

PRIORITY AREA 4

WATER QUALITY

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATERS

EUSDR Presidency

EUSDR Austrian Presidency (Nov2023/Dec2024)

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

Thematic priorities:

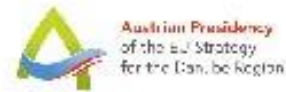
- 1) Contributing to **Stability and Security**, and a clear European Perspective for the whole Danube Region
- 2) Fostering **Innovation, Skills and Business Opportunities** in the Danube Region
- 3) Enhancing the Danube Region **Ecosystem, Water and Green Transition** Management

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**

Cooperation in the Danube Region: Now more than ever!

Shaping Transformation,
Creating Opportunities



Open for
registration
now!

**13th Annual Forum
of the EU Strategy
for the Danube Region**

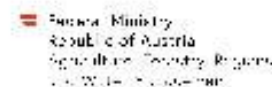
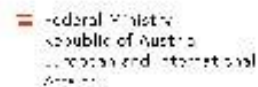
**20 – 21 June 2024
Vienna, Austria**



**Interreg
Danube Region**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



13th EUSDR Annual Forum

20-21 June 2024, Aula der Wissenschaften, Wollzeile 27A, Vienna

<https://danube-region.eu/danube-events/13th-eusdr-annual-forum/>

<https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EUSDR-Annual-Forum-2024-Programme-A4-V3.pdf>

13th Annual Forum
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for the Danube Region
20 – 21 June 2024
Vienna, Austria

Full
programme

Cooperation in the
Danube Region:
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Shaping Transformation,
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20 June 2021

08:00 – 08:45 Registration @ Aula der Wissenschaften

08:45 – 09:30 Opening of the 13th EUSDR Annual Forum

09:30 – 10:45 The Danube Region: Diversity and
integration - opening lecture, state of the region
report, high-level panel discussion

11:15 – 12:30 Mayors' Talk: Cities as transformation hubs
of the Danube Region - High-level panel
discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:30 **Green transition: Shaping transformation,
creating opportunities** - Keynotes and
thematic parallel sessions

16:00 – 17:30 Geopolitics, stability, prosperity and future
perspectives in the Danube Region -Keynote
and high-level plenary panel

19:00 – 22:00 Danube Party @ Palmenhaus

Sessions 1 – 3 CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATION	Sessions 4 – 6 WATER & ECOLOGY	Sessions 7 and 8 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
Sustainable energy transition	Sustainable (waterway) mobility along the Danube	Skills and education for the green transition
Circular economy	Eco systems and water quality	Arts and culture as discursive spaces for transformation
Place-based Innovation in Brownfield Reindustrialisation	Managing environmental risks: droughts and floods	



Session 5:

Is the water clean and passable enough for fish to survive?

Session host: EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality.

The session aims to emphasise the importance of connectivity restoration and water quality in the Danube River for habitat conservation, particularly focusing on migratory fish species, including sturgeons as the Danube flagship species. The session will start with a brief introductory video on the negative human impacts on the living conditions of migratory fish. The impulse lecture will set the scene, followed by an overview of the importance of fish conservation, the maintenance of water quality and connectivity restoration including projects' achievements in the Danube River. The conclusion of the session will summarise required follow-up actions.

- Moderator: **Danka Thalmeinerová**, EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality
- Introduction: **Birgit Vogel**, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and **Márton Pesel**, EUSDR Priority Area 4 – Water Quality
- Impulse lecture: **Martin Mišik**, Association of Bratislava boating clubs
- Discussants:
 - Raimund Mair**, World Bank Water Global Practice – water pollution
 - Helmut Habersack**, BOKU Vienna – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and River Research (IWA) – sediments
 - Katarína Mravcová**, Water Research Institute, Bratislava – barriers
 - Balázs Horváth**, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) – migratory fish/sturgeon conservation

13th EUSDR Annual Forum

20-21 June 2024, Aula der Wissenschaften, Wollzeile 27A, Vienna

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21 June 2021

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 10:30 Future perspectives for a fruitful
cooperation in the Danube Region - Rapport
and take-aways from the sessions, interviews,
keynotes and impulses

11:15 – 12:15 Get Involved: what do we need for a
future-proof cooperation? World Café

12:15 – 12:35 Wrap-up & take-aways: Key messages
from the 13th EUSDR Annual Forum

12:35 – 12:55 Closing Session - Political take-aways for the
future of the Danube Region

12:55 – 13:00 Farewell

14:00 – 17:00 Field trips

Field trips:

- ✓ Site visit 1: Boat trip in Lobau National Park: LIFE WILDIsland
- ✓ Site visit 2: Tour of the Port of Vienna: thinkport VIENNA
- ✓ Site visit 3: Tour of the Danube Island: LIFE DICCA Project (Vienna)
- ✓ Site visit 4: BOKU River Lab (Vienna)
- ✓ Site visit 5: Danube Salon, Europaforum Wachau (Krems)



13th EUSDR Annual Forum – PA4 parallel session

Session aims to emphasize the importance of connectivity restoration and water quality in the Danube River for habitat conservation, particularly focusing on migratory fish species, including sturgeons - Danube Flagship species.

Session Title	Is the water clean and passable enough for fish to survive?
Moderator	Ms Danka Thalmeinerová, EUSDR PAC
Introduction	Ms Birgit Vogel, ICPDR ES Mr Márton Pesel, EUSDR PAC4 Short video on sterlet (PA4) https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/
Impulse Lecture	Mr Martin Mišík, Association of Bratislava boating clubs
Topics	Mr Raimund Mair, World Bank – water pollution Ms Marlene Haimann, BOKU, – sediments Ms Katarína Mravcová, Water Research Institute – barriers Mr Balázs Horváth, WWF – migratory fish/sturgeon conservation
Panel discussion	Moderated panel discussion - all presenters

13th EUSDR Annual Forum - GOOD PRACTICE EXHIBITION

20-21 June 2024, “Säulenhalle” (Hall of Columns), Wollzeile 27A, Vienna

Title	Towards Ecological Connectivity in the Danube-Carpathian Region
Organisers	<p>Carpathian Convention</p> <p>International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River</p> <p>WWF Central and Eastern Europe</p>
Overview	<p>The Declaration on “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity” was endorsed by the Carpathian Convention (CC), ICPDR, and EUSDR PA4, PA5, and PA6.</p> <p>Projects NaturaConnect, aiming to build a Trans-European Nature Network, and the We Pass, focusing on making the Iron Gates passable for fish, support this goal:</p> <p>NaturaConnect involves scientists and NGOs from 22 institutions across 15 EU countries, working towards an ecological network, engaging also with expert groups under the CC and ICPDR. The Danube-Carpathian Region is one of six NaturaConnect case studies.</p> <p>The We Pass project aims to facilitate fish migration at the Iron Gates improving ecological connectivity in the Danube River Basin by reconnecting the Lower with the Middle Danube.</p>



Thank you for your attention

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

