

EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

*Steering Group Meeting of Priority Area 2
Online, 3 December 2020*



Update of the Activities



DANUBE STRATEGY POINT

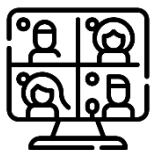
INTRODUCTION

Activities 2020 (second semester)

- a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR Presidency**
- b. Embedding process**
- c. Evaluation & Monitoring**
- d. Communication**
- e. Capacity Building**

DSP ACTIVITIES

Online Meetings



DSP supported the **EUSDR HR PCY** in organising an online NC meeting (05/2020).

PACs were supported by DSP in organising their **online SG meetings** (05/06 & 10/11 2020) as well stakeholder meetings and/or WG meetings. The DSP has provided the tools (Zoom & WebEx) for these tasks and offered **technical meetings** beforehand.

Needs Assessment



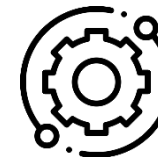
Based on the EUSDR Operational Evaluation (07/2019) the DSP elaborated a **Needs Assessment** for closer cooperation in SGs to enhance the participation of the different stakeholder groups of the member-states (to be published).

Workshops



DSP conducted together with Interact a **workshop** for the PACs on **decision making in an online environment** (10/2020) and will give "introduction workshops" for new actors in the EUSDR (e.g. new PACs, NCs or team members) from 11/2020 on.

MRS support



DSP provides on a regular basis **information about MRS** (NC/PAC meetings) and participated with the **EUSDR HR PCY** in the 2nd meeting of the **MRS TRIO PCY** (09/2020). In addition DSP is member of the **INTERACT Working Group** (and its sub-WGs) on common capacity building support environment for MRS. DSP is also in regular exchange with other MRS in regards of the **embedding process**.

b. Embedding process

01/2020

1st Meeting

Initial steps at EUSDR EMB-DR Task Force Workshop (national level):
22nd January 2020, Vienna



02/2020

3rd Meeting

Further steps at EUSDR NCs EMB-DR TF Meeting (within ECs First EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week):
20th February 2020, Brussels



02/2020

2nd Meeting

Presentation and Discussion at EUSDR PAC Meeting: 11th and 12th February 2020, Zagreb



05/2020

First results

Presentation and Discussion of first results/shortlist:
25th May 2020 at EUSDR NC meeting (online via WebEx)



10/2020

Shortlist

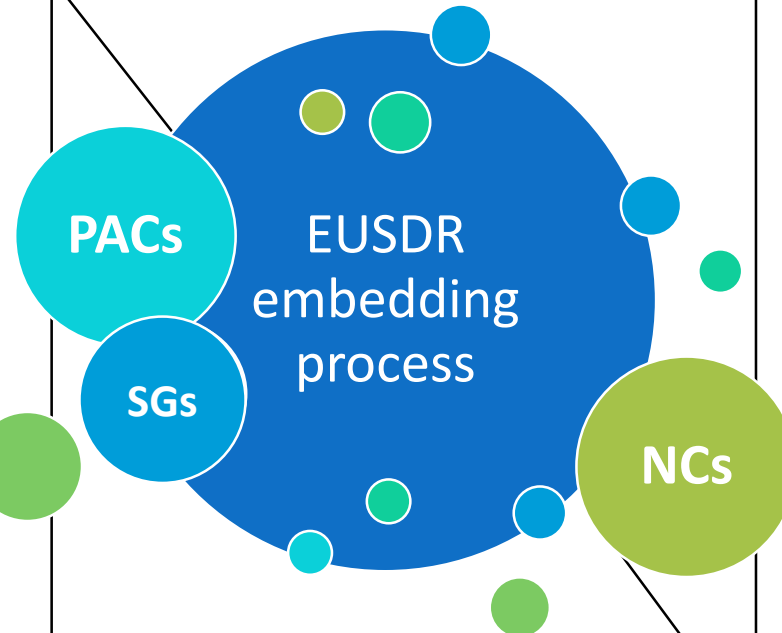
Endorsement of shortlist of strategic topics by 5th October



COURSE OF ACTION

PACs play a key role in identifying and thematically and contextually designing the strategic topics.

