



Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz



***EU Strategy for the Danube Region
Priority Area 06 – Biodiversity, Landscapes, Air and Soils***

KEY TOPICS AND PROJECTS

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Tulln, 13.04.2016



Territorial coverage of the Danube region for the Danube region strategy



The Danube Region

14 Countries
more than 110 Mio. inhabitants.

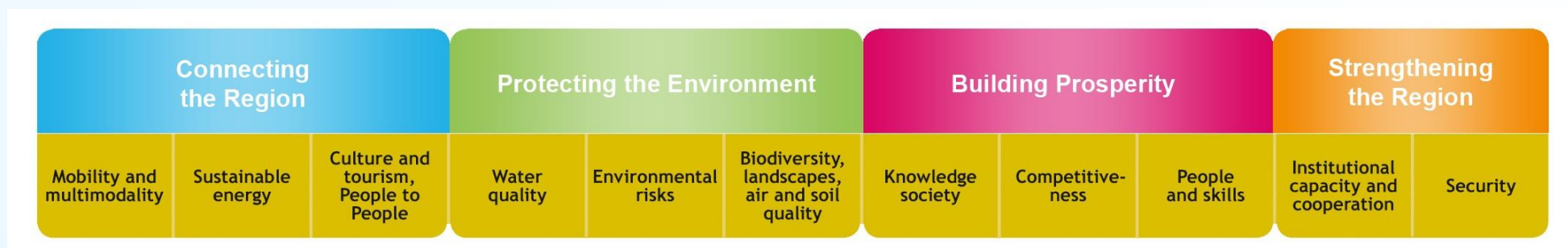
The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR, adopted in 2011) refers to the entire Danube Region and addresses four thematic pillars:

1. Connecting the Region
2. Protecting the Environment
3. Building Prosperity
4. Strengthening the Region

„Macro-regional Strategy“ (MRS) for
cooperation in common and region-
specific thematic fields

EUSDR

4 Pillars – 11 Priority Areas



- Coordination of implementation of the **11 Priority Areas** by two **Priority Area Coordinator (PAC)** from two countries.
- **Bavaria** (Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection) together with **Croatia** (Ministry for Environmental and Nature Protection) is PAC for Priority Area 6: Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils
- Each Priority Area is backed up by a Steering Group, with representatives of the line ministries from Danube Countries (national policy level), observers and EC.

PRIORITY AREA 06

Preserving biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils

Targets of Priority Area 06 (after revision process in autumn 2015)

By 2020 strengthen the work on **halting the deterioration** in the status of all species and habitats covered by **EU nature legislation** in order to achieve a significant and measurable improvement, adapted to the special needs of the respective species and habitats in the Danube Region.

Biodiversity,
Landscapes

Enhance the work on **establishing green infrastructure** and the process of **restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems**, including **soil**, in order to **maintain and enhance ecosystems** and their services by 2020 in the Danube Region and to **improve air quality**.

Biodiversity.
Landscapes.
Soils
Air

Encourage achieving significant progress in identification and prioritization of **Invasive Alien Species** and their pathways in order to control or eradicate priority species, to manage pathways and to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species in the Danube Region by 2020.

Biodiversity

Continue the ongoing work and efforts to securing viable populations of **Danube sturgeon species** and other indigenous fish species by 2020.

Biodiversity

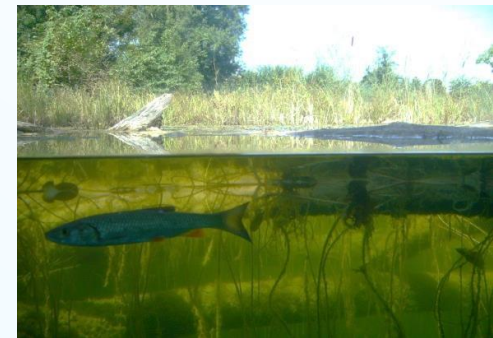
Task Forces and Work Groups of Priority Area 06

- Due to the complexity of PA 06, Task Force were initiated, dedicated to one specific issue (which is complex in itself again).
- Task Forces comprise actors from Civil Society (NGOs, Stakeholders), Science and Public Authorities. Mixture enables Task Forces to gather different viewpoints on the specific topic.
- Task Force chairs are Observers of the PA 06 Steering Group and report regularly of their activities to Steering Group.
- Task Forces are the implementation level of PA 06 and formally linked to governance of PA 06 / EUSDR. They are open and have a transnational focus on the Danube Region.
- Examples for current and future Task Forces and Work Groups:
 - Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF)
 - Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS)
 - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region (SONDAR)
 - Danubeparks – Network of protected areas
 - Task Force on Air Quality (in preparation, jointly with JRC)
 - Task Force on pesticides and chemicals (in preparation)



Process and procedures within Priority Area 06

- Horizontal integration: cross-sectoral perspective
- Vertical integration: bottom-up (involving stakeholder and actors), connection to policy level, using EUSDR-momentum
- Demand-driven: facilitate, strengthen and foster emerging and existing activities
- Open and flexible processes, there is no “one-fits-it-all” approach.
- Networking of stakeholder, projects, other networks, ..., in entire Danube Region to join forces and to close existing gaps.



Examples for activities of PA 06

- Initiation of international **Danube Sturgeon Task Force – DSTF** with members from science, NGO´s, intern. Organizations and public authorities. Elaboration of Strategy and Action Plan „**Sturgeon 2020**“ with comprehensive Work Plan for implementation.
- Initiation of international **Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network – DIAS** with members from science, NGO´s and authorities. Strategy and Action Plan in preparation.
- Networking of protected areas alongside Danube River **DANUBEPARKS**, development of follow-up activities.
- Bavarian Stakeholder-Network, Development of a **Masterplan** for securing and development of **biodiversity** at Bavarian stretch of the Danube River, jointly elaborates by NGOs, municipalities and regional governments, public authorities.
- **Cooperation** with other Priority Areas (e.g. PA1a, PA4, PA5...)



Overview Technical Assistance Budget 2016 / PA 06 Work Plan

- Four meetings of PA 06 Task Forces
- Two meeting of the PA 06 Steering Group.

In detail, we foresee the following **Task Force meetings** in 2016:

25-26 April 2016: Meeting of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF) with the aim to continue the work of the ex-situ conservation measures as started with START funds and to support preparation of project proposal for major funding programme (e.g. DTP).

15-16 June 2016: 3rd Meeting of the Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS) in Budapest to discuss final draft of the DIAS Strategy and programme

24-25 October 2016: 4th Meeting of the Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (DIAS) in Sofia to define concrete next steps and DIAS Work Plan. (Back to back with ESENIAS Workshop)

May 2016: Experts meeting to explore possibilities for INTERREG EUROPE or other funding sources to prepare a joint project on Alpine-Carpathian-Danube ecological connectivity, with specific reference to mountainous dimension of the EUSDR.

Possibilities to join the PA 06 implementation process:

- **PA 06 Steering Group Meetings**

For all nominated Steering Group members from the line ministries of the Danube Region States

Next Meeting: October 2016

Support for Travel & Accommodation costs by Technical Assistance Budget possible

- **PA 06 Task Forces and Working Groups**

open to SG members, Civil Society (NGOs, Stakeholders), Science and Public Authorities

-> for information on upcoming meetings please contact PACs





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