



# REVISION OF THE EUSDR ACTION PLAN

*State of play*

EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation”  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EUSDR PA 10 Danube Local Actors Platform  
5 - 6 March 2019 | Kirchberggasse 33-35, 1070 Vienna

# THE PROCESS

- 2010 1. EUSDR Action Plan, 2019 Revision of the Action Plan
- Oct. 2018 DSP new – facilitating the process on behalf of Presidency
- Initial start by Bulgarian EUSDR Presidency, finalising phase by Romanian Presidency
- After 9 years of implementation – Revision necessary (AP as rolling document)
- Process of facilitating several inputs:
  - Roadmap & Guidance note towards the revision of the 2010 AP by BG Pres
  - Questions for PACs & NCs related to next steps of the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan by RO Presidency
  - PA's own proposals for the Revision (after consulting the SGs and stakeholder)
  - Proposals by RO Presidency
  - Territorial Analysis
  - DSP's Evaluation

# 1. ROADMAP & GUIDANCE NOTE BY BG PRESIDENCY TOWARDS THE REVISION

- I. Identification of the needs of revision of the Action Plan by Priority Areas (July – September 2018)
- II. Launching the consultation phase on the relevant EUSDR levels – PA Steering Groups and between PACs (September – December 2018)
- III. Feedback from the Steering Group consultation process. NCs input. (1<sup>st</sup> Q 2019)
- IV. Drafting of a revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan and consultations (2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2019)

26 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	<b>Joint NCs and PACs meeting with Commissioner Corina Crețu in Brussels</b>
July – September 2018	Identification of the needs of revision of the Action Plan by PAs
September - December 2018	<p>Launching the consultation phase on the relevant EUSDR levels. The new DSP should coordinate and provide guidelines about the process.</p> <p>Consultation process at PA Steering Groups level with the support of the new DSP</p> <p>Organising discussions between PACs with the support of the new DSP</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2019	<p>A feedback from the Steering Group consultation process presented by each PAC during the PAC meeting organised by RO Presidency.</p> <p>Consultation process at NCs level</p> <p>A feedback from the PACs consultation process presented by the new DSP during the NCs meeting organised by RO Presidency</p> <p>Finalising the consultation phase with the support of the new DSP</p> <p>Submitting the results of the consultation phase to the Commission</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2019	<p>Drafting phase – a revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan should be drafted by the Commission in consultation with the NCs and PACs</p> <p>Collecting comments on the revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2019	Publication of Commission Staff Working Document

# THE PROCESS

- September – December 2018 consultation phase - PAs own proposals for the Revision of the AP
- Guidance note as a tool for discussions and consultations at the PA SG-level and with relevant stakeholders
- 5 questions of the Bulgarian presidency
- Delivery of findings by January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

# THE PROCESS

5 questions of the Bulgarian Presidency:

1. Starting from the **existing Action Plan**, which of the **actions and projects** of your PA have **been completely realised/partially realised/not realised**? Please enumerate the main circumstances having impeded the realization of the relevant projects. Are there actions that have not been yet realized but need to be kept for future implementation?
2. With reference to your PA, what **challenges** do you see in the **next 10 years**? In your opinion, which one of these challenges could be addressed jointly by the EUSDR?
3. Which one of these **topics/challenges** could be addressed **jointly with other PAs**?
4. How do you see the embedding of your PA into the **new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027**? How the **PAs should be optimised** in order to align the **priorities of the EUSDR to the 5 policy objectives** included in the **new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027**?
5. Please suggest **an integrated project, covering one or preferably more PA**, with strategic impact and importance for the Danube region that you consider should be developed and implemented with the support of the European Commission and EUSDR Member States?

