

**INVITATION**  
**TO THE**  
**6<sup>th</sup>**  
**STEERING GROUP MEETING**  
**OF**  
**PA4 – TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS – OF THE EUSDR**

We are pleased to invite you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Group (SG) meeting of Priority Area 4 (PA4) of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region that will take place in Vienna, Austria on the

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

VENUE: Balassi Intézet – Collegium Hungaricum (Wien)  
1020 Wien, Hollandstrasse 4  
Room: BALATON

The objective of the meeting is to

- introduce the new Priority Area Coordinators of Hungary and Slovakia
- present the progress of PA4 in the past period and state of play of PA4
- present the results of the Budapest Scientific Stakeholder Conference of EU SDR Pillar 2 on Macro-regional Water Management supporting the implementation of Priority Area 4, the Bucharest Annual Forum updates and on-going institutional and research activities, project discussions, results
- provide an update on the state of programming of the operational programmes for the 2014-2020 period and discuss the opportunities to integrate common efforts on river basin management and quality of waters to the process.

As it was indicated in the invitation letters sent earlier the discussion on financing will be one of the focus items of the SG agenda. Please align with your national expert on programming to be able to contribute to the discussion concerning your country situation in relation to:

- *Methodology, institutional framework* (e.g. SG members take part in the work of the programming body / Managing Authority )
- *Substance: what approach is followed to embed policy areas/interventions to the Partnership Agreement and Operational Programs* (e.g. systematic embedding of content, cooperation component, ring-fencing part of the programme funds for the implementation of strategic interventions or projects developed in the framework of EU SDR, organising specific calls for EU SDR projects, giving priority to these operations in the selection process).
- *What mechanisms are planned* to conceive, plan, and implement policies together with partner countries, how various funds are to be used in a coordinated and coherent way.
- *Sources of funding* envisaged, operational programmes planned or established to cover EU SDR PA4 related interventions;
- *National priorities* related to the Danube Region Strategy financing.
- *Assistance needed* from the PA and the Steering Group; common tasks in the alignment of funding. (The list of sources is attached in the annex.)

Moreover the Steering Group Meeting is also aimed to:

- get informed about the progress on the establishment of Danube Transnational European Territorial Cooperation Programme,
- issue Letter of Recommendation/Merit for nominated, debated and agreed projects, if any,
- review of progress and state of tasks drawn up in roadmaps, *amend/modify roadmaps in case of any need*,
- discuss on recent activities related to PA4 (Scientific Stakeholder Seminar in Budapest) and give information on the planned events till the end of 2013

The proposed agenda is enclosed, as well.

Please note that the working language of the meeting will be English. The costs related to accommodation and travel will be covered by the participants (except for non-EU countries, where related costs will be covered for one SG member/ non EU country by PA4). Please make your hotel booking individually. Attached please find a list of hotels in the area.

Be so kind to confirm your participation until 3rd of December 2013 by filling in and sending the attached Registration Form to the following e-mail addresses:

otto.szabo@neki.gov.hu and szilvia.david@neki.gov.hu  
cc [vranovska@vuvh.sk](mailto:vranovska@vuvh.sk) and [kijovska@vuvh.sk](mailto:kijovska@vuvh.sk) and

We are looking forward to meet you in Vienna.

Budapest, 27 November 2013

Yours sincerely,

Otto Andras Szabo  
Co-coordinator – Hungary

Andrea Vranovska  
Co-coordinator - Slovakia

## Agenda

### PA4 STEERING GROUP – 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING

DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

VENUE: Balassi Intézet – Collegium Hungaricum (Wien)

