

FINAL Summary Minutes

14th Steering Group meeting of EUSDR PA4

16-17 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary

The objective of the meeting was (1) to provide information on recent activities of EUSDR PA4 -PA5, ICPDR, ICSRB, JRC, Carpathian Convention (2) to update on project financing possibilities with a special focus on Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE, Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) and the Seed Money Facility (SMF), (3) to initiate discussion with water related priorities of different macro regional strategies and (4) to disseminate information about project proposals and project implementation related to PA4 cooperation with different NEXUS partners and organizations.

The meeting was held back to back with the 6th Annual Forum of the EUSDR (held on 18-19th October 2017) and with the EUSDR Environmental Pillar Stakeholder Seminar held on the afternoon of 17th October 2017 to promote synergies of events.

The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the General Directorate of Water Management.

Over twenty participants from seven countries were present at the meeting: representatives from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Baden-Württemberg, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Serbia and Slovakia participated as well as delegates of the EUSDR Priority Area 5 (environmental risks), EUSDR Priority Area 6 (biodiversity) the ICPDR, the Sava Commission, the Joint Research Centre (via skype), GWP-CEE, the Danube Transnational Programme Joint Secretariat, the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat, the Danube Sturgeon Task Force, Interact, Sediment project management and the Joint Tisza project representatives were present at the meeting. Detailed list of participants is attached in [Annex 1](#).

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Balázs Horváth HU PAC opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He announced that the meeting is organized back to back with the EUSDR Annual Forum and as the Forum does not have a specific environment-water related focus, a specific Pillar B Stakeholder Seminar is organized by us that will follow the SG meeting on the second day. He called attention that both EUSDR PA5 and PA6 are represented at the SG. (Joint SG organization albeit was tried, could not succeed this time.) Mr Vladimír Novák SK PAC also welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted.

(Before starting Session 2. of the meeting, the representative of Baden-Württemberg (BW), Ms Hawkins was given the floor and she mentioned she would like to regularly receive invitations to SG meetings and that next time BW will provide a presentation about its activities in detail. She also referred to the projects that were research project for energy efficiency in municipal wastewater treatment plants in Hungary, led by Baden-Württemberg. Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that indeed BW will receive an invitation and look forward to their participation in our SG meetings.)

2. Information about EUSDR PA4 and PA5 ongoing activities

2.1 EUSDR PA4

Ms Andrea Vranovska from the PA4 SK team presented information about the main PA4 activities since the last SG meeting as of 25-26 April 2017 as follows:

- Coordination meetings – NCP, PA4 and PA7 SK in Bratislava
- 29 June 2017 - SK EUSDR Consultation Group – NCP+PAs – information on financing possibilities, DSP Future, AF, events
- 6 July 2017 - interview with Consulting Associates – preparation of the study about macro-regional strategies in Slovakia
- 13 July 2017 – SK joint statement on DSP future role
- 21 September 2017 – NCP, PA4, PA7 – role and future of DSP, financing possibilities - Central Europe and SMF DTP information

She summarized coordination and administration of our **PA4 DTP project** and referred to our trilateral meeting held on 7 September 2017, where a separate session was held with DTP project management. She mentioned that a **DTP SEED Money Facility** call was launched in September 2017 with a deadline of 7 December 2017. She emphasised that an internal deadline is given to applicants to apply for PAC by 8 November 2017. The SMF projects shall have minimum 2, maximum 5 partners with a maximum budget of 50.000 EUR, without pre-financing. DTP event was held on 27 September 2017 in Vienna for opening the call.

PA4 SMF priorities:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation and promotion of eco-friendly waste water treatment for small settlements; 2. Support effective management of water resources from the water quality viewpoint in the conditions of climate change (e.g. drought, water scarcity); 3. Solving the problem of Hazardous and Problematic substances (problematic infrastructures) endangering water ecosystems in the DRB 4. Development of knowledge building and policy recommendations on the level of pharmaceuticals and other emerging substances (e.g. cyano bacteria toxins) in the water. |
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She mentioned that the **DSPF- decision** is still pending, decision will be made in October 2017. (*Since then we learnt that DANUBE-HAZARD was granted support under DSPF.*)

PA4 events are linked to the Annual Forum: 2 workshops within the Forum (one in capitalization, moderated by PAC HU Balázs Horváth and one on Pillar B financing, moderated by Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, PA4HU team) and the referred side event of Pillar B Stakeholder Seminar.

