

PRIORITY AREA 2 NEWSLETTER

2020

Dear Readers,

You have just received a EUSDR PA2 Newsletter of the year 2020.

This year has been difficult and challenging for all of us. However, some positive improvements happened in the PA 2.

New CZ PAC team was put together and mutually with the HU PAC team prepared two on-line Steering Group Meetings. By the end of the year the PAC 2 team presented a study focusing on NECP and announced a preparation of a study addressing energy efficiency in buildings. It also participated at several events, at least virtually.

Stay tuned and read more about our development and activities.

Your PAC Team

ABOUT US

- ✓ PA2 coordinates regional energy policies in various topics in order to exploit the full potential of an integrated energy market.
- ✓ PA2 supports the integration of the energy markets of the non-EU countries and supports them in the implementation of the EU energy acquis.
- ✓ PA2 is committed to launch cutting edge technology developments, which will increase the energy efficiency of the region.

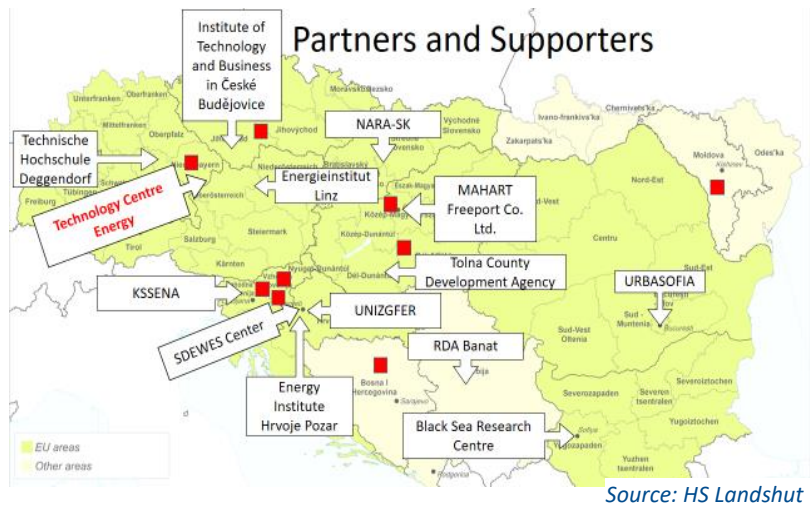
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➤ ONGOING PROJECT

DANUP-2-GAS

The objective of this project is to advance transnational energy planning by promoting generation and storage strategies for renewables in the Danube Region by coupling the electric power and gas sector. Based on the platform developed during DTP project



ENERGY BARGE it will incorporate all pre-existing tools and i.a. an Atlas, mapping prior unexamined available biomass and energy infrastructure. Further, a pre-feasibility study utilizing an optimization tool for efficient hub design will identify suitable locations for sectors coupling hubs and combination of two idle resources in the Danube region. This project is supported by the EUSDR

PA2, as an Associated Strategic Partner. More information you can find [here](#).

➤ ONGOING STUDY
COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANS (NECP's) OF THE EUSDR COUNTRIES

This study, initiated by the HU team, will be published in the end of January 2021. The aim of this study is to give an overview of NECP's by policy areas and their possible impacts on other member states. For more information see the [presentation](#).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 **Climate policy goals and status of interim target achievement**
 - 1.1 Climate policy goals of the European union
 - 1.2 Status of 2020 target achievement
 - 1.3 Factors hindering target achievement
- 2 **The structure and required content of NECPs**
 - 2.1 The role of National Energy and Climate Plans
 - 2.2 Structure and required content
- 3 **Overview of NECPs by policy areas**
 - 3.1 Decarbonisation, GHG emissions
 - 3.2 Renewable electricity
 - 3.3 Renewable heating and cooling
 - Use of biomass
 - 3.4 Transport
 - 3.5 Energy efficiency of buildings
 - 3.6 Industry decarbonisation
 - 3.7 Natural gas
 - The role of Hydrogen and synthetic gas
 - 3.9 Electricity
 - System flexibility
 - 3.11 Sector coupling
- 4 **Possible impacts of policies on other member states and regional cooperation**

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Source: REKK

➤ ONGOING ACTIVITY

Danube Region Sustainable Energy – DESTINE



The HU Coordination has been working on the establishment of an interactive website DESTINE, which aims to provide a central information pool for experts on various topics addressed by the PA2, such as different renewable and fossil energy sources, energy sectors, as well as main policy papers, strategic documents at the EU, EUSDR and country levels.