# THE SUMMARY

*Question 2: With reference to your PA, what challenges do you see in the next 10 years? In your opinion, which one of these challenges could be addressed jointly by the EUSDR?*

## POLICY

- Focus on synergetic actions and targets with added value aligned to EU policies, especially the 5 policy objectives of the Regional Development and Cohesion Policy
- Enforce political support of national governments via stronger communication and improved monitoring and reporting to achieve genuine interest of political stakeholders.
- Focus rather on a selected number of targets and actions which are in focus of most EUSDR member states, being optimally linked with evaluation and monitoring of the EUSDR (bearing in mind that PACs are not project implementers)

## GOVERNANCE

- Ensuring the long term commitment and involvement of the EUSDR stakeholders, boosting cooperation between the PAs and on MRS's level
- Establishing models and good practices for obtaining results and proving/increasing the added value of the EUSDR,
- Establishing a sound evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of EUSDR.
- Some of the PAs stated that special attention should be given to the processes generated within EUSDR, following the models provided by EUSBR;

# THE SUMMARY

*Question 2: With reference to your PA, what challenges do you see in the next 10 years? In your opinion, which one of these challenges could be addressed jointly by the EUSDR?*

## FUNDING/FINANCING

- Ensuring the funding mechanisms or/and financial resources for relevant projects' implementation:
- Aligning to the 5 policy objectives
- Financing and funding resources on national, regional and European level
- Stronger involvement of banks (EIB, WB)
- Cooperation with private companies and SME's

## TECHNICAL MATTERS

- Each PA indicated several topics considered of future priority in order to respond to the challenges identified in the region.
- Some of the priority areas indicated also topics that could be jointly addressed by EUSDR.

# THE SUMMARY

*Question 4: How do you see the embedding of your PA into the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027? How the PAs should be optimised in order to align the priorities of the EUSDR to the policy objectives included in the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021 – 2027?*

Question 4: How do you see the embedding of your PA into the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021–2027? How the PAs should be optimised in order to align the priorities of the EUSDR to the policy objectives included in the new cohesion policy legislative proposal for 2021–2027?

	PILLAR1				PILLAR 2			PILLAR 3			PILLAR 4	
2021-2027 Policy Objectives / PAs	PA 1a	PA 1b	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	PA 5	PA 6	PA 7	PA 8	PA 9	PA 10	PA 11
Policy Objective 1				X	X	X		X		X		
Policy Objective 2	X		X	X	X							
Policy Objective 3	X			X				X				
Policy Objective 4				X	X	X		X		X		
Policy Objective 5				X	X	X		X			X	

Policy Objective 1	A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation
Policy Objective 2	A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management
Policy Objective 3	A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity
Policy Objective 4	A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
Policy Objective 5	A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives

The evaluation of the Policy objective 2021-2027 embedding is based on the answers by PAs given under the section Question 4 in the PA reports.

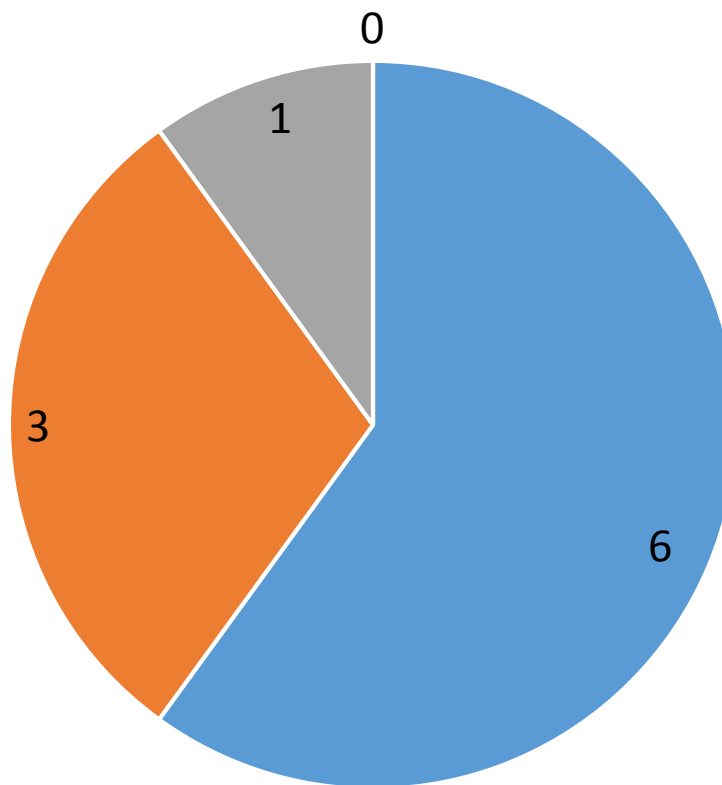


# THE SUMMARY – CC-ISSUES

Out of the findings following major fields can be extracted (correlation between 3 and 5):