PA4 HU Ms Kocsis-Kupper highlighted that PA4 already agreed on its SMF priorities during its 12th SG meeting in 2016 and stressed that the PAC alignment declaration is a condition for SMF eligibility. She called attention to the 8 November 2017 deadline and that SG written procedure will be used for the SMF Alignment declaration.

PA4 PAC HU Mr Horváth provided further supplementary PA4 information and mentioned that the HU Presidency organized a workshop in May 2017 in Brussels on the future of Macro-regional strategies. He further highlighted that PA4 also wants to strengthen cooperation with other macro regions and we plan to organize a macro-regional workshop related to water in March 2018.

2.2 EUSDR PA5

PA5 HU PAC Mr Karoly Gombás introduced the main PA5 tasks under development (related presentation is uploaded to PA4 website.) Major outputs obtained/foreseen: Development of CCA Strategy-Update2018 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Pilot study on coordination of OFMPs (operative flood management and civil protection plans) in the DB, the Flood Protection Training

scheme, Workshop on education on 29 June 2017; Annual meeting of the Hungarian Hydrological Society - special international side event on flood protection practices on 5 July 2017. Projects: Interflood Course (DSPF) project and projects DAREFFORT, Danube Floodplain and DAMWARM (submitted to DTP 2nd Call).

PA5 DTP SMF topics:

1. Coordinate the operative flood management and civil protection plans considering the benefits of the civil protection mechanisms for the shared flood basins or stretches of common interest to better use the available resources.
2. Safety of the critical water infrastructure on shared river basins, contingency planning for failure (havaria management)
3. Basin/Sub-basin wide (technical/professional) resource management masterplans to facilitate adaptation of the Danube countries to climate change and to support anticipating local and regional impacts of climate extremities
4. Improve the capacities to tackle accidental pollution risk at the transboundary, regional and basin level, including development and/or modernization of plans, equipment (including monitoring capacities), information and warning systems and joint trainings, taken also into account the effects of climate change.

3 Information about the ICPDR, Sava Commission, JRC and Interact ongoing activities

3.1 ICPDR activities

Mr Ádám Kovács presented the main ongoing activities of the ICPDR. He mentioned the most important steps and tasks in 2017-2018 related to the elaboration of the **Interim Report on the JPM Implementation 2018**:

- Discussing the draft outline and concept of the Report, input data collection and definition of draft key message(s) in autumn 2017;
- Reporting of draft key message(s) to RBM EG and to the ICPDR OM Meeting in autumn 2017;
- Data collection and drafting the technical background for the report in winter and spring 2018;
- Presentation and discussion of technical content for each key message received from ICPDR EGs and TGs at the RBM EG meeting in spring 2018;
- Presentation and discussion of the draft Report at the ICPDR StWG Meeting in June 2018;
- Finalisation and adoption of Interim Report 2018 by December 2018 at the ICPDR OM Meeting.

Topics for **10 key messages for the JPM Interim Report** were also listed: organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution, hydromorphological alteration, groundwater, monitoring activities including Joint Danube Surveys, financing JPM, integration issues (hydropower, navigation, agriculture, floods, climate adaptation), public participation and active involvement of stakeholders and civil society and sturgeon conservation activities. The document will be a concise public report focusing on the key messages and on the outlook to the future rather than a detailed technical report with comprehensive assessments.

He called attention to the upcoming **Workshop on capacity strengthening in wastewater sector** (on 28-29 November 2017, Bucharest). The ICPDR, WB and IAWD are the main organizers, the Apele Romane is the host and the EC, EUSDR, GWP, EIB and JRC are partners. The invitation was sent out already, the main topics of the workshop are financing, management and technology. Cooperation with EUSDR related to the workshop is ensured (presentation on financing).

