

European funding opportunities in the water sector

Second Stakeholder Seminar of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Water Quality (PA4) and Environmental Risks (PA5) Priority Areas

Budapest, 19-20 November 2015

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Conference Room
1027 Budapest, Bem rakpart 47.

CONCEPT

Background

Water is essential for human health and well-being, food and energy production, social and economic stability, and for protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Enhancing cooperation and building partnerships at the local, national and transboundary levels is critical to address freshwater-related challenges. The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) provides a **comprehensive cooperation platform** and offers an opportunity for alignment of funding with cohesion policy instruments and other potential sources.

The Danube Region is a major international river basin and ecological corridor. This requires a regional approach to nature conservation, spatial planning, regional development and water management. The Hungarian leadership of the Strategy's Water Quality and Environmental Risks Priority Areas decided to hold its stakeholder conference in Budapest on 19-20 November 2015 paying special attention to the issue of funding possibilities.

Objective and expected outcome

The aim of the conference is to provide an overview about the water-related Priority Areas, to present the results achieved and to provide information about funding instruments. Furthermore, the conference offers a possibility for partner search presenting country needs and assists in the alignment of funding procedure for future project beneficiaries by promoting further project ideas. The main output of the Conference discussions will be summarised, demonstrating the water-related project experiences and expectations in the Danube macro-region.

To register, please send an email to DunaKonf@mfa.gov.hu prior 2 November 2015.

The language spoken during the event is English.

DRAFT AGENDA

Speakers are under invitation and confirmation

Thursday, 19 November 2015

8.45 – 9.30 REGISTRATION (to enter the building, please bring your ID/passport with you)

SESSION I.

Chair: Mr Matija Vilfan, Head of the Danube Strategy Point

9.30 – 9.40 Welcome address: representative of the Hungarian Government

9.40 – 10.15 Keynote presentations: Water and environmental risks in the Danube region

Mr István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner, EUSDR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

Ambassador Silvia Davidoiu, EUSDR National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

Mr Frantisek Kolocany, EUSDR National Coordinator, Department of Cross-sectional Activities, Government of Slovakia

Normunds Popen, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Marianne Wenning, Director, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

10.15 – 11.00 State of play in the water and environmental risks sector – achievements and issues to further tackle

Priority Area 4 "To restore and maintain the quality of waters" of the EUSDR (PA4)

Mr Vladimir Novak, Priority Area Coordinator from Slovak Republic

Dr László Perger, Priority Area Coordinator from Hungary

Priority Area 5 "To manage environmental risks" of the EUSDR (PA5)

Ms Olimpia Negru, Priority Area Coordinator from Romania

László Kóthay, Priority Area Coordination Team Hungary

JRC Water Nexus

Fayçal Bouraoui, Unit H 01 – Water Resources Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Questions and Answers

11.00 – 11.30 COFFE BREAK

SESSION II.

Chair: Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, advisor to the EUSDR PA4 Priority Area Coordinator

11.30 – 13.15 Financing possibilities in the water sector available in the 2014-2020 period

Key Features and Opportunities of Financial Instruments under **ESI Funds** 2014-2020, Directorate General Regional and Urban Policy

Horizon 2020: focus on Water innovation under the new call

LIFE: water priorities

Central Europe Programme and water projects: Ms Monika Schönerklee-Grasser, Head of Evaluation and Monitoring Unit; Joint Technical Secretariat of the Central Europe Transnational Programme

Strengthen transnational water management and floodrisk prevention, improve preparedness for environmental risk management in the frame of the **Danube Transnational Programme:** Ms Alessandra Pala, Head of Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme

Cross Border Cooperation Programs, Directorate General Regional and Urban Policy

European Investment Advisory Hub

Questions and Answers

13.15 – 14.15 LUNCH BREAK

SESSION III.

Chair: Andrea Vranovska, EUSDR PA4 Priority Area Coordination Team of the Slovak Republic

14.15 – 16.00 Successful project examples and best practices in the water sector

Water Research Institute, Alena Kurecova, **Watlife:** Enhancement of Public Awareness of the Importance of Water for Life, its Protection and Sustainable Use in Accordance with the Water Framework Directive, **LIFE PLUS**

Corvinus University of Budapest, András Kis, **Urban Water Footprint:** a new approach for water management in urban areas, **URBAN_WFTP Central Europe**

General Directorate of Water Management of Hungary, Miklós Szalay, **SEE River:** Sustainable Integrated Management of International River Corridors in SEE Countries, **South East Europe**

The National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Mary-Jeanne Adler, **FLOODRISK:** Flood hazard and flood risk mapping in the Danube basin – experiences of a successful project, **South East Europe**

Europa Media, Gábor Kitley - how to establish water consortium for projects in the new calls (**FP7, H2020, Life**)

Carpathian Convention, Eleonora Musco - water and climate project experiences, networking in the Danube Region

Questions and Answers

Friday, 20 November 2015

8.30 – 9.00 REGISTRATION (to enter the building, please bring your ID/passport with you)

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Frithjof Ehm, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Programme manager

**9.00 – 11.00 Networking facilities: development needs of the countries in the Danube Region
Country specific needs assessment for future project consortiums**

Austria, Mr Karl Schwaiger, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and
Water management

Baden-Württemberg, Ms Carmen Hawkins, Ministry of the Environment, Climate
Protection and the Energy Sector Baden-Württemberg

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amir Hujic, Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Hungary, Mr Gábor Jenei, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Moldova, Ms Ludmila Guzun, Ungen County Representation

Romania, Mr György Deák, National Institute for Research and Development

Serbia, Ms Sanda Simic, Serbian European Integration Office

Slovakia, Ms Andrea Vranovska, Water Research Institute

Ukraine, Mr Mike Nagorkin, Transcarpathian Agency for Investments, Innovations and
Development, Ukraine

Project ideas and partner search tips

EIP Water and Horizon 2020: Boosting opportunities-innovating water, EIP Water
Secretariat

Global Water Partnership, Richard Müller WaterInnEU (H2020): Applying European
market leadership to river basin networks and spreading of innovation on water ICT
models, tools and data.

Find a water partner- ACQUEAU- EUREKA, Mr Gergely Mészáros EUREKA/ Eurostars
National Project Coordinator

Questions and Answers

11.00-11.30 COFFE BREAK

NETWORKING SESSION with facilitation

11.30-13.00 YOU take the floor – Partner search

Networking topics (to be updated based on pre-filled application forms)

- EUSDR Cooperation in water education
- Water scarcity, regional drought management,
- Reconstruction of multiple water establishments
- Establishment of operative safety units, regional safety centres
- Hydromorphological alterations
- Urban waste water treatment
- Water quality innovations
- Resource efficient water management
- Fisheries management

13:00-13:10 Concluding remarks

13:10-14:10 FAREWELL LUNCH