➤ 20th SG MEETING AND 3 ACTIONS FROM THE REVISED ACTION PLAN AS AN OUTCOME

❖ 27 May 2020, virtually

PAC's presented the project reporting as well as the common CZ-HU planned actions within this project. **Regarding the Revised Action Plan, three actions were chosen for the embedding process.** Furthermore, the expert presentations were related to the cooperation with the Energy Community, the recent developments and activities in the EUSDR and DSP. **Additionally, 2 projects V4GU and DanuP-2-Gas were presented.** Information about the ongoing V4GU project were provided by the lead partner University of Pécs, Hungary. The objectives of the project DanuP-2-Gas were introduced by the lead partner Hochschule Landshut, Germany.

Agenda and project presentations under this [link](#).

3 ACTIONS OF THE REVISED ACTION PLAN

ACTION 1: To further explore the sustainable use of clean biomass, solar energy, geothermal, hydropower and wind power to increase the energy independency and to promote and support multipurpose cross border RES utilization projects.

ACTION 2: To promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in buildings and heating systems including district heating and cooling and combined heat and power facilities.

ACTION 7: To explore new and innovative solutions of (subsurface) energy storage.

➤ 21st SG Meeting – STAKEHOLDER’S INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AS OUTCOME

❖ 3 December 2020, virtually



During the virtual Meeting the ongoing study and the recent development of the interactive website were presented. Moreover, the CZ Coordination informed about the preparation of the study on Energy efficiency in buildings. Representatives from the DG REGIO, DG ENER, DSP, DTP reported about the latest

development and future activities. **The participants discussed the presented studies and the ongoing activity, as well as the communication and cooperation strategy of the PA2.**

➤ GOALS OF THE PA2 FOR THE NEXT YEAR

- Extending the Stakeholder’s Database
- Development of the Working Groups
- Continues update of the PA2 website and DESTINE
- 2 Workshops to be organized in 2021 focusing on results of the ongoing and upcoming study

➤ PREPARATION OF THE STUDY – ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS

The CZ PAC will conduct a study aiming at monitoring the actual policies in the Danube Region

and comparing them with the EC Renovation Wave Initiative. The main elements were presented at the 21st SG Meeting. The planned timetable is to find a subcontractor in January 2021, present the preliminary key findings at the next SG Meeting and the final results in the autumn 2021. For further information contact the CZ PAC. There is also an open call for tender under the Horizon2020 Programme on building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way. In case of interest click [here](#).

Main elements of the study

Content

- Mapping the actual policies in the MS
- Comparing the findings with the Renovation Wave Initiative
- Indicating the potential gaps
- Suggesting new provisions
- Assessing the impact of Renovation Wave
- Sharing the best practices

➤ WORKSHOPS – AUTUMN 2020

9th Annual Forum

❖ 22nd October 2020, virtually

The plenary session focused on harmonious and sustainable development of the Danube Region. Following the programme agenda, three parallel sessions took place: the ecologic, the economic and the social perspective.

In the afternoon session Danube Interreg Programme presented aims of the new Danube Programme 2021-2027 based on the need and challenges across the Danube Region. The DTP will focus on strong cooperation in policy framework.

In terms of energy, the DTP is planning to have energy as one of the objectives as in the current period. Since the region has high energy dependency, lack of high energy security and still missing interconnections.

Concluding the Annual Forum, the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development gave closing words and welcomed the Slovakian Presidency for the upcoming year.

European Week of Regions and Cities

❖ 5-22nd October 2020, virtually

The three-week event was divided into **three thematic sessions: Empowering Citizens, Cohesion and Cooperation, Green Europe**. Cohesion and Cooperation participants stressed the importance of working closely together and deepening the partnerships. Moreover, future perspectives for EU macro-regions were presented. The third session focused on Green Europe aiming at the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 based on the European Green Deal.

Priorities of the Slovakian Presidency 2021

1. Institutional
 - A. Institutional cooperation of stakeholders involved in implementation
 - B. Cooperation among EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators
2. Thematic
 - A. Climate change and the Protection of Biodiversity
 - B. Digitalization and Innovation Ecosystems

Conference on V4GU

❖ 22nd September 2020 virtually

The PA2 participated and supported the project “Green Universities”, co-financed by Visegrád Funds 03/2020-8/2021 aiming at the climate protection and sustainability. The university of Pécs, Hungary, organized this virtual event with the objective of sharing information and building network among universities interested in greening their activities.

Several universities from the Danube Region presented their steps and actions in order to be environmentally friendly. **Key words „think environmentally, be sustainable, social responsible“ were underlined by the speakers.**



➤ CALL FOR TENDER OPEN UNTIL 26 JANUARY 2021

The European Commission has launched its Green Deal call for project proposals under the HORIZON Programme. The calls will support pilot applications, demonstration projects and innovative products innovation for better governance of the green and digital transition social and value chain innovation. **Deadline is until 26 January 2021. More information under the [link](#).**

CONTACTS

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