



# European Strategy for the Danube Region

## Priority Area 4

„To restore and maintain the quality of waters“

### Achievements and plans

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5th meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, 27 October 2016, Bratislava

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## PA4 aims during EUSDR SK Presidency

- In 2016 Slovakia presides the EUSDR and organizes the fifth Annual Forum in Bratislava. The main water priorities during Slovak EUSDR Presidency are the following:
  - A/ to enforce the dynamic integrated management and water protection focused on providing sufficient water quantity and quality considering climate change towards sustainable development of society
  - B/ to maintain a good status of waters while implementing of new sustainable human development activities in the Danube Region (Article 4.7 of WFD)
- **During the 5th EUSDR Annual Forum held on 3-4 November 2016 in Bratislava, PA4 organises the Workshop 2 “Water – non-alternative source for life”.**
  - the workshop will have the following sections:
    1. Dynamic integrated management with regard to climate change
    2. Water and Agriculture
    3. Strategic projects and related issues (PA 4, PA5, PA6)



## PA4 achievements

- ensured **INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION** with key water partners, including the ICPDR and PA5 (*Joint Document on Synergies PA4-PA5-ICPDR*), *Memorandum on cooperation with Carpathian Convention*, ISRBC, JRC, GWP;
- started **SECTORIAL DISCUSSIONS** of key priorities of PA4 - strengthening the sub-basin initiatives (*Tisza Declaration signed in Ulm, October 2015*), sediments, buffer zones, drinking water, urban waste water;
- initiated common meeting PA4 – DG ENVIRO – DG REGIO;
- initiated **RESEARCH** and completed **SURVEYS** in areas of water protection, alternative waste water treatment; phosphates and solid waste collection;
- took efforts toward facilitating **ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING** (DTP, INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE, HORIZON 2020, LIFE, etc.);
- facilitated **EMBEDDING** of EUSDR aims to be included in the national programming;
- **ENSURED HIGH VISIBILITY** and dissemination of the Danube Strategy (PA4) at many forums (European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Water Conference, OECD Conference);



## PA4 achievements

- **ORGANIZED CONFERENCES AND STAKEHOLDER SEMINARS**
  - conference on water resources protection (April 2015);
  - stakeholder conference on project partners and financing possibilities search (November 2015);
  - conference on drought and water scarcity (May 2016);
  - workshop on trust-building between water and agricultural sectors (October 2016)





## PA4 achievements

- supported and facilitated the **PROJECT GENERATION, PARTNERSHIP SEARCH and NETWORKING**:
- **FACILITATED BRINGING INVOLVED EXPERTS TOGETHER** at different working groups, provided financial support in order to ensure the participation of non EU experts as well.
- focused on deepening the **NON EU MEMBER COUNTRIES COOPERATION** by organizing the visits and common meetings with water management experts from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and Moldova





# PA4 activities in 2016

- **Coordination and management of PA4 activities**
  - organization of Steering Group and PACs bilateral meetings
  - preparation of 5th Annual Forum event (PA 4 Workshop2: *Water – non-alternative source for life*)
  - cooperation with the ICPDR, Sava Commission, GWP and Carpathian Convention (memorandum signed in August 2016)
  - active participation in relevant ICPDR meetings

- **Dissemination activities**

- 1. Printed documents:**

- PA4 general leaflet
- leaflet on PA4 projects
- leaflet on Drinking Water Directive update





## PA4 activities in 2016

- brochure on principles aiming at reducing the diffuse pollution from agriculture;
  - *country reports on wastewater situation in non-EU countries (especially BiH, SRB, UA and MD);*
  - *legal study on alternative collection and wastewater treatment (A5);*
  - *legal study on limiting the presence of phosphates in detergents (A7).*
2. Brochures and leaflets distributed at the workshops and conferences
  3. Updating website [www.danubewaterquality.eu](http://www.danubewaterquality.eu)



## PA4 activities in 2016

- **Support to PA4 projects generation**  
networking, partners search, projects database, information on financing possibilities – 2nd calls of INTERREG, Danube Transnational Programme;
- **Strong involvement in project proposal development** –  
*JoinTisza, Danube Sediment, Danube Sturgeon, Danube Floodplain, CleanRiver, SANDANUBE, MineWetlands, SIMONA*
- **Questionnaire investigation** among SG members on state of play on the assessment of financial needs of the Danube countries for the implementation program on building and updating UWWT technology and BAT recording.

**More than 40% of the PA 4 actions deal with WWT problems.**





## EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY)

- **international conference held in Bratislava on 17-18 May 2016**
- The goal of the conference was to create the platform for **experience exchange** among experts dealing with drought and water scarcity issues.
- The conference was aimed at the **evaluation** of legislative tools, monitoring and assessment of possible climate change impacts and related adaptation measures.
- Simultaneously it opened the space for the **discussion about contributions of experts** who could form the future trend of solutions directed to drought impact and water scarcity mitigation.



## EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY)

- **Conference program – 5 sections:**
  - **Legislation and Protection of Water Resources**
  - **Meteorological and Hydrological Drought**
  - **Water and Health**
  - **Drought in Practice**
  - **Measures against Drought**



## EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY)

### ▪ **Conference conclusions:**

- Following the contributions presented at the conference, we can state that in the Danube Region there is high level knowledge and experience regarding climate change in water sector manifested in drought and water scarcity.
- Currently, there is necessity to move from meteorological, climatological and hydrological assessment and modelling of possible scenarios **to the solution of socio-economic and ecological impacts of these risks.**
- **Therefore, it is necessary to draft and to adopt a concept and a strategy with real measures starting in the legislation and ending in the technical solution for protection of health and safety of inhabitants, economic activity and environment.**



## EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY)

### ▪ **Conference conclusions:**

- Conference output is the experience that drought and water scarcity issues require a complex, cross-sectoral and systematic approach comprised of the following measures:
  - to increase water consumption effectivity
  - to retain water in landscape using natural and technical approaches
  - to adopt effective water management measures such as permission of water abstraction in line with ecological flows
  - to charge water abstraction that should stimulate its effective use

**Measures shall be adopted at a local level (as municipalities) up to national and transnational level of the Danube Region and other European regions.**



## EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CONDITIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (DROUGHT AND WATER SCARCITY)

- *The Conference had highly positive feedback from the participants.*





**Thank you for your attention**

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