

INVITATION

to the **international workshop** organized within the
EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Priority Area 4 “Water Quality”

Securing Drinking Water Supply

***as platform for knowledge and best practice sharing related to implementation
of Drinking Water Directive (EU) 2020/2184 in the Danube Region***

Venue: Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Vedecký park
(Comenius University Science Park)

Date: 22 November 2023

Rationale

The **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011 for the purpose of sustainable development of the Danube Region. It comprises 12 Priority Areas covering the needs of the whole Danube Region, e.g. mobility, energy, tourism, water, environment, knowledge, building capacities. EUSDR has four pillars. Priority Area 4 (Water Quality) is grouped with PA 5 (Environmental Risks) and PA 6 (Biodiversity) in Pillar 2 (Protecting the Environment).

According to the revised EUSDR Action Plan (SWD(2020)59) of 06.04.2020, **Priority Area 4 “Water Quality”** is implementing action 4 “Drinking water”, i.e. promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits related to protecting water resources and safeguarding drinking water supply.

A transparent legal framework for EU Member States to address the quality of water intended for human consumption was previously established by Directive 98/83/EC. In 2015, its Annexes II and III were amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1787 of 6.10.2015, which for the first time mentions a risk-based approach. In response to the European Citizens' Initiative on the Right to Water (the "Right2Water" initiative), a "new" Drinking Water Directive was adopted - **Directive (EU) 2020/2184** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 **on the quality of water intended for human consumption**.

The Directive sets out minimum drinking water quality requirements that must be met. Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that it is free from micro-organisms and parasites and from any substances whose number or concentration could, in certain cases, pose a potential danger to human health. Based on a review of drinking water requirements in the past, four areas for improvement have been identified, namely (i) the list of quality-based parametric values, (ii) the limited reliance on a risk-based approach, (iii) the imprecise provisions on consumer information, and (iv) the disparities between approval systems for materials that come into contact with water intended for human consumption and the implications such disparities have for human health. In addition, the Right2Water initiative identified as a distinct problem the fact that part of the population, in particular marginalised



groups, has no access to water intended for human consumption, and providing such access is a commitment under Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new Directive currently pursues the same objective, namely to improve access to drinking water for all in the Union.

The new Drinking Water Directive promotes a *comprehensive risk-based approach* to water safety (first introduced as a 'voluntary instrument' in EU Directive 2015/1787), covering the entire supply chain from catchment areas, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution to the point of use at the consumer's tap. Risk assessment and management in catchment areas for abstraction points should focus on reducing the need to treat 'raw' water for human consumption.

Risk management is a systematic process that includes:

- a) Risk analysis (identifies the likelihood of occurrence and severity of adverse consequences of hazardous events),
- b) risk assessment and evaluation (determines the level of risks and the measures to mitigate or eliminate them),
- c) risk management (establishes and monitors measures to mitigate or eliminate unacceptable risks)

Risk management for the water supply chain consists of risk management in:

1. Catchment areas (for abstraction points),
2. Supply system risk management (from the point of abstraction, water transport, treatment, storage and distribution of drinking water),
3. Domestic distribution systems, with a particular focus on priority areas - especially large areas used by the public.

This approach requires a continuous exchange of information among competent authorities, water suppliers as well as other actors involved in the supply process and it should be harmonised with Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive - WFD), also taking into account the impact of climate change on water resources.

Purpose

Sharing experience, knowledge and best practices on implementation of the new approach in drinking water safeguarding at national level of countries in the Danube Region, e.g. risk management in catchment areas, preparation and implementation of Water Safety Plans, the approach of the new parameters monitoring in raw water or drinking water.

Organizer

EUSDR SK Priority Area 4 "Water Quality" Coordination team – the Water Research Institute together with the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Target Groups

Water providers, academic and research sector, policy makers, international water related bodies and stakeholders involved in water management of the Danube Region countries.

Workshop languages: English/Slovak

Agenda

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

Opening session

9.30 – 9.40 Welcome of participants, introductory speech of the organizer:

- National EUSDR Coordinator SK (Michal Blaško)
- EUSDR PA4 Coordinators (Danka Thalmeinerová, Marton Pesel)

Session 1: Setting the scene – Drinking Water Directive

Strategic approach to preparation of **Directive (EU) 2020/2184** on the quality of water intended for human consumption

Keynote presentation:

9.40 – 10.00 Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE: Protocol on Water and Health as a tool to facilitate implementation of the EU Directives

Setting the Scene:

10.00 – 10.20 Ľudmila Strelková, Slovak Republic: Process of Drinking Water Directive implementation in Slovakia – 1st part

10.20 – 10.40 Zuzana Valovičová, Slovak Republic: Process of Drinking Water Directive implementation in Slovakia – 2nd part

