

# **EUSDR Priority Area 4: To Restore and Maintain the Quality of Waters: State of play and next steps**

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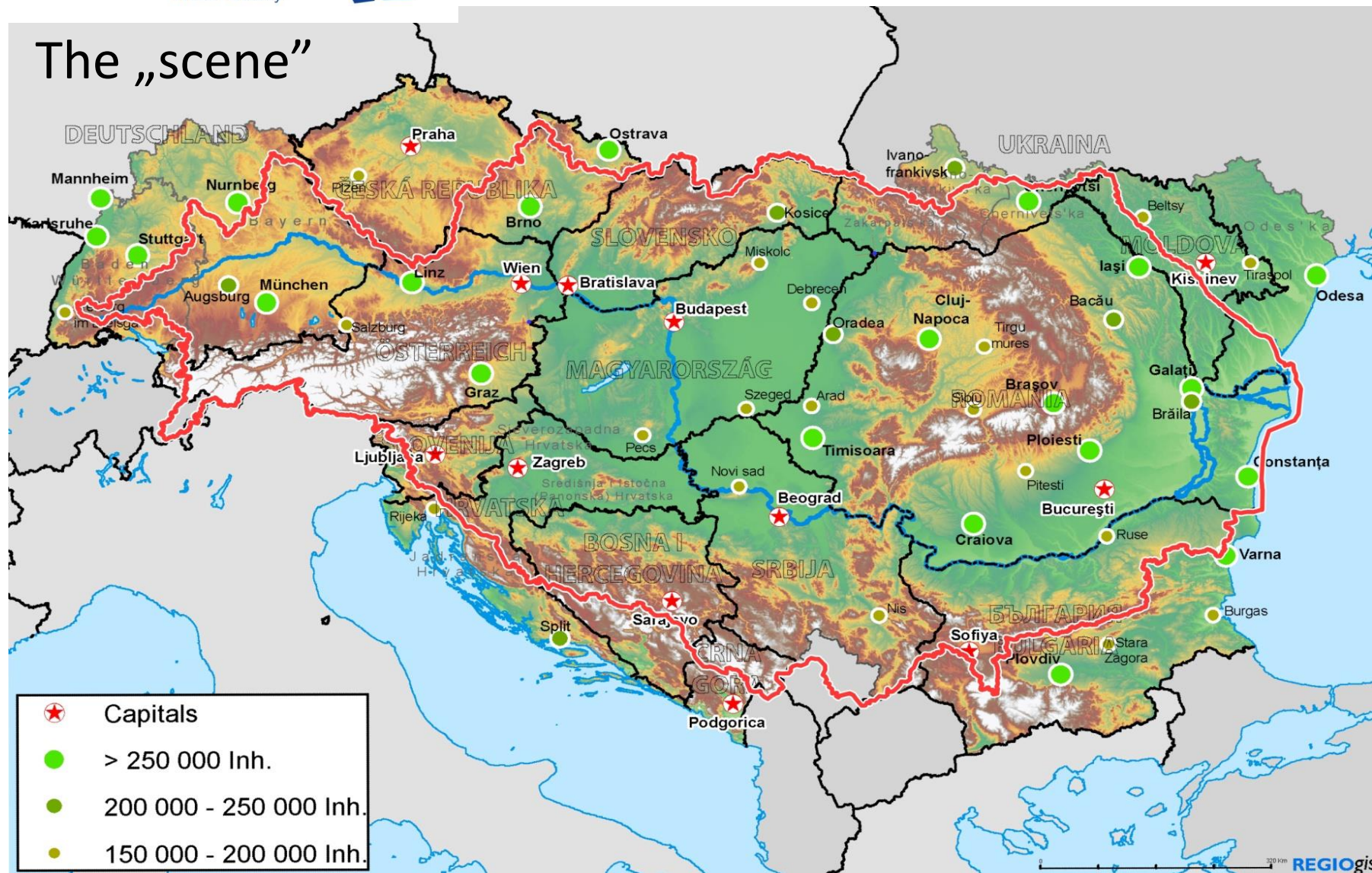
<http://groupspaces.com/WaterQuality/pages/>

