



# PRIORITY AREA 4



# WATER QUALITY

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS



## Cooperation with IAWD

- DSP assisted a joint meeting on 19/12/2023 to initiate discussion
- PA4 prepared the draft cooperation document in January 2024
- Memorandum of Understanding with International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River (IAWD) was signed in March 2024
- Partners met at the National Participation Day in Vienna on 9 April 2024
- Agreed to inform each other about main events and cooperate, invite each other to the meetings
- Make it rain - water utility financing in the Danube region, IAWD webinar, 13/03/2024)



## Activities since the last SG meeting (1)

### PA4 coordination, cooperation and reporting

- PAC4 DRP Progress Report – 15/01/2024
- Progress and achievements of the EUSDR Priority Areas 2022-2023 - monitoring report (04/2024)
- Trilateral meeting (29/02/2024) – Bratislava
- EUSDR Joint Meeting of NCs and PACs (29-30/01/2024) - Vienna
- Focus group meeting of PA4, PA5 and PA6, DSP capacity building, 5/4/2024, online
- Information day on Seed Money Facility DRP call, online (7/12/2023)
- 59th RBM Expert Group Meeting, 25-26/04/2024, Timisoara (online participation)



### WWT

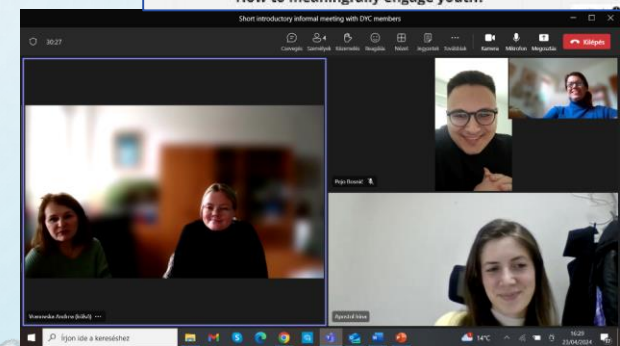
- The last mile: Rural water services delivery in the Danube region, workshop, 17-18/04/2024, Vienna (general introduction+ presentation of approaches to rural water services provision at national level (AT, HR, CZ, RO, Latin America )



## Activities since the last SG meeting (2)

### Youth

- Meeting - *Meaningful youth engagement in the Danube region and beyond: Best practices from organizations, key capacities for youth to bring to the 10th World Water Forum*, online, organised by Luca Jendrek (7/12/2023) <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/meaningful-youth-engagement-in-the-danube-region-webinar-7-december-2023/>
- Questionnaire on PACs with NYC members
- Coordination Meeting on future financing of the NYC, 17/04/2024, online – extension of the mandate of the first-generation NYC members until 2025 endorsed
- Informal introductory meeting with new NYC for PA4 – Irina Apostol (MD) and Pejo Bosnic (BiH), 23/04/2024, online



### Climate Change

- 3rd National Participation day – Austria: Waters 2040, 9/4/2024 Vienna



## Activities since the last SG meeting (3)

### Migratory Fish

- DSTF General Assembly (23-24/01/2024) – Munich/online
- Stakeholder workshop – WePass2 project; engaging stakeholders for input and discussion on the latest Progress, 15/5/2024, Vienna
- Working meeting - From Iron Gates to Gabčíkovo Water Structure, 16/5/2024, Bratislava

#### Session 1: Fish migration from international perspective

ICPDR activities towards fish migration conservation (*Edith Hödl, ICPDR*)

Activities and future vision of Danube Sturgeon Task Force (*Peter Gammeltoft, EUSDR PA6 DSTF*)

#### Session 2: Iron Gates – state of play for fishpass design

Update on the WePass2 project – moving from options to the preliminary design (*Marq Redeker, CDM Smith*)

Wrap up of the We Pass 2 Stakeholder Workshop from 15 May 2024 (*Edith Hödl, ICPDR*)

Iron Gates – state of play for fishpass design from Romanian viewpoint (*Gheorghe Constantin, Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, Romania*)

