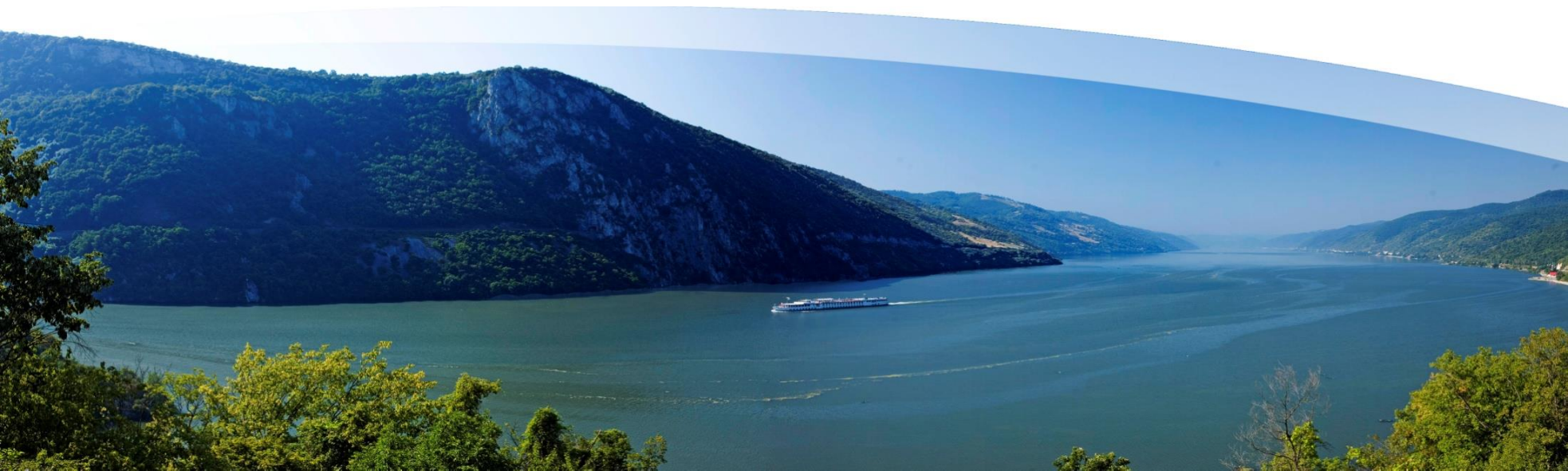


EUSDR PA1a

15th Steering Group Meeting

Vienna | 9th October 2018



Welcome and introduction

Approval of the agenda

Status of Danube Ministerial Conclusions

Path towards conclusions

History of Danube Ministerial Conclusions

- **2012 – Declaration of Luxembourg** – put fairway maintenance on the political agenda
- **2013 – PA1a Steering Group appealed** to Transport Ministers to follow up and offered to develop Master Plan
- **2014 – Master Plan developed by PA1a**, endorsement by Transport Ministers in the presence of Commissioners Bulc and Cretu
- **2015 – catastrophic low water period lower Danube (BG/RO), start of FAIRway Danube project (CEF)**

History of Danube Ministerial Conclusions

- **2016 – Danube Transport Ministers reaffirmed** their commitment to the implementation of Master Plan (under Dutch EU presidency)
- **2016 – ongoing monitoring** of progress (National Action Plans in framework of FAIRway Danube and EUSDR)

