



# Online Meeting of the Steering Group of EUSDR Priority Area 2

15 December 2021





# Update of the Activities in 2021 & the way forward in 2022



**DANUBE STRATEGY POINT**



# a. Support for PACs, NCs & EUSDR (TRIO) PCY

- Needs Assessment for closer cooperation between PACs and other relevant stakeholders

## Schedule:



Preliminary PAC survey: Who are your stakeholders?  
An overview of recent PA stakeholder cooperation



Workshop for PACs I: Understand your stakeholders!  
A workshop on stakeholder management

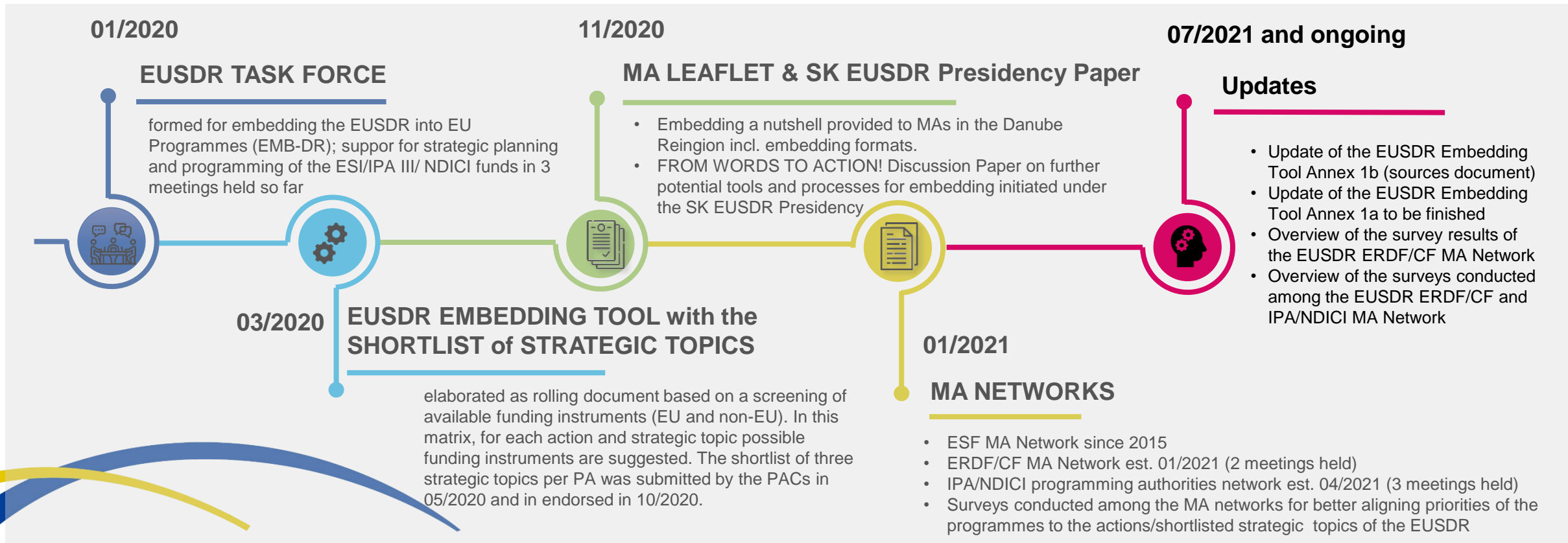


Subsequent workshop for PACs II: Plan with your stakeholders!  
A workshop on stakeholder engagement



# b. Embedding Process

## • Summary



## b. EUSDR Embedding tools

- Strategic implementation tools

- ✓ **Tools:** The EUSDR Embedding Tool (*Annex 1a*); Sources for content of funding instruments (*Annex 1b*)
- ✓ **Target group:** Key implementers of the EUSDR; authorities responsible for programming
- ✓ **Performance:** Interactive Excel tool for individual application; Actions of the EUSDR Action Plan and EUSDR shortlisted strategic topics; allocation to possible EU funds, IPA III and NDICI funds (applicable for EU and non-EU countries); alignment with the Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019 and 2020; shortcuts to and compilation of funding instrument sources for the MFF 2021-2027 (pdf)



## b. EUSDR Embedding tools

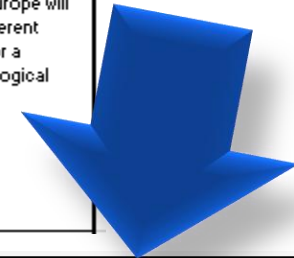
- The EUSDR Embedding Tool (Annex 1a)
- Sources for content of funding instruments (Annex 1b)



