

EUSDR Priority Area 4

Summary of the activities
done since the 7th SG meeting, information on 3rd Annual Forum

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PA4 8SG meeting, Bratislava
14 October 2014



PA 4 activities

- **7-9 April 2014 ICPDR, 20th PM EG meeting**
Bratislava, Slovakia - PA4 state of play and activities presentation, buffer strips and p-free detergents studies presented (A5, A7)
- **5-6 May 2014 ICPDR 39th RBM EG**
Zagreb, Croatia - Participation and presentation of the Hungarian NCP-Government Commissioner
- **5-6 May 2014 IFAT - International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management**
Munich, Germany – presentation of PA4, networking with PA8
- **13 May 2014 PA10 EUSDR TAF-DRP assistance**
Project “Utilization of the Unique Wetlands in Undermined Area Novaky-Kos” adopted for financial support from PA10 in the 2nd call
- **May 2014 Meeting of ICPDR and NCPs (HU, SK, RO)**
Vienna, Austria - Discussion about the Joint Paper for the harmonisation of the ICPDR/ EUSDR activities

- **2-3 June 2014 Conference Drinking Water 2014**
Tulcea, Romania – presentation of PA4 at the conference organised by ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting)
- **19-20 June 2014 ICPDR - Standing Working Group Meeting**
Sophia, Bulgaria - PA4 the current state of play presentation
- **26-27 June 2014 3rd EUSDR Annual Forum**
Vienna, Austria - Participation of PACs4 on the Annual Forum Policy workshop organised by PA4 at the Danube Cosmos
- **30 June 2014 Annual Report of PA4 activities for EC**
- **11 July 2014 START - Danube Region Project Fund – PA10**
Vienna, Austria – Practical workshop on START programme – rules and decision making process
- **8 September 2014 ICPDR, NCPs, PA5 and PA4 meeting**
Vienna, Austria – meeting about the Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy on EUSDR Implementation; side meeting of PA4 regarding further steps in PA4 activities implementation



26 & 27 June 2014 | Vienna City Hall, Austria
3rd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

WE GROW TOGETHER represents the EU goals of economic, territorial and social cohesion.

TOGETHER WE GROW recalls that the process is for the benefit of everybody involved.

Hosts:

Johannes Hahn, Member of the European Commission,
Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria

Michael Häupl, Mayor and Governor of Vienna

Participants: political, civil society and business representatives from the 14 Danube countries – 1200 participants in total

WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW

ONE THEME – THREE PERSPECTIVES

- Inclusive, sustainable growth as a focus and prerequisite of prosperity
- Multi-stakeholder European Policies for an integrated and competitive Danube region
- Governance as a criterion of success for the EUSDR

4 plenary sessions:

1. **MIND THE GAP** - deeper integration among the Danube countries; higher employment levels contribute to cohesion and shared prosperity
2. **INVEST IN PEOPLE** - education and training to support innovation and creativity, preventing early school leaving to active labour market strategies; employment opportunities for young people
3. **INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY - READY FOR ACTION = Danube Cosmos**
49 parallel events - discuss in **workshops**, learn from good practice and experience at **speakers' corners**, meet new partners and ideas in **matchmaking areas**, get first-hand information in **coaching zones**, presentation and **exhibitions**
4. **FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE** - more stakeholders mobilised in all priority areas.



Danube Cosmos – PA4 workshop June 27, 2014, 11.00 – 12.00 AM

“Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the policy of the European Union”

- The session was chaired by **Ms Birgit Vogel**
- **Mr István Joó**, introduced the vision of priority area 4 in the context of macro-regional strategy
- **Ms Anna Repullo-Grau**, discussed three basic issues – structures, financing and legislation and how to achieve the best use of all these elements
- **Mr Martin Bačík** on behalf of the PAC4, **Mr Dušan Čerešňák**, talked about the need of horizontal cooperation among individual priority areas of the Danube Strategy, the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and PA4 priorities
- **Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper** presented current hot spots and preparation of research studies, mentioned cooperation with the ICPDR and identified joint PA4 priorities in the field of water quality

The panel discussion:

- **Ms Irene Lucius** saw a good opportunity in the Danube Strategy to include biodiversity into all strategic areas, to support the Water Framework Directive implementation
- **Mr Karl Schwaiger** compared the Danube Strategy with the ICPDR, introduced both initiatives with the aim of reaching fruitful cooperation
- **Mr Milan Dimkic** talked about main objectives of water management, expected climate change and effective governance.
- **Mr Walter Kling** shortly introduced the Danube Water Programme which is directly implemented by the IAWD.

Workshop conclusions related to the implementation and functionality of macro-regional strategy:

- 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 JRC research

PACs participated on the business lunch with Commissioner Johannes Hahn to exchange views on the recent Report on the Governance of Macro-regional Strategies. PA4 used this great opportunity to present the achievements and activities of the Priority Area 4 to Commissioner Hahn and his team.



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