Sustainable agriculture: a Guidance document on sustainable agriculture will be elaborated by the ICPDR. To support this work, a knowledge base on agriculture is being developed. It consists of two studies, one is focused on policy implementation and the other one is on agro-economy. The expected finalisation is in November 2017. The outcomes of the knowledge base will be discussed with the agricultural sector at a workshop to be organised possibly in autumn 2018.

Hazardous substances: an activity has been started in cooperation with the SOLUTIONS project. A wastewater treatment plant effluent sampling exercise was held in August 2017, the analyses will focus on emerging chemicals and heavy metals. Besides monitoring a pre-study on modelling and data availability is being conducted, the study is expected to be finalized in November 2017.

Accident prevention and hot spot inventories: the risk assessment on Accident Risk Spots and Contaminated Sites will be finalized in November 2017. Based on the outcomes a technical risk assessment report and a public brochure (Danube Emergency Plan) will be elaborated. Moreover, the ICPDR plans to start a project on tailing management facilities (to be financed by UBA Germany). In the project training courses will be held for operators and inspectors in 2018 and 2019.

Hydromorphology: questionnaires have been elaborated by the ICPDR on the relation between hydromorphological alterations and responses of biological quality elements. A workshop will be held in Vienna on 23-24 November to further discuss technical details. A follow-up activity on designation of heavily modified water bodies is planned in spring 2019.

Monitoring: the MA EG has elaborated a preparatory document on JDS4. The new concept of JDS4 will rely on national expert teams, which will undertake targeted sampling at selected sites. To support their work an advisory core team will be set up.

Adaptation on Climate Change: the former strategy is to be updated by 2018, in March 2018 a workshop will be organized in Serbia. The OM will adopt the new strategy in 2018. In relation to this work an information event was organized by the EC in Vienna on 9 October 2017.

Sturgeons: several projects are on-going or under preparation, e.g. LIFE Sterlet Upper Danube, MEASURES DTP project proposal, Feasibility Study on Iron Gates. The ICPDR is elaborating a Sturgeon Strategy (RBM EG) and a Sturgeon Communication Strategy (PP EG).

Questions/remarks:

- AT, Mr Schwaiger: Sturgeon issue is a cross cutting issue for many PAs, recommends cooperation.
- DE, Mr Arzet: refers to meeting each other once a year on sturgeon issues, suggests similar joint meetings for EUSDR as well.
- PA4PAC HU, Mr Horváth: PA4 wanted to have joint meetings with PA5-PA6, as tried in the past as well, but this time joint SG meeting it failed.
- Christina Sandu, Sturgeons: thanked for the letters of support for ICPDR and for EUSDR. Hopes that from next year will have the secretariat in place.
- PA4 SK Ms Vranovska: PA4 also cooperates with PA7 held joint SG in the past.

- PA4 HU Ms Kocsis-Kupper thanked the ICPDR presentation and mentioned that the PA4 team meets with ICPDR experts twice a year in a trilateral meeting (together with the SAVA Commission representative) to agree on joint works and ensure coordination of activities.

3.2 JRC activities

We held a skype session with JRC (Mr Alberto Pistocchi) As the European Commission's in-house science service and the only Directorate-General executing direct research to provide science advice to EU policy, the role of the JRC is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle. Mr Pistocchi provided an overview of the recent activities conducted by the JRC in the context of the Danube Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus project via short skype session.

To a question of SR, Mr Milovanovic on when the Add de Roo report be published, Mr Pistocchi replied that it will be done by the end of this year (2017).

