



## **EUSDR PA4 -Summary Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting 9 June 2015, Budapest, Hungary**

The main objective of the meeting was to give an overview about the on-going activities of the priority area on water quality (PA4) of the EUSDR, the ICPDR and the Sava Commission and to explore on financial options by introducing the new financial programmes, specially the Danube Transnational Programme and the LIFE Programme. Next to the introduction of financial programmes the meeting also served as a platform to introduce new project initiatives closely linked to PA4 activities and to present cooperation with several Nexus partners.

The meeting was hosted by the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management. More than thirty participants from eleven countries were presented at the meeting including seven steering group members as well. The SK and HU PAC Teams, the ICPDR Secretariat, the Sava Commission, the GWP-SEE, the Baden Württemberg Ministry of the Environment and Climate Protection and Energy Sector, the Danube Water Programme, the Szent István University and Carpathian Conventions representatives as well as project representatives were also presented at the meeting.

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr László Perger **HU PAC** welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. He introduced the meeting participants and gave the floor to Mr Frantisek Kolocany (Slovakian National Coordinator – Government of Slovakia, Department of Cross-sectional Activities) and to Mr Gabor Jenei (representative of the Hungarian National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DRS Secretary). Mr Kolocany mentioned that we are entering into a new programming period where macro-regional strategies play an important role. He further added that Slovakia will organise the Annual Forum in 2016 and one of their dedicated topic and focus will be on the protection of waters.

Mr Jenei highlighted that the Strategy gives us the opportunity to respond on common challenges via the realization of joint projects. He further noted that both the Hungarian coordination of the Danube Region Strategy and the PA4 coordinators have not just been fully supportive towards the projects, but have made concrete steps during the programming phase of the main donor Danube Transnational Programme to ensure that the most crucial water quality issues would fit in when calls will be opened.

Mr Vladimír Novák, Director General of Water Section from the Slovakian Ministry of Environment, the new PAC from Slovakia has also been introduced. Mr Vladimír Novák told that he has close cooperation with the EUSDR since the very beginning, taken into account that he was the former steering group member in Slovakia for PA1a. His aim is to strengthen the cooperation within the PA4 and he looked forward to the future cooperation with the countries.

Following the welcome notes Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper from the HU PAC Team introduced the main objectives of the separate sessions of the meeting. She noted that the EC representatives cannot be present in the meeting as the PA4 SG meeting overlaps with PA8 SG meeting in Ljubljana. Ms Kocsis-Kupper, however stressed that in the future it is important to ensure that the SG meetings are not coincide with each other to enable participation from the EC as well. She mentioned that she proposed a joint platform for common planning for PACs and SG activities to the EC to avoid situations like this. She further highlighted that DG ENV also promised participation in future SG meetings.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper gave the floor to the ICPDR and then to the SAVA Commission representatives to Mr Adam Kovacs and to Mr Samo Groselj to present their progress since the last SG meeting.



## 2. Information about the ICPDR activities

Mr Adam Kovacs introduced the main on-going activities of the ICPDR.

Mr Kovacs told that three main documents have already been finalised or published as a final or draft report:

- The Joint Danube Survey 3 final report has been published,
- The Danube River Basin District Management Plan – Update 2015 draft report has been launched for public participation process together with the
- 1st Flood Risk Management Plan for the DRB draft report.

Mr Kovacs indicated to the participants that the public participation process will be finalised by the 22 July 2015, comments are welcomed by that date.

The public consultation process has various forms such as

- comments to be directly sent to the ICPDR,
- stakeholder consultation workshop, which will be held on 2-3 July 2015 in Zagreb,
- social media campaign via GWP or
- feedback via online questionnaires available at the ICPDR homepage.

Mr Kovacs gave a detailed overview about the Danube River Basin Management Plan - Update 2015, explaining the main outcomes related to the significant pressures from organic, nutrient and hazardous substances pollution as well as the hydromorphological alterations. He also gave some examples of the measures to be jointly implemented in the Danube River Basin District.

Mr Kovacs noted that the DRBMP - Update 2015 now includes a specific chapter on JPM (Joint programme of Measures) financing and he suggested to involve PA4 HU in the further development of this chapter to harmonise the PA4 activity (brochure development) and DRBMP chapter development and also to facilitate the work from both side.

The main next steps towards the finalisation of the DRBMP were introduced as follows:

- 2-3 June 2015: Updated DRAFT DRBMP 2015 adopted at 13th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR;
- Intensified public consultation process – comments can be sent until 22 July 2015 ;
- 2-3 July 2015: Discussion at the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop (Zagreb) together with the draft Danube Flood Risk Management Plan;
- Autumn 2015: Update of the DRBMP 2015, including data update and incorporation of comments ;
- December 2015: Finalisation and adoption of DRBMP 2015 at the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR;
- 9 February 2016: Endorsement of DRBMP 2015 at the Danube Ministerial Conference.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 1**.