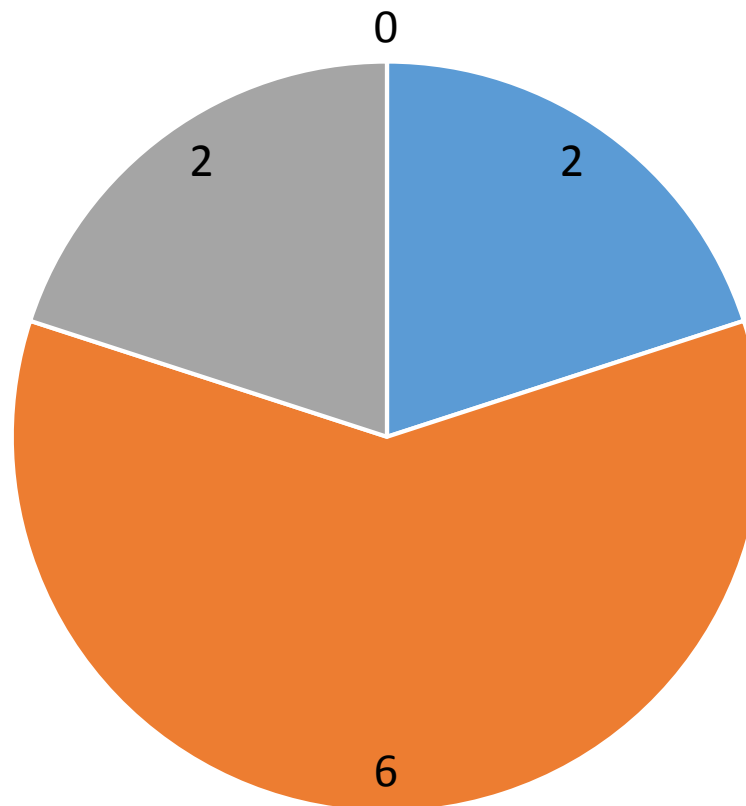
- **TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, EURO-ASIAN CONNECTIONS, TEN-T NETWORKS** being a vital part of connecting the region on road, rail, water and air concerns **2 Pillars (1a, 1b, 4, 5, 6)**;
- **DECARBONISATION** of the transport system, **GREEN CORRIDOR** between Turkey and Central-Europe affects **3 Pillars (1b, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8)**;
- Implementation of the **WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE** and its daughter Directives and of the **JOINT PROGRAMME OF MEASURES OF THE INTEGRATED DANUBE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN** concerns **3 Pillars (1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10)**;
- **ECOLOGY (Masterplan for the EUSDR)** and **CLIMATE CHANGE** concern **2 Pillars (1a, 1b, 5, 6)**;
- **EDUCATION** as horizontal principle concerns **4 Pillars (1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10)**;
- **DIGITALISATION** as strategic horizontal principle named (throughout the reports) by several PAs; high importance: **7 PAs from 3 Pillars (1a, 1b, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)**

**Question 1: Do you see the need to extend the current **timeline** for the revision of the Action Plan (until September 2019)?**



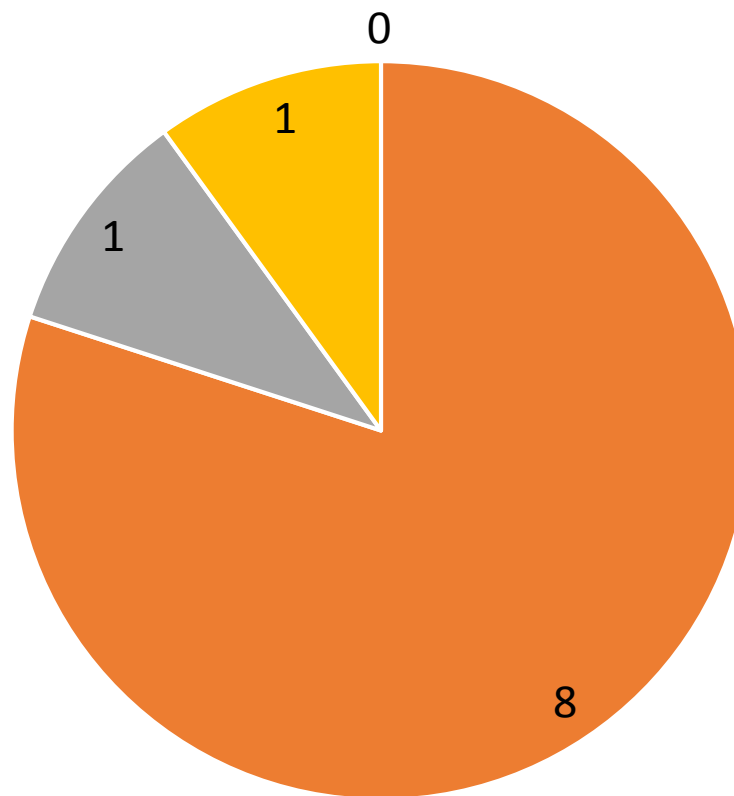
■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A ■ YES/NO