- PAs agreed on concise **strategic topics**, in order to allow a targeted embedding
- submitted so-called **shortlist**



NCs are key actors for the embedding process in each participating country

- **coordinate with the authorities** responsible for the ESI, IPA III and NDICI funds
- **screened the suggested shortlist** for feasibility and suitability for embedding on the national level in **consultation with MAs**
- **Endorsement of the shortlist**

FURTHER COURSE OF ACTION

I. Creation of MA-Networks

- EUSDR PCY should initiate a network of national and regional authorities responsible for ESI and IPA/NDICI funds planning/programming.
- The already established EUSDR ESF Network (were members from all EU-states are invited to join) could be immediately utilised in this respect.
- The aim is to establish a process in each country where national and regional authorities responsible for ESI and IPA/NDICI funds coordinate their 2021-2027 programming exercise to support the implementation of the Strategy. Such network should then become a permanent tool for coordinating/monitoring the implementation of macro-regional actions (and then projects) included in operational programmes (OPs) and APs.
- ERDF Network to come.

OUTPUTS EMBEDDING PROCESS

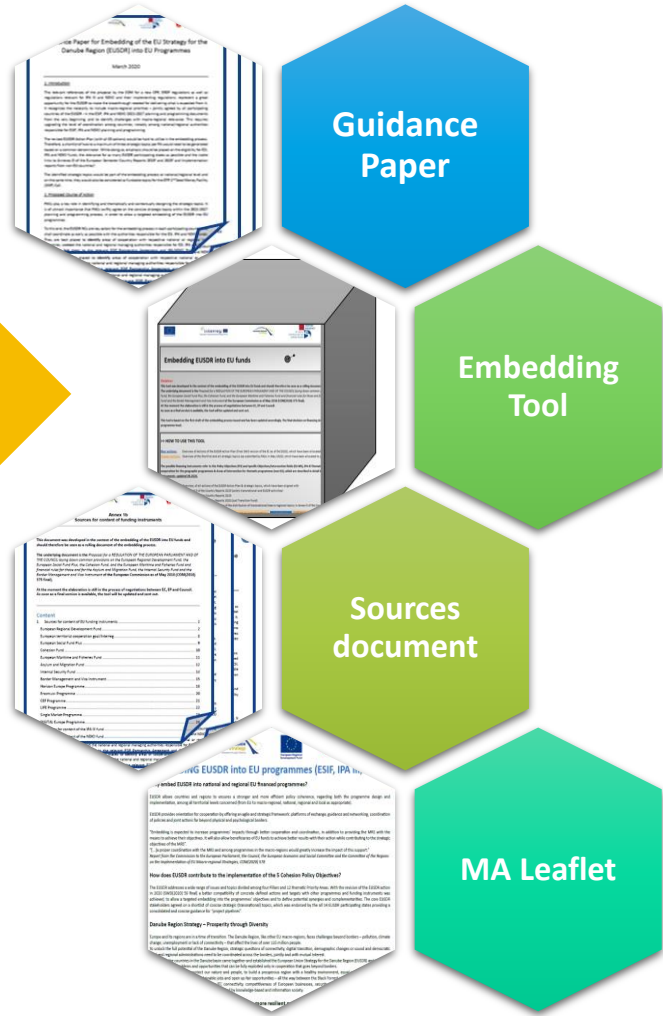
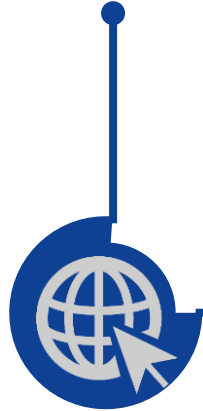
Shortlist

Endorsement of shortlist of strategic topics by 5th October

10/2020



www.danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OF THE HR PCY elaborated by DSP

Embedding tool: screening EUSDR actions & funding sources 2020+

Comprehensive table (Annex 1a)