## 3. Information about the Sava Commission activities

Mr Samo Groselj introduced the on-going activities of the Sava Commission, mentioning about the following main achievements and on-going work:

- The 1st Sava River Basin Management Plan has been finalised and approved in the frame of the 5th meeting of the Parties on 2 December, 2014;
- The development of the update of the Sava Analysis Report has been started;
- The development of 2nd Sava RBM Plan should be started as soon as first results from the analysis reports are available. He added that the project STAWA has started thanks to the



START support and that is proposing a platform for efficient exchange of data and could be a basis for the examination of biodiversity and environmental status;

- Initial phase of the Sava GIS establishment is under process;
- On-going project activities in connection to climate change adaptation, sediment issues and sectoral interlinkages are launched;
- The Protocol on Sediment was harmonised and signature is expected in July 2015. He added that they are looking for funding measures for sediment management and implementation of the guidance.
- The Sava Commission is active in the UNECE Water Nexus and prepared a Feasibility Study for establishment of Sava Water Partnership, celebrated the Sava Day on 1 June 2015 with a cycling tour;
- Public participation processes are organised, the final workshop was held in May 2015.

More details of the presentation can be found in **Annex 2**.

#### **4. Summary of PA4 activities and work plan for the upcoming period**

Ms Heilmann (PA4) introduced the topic and gave an overview on the current achievements since the 8th Steering Group meeting also introducing the changes indicated in the workplan.

She noted that the workplan was updated prior to the SG meeting in line with the agreement made in the frame of SG8.

##### ***Management Activities***

###### *Achievements*

- Organisation of SG meetings – continuous;
- Update of the workplan and development of the PA4 yearly report (annual report - on-going);
- Organisation of meeting between PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC (19 February 2015, Budapest);
- Facilitating project proposal preparatory meetings and arranging bilateral meeting between project leader and financial program related to the sediment issues (26 May 2015 meeting organised between Sediment leaders and -DTP Joint Secretariat representatives).

##### ***Development of policy documents, technical reports, studies, databases***

###### *Achievements:*

- Joint document between PA4-PA5-ICPDR adopted in 2014;
- JDS3 technical paper published by the ICPDR;
- Examination of the biodiversity and environment status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin (START – STAWA project promoted by PA 4 SG).
- Revitalization of eutrophic waters for different degrees of pollution and the size of water areas (START – REWATER project promoted by PA 4 SG)

###### *Updates in the workplan*

- Danube Delta Analysis Report development on-going (Prolonged action Target 3 to be changed in line with the prolongation);
- The national plans for the Prut are merged into one plan, action expected to be finalised at the end of the year (prolonged action);



- The development of the 2nd ITRBMP will be incorporated into a planned Tisza project proposal – LoR will be requested as soon as the proposal is available (written procedure);
- Study development on-going in line with the agreement with the ICPDR and ISRBC as follows:
  - Study related to buffer zones will be further investigated from 2016 in harmony with the ICPDR work on the ‘Guidance Document on Agriculture’.
  - Regarding the solid waste issue it was concluded that this topic should focus first on a pilot area (e.g. Tisza River Basin) and then according to the results the issue can be further expanded if needed. The relevant Danube basin wide activities should also be taken into account.
  - The topics of P-free detergent (P-ban) and the alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements were agreed to be further investigated in the frame of the study – discussion visits. The organisation of study visits are on-going and will be organised in Non-EU countries in 2015.
  - Preliminary study on early warning water quality monitoring system has been introduced to the Tisza Group – further steps according to available funding.

### ***Workshops, Technical Events, Meetings***

#### *Achievements*

- National Tisza Office has ceremonially handed over in November 2014;
- Two ICPDR Tisza Group meetings have been organised since the last SG meeting (November 2014 and May 2015);
- Organisation of meeting between PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC (19 February 2015, Budapest);
- Sediment project proposal preparatory workshops have been organised in November 2014 and in April 2015 in Budapest;
- 8 May Brussels - PA4 actively participated at the DTP programming discussions;
- 26 May 2015 – Sediment-DTP meeting was organised;
- SK organised a conference on Water Resources Protection under the auspices of the EUSDR PA 4 in April 2015;
- World Water Day - block of presentations devoted to Danube Strategy – The PA4 was promoted by a banner placed in the room;
- PACs participation was ensured in main ICPDR EG meetings and HoD meetings and so ICPDR Secretariat representatives were invited and presented to PA 4 events (SGs, etc.) as well.

