

Second session of Steering Group for Priority Area 1a of the EUSDR

Bucharest, 28 October 2011

Reinhard Vorderwinkler, Șerban A. Cucu

Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda for 2nd SG Session
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for 1st SG Session (21 June 2011)
3. Presentation of finalised targets for EUSDR Priority Area 1a
4. Presentation of project data sheet for EUSDR Priority Area 1a projects
5. Agreement on Rules of Procedure of the Steering Group for EUSDR Priority Area 1a
6. Next steps

Meeting Minutes for 1st SG session

EU Strategy for the Danube Region
Priority Area 1a – To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways

European Union
Regional Policy

1st meeting of the Steering Group for
Priority Area 1a of the EUSDR
Vienna, Austria – 21 June 2011

MINUTES

1. Opening, welcome and round of introductions
The Coordinators for Priority Area 1a (henceforth: PA 1a) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Austria and Romania (represented by Mr. Vorderwinkler and Mr. Cucu), welcomed the members of the Steering Group to the meeting (the attendance list is attached at the end of these minutes).
This was followed by a round of introductions in which each attending Steering Group member introduced himself/herself and the organisation he/she is representing.

2. Organisational structure and role/responsibilities of Steering Group
The PA 1a Coordinators introduced a proposed organisational structure for the implementation of Priority Area 1a of the EUSDR (please cf. slide no. 3 of the enclosed Presentation by the Coordinators).
The Coordinators described the main aim of the PA 1a Steering Group as being an open group for discussions. The PA 1a Coordinators will inform and involve the Steering Group in bi-annual meetings (spring and autumn) regarding, e.g., progress made in Working Groups and stakeholder participation. In its turn, the Steering Group will provide feedback and guidance to the Coordinators.

3. Expectations by DG REGIO for Priority Area 1a
Ms. Cruceanu (DG REGIO) communicated the Commission's expectations on how to implement PA 1a of the EUSDR together with a timeline and milestones for implementation:

- Concerning the **Steering Group**, a structured method of work and a structured way to communicate with Steering Group members should be assured. This should be done by developing **Terms of References** for Steering Group matters, based on ToRs for Steering Groups of other Priority Areas of the EUSDR.
- A first **progress report** by PA Coordinators has to be sent to the Commission in July 2012. The report should contain short-, medium- and long-term milestones and deadlines for actions in PA 1a as well as clear responsibilities for the countries involved. The progress report will be presented to the European High Level Group in December 2012.
- An amended **Communication and Action Plan** for the EUSDR is set to be finalised at the beginning of 2013 based on all progress reports by Priority Area Coordinators.
- Progress is expected for the **projects** listed in the EUSDR's Action Plan. "Short-term" priorities as well as three new projects should be identified by the Steering Group. Steering Group members should also recommend projects on the basis of an identification of cross-border/international projects in their countries.
- Communication** issues are important for implementing the EUSDR. Hence, a website is to be set up on the short term for PA 1a by the Coordinators featuring information on the work being done and on the results achieved (the websites of DG REGIO and INTERACT will feature a link to this Priority Area website). In addition, an "image" should be created for PA 1a.

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- 1st session of the Steering Group for EUSDR Priority Area 1a took place in Vienna on June 21, 2011
- Final version of Meeting Minutes was sent out to SG members on August 8, 2011

Final targets for PA 1a of the EUSDR

(1) Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010.

[target maintained as in EC Communication of Dec. 2010]

(2) Solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 2015.

[target reformulated from EC Communication of Dec. 2010:

"Remove existing navigability bottlenecks on the river so as to accommodate type VIb vessels all year round by 2015"]

Final targets for PA 1a of the EUSDR

- (3) **Develop efficient multimodal terminals at river ports along the Danube and its navigable tributaries to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.**

[target reformulated from EC Communication of Dec. 2010:

"Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020"]

The same target was reformulated from EC Communication for Priority Area 1b of the EUSDR as follows:

Development of efficient multimodal terminals at Danube river ports and dry ports to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.

Final targets for PA 1a of the EUSDR

(4) Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2015.

[new target; not in EC Communication of Dec. 2010]

(5) Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonize education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.

[new target; not in EC Communication of Dec. 2010]

EUSDR PA 1a projects

1. Identification of projects and collection of project info (project data sheets, EC Action Plan, other sources)
2. Discussion of projects in thematic Working Groups
3. Consolidated display of project information via PA 1a website (project database; to be launched in Spring 2012)
4. Reporting on identified projects to Steering Group (3rd session)

Data Sheet for EUSDR PA 1a projects

Project Data Sheet

Please return the completed form by e-mail to eusdr-projects@via-donau.org.
 Please note: Fields with orange background will be filled in by the Priority Area Coordinators!