Importance of ministerial conclusions

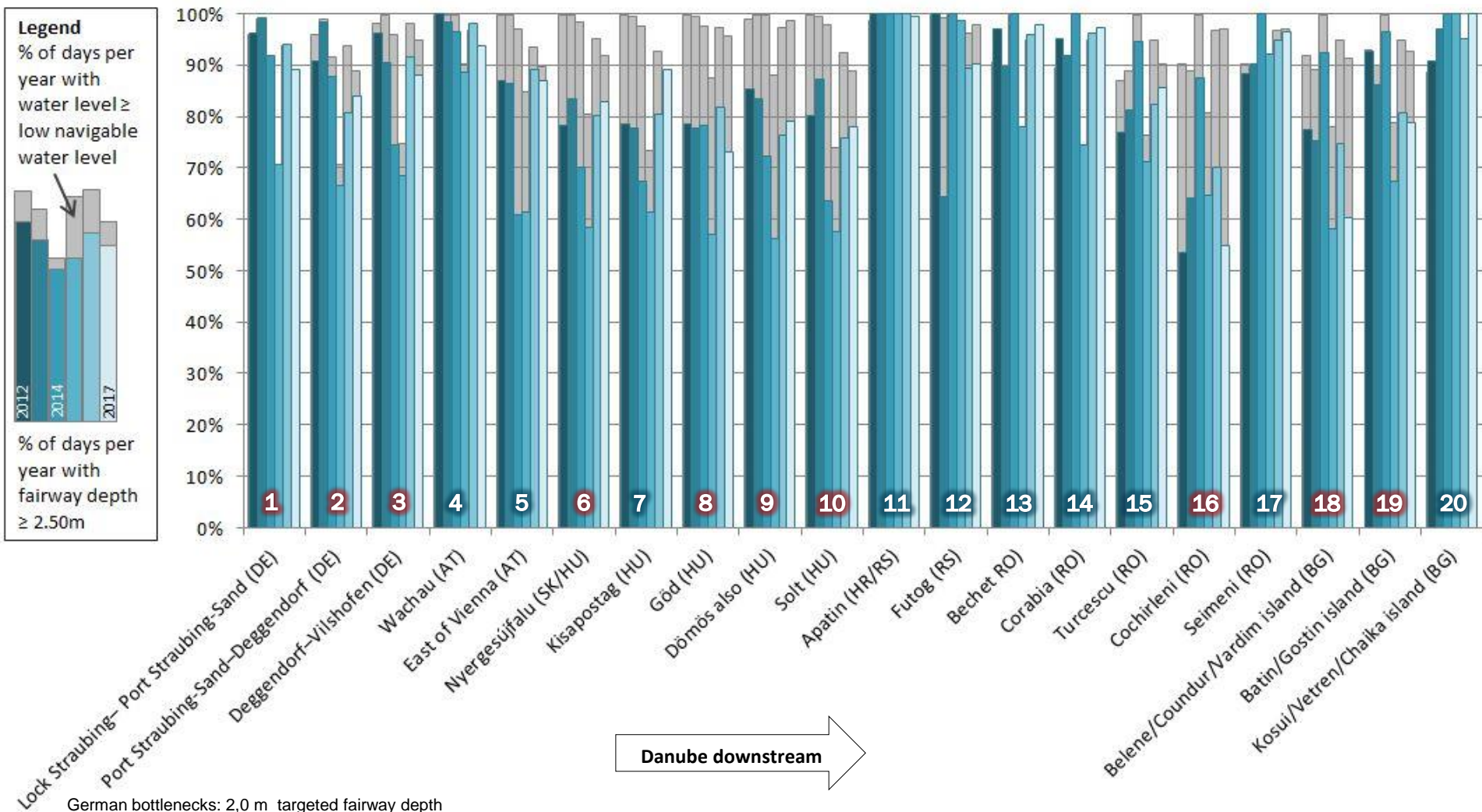
- Fairway maintenance is/remains national responsibility
- Political attention on international level remains necessary
 - > ministerial conclusions
- Political process based on ongoing monitoring
 - > bi-annual national action plans by FAIRway Danube (and EUSDR for non-FAIRway partner countries)

Where do we stand today

- Top 20 bottlenecks monitored since 2012
- Several bottlenecks significantly improved since 2014
- 10 bottlenecks remain to date (primarily DE/HU/BG/RO)
- Problem is manageable, provided that all countries involved take the necessary actions
- Fairway maintenance/rehabilitation (surveying, fairway marking, dredging) on a free flowing river is never “ready”

Availability of fairway depth 2012 - 2017

FAIRway
Danube



Possible core messages for conclusions (1)

- National administrations have stepped up their efforts since 2012/2013 (examples to be given (paragraph from INEA report), e.g. dredging in Bulgaria, river engineering works in Serbia and Austria)
- EU financing (mainly CEF, Cohesion Funds, IPA) and EU-coordination has been essential for the realization of Master Plan
- National Action Plans monitor fairway conditions, measures and budgets and are an important management tool
- FAIRway Danube realizes important elements of Master Plan in a coordinated approach

Possible core messages for conclusions (2)