Priority Area	Actions from Action Plan (Final SWD of EC as of 4/2020)	Policy Objective*	Policy Objective*	Policy Objective*	Possible financing Instrument I.**	Possible financing Instrument II.**	Possible financing Instrument III.**	Possible financing Instrument IV.**	Possible financing Instrument V.**	Possible financing Instrument VI.**
PA 2 Sustainable Energy	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	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.2 (ii) 047; 048; 049; 050; 051; 052; 053	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (e); (g)	CEF Programme (b)(ii)	LIFE Programme (a); (b); (c) Climate Action; subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'		
	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	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.1 (i); PO 2.2 (ii) 038; 039; 040; 041; 042; 043; 044; 045; 046; 048; 052; 054; 055; 056	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (e); (g)	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF) (b)	Horizon Europe Programme Pillar II (v): buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition	CEF Programme (b)(i),(ii)	LIFE Programme (a); (b); (c) Climate Action; subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'
	ACTION 3: To promote decarbonisation of and reduction of air pollutants in the transport sector, regarding both public and freight transportation by developing the infrastructure for alternative fuels	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning	PO 3: A more connected Europe by		European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.7 (vii); PO 2.8 (viii) 077; 080; 091; 082; 086	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (f)	CEF Programme (b)(ii)			
	ACTION 4: To improve energy efficient, cost efficient and innovative low-carbon technologies, including smart solutions while respecting the principle of technological neutrality	PO 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning		European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 1.1 (i); PO 2.1 (i); PO 2.2 (ii) 029; 040; 045; 046;	European Social Fund plus (ESF+) PO 2 (b) [same remains for Interreg]	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (c); d)	Horizon Europe Programme Pillar II (iv): low carbon and clean industries		
	ACTION 5: To enforce regional cooperation with the aim of supporting the implementation of projects connecting energy markets with a focus on the projects of the Central and South Eastern European Energy Connectivity (CESEC) initiative	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2	CEF Programme (b)(i)				
	ACTION 6: To exchange best practices and to develop activities to decrease energy poverty, to increase the protection of vulnerable consumers and to empower consumers to engage in the energy market	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (e)	CEF Programme (b)(i)	LIFE Programme (a) Climate Action; subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'	Single Market Programme (successor COSME) (a)(ii); (d)(i),(ii)	
	ACTION 7: To explore new and innovative solutions of (subsurface) energy storage	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.3 (iii) 053	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (d)	Horizon Europe Programme Pillar II (v): energy storage			



# b. The EUSDR Embedding Tool (Annex 1a)



Priority Area	PA 2 - Sustainable Energy		
<b>Actions from Action Plan</b> <i>(Final SVD as of 4/2020)</i>	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
<b>Strategic topic related to Priority Area</b>	Enhanced use of renewable energy resources	Increase energy efficiency and promote the decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector	Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against the climate change
<b>Short definition of the selected strategic topic</b>	The increasing use of renewable energy sources contributes to more sustainable energy production and lowers dependency on imported fossil fuels, accelerates the shift towards a greener and low-carbon economy, drives technological innovation and employment and also increases resilience to climate change. The available biomass, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal resource base varies significantly across the EUSDR countries, therefore there is a need to further map the energy landscape to fully understand the potential of the regions and	The cheapest energy is the energy not used at all, i.e. increased energy efficiency can significantly contribute to energy savings. In the Danube Region households heating and hot water supply account for more than 2/3 of the total final energy use, most of them operating as obsolete systems, fed by the combustion of fossil fuels with damaging greenhouse gas emissions. The decarbonisation of the heating sector in the Danube Region therefore relies on 2 interconnected pillars: introduction of renewables and modernisation of the energy systems that allow the efficient	The transition to a low-carbon energy system in Europe will likely require increased storage capabilities for different energy vectors or effluents. This transition calls for a strategic planning of the various emerging technological solutions.

