



Balázs Horváth  
EUSDR PA4 coordinator

EUSDR Priority Area 4 „Water Quality”  
Steering Committee Meeting  
26 May 2020



**DANUBE REGION**  
**strategy**  
Water Quality

**PA4 Action Plan revision  
and embedding**



# Why EUSDR Action Plans revised?



- EUSDR targets revised in 2016 but Action Plan remained the one of 2010 – priorities evolve, Actions and Projects need to be updated, transformed or replaced. Action Plan is “rolling” and should be regularly reviewed in light of new, emerging needs and changing contexts
- The EUSDR implementation to be enhanced: **political commitment** and development of **joint transnational projects**
- Re-boosting the EUSDR **politically** and **involving non-EU countries** more strongly
- Emphasis on **monitoring** in order to be able to assess how well the planned objectives have been met. This requires more clearly defined indicators and targets better linked to the Action Plan
- Multiannual Financial Framework and cohesion policy legislative package **post-2020** under discussion, revision of EUSDR Action Plan should take them into account to align the priorities of the Strategy to EU policies

Challenges for the next 10 years: discussion in a common session of ICPDR  
RBM EG and EUSDR PA4 SG in October 2018

# EUSDR new Action Plan adopted!



Brussels, 6.4.2020  
SWD(2020) 59 final

**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**ACTION PLAN**

replacing Staff Working Document SEC(2010) 1489 final accompanying the

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**  
European Union Strategy for Danube Region



# New EUSDR PA4 Action Plan (I)



General objective: realisation of integrated river basin management measures in the Danube Region in line with the EU Water Framework Directive and with the International Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) in order to save human health and freshwater ecosystems. Contribute to the implementation of the DRBMP and its Joint Programme of Measures based on the "Joint PA4-PA5-ICPDR Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation" for the development of the Danube Region.

# New EUSDR PA4 Action Plan (II)



## **Action 1: HAZARDOUS & EMERGING SUBSTANCES: Promote monitoring, prevention and reduction of water pollution deriving from hazardous and emerging substances (EU priority substances and watch list candidates as well as Danube basin specific pollutants candidates and others e.g. microplastics-plastics, pharmaceuticals, PFOS)**

- Close knowledge gaps on monitoring of hazardous and emerging substances in surface waters, biota and sediment
- Determine sources and pathways of hazardous and emerging substances emissions
- Quantify water emissions and loads
- Implement prevention and mitigation measures including a more comprehensive evaluation of measures efficiency
- Contribute to capacity building in monitoring, modelling and management of hazardous substances pollution
- Contribute to improved quality of sediments

## **Action 2: WASTE WATER: Continue boosting major investments in building, upgrading, maintaining and rehabilitating urban wastewater treatment facilities and promote alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level across the Danube basin**

- Identify means to finance infrastructure projects especially in EU Member States that have joined after 2007 and non-EU countries
- Focus on investments in maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure
- Enhance and disseminate knowledge on wastewater treatment technologies also considering emerging substances
- Assist in strengthening capacity at national and local administration level as well as at utility level to improve financing, operation and technology of the wastewater infrastructure and services
- promote alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level

# New EUSDR PA4 Action Plan (IV)



## **Action 3: WATER & AGRICULTURE: Promote prevention and reduction of diffuse pollution, promote nutrient retention, smart irrigation and water reuse, 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 diffuse pollution and ensure smart water use**

- Decouple pollution and water scarcity from agricultural development
- Improve water demand management in agriculture by smart irrigation and water reuse in order to reduce water abstraction needs
- Make agro-environmental measures more attractive
- Provide appropriate information on modern technologies and tools to improve agricultural practices
- **Promote good agricultural practices in nutrient management according to the Nitrates Directive (Council Directive 91/676/EEC) and Water Framework Directive**
- Close knowledge gaps on measures efficiency
- Raise awareness related to the link between agricultural practices, water and soil quality and biodiversity
- **Promote links with Air Quality Plans and National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCPs, mandatory under NECD) to make authorities and stakeholders understand how the described measures for water and agriculture can also help to improve air quality**
- Contribute to EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) national strategic plans

## **Action 4: DRINKING WATER: Promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits related to protecting water resources and safeguarding drinking water supply**