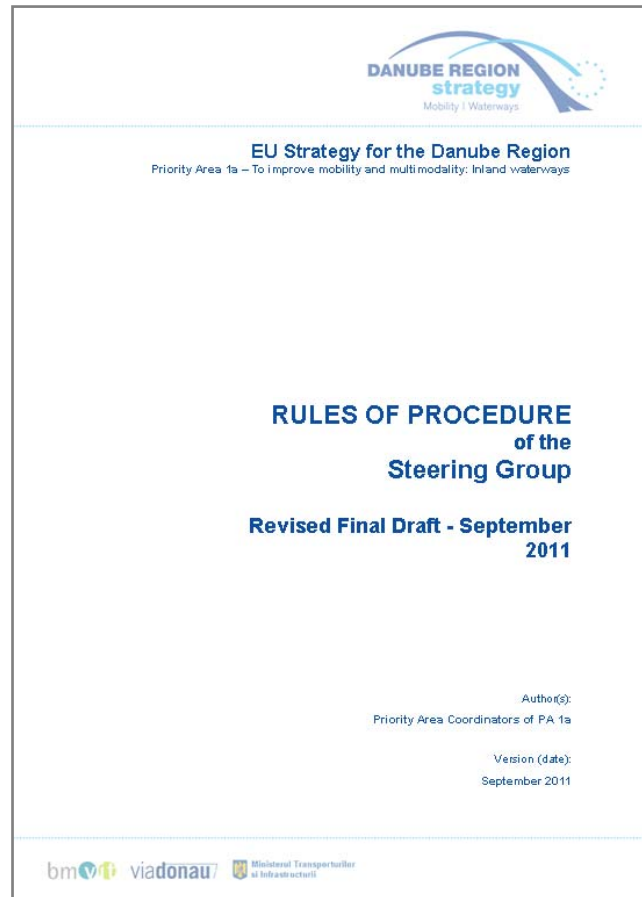
BASIC PROJECT DATA			
Full project title:	[Full project title; provisional title for project ideas]		
Short project title: (acronym)	[Project acronym (if applicable)]	Project logo:	[Image (if available)]
Project website:	[Hyperlink (if available)]	Project ID:	[PA1AXXX (e.g.: PA1A003)]
Need and added value for Danube Region Strategy:	[Describe the initial situation for the project and its need together with the added value / relevance for the Danube Region]		
Objective(s) of project:	[What shall be achieved during the project's duration?]		
Planned project activities:	[Foreseen measures / activities to achieve the defined objective(s)]		
Transboundary impact:	[Which region / countries will be affected by the project and how will they be affected?]		
Project beneficiaries / target groups:	[Main beneficiaries of project results]		
STATUS AND TIME FRAME			
Current project phase: (please tick a box)	<input type="checkbox"/> Definition (e.g. project idea, abstract) <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation (e.g. project proposal, feasibility study) <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Completion		
Start date:	[DD.MM.YYYY]	End date:	[DD.MM.YYYY]
Notes:	[Any important information on status and time frame of the project, e.g. delays]		

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1. Basic project data (need, objectives, trans-boundary impact, beneficiaries)
2. Status and time frame (current project phase)
3. Project team (lead, partner, contacts)
4. Financing (budget, sources)
5. Project environment (strategic reference)
6. EUSDR embedding (relation to PAs)
7. EUSDR compliance (PA 1a targets and actions, affiliation to working groups)
8. Other issues (requirements, follow-up)

→ eusdr-projects@via-donau.org

Rules of Procedure for SG



- Draft version sent out to SG members on August 8, 2011
- Changes made on the basis of remarks by Slovenia of September 21, 2011 (membership in PA 1a SG extended to all EUSDR Partner States, not only Danube states with inland waterways):
 - Art 1. (1)
 - Art 4. (2)
- Current version: Revised final draft of September 2011 (sent out to SG members on October 25, 2011)

Next steps

- 21 Nov. 2011: EU 27 High Level Group meeting
- 30/31 Jan. 2012: PAC-NCP-SG-EC meeting ("Gödöllö+")
- Feb. 2012: 1st WG Meetings for PA 1a
- Mar. 2012: Annual PA 1a Stakeholder Forum (barge to business)
- **Mar. 2012: 3rd SG Meeting for PA 1a**
- Apr. 2012: Launch of PA 1a website & project database
- May 2012: Annual Stakeholder Forum for all PAs