## POINTS

1. Mandate
2. Guiding principles
3. Operation
4. Achievements, ADDED VALUE:
  1. POLICY
  2. INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS
  3. TOPICS
  4. DEMONSTRATION, DISSEMINATION
5. Facts
6. Future



## The „scene”



## PRINCIPLES-MANDATE

- ✓ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions (8.12.2010., COM(2010) 715 final), and;
- ✓ Accompanying Action Plan of the European Commission (8.12.2010., SEC(2010) 1489, as well as;
- ✓ European Parliament Resolution of 21 January 2010 on a European Strategy for the Danube Region (P7 TA-PROV (2010) 0008;
- ✓ Council Conclusions on the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (3083rd General Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 13 April 2011);
- ✓ Guidance to the Priority Area Coordinators of the European Commission – DG REGIO;

## **The general scheme of EUSDR PA4 operation**

- ✓ Actions (14) set by COM
- ✓ Breakdown into operational steps (roadmaps) done by SG
- ✓ Our mission is the improvement of the efficiency of the implementation of roadmap items by
  - Setting up an efficiency model
  - Optimising the implementation by using the model and making a plan for the implementation
  - Making an optimised investment and financing plan for the roadmap item

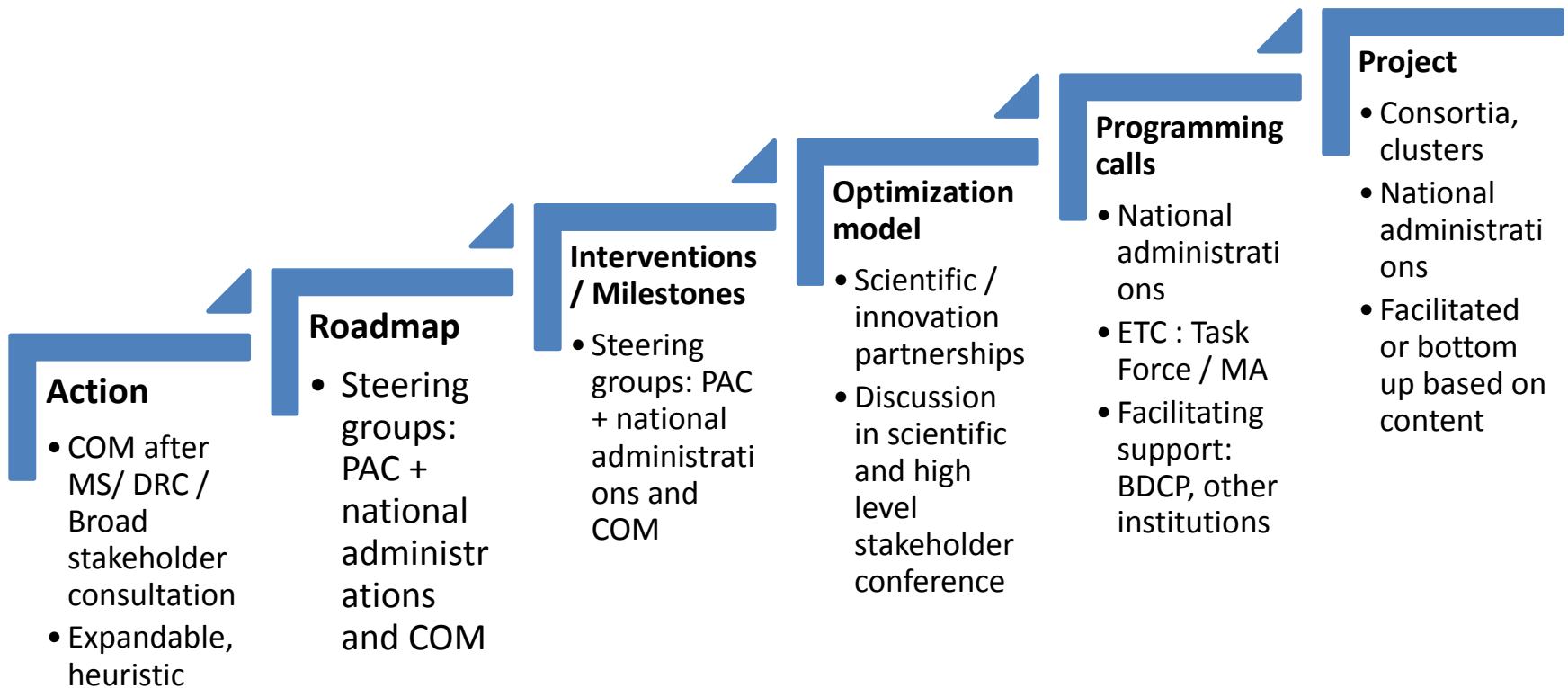
## **Types of actions/roadmaps**

- ✓ Measure/implementation/investment type
- ✓ Legislative type
- ✓ Info dissemination/public event type
- ✓ Various ways of EUSDR contribution and added value to these types

## IMPLEMENTATION-OPERATION:

The general scheme of EUSDR operation







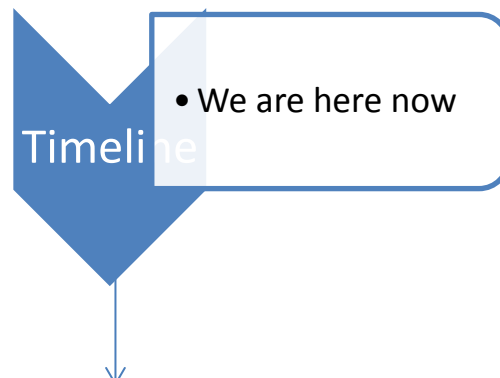
# EXAMPLE : Early Warning Monitoring System

Action Plan endorsed by COM under HU Presidency on 13 April 2011 (8-10 May 2011, Gödöllő)

Action 2 – To Greatly Strengthen Cooperation on Sub Basin Level



