

DTP-PAC1-PA6-06

Priority Area: 06 Biodiversity, Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils

## ANNEX 4

### 2.2. Analysis of the received filled out questionnaires

Questionnaire was sent on three different occasion to the list of contacts involved in the work of the PA 06. The analysis includes answers from Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and a position paper from Slovenia.

#### Romania

From the national resources Romania used their Environmental fund, from EU resources they've used LIFE and other funds which they haven't specified, and they used Danube Transnational Programme. In the INTERREG Programme they had two projects:

1. TRANSGREEN – with PA01 and PA06 from: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine and Romania
2. MEASURES – with PA 01, PA 04 and PA 06 from: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Moldova, Croatia and Slovenia where the purpose was to manage and restore aquatic ecological corridors for migratory fish species in the Danube River basin

Partners which Romania would recommend as obligatory or optional for future Calls for Proposals are National authorities. The biodiversity protection and conservation are the important policy areas (topics/thematic issues) that the Priority area 06 selected as the main focus. They asses that their work in all four targets of PA06 partially contributed to the further development. Their plan to revise the list of targets is: *To develop strategic transnational cooperation to prevent and/or remove the effects of climate change on species and habitats* - this is a target that they proposed in 2016.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

From the possible funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina they only used Danube Transnational Programme for two different Geological Surveys:

1. Geological Survey of the Republic of Srpska - Energy security, Geothermal increasing of use of GTE in district heating
2. Project DARLING - Danube Region Leading Geothermal Energy (Geological Survey of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

They have also applied a project SIMONA, Project Reserve (Geological Survey of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina). For future Calls they recommend participation of those beneficiaries who are not yet

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included. It took two years for all three projects to get from project proposal delivery to signing grant agreement. That time did not affect their implementation. The financial gaps were overcome from the institution budget (for both Geological Survey). The assessment of the percentage of estimated vs. accomplished implementation of project results is 100% (Geological Survey of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina); 85% (Geological Survey of the Republic of Srpska). Finances are the criteria they consider most relevant for their grant award.

Recommended by Bosnia and Herzegovina the important policy areas (topics/thematic issues) that the Priority area 06 should select as the main focus are: renewable sources of energy, geology, environment. Their suggestions in policy areas for preserving biodiversity, landscape and the quality of air and soils for 2021 – 2027 is increasing the use of renewable energy sources, the reasons are economic and environmental protection. They assess that their work in all four targets of PA06 partially contributed to the further development. Their key strategic projects for 2021. – 2027 are: Investigation of the possibility of using dumps from thermal power plants, Mineral resources, Geohazards.

## Slovenia

They haven't answered the questionnaire but sent a position paper from which this is a direct quote: "Some of the countries of the Danubian MRS are affected by outstanding pesticide and chemical burdens on their territories. They pose a health threat to the whole region, since contamination is transmitted across borders - through water (floods), air, fires ... "To safely remove obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals in the area of Danube Region" and implementing the World Health Organization's (WHO) Resolution on Improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals, adopted at the 63rd World Health Assembly (WHA).

## 2.3. Analysis of the funded projects within the Danube Transnational Programme

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme had two Calls for proposal, first call was launched in autumn 2015 and the second in spring 2017. Total budget for 2014 – 2020 financial period is €239 661 376. There are 9 projects related to PA 06 Strategy (To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils), and for now have been granted 22.001.323, 49 €. The main priority for all 9 projects is: Environment and culture responsible Danube region.

### 1. COOP MDD Transboundary Management Programme for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube"

**Specific objective:** Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors

**Countries involved:** Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Italy, Germany

**Main goals:** Harmonization of Protected Areas management and development of a joint Management Programme for the future 5-country UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube"

### 2. DANUBE GEOTOUR Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks

**Specific objective:** Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources

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**Countries involved:** Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Finland, France, Portugal

**Main goals:** Sustainability of the exceptional wealth of Geopark natural resources and heritage through sustainable tourism development that avoids the negative environmental impacts.

### 3. DANUBEPARKSCONNECTED Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor

**Specific objective:** Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors

**Countries involved:** Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, Germany, Bulgaria, Ukraine

**Main goals:** Danube-wide strategies and exemplary activities aiming to restore and maintain connectivity in all habitat elements: water, land, air, fire

**Activities** (up to the end of 2018): Danube Volunteers Day; WILDisland Habitat Corridor; DANUBE FREE SKY; Cross-border grazing; DANUBEPARKS Canyons Network; Forest Sector Training – Cross-sector Study Visits in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube; Implementation of the ecological corridor among Alpine and Carpathian region; Three Networks, two macro-regions, one vision (not approved yet); Danube Habitat Corridor Guiding Principles;

### 4. ECO KARST Ecosystem services of karst protected areas – driving force of local sustainable development

**Specific objective:** Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources

**Countries involved:** Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Main goals:** Contribution to the protection and sustainable development of karst bio-regions in the Danube region based on their valued Ecosystem services.