- Maintenance and rehabilitation show positive effect on navigation conditions, but need continued attention
- Further investment to complement equipment for monitoring, marking, dredging (where required), possibly supported by EU-funds
- Ensure sustainable operation of EU-funded equipment (gauging stations, vessels, management systems, etc.) also after the end of the projects
- Some navigational bottlenecks remain, initiatives need to be continued/started, possibly also in the proven coordinated approach

Possible core messages for conclusions (3)

- Deal with environmental requirements in an integrated way (Good Navigation Status, Good Ecological Status, Favourable conservation status) and make reference to Joint Statement Process
- Continue the efforts on related topics:
 - To remove administrative barriers (TEN-T Flagship project, cooperation of PA 1a and PA11)
 - To continue with lock rehabilitation (where required), possibly supported by EU-funds
- Include a reference to the ongoing negotiation on Cohesion Funds and CEF II

Path towards Danube Ministerial conclusions

- ✓ a) Analysis of technical contents of previous National Action Plans
 - *What has changed after publication of FRMMP?*
- ✓ b) Appeal of Steering Group towards ministers
 - *Urging them to meet and draw conclusions*
 - *Offering technical assistance in preparations*
- ✓ c) Preparation of conclusions by DG REGIO/DG MOVE – based on technical analyses and previous conclusions
- ➔ d) Start of negotiations with Danube ministries of Transport
- e) Final conclusions

Brief introduction of the new Danube Strategy Point - Mr Robert Lichtner



DANUBE STRATEGY POINT

a Secretariat for the Danube Region



www.danube-region.eu

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

The Danube is the **second longest European river** and the **longest river of the European Union** and the **most international river of the world**. The river **Danube's catchment area covers 19 countries**.

The **Danube Region** area covered by the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** stretches from the Black Forest (Germany) to the Black Sea (Romania-Ukraine-Moldova). It extends over **14 countries**, **9 of which are EU Member States** and is home to **115 million inhabitants**.



14 Countries

9 EU-Members States

5 non EU-Member States

115 Mio. Inhabitants

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

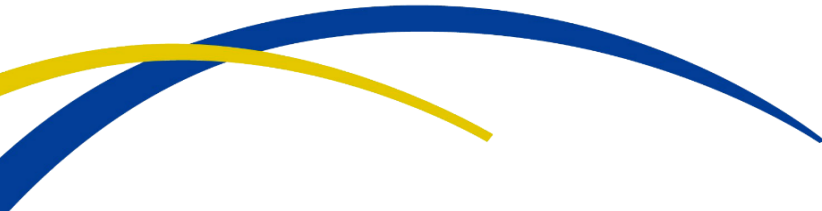
- 2008 AUT+ROM Prime Minister send letter to President of Commission BARROSO to implement a Strategy for the Danube Region
- 2011 European Council endorses the Action Plan, Twinned coordinating bodies for each of the 12 Priority Areas were established
- 2015 Danube Strategy Point in Brussels started its work
- 2017 DSP stops its activities
- 2018 Call for “DSP new” – Danube Transnational Programme / Monitoring Committee (DTP-MC) and NCs take their decision: AUT (CoV) and ROM (MRDPA) host “DSP new” (09/18 – 12/21)

MISSION STATEMENT

The EUSDR has proved a successful way of improving the ***integration and coherent development of the Danube Region***. The role of the EUSDR is to ***promote regional and social cohesion*** with respect to the cultural diversity of the Danube Region.

The ***Danube Strategy Point (DSP)*** is the ***supportive body*** for all stakeholders involved in the the Strategy. It will ***encourage cooperation*** between stakeholders and other actors (funding facilities, administration, civil society, local / regional / national authorities), make the ***Strategy visible*** for as many