10.40 – 11.00 Dragana Jovanovic, Serbia: Transposition of the EU Directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption in Serbia: exciting practice and challenges

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Risk management in catchment areas

Sharing experience on national approaches to risk assessment and evaluation in catchment areas for water abstraction points for human consumption, including risk identification, assessment and evaluation, and the implementation and monitoring of risk management measures

11.30 – 11.45 Hana Prchalová, Lucie Jašíková, Petr Vyskoč, Czech Republic: Risk analysis of the catchment areas in the Czech Republic

11.45 – 12.00 Christina Lippitsch, Konrad Stania, Austria: Austrian experience with the new Drinking Water Directive

12.00 – 12.15 Lea Petrová, Czech Republic: Protected areas of water sources in Czech Republic

12.15 – 12.30 Katarína Tarabová, Anna Patschová, Anna Vajíčeková, Karol Munka, Michal Kunštek, Slovak Republic: Safeguarding groundwater intended for human consumption in Slovakia

12.30 – 13.00 Discussion

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break****Session 3: Water Safety Plans (WSP)**

Exchange of knowledge in the preparation and implementation of WSPs

14.00 – 14.15 Magdalena Ujević Bošnjak, Croatia: Preparation and implementation of WSPs: examples from Croatia

14.15 – 14.30 Zsuzsanna Bufa-Dórr, Hungary: Hungarian approach to the development and auditing of the WSPs

14.30 – 14.45 Ioan Chirilă, Romania: Legislative framework for Water Safety Plan in Romania

14.45 – 15.00 Discussion

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break**Session 4: Best practice examples**

Best practice examples on availability and access to drinking water; monitoring, analysis and assessment of new indicators (microbial, chemical, radiological) in raw/drinking water and responsibility for compliance with limits (at national level, water suppliers, etc.)

15.15 – 15.30 Milada Syčová, Slovak Republic: Verification of the quality of materials in contact with drinking water in Slovakia

15.30 – 15.45 Tibor Burger, Slovak Republic: Water should not be aggressive or corrosive - different ways of water aggressiveness assessment

15.45 – 16.00 Bálint Izsák, Hungary: Monitoring scheme and preliminary results for new parameters in Hungary

16.00 – 16.15 Jarmila Makoviská, Štefánia Vizslaiová, Martina Kudlová, Janka Rosenbergerová, Pavol Mikula, Slovak Republic: Surface water monitoring with regard to water treatment for human consumption

16.15 – 16.45 Discussion

Closing session

16.45 – 17.00 EUSDR PA4 Coordinators

Moderated by: Danka Thalmeinerová, Andrea Vranovská

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. Transport

When you arrive at the Bratislava airport

You can use a taxi or the bus line 61 (direction Hlavná stanica) takes you to the bus stop Trnavské mýto where you take the tram 4 (direction Dúbravka) or 9 (direction Karlova Ves). You get off at the tram stop Botanická záhrada.

When you arrive at the Vienna airport

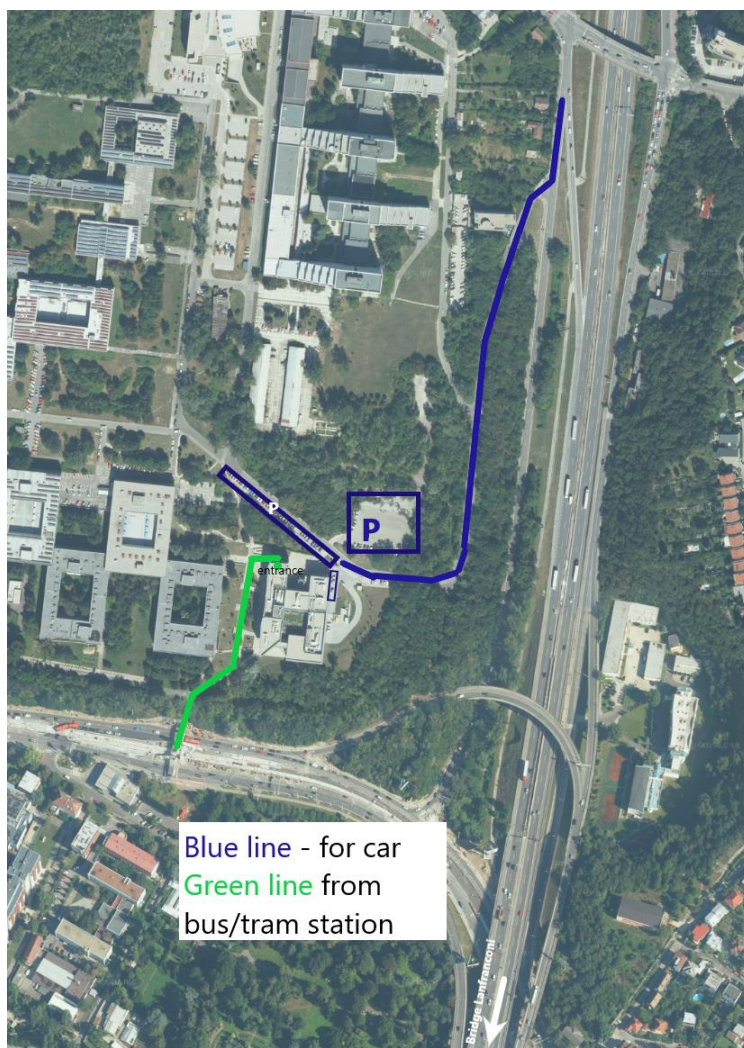
You get on the bus Slovak Lines, Flix Bus or Regio Jet to Bratislava and get off at the bus stop Most SNP. Then take the tram 4 (direction Dúbravka) and get off at the tram stop Botanická záhrada

