



**PROJECT IDEA DESCRIPTION FORM**  
**EUSDR. PILLAR 2. PRIORITY AREAS 4, 5, 6**

<b>1. Project title (long title and acronym, if any)</b>
<b>SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RIVER CORRIDORS IN SEE COUNTRIES - SEE RIVER</b>
<b>2. Main Priority Area and Action under Pillar 2 to which the project idea is to be submitted to</b>
PA 4.02 To greatly strengthen cooperation at sub-basin level
<b>3. Other Priority Areas and Actions the project is contributing to (please mention only the Priority Area no. and title of Action)</b>
As the project has a strong cross-sectoral character, it contributes to a number of other PAs and actions, among others to: PA 2.12 To develop a comprehensive action plan for the sustainable development of the hydropower generation potential of the Danube River and its tributaries (e.g. Sava, Tisza and Mura Rivers) PA 2.13 To develop and set up pre planning mechanism for the allocation of suitable areas for new hydro power projects PA 3.09 To improve planning and infrastructure for tourism PA 4.01 To implement fully the Danube River Basin Management Plan PA 4.12 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 PA 5.02 To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including "green infrastructure") PA 5.08 To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods PA 6.09 To prepare and implement transnational spatial planning and development policies for functional geographical areas (river basins, mountain ranges etc.) PA 6.15 To raise awareness of the general public, by acknowledging and promoting the potentials of natural assets as drivers of sustainable regional development
<b>A - Project description</b>
<b>4. Project relevance (Please outline the relevance and necessity from a macro-regional perspective. How does the project contribute to the implementation of the EUSDR? Maximum 1000 characters without spaces)</b>
The SEE RIVER project provides means and tools to plan, adopt and implement joint actions through development of Frameworks for integrative and sustainable management of international river corridors. The project contributes to objectives of the Danube Strategy, and to the territorial and social integration process, to cohesion and stability in SEE as it: - strives for cooperation and reaching agreements on matters of common interest between organisations from different sectors and countries with different statuses regarding the EU enlargement process, - seeks synergetic solutions for measures resulting from variety of objectives of EU directives, and - creates a multisectoral and transnational network of organisations as a platform for reaching common agreements on planning and management issues related to international river corridors, and - contributes also to the improvement of the attractiveness of the regions of the international rivers that are the focus of the project.
<b>5. Project general and specific objectives (maximum 400 characters without spaces)</b>
- to empower the stakeholders along the international SEE rivers to gain knowledge on planning and implementing decision-making processes for integrating the heterogeneous interests and objectives by developing and applying a common methodology for setting up frameworks for integrative and sustainable management of international river corridors considering diverse objectives of EU directives
<b>6. Proposed project activities and their location(s) (list main and sub-activities. maximum 800 characters without spaces)</b>
- Development of "SEE Good Practice Toolkit for Management of International River Corridors" – SEE RIVER Toolkit - application of the toolkit on the Drava River Corridor and preparation of the Drava River Framework: joint international workshops for agreement on common measures for future development of the Drava river and implementation of measures on 5 pilot areas in 5 riparian countries: IT, AT, SI, HR, HU - application of the toolkit on 5 other international rivers in SEE: Soca, Neretva, Vjosa, Prut, Tisza: international and local workshops for agreement on future cooperation in managing the 5 rivers - capacity building activities in 11 SEE countries for dissemination of the toolkit - joint action plan for future cooperation of the SEE RIVER network
<b>7. Expected results and outcomes (Please use measurable indicators, where available. Maximum 400 characters without spaces)</b>
-developed joint approach to harmonising procedures for integrating diverse objectives of river corridor management–the SEE Toolkit -1 developed river framework for integrated management of the Drava River -5 draft international river frameworks for the Soča, Neretva, Vjosa, Prut and Tisza rivers -increased capacity of administrative actors in 13 SEE countries for integrated management of rivers