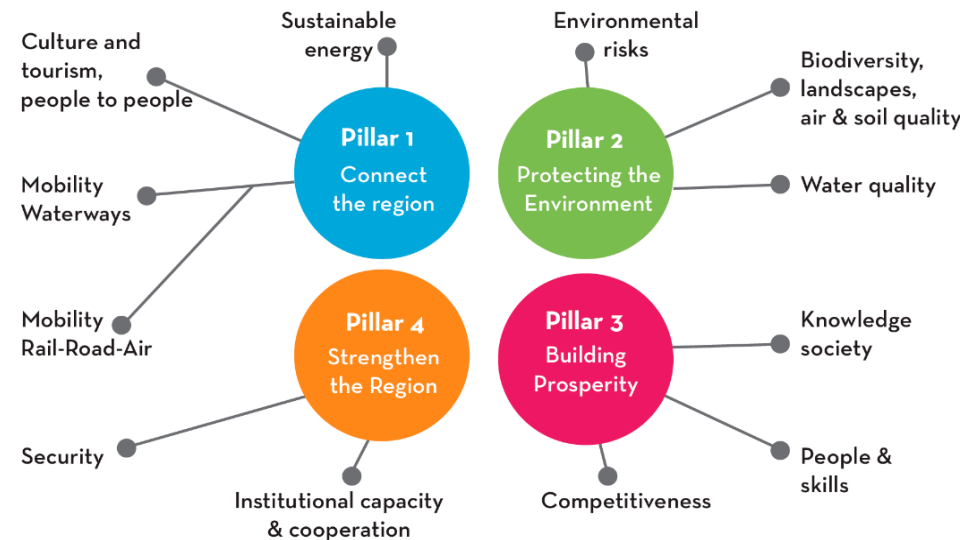
people as possible and document the ***added value*** of the strategy for countries and people. The DSP will – in close cooperation with National Coordinators (NCs), Priority Area Co-ordinators (PACs), the Presidency and DG REGIO – stimulate the process of evaluation of EUSDR and – according to the results of the evaluation – make ***proposals for adapting the Strategy's Action Plan*** and its structure to make the EUSDR fit for the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).



MAIN TASKS I

- Internal and external communication
- Support for EUSDR stakeholders (Presidency, NCs, PACs, DG REGIO)
- Coordination between EUSDR stakeholders and financing / funding instruments
- Capacity building towards PACs and non-EU countries
- Monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy

Pillars and Priority Areas



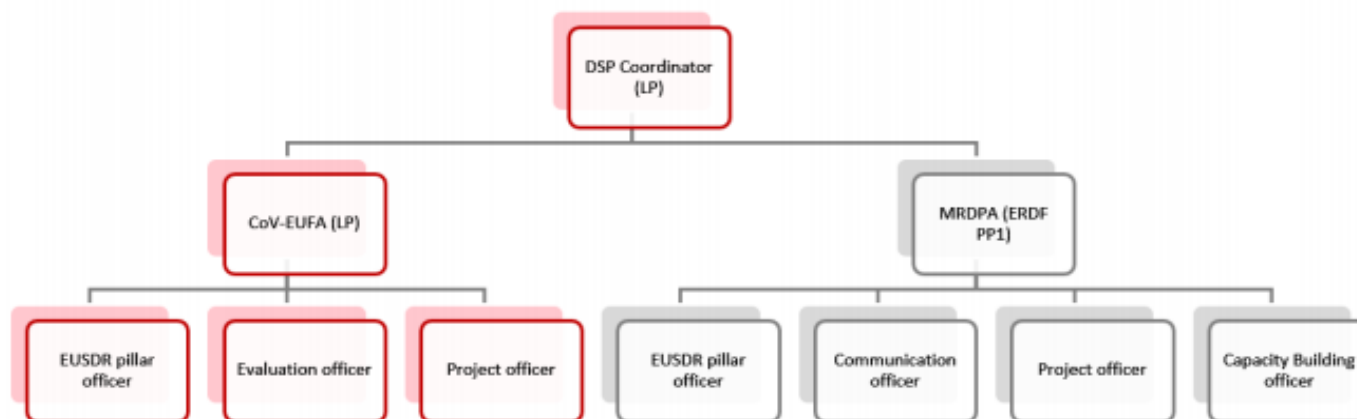
MAIN TASKS II

- Internal and external communication
 - Low visibility to the public, missing narrative and success stories
 - Missing communication strategy, communication tools, online, target groups, info-material in DR languages, annual forum.
 - Communication among PACs, NCs, Presidencies, Stakeholders
- Support for EUSDR stakeholders (Presidency, NCs, PACs, DG REGIO)
 - Collecting, facilitating and streamlining information throughout the process
 - Looking for synergies among EUSDR and also with other macro-regional strategies
- Coordination between EUSDR stakeholders and financing / funding instruments
 - Addressing the institutions, funding bodies and other players, synergies in promoting, funding and developing the DR