### 5. LENA Local Economy and Nature Conservation in the Danube Region

**Specific objective:** Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources

**Countries involved:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine

**Main goals:** Enhancing sustainable income generation from wild plants; fishing-based livelihoods; added value sustainable agriculture; regional tourism marketing training; Danube tourist guides across borders; sharing know-how on e-mobility

### 6. ECONETICS - Maintaining Ecological Networks in Mountainous Regions - A Critical Contribution to Green Infrastructure in the Danube Basin

**Countries involved:** All Carpathian Region countries, with a possibility of extension of the project to the Dinaric Region and Bulgaria

**Main goals:** The project aims at identifying and securing ecologic corridors in mountainous areas such as the Carpathians, through an integrated participatory planning and management approach. ECONETICS specifically addresses green infrastructure assets, which tend to become under pressure by further development of grey infrastructure. The project will elaborate respective guidelines and strives for implementation in selected pilot areas.

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## 7. R-PAS- Ragweed Pollen Alarm System for the Danube region

**Countries involved:** Austria (East), Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine plus in addition: Germany, Austria (West)

**Main goal:** aims at the combination of several pollen-monitoring networks in the Danube Region with the objective to create a high resolution Ragweed Pollen Map using isarithmic mapping techniques. The Ragweed Pollen Alarm System (PPRR) could be expanded for the entire area of the Danube Region

## 8. Danubeparks II

**Countries involved:** Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania

**Main goal:** The project focuses on networking and cooperation processes of protected areas alongside the Danube river. The activities stretch over eight countries in the Danube. Project aims to further anchor the network on international and political level with the aim of a long-term and stable organisation as a binding link between the policy level, the NGOs and the citizens. A direct contribution to the implementation of the EUSDR is envisaged. DANUBEPARKS II aims at long term use of the results by target groups on international, regional and local level throughout the Danube Region. A wide public recognition is to be expected.

## 9. SMIWASTRES

**Countries involved:** Romania, Ukraine and Moldavia

**Main goals:** The project focuses on measures to minimise industrial, municipality and rural waste which in turn shall improve environmental, economic and social issues in EUSDR area. The geographic focus of project activities is on the Romanian - Ukraine and Moldavian bordering region and river basin. The objectives of the project foresee a practice-based best practice examples for the entire waste treatment cycle and their dissemination, qualification measures for staff, joint legal framework.

## 10. Fish: joint basin – joint solutions

**Countries involved:** Ukraine, Slovakia

**Main goal:** The project focuses on four endangered fish species (starlet, Danube salmon, brown trout and European grayling) in the Tisa River Basin. An international fish reproduction centre of rare and endangered fish species to secure conservation of ichthyofauna biodiversity shall be established. Another emphasise is given to environmental education of the public and the youth.

## 11. Green Danube Network

**Countries involved:** Germany, Austria, Hungary

**Main goal:** Aims at networking environmental NGOs from participating countries as a platform for future activities and to highlight the importance of the ecological status of the Danube specifically in the framework of the EUSDR. The Green Danube Network shall develop project ideas and provide environmental expertise for a cross-sectoral and holistic implementation of the EUSDR, and serve as a contact platform for the civil society for environmental and biodiversity issues.

## 12. Sturgeon 2020

**Countries involved:** Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia

**Main goal:** Renowned sturgeon experts will steer urgent conservation measures concerning recovery of stocks, restoration of habitats, ensuring migration, and rearing of sturgeons in hatcheries. Targeted communication activities will increase awareness of sturgeons and threats to their survival among relevant stakeholders and the public

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### 13. SONDAR - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

**Countries involved:** Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic

**Main goals:** aims at achieving quantitative and qualitative soil protection through awareness raising. Specially-educated "soil ambassadors" will be trained and a coordination office for the European Land and Soil Alliance will be established.

### 14. Bioregio Carpathians

**Countries involved:** Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine – plus Italy and Poland

**Main goal:** at enhancing the integrated management of the Carpathians protected areas and natural assets in a transnational context and thereby increase the attractiveness of the region. The project promotes the harmonized management of natural assets and protected areas including NATURA 2000 sites in the Carpathians. The establishment of an intergovernmental platform will further ensure the follow up of the project activities.

### 15. Wetland restoration in the Mura-Drava-Danube area

**Countries involved:** Croatia and Serbia

**Main goal:** aims to support and enable successful preservation of natural values in the project areas which are: the Štrbac area of Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve (Serbia) and in the Podunavlje fishponds in Kopački Rit Nature Park (Croatia)

### 16. Protecting “Europe’s Lifeline” - The creation of a Trans-Boundary UNESCO Biosphere

**Countries involved:** Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia

**Main goal:** to support the implementation of a well-protected and managed transboundary Danube, Drava and Mura river system. Project goals are: 5-country biosphere reserve, trans-boundary cooperation and ecological river management

### 17. Haus am Strom

**Countries involved:** Austria and Germany

**Main goal:** In the exhibition of the Haus am Strom important themes of the Danube Strategy are communicated: Biodiversity, energy, water. e.g. the big European protected areas along the Danube are presented or the subject of the European sturgeons in the Danube

### 18. DUNAVISION - Donauwandel 2013 (Danube Learning Journey)

**Countries involved:** All Danube Region countries

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**Main goal:** The project focuses on developing activities in the field of eco-social innovations. The purpose is to bring people together to discuss and develop ideas, measures and projects for a sustainable development, specifically to create new green jobs in the Danube Region. Background is to provide incubators and “think tanks” during the Danube Journey which creates information and awareness and combines biodiversity and nature protection with smart economic growth.