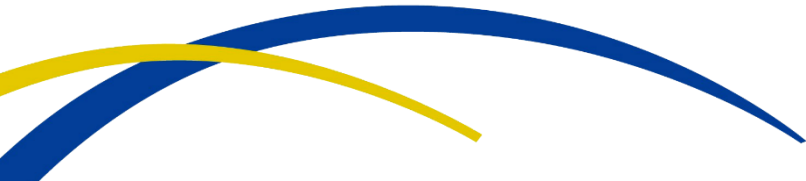
Priority Area	Shortlisted Actions from Action Plan <i>(Final SVD of EC as of 4/2020)</i>	Strategic Topics related to the Priority Area	Policy Objective*	Policy Objective*	Policy Objective*	Possible financing Instrument I.**	Possible financing Instrument II.**	Possible financing Instrument III.**	Possible financing Instrument IV.**	Possible financing Instrument V.**	Possible financing Instrument VI.**
PA 2 Sustainable Energy	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.	Enhanced use of renewable energy resources	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.2 (ii) 047; 048; 049; 050; 051; 052; 053	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (e); (g)	CEF Programme (b)(ii)	LIFE Programme (a); (b); (c) Climate Action; subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'		
	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	Increase energy efficiency and promote the decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning			European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.1 (i); PO 2.2 (ii) 038; 039; 040; 041; 042; 043; 044; 045; 046; 048; 052; 054; 055; 056	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (e); (g)	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF) (b)	Horizon Europe Programme Pillar II (v): buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition	CEF Programme (b)(i),(ii)	LIFE Programme (a); (b); (c) Climate Action; subprogramme 'Clean Energy Transition'
	ACTION 7: To explore new and innovative solutions of (subsurface) energy storage	Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against the climate change	PO 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe	PO 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning		European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)/Cohesion Fund (CF) PO 2.3 (iii) 053	Just Transition Fund (JTF) (d)	Horizon Europe Programme Pillar II (v): energy storage			



# EUSDR Embedding tools

- **Strategic implementation tools**

- ✓ **Tools:** Overviews of surveys of EUSDR MA Networks (ERDF/CF and IPA/NDICI)
- ✓ **Target group:** Authorities responsible for programming; key implementers of the EUSDR
- ✓ **Performance:** Interactive Excel tools for individual application; Danube region wide overview of how Specific Objectives of Cohesion policy are covered by national and Interreg programmes; alignment of programmes' thematic priorities with the Actions and shortlisted strategic topics of the EUSDR; 'Numerical overview of the coverage of EUSDR actions/shortlisted strategic topics'; TOP 5 matchmakings identified







## b. Embedding Process

- Recap: tools elaborated



**The Guidance Paper for Embedding of the EUSDR** : comprehensive instructions for the EUSDR Embedding process including a table filled in by Priority Areas to provide up to three strategic topics (per PA) and detailed description of each strategic topic (shortlist)



**UPDATED! The EUSDR Embedding Tool (Annex 1a)**: Actions of the EUSDR AP and the shortlisted strategic topics, which have been allocated to possible EU funds, IPA III (tbd) and NDICI funds as well as to the Annexes D of the Country Reports 2019 and 2020



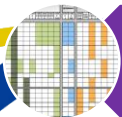
**UPDATED! Sources for content of funding instruments (Annex 1b)**: a compilation of funding instrument sources to support PACs in their selection of strategic topics and NCs in approaching the MAs.



**MA Leaflet to embed the EUSDR into EU programmes 2021 – 2027**: the how, the why, the what summary of EUSDR embedding for representatives of managing/programming authorities, NCs, PACs and other stakeholders working on embedding into EU programmes



**EUSDR EMBEDDING – FROM WORDS TO ACTION! Discussion Paper**: discussion paper on further potential tools and processes for embedding initiated under the SK EUSDR PRESIDENCY



**NEW! Overview of surveys of EUSDR MA Networks (ERDF/CF and IPA/NDICI)**: Based on the results of the surveys conducted in spring 2021, overviews were designed to better align priorities of the programmes to the EUSDR actions/shortlisted strategic topics