3.3 Sava Commission activities

Mr Samo Groselj introduced the ongoing activities of the Sava River Basin, mentioning about the following main achievements and ongoing work:

- **2nd Sava River Basin Analysis Report**
ISRBC accepted at the 46th session and it is available at the ISRBC web site.
- **Significant Water Management Issues**
Open for public consultation from July 29 until October 20, 2016 (http://savacommission.org/announce_detail/63) and the final draft is under finalization, will be sent to ISRBC members for adoption.
Joint Plan of Actions (JPA) developed and adopted by the ISRBC – next steps defined
- **PA5: Flood management** and Accident prevention: to upgrade management plans, to develop replicable response system toolbox with University Ljubljana, partners from the Sava countries. WBIF project: Sava FRM Plan (kick-off in April, Inception workshop in July 2017, draft Outline soon)
- **AND Sava FFWS** (Pre-release version 0.2 + training held in June 13-14, 2017).
Simulation models: Hydrological model of the Sava River Basin (2010, 2014, 2016) incorporated into Sava FFWS AND Hydraulic model is in preparation.
- **Water Pollution Contingency Management System:** Project proposal submitted to DTP 2nc Call with 11 partners.
- **Sava GIS established:**
 - FRM module to be upgraded through WBIF project
 - Sediment module in implementation
 - Navigation module in planning

Mr Groselj also mentioned as Consideration of intersectoral linkages that

- Sava Nexus – is finished (available at http://savacommission.org/news_detail/163/1)
- Danube Water Nexus Project – Sava Case Study, implemented by the EC Joint Research Center (finalized in 2016)

- Drina Nexus Assessment – finished in June 2017 (available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46164>).
- Other projects/activities: Roundtable Zagreb Wetlands project proposal submitted to DTP 2nd call
- 6th Youth Parliament, web page, facebook (theme this year was Climate change)
- Protocols signed: Navigation Regime in force since 2004

Questions/remarks:

PA4 HU Ms Kocsis-Kupper noted that former Serbian PA4 SG member, Dragana Milovanovic is now the deputy secretary of the Sava Commission and asked for notifying us about the new SG member.

SR, Mr Milovanovic advised to check the website of the SRBC and to check the GIS, as it is very useful indeed, the number of stations are getting bigger and bigger.

SRBC, Mr Groselj advised that there are also online data from the selected stations: the water discharge temperature and there are also some pilot stations for the sediment. Will see how the data for sediment will work as it is difficult to have all data for that now.

AT, Mr Schwaiger: The Sava was the first to have a pilot of the nexus. You now work for the Drina, is it a duplication?

SRBC, Mr Grosselj: In the Drina the locals were more involved in the development of the nexus. It is not a duplication, it works in smaller scale.

3.4. Interact activities

Mr Jörg Mirtl from Interact provided an introductory presentation and stressed that it is a Programme, but it does not finance projects. It finances studies and it also support the exchange of experience across macro-regions.

Studies: Cooperation methods, further cooperation, alignment of funding is very important, Joint meeting on macro-regional cooperation on climate and security will be held in Budapest in November 2017; similar event was held in Ljubljana with the transport coordinators of the 4 MRS. He called attention that fund-related network should be promoted throughout the four macro-regions. He stressed further that Interact will start an embedding platform and mentioned that the Baltic Strategy has good platforms for funding, be it the ERDF, the ESF, the EAFRD or the EMFF. In the Danube Region, such a platform was started only for the ESF upon the initiative of Baden-Württemberg.

Study on macro-regional strategies findings:

- Macro-regional strategies can be driving forces for change if the right momentum is achieved,
- Macro-regional cooperation can occur independently of the macro-regional strategies,
- Projects and programmes are usually not aware of the macro-regional strategies,
- Better capitalisation of project results is the most tangible benefit macro-regional strategies bring to projects and programmes,
- Macro-regional strategies offer a strategic framework for projects and programmes to define priorities,
- Macro-regional strategies need to be positioned stronger in the territorial cooperation arena and beyond,

- The future of the macro-regional strategies is a shared responsibility of all its key implementers.

He noted that Interact provides services such as thematic meetings, embedding platform, cooperation of strategies, support for NC meetings, communication studies. Promotes Interact also runs capitalization networks of Interreg programmes, as well as cooperation and coordination platforms across funding sources.

Questions/remarks:

Christina Sandu, Sturgeons: would it be possible that next funding programme consider the linkage above the EU- non- EU membership? Faces a problem that non -EU countries have no access to funding.

Mr Mirtl: It is political level issue.

SR, Mr Milovanovic: How will the embedding work?

PA4PAC HU, Mr Horváth: political debate is ongoing about the future of macro regional strategies, it is time for political lobbying, go to the EU institutions to lobby for macro reg. strategies!