#### *Updates in the workplan*

- HYMO WS will be organised in Autumn 2015 (ICPDR);
- Workshop with ICPDR on P free ban is a pending issue. WS will happen according to the outcomes of the DRBM planning process and on-going study visits in Non-EU countries and the outlined needs.

### ***Dissemination Activities***

#### *Achievements*

- Reprint of the brochure on PA 4 activities in English. The brochure was updated, printed and distributed on Bratislava conference;



- Article to the Water Management Journal (issue May/June 2015) with the title “Conference Water Resources Protection” dealing with effective and sustainable utilization of water resources;
- Article in the Danube Watch ‘Regional efforts to restore water quality’ issue 2015/1;
- Website – new website launched in January 2015; (<http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/news> )
- Printed A4 folders for papers have been prepared.

### Next Steps:

- Development of the 4th Annual Report of PA4.
- Facilitating project proposal preparatory meetings and arranging bilateral meetings between project leader and financial program related to the Tisza issues and also related to other project proposal development.
- Organising study visits in the topic of WWTP and P-free detergents to Non-EU countries.
- Preparation for the Annual Forum.
- Development and organisation of dissemination documents and activities.
- Decision to be made about the next round of START projects.
- Organisation of the next SG meeting.

Following the introduction of the achievements and planned next steps, Ms Heilmann indicated that the targets of the PA4 have been reviewed and in general the implementation of the roadmap is on-going in line with the agreed targets. However, in case of Target 3 ‘*Elaborate a Danube Delta Analysis Report by 2013 as a step towards completion of the Delta management Plan, which shall be adopted by 2015*’ the Steering Group is requested to review the deadlines of this targets and make decision on the update of the text to be in line with the current and on-going work. Taken into account that the work is on-going and the Danube Delta Analysis Report development is in progress Ms Heilmann suggested to leave the deadlines and keep the target text without indicating date for the finalisation.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper asked the SG members whether they approve the proposal to postpone the deadline of Target 3. The Steering Group agreed with the suggestion and it was agreed that the changes will be further communicated to the high level meeting of the EUSDR.

In connection to the Annual Report Austria stressed that the draft report should be circulated to the overall Steering Group before submitting it to the European Commission. It was agreed that the PA4 will develop the document in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and then it will be circulated to the PA4 Steering Group country members. The final document will also be uploaded to the website.

Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) requested the PA4 team to send the Annual Report in due time to review (two weeks is requested to check the document).

Austria also stressed that the update work program should be presented earlier to the Steering Group to enable the members to review the document.

### Conclusions:

1. *In line with the decision of the SG target 3 will be updated and the updated text will be further communicated to the high level meeting of the EUSDR.*
2. *PA4 Team will develop the Annual Progress Report in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and will circulate it to the PA4 Steering Group country members before submitting the document to the European Commission. The final document will also be uploaded to the website.*

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 3**.



## 5. Tisza Group activities

Following the introduction of the workplan Ms Heilmann introduced the ICPDR Tisza Group related activities:

- Ceremonial hand over event of the National Tisza Office took place on the 4 November 2014, in Szolnok
- Two Tisza Group meetings have been organised since October 2014:
  - 26-27 November 2014, Szolnok, National Tisza Office, HU;
  - 12-13 May 2015, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- The meetings were organised with active contribution of the PA4 team and the National Tisza Office-Szolnok, with the involvement of the ICPDR.

The main outcomes of the discussions were the following:

- Joint updated Tisza Analysis Report (TAR) and Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan will be prepared;
- The outline of the update of Tisza Analysis Report (TAR) and Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan was discussed;
- Information on the Danube Transnational Program by EUSDR expert was presented;
- Tisza Project concept as a first steps towards the development of a project proposal to be submitted in to the Danube Transnational Program has been introduced;
- Information on the utilisation of the fund allocated by the ICPDR via EUSDR PA4 Technical Assistance budget has been discussed.
- The main outcomes of the discussions were introduced in the frame of the ICPDR STWG meeting in HoD level (resolutions).<sup>1</sup>

Austria stressed and requested that not only the Tisza River Basin but also the other sub-basin activities should be equally presented and we should keep eye on the other sub-basins as well, in particular on those shared with Non EU member states such as the Prut basin. The SG agreed with the remark, but Mr Perger PA 4 Coordinator HU emphasized that Tisza sub-basin is the biggest and the most problematic catchment in the Danube Basin in responsible of the EUSDR. The SAVA Commission manages well the SAVA sub-basin problems in high level and the Danube Delta which is the biggest wetland area of EU is also handled by Romania and his neighbouring countries in frame of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM, see later in Chapter 9) project completed at the end of this year. There is no doubt that in the near future the PA 4 Coordination shall stimulate more progress in case of the Prut sub-basin improvement which is the fourth most important catchment in the EUSDR area.