<p><b>8. Target groups (Who is affected by the project results, who will use the project results? Maximum 500 characters without spaces)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- national, regional and local authorities, organisations and institutions involved in managing river corridors: spatial planning, water and flood management, nature conservation, energy utilisation, navigation, agriculture and tourism</li> <li>- bilateral and international river basin commissions</li> <li>- local communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Project timeframe (foreseen starting and ending date in mm/yy. If not available mention the duration in number of months)</b></p> <p>1. 10. 2012 - 30. 9. 2014</p>
<p><b>B- Links to other Programmes/Policies</b></p>
<p><b>11. Link with other projects or actions already undertaken (if relevant please list the project title, acronym, name of Lead Partner, status of the project: financed, under implementation, closed, planned to be submitted, etc.)</b></p> <p>In preparation of the SEE RIVER results the partnership will not reinvent, but rather build upon the experiences and results gained by partners from numerous projects finished or on-going in the area. SEE RIVER will cluster and build connections between these projects and create a common network (SEE RIVER platform) for sharing planning experiences.</p> <p>Project will use existing management and network methodologies developed through CADSES projects IPAM, PANet and GREEN BELT, upon cross-sectoral experiences from LIFE projects on Upper Drava, Upper and Inner Mura, BIOMURA, Tyrolean Lech, TISZA LIFE, DONAUUAUEN upon results of the CBC SI-AT projects DRAMURCI and TrUD and six IPA CBC HU-HR projects on Drava.</p> <p>The results of the transnational cooperation projects Danube FLOODRISK, FLOODMED, MOSES, River basin Agenda, ADAPTALP will serve as a reference for water and flood management issues addressed in the project, while the project will also use the results and approaches of projects NATREG, DANUBEPARKS, SEE HYDROPOWER, CC WATERS, EU WATER and relevant results from all other projects initiated at the last SEE call for proposals.</p> <p>On the other hand the efforts for adoption of the developed SEE RIVER International Frameworks by the political heads of the relevant countries administration will continue through the involvement of ministries and managing authorities as partners/observers. Pragmatic use of the methods and results developed is foreseen in the work of bilateral water management commissions as well as in the regional (ICPDR) and subregional (ISRBC) commissions for transboundary rivers. SEE RIVER will also use the multiplier effect of the international organisations supporting the project (ICPDR, UNESCO, WWF, ISRBC, REC, IAD, GWP) and contribute to the objectives of the EU Danube Strategy and its Action Plan.</p>
<p><b>12. Relevant international/EU directives and national legislation the project addresses (if relevant please list, e.g. Water Framework Directive, EU Biodiversity Strategy)</b></p> <p>The project addresses and is in line with the following European and national strategic, legal and sectoral acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (Floods Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Renewables Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 1992/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitat Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive)</li> <li>- Directive 1985/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU 2020 Energy Strategy</li> <li>- EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>- European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, European Commission, 2010</li> <li>- Action Plan accompanying document to the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, European Commission, 2010</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danube Declaration, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, 2010</li> <li>- Ljubljana Declaration on the Territorial Dimension of Sustainable Development, 13. CEMAT, Ljubljana, 2003</li> <li>- Vienna Declaration on the status and future of the world's large rivers, Vienna, 2011</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danube River Basin Management Plan, ICPDR, 2009</li> <li>- Sub-Basin Level Flood Action Plan, Danube River Basin District of the Republic of Slovenia, IzVRS, 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>C - Project Budget and Founding</b></p>
<p><b>13. Approximate total project budget (in EUR)</b></p> <p>2.100.000 EUR</p>
<p><b>14. Potential sources of funding (if appropriate, indicate funding programme and specific call, as well as the amount of own sources available)</b></p> <p>Programme of funding: European Territorial Cooperation - South East Europe Programme, 4th call for proposals (deadline for application: 25th November 2011; results due in July 2012)</p> <p>The Programme provides 85% cofinancing of the project activities. The remaining 15 % will be ensured by the partners' own cofinancing or national public cofinancing in the countries where the this of SEE projects is ensured.</p>

<b>D - Partnership and Contact</b>
<b>15. Proposed Lead Partner (Responsible institution/body)</b>
Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije/Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia
<b>16. Contact details of responsible person (Letter of Recommendation shall be sent to)</b>
<p>dr. Aleš Bizjak  Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije  Hajdrihova 28 c  SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia</p> <p>E-mail: ales.bizjak@izvrs.si</p> <p>Telephone: + 386 (0)1 47 75 333  Mobile: + 386 (0) 41 367 297  Fax: + 386 (0)1 42 64 162</p>
<b>17. Project Partners (Name and country, Status committed to be involved / already involved)</b>
<p><b>CONFIRMED PARTNERS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Slovenia</li> <li>2. Soča Valley Development Centre, Slovenia</li> <li>3. Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria</li> <li>4. Regional Government of Carinthia, Department 8 - Environment, Water and Nature Protection, Subdivision Flood Protection, Austria</li> <li>5. VITUKI Environmental and Water Management Research Institute Non-profit Ltd., Hungary</li> <li>6. South-Transdanubian Environment Protection and Water Management Directorate, Hungary</li> <li>7. Autonomous Province of Bolzano - South Tyrol, Department of Hydraulic Engineering, Italy</li> <li>8. Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Slovakia</li> <li>9. National Administration "Romanian Waters", Romania</li> <li>10. Institute for spatial planning of the Koprivnica-Križevci County, Croatia</li> <li>11. Croatian Waters, Croatia</li> <li>12. State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatia</li> <li>13. Jaroslav Cerni Institute for the Development of Water Resources, Serbia</li> <li>14. Hydro Engineering Institute Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>15. Albanian Geological Survey, Albania</li> </ol> <p><b>CONFIRMED ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC PARTNERS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia</li> <li>17. World Wide Fund for Nature Austria, Austria</li> </ol> <p><b>CONFIRMED OBSERVERS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Austria</li> <li>19. International Sava River Basin Commission, Croatia</li> <li>20. UNESCO Venice Office - Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Italy</li> <li>21. Drava Power Plants Maribor, Slovenia</li> <li>22. Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria</li> <li>23. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania</li> </ol>
<b>18. Project Partner wanted (please specify type and country / region of partners you are looking for)</b>
As the partnership is broad and complex, covering horizontal issues, the formal partnership is adequate as we want to ensure that the project is manageable in order to run smoothly. However, additional organisations are always welcome to join our informal network of partners.