Question 2: How do you see further **involvement of Non-EU countries** within the Priority Areas coordination? a) By creating **new Priority Areas**?



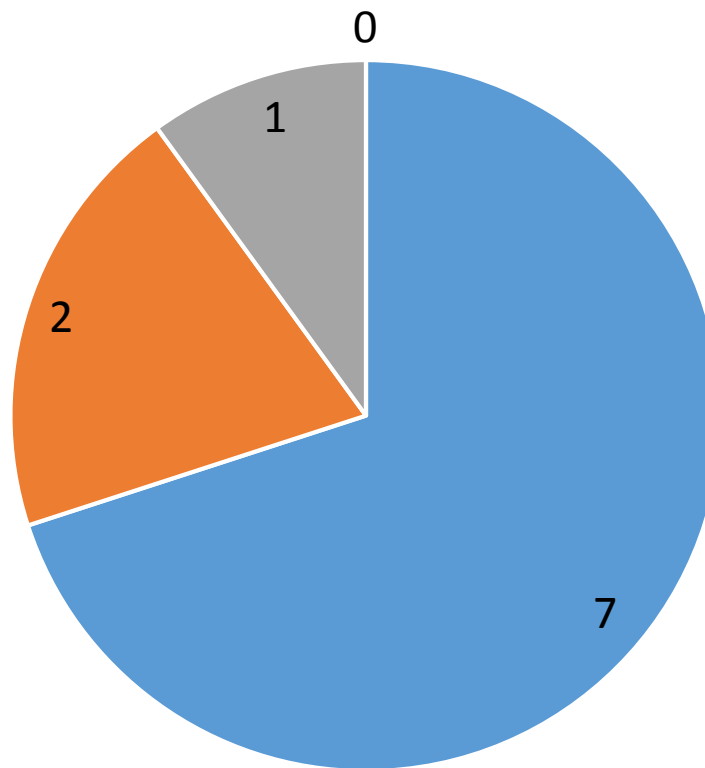
■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A ■ YES/NO

Question 2: How do you see further **involvement of Non-EU countries** within the Priority Areas coordination? b) By adding a **3<sup>rd</sup> coordinator of existing PAs**?



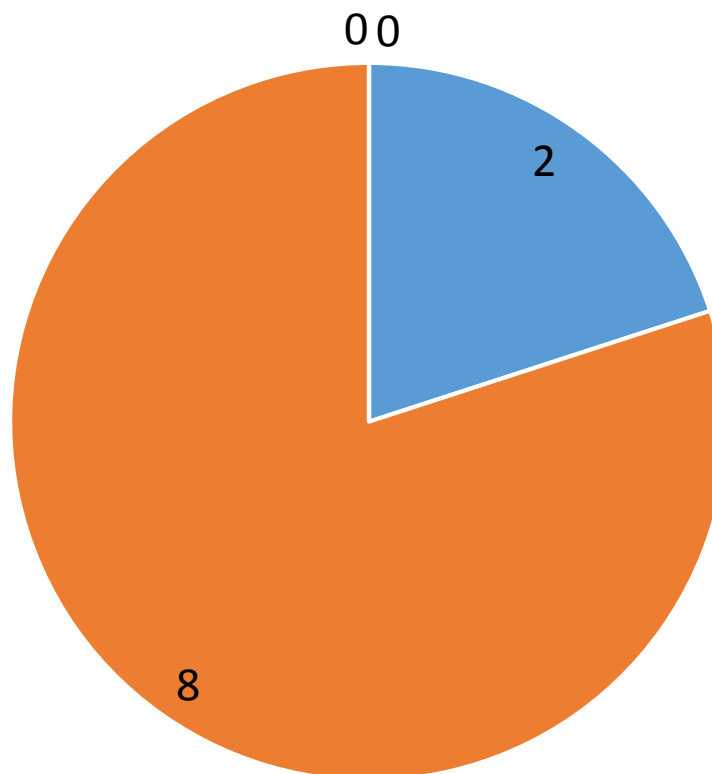
■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A ■ YES/NO

