



DANUBE STRATEGY POINT

*Activities & the way forward
March – November 2019*

***17th Steering Group Meeting of
Priority Area 10
12 November, 2019 in Podgorica,
Montenegro***

Katharina Lenz, Danube Strategy Point

INTRODUCTION

I. DSP team

II. Activities in 2019

- a. Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan
- b. Evaluation
- c. Monitoring
- d. Communication
- e. Capacity Building
- f. Miscellaneous

III. The way forward – activities for 2019 - 2020

I. THE DANUBE STRATEGY POINT



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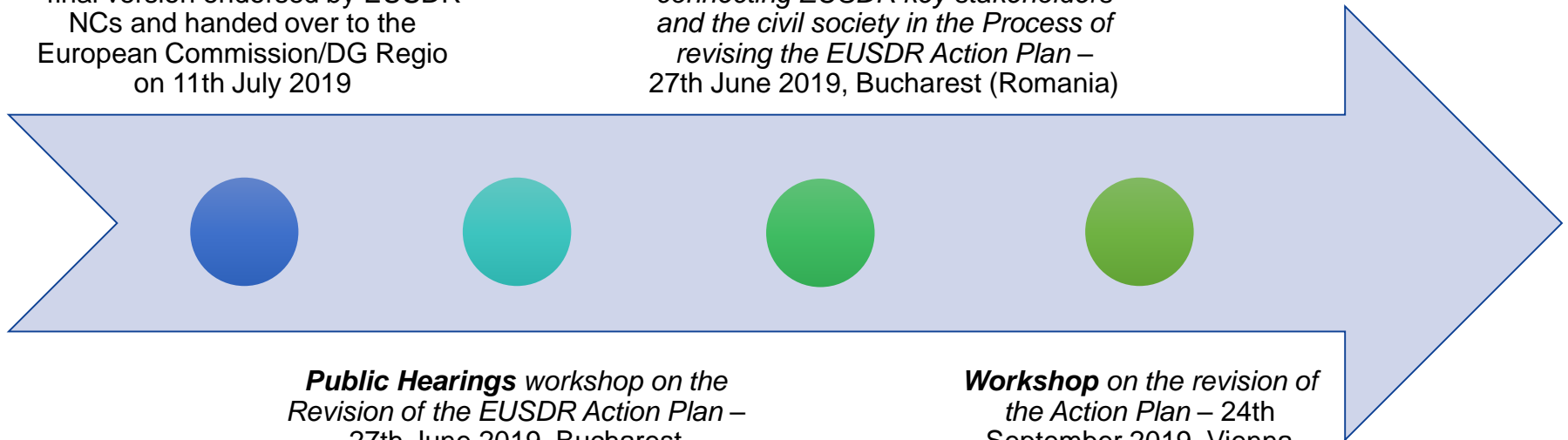
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II. A. REVISION OF THE EUSDR ACTION PLAN – DSP'S CONTRIBUTION 07/2019 – 10/2019

Consolidated Input Document of the Danube Countries for the Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan – final version endorsed by EUSDR NCs and handed over to the European Commission/DG Regio on 11th July 2019

Contributions to the organization of the **4th thematic session** of the EUSDR Annual Forum - *Boosting efficiency in connecting EUSDR key stakeholders and the civil society in the Process of revising the EUSDR Action Plan* – 27th June 2019, Bucharest (Romania)



Public Hearings workshop on the Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan – 27th June 2019, Bucharest (Romania) – EUSDR Annual Forum side event – report handed over to the European Commission/DG Regio on 11th July 2019

Workshop on the revision of the Action Plan – 24th September 2019, Vienna (Austria)

