

MINUTES
of the 3rd STEERING GROUP MEETING
OF PA5
Budapest, 4 May 2012

AGENDA

Time	Item	Documents
09.30 – 10.00	Arrival of participants	
<i>Chair: Péter Bakonyi, Hungarian Co-coordinator</i>		
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome speech and introductory round	
10.30 – 10.35	Approval of the Agenda (Péter Bakonyi)	
10.35 – 11.00	Reporting from co-coordinators: tasks performed and tasks ahead (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	1
11.00 – 11.25	Discussion and decision on roadmaps action by action (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	2
<i>11.25 – 11.50</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.50 – 13.00	Discussion and decision on roadmaps action by action (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14.00 – 15.15	Discussion and decision on projects submitted (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	3
15.15 – 15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.45 – 16.00	Discussion and agreement on the description of the labelling procedure (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	4
16.00 – 16.30	Discussion on communication issues: the PA5 homepage, Annual Stakeholder Forum and the Highlighted Target (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	5
16.30 – 17.00	Discussion on the 1 st Annual Report (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	6
17.00 – 17.30	Closure of the meeting, conclusions (Péter Bakonyi and Gheorghe Constantin)	

PARTICIPANTS: See the list in Annex 1.

Welcome speech and introductory round

Mr Péter Bakonyi welcomed the participants of the Steering Group (SG). He expressed his special pleasure to welcome Mr Balázs Medgyesy, state commissioner, the Hungarian National Contact Point, Mr Olivier Baudalet, representative of DG REGIO, Mr Dorin-Mihai Palaghiciuc, First Secretary of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Ioana Veronica Ionescu, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Hungary and Mr Junger Mihajlo, Councillor of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Hungary. He also introduced Mr Gheorghe Constantin in his new position of Priority Area Coordinator (PAC) of Priority Area 5 (PA5). He also expressed special thanks to Ms Petra Szávics, former PAC of PA5.

Mr Gheorghe Constantin announced that his assignment is only for this SG Meeting and introduced Ms Simona-Olimpia Negru, Director in the Romanian Ministry of environment and Forests who will take over this position for the future.

Mr Balázs Medgyesy in his welcome speech emphasised the importance of risks to people and the economy. Priority area 5 deals with environmental risks like flood and drought, but also with manmade risks. These issues require funding to be dealt with. We have to work on aligning funding to support the activities in the Danube Region Strategy (DRS). For the moment a clear way forward should be laid out. This is why the most important work in front of this workshop is to develop and adopt roadmaps for each action.

Mr Olivier Baudalet in his introduction pointed out the progress made in the DRS especially with roadmaps. He also stressed the need for new projects though admitted it takes time. As for funding of the DRS he explained how the community is willing to help. A “three way” alignment is being work out by a.) assigning a separate budget for the DRS, b.) issuing specific calls (the countries can do it in “ERA-NET” like way) and c.) the managing authorities giving extra points for the Letter of Recommendations issued by the SGs. He also mentioned that the Technical Assistance will continue helping the work of PACs after 2014. There will be specific financing of some DRS relevant projects as well.

Before the discussion of the agenda items participants at the meeting introduced themselves.

Reporting from co-coordinators: tasks performed and tasks ahead

P Bakonyi has informed the SG about the events and the progress since the 2nd SG Meeting. The presentation can be found in Annex 2.

Discussion and decision on roadmaps action by action

Mr Péter Bakonyi introduced the roadmaps one-by-one. He also explained that after having sent out the first draft of the roadmaps some extra work has been done. He distributed the modified roadmaps on paper with the “track changes” option on. He asked the Members of the SG to consider the modified version, to give their first impression on the Meeting but to decide on adoption after the Meeting in written procedure.

Action 1:

P Bakonyi: Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A is being finalized and we are very close to achieve milestone n°1. The draft version has been prepared by the ICDR Flood Protection Expert Group. It has been approved by the ICPDR 14th Ordinary meeting.

Mr Igor Liska underlined that the roadmap prepared by the ICPDR follow the implementation required by the EU Floods Directive. The first version of the Preliminary flood risk assessment on level A will be submitted before the deadline. Though for the part of the preliminary flood risk assessment focusing on the identification of the area of potential significant flood risk there is not deadline is given in the

European Flood Directive. Therefore the Commission allows an extra half a year for further decision and updating this information and this will be done until September.

Mr Gheorghe Constantin expressed his view that the flood risk management plan should first be international but the implementation will be national.

Mr Jacob Schrittwieser suggested that the papers should have a versioning and authored. He also drew the attention on avoiding duplication of work done in ICPDR.

Mr Igor Liska advised that the endorsement of the hazard and risk maps by the SG should be harmonized with the ICPDR workflow.

Mr Balázs Medgyesy highlighted that the High Level group rely on the synergies of processes and the roadmaps provide added guarantee for the political endorsement. Mr Olivier Baudalet explained that the Commission is working on helping ICPDR in its coordinating activities in the DRS.

Mr Péter Bakonyi announced that the flagship Danube Floodrisk project has launched a major output: the “Manual of harmonized requirements on the flood mapping procedures for the Danube River”. He will circulate the Manual with the Minutes and asked the SG Members to endorse this first product supporting PA5.

Action 2:

Mr Gheorghe Constantin expressed his concern about enlarging the scope of the proposal by including the tributaries too. **Mr Péter Bakonyi** explained that the idea was to include other regions of the Danube Basin not only the Danube Valley. Agreement was reached to first develop a Master Plan for the main Danube and then for the major tributaries by 2021.

