

MINUTES

on the 3rd Steering Group meeting of

PA4 – To Restore and Maintain the Quality of Waters – of the EUSDR

on 4-5 June 2012, Bratislava, Slovakia

1. Objective of the meeting

The main objective of the meeting was to give information about the work done since the 2nd meeting, to discuss and approve roadmaps of the PA4 actions, to give information about the Progress implementation Report of PA4 EUSDR and other business related to the facilitating of implementation of the EUSDR.

The meeting was attended by the SG members or their substitutes of the following Danube countries AT, BG, DE, HU, RO, SK, SRB, and by the representatives of EC DG Regio, ICPDR, ISRBC, WWF Austria and GWP.

The meeting took place in the Hotel Sorea Regia, Bratislava, Slovakia, on 4-5 June 2012.

The planned SG meeting agenda was the following:

4 June

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 – 13.40	Proceedings since the 2nd meeting
13.40 – 15.00	Projects to support EUSDR implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">- new project proposals- projects with LoR Ongoing project labelling Pillar 2 Project labelling
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 18.30	Roadmaps of the Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- discussion- approval of roadmaps

5 June

9.00 – 11.30	Highlighted targets
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 – 12.40	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pillar 2 stakeholder meeting- next SG meeting (date and location)- 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 modified according to Mr. László Pergers` proposal.

New order of agenda items:

- Proceedings since the kick off meeting
- Roadmaps of the actions
- Projects to support EUSDR implementation
- Highlighted targets of PA4
- Progress implementation report on PA4 EUSDR
- Discussion
- Conclusions, closure of the meeting

3. Proceedings since the 2nd SG meeting

The 2nd SG meeting was held on 7-8 November 2011 in Budapest. The proceedings since the 2nd meeting were presented:

- 17 November 2011, Vienna - Pillar 2 PACs meeting – agreement on unified Pillar 2 project data sheet and Pillar 2 Project labelling.
- 22 November 2011, Brussels – EUSDR High Level Group meeting (together with Baltic strategy HLG) - adjusting of existing financial sources to contribute to the EUSDR implementation is needed; to increase awareness of the EUSD; strengthen cooperation among PAs and governing of the implementation process.
- January 2012 - first draft of the Roadmaps of the Actions, prepared by Action leaders (HU, SK, RO, ICPDR).
- 30-31 January 2012, Bucharest - 2nd NCPs and PACs meeting organised by DG REGIO - NCPs and PACs expressed the need of improvement of support by the EUSDR implementation (EU policy, communication between EC directorates, etc.); EC expressed the need to accelerate the implementation process of the EUSDR; macroregional strategies will be subsidized in programming period 2014-2020.
- 4 May 2012, Budapest - 3rd SG meeting of PA5.
- Participation on ICPDR meetings and promotion of EUSDR PA4 issues (17th Tisza Group meeting, 14th Ordinary Meeting, 35th RBM EG Meeting).

4. Roadmaps of the Actions

The members of SG discussed the Roadmaps of the Actions prepared by Action Leaders (HU, SK, RO and ICPDR).

The Roadmaps were finalized according to the proposals of SG members and observers during the meeting. The final versions will be uploaded to the web site of PA4.

5. Projects to support EUSDR implementation

New project proposals will be handled by written procedure according to Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the PA 4. The written procedure started on 5th June 2012, the deadline is on 19th June 2012.

Altogether 5 project proposals were submitted to SG3. The submitted five projects are the following:

Project title	Acronym	Funding
Emissions reduction of Priority Substances in the Danube Basin	PS-RED	South East Europe Programme
Hydrology Study for the Sava River Basin		EU funds National Contribution
Improvement of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Black Sea Region	ICZM	2nd Call for Proposals Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013”
Protection and Sustainable Use of Water Resources from Alluvial Aquifers in the Sava River Basin		EU funds National Contribution
Towards Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase		EU funds National Contribution

Projects with Letter of Recommendation – on the 2nd SG meeting were discussed project proposals and according to SG members decision 8 projects were labelled and the Letter of Recommendation was provided to the projects. All the 8 projects were submitted to the relevant financing programme, one to CEE, one to Life+ 2011 and six to SEE. To the date of 3rd SG meeting the final decision of LIFE + 2011 and SEE Joint Technical Secretariat is unknown, for both Programmes the decision is expected by the end of June or by the beginning of July 2012. The Project FoWaP submitted to CEE has a good ranking position, but due to the very tight budget it was not selected for financing.

