



**EUSDR Priority Area 4: To Restore  
and Maintain the Quality of  
Waters:  
JOINT PRIORITIES**

# Goals

- contribute to the transboundary facilitating the coordination of efforts and funding
- confirmation of national priorities from the perspective of the EU SDR from macroregional perspective
  - "implementation leg"
- gaps and efforts needed to be speeded up: activities might be speed up or promoted

# Methods

- Intervention areas / topics
  - Indicative (specific) interventions
    - sometimes also projects
  - might have multiple levels
- each element might have timeframe, geographical relevance
- **hyerarchical**
  - broader categories cover
    - general activities
      - with sometimes too many elements to cover
      - with anticipated but not yet identified specific interventions

# Topics

- **Methodology**
- Horizontal
- Framework activities
- Strengthening cooperation on sub basin level
- Assessment and monitoring
- Complex tasks and interventions for protection and sustainable use of water resources and aquifers
- Address gaps in water infrastructure
- Hydromorphological pressures
- Information systems
- Cross-cutting tasks
- Scientific support

# Horizontal

- Green infrastructure projects (water and coast management, flood preservation, biodiversity and restoration)
- Interventions to surface water bodies: coordinated planning involving affected sectors
- strategic to project phase
- always address (improve) water status, hydromorphology, water resource management (quantitative and qualitative aspects)
- Preventing additional interruptions in affecting sediment continuum in water bodies
- **Joint approach also to be ensured in a macroregional scale in funds and activities**

# Framework activities

- Implementation of WFD
- Reference to the Common Implementation Strategy is relevant throughout the OPs in the macroregion
- RBMP, JPM planning and review process on the basin / sub basin level
  - 2nd Morava River Management Plan
  - Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis (2nd cycle)
  - Preparation of the 2nd Sava River Basin Management Plan
  - Complex ecological and hydromorphological target status for complex (intersectorial) planning
- RBMP, JPM implementation on the basin / sub basin level
  - Measures foreseen in the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan
  - Implementation of the Sava RBMP
- DRB financing plan through 2050

- Strengthening cooperation on sub basin level
  - Tisza
    - Pro Tisza / Tisza Group
  - Sava
  - Prut

# Assessment and monitoring

- Monitoring and preparedness
  - Support for addressing knowledge gaps and lack of data in hazardous and emerging substances
  - Water quality monitoring and early warning system- (Sub) basin
    - Tisza monitoring pilot project
  - Support for coordinated compilation of natl inventories on discharges, emissions and losses
- Complex monitoring of water bodies
  - Examination of biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin
  - Tisza Hydroecological Status
- hidrological assessment
  - Hydrological study of the Sava RB
- Socioeconomic impact assessment and decision aid for complex water management planning



# Complex tasks and interventions for protection and sustainable use of water resources and aquifers

- Complex analyses, planning and measures
  - Coordination of measures to mitigate water pollution, identification and review of areas of transboundary interest
  - optimization of water use and management for drought and flood management
  - potential: green infrastructure projects (water and coast management, flood preservation, biodiversity and restoration) (national coverage)
  - Priority ranking of wetland / floodplain restoration
  - Floodplain project
- Aquifers
  - Protection and sustainable use of water resources from alluvial aquifers in Sava River Basin
  - Mitigate diffuse pollution from agricultural sources
    - (Agri and rural devt horizontal criteria)
    - Future interventions

# Address gaps in water infrastructure

- Water supply
  - Identification of most efficient interventions to improve climate resilience of water supply systems
  - Establishing and upgrading water supply systems and networks to EU standards and improve climate resilience
- Wastewater treatment
  - Settlements
    - Program for UWWT of 10000PE> settlements
      - Planning and dissemination
      - optimized development framework
    - Pilot projects for 10K PE> UWWT investments
  - Establishing and upgrading UWWT systems and networks to EU standards, reduce organic pollution
    - Nutrient reduction
  - Upgrade of the sewerage network

# Hydromorphological pressures

- Address the significant knowledge gaps in order to enable Danube Countries to plan and assess impacts of sustainable management of Danube Sediment for a range of end user sectors (drinking water, flood management, biodiversity, navigation, etc.)
  - Danube Sediment project
    - ICPDR, HU
  - Project towards a sustainable sediment management in the Sava RB
- sediment management
  - complex task with complex financing following the resolution of knowledge gaps
- Hydromorphological alterations and river continuity
- Planning and implementation of fish migration aids based on common priorities
  - Furthering efforts on Iron Gate
    - Support to planning and rehabilitation of longitudinal and lateral connectivity of rivers and ecosystems (incl. wetlands and inundation zones)
    - Morphological restructuring of modified river beds
    - Sturgeon 2020 project
- Address knowledge gaps on hydromorphology related issues (eg. hydropeaking)