Mr Mirtl: Interact collects experience and then gives the message for DG RG. Embedding practices are defined in Annex 1 point 7.2 of the common provisions regulation (alignment of funding, targeted and coordinated calls, ring-fencing, etc.)

DE, Mr Arzet: Struggle to hear that there are problems with macro strategies, we appreciate cooperation achieved by now.

4 Tour de table – SG members/country representatives: project ideas, expectations from EUSDR

BIH, Ms Rajic: most important regional project in BIH is a shared project with Serbia and Montenegro, that started in Oct 2015, via World Bank and COWCO Norway, Cowi is the leading partner. It provides support for more efficient water resource management, including flooding and droughts sustainable use of water, hydro power plan, environmental protection. Integrated water management result was a report on drilling river basin resource for the countries separately. This is the starting point for investment priority. The country's investment priority is being finalized now, as well as the Drina river report. She pointed that it is a good example of a regional project.

CZ, Ms Plocek: greetings from former SG members Jiri and Veronika. In CZ recently had a big coordination meeting with all PAs, to obtain information from other priorities, especially from PA2. Lately lot of interaction was ongoing with the Carpathian Convection. Projects: ongoing projects with CZ partners, waiting for PA6 project proposal decision on air quality CONSPIRO. Lately discussions were held with the office of the government on the issue of financing, how to do it in the future. Brainstorming is ongoing now, especially about cohesion funds.

HU, Mr Horváth: developing a proposal for a Danube tributary monitoring programme, thinking to organize a country by country Joint Danube Survey 4 (JDS), the main idea is to extend the coverage of JDS4, to define the monitoring programme for execution. Discussions are going on, PA4 is willing to facilitate project preparation, with the General Water Directorate. Approached Igor Liska from ICPDR, to target in Central Europe third call.

PA5 HU, Mr Gombás supplemented: there is a Tisza survey foreseen, also a RÁBA survey to be done as well. There are many other tributaries to be covered. The project would be to discuss what is needed,

only on a pilot area it will be executed. This is not about to do the monitoring programme, but some criteria, do some of the monitoring, but do some strategic planning. Maybe in the DTP third call, but small amount will be available there.

Questions/remarks:

DE, Mr Klaus: preparations for JDS4 are already carried out. All national countries do the work of the JDS. How do you imagine catching up?

HU, Mr Horváth: there are transboundary tributaries, to combine the results, it would be a complimentary action to the main monitoring.

AT, Mr Schwaiger: would like to hear more about the project idea, it has three dimensions: addresses tributaries, it should also contribute to JDS more, mirror the monitoring programme, the third is that it would go beyond JDS4. How would that fit into the transnational monitoring network? Stressed that it would be an added value if can combine with the monitoring network and that parameters should match.

SRBC, Mr Groselj: Central Europe is not interesting for the Sava, because two countries are not eligible. There is a project Globe Aqua, where Sava is partner, that is more scientific level.

ICPDR, Mr Kovács: the issue has been already discussed at the Secretariat., The activity should be harmonized with the existing structures (JDS and TNMN), the MA EG should be contacted for comments.

PA5 HU, Mr Gombás: timewise is a problem as we need to submit it now, because any later calls will not be on time for us.

AT, Mr Schwaiger: there is an urge to react now indeed. Advise to tailor the project now and we shall also discuss it tomorrow.

SK: need to discuss at national level.

Meeting was closed for the first day, participants were taken to dinner to Márvány-menyasszony.

Second day was held in the Ministry of Agriculture, 1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11

5 Funding and cooperation possibilities

5.1 Danube Transnational Programme: Seed Money Facility (SMF)

Mr Gusztáv Csomor from DTP described that the SMF project is based on outputs: 3 outputs are expected:

1. thematic background, report on state of play,
2. main project work plan and
3. report on funding opportunities.

Partnership: at least 2 partners, but not more than 5. At least two countries. One lead partner (should come from EU state), private bodies are not eligible. Budget: 50.000 EUR, EU contribution is 85%, so co- financing is needed. (may EU contribution is 42.500 EUR) duration is fixed for 12 months. Cost types: staff costs, office and admin costs 15%, travel and accommodation, external expertise and services.