### Question 3: Would you favour the presence of **horizontal topics** in the new Action Plan?



■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A ■ YES/NO

## Question 4: Would you favour sticking to the **structure** of the new Action Plan



■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A ■ YES/NO



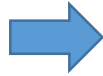
## 4. DSPs EVALUATION

Agreed at the NC meeting  
in Bucharest on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Options for the EUSDR's evaluation coordinated by DSP

1

Single  
Evaluation

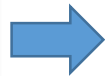


AP revision  
June/September  
2019

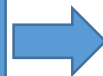
Advantages: Political momentum, alignment with programming/intervention logic etc., low costs  
Disadvantages: Real change is unlikely, is evidence-base duly considered?/time pressure

2

Evaluation 1  
(operational)



AP revision  
June/September  
2019



Evaluation 2  
(impact)  
2020 ?

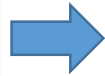


2nd AP revision  
202...?

Advantages: Structured process, continuous adaptation, evidence-based, consensus  
Disadvantages: Potential costs (can they be covered?)

3

Single  
Evaluation  
(in-depth)



AP end of 2019

Advantages: Alignment with EUSBSR, structured evaluation but with political momentum, compromise between option 1 and 2  
Disadvantages: Does timeline fit the planning of the upcoming period?





# **3. STRUCTURING THE CONSULTATIONS FEEDING INTO THE CONSOLIDATED INPUT FOR THE REVISION OF THE EUSDR ACTION PLAN**

Agreed at the NC meeting  
in Bucharest on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

At the NC meeting in Bucharest on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February, chaired by the Romanian EUSDR Presidency, the NCs agreed on the following structure for the *Consolidated Input for the Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan*, as proposed by DSP (and as intended to be issued by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019).

1. Scope of the Revision Process of the EUSDR Action Plan
2. Description of the Revision Process of the EUSDR Action Plan
3. Results and recommendations from the evaluation
4. Proposals for drafting a narrative for the EUSDR

INPUT BY DSP

## 5. Strategic objectives for increasing the quality of living in the Danube Region

- *Policy and specific objectives (draft Cohesion Policy Legislative Package 2021–2027):* a smarter Europe, a greener, low-carbon and resilient Europe, a more connected Europe, a more social Europe and Europe closer to citizens.
- *Additional objectives and priorities of other draft regulations for the programming period 2021 – 2027* should also be considered, as well as the sustainable development goals (SDGs): The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPAIII); the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI); the Connecting Europe Facility, Digital Europe programme, Horizon Europe, Life+, etc.
- *Possible cross-cutting objectives (as horizontal principles for EUSDR):* encouraging digitalization, transport infrastructure, civil society participation, education & skills, youth, sustainable development, equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and others.

## 6. Priorities and Pillars: Objectives and targets

- Priority Areas will be clustered in pillars. The horizontal principles between the Priority Areas will be described separately. In relationship to the number of targets the number of coordinators per Priority Area shall be determined (2 to 3) in view of further involvement of non-EU countries. A monitoring procedure (including baseline indicators) related to the targets shall be set out.