II. A. REVISION OF THE EUSDR ACTION PLAN UPDATED TIMELINE & FURTHER STEPS

✓	23 rd / 24 th May	NC/PAC meeting → NC decision to relegate input paper to DSP for consolidation i.e. redraft
✓	27 th /28 th June	Annual Forum (Public Hearing and Session 4 especially dedicated for the Revision of the Action Plan. Results of the Public Hearing to be presented during Session 4 of the AF)
✓	11 th July	Final minutes of NC meeting and final C.I. circulated to NCs Final version of C.I. to be sent to DG Regio.
✓	17 th September	Draft of revised Action Plan (as Staff Working Document / SWD) circulated to NCs and PACs for comments
✓	24 th September	Information workshop for NCs and PACs, Vienna
✓	31st October	Deadline for NCs and PACs feedback (to be sent to DG Regio and in cc to the Presidency and DSP)
	04 th November	<i>Taking on duty of the new Commission</i>
	Mid-November	Final draft of revised Action Plan (SWD) Circulated to NCs for national endorsement (3 weeks)
	13th Dec 2019	Deadline for NCs' feedback
	Beginning of January 2020	Start of the formal SWD Commission procedure
	February 2020	New EUSDR Action Plan adopted as a SWD
	<i>First quarter 2020 (tbd)</i>	<i>Meeting of Ministers responsible for EUSDR (tentatively with the new Commissioner responsible for Regional and Urban Development) as kick-off for the new Action Plan. Joint declaration of Ministers (?)</i>

II. B. EVALUATION

Evaluation of the effectiveness, communication and stakeholder involvement of the EUSDR

– final report on 17th June 2019

Final Report
17.06.2019

Evaluation of the effectiveness,
communication and stakeholder
involvement of the EUSDR

- ➡ Methodological approach
- ➡ Stocktaking of existing knowledge about the EUSDR
- ➡ Appraisal of the progress of the EUSDR (strategic dimension, governance dimension)
- ➡ Conclusions and recommendations

II. B. EVALUATION

Evaluation of the effectiveness, communication and stakeholder involvement of the EUSDR

Conclusions:



The major concrete achievement of EUSDR is the **set-up of cooperation structures** and partly the emergence of new cooperation patterns respectively partnerships



The **momentum of EUSDR** has decreased, but in some PAs visible progress has been achieved



To **tie budgets and funding opportunities to the strategy** is seen as a major point, which could raise the political interest

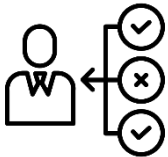


The **revision of the Action Plan** has been explicitly raised as an opportunity to rekindle the political interest from the European level and strengthen the governance structures of EUSDR.

II. B. EVALUATION



There is a need to **encourage the participation** in SG meetings as well as the **pro-active attitude** of the SG members



Lack of capacities and expertise as well as **staff fluctuation** of part of SG members are major obstacles



Broader **expert involvement** (including academia or Civil Society Organizations) should be considered as capacity reinforcement



Simplification within EUSDR structures and processes should become a deliberate objective, especially in order to reduce the administrative burden



It is necessary to ensure **adequate communication flows** to work on cross-cutting issues

II. C. MONITORING

- New Monitoring System will replace PAC reporting to EC and to DTP (Annex 1)
- DSP will ask for feedback from PACs on the very first draft in November/December 2019
- Relaunch SG Danuval in 1st Quarter of 2020
- Presentation of first draft in 1st Quarter of 2020
- Content of new Monitoring System:
 - Recent general developments in the reporting period
 - Core governance
 - PA main activities
 - Projects and Funding
 - Policy Impact
 - Opportunities and Challenges

II. D. COMMUNICATION

1. Support for organization of the EUSDR Annual Forum

- Information campaign on the EUSDR website and on social media platforms managed by DSP
- Participation in the exhibition organized as a side event of the EUSDR Annual Forum
- Support for EUSDR Presidency to organize the EUSDR Annual Forum (facilitating the information flow among EUSDR Presidency and the stakeholders, agenda, potential speakers)