Scientific input and innovation – coordination work of EUSDR staff  
Discussions  
Presentations on Scientific Conference



Action

Roadmap

Optimization  
model

Programming

Project

3rd Steering Group Meeting in Bratislava on 4-5 June 2012  
First version of Roadmaps accepted

4th Steering Group Meeting in Budapest on 5 November 2012  
Refinement, current version of Roadmaps accepted



Integration of roadmap items into OPs  
Cooperation with Ministry for Rural Development in this field from February 2013  
Inter ministry talks on 31 May and 31 July 2013

Early warning water quality monitoring system on transboundary rivers  
  
During the next 7 year EU financial cycle

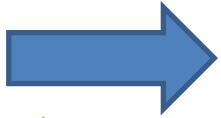
## POLICY is clear

- Water quality is a world wide significant policy issue
- AIM: **to improve water policy**, to reach good status under WFD
- Targets: PA4: 5 targets and 14 actions
- (implement the river basin and sub-basin management plans, reduce nutrient level, prepare a Danube Delta analysis report, secure species)

## Main topics for PA4



## PA4: POLICY development



- ✓ **Identification and discussions with the main POLICY actors concerning water quality in 2013:**
  - UNECE- Helsinki Convention
  - DG Environment
  - ICPDR, Sava Commission, Danube Commission
  - Other international bodies: JRC, REC, ASEM
  - Water boards-bilateral commissions

## POLICY development

The **added value of EUSDR** of how the **Blueprint conclusions** can be implemented.

The key priority to identify those areas where there is added value are the following:

- buffer strips,
- priority substances,
- uniform monitoring network,
- early warning systems,
- cooperation with services, and initiative for the UWWT, and
- finally to enable non- EU countries for reasonable planning for implementation and use cohesion sources.