*Conclusions:*

3. *The PA4 will give additional information on the on-going sub-basin activities in the frame of the next steering group meeting.*

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<sup>1</sup>The STWG a) Took note on the steps achieved in the process of the development of the joint document of the up-dated Tisza Analysis Report and updated ITRB Management Plan; b) Took note of the draft Tisza Project Proposal Concept and asked the Tisza Group to develop a project proposal from the funds allocated via ICPDR Technical Assistance to also support the preparation of the updated ITRB Management Plan in coordination with the ICPDR Expert Groups.





## 6. PA4 Team visits in the Non-EU countries

Ms Kocsis-Kupper introduced the planned activities related to PA4 visits to non-EU countries in the topic of alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphates free detergents.

- The Roadmap of Priority Area 4 of the EUSDR contains Action 5 “To promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements” and Action 7 „to legislate at the appropriate level to limit the presence of Phosphates in detergents”.
- In 2013-2014 a legal research document analysed the situation in the Danube basin on alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements and another Study related to “Limit the presence of phosphates in detergents” for the utilization of PA4.
- As agreed by the PA4 SG the recommendations of the studies should be further developed and especially the situation of the non-EU countries should be further examined.

Planned trips: As agreed between PA4-ICPDR-Sava Commission representatives on 19 February 2015 in Budapest, study visits will be organised in 2015 in the topics of waste water treatment and phosphates in detergents.

The examined countries in the first round are:

- Bosnia-Hercegovina
- Serbia
- Ukraine

Planned outcomes of the visits

- To get an update of the country situation and specifics.
- To identify the needs and possible projects to be set up.
- To identify possible partners for waste water treatment projects, both for small settlements and also for bigger projects and to assist in looking for financial assistance.
- Based on the findings further recommendations will be made.

Next steps:

**The first study trip is organised to Sarajevo on 11 June 2015. The Bosnian contact point is Mr Bosko Kenjic, the Bosnian SG member** from the Bosnia Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations also responsible of water management issues.

- The further visit dates will be decided in the summer period. Planned joint participation with ICPDR experts.
- PA4 would like to obtain the experiences gained through other programs (DWP and BW)
- PA4 plans to communicate the results of the study visits at the next EUSDR Annual Forum in order to raise political attention on the existing challenges.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that the first study visit will be organised in 10-12 June 2015, to BiH. A background paper has been developed related to the topics based on the study of PA4, the ICPDR DRBMP as well as based on results published on the website of the Danube Water Programme. The background paper has been sent to the Bosnian experts.

The next meeting will be organised to Serbia, planned in July 2015 together with the ICPDR representative in water quality.

Ms Vranovska (SK PAC Assistant) indicated that a meeting with the Ukrainian experts will be held in September and additional meeting is planned with Moldavian experts. It would be 2 day event consisting of 1 day presentations and 1 day site visit to a waste water treatment plant or a dam. Location would be in Kosice city or other relevant location in the Eastern Slovakia. The expected number of participants from Ukraine is 3 or 4 and the same from Moldova. Actually, the number of



participants will depend on travel expenses related to pre-planned budget. Objective of the visit is to promote PA4 activities, especially focused on alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphate free detergents. Of course, the topics will be discussed and modified according to the needs of participants. The agenda of the visit will be circulated prior to the event.

Mr Jenei mentioned that the Hungarian EUSDR National Coordinator organised a bilateral meeting with the Ukrainian partners<sup>2</sup> (involving decision makers, experts and regional county leaders in the discussion process) to explore on the development needs in particular related to the area of drinking water, wastewater and solid waste management and to discuss on possible financing possibilities for Ukrainian projects fall within the scope of the EUSDR. The outcomes of this meeting should also be channelled in the final summary document of the study visits.

Mr Kovács (ICPDR) noted that in the frame of the PA4-ICPDR-ISRBC trilateral meeting (organised on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Budapest, HU) the participants discussed about possible topics to be further related to Action 5 and Action 7. Mr Kovács also stressed that two topics were agreed to be further investigated this year focusing on wastewater treatment infrastructure development and P-free detergents related policy processes in the Non-EU countries. However the EUSDR roadmap mainly focusing on wastewater treatment facilities in small rural settlements (less than 2000 PE) it was suggested to also deal with the problems of larger cities taking into account that the main challenges in Non-EU countries are linked to the non-existing or strongly perished waste water treatment facilities. The Serbian and the Croatian experts agreed to this proposal and Ms Kocsis-Kupper noted that they indeed will discuss the issues of large cities in their study visits.

In case of the P-free detergents Mr Kovács mentioned that the main question is what the political willingness of the Non-EU countries is to achieve joint DRB management objectives, and what is foreseen to be implemented in the frame of the joint programme of measures related to this topic.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 4**.