II. D. COMMUNICATION

2. Communication Strategy

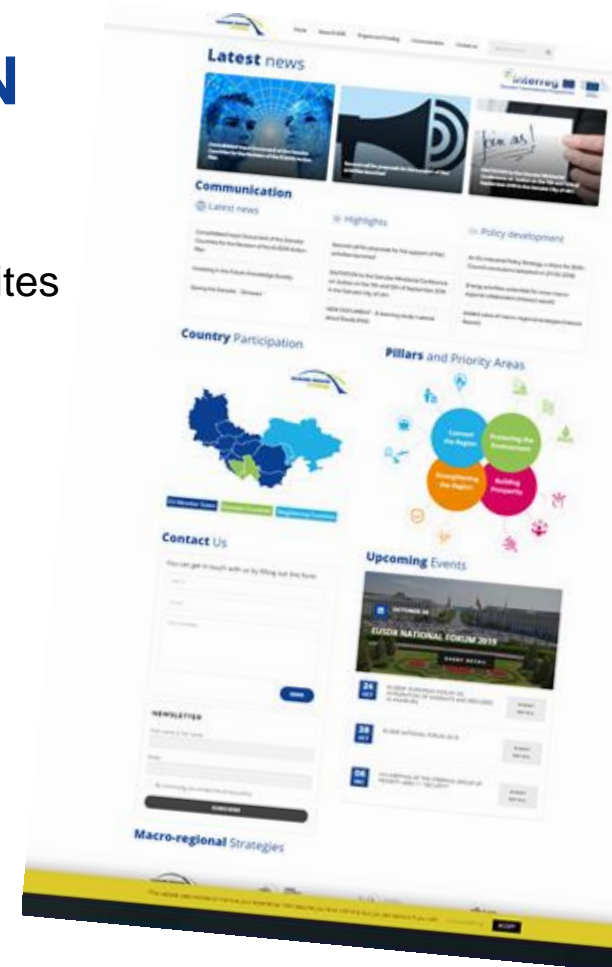
- Webinar on 5th March – establish objectives and missing target groups
- External experts contracted
- Webinar on 26th September – development of the EUSDR Communication Strategy – messages & audience
- Webinar on 22nd October – effective messages, communication channels, roles & responsibilities, intervention logic of the Communication Strategy

II. D. COMMUNICATION

New EUSDR websites

- contract for hosting and maintenance of the EUSDR websites
- new websites published in October 2019

- www.danube-region.eu
- <https://navigation.danube-region.eu>
- <https://transport.danube-region.eu>
- <https://energy.danube-region.eu>
- <https://cultureandtourism.danube-region.eu>
- <https://waterquality.danube-region.eu>
- <https://environmentalrisks.danube-region.eu>
- <https://www.danube-nature.eu>
- <https://knowledgesociety.danube-region.eu>
- <https://competitiveness.danube-region.eu>
- <https://peopleandskills.danube-region.eu>
- <https://capacitycooperation.danube-region.eu>
- <https://security.danube-region.eu/>



- Intranet will be provided comprising e.g. meeting minutes and presentations as well as official documents

II. D. COMMUNICATION

4. EUSDR social platforms

Facebook: #EUSDR

Facebook page Community

Updated:
21st August 2019

+ This week story campaign



II. D. COMMUNICATION

4. EUSDR social platforms

Twitter: **@EUSDR**

Twitter Tweets

Updated:

21st August 2019



II. D. COMMUNICATION

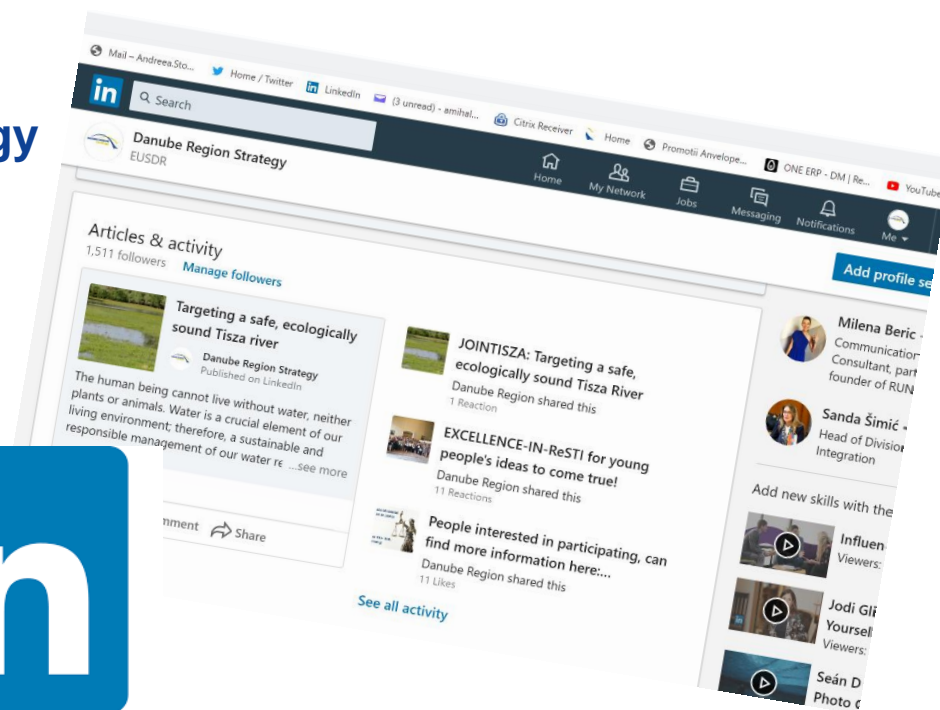
4. EUSDR social platforms

LinkedIn: [/danube-region-strategy](#)