## **POLICY development: Cooperation with DG ENV**

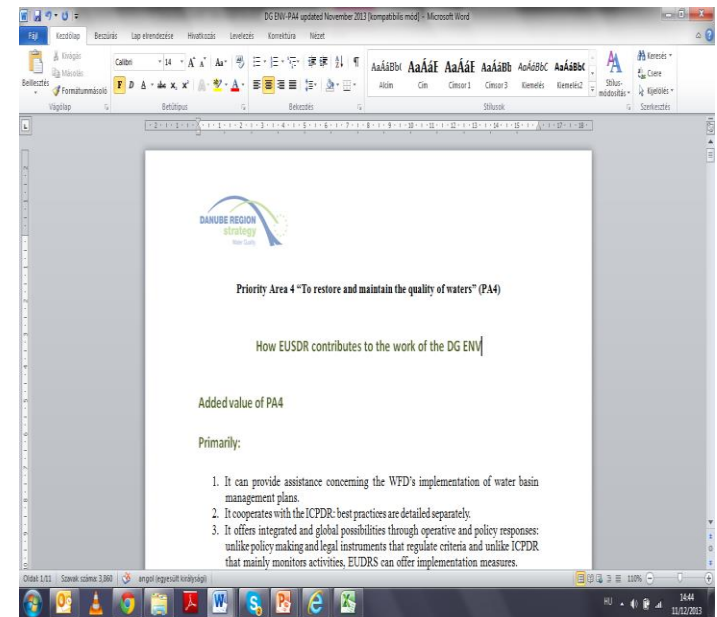
On-going discussions with DG ENV:

on potential areas of cooperation AGREED

**to have a systematic overview of the priorities based on the Blueprint findings,**

- the common implementation strategy (CIS) reviews and
- on **exploring the potential synergies** of the work of EUSDR
- it would be especially helpful to have a **review on the cross cutting issues.**

# POLICY development



- With regard the **Blueprint** the PA4 identified and **screened the research and development options** in 2013 and carried out wide discussion with research institutes and policy experts, resulted in the macro regional conference findings. (JRC, DG ENV, universities)

# POLICY development

## **ADDED VALUE PA4:**

**Assist to reinforce implementation of EU Directives concerning restoration and maintenance of the quality of waters such**

- EU Water Framework Directive
- Groundwater Daughter Directive,
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive,
- Drinking Water Directive,
- Nitrate Directive and
- Habitat Directive.



**IMPLEMENTATION BACK UP** with alignment of funding together with MS and ICPDR.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

### **ADDED VALUE PA4:**

- Full spectrum inventory of the related water
- organisations,
- established cooperation with many partner organisations,
- identified gaps and needs



**RELATED MILESTONES and PROJECTS identified.**

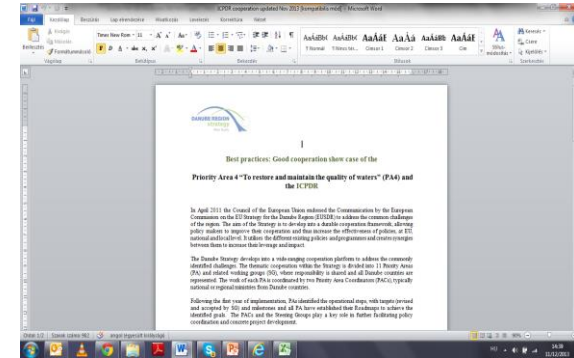
## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**New international expert position on watershed-planning, at the National Institute for Environment at the beginning of October 2013.**  
The main objective is to ensure follow up activities of the ICPDR Tisza Group work.  
**(Related action: A2)**



# Cooperation with ICPDR

- Separate show case presented
- Joint experts identified
- EUSDR-ICPDR demarcation analysis currently on-going (SK-HU-RO cooperation for PA4-PA5), background paper prepared, discussions on-going



H12    $f_x$ 

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	General Information				PA4 related roles and NCPs				ICPDR related roles			
2	Name	Country	E-mail	SG Members	NCP	Alternate SG Observers	HoD+1	RBM	EG	PM	MA	
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Fájl Kezdőlap Beszúrás Lap elrendezése Hivatkozás Levelezés Korrektúra Nézet

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Betűtípus


Bekezdés

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**National Institute for Environment**  
1012 Budapest, Márvány utca 1/D.