## 7. Update on financing possibilities

In the frame of this session Ms Alessandra Pala gave detailed information about the **Danube Transnational Programme** and following Ms Pala's presentation Ms Kocsis-Kupper introduced the financial possibilities offered by the LIFE program.

Ms Pala briefly introduced the Danube Transnational Programme, than she gave an overview about the priorities and specific objectives of the programme. Ms Pala also indicated the next steps in connection to the 1st call for proposal, highlighted the importance of the first strategic concept phase and she also stressed that the evaluation process timing will strongly depend on the number of submitted projects ideas (expression of interest). Ms Pala also gave positive reflection about the on-going development of the sediment project proposal; however she noted that this does not mean automatically the positive reviewing of the project proposal. Ms Kocsis-Kupper expressed PA4 appreciation for the cooperation and openness of the program representatives for offering bilateral discussions that proved to be very useful.

The full presentation about the DTP is attached in **Annex 5**.

Related to the presentation about the DTP Mr Schwaiger (AT, SG member) noted that wording of target related results 2.3 (*Better integrated plans and developed solutions to further protect and enhance the status of all waters and to ensure the sustainable, long-term use of water resources in the*

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<sup>2</sup>The meeting would be organised on 11 June 2015, in the premises of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.





*Danube region strongly interlinked with sound flood risk management*’) is restrictive and should be reconsidered. Ms Pala thanked for the note and she told that feedback will be taken into account.

Mr Schwaiger also noted that PACs and SG member’s communication during the evaluation procedure would be valuable.

Mr Kardoss (BME, Sediment project) thanked for the Danube Programme joint Secretariat for the possibility to discuss on the project framework and about technical details in the frame of a bilateral meeting, which was an important feedback to further clarify issues about the project.

Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that he was happy to hear about the positive feedback communicated by the Danube Transnational Programme on the sediment project, which is an important flagship project.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper gave a general overview on the **LIFE Programme 2014-2020**. She took specific emphasis on the Integrated projects (IPs), which tool is available for mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection.

This tool is aiming to implement Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017), in big scale including complementary actions with additional co-funding. Involvement of stakeholders is crucial. She called attention that **the deadline for submitting proposals is 1 October 2015**. The presentation about the LIFE program is attached in **Annex 6**.

Following the presentation about the LIFE programme Ms Kocsis-Kupper summarised the **START-TAF funding** EUSDR PA4 -2015 related information. The objective of START – Ms Kocsis-Kupper told, in accordance with Commission Decision C(2013) 6180 of 27.09.2013, is to “kick-start project development in the Danube Region and to facilitate the financing of transnational projects”. START is to help organisations and institutions in the Danube Region to develop and implement their project ideas with a maximum amount of 10.000-20.000 EUR, while TAF is offering expert assistance. The TAF-DRP and START Calls 2015 are Open Calls: any interested organisation in the Danube Region can download the application pack for each Call from the website of PA10: [www.danubecapacitycooperation.eu](http://www.danubecapacitycooperation.eu) and also from PA4:<http://www.danubewaterquality.eu/9-th-sg-meeting-1>.

She highlighted that there will be a short deadline for the submission of the proposals (**6th - 8th of July (until 12.00 CET) for Start and 24th -26th of June for TAF**). Ms Kocsis-Kupper highlighted that during the summer period PA4 will need to contact SG members about decision – making and that we will follow a written procedure for the voting.

There is a thematic PA4 restriction; currently the following topics are open for the START/TAF calls:

1) Integrated River Basin Management

Project objectives would focus on integrated river basin management and strengthening cooperation at sub-basin level (A2 of Roadmap).

2) Wastewater treatment

Project objectives would focus on the issue of wastewater treatment:- To 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 (A4 of the Roadmap) - To promote alternative collection and treatment of waste in small rural settlements (A5 of Roadmap)

3) Water resources protection and safeguarding of drinking water supply (A1 and A13 of Roadmap); Improvement of the retention capacity of the landscape (within A1 of the Roadmap)

Projects objectives would focus on protection of quality and quantity of water resources and retention of the water in river basin to protect the landscape against drought/flood. Both aspects will be evaluated in relation to climate change. Climate change itself is not involved in the PA4 Roadmap, but its impacts should be considered.



More information about the timeframe and eligibility criteria of the START-TAF funding is attached in **Annex 7**.

## 8. Nexus information

In the frame of the agenda item the current results and on-going activities of the Danube Water Programme (Mr Philip Weller), Global Water Partnership (Mr János Fehér) and UNEP Carpathian Convention have been introduced (Mr Harald Egerer). In the frame of the presentations the DWP, GWP-CEE and UNEP-CC representatives introduced the interlinkages of their activities with the EUSDR PA4 and explained the main outcomes results, which can be built into the on-going activities of the PA4.

