



Workshop of the 4th Priority Area within the Annual Forum-Danube Cosmos
towards creating “*Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the policy of the
European Union*”

Vienna, 27th June 2014.

Under the frame ‘*We Grow Together, Together We Grow*’ the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR was organised between 26-27 June in Vienna, where different actors of the macro-regional strategy (from political, civil societies and business sectors) met and discussed main achievements and challenges and decided how the best to drive the region forward.

The PA4 workshop was organised into the 2nd day of the Annual Forum in the frame of Danube Cosmos.

‘Water is among the most precious resources of the 21st century’ – said Mr István Jóó in his opening speech during the workshop. Environment pollution is one of the most significant challenge, what countries are facing today and the protection of water is an important task that requires responses based on the transboundary cooperation of several countries, experts and researchers from various countries and regions.

Priority Area 4 works for the sake of improving the conditions for the waters of the Danube-region, to comply with the obligations raised from EU legislation, especially to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and to assist the European Commission with further researches.

Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper shortly introduced in her presentation the main achievements of the priority area. She explained about the document on ‘Alignment of Funding’, which was approved by the Steering Group and act as sample to other priority areas as well. She also highlighted that the priority area is now finalizing the joint document together with the ICPDR and priority area 5 to outline main cornerstones of mutual cooperation.

One of the main messages of the workshop was that mutual support, synergy and fair cooperation between the relevant institutions of EUSDR are the basis of the long term and successful work. It was also stressed that interlinkages of water ecosystem (quality, quantity, biodiversity) with different sectors (navigation, hydropower, etc.) should be promoted in a way that rivers stay in their natural state or they reach their good status as the consequence of the integrated measures. To achieve goals scientific knowledge should be also used properly.