The call was launched in the beginning of Oct 2017, the applicants will approach PACs to obtain Alignment Declaration. PA4 deadline set for applicants as of 8 November 2017. The project submission deadline for DTP is 7 December 2017. The next step will be the assessment, the monitoring committee of the DTP will decide. Only 3 projects per PA will be approved. Proposal is to be submitted by e-proposal, EMS system.) <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/about-dtp/dtp-ems>

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/calls/calls-for-proposals/seed-money-facility-call>

It was stressed that there is no advance payment from DTP side, the PPs shall pre-financing activities, simplified reporting structure. One mid-term report and one final report to be prepared. He also mentioned that the decision on DTP second call will be made in March 2018.

Questions/remarks:

Mr Gombás understood that PACs shall make a selection prior to the submission with choosing the 3 best applications. The timeframe for this is quite short, what is the planned start of the SMF projects? 3rd call is expected to be open at the end of 2018, beginning 2019. Can one finish the project earlier?

Mr Csomor replied that PACs will not rank proposals, only will sign the alignment declaration and all declared projects will be assessed, ranked and selected by DTP. It is advised that PACs should not apply, the duration of the projects is fixed, but can complete earlier if needed.

5.2 Interreg Central Europe

Ms Schönerklee-Grasser from Interreg Central Europe provided information about the programme as follows: the programme covers countries of AT, CZ, DE, HR, HU, SK and SI. In the 2nd Call 85 projects were approved in the amount of 160 M EUR. 4 priority: Innovation, Low carbon, Env and Culture, Transport. 33 projects deal with Environment and Culture PO. The 3rd call was launched on 21 Sept 2017.

3 partners needed from 3 countries (2 from Central Europe, 1 can come outside of the programme area if fully justified) the project size is 1-5 M EUR (average 2,1 M), with max 12 partners. (average 10 partners.) Duration 24 max 36 months, latest end date is 31 Dec 2021.

The third call would be for 60 M EUR, one step procedure, fill step application, online application via EMS. Specific objectives focused, 85% new MS, 80% for old (DE, AT, IT). Submission deadline is 25 January 2018.

Priority Axis 3 natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth.

3.1 and 3.3 addressing environment and water

(3.2 cultural heritage)

3.1 wide env. topics focusing on water and soil management and preservation of biodiversity issues, applications can be submitted dealing with env. management of such, or different uses, water and agriculture, it could also tackle climate and risks, floods, ecosystem, river revitalization and remediation issues.

3.3 focuses on functional urban areas tackling urban env, problems (water, climate, floods, climate) cross sectoral and multi-governance aspects for better env. planning, follow up investments tackling for improving the quality of urban environment.

Successful Projects:

- FRAMWAT: working with nature, smaller water retention measure to improve water management, mitigation of floods and droughts, pilot applications of 6 river basins,
- PROLINE-CE drinking water protection, aims to minimise conflicts between drinking water resources protection and land use activities.
- RAINMAN- mitigate health and env. damages, how to deal with heavy rain events, innovative forecasts and smart warning tools

She highlighted that projects should aim for cooperation between regions -demand driven, novel solutions and pilot implementation, transfer of existing knowledge for better solutions, creating opportunities, seeding larger investment.

Advised that the Programme does not fund actions that can be implemented at sole regional/local level; exchange of experience not further implemented, and solutions not taken over by target groups or continued after project end.

Actors: from public to NGO-education, any actors. Restrictions for certain international organizations. Support measures for the 3rd call: thematic workshop event will be on 7-8 Nov 2017 in Prague. Application manual available for the 3rd call. Online partner search tool, online community. National contact points. www.interreg-central/apply

Questions/remarks:

Ms Sandu: would a project be fundable for ecotourist?

Ms Schönerklee-Grasser: if you focus more on ecological issues, it is positive, if focus on tourism not as much. Advised to discuss directly with specific colleagues.

Mr Groselj: The thematic focus is not clear.