**PA4 / PA5 and ICPDR**  
**‘Joint Actions’**

*Principles to be taken into account when sharing responsibilities and harmonising, coordinating actions between organisations of EUSDR (PA4 and PA5) and ICPDR*



**November 2013**

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# Cooperation with JRC

- Discussions with the Joint Research Centre were on-going in 2013,
- PAC participated at the different water nexus meetings
- Cooperation resulted in **initiating the macro regional conference** in Budapest in September 2013
- JRC gave a presentation on the *Multi-criteria hydro-economic optimisation of water resources in Europe to support the EU Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters and the Danube Strategy*



## **SUPPLEMENTS POLICY DISCUSSIONS WITH DG ENV**

- Introduced a JRC study on **challenges and solutions related water demand and supply**. The aim of the study is to stimulate EU countries to increase the efficiency of water use by 2020/2030
- New topics identified for EUSDR activities: ground water, retention progress started with PA5.



# **Multi-criteria hydro-economic optimisation of water resources in Europe**

***supporting the EU Blueprint to safeguard  
Europe's waters***

Prof. Dr. Ad de Roo et al.

European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy



## TOPICS:

- **River basin management-challenges**
- **Sediment**
- **Early warning and buffer strips**
- **Sanitation and waste water improvements**

## River basin management-challenges

### HOW CAN WE INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT INTO OTHER SECTORS IN PRACTICE?

### WHAT ARE THE NEWEST EXAMPLES OF FINANCABLE, RESULT ORIENTED METHODS?

The expert bodies of the ICPDR agreed that updating of the Danube River Basin District Management Plan (DRBMP) requires that a **comprehensive study on sediment balance, on the pressures and impacts as well as on the measures needed will be performed.** (Macro-regional conference, Bp)



**SEDIMENT project**

**Sediment:** PA4 flagship project, most important link between water and other areas that use water bodies (tourism, nature protection),

PA4 initiated supplementing partners,

PA4 will promote it through the Danube Transnational Programme. (A10, M4)

# Transboundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin

Joint Stakeholder Conference – Protecting the Environment  
European Union Strategy for the Danube Region  
Budapest, 11-12 September, 2013

## Sediment issues and consequences in the Danube river

J. Józsa, BME Hungary – H. Habersack, BOKU Austria – M. Lukáč, VUVH Slovakia



# Early warning

## **Early Warning Systems and toxicology testing:**

- SG determined the task in A2 M1 p2
- Technical elaboration of methodology happened in 2013:  
The base concept is ready for a unified early warning alert system for the territory of the Tisza river basin
- Results were demonstrated in the macro-regional conference
- Now the feasibility testing will be on-going involving an international consortium



- The results will be available in 2014 and will be submitted to the SG

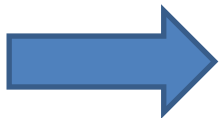


# Sanitation and waste water improvements

- The PA4 initiated contacts with the related waste water treatment **services to establish working groups and proceed developing project ideas.**
- **A small settlement waste water treatment optimizations system was identified** as a result of the cooperation with the Budapest Technical University (BME) for the integrated solutions for wastewater treatment in small settlements and rural areas (A13M2)
- + drinking water linkages in Budapest example was also presented (A5 M4, M5, M6)

## Buffer zones

- **Survey of the situation** on buffer zones and on management of solid waste: survey started within SG members on alternative collection and treatment wastewater in small rural settlements A5
- An international consortium is being established, contracted to carry out further research and policy analysis.



The results will be available in 2014 and will be submitted to the SG

## **Events after the last SG meeting in 2013**

June 5:SG 5 meeting Bratislava

June 18: ICPDR 11th Standing Working Group Meeting, Sarajevo

June: NCP programming workshop in Stuttgart

June: Flood in the area: PA4 scientific partners were in the area, measured sediment parameters

28-29 June Danube Day

Aug 27 Joint Danube Survey in Budapest: head of delegation, NCP, director of NEKI

Sept 11-12 Macro-regional conference, 300 participants

1 Oct . Audit of the EU

8-9-10 Oct Water Summit, Budapest (PA4 had a separate dissemination desk)