Action 3:

Mr Péter Bakonyi: This roadmap was developed by the EU Joint Research Centre the author of the EFAS system. As financing of the operation of EFAS is only ensured till the end of 2013 milestone N^o 7 added to the roadmap. Milestone N^o 8 reflects the expectation of the Hungarian Civil Protection.

Mr Gheorghe Constantin felt that the issue of flash floods is too heavy as there is only a mere 30 minutes lead time for intervention. **Mr Péter Bakonyi** clarified that the milestone is about “flash flood like events” e.g. floods that produce fast rising of water levels. This phenomenon could be captured by using cheap water level gauges and data transfer systems. Ms Ágnes Rajacic of the Hungarian Civil Protection supported the idea of developing early warning systems for these type of events.

Action 4:

This roadmap has not been developed yet. Input has been received but it has to be turned into roadmap. Once this roadmap is ready it will be circulated in the frame of a written procedure.

Action 5:

Mr Péter Bakonyi: The first part of this action has been covered by a roadmap prepared by the ICPDR. We should further elaborate of the second part of this action, namely: “this requires to work with the institutions/organisations concerned to reduce the risk to minimum levels and should include harmonisation of safety standards, increased awareness and capacity in accident response and joint crisis management.”

Action 6:

Mr Péter Bakonyi: This roadmap was developed by the ICPDR.

Action 7:

Mr Péter Bakonyi: This roadmap was developed by the ICPDR based on the Danube Declaration 2010.

Mr Balázs Medgyesy pointed out that the Action No 7 is not only water related but includes infrastructure, health, food security and environment as well. This implies that the roadmap need further developing. **Mr Jacob Schrittwieser** would prefer to stick to the water. **Mr Dorin-Mihai Palaghiciuc** seconded his opinion. **Mr Olivier Baudalet** agreed with Mr Medgyesy in a way that other people might be interested in broader understanding of the problem. **Mr Igor Liska** suggested that a gap analysis should be made before decision. He also announced that the “DANUBE STUDY – CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION” has been finalised by the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. This accomplishes Milestone N^o 1.

Action 8:

This roadmap has not been circulated prior to the Meeting therefore Mr Péter Bakonyi asked the SG Members to comment and endorse it during a written procedure.

Discussion and decision on projects submitted

Altogether 9 project proposal arrived to the SG Meeting asking for Letter of Recommendation. The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISBRC) submitted 5, the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests (ME), the Hungarian National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD), the „Oltenia” Dolj County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and the Tulcea County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations "Delta" one each. The ISBRC, the ME and the NDMD have sent representatives for the Meeting who could present their project proposals. After the presentations and the discussion of the two last project proposals the SG took the following decision:

1. Four Letters of Recommendation were issued to
 - a. Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin (Sava FRMP)
 - b. Sustainable Operational Flood Forecasting in Real-Time and Water Resources Management (SOFTWARE)
 - c. Water Pollution Contingency Management Plan for the Sava River Basin (WACOSS)
 - d. Danube Floodplain
2. A Danube Region Strategy relevant project label issued to
 - a. SEERISK- Joint Disaster Management risk assessment and preparedness in the Danube macro region (the project has been selected for financing just before the Meeting)
3. Four project proposals were not given a LoR
 - a. Establishment of the System for Collection, Treatment and Disposal of Hazardous and Other Ship Waste on the Sava River (withdrawn by ISBRC)
 - b. Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin (withdrawn by ISBRC)
 - c. Improving prevention and management of fire and emergency situations by professional emergency services in the Danube Delta and near counties (needs further development)
 - d. Improving the capacity of professional emergency situations services to prevent and manage fires and emergency situations in counties/regions bordering Danube River (needs further development)

Discussion and agreement on the description of the labelling procedure

Mr Péter Bakonyi reminded the participants that a cooperation and harmonization has been started among the Pillar II priority area coordinators. The selection criteria, the project description form and the labelling procedure have been developed in a harmonized way. Though due to the different timing of SG Meetings the wording of these documents vary slightly from SG to SG. To show the integrated approach taken within the Pillar II the PACs agreed to develop a “popular” description of the labelling procedure to be put on the WEB page. This has been distributed before the Meeting.

During the Meeting a short discussion of the ideas of Letter of Recommendation, DRS Label and DRS Flagship Project was started. An agreement was reached to issue a LoR to project proposals, a DRS Label to running (financed) projects and DRS Flagship to very important, emblematic projects (selected from the DRS Labelled projects). Based on this discussion the Description of Labelling Procedure has to be rewritten.

Discussion on communication issues: the PA5 homepage, the Annual Stakeholder Forum and the Highlighted Target

Mr Péter Bakonyi presented the proposed structure of the PA5 homepage. It was agreed that the “Members” page is not needed. Instead the “Contact” page should contain the information about the members.

The Annual Stakeholder Forum is planned for 2 July (TBC) to be close to the Danube Day. **Mr Péter Bakonyi** presented the outline of the programme. The idea of organising a joint Pillar II event was welcomed. Mr Péter Bakonyi asked the SG Members to send a list of potential stakeholders to be invited for the Forum.

The Commission suggested highlighting one of the three targets for communication purposes. The SG seconded the idea and selected the target “Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the Floods Directive – to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change”.

Discussion on the 1st Annual Report

The Commission provided the SG with an annotated template for the Annual Report. **Mr Péter Bakonyi** asked the SG Members to read the document and send any relevant information (workshops, dissemination events etc.) to the PACs for helping them producing a comprehensive report.