#### E - Closing remarks

19. Any other information considered relevant (e.g. information on predecessor project, resubmissions and reasons for rejection, status of project development, information on project meetings, public relations, involvement of policy making bodies etc.)

The SEE RIVER project was first initiated through the LIFE project "Life vein Upper Drau River" at the end of which the Drava River Vision Declaration was signed by the 5 riparian countries' Heads of Delegations to ICPDR. Over 130 participants, including representatives of eleven partners that are part of the SEE RIVER project, were present at the Symposium where they agreed on ten objectives as priorities for the future to secure the values and ecological functions of the Drava River basin. The SEE RIVER project was therefore first initiated on the basis of identified common problems and moreover on expressed common vision for the future. Some of the key actors involved in Symposium are also initiators and supporters of the complementary action, the proposed 5-country Trans-Boundary Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube", supported by UNESCO. Through meetings, presentations at conferences and in discussions on the administrative and expert level it was decided that the above mentioned efforts are to be formulated and agreed within a project called SNAPA – Sustainable Integrated Management of Protected Areas and Natural Assets along International River Corridors by establishing frameworks for integrative and sustainable management of the protected areas and natural assets along the Drava River corridor. Moreover the need for similar frameworks also on other international rivers was identified. Due to great interest for the project also from non-Drava countries, the SNAPA toolkit as the best practice methodology for setting up a common Framework was added to the project design.

The SNAPA project was applied under the 2nd call of proposals of the South East Europe programme. It passed through the first application stage where it was selected among over 600 project proposals and one of 60 proposals most relevant for the SEE programme. The evaluation of the project confirmed the relevance of the topic and the partnership for tackling this issue in the SEE region.

Due to a technical issue regarding the funding of the partners from IPA countries the project was not selected for funding, but encouraged by the SEE programme and its representatives in partner countries to re-apply to the 4th call of proposals.

Following the revision of the project and based on policy developments as well as on recommendations from the SEE programme it was decided to shift the focus of the project to focus not only on management of protected areas and natural assets along river corridors, but to managing the river corridors in general, as the parts of river basins with the highest concentration of diverse pressures, keeping the cross-sectoral approach aiming at reaching agreements on future development of international river corridors.

The preparation of the revised project followed immediately after receiving the results of the 2nd call in December. All partners of the SNAPA project, including the international organisations participating as observers (ICPDR, UNESCO, ISRBC) confirmed their participation in the new project proposal SEE RIVER.

Since then the project has been revised and promoted at relevant events and gained wider international support. It was presented, among others, on following occasions:

- SEE Programme Conference, Ljubljana, April 2011: Presentation of the SEE River project proposal
- Bilateral Slovenian – Austrian Drava River Commission for Water Management Issues, May 2011: Presentation of the SEE River project proposal
- SEE Programme Joint Technical Secretariat Budapest, June 2011: Presentation and consultation of the SEE River project proposal
- SEE Programme National Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, September 2011: Presentation of the SEE River project proposal
- ICPDR RBM EG meeting in Belgrade, October 2011.

In the beginning of October the project was once more presented to the JTS in Budapest. The feedback was that the project is very well structured, relevant and has a strong and relevant partnership to perform the foreseen tasks.

The relevance of the project for the SEE area is reflected in the partnership. The project is supported by most relevant international organisations in the field, by ministries and national or regional policy making and implementing institutions. Through finding synergies between different EU policies the SEE the project was acknowledged to contribute to the sustainable development of the region and is also in line with the purposes of the Danube Strategy under development.