Project title	Acronym
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

Pillar 2 project labelling – at the common meeting of PACs held in Vienna on 17th November 2011, it was decided that because of relevancy of many projects for more than

one PA of Pillar 2, it would be useful to have common labelling procedure. Due to this fact common Project Data Sheet was prepared and Pillar 2 project labelling drafted by PACs. The decision was postponed, since PA4 has its own and approved procedure about labelling and this is somewhat different from the proposed one. As a first step a Pillar2 PACs should agree on the final proposal, and then this one should be accepted by SG.

6. Highlighted targets of PA4

According to European Commission intention to focus the work and to communicate better the added value of Strategy a highlighted target per PA was suggested. For PA4 this one was: “Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s (by 2020)”. After discussion it was decided by SG that the highlighted Target of PA4 is: “Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan”.

It was also suggested by EC to link the Actions to the Targets. The list with the Targets and linked Actions is in the Annex of this document.

7. Progress implementation report on PA4 EUSDR

The progress implementation report on PA4 EUSDR is mainly the task of coordinators. Report will be prepared according the template prepared and send out by EC.

Table of Contents (EC Template)

- 1. OVERALL PROGRESS (with country specific inputs from SG members)
 - 1.1. State of play
 - 1.2. Process
 - 1.3. Funding
 - 1.4. Next steps
- 2. PROGRESS BY TARGET
 - 2.1. “Target”
 - 2.1.1. “Action” (by roadmap)
 - 2.1.2. “Action” (by roadmap)
 - 2.2. “Target”
- ANNEXES
 - Annex 1: Roadmaps to implement each action
 - Annex 2: Projects approved by the Steering Group

On the SG meeting the coordinators informed and it was agreed that the following country specific input will be provided by SG members:

- Information on workshops, dissemination events and similar meetings organised at national level to make EUSDR and PA4 well known – description of the most important outcomes and explicitly highlight events / discussions / results that are happening or being speeded up because of the Strategy.
- Project funding source information to be given in part 1.3 of the Report.

8. Discussion

Pillar 2 stakeholder meeting (1st Annual Stakeholder Forum) is planned as common one day meeting for Pillar 2 Priority areas (PA4, 5, 6).

Proposed agenda:

- 10:00-12:00 Plenary (welcome speeches by HL representatives and three short scientific lectures in relation to PA 4, 5 & 6)
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch (Project Exhibition in the Foyer)
- 13:00-14.30 Three parallel thematic workshops (introducing the PAs and to seek feedback from the stakeholders)
- 14.30-15:00 Coffee break
- 15:00-16.30 Thematic workshops continued
- 16.30-17:00 Concluding plenary (report on the outcome of workshops and recommendations)
- 17:00 Close of the Forum

The stakeholder meeting will be held in Budapest in the first half of September. The SG members and observers are requested to provide the dates of fixed events in September which may concur with the planned stakeholder meeting.

Next SG meeting will be held in autumn in Budapest. The date will be specified according to availability of participants (SG members and observers).

Any other business – none

9. Conclusions, closure of the meeting

Tasks to be done:

- PACs - finalize the Roadmaps of the Actions according the discussion on the meeting
- SG members - Written procedure – decision on new project proposals, deadline 19th June 2012
- SG members - provide information for report, deadline 21st June 2012
- SG members - information about occupied dates in autumn 2012 to organize the Stakeholder meeting in September 2012 without conflicting any major event, by 30th June 2012.

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PACs4

Annex: Actions linked to the Targets

Highlighted target for PA4:

Target: Achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

- Action 1: “To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan”.
- Action 3: “To continue to invest in and support the information collection systems already developed by ICPDR”.
- Action 4: “To continue boosting major investments in building and upgrading urban wastewater treatment facilities across the Danube Basin, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level for the design of such infrastructure”.
- Action 8: “To treat hazardous substances and contaminated sludge with the newest and best available technology and to develop and promote remediation measures for hazardous producing or abandoned industrial sites and waste deposits”.
- Action 9: “To assure the proper control and progressive substitution of substances that are considered problematic for Danube Region”.
- Action 11: “To promote measures to limit water abstraction”.
- Action 12: “To strengthen general awareness and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management issues in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and among the population of the Region”.
- Action 13: “To promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply”.

Target: Reduce the nutrient levels in the Danube River to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions similar to 1960s.

- Action 5: “To establish buffer strips along the rivers to retain nutrients and to promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements”.
- Action 6: “To foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address agricultural pollution”.
- Action 7: “To legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of phosphates in detergents”.

Target: Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015.

- Action 14: “To further strengthen Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practices on the Western shores of the Black Sea”.

Target: Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species.

- Action 10: “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube river basin”.

Target: Elaborate, adopt and implement the sub-basin management plans, such as Sava, Tisza and Prut sub-basins.

- Action 2: “To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level”.