- supported PACs in the selection of strategic topics (shortlist).
- used by NCs when approaching MAs
- will be provided to authorities responsible for the strategic planning and programming of the ESIF/IPA III/NDICI funds



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OF THE HR PCY elaborated by DSP



Embedding tool – 9 chapters with:

- an overview of Actions of the EUSDR Action Plan (final SWD version of the EC as of 04/2020), which have been allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds (blue sections)
- an overview of the Shortlist and all strategic topics (as submitted by PACs in May 2020), which have been allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds (orange sections)

The possible financing instruments refer to the Policy Objectives (PO) and Specific Objectives/intervention fields (EU-MS), IPA III Thematic priorities for assistance and NDICI Areas of cooperation for the geographic programmes & Areas of intervention for thematic programmes (non-EU)

- an overview of all actions of the EUSDR Action Plan & strategic topics, which have been aligned with
 - a) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019 (solely transnational and EUSDR activities)
 - b) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019
 - c) Annexes D of the Country Reports 2020 (Just Transition Fund)It further encompasses an overview of the distribution of transnational/macro-regional topics in Annex D of the Country Report 2019 (b2b the strategic topics) (green sections).

The overview is based on the Policy Objectives (PO).

I.c. Evaluation & Monitoring

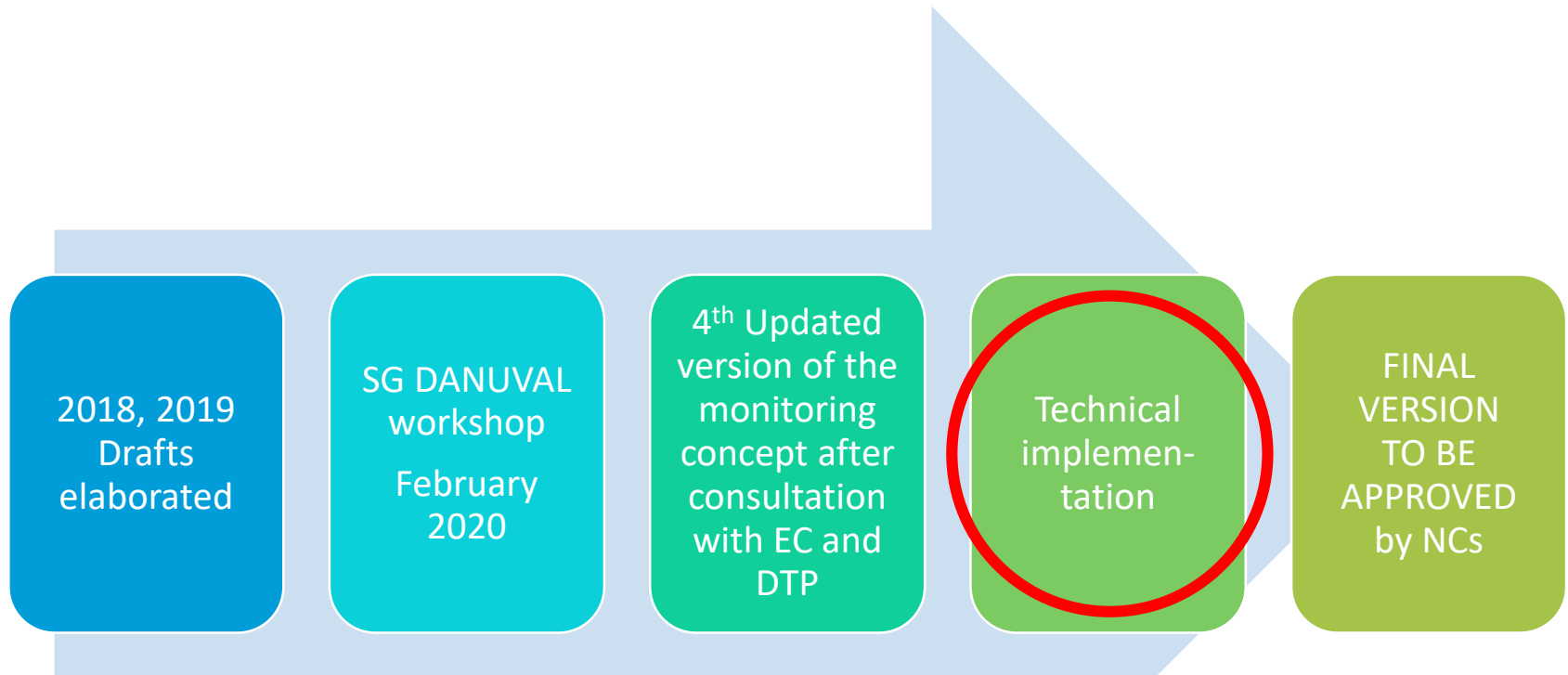
New Monitoring Concept for reporting on the progress and achievements of the EUSDR