Ms Schönerklee-Grasser: some priority had to be closed, but others are also open. Note that Central covers partly Danube, partly Alpine, in between regions.

5.3 Activities of the Carpathian Convention (CC)

PAC HU Mr Horváth explained the Carpathian cooperation issues, as Ms Musco could not be at the meeting now, but there was a high- level meeting of the parties in the previous week in Lilafüred, Hungary. Cooperation of CC with EUSDR is ongoing with some PAs, also with PA4. A new article on climate change, article was ratified at the meeting. Also, the parties adopted a Protocol on sustainable agriculture under the convention. Now the HU presidency of the CC starts. 3 years working program was adopted, cooperation was also adopted, cooperation with Tisza group was also mentioned.

PA6 activities were shortly presented by Miklós Marton PA6 SG member.

6 Projects and LORs

6.1 Solotvino mining issue: REVITAL

Mr László Perger former PAC HU introduces the REVITAL project that aims for environmental assessment for environmental resources-complex monitoring system. He mentioned that in 2009 more than 10 times higher salt contamination was measured in the river Tisza. The salt contamination was also detected in Kisköre, HU. The affected countries are HU-SK-RO-UA that are all recipient countries. In the summer of 2015 high level contamination issues were detected, and as a result, in January 2016 a letter was sent to Commissioner Stylianides to call attention to the salt mine. The EU Civil protection mechanism was activated in June 2015, and a second scoping mission was organized with also the aim of protecting water quality of the Tisza river. Two missions were organized: 3-8 July and advisory mission on 14 Sept-7 Oct 2016. Project ideas were created- for REVITAL 1, 2.

- Water intrusion and filling in, process is running.
- SO1- survey of the current stage-Cutting edge robot-technology will be applied for obtaining water samples.
- SO2 Based on that complex monitoring system will be designed and planned.
- SO3 strategic concept note
- So4 communication
- Applicants: Tisza European Grouping Limited Liability TISZA EGTC HU (lead)

Budget: 1,08 EUR, length: 24 months.

Connections to other projects: JOINTISZA-Joint Tisza Survey Planning

Questions/remarks:

HU PAC Mr Horváth: REVITAL I. submitted a request for LoR. As no remarks arrived to this request by the SG, PA4 will issue now a LoR. He also mentions that REVITAL targets the local issues, LIP project targets larger monitoring. LIP project also asked for LoR. He adds that there is a link with the JOINTISZA project.

AT, Mr Schwaiger: the proposal provides complex monitoring. Question is whether the programme of measures is also included? The implementation of RBMP also mentioned in HU, UA management plans? If the project is not included in the RBM, then it shows weakness.

Mr Perger: there are some open questions, connected to salt mine activities, the speleotherapy might reopen. The Tisza is a good conductor for the spill, there is no direct connection for the RBM, but all information to the next RB parts of the outputs would be used. There is a change of the RBMs and there will be a good contribution to the next plan.

DE, Mr Arzet: there is a big river basin Weser river in Germany, could be similar impacts. Klaus would see if can find contacts or EN info on this.

6.2. LIP project

Mr Perger further continues describing the currently operating Upper Tisza telemetric monitoring stations. Stations are operating since 2003 and 2 stations measure water quality. The data transfer is already in operation since 2003, with a relatively high technology. Objective is to upgrade the hydrometric stations and water quality monitoring network, to establish 14 WQM stations. Budget: 3 M EUR, lead Upper Tisza Water Authority. 24 months.

WQM IP camera system, increase stations from 4 to 20, to detect floating solid contaminations as well as ice drifts. To establish a WQ early warning system.

Questions/remarks:

AT, Mr Schwaiger: remote monitoring is a good tool to get information, good idea. But the real issue is how to ensure operation costs. Are there national funds ensuring long term operation?

Mr Perger: since 2003 the system works, and operation is ensured.

HU PAC Mr Horváth asks whether the SG can issue the LoR.

CZ already agreed to REVITAL. For LIP asks for sending short data and to complete proper procedure.

HU PAC Mr Horváth: Issue LoR for the first project REVITAL, for LIP project then will circulate information to the SG.