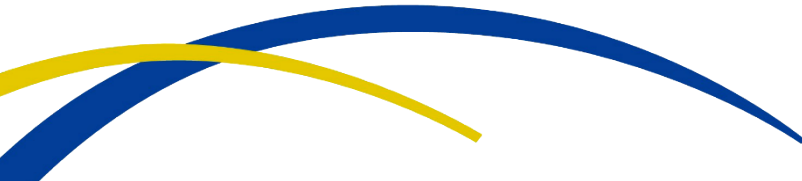
## 7. Governance of EUSDR

- *Internal governance* (role and responsibilities of: High Level Group, NCs, PACs, interrelation of NCs and PACs, Steering Groups, Stakeholder groups, DSP, Presidency, TRIO, DG Regio)
- *External governance* (cooperation and communication with: line DGs, Civil Society, national, regional and local authorities and their organizations, stakeholders, promoters, the academia, the media, EP, CoR, EESC)
- *Cooperation with other MRS and sea-basin strategies* (with the support of INTERACT and DG Regio)

## 8. Interplay of EUSDR with European funding facilities

- *ESIF actors* (DG Regio, DG Empl, Managing Authorities and Joint Secretariats)
- *Actors in the field of enlargement and neighbourhood policy* (DG NEAR, IPAIII, NDICI)
- *Central funding facilities* (Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon Europe, Erasmus, Life, etc.)
- *Financial instruments, EIB, EBRD, World Bank, National and Private funding facilities, including development cooperation agencies, funds and promotion agencies*

## Annex 1: Revised actions and projects with strategic impact for the EUSDR region proposed by PACs after consulting SGs





# UPDATED TIMELINE FOR THE REVISION OF THE EUSDR ACTION PLAN

*proposed 2019 Roadmap, approved at the NC meeting  
on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019*



No.	DESCRIPTION	QS '19	DEADLINES 2019		SPECIFIED STEP
1	A feedback from the Steering Group consultation process presented by each PAC during the PAC meeting organised by RO Presidency	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2019	9	January	deadline for proposal of PACs after consultation (ref. 5 questions)
			18	January	Summary of PACs proposals by DSP
			22/23	January	PAC Meeting (Bucharest) incl. discussion on the Summary of PACs proposals
			31	January	deadline for remarks of PACs to the Summary
			1	February	deadline for proposals from NCs for finalizing NC meeting agenda (to be sent to RO EUSDR Presidency)
2 + 3	4		February	circulation of final summary of PACs proposals to NCs & PACs	
	14/15		February	NC Meeting (Bucharest): mainly focusing on discussing NCs proposals and Summary of PACs proposals by DSP, incl. NC decision on specified roadmap 2019 and structure of the revised Action Plan	
4	Finalising the consultation phase with the support of the new DSP		26	April	National Contributions to DSP & Presidency
					Draft evaluation results to be fed in
					PAC inputs to DSP & Presidency
			8	May	Territorial Analysis to DSP & Presidency (not before 8. May)
			14	May	Circulation of consolidated input for the NC-PAC Meeting
			23/24	May	NC-PAC Meeting (Bucharest): final discussion and endorsement of the "consolidated input" incl. discussion of horizontal objectives (principal goals of EUSDR) on the number of Priority Areas, grouping of Pillars and number of coordinators per Priority Area (pursued by submission of the number of Priority Areas and the number of coordinators per Priority Area to DTP-JS (as mandatory information for their 2 <sup>nd</sup> call for PACs)
5	Submitting the results of the consultation phase to the Commission			June	release of the endorsed "consolidated input" in preparation to the 8th EUSDR Annual Forum (corresponding to handing over to the Commission)
				June	2 <sup>nd</sup> call for PACs (period 2020-2022) by DTP-JS
6	Drafting phase - a revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan should be drafted by the Commission in consultation with the NCs and PACs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2019	27/28	June	"Public hearings on the proposals for a new Action Plan" within the dedicated thematic sessions of the 8 <sup>th</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum
7	Collecting comments on the revised version of the EUSDR Action Plan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q 2019	20	July	Draft version of revised EUSDR Action Plan circulated by the Commission to NCs for consultations
			20	August	deadline for provision of feedback from NCs to be sent to the Commission
			End	September	Final draft version of the revised EUSDR Action Plan circulated to NCs for final feedback
8	Publication of Commission Staff Working Document	4 <sup>th</sup> Q 2019		October	Publication of Commission Staff Working Document
				September/ October	Ministerial meeting of Ministers responsible for EUSDR as a kick-off for the new EUSDR Action Plan



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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