- **Original questions from the EC** – used for preparing the *Report on the Implementation of MRS*: reporting via the new tool
- **Original questions from the DTP** (*Additional Information for the Project Progress Report*) and respective answers: PACs will have the possibility to summarize the input from all four reports and to add further information
- **Further Questions** on the progress and achievements in each PA to gain comprehensive information

- one comprehensive Monitoring
- no double reporting
- strategic decision making support tool for NCs



I.c. Evaluation & Monitoring



c. Evaluation & Monitoring

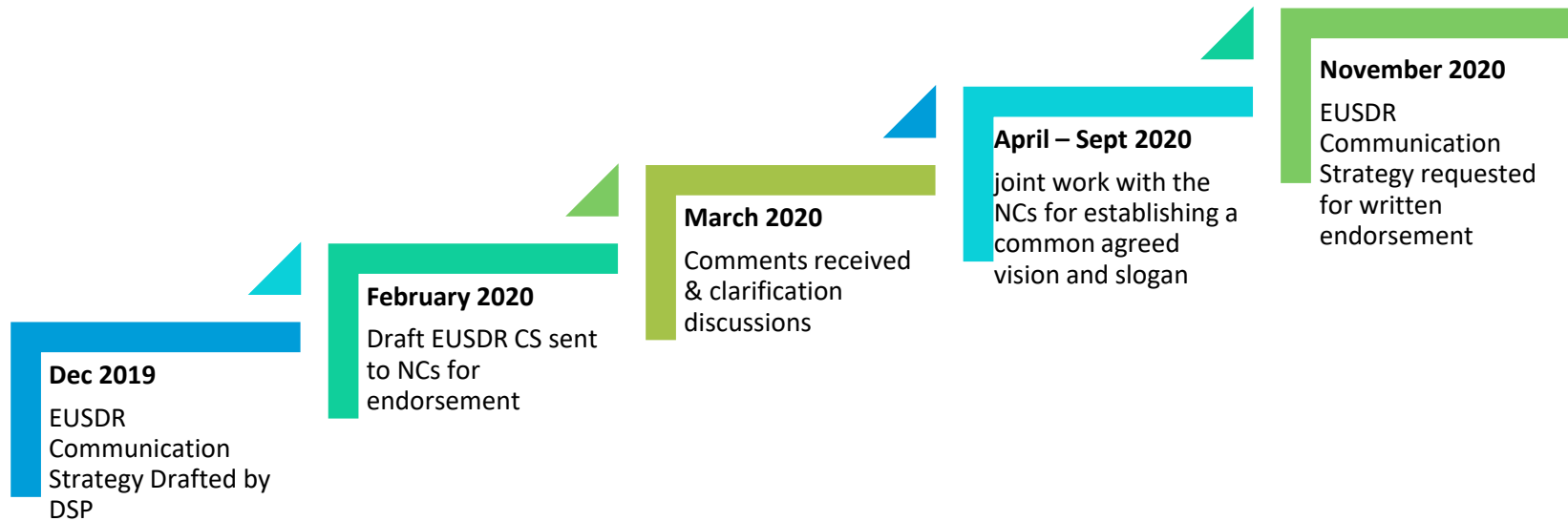
Reporting periods

→ To be implemented as an online tool from 2022 (once in 2 years)