6.3 Project updates:

Ms Heilmann introduced progress in project JointTISZA started in January 2017. All 5 Tisza countries are involved. PA4 is involved in the project via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also to ensure involving UA experts to the project. Data collection is ongoing, the technical WPs on surface waters, water quantity issues. ICPDR recruited a new project staff to facilitate work within the project. First PR was submitted to DTP already. Transnational cooperation for Sustainable River Basin Management conference was organized. (April 11 2017). In July 2017 a Capitalization workshop side event was held at the Hydrological Society. An article was also prepared for a special Hydro Bulletin special issue.

Upcoming events: 25-27 Oct Szolnok meeting to set up an ad doc task group on climate. At the end of November 2017 there will be a back to back meeting in Bratislava.

HU PAC Mr Horváth summed up progress in relation other projects that are part of the Water Pole in the DTP capitalization process:

DanubeSediment: Technical University BU, 3,5 M EUR to improve sediment management. Info on sediment collection for all the monitoring sites. Some difficulties and some results available already.

DriDanube. 27 partners, 1,9 M EUR to manage droughts, to improve emergency response. 7-8 seminars organized already about drought management.

Camaro-D: land use impacts on water regime. AT Federal Ministry, 14 partners, 2,6 M EUR.

7 AOB:

AT, Mr Schwaiger: Would be good to discuss the PA5-PA4 project idea, to connect partners from AT.

How PA4 plans to deal with SMF projects, what will be the procedure?

Agreed that we will send in group collected the project proposals to the SG, asking for agreement to issue declaration of alignment. 2 weeks silence procedure.

DE, Mr Arzet: Germany is willing to join and participate at the meetings, please receive SG dates early and back to back. For projects difficult sometime to search for partners. Would be good to see that the Strategy is involved in preparation of RBM plans. Also, to see cooperation with ICPDR, to see how the two platforms can cooperate. Foster technical work. Next year DE will have the presidency for ICPDR, to forward for this kind of work.

HU PAC Mr Horváth: it would be good to see that countries also participate, as the last SG meeting was a bad example with very low number of countries. We have a common work with the ICPDR, we have a 3 years work programme, together with ICPDR.

PA4 HU Ms Kocsis-Kupper: the date of the current SG meeting was announced already in April at the last SG meeting.

AT, Mr Schwaiger: We need to have feedbacks from projects to the group. It would be equally interesting to see older projects results. More focus should be on concrete results of the projects.

PA4 HU Ms Kocsis-Kupper: We intend to compile project results and to have a brochure about it in the upcoming years.

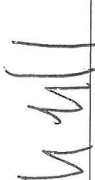




Mr Horváth thanked all members for active participation and reminded that the afternoon Stakeholder seminar starts at 13.30 PM. He also called SG members to be present at the Annual Forum, on 19 October at the Capitalization Workshop and at the Pillar B Financial Workshop.

The minutes were compiled by Ms Kocsis-Kupper.










Participant List

PA4 14TH STEERING GROUP MEETING
16-17 OCTOBER 2017.
PA4 SG meeting venue: Hungarian National Water Directorate, Márvány u. 1/c

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5.	EUSDR PA4	KOCH KUPP ZUNE	EUSDR PA4	zsuzsanna.kocsiskupp@gmail.com	








PA4 14TH STEERING GROUP MEETING

16-17 OCTOBER 2017

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PA4 14TH STEERING GROUP MEETING

16-17 OCTOBER 2017

	Country	Name	Institute	Email/Tel/Fax	Signature
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19.	GERMANY	ARZET, KLAUS	Bavarian Ministry of the Environment + Consumer Protection	Klaus.arzet@stmuv.bayern.de	

PA4 14TH STEERING GROUP MEETING

16-17 OCTOBER 2017

	Country	Name	Institute	Email/Tel/Fax	Signature
20.	HU	MR. LAJOS PERER			
21.	UA	GUSTAV CSORNA	DTP FS		<i>ayle</i>
22.	AT	MR. STANISLAV GANER	Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE		<i>St Stanislav</i>
23.					
24.					
25.					
26.					

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