



WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Workshop Title: Improvement and cooperation possibilities in the water sector with non-EU countries

Date: 29 October 2015

Chair: Michael Ralph (DG Regio)

Keynote speaker: Milan Dimkič (Jaroslav Cerni Institute, Serbia): The water management situation of non-EU countries

Panellists / Facilitators:

1. **Samo Groselj (Sava Commission, Croatia):** Framework agreement on the Sava River Basin as an example of EU/non EU country cooperation in water management
2. **Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary):** EUSDR PA 4 actions
3. **Victor Bujac (Basin Water Management Authority, Moldova):** Water management issues, main challenges and possibilities on cooperation in Water River Basin Governance in Republic of Moldova
4. **Prvoslav Marjanovic (Jaroslav Cerni Institute, Serbia):** Serbian waste water situation
5. **Mike Nagorkin (Transcarpathian Agency for Investments, Innovations and Development, Ukraine):** Development of urban waste water treatment plants in Transcarpathian region, Ukraine
6. **Vladimír Novák (PAC 4 SK):** PA 4 challenges during the Slovak Presidency

Summary of the session

Priority Area 4 fosters the cooperation with the non-EU countries involved in Danube Region, especially in the field of waste water treatment, drinking water supply and water legislation. The topic of the workshop was chosen with regard to the importance of the issues currently connected to the cooperation with non-member states. It is very important for non EU countries to get feedback and support from the member states, mainly advisory and methodology support. In this regard this workshop was structured. Firstly the whole situation was evaluated, the concrete problems and steps were described within already performed and planned activities. At the end three non-member states shared their problems with the participants. The workshop was concluded by the coordinator of respected priority area in the light of future cooperation visions as well as the EUSDR Presidency for which the Slovak Republic will be responsible next year.

Key messages / lessons learnt

Key message of this workshop represents the constant effort in fostering, boosting and facilitating the cooperation with non-member states of the European Union. The first step is to get informed about the project ideas, project consortia and financial possibilities via attending the Steering Group meetings which take place every six months (once organized by the Slovak side and once by the Hungarian side). These meetings continuously update the information in water sector of EU and non EU countries, PA4 Road Map implementation (relevant documents and studies), ICPDR achievements and events organised. Moreover, the SG meetings, relevant PA4 occasions and events related to funding opportunities provide a unique chance for partner search, inspiration platform for project ideas and better focus on problems solving. Consequently, the non EU partners can find the appropriate partnerships easier and join the available projects.

Next steps / recommendations

The main recommendation is the constant trying to find appropriate funding instruments of the European Union for non-member states where they would be considered the eligible applicants. It is important to encourage and motivate them to get involved in the activities concerning the whole Danube Region.

Related to project preparation, the topics of the projects should reflect the needs of non EU countries. The attention shall be paid to waste water treatment and improvement of sewage system, safeguarding of drinking water supply, harmonisation of legislation and methodology with EU legislation, improvement of public awareness in water issues and, last but not least, to stimulate the states to restore/improve the water state in accordance with WFD principles.

Appendices:

- List of participants
- PPT Presentations
- Useful links / other relevant information