Reporting Period		Released in	Reference
2019	(1 year)	2020	“Old” Action Plan, PAC Reporting unchanged (EC, DTP reporting)
2020–2021	(2 years)	2022	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2022–2023	(2 years)	2024	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting
2024–2025	(2 years)	2026	New Action Plan, New PAC Reporting

d. Communication

The EUSDR Communication Strategy



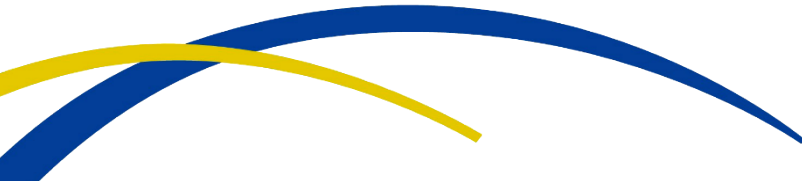
d. Communication

EUSDR vision:

Together we build a prosperous region with a healthy environment, equal societies and high living standards.

EUSDR slogan:

***DANUBE Region Strategy –
Prosperity through Diversity***



d. Communication

EUSDR website

- Constantly updated with newest and most relevant information for the EUSDR target groups
- **New users** (36,285 new users from Oct 2018 to Sep 2020 - when new service provider stepped in, old statistics on visitors were lost 😞)

- **Average session duration: 2 min**

(people who landed on EUSDR webpage spent about 2 minutes for reading)

- **April 7th** – the new **EUSDR Action Plan** was published → **200 new visitors**



d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

Facebook: **#EUSDR**

Facebook page community grew organically
(without paying ads)

- 3,344 followers (24th Sept)
- about 180 posts (March - Sept 2020)

Campaigns by DSP:

- *Back to school in the #Danuberegion* campaign
- Promoting *new EUSDR Action Plan* campaign



d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

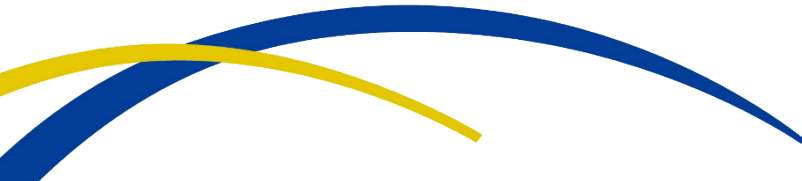
Twitter: [@EUSDR](https://twitter.com/EUSDR)

Twitter followers (24th Sept):

- 1,127 followers
(without paying ads)

Tweets

- about 120 tweets (March-Sept 2020)



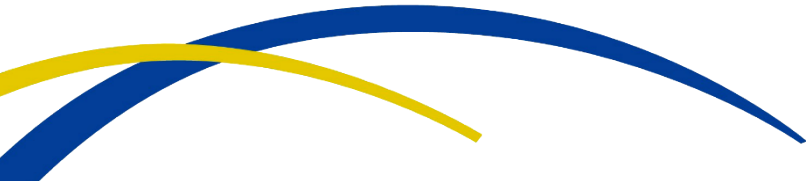
d. Communication

EUSDR social media platforms

LinkedIn: [/danube-region-strategy](#)

LinkedIn Community:

- 2,028 connections (24th Sept)
- about 160 posts & articles (March-Sept 2020)



e. Capacity Building

- ✓ December 2019 (Zagreb (Croatia) EUSDR Communication workshop - Key messages and stakeholder involvement
- ✓ October 12th, 2020, PAC online workshop “Decision making in an online environment”



19 January 2021 – online workshop – “Let’s collaborate for stronger, more resilient and more attractive Danube Region: prerequisites for successful EUSDR implementation” (tbc)



Cross – MRS Capacity Building activities – cooperation with INTERACT & other 3 MRS developing Common capacity building programme



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us:

Katharina Lenz

Pillar Officer, DSP

katharina.lenz@eusdr-dsp.eu

Nicole Hauder

Evaluation Officer, DSP

nicole.hauder@eusdr-dsp.eu