

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

*Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 1b
Online, 14 October 2020*



Update of the Activities



DANUBE STRATEGY POINT

INTRODUCTION

Activities 2020 (second semester)

- a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR Presidency**
- b. Embedding process**
- c. Evaluation & Monitoring**
- d. Communication**
- e. Capacity Building**

a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR Presidency

Online Meetings



DSP supported the **EUSDR HR PCY** in organising an online NC meeting (05/2020).

PACs were supported by DSP in organising their online SG meetings (05/06 & 10/11 2020) as well stakeholder meetings and/or WG meetings. The DSP has provided the tools (Zoom & WebEx) for these tasks and offered technical meetings beforehand.

Needs Assessment



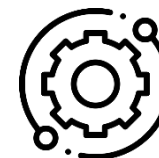
Based on the EUSDR Operational Evaluation (07/2019) the DSP elaborated a **Needs Assessment** for closer cooperation in SGs to enhance the participation of the different stakeholder groups of the member-states (to be published).

Streamlined communication



DSP is the coordinating and connecting structure between countries & key implementers of the EUSDR acting as a **communication hub**. DSP supported the **EUSDR HR PCY** in preparing a Governance Paper and the Rules of Procedures for NCs.

MRS support



DSP provides on a regular basis **information about MRS** (NC/PAC meetings) and participated with the **EUSDR HR PCY** in the 2nd meeting of the **MRS TRIO PCY** (09/2020). In addition DSP is member of the **INTERACT Working Group** (and its sub-WGs) on common capacity building support environment for MRS. DSP is also in regular exchange with other MRS in regards of the embedding process

b. Embedding process

01/2020

1st Meeting

Initial steps at EUSDR EMB-DR
Task Force Workshop (national
level):
22nd January 2020, Vienna

02/2020

3rd Meeting

Further steps at EUSDR NCs EMB-
DR TF Meeting (within ECs First EU
Macro-Regional Strategies Week):
20th February 2020, Brussels

