



International Association
of Water Service Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
between
THE EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION – PRIORITY AREA 4
and
**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER SERVICE COMPANIES IN THE
DANUBE RIVER CATCHMENT AREA- IAWD**

The European Commission (EC) has identified in several reports about the governance of macro-regional strategies¹ the need for strengthening synergies between existing bodies and initiatives.

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. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together, to seek for and create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region.

Priority Area 4 “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” (PA4) focuses on improvement of water quality via taking important steps to achieve the management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan. PA4 supports elaboration of sub-basin management plans, facilitates reduction of the nutrient, hazardous substances and emerging pollutant levels, promotes waste water treatment and cooperating with non-EU countries. It also takes steps towards protection of migratory fish species in the Danube basin. Moreover, PA4 involves and informs related stakeholders, develops and supports new projects, regularly informs members on funding possibilities and disseminates PA4 achievements.

International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) is an independent, nonprofit organization of water and wastewater utilities, national water utility associations and other stakeholders engaging in the provision of safe and reliable water services for all in the Danube region. It is an international cooperation network with a shared vision, a shared mission, and a shared approach. IAWD was established in 1993, after the fall of the iron curtain, and celebrates this year 30 years of dedicated, professional work to improving the services of water supply and sewerage in the Danube region countries, i.e. Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany,

¹ Report from the Commission to European Parliament, the Council, European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies COM (2014) 284 final; Report from the Commission to European Parliament, the Council, European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Concerning the EU Strategy for the Danube Region COM(2013)181 final; Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies COM/2019/21 final; Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies COM/2022/705 final.



EUROPEAN UNION



International Association
of Water Service Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area

Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Rumania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

Enhanced cooperation between the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) Water Quality Priority Area (PA4) and the International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) has a potential to create win-win solutions in the areas that are mutually relevant for both entities, especially in the following *identified topics of joint interests*:

- Integrated river basin management planning
- Integrated urban water and waste water management
- Drinking water management
- Sludge management
- Overall cooperation on youth and education
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building activities
- Network of water facilities

Means of Cooperation:

1. Promotion/advocacy

- To promote integrated river basin management, waste water management, sludge management, drinking water management, overall cooperation on youth; also aiming at smart policies, strong utilities and sustainable services.
- To promote adaptation to global challenges such as climate variability and change.
- To work together on developing a mutual and coherent strategic approach to regional and national initiatives when relevant.
- To promote closer linkages between the Regional and Country Water Partnerships, water sector services and the EUSDR PA4 international contacts, where appropriate, and share information about each other's activities.

2. Knowledge sharing

- To raise awareness and build capacity for planners, policy and decision makers, water utility operators and technologists towards integrated urban water management and identification of innovative and alternative approaches in water and waste water management; sludge management, drinking water management and on overall cooperation on youth.
- To invite EUSDR to activities and communication platforms of IAWD (such as The Voice of the Danube, Danube Water Conference, online IAWD Newsletter, X, Facebook).
- To invite IAWD to activities and communication platforms of EUSDR (such as EUSDR PA4 website, online EUSDR Newsletter, EUSDR LinkedIn).



International Association
of Water Service Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area

3. Supporting processes and dialogues

- To support ongoing processes at regional and national levels – in particular, when appropriate, by strengthening Regional and Country Water Partnerships and EUSDR PA4 and developing synergies.
- To support EUSDR PA4 with multi-stakeholder participation through the Country Water Partnerships made available for consultation on Danube-wide regional processes, further with the Danube Learning Partnership and trainings under the Danube Hub.

4. Projects preparation, identification of funds, projects implementation

- To join efforts for preparing relevant proposals aimed at contributing to the achievements of the above general objectives and future activities of both organizations.
- To join efforts for implementing projects and activities whether built jointly or separately but aiming at the same final goals.

IAWD will:

- raise awareness and build capacity for planners and policy and decision makers, water utility operators and technologists towards integrated urban water management and identification of innovative and alternative approaches in water and waste water management; sludge management, drinking water management, overall cooperation on youth;
- share information about the work plan, activities and results of the Danube Water Program;
- ensure regular information exchange and invite EUSDR PA4 representatives to relevant IAWD meetings and other events.

EUSDR PA4 will:

- assist IAWD activities by soliciting political support, where requested and where possible;
- support measures and actions of joint interest in the facilitation of alignment on funding through Operational Programmes.
- ensure regular information exchange and invite IAWD to relevant EUSDR PA4 meetings and other events, such as Annual Forum of the EUSDR and PA4 workshops.

Signatures:

EUSDR Priority Area 4 Coordinators:

Slovak coordination PA4:
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Danka Thalmeinerova

Signature:.....

Place and date:.....

[Handwritten signature]
25.3.2024



EUROPEAN UNION



International Association
of Water Service Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area

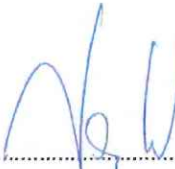
Hungarian coordination PA4:
General Directorate of Water Management
Márton PESEL

Signature: 

Place and date: 2024. 03. 21.

IAWD:

IAWD President
Walter Kling

Signature: 

Place and date: Vienna, 18 March 2024

IAWD International Association
of Water Service Companies
in the Danube River
Catchment Area
c/o Vienna Water · A-1060 Vienna · Grabnergasse 4-6
Tel. +43 (0)1 599 59 31070 E: office@iawd.at