1020 Wien, Hollandstrasse 4

Room: BALATON

<i>Co-Chairs: Ottó Szabó and Andrea Vranovska PACs 4</i>	
9.30 – 10.00	<b>Registration</b>
10.00 – 10.10	Agenda Item 1: Welcome, introduction of delegates and new members of SG (Balázs Medgyesy, Government Commissioner, NCP HU)
10.10 – 10.30	Agenda Item 2: Introduction of the New Slovakian and Hungarian PACs (Balázs Medgyesy, NCP HU)
10.30 – 10.40	Agenda Item 3: Presentation of the proposed agenda, approval of the agenda (Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper)
10.40 – 11.00	Agenda Item 4: State of Play – progress within PA4 and next steps (Zsuzsanna Kocsis Kupper) (Presentation and discussion)
11.00 – 11.30	Agenda Item 5: Outcomes and results of the Budapest macro-regional conference and the Bucharest Annual Forum (Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, NCPs) (Presentation and discussion)
11.30 – 11.45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:45 – 13:15	<p>Agenda Item 6: <b>Financing of priority elements of the EUSDR PA4 activities</b></p> <p>Presentations and discussion about programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of play -programming in the Danube countries (Anna Repullo-Grau, DG Regional Policy)</li> <li>• Methods and steps to integrate to integrate PA4 actions and roadmaps into programming, ensuring coordinated actions (experts, programmers, NCPs)</li> <li>• Implementation of Operational Programs, financing the activities and projects of EUSDR (experts, programmers, Budapest Danube Contact Point)</li> </ul> <p>Involvement of SG Members in the water management related programming process 2014-2020 - round table discussion with SG members, experts, programmers and the ICPDR moderated by Ottó Szabó focusing on the following discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of priority issues of water management in the Danube River Basin to be dealt with within the next programming period (PA4 relevance);</li> <li>• State of play of the preparation in the countries related to the operational programmes;</li> <li>• Danube Strategy integration into the planning process in the countries, role of SG members in programming;</li> <li>• Sources of funding is envisaged, operational programmes planned or established in the countries;</li> <li>• Assistance needs from the PA and from the Steering Group;</li> <li>• National financing visions;</li> </ul>

13.15 – 14.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.00 – 14.15	Agenda Item 6: Wrap-up of Agenda Item 6 on financing of priority elements of the EUSDR PA4 activities
14:15 -15:30	Agenda Item 7: Review of progress and state of tasks drawn up in roadmaps (moderated by Andrea Vranovska SK PAC)
15.30 – 15.45	<b>Coffee break</b>
15.45 – 16.15	Agenda Item 8: Discussion and decision on new projects, project ideas, donation of LoRs and LoMs (moderated by Andrea Vranovska SK PAC, SG members, experts)
16.15-16.45	Agenda Item 9: Information on recent activities related to PA4 and discussion on planned events for 2013 and 2014 (moderated by Andrea Vranovska SK PAC, Ottó Szabó HU PAC, SG members)
16.45 – 17.00	Agenda Item 10: Any other issues, closing session (moderated by Andrea Vranovska SK PAC, Otto Szabo HU PAC, Ladislav Simko, NCP SK).

## Resources for the issue of financing

(PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR IPA AND ENI COUNTRIES ADDITIONAL DRAFT REGULATIONS APPLY AND SOME OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS ARE FOR THE AREAS UNDER THE GOAL “INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS”):

The following draft regulations lay down the basic rules of alignment of cohesion policy financing with macro-regional strategies:

- [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm)
- 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 (CPR)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2014/proposals/regulation/etc/etc\\_proposal\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2014/proposals/regulation/etc/etc_proposal_en.pdf)
- European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)
- Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal {SEC(2011) 1138 final} {SEC(2011) 1139 final}

The following articles are of particular interest:

- Art. 2 (33) (CPR) Definition
  - Art. 11 CPR Content of the Common Strategic Framework
  - Art. 14 CPR Content of the Partnership Agreements
  - Art. 87 CPR Content of the Programmes
  - Art. 60 and Art. 87 CPR Eligibility of Operations
  - Art. 6 ETC Regulation Investment priorities for ETC programmes
  - Art. 7 ETC Regulation Content of ETC programmes
- Annex 1. 4.9 on the coordination between CSF, IPA and ENI funds

## List of Hotels close to the Vienna International Centre (VIC)

### **Park Inn Vienna**

Wagramer Strasse 16-18

A-1220 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 260400

[Edgar.Raml@rezidorparkinn.com](mailto:Edgar.Raml@rezidorparkinn.com)

[www.parkinnvienna.at](http://www.parkinnvienna.at)

Single Room: 90-100 Euro

### **ARCOTEL Kaiserwasser**

Wagramer Strasse 8

A-1220 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 521 65 814

[Kaiserwasser@arcotel.at](mailto:Kaiserwasser@arcotel.at), [Reservation.Kaiserwasser@arcotel.at](mailto:Reservation.Kaiserwasser@arcotel.at)

[www.arcotel.at](http://www.arcotel.at)

Single Room: from 119 Euro

### **NH Danube City**

Wagramer Strasse 21

A-1220 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 260200

[nhdanubecity@nh-hotels.com](mailto:nhdanubecity@nh-hotels.com)

[www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com)

Singel Room: from 118 Euro

### **Austria Classic Hotel Wien (former Nordbahn Hotel)**

Praterstrasse 72

A-1020 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 211 300

[info@classic-hotelwien.at](mailto:info@classic-hotelwien.at)

Single Room: approx. 90 Euro