10/2020

Shortlist

Endorsement of
shortlist of
strategic topics
by 5th October



02/2020

05/2020

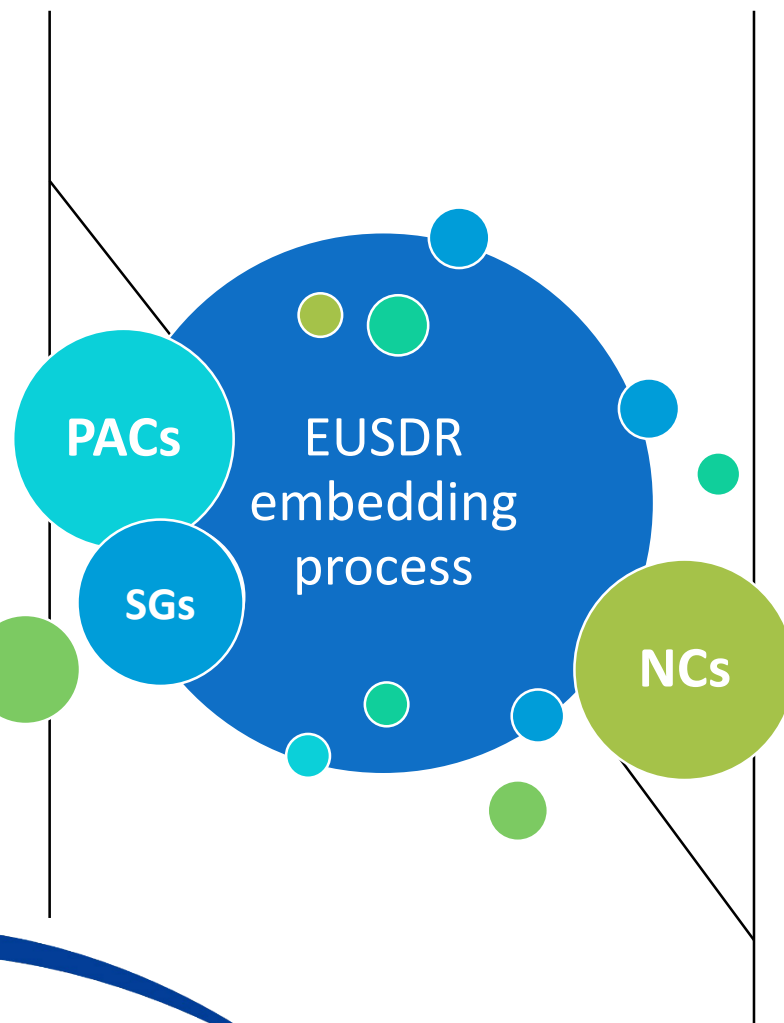
MAIN FINDINGS

- The revised **EUSDR Action Plan** (with all 85 actions) **would be hard to utilize** in the embedding process. Hence, **strategic topics** of PAs are to be generated based on a **common denominator**.
- Identified strategic topics would be part of the **embedding process at national/regional level** and initially, they would also be considered as **fundable topics for the DTP 2nd Seed Money Facility (SMF) Call (tbc)**.
- **Difference must be made** between the **programming and implementing phases** as programming addresses topics and only during the implementing phase projects are to be discussed (later stage).

COURSE OF ACTION I

PACs play a key role in identifying and thematically and contextually designing the strategic topics.

- PAs agreed on concise **strategic topics**, in order to allow a targeted embedding
- submitted so-called **shortlist**



NCs are key actors for the embedding process in each participating country

- **coordinate with the authorities** responsible for the ESI, IPA III and NDICI funds
- **screened the suggested shortlist** for feasibility and suitability for embedding on the national level in **consultation with MAs**
- **Endorsement of the shortlist**

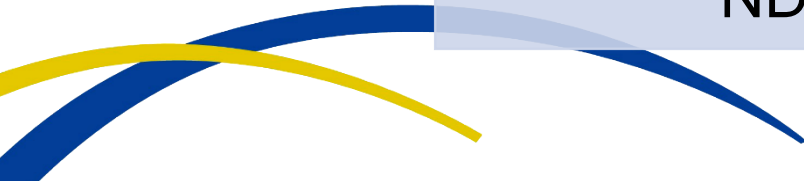
FURTHER COURSE OF ACTION

I. Creation of MA-Networks

- EUSDR PCY should initiate a network of national and regional authorities responsible for ESI and IPA/NDICI funds planning/programming.
- The already established EUSDR ESF Network (were members from all EU-states are invited to join) could be immediately utilised in this respect.
- The aim is to establish a process in each country where national and regional authorities responsible for ESI and IPA/NDICI funds coordinate their 2021-2027 programming exercise to support the implementation of the Strategy. Such network should then become a permanent tool for coordinating/monitoring the implementation of macro-regional actions (and then projects) included in operational programmes (OPs) and APs.
- ERDF Network to come.

Embedding tool: screening EUSDR actions & funding sources 2020+

- supported PACs in the selection of strategic topics (shortlist).
- used by NCs when approaching MAs
- will be provided to authorities responsible for the strategic planning and programming of the ESIF/IPA III/NDICI funds



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OF THE HR PCY elaborated by DSP







Embedding tool – 9 chapters with:

- an overview of Actions of the EUSDR Action Plan (final SWD version of the EC as of 04/2020), which have been allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds (blue sections)
- an overview of the Shortlist and all strategic topics (as submitted by PACs in May 2020), which have been allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds (orange sections)

The possible financing instruments refer to the Policy Objectives (PO) and Specific Objectives/intervention fields (EU-MS), IPA III Thematic priorities for assistance and NDICI Areas of cooperation for the geographic programmes & Areas of intervention for thematic programmes (non-EU)

- an overview of all actions of the EUSDR Action Plan & strategic topics, which have been aligned with
 - a) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019 (solely transnational and EUSDR activities)
 - b) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019
 - c) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2020 (Just Transition Fund)It further encompasses an overview of the distribution of transnational/macro-regional topics in Annex D of the Country Report 2019 (b2b the strategic topics) (green sections).

The overview is based on the Policy Objectives (PO).