9-10-11 Programming Task Force meeting, Stuttgart

18 Oct HU-SK PAC meeting, Budapest

29-30 EUSDR Annual Meeting, Bucharest –high level discussions on PA4

12 Nov. Court Of Auditors Survey

December: Buffer zones és phosphates studies, early warning project feasibility studies

10-11 December ICPDR Ordinary Meeting, Vienna 

12 December SG6, Vienna

## Challenges

- Mobilizing SG members (mainly) from third countries to participate in decision making
- Actions are moving on very broad scale in relation of water quality
- More activities need in surveying and updating of roadmaps
- Stronger commitment in implementation process from MS

## Benefits

Highly promoted proposals by EUSDR countries represented by SG members for the next MFF:

- Strengthening of cooperation in the Tisza River Basin
- Early Warning Water Quality Monitoring System on transboundary rivers
- Site specific and eco-friendly waste water treatment for less than 2000 PE settlements
- Danube Sediment Management – assessment and restoration of sediment balance
- River Modeling Centers - Hydraulic and environmental engineering labs (DREAM)

## Results achieved:

- Identified gaps with the Blueprint options: discussion with DG Env. and Water Directors and integration of relevant EC documents in the PA4 process
- Development of Best Practice document
- ICPDR involvement in the PA4 activities as action leader in relation to the relevant actions
- Strengthened institutional framework: new colleagues contracted, regular cooperation with ICPDR and DG ENV
- First steps in sectorial discussion in the frame of the Macro-regional Conference
- Wide dissemination activities
- EUSDR aims included in national OPs in some countries
- Concrete projects are being carried out or are under development in the topics of water quality monitoring and urban and rural waste water treatment systems and sediments.



## Next steps:

- Detailed **disussions with ICPDR** cooperation in 2014
- Accelerate efforts to **strengthen cooperation and identify new partners** with non- members states, such as in the frame of twinning programmes with Moldova and Ukraine. Discussions have already been started with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia on possible future co-operations
- Finalise early warning and buffer strips studies

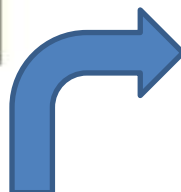
## Next steps concerning programming:

- Participate in programming at national level
- Include EUSDR targets into OPs
- Approach PACs, SGmb with project ideas

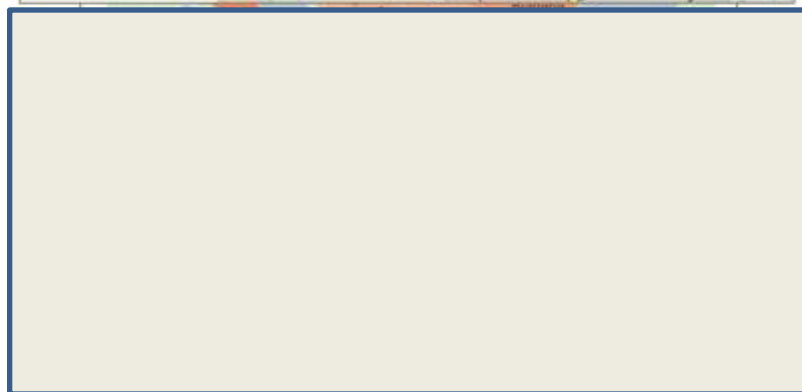


**Can we do it?**

**2007-2013**



**2014-2020**



## PROJECTS

- **Key expectation**
  - be of macro-regional importance
  
- **What kind of projects are of macro-regional importance?**
  - as a many of country as possible to be involved from the region to implementation region-wide already accepted targets, e.g
  
  - less country involved in contribution, nevertheless with high definition project result/effect towards improvement of the region



# Recommendations

- How to find good partners?
- How to find financial support?
- **BE PREPARED:** good preparation is the key
- **COOPERATE:** find the most suitable partners, network
- **INVEST:** time for planning and preparation
- **INTEGRATE:** partners and issues
- Make a **GOOD** project for a good purpose, then you will find a support- **CONTACT THE PACs!**



# Thank you for attention

[www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)

<http://groupspaces.com/WaterQuality/>