# Information systems

- Sava GIS 2nd and 3rd stage
- Support for the improvement of consistent spatial and monitoring data for addressing the needs of planning and scientific support to the water related strategic interventions in the DR, inter alia in the context of climate change

# Horizontal

- Cross-cutting tasks
- general
  - Sediment Balance Project
- Navigation
  - System for collection, treatment and disposal for hazardous waste on Sava river (followup for CO-WANDA)
- tourism
  - Master Plan for the development of Eco-Tourism in the Sava RB

## Achievements towards JOINT PRIORITIES, **Steps taken by PA4**

- PA4 PACs in 2013 participated at many meetings to discuss the roles, tasks and opportunities of the PA in the upcoming financing period.
- Already at SG5 items on financing, OP process was on the agenda
- At all forums in 2013 PA4 disseminated the message (macroreg conference, Annual Forum, seminars)
- At SG6 detailed discussions on OP process to identify JOINT PRIORITIES, to be active and be involved were held.

As a next step prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting PA4 **CIRCULATED A QUESTIONNAIRE** to the members and observers of the Steering Group related to the following main issues:

- Priority issues of water management in the Danube River Basin to be dealt with within the next programming period (PA4 relevance);
- State of play of the preparation in the countries related to the operational programmes;
- Danube Strategy integration into the planning process in the countries, role of SG members in the programming;
- Sources of funding is envisaged, operational programmes planned or established in the countries;
- Assistance needs from the PACs and from the Steering Group;
- National financing visions.

- At the 6<sup>th</sup> SG meeting (12<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Vienna) the financing possibilities and the **ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING** were discussed in detail.
- The PA4 in January 2014 called again the attention of the SG members to identify priorities and started to collect items from members for **PA4 JOINT PRIORITIES**.
- The PA4 further contacted the Secretariat of the ICPDR in February 2014 to reach in a coordinated manner the ICPDR working groups identifying Joint Priorities.



- PA4 colleagues participated at the Hydromorphology Task Group of ICPDR on 27-28 February 2014, Vienna, AT and further asked the contribution of the WG to inform PA4 about Joint Priorities for the operational programmes. (PA4 will be similarly active and present at other ICPDR WG meetings and will ask the opinion of the WGs for Joint Priorities.)
- PA4 started to compile a draft document assisting the identification of PA4 Joint Priorities.
- PA4 will provide updated information related to financing and operational programmes to the SG members at the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> SG meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Budapest, Hungary.

**To the knowledge of PA4 these sets of proactive measures taken by PA4 in 2013 are out of precedent and show the commitment of PA4 for assisting in reaching the targets identified by the EU for the upcoming financial period for macro-regional strategies.**

The main outcomes of the feedbacks demonstrate that the national priorities and institutional/organisational solutions vary, but there are some general considerations that are applicable to the whole macro-region.

- From the replies to the questionnaire it seemed as general consideration that the countries consider the *macro-regional view as crucial aspect for the implementation of the Strategy*.
- In most countries the programming is in preparatory, not completed phase and work will accelerate in 2014 and the preparation of the Partnership Agreements is in a final phase of consultation with the EU.
- In some countries the governance systems of EUSDR and Cohesion Policy are closely interlinked (A, BA); EUSDR experts also participate in programming (Bg) in some cases strong influence is assured to EUSDR aims as a result of inter-governmental coordination. (CZ, SK, HU)

- Some countries highlight the good informal exchange in relation to the new ETC Danube programme (INTEREG Vb, Danube Region Programme) between the ICPDR, and EUSDR PAC6. (BA)
- It was also mentioned that *political support* for the achievements of the macro-regional targets in the water quality area (in particular to ensure transnational funding) as well as a strong coordination and connection with the ICPDR (as an institution of all Danube countries, ensuring high quality work in the field of water for nearly 20 years) should be given.
- It was highlighted in the replies that the *cooperation is also of major relevance in terms of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)*, within these the relevant EUSDR priorities will be taken into account accordingly (especially within the ETC programmes).



- The EUSDR has been considered in the Partnership Agreements primarily under sections “territorial cooperation” and “integrated territorial approach”.
- In some countries the EU SDR is integrated into the working version of the national environmental operational programmes 2014-202. (CZ, HU), in other countries the aims of the Pillar 2 of the EUSDR are incorporated into programming (Bg, SK) or in the outline of Operational Programme “Competitiveness and Cohesion” environmental priorities were identified (Cr).