   	
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Annex 1b</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Sources for content of funding instruments</h3>	
<p>This document was developed in the context of the embedding of the EUSOR into EU funds and should therefore be seen as a rolling document of the embedding process.</p>	
<p>The underlying document is the <i>Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for these and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument of the European Commission as of May 2018 (COM(2018) 375 final).</i></p>	
<p>At the moment the elaboration is still in the process of negotiations between EC, EP and Council. As soon as a final version is available, the tool will be updated and sent out.</p>	
<h3>Content</h3>	
1. Sources for content of EU funding instruments	2
European Regional Development Fund	2
European territorial cooperation goal/Interreg	8
European Social Fund Plus	9
Cohesion Fund	10
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	11
Asylum and Migration Fund	12
Internal Security Fund	14
Border Management and Visa Instrument	15
Horizon Europe Programme	18
Erasmus+ Programme	20
CEF Programme	21
LIFE Programme	22
Single Market Programme	24
DIGITAL Europe Programme	24
2. Sources for content of the IPA III Fund	
3. Sources for content of the NDICI Fund	

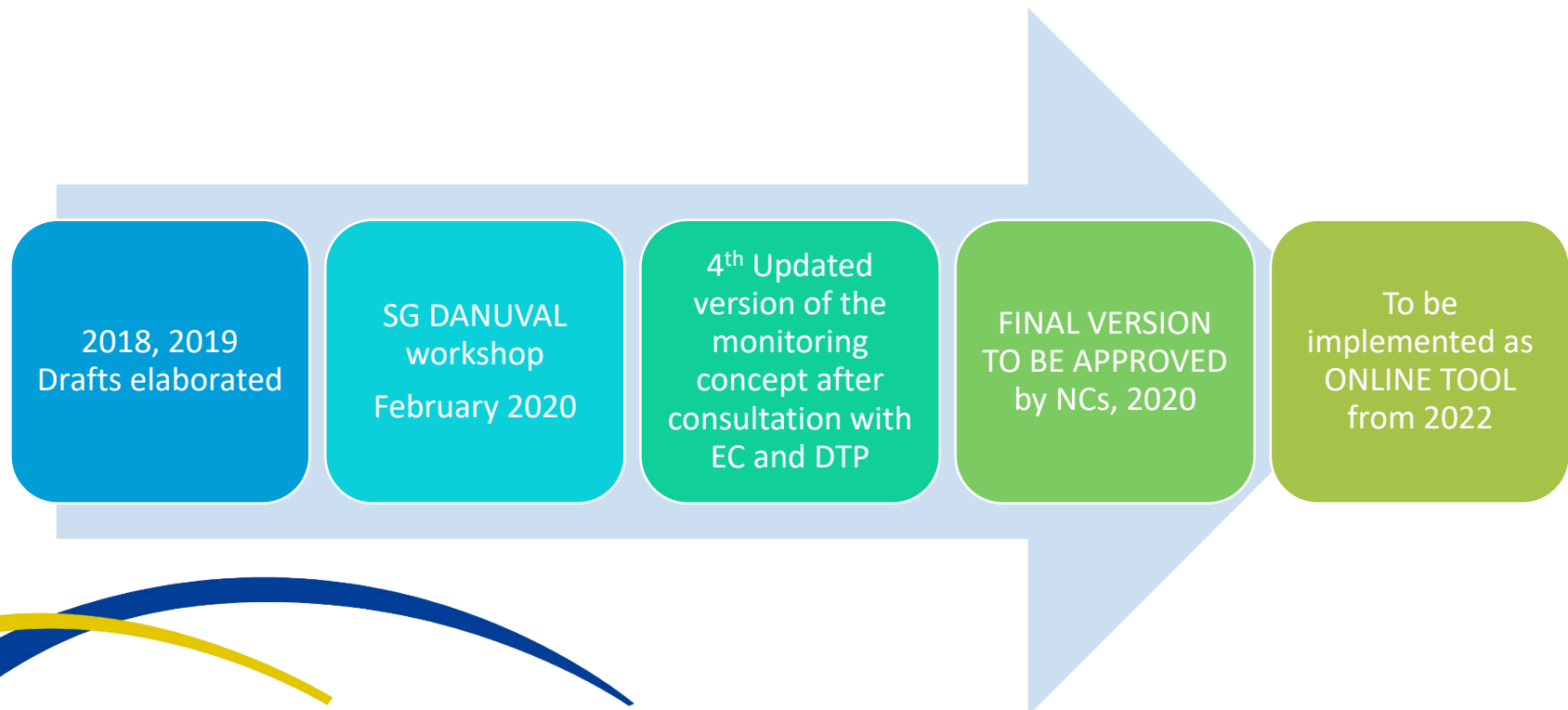
Comprehensive summary to support PACs in their selection of strategic topics and NCs in approaching the MAs.