MAIN TASKS III

- Capacity building towards PACs and non-EU countries
 - Encourage internal cooperation between PACs, NCs, Presidencies and other key players
 - Streamlining the activities for closer cooperation
 - Integration of actors from non-EU members, internal capacity building tools, stakeholder seminars, etc.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy
 - Challenge: adjustment of the EUSDR 2020+ and the revision of the 2011 Action Plan
 - Establishing of reporting and monitoring system
 - Monitoring concept in close cooperation with PACs
 - Concept as guideline for Annual report
 - Evaluation Concept, evaluation as strategic tool for MMF 2020+

DANUBE STRATEGY POINT



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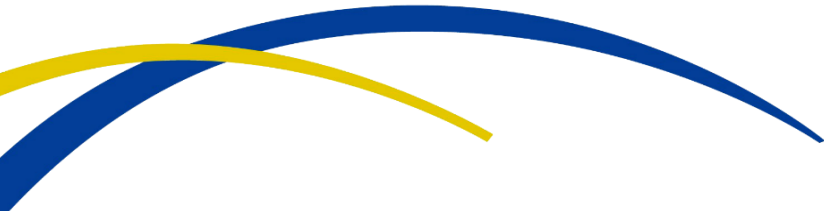
DANUBE STRATEGY POINT

Status of Implementation – September 2018

- Contracting
- Staffing
- Capitalising experiences of former DSP
- Approaching EUSDR actors

Activities planned to start 2018

- Evaluation and Revision of the Action Plan
- Monitoring and Annual EUSDR Report
- EUSDR Calendar
- Communication Strategy



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



Mag. Robert LICHTNER

Pillar Officer (Pilars 1 & 4)

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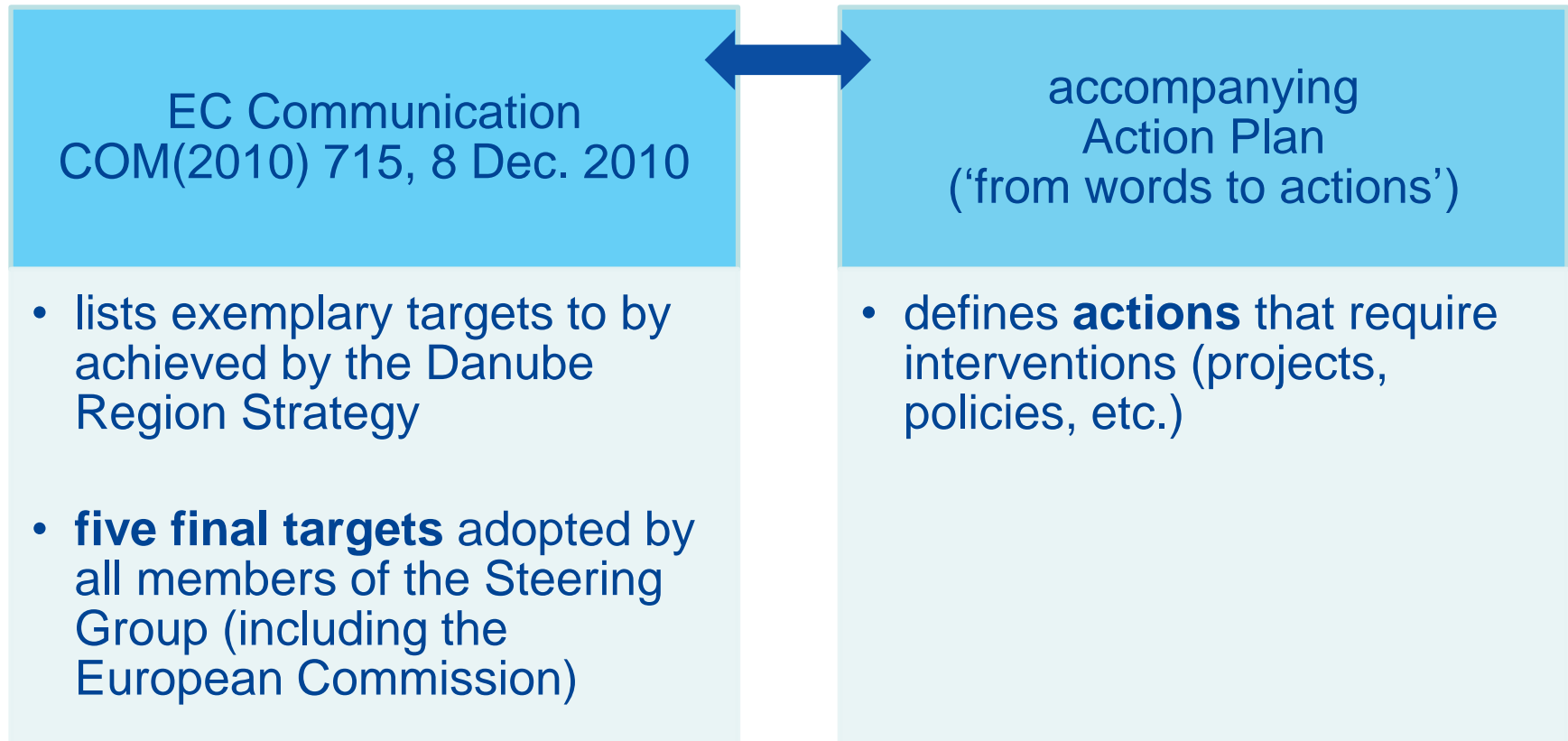
QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us:

office@eusdr-dsp.eu

Revision of the EUSDR Action Plan

EUSDR – Terminology and structure



Schedule for the Action Plan Revision

September – December 2018

- Launching the consultation phase
- **Consultation process at PA Steering Group level**
- Organised discussion between PACs

1st Q 2019

- Feedback from the SG consultation process presented by PAC during PAC meeting (RO Presidency)
- Consultation process at NC level and presentation of PACs feedback at NC meeting (RO Presidency)
- Finalising the consultation phase and submitting results to the Commission

2nd Q 2019

- Drafting phase – revised Action Plan drafted by Commission in consultation with NCs and PACs
- Collection of comments on the revised Action Plan

2nd Q 2019

- Publication of Commission Staff Working Document

Current 5 targets for EUSDR Priority Area 1a

1. Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 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 2020.
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.
4. Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2020.
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.

Current 6 Working Groups

1. Waterway infrastructure and management
2. Ports & sustainable freight transport
3. Fleet modernisation
4. River Information Services
5. Education & jobs
6. Administrative processes (with PA11)

Current 10 Actions as laid down in Action Plan

a) Improvement of infrastructure and economic performance of waterway navigation

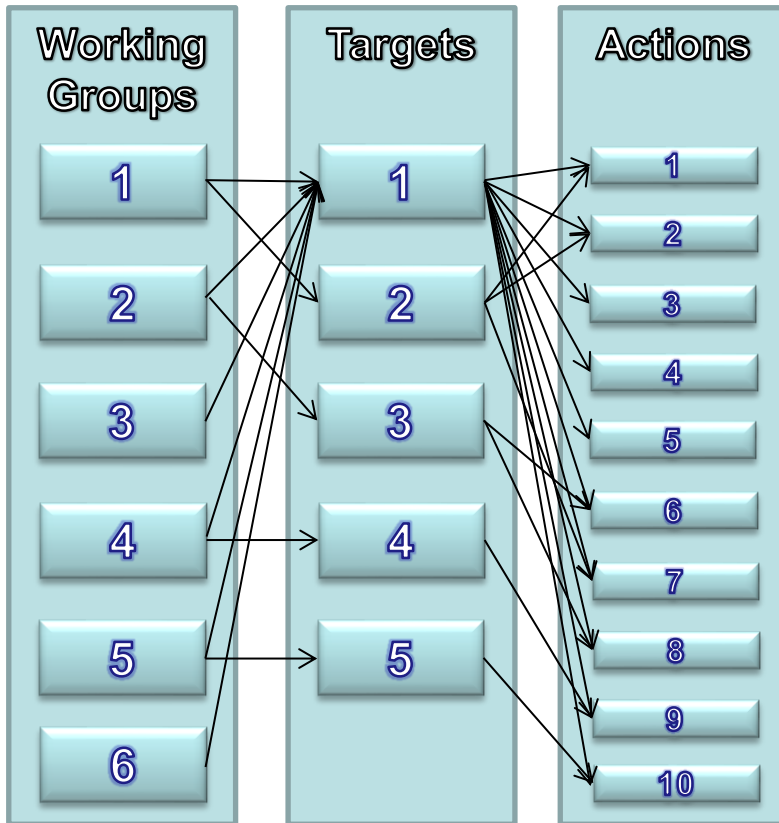
1. complete the implementation of TEN-T Priority Project 18 on time and in an environmentally sustainable way
2. invest in waterway infrastructure of Danube and its tributaries and develop the interconnections
3. modernise the Danube fleet in order to improve environmental and economic performance

