

Progress

on the implementation of projects financed by EUSDR technical assistance

Project title	Supporting the Hungarian coordination of Priority Area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
Project acronym [optional]	SupWaterHU
Project number [for DSP use]	
Priority Area (PA) addressed	PA4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters”
Type of Report	Interim Progress Report
Reporting Period	1 August 2015 – 29 February 2016

1. Contacts

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2. Short summary of the project

The project contributes to the general objective of PA4 improving the quality of the waters, also of special importance in the Danube Region.

In the project period the PA4 HU team -in line with the PA4 Work Plan- will assist in project generation, partner search and identifying funding opportunities for PA4 stakeholders, including organizing and attending at funding workshops, conferences and project preparatory meetings for water projects. The PA4 HU team will continue focusing on WFD and UWWTD items and urban waste water issues in Non-EU countries, further aiming to set up successful project consortiums for the 2015-2016 calls and beyond.

The project consist of the following activities:

1. Project management, monitoring and strengthening cooperation with regional water bodies
2. Project generation, assisting in the alignment of funding
3. Preparation and further development of regional studies in the field of waste water treatment in the Danube Region, focusing on non-EU countries
4. Organization and participation of meetings and events
5. Dissemination of the achievements of the Priority Area



3. What activities have been carried out / implemented so far?

Activity 1	Project management, monitoring and strengthening cooperation with regional water bodies
Outputs	<p>The objective of the activity is to cooperate with regional water organizations with the aim of knowledge sharing, to avoid overlaps and to find areas of cooperation, such as with the ICPDR, the Sava Commission, the Global Water Partnership, the Danube Water Programme, the Carpathian Convention and the Joint Research Centre. In line with the objectives the following results have been achieved so far:</p> <p>In 2015 on the margin of the Stakeholder Seminar (19-20 November 2015, Budapest) short bilateral discussions have been held between HU-SK PACs and HU-ICPDR representatives. No specific minutes have been prepared for these events.</p> <p>Bilateral PAC meeting was organised by the Slovakian partner on the 3 February 2016 in Bratislava with the participation of the ICPDR and Sava Commission. The objective of the meeting was to sign the final report for Technical Assistance TA2, to look through the main planned events of 2016, to identify synergies and agree on possible joint activities along the main topics defined by the parties. Minutes were prepared from the event.</p> <p>Cooperation with international organisations are ensured via Steering Committee meetings and project activities. International organisations (ICPDR, Sava Commission, GWP-SEE, REC, Carpathian Convention, WWF) are effectively contribute in the work of the Steering Group. These organisations are also participating in the JOINTISZA project consortium.</p>

Activity 2	Project generation, assisting in the alignment of funding
Outputs	<p>The aim of this activity is to support water related projects, assist Stakeholders in their networking activities, and provide information about possible partner searches. The Hungarian Priority Area 4 coordination team assisted in holding project preparatory meetings and continued to provide information about financial possibilities including information on the Danube Transnational Programme, Central Europe Programme, Life Programme etc.</p> <p>Related events:</p> <p>Stakeholder Conference organised by the Hungarian partners on 19-20 November 2015, in Budapest. On 19-20 November 2015 the 2nd Stakeholder Conference of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region has been organised with more than 150 participants from 11 countries, from Danube countries as well as including the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas (priority area on 'water quality' and 'environmental risks'), to present the results achieved and to provide detailed information about funding instruments from central funds to specific territorial cooperation instruments. Furthermore, the conference offered a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and</p>

	<p>assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas.</p> <p>To promote the setting up of project consortiums the PA4 facilitated the setup of JOINTISZA project consortium as well as was strongly contributing in the development of EOI to be submitted to the Danube Transnational Programme. To facilitate the work the following preparatory meeting has been organised in the reporting period:</p> <p>17-18 September 2015, Szolnok and Budapest, Hungary – JOINTISZA project preparatory meeting</p> <p>The PA4 Team has also participated and followed the development of DANUBESEDIMENT project proposal, which has also been approved to the 2nd round to the DTP 1st Call. Project proposal Application Form development is ongoing.</p>
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Activity 3	<p>Preparation and further development of regional studies in the field of waste water treatment in the Danube Region, focusing on non-EU countries</p>
Outputs	<p>The aim of this activity is to contribute and further develop research regarding specific Priority Area actions such as a legal study on alternative collection and treatment of waste water (A5) and on phosphates (A7) assessing the situation in the EUSDR countries.</p> <p>For the update of the studies and to obtain current needs assessment concerning waste water treatment and phosphates in detergents the Priority Area HU coordination team organised Study tours to and for Non-EU countries between May- July 2015 and currently is developing the related study.</p> <p>The study – next to the outcomes of the study tours of 2015 and PA4 legal studies, developed in 2012/2013 - is aiming at to include/summarize information published in the update of the Danube River Basin Management Plan as well as to utilize the outcomes of the Danube Water Programme. The study is aiming at to be introduced in the second half of 2016. PA4 started cooperation with CEU/ISEPEI Environmental Studies Programme and worked with two interns in the spring period of 2016 to systematically check and correct/remark the previous reports for further development.</p>