The underlying document is the CPR Proposal of the European Commission as of May 2018 (COM(2018) 375 final).

c. Evaluation & Monitoring

New Monitoring Concept for EUSDR

- A strategic decision making support tool for NCs on the progress and achievements of the EUSDR



c. Evaluation & Monitoring

Design of new PAC Monitoring

- Input for the ***Questionnaire for MRS Thematic Area Coordinators to EC*** will follow 1:1 via the new PAC Monitoring
- Input given in the ***Additional Information for the Project Progress Report to DTP*** will be included 1:1 in the new PAC Monitoring from all four reports; PACs will have the possibility to summarize the input and to add further information
- **Further Questions** on the progress and achievements in each PA to gain comprehensive information

- one comprehensive Monitoring
- no double reporting
- NCs as target groups for strategic decision making



c. Evaluation & Monitoring

Reporting periods

- 2019 no further reporting to DSP. Information for Implementation report can be extracted from EC and DTP reporting
- To be implemented as an online tool from 2022 (once in 2 years)

Reporting Period		Released in	Reference
2019	(1 year)	2020	"Old" Action Plan, PAC Reporting unchanged (EC, DTP reporting)
2020–2021	(2 years)	2022	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2022–2023	(2 years)	2024	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2024–2025	(2 years)	2026	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting

d. Communication

The EUSDR Communication Strategy

Dec 2019

EUSDR
Communication
Strategy Drafted by
DSP

February 2020
Draft EUSDR CS
sent to NCs for
endorsement

March 2020
Comments
received &
clarification
discussions

April – Sept 2020
joint work with the
NCs for establishing
a common agreed
vision and slogan

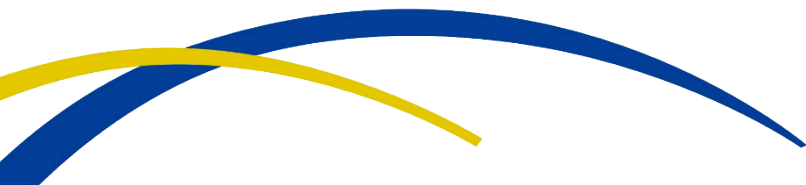
d. Communication

EUSDR vision:

Together we build a prosperous region with a healthy environment, equal societies and high living standards.

EUSDR slogan:

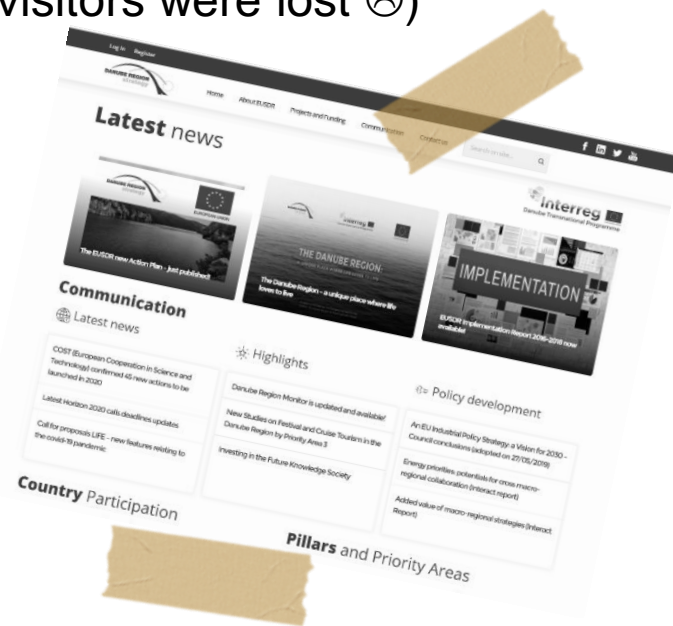
***DANUBE Region Strategy –
Prosperity through Diversity***



d. Communication

EUSDR website

- Constantly updated with newest and most relevant information for the EUSDR target groups
- **New users** (36,285 new users from Oct 2018 to Sep 2020 - when new service provider stepped in, old statistics on visitors were lost 😞)
- **Average session duration: 2 min**
(people who landed on EUSDR webpage spent about 2 minutes for reading)
- **April 7th** – the new **EUSDR Action Plan** was published → **200 new visitors**



d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

Facebook: **#EUSDR**

**Facebook page community grew organically
(without paying ads)**

- 3,344 followers (24th Sept)
- about 180 posts (March - Sept 2020)