Mr Weller informed the participants about the **Danube Water Programme**, which is a TA program financed by Austria (4.5M €) and other funds (2.1 M €). The programme supports water supply and sanitation (WSS) policy and utility reforms and is implemented jointly by the World Bank and IAWD. The programme itself is hosted in WB Vienna office with staff in DC and throughout region. The programme started 22 months ago.

To give a review of the sector IAWD developed 16 country reports together with a STATE of the sector summary report, all of which can be downloaded from the website Danubis.org. Mr Weller provided the country reports to the country representatives and noted that their reports complement the ICPDR data. He stressed that the operating costs recovery is causing most problems to the countries. He highlighted that 22,5 million people live in Europe without piped water and 28 million without flush toilet. He stressed the importance on capacity building and mentioned that further 6 million EUR is allocated for continuing their work in the next 3 years, until 2018. He also added that they have built an extensive network of national utilities water companies.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 8**.

Mr János Fehér's presentation (**Global Water Partnership-CEE**) was focusing on the introduction of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and other EUSDR PA4 other actions of the GWP CEE. Their Integrated Development Program structures on drought management, drought monitoring and forecasting, and to reduce drought impacts. He highlighted that their organisation is active in 10 countries and involves 40 organisations. Mr Fehér also listed the coming events and activities for 2015 and highlighted their Technical Focus Paper on integrated water resources management and the WFD in CEE: lessons learnt.

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 9**.

Mr Harald Egerer (UNEP- **Carpathian Convention**) gave an overview about the CC within his presentation and then he focused his presentation on the topic of climate change impacts on water and soil quality from a Carpathian perspective.

He mentioned that the Carpathian Convention was signed in 2003 in order to promote sustainable development in the region. They cooperate with the ICPDR on the Tisza basin and stressed that the Tisza is an important topic for them. In his presentation he mentioned that temperature increased 1,6 Celsius since the 50-ies and noted the growing likelihood of extreme weather events that would have an impact on soil quality, causing more drought. Mr Perger emphasized the nexus importance with the Carpathian Convention and asked to put into their priorities the PA 4 activities (high role of water quality management made by the PA 4 in the goals achievement of the Convention).

The overall presentation is attached in **Annex 10**.

Ms Kocsis-Kupper thanked all Nexus presenters for their involvement and participation and expressed interest for future cooperation.



## 9. Project proposals relevant from PA4 point of view

In the frame of the agenda item the PA4 related initiatives, project ideas and project proposals have been introduced. Annex 9-20 includes the presentations about the following projects:

- TISZA Project concept (Ms Diana Heilmann)– presentation is attached in **Annex 11**,
- SEDIMENTS (Mr László Kardoss)– presentation is attached in **Annex 12**,
- Iron gate (Mr Adam Kovacs) – presentation is attached in **Annex 13**,
- LOCWAT (Mr József Pelosi) – presentation is attached in **Annex 14**,
- STAWA (Mr Samo Groselj) – presentation is attached in **Annex 15**,
- REWATER (Ms Alena Kurecova) **Annex 16** and MINE WETLIFE (Ms Andrea Vranovska)– presentation is attached in **Annex 17**,
- IRRINOVATION –(Mr Szabolcs Frank) – presentation is attached in **Annex 18**,
- TANKERPORT–(Mr Prof Gyula Záray ) – presentation is attached in **Annex 19**,
- Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region (Carmen Hawkins) – presentation is attached in **Annex 20**,
- Transboundary Water Cooperation (Mr Gábor Baranyai) – presentation is attached in **Annex 21**,
- Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine (Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin) – presentation is attached in **Annex 23**,
- ICZM– Mr Michael Costache – presentation is attached in **Annex 22**.

### *Specific notes related to the projects:*

- Ms Heilmann noted that as soon as the details of project proposal for the Tisza basin activities are available a Letter of Recommendation will be requested from the Steering Group via written procedure.
- Concerning the Sediment proposal Mr Schwaiger (At) noted the development and improvement of the proposal and highlighted to be more specific for the deliverables. Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that the status of the project proposal development was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR where the Head of Delegations welcomed the significant improvements of the proposal in comparison to the former version.
- IRRINOVATION project has received a LoR in the first half of the year 2015. The proposal was submitted to the CE programme and passed the first round. Mr Frank added that the project leader is planning to expand the circle of the partners with CZ participant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the call.
- In connection to the TANKERPORT project, focusing on shipping waste, AT stressed that the project idea should be also introduced in PA1a. Monitoring activity is an added value, but ship waste collection issues are also managed and dealt within PA1a. Important to avoid overlapping procedures. Mr Kovacs (ICPDR) noted that COWANDA project also dealt with shipping waste collection with particular focus on the oily wastes. Link with the project should be set up. SK noted that COWANDA project had HU partner as well and offered providing the respective contact. It was suggested for the project to contact with the HU partner as well.
- The presentation of Ms Carmen Hawkins from Baden-Württemberg provided a great opportunity for networking. She shared their experience of exchange of knowledge and presented topics where their stakeholders would look for partners from the PA4 circles. During the breaks many interested SG members could exchange details for the sake of future possible cooperation and we agreed that in future SG meetings we look forward for BW participation and exchange of views. Mr Schwaiger (At) expressed to Baden Württemberg that we would welcome very much, if the SG will not only present projects with already well- established consortia but contribute in future to find partners for specific project ideas and to help to form