LinkedIn - Community

Updated:

21st August 2019

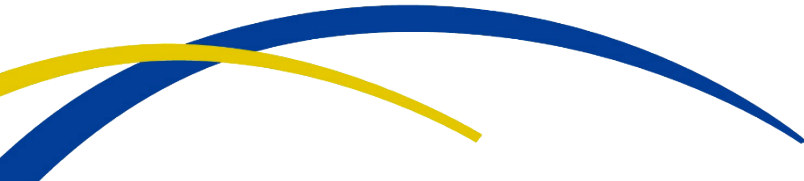


II. D. COMMUNICATION

5. EUSDR Newsletter – 1st edition produced and disseminated in June, 2019; 2nd edition published in October 2019; 2 editions in 2020

6. EUSDR success stories brochure – under development and will be published in December 2019. The brochure will be distributed to DG Regio, NCs and PACs for further dissemination at events in January 2020.

7. Joint online NC/PAC calendar



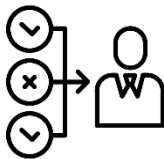
II. E. CAPACITY BUILDING



Cross – MRS Capacity Building activities – cooperation with INTERACT



Capacity building event for the actors involved in the EUSDR implementation in Chisinau (Moldova) upon MD NC request



Development of the training session for PACs planned for December 2019 in Zagreb (Croatia)

II. F. MISCELLANEOUS

Implementation Report 2016 – 2018 – drafted and will be circulated among PACs end of November



☞ Illustrating developments and achievements in the period 2016 - 2018

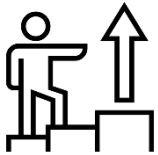
☞ Focusing on activities on general EUSDR level and especially taking into account activities on Priority Area level

☞ Considering the 3 dimensions on PA level:
(1) cooperation & policy embedding
(2) highlights and
(3) projects – implementation & monitoring

II. F. MISCELLANEOUS

Implementation Report 2016 – 2018 – drafted and circulated among PACs and NCs

Conclusions:



EUSDR Priority Areas have moved forward in the years 2016-2018 thanks to the **commitment and concerted efforts** of PACs, SG Members, WG Members, NCs, the DTP and the EC.



Capacity building strengthened with regards to transnational and cross-border programmes, cross-MRS and EUSDR internal issues, with a view to **further strengthening** harmonisation of PA related interests and an integrated approach to sectoral policies and between PACs and EC/line DGs

II. F. MISCELLANEOUS

Implementation Report 2016 – 2018 – drafted and circulated among PACs and NCs

Conclusions:



With regards to **funding** (sources) the way for close and **effective collaboration on future project proposals** was paved by establishing and strengthening ties with numerous scientific and academic institutions in the Danube Region and within the EC



The report presents a **developmental stage of the EUSDR** and **shall serve as reference and as a basis for discussion** in the efforts to advance the Strategy in the upcoming years

II. F. MISCELLANEOUS

Implementation Report 2016 – 2018 – drafted and circulated among PACs and NCs

Conclusions - close ties in the Danube Region on their way:

- considerable number of Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation between different PAs and international organisations, Chambers of Commerce and line ministries of different member states
- harmonisation of administrative processes and control procedures along the Danube navigation system
- first steps to harmonise border cadasters and land registers in the Danube Region
- policy support measures related to preserving Danube water quality
- contacts between Danube Region business representatives
- macro-regional networks in the field of tourism
- round tables on human trafficking
- cooperation with the United Nations on resilient infrastructure

...the list goes on. In short:
Stakeholder circles have been built up and
progress is on its way!

