M4																												
Situation toward legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents - Policy response on the overview report	A7M2																												
Feasibility study on early warning water quality monitoring	A2M4																												
<b>WORKSHOPS, TECHNICAL MEETINGS (not exhaustive list)</b>																													
Workshop with ICPDR on P free ban – participate in the organisation of the WS	A7M1,M2,M3																												
Workshop of the ICPDR on HYMO	A10M5																												
Ceremonial Tisza office opening event	A2M3																												
Tisza project preparatory meeting (back-to-back with the Start-TQ only)	A2M3,M4																												
Sediment project preparatory meetings	A10M4																												
Participation on relevant ICPDR meetings, workshops	ALL																												
Workshop "Water Sources Protection" - April 2015, Bratislava (farmers, industries and waste water treatment plants)	A11M3, A12M5																												
World Water Day - block of presentations devoted to Danube Strategy	A12M5																												
PA4 discussion on ongoing activities with EU representatives (when needed, e.g. meeting with representatives of EU Funds)																													
Any other:																													
<b>MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</b>																													
Organisation of SG meetings	ALL																												
ICPDR&PA4 meetings	ALL																												
Development of the Joint ICPDR-EUSDR PA4 workplan and timetable (living document - continuous update in the frame of the SGs)	ALL																												
Facilitating START program - project proposal development																													
Project developments incl. the organisation of preparatory meetings (also linked to management activities) - partner searching events	ALL																												
Any other:	ALL																												
<b>DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES (not exhaustive list)</b>																													
Brochure on the document of Alignment of Funding	A1M2, A12M5																												
Dissemination brochure on the achievement of the PA4/ICPDR/SRBC (interview or articles from each organisations on the main activities)	ALL																												

		2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Brochure on projects ongoing related to PA4 (progress and results)	Where relevant																												
Participation of PACs in relevant Conferences and seminars etc.	Where relevant																												
Publication in EUSDR website (e.g. detailed information on available funds in connection to EUSDR activities)	Where relevant																												
To reprint the brochure on PA 4 activities in English	Where relevant																												
To print A4 folder for papers with the motive of PA4 EUSDR	Where relevant																												
Article to the Water Management Journal - Effective and sustainable utilization of water resources	A11M2																												
Presentation of PA4 outcomes in the frame of the EUSDR Annual Forum																													
Publication in Danube Watch Magazine, and ICPDR website (e.g. detailed information on available funds in connection to EUSDR activities)	ALL																												
<b>Project activities - CORE projects (Observership and participating in project meetings)</b>																													
Sediment project (with PA5) - proposal development and implementation	A10M4																												
Tisza Project - proposal development and implementation	A2M3, M4, A3M3																												
Sturgeon (1) - an ex-situ sturgeon conservation study (recently finalized) financed out of the EU Grant.	A10M3																												
sturgeon (2) Feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gate dams (responsible Romania and Serbia with the support from the ICPDR) - PA4 would be ready to facilitate the activity - monitoring project financed by EIB is ongoing	A10M3																												
<b>Project activities - RELEVANT projects / project ideas</b>																													
Ongoing project: SEE-River	A2																												
Ongoing project: ICZM (Coastal Zone)	A14																												
Ongoing project: CC-Wars	A12																												
Finished project: Cross - border Water Supply Development in the	A13																												
Finished project: CC-Waters (Finished in 2012)	A13																												
Finished project: Liberty Island project (WWF-HU - finished in 2014)	A13																												
Planned project (consortium already set up): Blue Danube	A4																												
Planned project (consortium already set up): FoWaP	A13																												
Planned project (consortium already set up): SEWABIS	A2																												
Project idea: Joint Tisza Survey	A3M3																												
INNOVATION (Consortium has been set up)	A11																												
MINE WETLIFE - Utilization of unique lakes and wetlands in undermined areas - project formally adopted in 1st call Central Europe	Request for LoM - written procedure after 2018																												
Revitalization of Eutrophic Waters for Different Degrees of Pollution and the Size of Water Areas (REWATER - START project)																													

## LEGEND

	Ongoing ICPDR activity relevant from EUSDR PA4 point of view
	ICPDR and PA4 joint action
	Ongoing ICRIC activity relevant from EUSDR PA4 point of view
	PA4 specific activity
	Finalisation of an action(target deadline)
	continuous activity
?	Exact date to be further specified
	Finalised action

## Notes:

Deadline are target deadlines