consortia in an open and transparent way, as SG members know best their national institutions and thus could provide valuable support.

- Regarding the presentation of Mr Baranyai about Transboundary Water Cooperation, the countries expressed their interest related to the final results of the study and asked the PA4 team to circulate it when it is available.
- In connection to the presentation on the development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine (Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin) Mr Jenei (representative of NC HU) highlighted again about the bilateral meeting, which was planned to be organised to explore on the development needs in particular related to the area of drinking water, wastewater and solid waste management and to discuss on possible financing possibilities for Ukrainian projects fall within the scope of the EUSDR.
- In connection to the REWATER project, Ms Kurecova introduced the project partners, objectives and activities and informed about the current status. The contract under the umbrella of PA10 should be signed in the near future and PA4 SK is helpful in communication between the project lead partner and the representatives of PA 10.
- In connection to the MINE WETLIFE project Ms Vranovska indicated that a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) will be requested from the Steering Group via written procedure. She said that this project was submitted for financing in the Central Europe Financial Mechanism (call consisting of 2 steps), already passed the formal checking and has been considered as eligible. Currently is it subject to the quality assessment. Before the end of September 2015 it will be clear whether it is invited to step 2 which will be opened from September to November 2015. The funding decision is expected at the end of February 2016.
- Finally Mr Costache provided a presentation about the Black See Coastal Zone region and their ICZM project, highlighting that the project would reach its final outcomes this year and will share the experiences with the SG members.

## **10. Upcoming events and closing of the meeting**

- Progress report: June 2015
- Stakeholder Conference: Oct 2015
- Annual Forum: Oct 2015
- Next SG meeting

Ms Kocsis-Kupper summarised the outcomes of the discussion related to the development of the annual report of the PA4 saying that PA4 Team will develop the document in close cooperation with the ICPDR and ISRBC and will circulate it to the PA4 Steering Group country members before submitting the document to the European Commission. The final document will also be uploaded to the website. The objective is to finalise the document preparation in June 2015 but the finalisation of the process will depend on the feedback from the countries as well.

Regarding the next SG meeting, Ms Vranovska said that SG10 will be organised in Bratislava in November 2015 after the Annual Forum in Ulm which can possibly be an advantage because this way all participants will be informed about it and certain issues can be discussed immediately after. There is one more option to organize the SGM 10 back to back ICPDR expert group meeting before the Annual Forum.

In connection to the Annual Forum Ms Kocsis-Kupper indicated to the SG that the suggestions of the PA4 Team has been approved and also supported by the organisers, which can be considered as a positive feedback in relation to the PA4 activities. Ms Kocsis-Kupper also noted that the proposals were agreed in the frame of the February preparatory meeting jointly with the ICPDR and ISRBC. There will be 3 workshops organised by PA4 and one exhibition. Ms Kocsis-Kupper mentioned that as



soon as the programme is officially approved, PA4 will contact experts and as one workshop topic is focusing on Non-EU countries, PA4 hopes for the cooperation and participation of Non-EU experts as well.

Mr Kovacs thanked to the PA4 Team to ensuring platform for the introduction of the DRBM Plan and the JDS 3 outcomes.

Ms Carmen Hawkins introduced the programme framework of the Annual Forum. Details about the Annual Forum programme can be found in **Annex 21**.

Regarding the Stakeholder meeting it was indicated by Mr Perger that detailed information about the meeting will only be available in August/September of the year.

Mr Perger concluded the meeting, expressed appreciation for 11 countries representation, and thanked the Slovak partners, for the ICPDR, the Sava Commission and the Nexus partners for their cooperation. He thanked for the active involvement and contribution of the Steering Group participants during the day. **He highlighted that 13 projects and proposals were presented to the SG members during the meeting and that information on relevant financial possibilities were also shared. He stressed that PA4 will continue to be active in project generation and finding funding possibilities.**

Mr Vladimír Novák SK PAC thanked for the HU PA4 team for the organisation of the meeting and he told to look forward to the coming joint activity of the Priority Area.







