

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

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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 6th 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 6th SG meeting (12th 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 7th SG meeting on 28th 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">Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)</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 2nd 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>Water Protection</p>	<p>Sources</p> <p>Identification of regions of common interests, harmonisation of processes and measures to decrease pollution</p> <p>Organic pollution: The aim is the zero emission of untreated wastewaters into the waters of the Danube River Basin District.</p> <p>Nutrient pollution: The aim is the balanced management of nutrient emissions via point and diffuse sources in the entire Danube River Basin District</p> <p>Hazardous substances 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>JPMs in EUSDR countries</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>Monitoring</p>	<p>Early warning water quality monitoring system</p> <p>Ecological assessment</p> <p>Developing a complementary ecological status assessment</p> <p>Longitudinal analysis</p>		<p>To be ensured in the OPs of the EUSDR countries</p>	<p>Early warning studies</p> <p>Socio impact assessment and aiding decision-making processes of water related development projects</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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Water status				Measures to organic pollution reduction (build or reconstruct water treatment plants, build public sewage
improvement and fulfilment of the aims of Water Directive			<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 surrounded by steep, forested mountains. A white ferry boat is visible on the water. The text "Can we do it?" is overlaid in the center.

Can we do it?

Thank you for attention

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