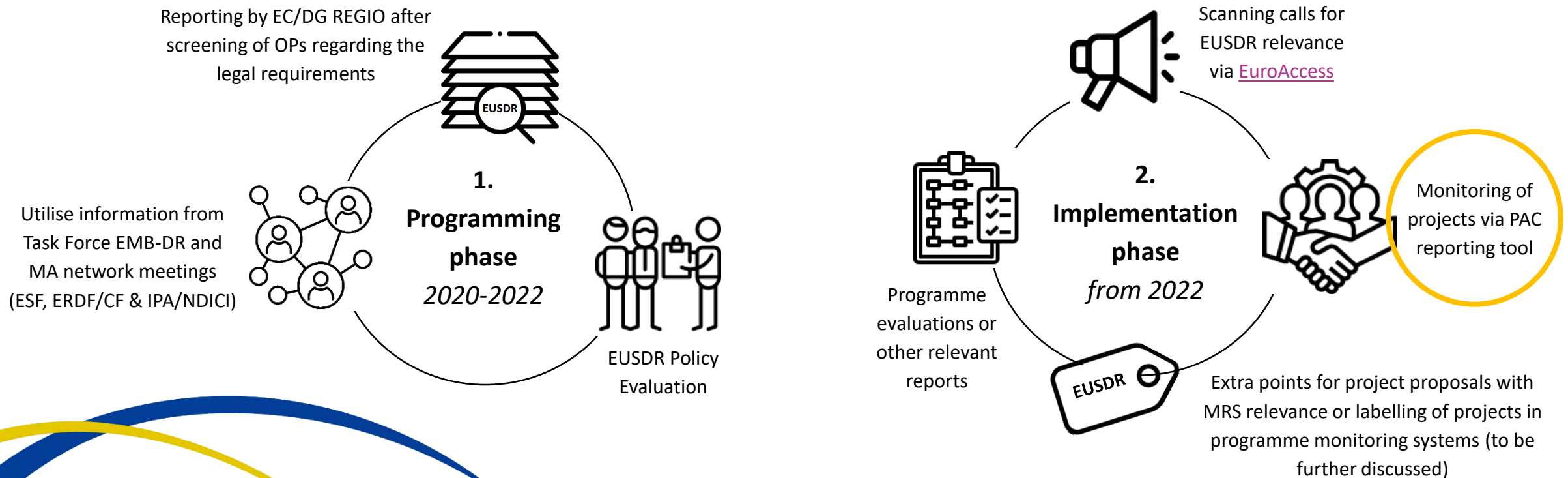
For EUSDR embedding process and the EUSDR tools elaborated, please visit:

<https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/embedding-2021-2027/>



# c. Monitoring & Evaluation

## • Monitoring of the Embedding process – main steps & information sources:





# c. Monitoring & Evaluation

## • EUSDR Monitoring Tool

- beta-version shared with PACs in July 2021
- to be implemented as an online tool from 2022 (reporting once in 2 years)
- one comprehensive monitoring (EC, DTP & additional questions)
- no double reporting
- strategic decision making support tool for NCs



The screenshot displays the EUSDR Monitoring Tool interface, which is divided into several sections:

- Progress and Achievements of the EUSDR Priority Areas**: This section includes a "General introduction" and a "Technical guidance" section. The "General introduction" explains the purpose of the reporting and lists the topics covered: 1. Main achievements in the Reporting Period 2020-2021, 2. Specific Horizontal and Cross-cutting Activities, 3. Capitalisation, 4. Funding, 5. Cooperation with EUSDR main Stakeholders, 6. Steering Groups, 7. Involvement and Cooperation with other Stakeholders, 8. Policy Development, and 9. Opportunities and Challenges. The "Technical guidance" section provides instructions on how to use the tool, including the reporting period (2020 and 2021) and the deadline for submission (XX/XXXXXX/2022).
- 6 Steering Groups**: This section contains several questions related to the steering groups, including: 6.1 Please describe one good practice example resulting from the cooperation and teamwork with your SG, 6.2 How do the SG members (including observers and members of Working Groups, Task Forces, or Advisory Bodies) update regularly on the developments in their thematic expertise?, 6.3 How do you assess the commitment of your SG members? With regard to the governance of your PA (including SG), what progresses have been made in the period covered by the 3rd report? Does the SG have the (remaining) challenges? What improvements would you recommend and what could be done to implement such improvements?, and 6.4 How were DG REGIO and/or other relevant EU line DGs involved in the work of your SG?.

# c. Monitoring & Evaluation

## • Policy/Impact Evaluation

- Conducted by Spatial Foresight from 07/2021 to 04/2022
- Scope: implementation, impact & communication
- Data collection:
  - Desk research
  - 2 Online-surveys (PACs & NCs in 11/2021; ESIF/IPA/NDICI programming authorities in 01/2022)
  - Interviews