## **Main principles towards outlining measures (or project) to be financed within the financing period of 2014-2020**

PA4 is seeking for a list of common policy interventions/measures, which cover **basin-wide activities** with significant aspects in **transboundary scale** such as common planning, coordination, implementation;

- It is an important factor that at least one of the elements of the listed measures should be implemented during the **2014-2020 financing period** using sources from the European Structural and Investment Funds and/or EIB, IPA etc;

The implementation or financing of the measures should be coordinated in transboundary scale;

- PA4 is primarily seeking for a list of transboundary *measures* but in case specific tasks are already defined in details *projects* might be also considered;
- PA4 looks for all measures, which are planned to be started before 2020.

Top level issues	Coordination	Planning	Implementation	Projects
<p data-bbox="112 92 405 285"><b>Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)</b></p> <p data-bbox="357 492 396 514">112</p>	<p data-bbox="428 92 691 921">Optimisation of water management, water use and water economy with the aim to ensure the sufficient water sources to overcome the drought and water scarcity, and creating the sustainable protection against deteriorative water consequences</p>	<p data-bbox="718 121 956 199">JPMs in EUSDR countries</p> <p data-bbox="718 257 927 378">Morava River Management Plan</p> <p data-bbox="718 478 927 685">Flood Risk Management Plan for the Morava River Basin</p> <p data-bbox="718 785 975 1042">Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sava RBM Plan</p>	<p data-bbox="1004 121 1265 242">To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</p> <p data-bbox="1004 299 1255 464">Implementation of the Water Framework Directive</p> <p data-bbox="1004 521 1265 642">Implementation of the Sava RBM Plan</p> <p data-bbox="1004 699 1265 999">Examination of biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava river basin</p> <p data-bbox="1004 1056 1265 1349">Protection and sustainable use of water resources from alluvial aquifers in in the Sava river basin</p>	<p data-bbox="1294 121 1700 199">Projects in support of sub-basin activities (Tisa, Sava)</p> <p data-bbox="1294 257 1603 335">Project on sediment management</p> <p data-bbox="1294 392 1690 471">Project(s) on the sturgeon issue</p> <p data-bbox="1294 564 1758 685">Towards sustainable sediment management in the Sava river basin</p>

<p><b>Water Protection</b></p>	<p><b>Sources</b></p> <p>Identification of regions of common interests, harmonisation of processes and measures to decrease pollution</p> <p><b>Organic pollution:</b> The aim is the zero emission of untreated wastewaters into the waters of the Danube River Basin District.</p> <p><b>Nutrient pollution:</b> The aim is the balanced management of nutrient emissions via point and diffuse sources in the entire Danube River Basin District</p> <p><b>Hazardous substances</b> The aim is no risk or threat to human health and the aquatic ecosystem of the waters in the Danube River Basin District</p>	<p><b>JPMs in EUSDR countries</b></p>	<p>To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</p> <p>Implementation of the Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Environmental infrastructure to reduce the pollution of the Danube-</p>
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<p><b>Monitoring</b></p>	<p><b>Early warning water quality monitoring system</b></p> <p><b>Ecological assessment</b></p> <p><b>Developing a complementary ecological status assessment</b></p> <p><b>Longitudinal analysis</b></p>		<p><b>To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</b></p>	<p><b>Early warning studies</b></p> <p><b>Socio impact assessment and aiding decision-making processes of water related development projects</b></p>
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<p>Hydro morphological alterations- to improve river continuity</p>	<p>Prioritization Approach – fish migration aids</p> <p>Priority ranking of wetland/floodplain restoration</p> <p>Morphological restructuring of modified rivers beds</p>		<p>To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</p>	<p>Project on wetlands and floodplain restoration</p>
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<b>Water status</b>				Measures to organic pollution reduction (build or reconstruct water treatment plants, build public sewage
<b>improvement and fulfilment of the aims of Water Directive</b>			<p>To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</p> <p>Establishment of modern water supply systems and networks</p> <p>Construction of wastewater treatment plants for domestic and industrial wastewaters</p> <p>Upgrading the sewerage network</p>	<p>Measures to nutrition reduction (build or reconstruct water treatment plants, build public sewage, decrease agricultural pollution in vulnerable regions)</p> <p>Measures to hydro morphologic influences elimination (i.e. ensure continuity of rivers and biotopes; ensure lateral connectivity of wetlands and inundation zones with water course, etc.)</p>

## Next steps concerning programming:

- Joint PA4 priorities identified, to agree
- Participate in programming at national level
- Include EUSDR targets into OPs
- Approach PACs, SGmb with project ideas

A scenic view of a fjord, likely in Norway, with a large blue arc overlaying the top half of the image. The fjord is filled with water, and a white ferry boat is visible in the middle ground. The surrounding mountains are covered in dense green forest. The text "Can we do it?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Can we do it?**



Thank you for attention

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

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