Campaigns by DSP:

- *Back to school in the #Danuberegion* campaign
- Promoting *new EUSDR Action Plan* campaign



d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

Twitter: **@EUSDR**

Twitter followers (24th Sept):

- 1,127 followers
(without paying ads)

Tweets

- about 120 tweets (March-Sept 2020)



d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

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

LinkedIn Community:

- 2,028 connections (24th Sept)
- about 160 posts & articles (March-Sept 2020)



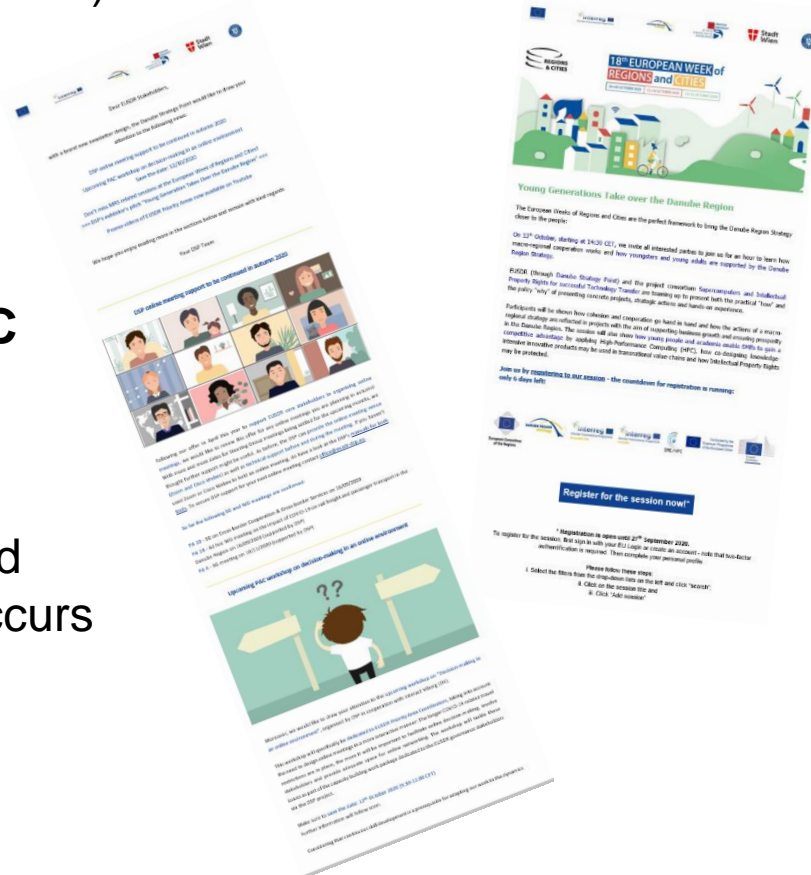
d. Communication

EUSDR Newsletter – 3rd issue produced and distributed for the external public (Sept 2020) and 3rd issue produced and distributed for the EUSDR governance (Sept 2020)

**Joint online EUSDR PCY/NC/PAC
calendar**

is constantly updated

NCs, PACs and SGs lists modified
by request, when staff changing occurs



d. Communication

EUSDR 9th Annual Forum (online)

“Harmonious and sustainable development of the Danube Region”

22nd October 2020 | 10.00 – 16.30 CET

Register here: <https://eusdr2020.hr/en/9th-annual-forum/>

Three parallel thematic sessions:

- 1) The ecologic perspective of sustainable regional development
- 2) The economic perspective of sustainable regional development
- 3) The social perspective of sustainable regional development

e. Capacity Building

- ✓ December 2019 (Zagreb (Croatia) EUSDR Communication workshop - Key messages and stakeholder involvement



October 12th, 2020, PAC online workshop “*Decision making in an online environment*”

End of 2020 – online workshop – “Roles and responsibilities of MRS stakeholders” (tbd)



Cross – MRS Capacity Building activities – cooperation with INTERACT & other 3 MRS developing Common capacity building programme



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?

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