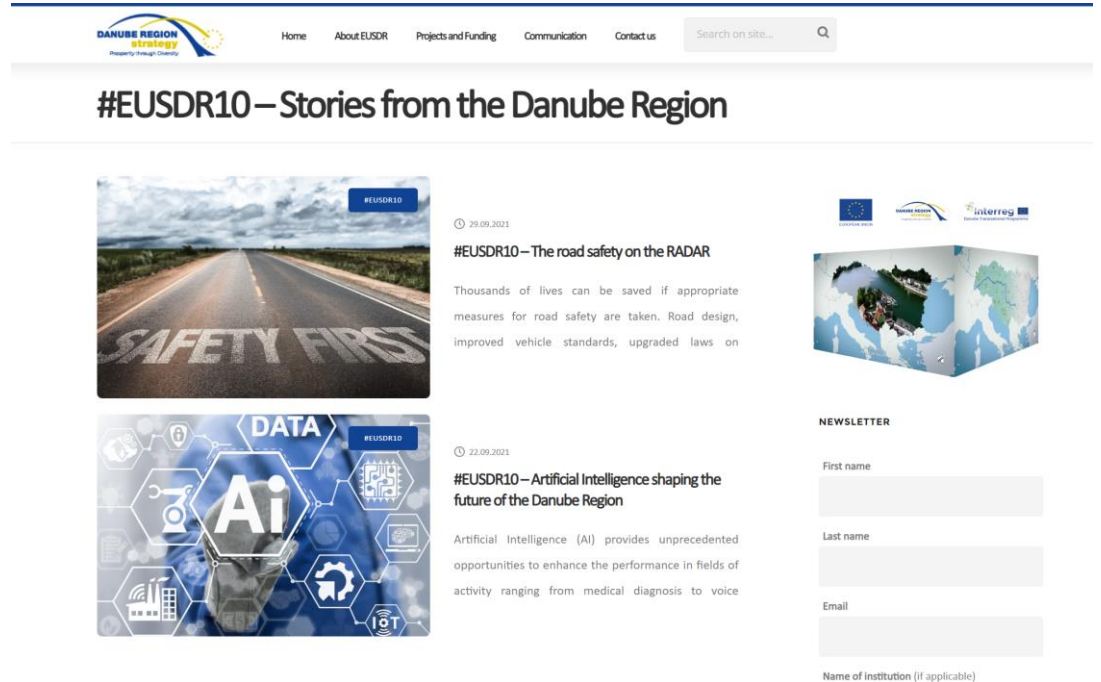


## d. Communication

- EUSDR website
- [www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)

Constantly updated with newest & most relevant information for the EUSDR target groups

- **Users:** 19,338 new users from April to Sept 2021
- **Average session duration:** 1:38 min (people who landed on EUSDR webpage spent about 2 minutes for reading)
- **NEW:** [#EUSDR10 – Stories from the Danube Region](#) including articles about successful projects and/or process implemented in 10 years of EUSDR (from Sept 22nd to Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – 1 article per week)



The screenshot shows the website interface for #EUSDR10. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About EUSDR, Projects and Funding, Communication, and Contact us, along with a search bar. Below the navigation, the main heading reads "#EUSDR10 – Stories from the Danube Region". Two article teasers are displayed: one about road safety on the RADAR and another about Artificial Intelligence. On the right side, there is a newsletter sign-up form with fields for First name, Last name, Email, and Name of institution (if applicable).





# d. Communication

- EUSDR social media platforms



#EUSDR – 7,322 followers



/danube-region-strategy – 2,328 connections



@EUSDR – 1,248 followers

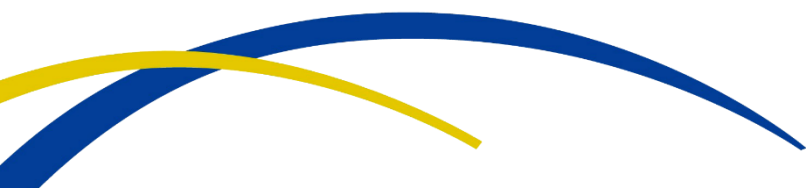
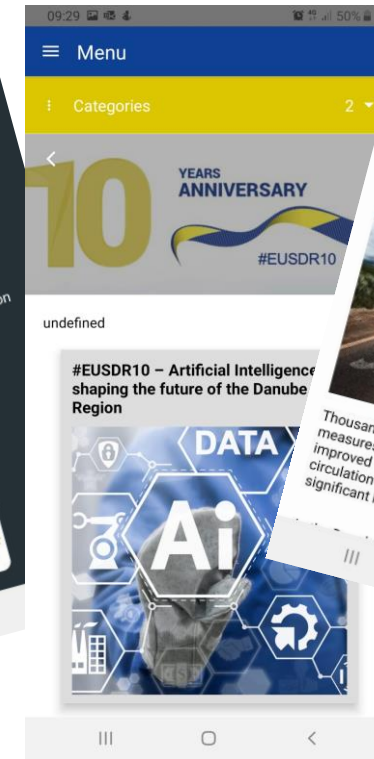
The image displays three screenshots of social media analytics and profiles:

- Facebook Page Insights:** Shows 'Page insights' for 'Danube Region Strategy' with a total of 7,322 followers. It includes a line graph for daily data and a bar chart for total page followers.
- LinkedIn Network:** Shows a 'Manage my network' sidebar with the following counts: Connections (2,328), Contacts (2,328), People I Follow (346), Groups (4), Events (12), Pages (78), and Newsletters (78).
- Twitter Profile:** Shows the profile for 'Danube Region Strategy' (@EUSDR) with 1,248 followers and 160 following. The bio states: 'The EU Strategy for the Danube Region: a united response to joint challenges in the Danube Region. danube-region.eu'.



## d. Communication

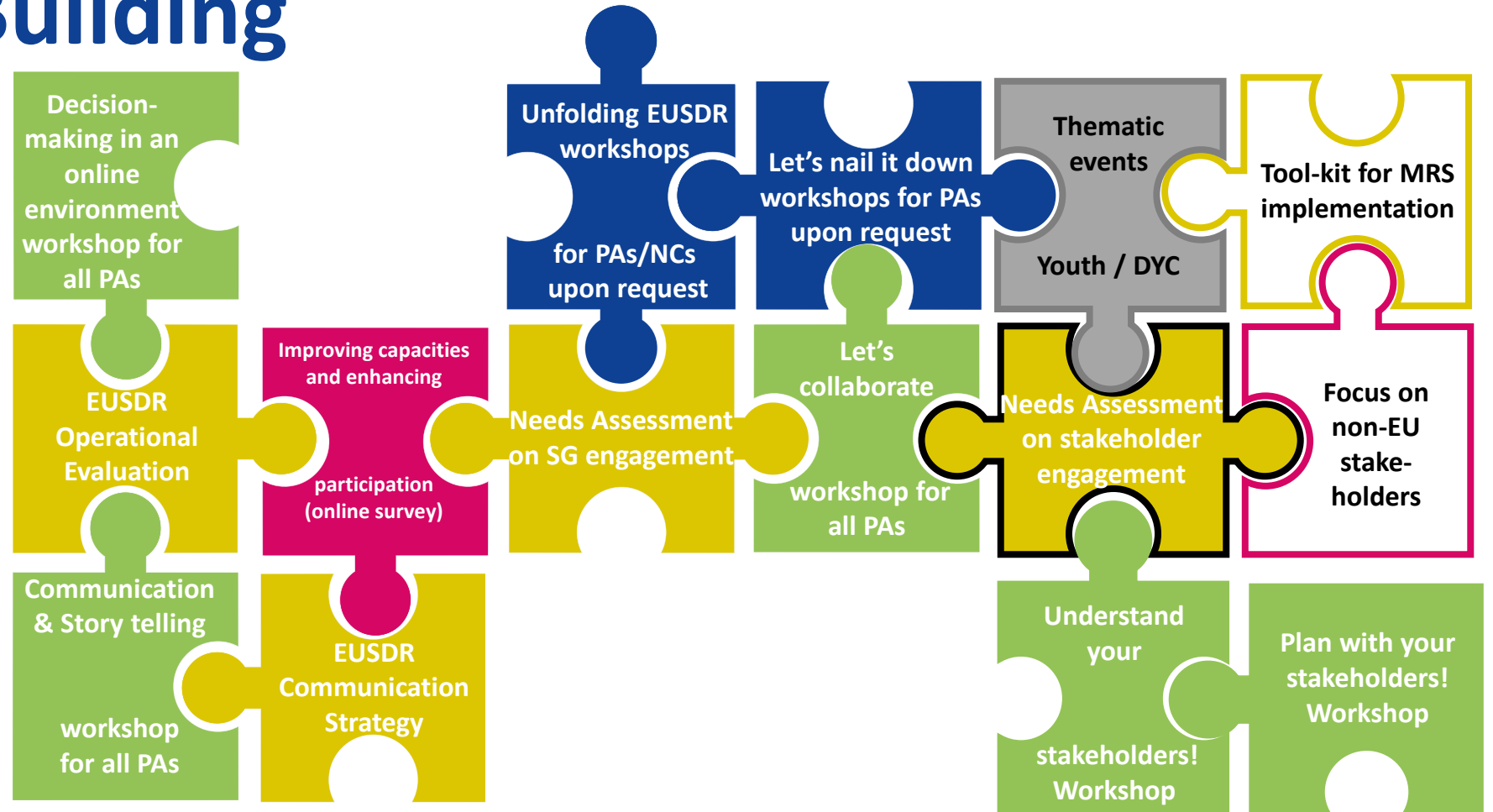
- The EUSDR app for Android and iOS
- 43 downloads for Android and 37 downloads for iOS since its launching in June 2021
- New section created to celebrate #EUSDR10 (it takes articles from the website)