#### Session 3: Gabčíkovo – state of play for fishpass design

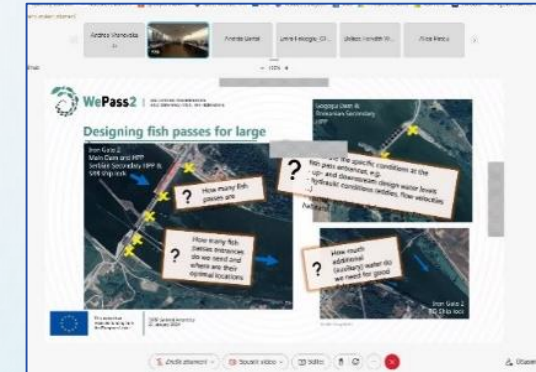
Activities and plans within LIFE Living Rivers project (*Katarina Mravcova, Water Research Institute, Slovakia*)

Plans of fish pass construction in Čuňovo (*Karol Kažimír, Water Construction, Slovakia*)

Dunakiliti in context of "We Pass" Iron Gates (*Miklós Pannonhalmi, North-Transdanubian Water Directorate in Győr, Hungary*)

Importance of fish conservation and connectivity restoration from biological viewpoint (*Maroš Kubala, Water Research Institute, Slovakia*)

Monitoring of migratory fishes in the SK-HU part of the Danube within integrated LIFE project Living Rivers: sterlet as an umbrella species (*Borek Drozd, University of South Bohemia České Budějovice, Czech Republic*)



## Working meeting - From Iron Gates to Gabčíkovo Water Structure

- Organised by EUSDR PA4 and LIFE Living Rivers back-to-back WePass 2 Stakeholder Workshop (Vienna, 15 May 2024)
- Held on 16 May 2024, Water Research Institute, Bratislava
- Purpose - transfer of knowledge and share relevant information on migratory fish species restoration in the middle and upper Danube; look for synergies of investigation results and technical designs of fish passes in Iron Gates and Gabčíkovo Water Structure.
- 36 participants from international organisations (ICPDR, WWF, DSTF) and experts from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- The participants highly appreciated open discussion and the achievements, which were taken towards protection of living conditions for migratory fish, especially sturgeons as flagship species of the Danube river.



# EUSDR Presidency

**EUSDR Austrian Presidency** (Nov2023/Dec2024)

## **Shaping Transformation, Creating Opportunities: A Prosperous, Resilient and Secure Danube Region**

### **Thematic priorities:**

- 1) Contributing to **Stability and Security**, and a clear European Perspective for the whole Danube Region
- 2) Fostering **Innovation, Skills and Business Opportunities** in the Danube Region
- 3) Enhancing the Danube Region **Ecosystem, Water and Green Transition** Management

### **Institutional and governance objectives:**

- 1) Strengthening **political commitment and broad ownership of EUSDR**, by involving Danube Region stakeholders in a comprehensive way
- 2) Continuing joint efforts to enable **tangible funding opportunities**
- 3) Illustrating the **clear added value of the EUSDR** at local, regional, national and European levels and ensure **visibility**, i.a. by highlighting **Danube Strategy Flagships and Danube Region Programme (DRP) projects**

## Planned PA4 activities/news/events

### To be organised by PA4:

- **PA4 event – EUSDR Annual Forum** (20-21 June 2024)
- **Brochure on water reuse** to be prepared in June 2024
- **Sludge utilization options:** study to be prepared in summer 2024
- **Summer school or other youth event**
- **Planned online event with PhD students**
  
- **Trilateral meeting** – September 2024, Budapest
- **28th SG meeting** – 1-2 October 2024, Budapest
- **Plastic pollution workshop** – 3 October 2024 (back to back with SG in Budapest.)



# EUSDR reports/administration

- **Progress Report 2 of PAC4 DRP project** – project report was submitted to DRP in April 2024
- **EC Monitoring report** - inputs from PACs – report was submitted on 19 April 2024
- **Evaluation report 2024-2025** – data collection would start in May 2024
- **Update flagships** – spring 2024



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON MIGRATORY FISH



FLAGSHIP PROCESS ON EMERGING SUBSTANCES

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

**Thank you for your attention**

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