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

- Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency
 - Governance
 - Cooperation with other MRS
 - Embedding
 - Geopolitical dimension



<https://eusdr2020.hr/en/>



III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

- Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency: Governance

>> During its EUSDR presidency, Croatia will **advocate strengthening ties between different levels of governance**, both horizontally and vertically, as well as the **better visibility and influence of the multi-level governance principle**. <<

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

- Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency: Cooperation with other MRS

>> As a participant country of two macro-regional strategies - the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Strategies - Croatia will also pay **special attention to horizontal links with other macro-regional strategies**, their **visibility** and the use of **good practices** necessary for **achieving synergy and complementarity**. <<

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

➤ Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency: Embedding

>> During its presidency, Croatia will **advocate the promotion of a functional approach** to the integrated development of the participating countries in order **to achieve greater synergies between macro-regional strategies and the Cohesion Policy**. <<

>> The Croatian presidency will **advocate the concept of macro-regional cooperation** based on more **efficient use of financial instruments and existing sources of funding**. <<

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

- Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency: Geopolitical dimension

>> Through its presidency of the EUSDR, Croatia wishes to **continue its efforts on connecting the countries in the region and supporting their European integration processes**, whilst **placing enlargement policy high on the agenda** during its presidency of the Council of the EU. <<

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

- Thematic Priorities of the EUSDR Croatian Presidency:
 - Cooperation between scientific institutions and economic stakeholders
 - Environmental protection and sustainable economic development
 - Inland waterways, tourism and smart villages
 - Civil protection
 - Regional and local government capacity building

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for EUSDR Croatian Presidency 2019/2020

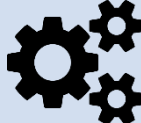
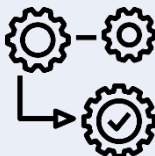

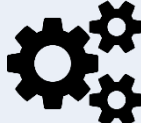
- main events announced

Event	Date	Location
NCs meeting	21-22 November 2019	Zagreb, Croatia
Meeting of Presidencies of 4 MRS	16-17 January 2020 (TBC)	Zagreb, Croatia
PACs meeting	10 February 2020 (TBC)	Zagreb, Croatia
Ministerial meeting	30-31 March 2020 (TBC)	Zagreb, Croatia
Joint NCs/PACs meetings	11 February 2020 (TBC) 7 May 2020 (TBC)	Zagreb, Croatia
The 9 th edition of EUSDR Annual Forum 2020	22-23 October 2020 (TBC)	Zagreb, Croatia

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Support for NCs & PACs

Needs assessment for closer cooperation in SGs and attracting stakeholders of the member states		under development
Needs assessment for closer cooperation between PACs and relevant stakeholders (funding institutions, DGs, Civil Society Fora, regional/local authorities etc.)		to be developed and disseminated
Workshops and seminars on cross-cuttings (horizontal topics)		to be organized
Guidelines for identifying and listing Strategic Projects/Flagship initiatives and Projects/Light Tower Projects		to be developed

III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Communication

Support for the organization of the 9 th EUSDR Annual Forum, Zagreb		
Communication Strategy		to be developed and approved by the NCs
DSP Communication Plan 2020		to be developed and approved by the NCs
EUSDR Newsletters		2 editions/year to be published
Leaflet		to be produced and disseminated
Website and social media platforms		to be permanently updated
Online promotional campaigns		to be carried on
EUSDR smart application		concept to be developed
Promotional materials		to be produced and disseminated

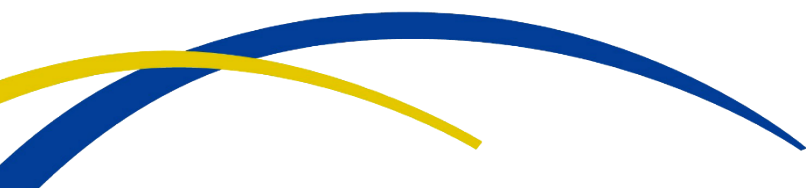
III. THE WAY FORWARD

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019 - 2020

Evaluation/Monitoring

- SG DANUVAL revived
- Policy/Impact evaluation – to be conducted
- New Monitoring – to be further developed and approved

Capacity Building

- 1st training session for the PACs to be organized
 - Tool – kit for the non-EU countries – concept to be developed
 - “meeting by request”
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?

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