# e. Capacity Building

## • Process

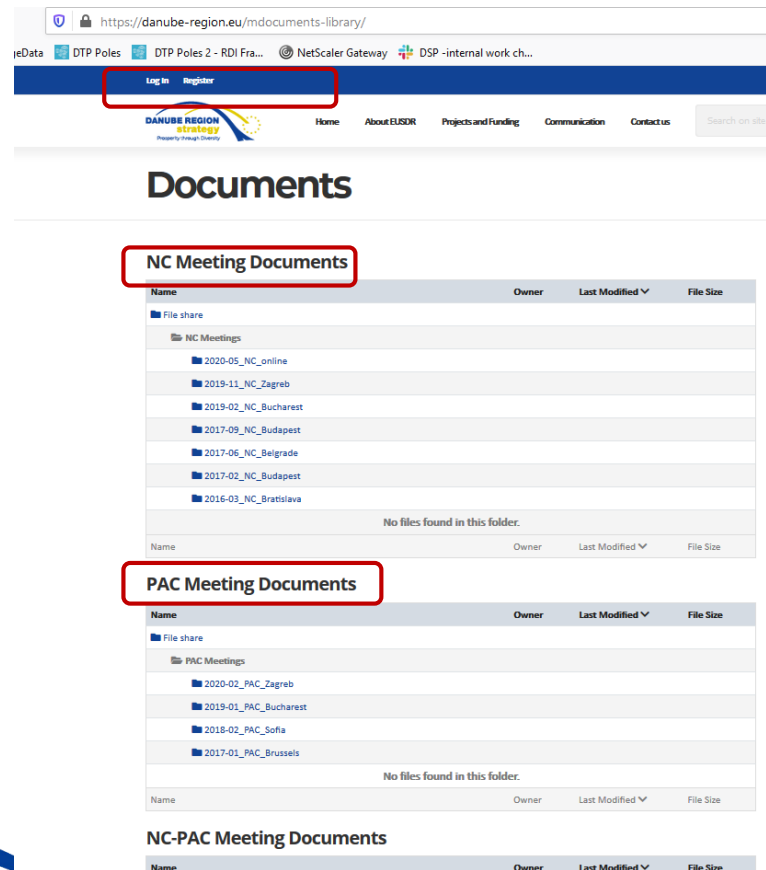
-  Publications
-  Events for EUSDR key stakeholders
-  Events for EUSDR key stakeholders upon request





# f. What's new?

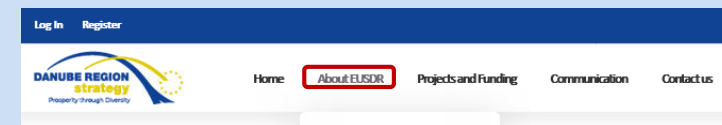
## • EUSDR Intranet



The screenshot shows the EUSDR Intranet website. The URL is <https://danube-region.eu/mdocuments-library/>. The page has a navigation bar with "Log In" and "Register" buttons. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "Home", "About EUSDR", "Projects and Funding", "Communication", and "Contact us". The main content area is titled "Documents" and contains three sections:

- NC Meeting Documents**: A table listing meeting documents for various locations and dates, including "2020-05\_NC\_online", "2019-11\_NC\_Zagreb", "2019-02\_NC\_Bucharest", "2017-09\_NC\_Budapest", "2017-06\_NC\_Belgrade", "2017-02\_NC\_Budapest", and "2016-03\_NC\_Bratislava".
- PAC Meeting Documents**: A table listing meeting documents for various locations and dates, including "2020-02\_PAC\_Zagreb", "2019-01\_PAC\_Bucharest", "2018-02\_PAC\_Sofia", and "2017-01\_PAC\_Brussels".
- NC-PAC Meeting Documents**: A table listing meeting documents for various locations and dates.

- For access to meeting minutes and presentations
- All NCs, PACs and their teams, DG REGIO and DTP (as listed in the EUSDR mailing list ) are granted access to the EUSDR intranet
- Login via: <https://danube-region.eu/my-account/>  
Then select „About EUSDR – EUSDR Intranet“



The screenshot shows the EUSDR Intranet website with the "About EUSDR" tab selected in the navigation bar. The URL is <https://danube-region.eu/mdocuments-library/>. The navigation bar includes "Log In" and "Register" buttons. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "Home", "About EUSDR", "Projects and Funding", "Communication", and "Contact us".