When you arrive by train (Bratislava Main Train Station Hlavná stanica)

You get on the bus 32 (direction Dlhé diely) which takes you directly to the bus stop Botanická záhrada.

When you come by car:

Reaching the venue, there is a parking place nearby, see map below.



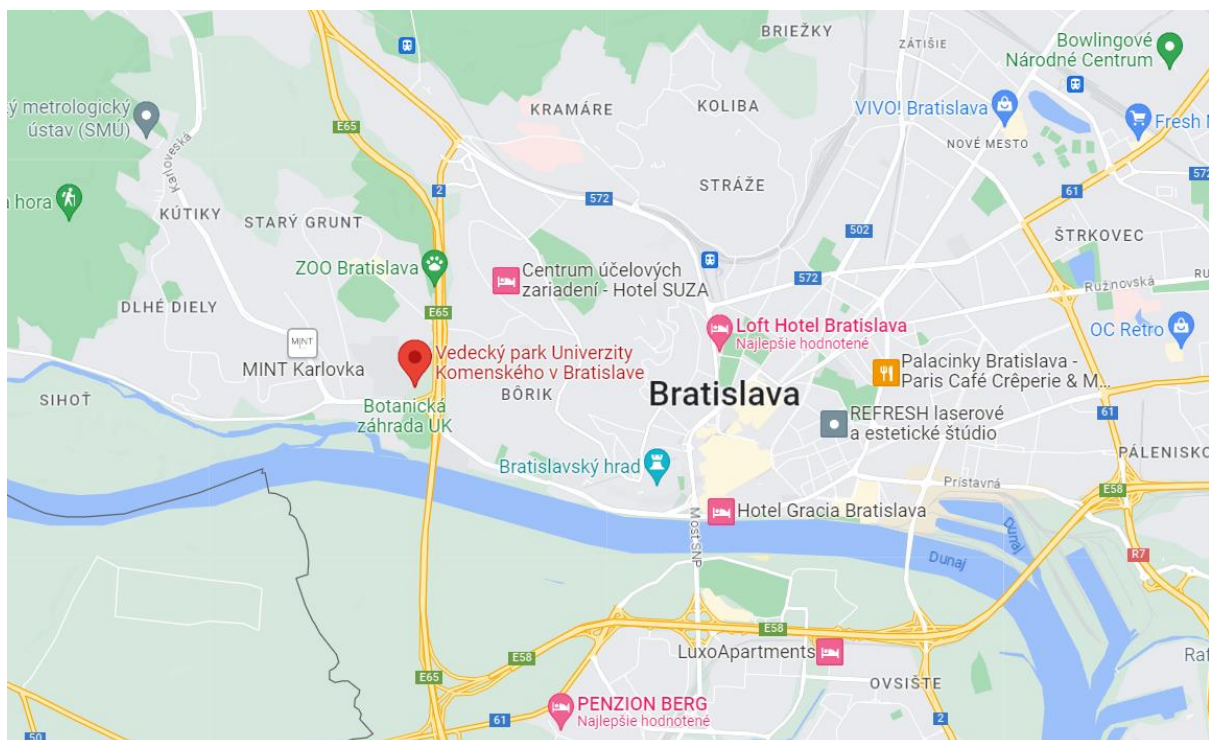
2. Venue and accommodation

Venue:

**Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Vedecký park
(Comenius University Science Park)
Ilkovičova 8
841 04 Bratislava**

GPS:48.149363, 17.073762

<https://cusp.uniba.sk/en/contacts/>



Accommodation:

[City Hotel Bratislava](#) | [Falkensteiner Hotel Bratislava](#)

[Hotel in Bratislava - ibis Bratislava Centrum - ALL - ALL \(accor.com\)](#)

[Crowne Plaza Bratislava \(cpbratislava.sk\)](#)

<https://hoteltatra.sk/en/>

[Hotel **** SOREA REGIA | Sorea](#)