

**MINUTES**  
**ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> STEERING GROUP MEETING**  
of  
**PA4 – To Restore and Maintain the Quality of Waters – of the EUSDR**  
on 7-8 November 2011, Budapest, Hungary

### **1. Objective of the meeting**

The objective of the meeting was to give information about the work done since the kick-off meeting, to accept the rules of procedures and finalize the requirements concerning flagship projects, then to decide about criteria and labelling of projects and issuing letters of recommendation for nominated, debated and agreed projects.

The meeting was attended by the SG members and their substitutes of the following Danube countries AT, BG, CZ, DE, HU, RO, SI, SK, as all eight MS from the Danube region, and , CRO, RS as two non-MS from the six, and furthermore by the representatives of EC DG Regio and DG Environment, ICPDR, REC and WWF Austria.

The meeting took place in the Central Directorate for Water and Environment, Budapest, Hungary, on 7-8 November 2011.

The planned SG meeting agenda was the following:

7 November	
12.30 – 13.00	Registration
13.00 – 13.20	Welcome, introduction of delegates and new members of SG
13.20 – 13.30	Presentation of the proposed agenda, approval of the agenda
13.30 – 14.00	Proceedings since the kick off meeting (database, draft documents for labelling and flagship, etc.)
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 18.30	Overview of the project proposals potentially submitted to support for EUSDR labelling - discussion and debate - 1st part Project labelling, decision making Letter of Recommendation giving to project proposed and agreed projects nomination as “Flagship project” (to be continued on the next day)
8 November	
9.00 – 11.00	Overview of the project proposals potentially submitted to support for EUSDR labelling - discussion and debate - 2nd part Project labelling, decision making Letter of Recommendation giving to project proposed and agreed projects nomination as “Flagship project”
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.00	Discussion on communication of PA4, including web platform, on cooperation with other PAs of DRS, on the next SG meeting (date and location)
12.00 – 12.40	Any other business
12.40 – 13.00	Conclusions, closure of the meeting.

## **2. Presentation of the proposed agenda, approval of the agenda**

The proposed agenda was unanimously approved.

## **3. Proceedings since the kick off meeting**

The proceedings were presented, in headlines:

- The EUSDR was endorsed by the European Council on 24 June 2011.
- DG Regio had requested the confirmation of the targets on 30 June 2011. The confirmation was done on 28 June 2011.
- The final draft RoP was sent by email to the SG members for accepting.
- Criteria for project labelling has been developed in cooperation with PACs of PA4 and PA6.
- A draft project application form has been developed in cooperation with PA4, PA5 and PA6, as Pillar 2.
- EC have announced a granted EUR 200 000 support for the most of PAs, as Technical Assistant. It is relevant to PAs of Pillar 2, as well.
- A meeting was held at SEE JTC in Budapest, Hungary concerning the labelling of projects and its approval by SEE, on 11 October 2011.
- A web platform was established (<http://groupspaces.com/WaterQuality/>) by INTERACT Point Vienna, a training will be held on 18 November 2011.

## **4. Approval of documents**

The members of SG have approved the text of Rules of Procedures with a minor – grammatical – change. The current version of RoP is available at the homepage (thereinafter, <http://groupspaces.com/WaterQuality/>) of EUSDR PA4.

The project labeling proposals were discussed in details. The EUSDR LoR criteria was accepted after slight modification as follows:

The planned project shall

- meet the targets of Priority Area 4 and/or be relevant to the PA4 Action(s),
- be of macro-regional importance,
- be realistic (technically feasible and financiable),
- provide a win-win solution (not in contradiction with other policy objectives),
- have project leader, partners, deadline, agreed workflow & workpackages and budget,
- be approved by the Steering Group.

as you can find at the homepage of EUSDR PA4

The flagship labeling was also discussed and it was concluded that there is no clear definition on it and in addition neither EUSDR documents use it. The decision on this topic was to be postponed to the next SG meeting.

The draft Letter of Recommendation was slightly modified and accepted by the SG  
The current version of LoR is available at the homepage of EUSDR PA4.

## **5. Working scheme and responsibilities within EUSDR**

A presentation was given about the four levels of responsibilities within EUSDR, e.g. PAC, action leader, action partner and project leader. There was a discussion about the role of the ICPDR as action leader for the majority of action. In the SG meeting a final decision of the role could not be found.

## 6. Decision making about the donation of EUSDR LoRs

From practical point of view and for the true implementation of actions of PA4, this was the most important step of the SG meeting. The general working method was the presentation of the topical project and then the decision. When the SG members decided about a project the six points of LoR criteria was considered and discussed whether the project met those or not. The next, and final step was the voting. Only yes or no votes were accepted, the voting was oral, country by country. The German delegate asked the SG for the possibility to vote by email within three days after the SG meeting. The SG agreed. The Bulgarian delegate had to leave the SG meeting before it ended, the possibility for email voting for the last two projects was also given to him. Finally for project “SEE River” some countries and for “GoodWater” all the countries asked for the possibility to vote by email within three days.

There were three projects or project proposals that were not accepted for voting:

- Sturgeon conservation in the Danube River Basin. The primary area of this project is biodiversity, PA6. Though the targets of PA4 overlap with those of PA6 for Danube sturgeon species, before the acceptance of this project as a PA6 project, it will not be co-labelled by PA4.
- The project proposal “Implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan on the Regional and Municipal Level” on behalf of ICPDR is still not ready for submission. ICPDR asked not to vote this time about this project.
- The project proposal “Danube floodplain” has important water quality aspects, but it is mainly associated with environmental risks, so before the decision of PA5, PA4 will not discuss it.

After all the voted projects were the following eight:

Project title	Acronym/short name
Promoting Strategic Partnership enabling cooperation of the Tisza River Basin	Pro Tisza
Sustainable integrated management of international river corridors in SEE countries	SEE River
Biodiversity and Environmental Status of Sediment, Water and Biota in the Sava River Basin	SEWABIS
Improved framework conditions for fast track eco-innovation in waste water treatment	Blue Danube
Strategies for development the water management instruments on water protected areas	GoodWater
Assessment for Restoration of Sediment Balance in the Danube River Basin	Danube Sediment
Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources	CC-WARE
Forests for drinking water protection	FoWaP

The results of oral and email voting is in the next table:

Project acronym/ short name	Country									
	AT	BG	CRO	CZ	DE	HU	RO	SI	SK	SRB
Pro Tisza	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+
SEE River	+	*	+*	+*	*	+	+	+	+*	+
SEWABIS	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+
Blue Danube	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+
GoodWater	*	*	*	*	*	+	*	*	*	
Danube Sediment	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+
CC-WARE	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+
FoWaP	+	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+

Legend: + means oral vote, yes  
 +\* means a provisional oral positive vote confirmed by email  
 \* means vote by email, yes  
 empty cell means no vote.

The email voting was considered as a part of the SG meeting, because it was not started as a regular written procedure, but it was a continuation of the SG meeting. By the PACs promises the LoRs will be made, signed and posted within the technically feasible time (21 November 2011).

## **7. Further actions till 3rd SG**

Tasks to be done:

- Preparation of a draft request form for LoR
- Preparation/modification of a joint project data sheet (MS Excel with macro) together with Pillar 2 PACs
- Elaboration of flagship labelling criteria if NCPs or HLG agree on the need for it
- Collection of candidate projects and sending those to SG members in due time.

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PACs4