## 19. DUNNOCK (Danube Network for Enhancing Communication, Knowledge and Innovation on the Environment)

**Countries involved:** Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine

**Main goal:** covering twelve of the fourteen countries aims at enhancing coordination and communication among them and may therefore lead to improved use of existing networking and cooperation options. This may further enhance the transfer of scientific knowledge to policy and practice, extend the ways of the research funding, and to make research more attractive for potential donors. Lessons learned from established science-policy interfaces in the environmental sector may provide the basis for linking societal actors with environmental decision making.

### 2.4. TASK FORCE’S work plans

2.4.1. **Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS)** is one of the seven task forces in the PA 06 of the Danube Region Strategy. Their work plan for 2018<sup>th</sup> includes three activities:

1. *Delivering of a keynote lecture: Invasive alien species in the Danube Region and DIAS activities towards strategy development* – which is a part of the project “The 42nd IAD Conference 2018 ‘Danube – a lifeline governed by multiple uses, pressures and a multitude of ecosystem service, 2-6 July 2018, Smolenice, Slovakia”. The activity will be held at the beginning of July with the aim to present the current issues related to invasive alien species in the Danube Region, highlight aquatic priority species and recent research results on their distribution and impact, and update on the DIAS strategy.

2. *5th DIAS meeting*, as part of the Priority Area 06 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The meeting will be held in September and will cover these goals:

- Share information on research results and ongoing projects and initiatives related to IAS in the Danube Region
- Discuss the final draft of the DIAS Strategy
- Plan next steps

3. *Joint ESENIAS and DIAS scientific conference ‘Management and sharing of IAS data to support knowledge-based decision making at regional level’ (working title)* – as a part of the DIAS, East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS) programme. The conference will be held at the end of September and its aim will be:

- Presentation of research results from the recent ESENIAS and DIAS project activities
- Sharing of information on IAS related initiatives carried out at regional level, such as national and local monitoring programmes, risk assessments, pathway analyses and action plans, control and eradication projects, management plans and national strategies, citizens activities and responsibilities, data planning and management
- Networking and cooperation among scientists in the ESENIAS and DIAS regions
- Seek further opportunities for collaboration with other networks and projects in Europe and worldwide.

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2.4.2. **Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF)** is one of the seven task forces in the PA 06 of the Danube Region Strategy. Their work plan for 2018<sup>th</sup> includes three activities:

1. *Strengthen DSTF by establishing a legal entity and supporting fundraising for the program Sturgeon 2020* – which is a part of the Technical Assistance grant, European Investment Bank (via European Investment Advisory Hub). The implementation period for this activity was from Dec 2016 – Jun 2017.

During the contract several activities were developed:

- a screening of the current implementation status of Sturgeon Action Plan for the Danube Region (SAP 2005, the basis of Sturgeon 2020)
- a prioritization of potential funding opportunities according to the best match between the scope of DSTF activities and donor interests
- a screening of different possibilities to establish a legal entity, with dedicated staff, to accelerate the implementation of SAP – the form of a quasi-international NGO with HQ in Vienna was identified as a good opportunity to establish a legal entity.
- request support of DSTF members and international organizations to establish the legal entity and launch projects for the topics that were identified as first priorities (in situ monitoring, ex-situ conservation).
- prepare and circulate the draft statute for the future legal entity
- prepare the first project application including in situ monitoring to the identified calls (LIFE IP program)

2.4.3. **Task Force on Air Quality (TFAQ)** - is one of the seven task forces in the PA 06 of the Danube Region Strategy. Their work plan for 2018<sup>th</sup> includes three activities:

1. *Status of the PA6 action plan on air quality* – is a part of the JRC PROJECT MARREF WORKPACKAGE ENVIRONMENT. The goal of the activity is the preparation of a JRC Science for Policy Report about the work carried out under the TFAQ in support to the EUSDR PA6 targets and actions in the field of air quality and to the implementation of the air quality legislation. The expected budget is 7.500,00€ and the activity will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018.

2. *Sustainable use of biomass in residential sector* – as a part of the JRC PROJECT MARREF WORKPACKAGES ENVIRONMENT AND CONNECTIVITY. This will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 and will cover the activity of drafting a scientific publication on the source of air pollution in the Danube region extended to the Western Balkans with a focus on the sustainable use of biomass in the residential sector. Expected budget is 7.500,00€.

3. *Preliminary study* – as a part of the CONSPIRO/ DPSF. It will be organised on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2018 and it will be a measurement campaign with low cost sensors for assessment of pollution levels and impacts on health. The budget expected for this is 35.000,00€.

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