- Should you lose your login credentials, please contact [office@eusdr-dsp.eu](mailto:office@eusdr-dsp.eu) to reset your password
- In case you would like such a section for your SG on your PA site, please contact [office@eusdr-dsp.eu](mailto:office@eusdr-dsp.eu)

## f. What's next?

### • Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency

Meeting type	Scope	Date 2022	Calendar Week	Status	Location	Comments
EUSDR Management	SG DANUVAL – EUSDR Evaluation 2022	End of Jan 2022	4	to be held in 2022		
EUSDR Management	Task Force Embedding	28 Jan 2022		to be held in 2022	online	
EUSDR Management	Task Force – EUSDR Danube Youth Council	4 Feb 2022		to be held in 2022	online	
EUSDR Management	NC Meeting + TRIO Presidency Meeting	22 Feb 2022	5–8	to be held in 2022	online	
MRS Stakeholder meeting	3rd EU MRS WEEK	7–11 March or 21–25 March 2022	10–12	to be held in 2022	Brussels	
MRS Stakeholder meeting	14th HLG meeting	7–11 March or 21–25 March 2022	10–12	to be held in 2022	Brussels	
MRS Stakeholder meeting	5th Meeting of 4 MRS TRIO Presidencies Meeting	7–11 March or 21–25 March 2022	10–12	to be held in 2022	Brussels	
EUSDR Management	PAC Meeting	2. week of April		to be held in 2022	Kyiv/Uzghorod, tbc	
EUSDR Management	NC-PAC meeting	May 2022	14	to be held in 2022	Kyiv/Chernivtsi, tbc	
EUSDR Management	Task Force Embedding	May/June 2022		to be held in 2022	online	
EUSDR Management	Task Force – EUSDR Danube Youth Council	1 week of June 2022		to be held in 2022	online	
EUSDR Management	UA EUSDR PCY Thematic Event 1	1 week of July 2022	22–26	to be held in 2022	Odesa, tbc	
EUSDR Management	NC Meeting + TRIO Presidency Meeting	Sept 2022	35–39	to be held in 2022	Kyiv, tbc	
EUSDR Management	Task Force – EUSDR Danube Youth Council	Sept 2022		to be held in 2022	online	
EUSDR Management	UA EUSDR PCY Thematic Event 2	4 week of Sept 2022	35–39	to be held in 2022	Kyiv/Ivano-Frankivsk, tbc.	
Stakeholder meeting	EURegionsWeek	October	40–42	to be held in 2022	Brussels	
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	1st Youth Participation Day	End of October 2022	43	to be held in 2022	Odesa, tbc	
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	9th Danube Participation Day	End of October 2022	43	to be held in 2022	Odesa, tbc	
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	EUSDR Hackathon – Sustainable Development Youth & Students	End of October 2022	44	to be held in 2022	Odesa, tbc	envisaged to be held in coordination with the 9th Danube Participation Day
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	11th EUSDR Annual Forum	End of October 2022	43	to be held in 2022	Odesa, tbc	
MRS Stakeholder meeting	ESPOK TEVI 2050		tbd	together with NC/PAC Meeting		
Capacity building	Training session (PACs) 1 x (according to T3.2.2)		tbd	to be held in 2025	online	to be delivered by DSP
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	MA's Network meeting (IPA + NDICI) – 2x	April 22 / July 2022	various	to be held in 2022		
EUSDR Stakeholder meeting	MA's Network meeting (ERDF+CF) – 2x	February / June 2022	various	to be held in 2022		
Capacity building	Training for PACs (3 x)	1st semester 2022 (tbd)	various	to be held in 2022	online	external expertise in procurement procedure
Capacity building	DYC "Capacity Building" 3 x (according to T3.3.1)		tbd	to be held in 2022	online	to be delivered by DSP
Needs Assessment	4 follow-up events to the PAC Needs Assessment (according to M.4.3)		tbd	various	online	to be delivered by DSP
Capacity building	Communication Guide workshops 2 x (according to T3.3.1)		tbd	to be held in 2023	online	to be delivered by DSP
Capacity building	Thematic seminars on demnad 2 x (according to T3.3.1)		tbd	to be held in 2024	online	to be delivered by DSP



**Thank you very much for your attention!**

**Do not hesitate to contact us!**  
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