## Agenda

### PA4 STEERING GROUP – 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING

DATE: 9 JUNE 2015

VENUE: Directorate General of Water Management  
1012 Budapest, Márvány utca 1/c.

*Co-Chairs: László Perger and Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper*

09.00 – 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
09.30	Welcome by the Host
09.35	Welcome by Mr Gábor Jenei on behalf of Mr István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungarian National Coordinator)
09.45	Welcome by Mr Frantisek Kolocany, Slovakian National Coordinator (Government of Slovakia, Department of Cross-sectional Activities, NC of Slovakia) (Ms Andrea Vranovska)
9.55	Welcome by PACs 4 and introduction of participants
10.10	Information on ICPDR activities (Mr Adam Kovacs) Information on SAVA Commission activities (Mr Samo Groselj)
10.40	Summary of PA4 activities done since the 8th SG meeting and Activities related to the Tisza: information on the meeting of the Tisza Group (Ms Diana Heilmann)
11.00	PA4 visits to Non- EU countries in the topic of alternative waste water treatment for small settlements and phosphates (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Andrea Vranovska, Mr Adam Kovacs)
11.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.30	Update on project financing possibilities (CE, Danube OP, Horizon 2020, LIFE,), Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Ms Alessandra Pala, Danube Programme Joint Secretariat, 2nd START call (Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper)
12.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
13.40	NEXUS information and current results: cooperation with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Water Partnership (Mr János Fehér)</li> <li>• Danube Water Programme (Mr Philip Weller)</li> <li>• Carpathian Convention (Mr Harald Egerer)</li> </ul>
14.20	PROJECTS: information about project proposals and project implementation related to PA4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TISZA- Ms Diana Heilmann</li> <li>• SEDIMENTS – Mr László Kardoss</li> <li>• Iron gate – Mr Adam Kovacs</li> <li>• LOCWAT –Mr József Palocsai</li> <li>• STAWA– Mr Samo Groselj</li> <li>• REWATER- Ms Alena Kurecova</li> <li>• MINE WETLIFE -Ms Andrea Vranovska</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IRRINOVATION Mr Szabolcs Frank</li> <li>• TANKERPORT Mr Pál Hoffmann</li> <li>• Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region Ms Carmen Hawkins</li> <li>• Transboundary Water Cooperation in the EU - Mr Gábor Baranyai</li> <li>• Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine- Mr. Kadar-Mr Nagorkin</li> <li>• ICZM – Mr Michael Costache</li> </ul>
16.45	Coffee break
17.00	<p>Upcoming events and tasks discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress report: June 2015</li> <li>• Stakeholder Conference: Oct 2015</li> <li>• Annual Forum: Oct 2015</li> <li>• Next SG meeting</li> </ul>
17.30	Closing session (PACs)

**Annexes in paper copy** (The presentations were uploaded also to the website of PA4 in the same order)

- Annex 1 – ICPDR, Mr Adam Kovacs, ICPDR activities
- Annex 2 – Sava Commission, Mr Samo Groselj, Sava Commission activities
- Annex 3 – Workplan, Ms Diana Heilmann
- Annex 4- PA4 Study trips to Non-EU countries, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 5 - Danube Transnational Programme, Ms Alessandra Pala
- Annex 6 – LIFE programme, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 7 – START-TAF funding programme, Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper
- Annex 8 – Danube Water Programme, Mr Philip Weller, IAWD
- Annex 9 – GWP-CEE, Mr János Fehér
- Annex 10 – UNEP-Carpathian Convention, Mr Harald Egerer
- Annex 11 – TISZA Project concept, Ms Diana Heilmann
- Annex 12 – SEDIMENT project proposal development, Mr László Kardoss
- Annex 13 – Iron Gate, Mr Adam Kovacs
- Annex 14 – LOCWAT, Mr József Palocsai
- Annex 15 – STAWA, Mr Samo Groselj
- Annex 16 – REWATER, Ms Alena Kurecova
- Annex 17 - MINE WETLIFE, Ms Andrea Vranovska
- Annex 18 – IRRINOVATION, Mr Szabolcs Frank
- Annex 19 – TANKERPORT, Mr Pál Hoffmann
- Annex 20 – Activities of Baden-Württemberg in the area of waste water management in the Danube region, Ms Carmen Hawkins
- Annex 21 – Transboundary Water Cooperation, Mr Gábor Baranyai
- Annex 23 – Development of waste water treatment plans in Ukraine, Mr Kadar and Mr Nagorkin
- Annex 22 – ICZM – Mr Michael Costache
- Annex 24 – Annual Forum Planned Programme, Ms Carmen Hawkins