- Contribute to resource efficiency and encourage deliberate and effective water consumption and a water saving culture by the civil and industrial consumers
- Raise public awareness towards the environment friendly, economic, efficient and safe water uses as well as strengthening the environmental consciousness of the public using social media, information materials and targeted guidance documents
- Promote water protection and pollution reduction from the source to tap, according to the proposed revision of the Drinking Water Directive
- Ensure safe drinking water supply via water quality early warning and safeguard zones. **Increase the resilience of society and water supply systems against droughts by means of stimulating investments in alternative water sources and smart grids (i.e. linking networks of water providers), and enhancing planning of water availability (i.e. with reservoirs filling plans)**



## Action 5: MIGRATORY FISH: Promote measures to enable fish migration in the Danube river basin

- Raise broad public awareness and political commitment for the Danube sturgeons as flagship species for the Danube River basin and for the ecosystems and biodiversity of the Danube River basin as a whole
- Foster sturgeon conservation activities including protection of habitats, restoration of fish migration routes and ex-situ conservation measures
- Close knowledge gaps concerning monitoring of pressures and planning of measures for fish migration **in coordination with PA 6 (Action 3)**

## Action 6: CLIMATE CHANGE: Promote measures to adapt to climate change impacts in relation to water quality and quantity

- Implement water quality measures of the ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.
- Promote **concrete** measures to control water abstraction and groundwater overexploitation
- Promote the establishment and maintenance of green infrastructure and natural water retention measures (NWRMs)
- Promote water related measures in urban planning
- Raise **farmers' and public** awareness about the importance of soil moisture and soil water retention capacity in soil fertility under changing climate conditions

# New EUSDR PA4 Action Plan (VIII)



## **Action 7: TOOLS: Enhance cooperation, increase and exchange knowledge and secure financing to water quality measures in the Danube Region**

- Ensure active involvement of and dialogue with all stakeholders
  - with national and regional, urban and rural decision makers, public authorities;
  - with sectors (agriculture, industry, mining, hydropower, navigation, **nature/biodiversity conservation** etc.);
  - with the general public including awareness raising and education
- Strengthen territorial cooperation at different levels
  - at EU level and with non-EU countries taking into account the regional differences;
  - with other macro-regional strategies;
  - at EUSDR level with other PAs, especially with PA 1a on inland navigation, PA 5 on environmental risks, PA 6 on biodiversity and PA7 on education;
  - at Danube level with ICPDR based on the "Joint PA4-PA5-ICPDR Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation" by contributing to the implementation of DRBMP and its JPM;
  - at sub-basin level considering Danube tributaries (e.g. Sava, Prut, Tisza);
  - at river section level (upstream, middle, downstream, Danube Delta);
  - at Operational Programme level;
  - at trans-boundary project level with targeted result collection, capitalisation, enhancing synergies;
  - including surface and groundwater as well as Marine coastal zones (impacts on Black Sea)
  - with other international commissions and organization related to water protection, e.g. Global Water Partnership and Carpathian Convention
- Continue to support ICPDR in further developing water information systems in the Danube Region
- Strengthen and facilitate exchange of good practice in integrated water management implementation in the Danube Basin among decision-makers at all levels and all sectors
- Identify transboundary funds, which could finance and invest in measures outlined in the joint programme
- Collect information on water related financing needs
- **Ensure consideration of climate change in planning and measures**

# EUSDR PA4 Embedding



- After the adoption of the new AP, the next step is embedding the new Actions into the post-2020 EU funding programmes
- The first step in the process: PAs identified max. 3 Actions to be included into the embedding process. Criteria for selection was given by the EUSDR HR Pres
- The 3 Actions chosen by the PA4 SG:
  1. Hazardous and emerging substances – waste water;
  2. Water and agriculture;
  3. Climate change
- PACs worked out the 3 proposals in more detail based on the template provided and after agreement sent it back to HR Pres, DTP and DSP by 4 May 2020.
- Next steps:
  - NCs in agreement with the PACs approve the shortlist of strategic topics
  - NCs are asked to convene meetings in their countries as soon as possible with the managing authorities responsible for the strategic planning and programming of the ESI/IPA/NDICI funds and other relevant stakeholders
  - Raising awareness on national level



Thank you for your attention!

<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/>

<https://www.danube-region.eu/>