Activity 4	<p>Organization and participation of meetings and events</p>
Outputs	<p>The activity aims to organise and participate on events to follow up the on-going implementation of the Strategy, discuss strategic and operational issues, solve bottlenecks of the implementation as well as to develop, evaluate and/or support new project ideas. The Hungarian coordination also participated in the organisation of regional events relevant for the Priority Area, including events organized by the EC and the DSP. The main corresponding activities/events are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PA4 experts participated on the 27-28 October 2015 JRC Annual Event and on the • Annual Forum in Ulm, Germany (29-30 October 2015) and have organised a workshop on '<i>Protecting the environment in the Danube Region: Integrated horizontal cooperation</i>'. • <i>PA4 experts actively participated in the organization and presentation in the Annual Forum workshop on Improvement and cooperation possibilities in the water sector with non-EU countries.</i> • The 10th Steering Group meeting was organised by the Slovakian partner in Bratislava, Slovakia (20 October 2015) with the active participation of the Hungarian PA4 Team. The 10th SG meeting was organised back to back with the • ICPDR RBM Expert Group meeting (21-22 October 2015, Bratislava, SK), which was highly appreciated by the SC members, country representatives. • The PA4 Hungarian Team has introduced the ongoing activities in the frame of the ICPDR OM meeting in 1-2 December 2015, Vienna, Austria. • On the 9 December 2015 Brussels, the PA4 team reported about the priority area ongoing activities to the DSP. • In 17-18 September 2015, Szolnok and Budapest, Hungary – JOINTISZA project preparatory meeting was held to facilitate the development of the Expression of Interest. Following the successful approval of the EOI the JOINTISZA project was entered to the 2nd call. (see also activity 2). • The Hungarian PA4 Team members were participating on the relevant EUSDR events such as the PAC meeting held in 14-15 January 2016 in Brussels, Belgium and the • PAC meeting organised on 8 March 2016 in Bratislava, Slovakia. • On the 3 February 2016 a PA4 PAC meeting was organised in Bratislava, Slovakia with the participation of ICPDR and Sava Commission representatives (see also activity 1). • The PA4 Hungarian Team was invited and spoke in the plenary event of EIP Water Innovation Conference in the Netherlands and in the Water and Cities workshop for water quality on 10-11 February 2016, to disseminate the work of Danube Strategy.

Activity 5	Dissemination of the activities of the Priority Area
Outputs	<p>The Priority Area 4 intends to publish dissemination documents to provide relevant stakeholders and policy-makers a clear overview on current water issues from the point of view of Danube countries. The Priority Area 4 also continues the frequent use of its new website at: http://www.danubewaterquality.eu to disseminate information. The objective is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop PA4 dissemination documents. (General PA4 leaflet, leaflet on PA4 projects, leaflet on project funding, A5 Studies in English), • to participate in international conferences to present the results of the Priority Area and as a result greater visibility and • to continuously develop/update the PA4 webpage. <p>Tasks achieved so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PA4 Hungarian Team developed a general PA4 dissemination document 'RESTORING AND MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF WATERS - Supporting activities focusing on Non-EU countries towards achieving the Danube basin wide goals'. • The PA4 Team is currently developing a brochure related to Urban waste water treatment and its situation in the Danube River Basin (working title). • The website is continuously updated with actual information. • Members of the PA4 Team participated on the EIP international conference in 10-11 February 2016 achieving high publicity as well as in the

4. Auto-evaluation

What are the lessons learnt so far?

Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide spread dissemination activities; • Successful stakeholder conference organised; • Mutual cooperation between ICPDR and Sava Commission-mutual benefits; • Strengthened cooperation with regional organisations and international organisations; commencing new connections with EIP Water and OECD. • Successful project development procedures (two main project proposal is in the DTP 2nd round)-cooperation with international and regional organisations and; • Strengthening basin wide and sub basin wide activities.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further input is needed from non-EU countries to further proceed with UWWT related study development

5. Are there any foreseeable risks for the implementation of the action?

Are there plans to improve the implementation and if so how? *(for progress report only)*

Apart from some time shift the implementation of the activities are ongoing. Time shift has happened in connection to the following activities:

- The first PA4 bilateral PAC meeting has been organised in the margin of the stakeholder meeting in October 2015, Budapest. No separate meeting has been held but short discussion was organised between the Slovakian and Hungarian partners. Separate minutes have not been prepared. The next PA4 PAC meeting was organised in February 2016.
- The 11th Steering Group meeting will be organised by the Slovakian partner in the first half of the year in May 2016, based on the agreement between the Slovakian and Hungarian partners.
- The development of the PA4 dissemination leaflets is ongoing. The general PA4 leaflet will be available in printed form from May 2016. Additional dissemination documents will be developed in the second half of the year.

The following activities will be further developed in the second part of the year:

- Leaflet, study development in the topics of UWWT and funding opportunities;
- Organisation of Stakeholder conference;
- Project proposal developments;
- Organisation of Steering Group meeting;
- Organisation bilateral PA4 PAC meeting;
- Participation in the relevant ICPDR events;
- Dissemination activities.

6. How is/was the action publicised?

Have the results been disseminated so far? How are/were the key stakeholders of the Strategy involved and informed?

Activity 5 of the project is focusing on dissemination activities. Detailed presentation of the relevant tasks is presented under point 3 Activity 5.

7. Are there any plans to follow up this project and if so, how? *(for final report only)*

Detailed information will be given in the final report of this project.