b) Improvement of the organisational framework and human resources for inland waterway navigation

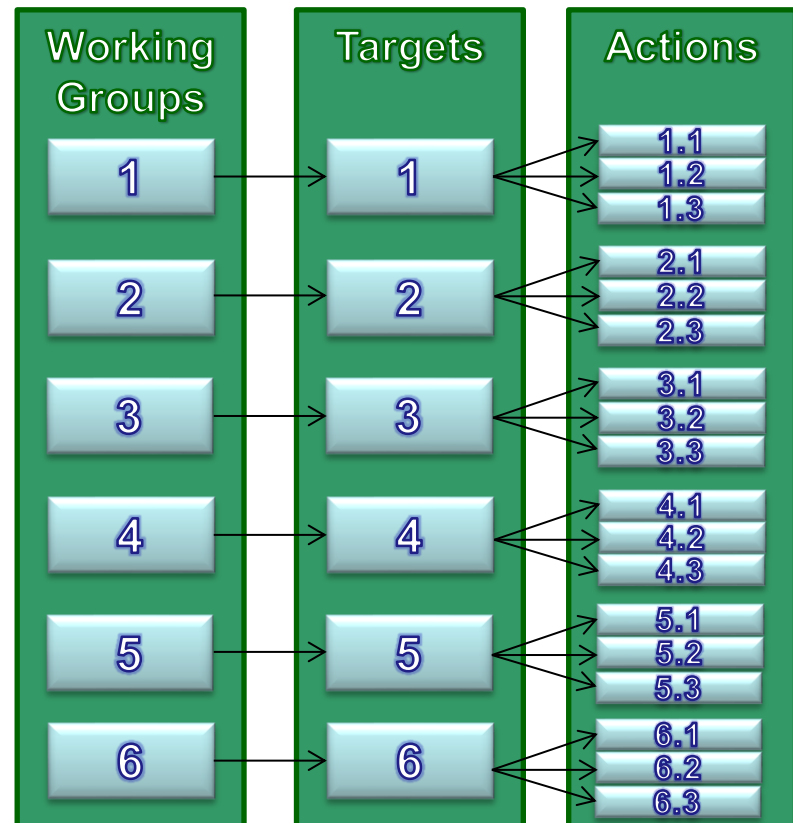
4. coordinate national transport policies in the field of navigation in the Danube basin
5. support Danube Commission in finalising the process of reviewing the Belgrade Convention
6. develop ports in the Danube river basin into multimodal logistics centres
7. improve comprehensive waterway management of the Danube and its tributaries
8. promote sustainable freight transport in the Danube Region
9. implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS)
10. invest in education and jobs in the Danube navigation sector

Targets → Working Groups → Actions

Current structure



Proposed new structure



Questions for discussion

1. Reflection on the existing PA1a targets until 2020
 - Any other key topics or challenges for PA1a for the next 10 years, which would require own Target/Working Group?
 - Reflection on proposed Actions within each Working Group (see handout)
 - Any horizontal topics within PA1a?
 2. Topics or challenges to be addressed together with other Priority Areas?
 - Proposal for integrated project(s) covering more than one Priority Area
-
- ▶ *Discussion in two small groups*
 - ▶ *Report and discuss in plenum around 12:15/12:30*

Family picture

Coffee break

Questions for discussion

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Wrap up of discussion on revision of the Action Plan

Conclusions and next steps


Next steps regarding Revision of Action Plan

- **20th December 2018:** consolidated proposal for revision of action plan
- **30th January 2019:** final review by SG members
- **Spring 2019:** submission of proposal for PA1a revision of Action Plan

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viadonau = Technical
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