



# WWT - Financial challenges and funding instruments in the Danube Region

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February 3, 2022 | online | Danube Region WW Financial Sustainability webinar



# How EUSDR contributes to the prosperity of the Danube Region?



- Cooperation in the preparation, implementation and capitalisation process of **international projects** as well as in dissemination of the results,
  - Focus on **project funding**, post 2020, **embedding of EUSDR objectives into EU funding schemes**,
  - Strengthening capacity building, preparing studies, organizing workshops and conferences...
- ...and much more!

# Revised EUSDR PA4 Action Plan

## Actions:

1. HAZARDOUS & EMERGING SUBSTANCES: Promote monitoring, prevention and reduction of water pollution deriving from hazardous and emerging substances (EU priority substances and watch list candidates as well as Danube basin specific pollutants candidates and others e.g. microplastics-plastics, pharmaceuticals, PFOS)
2. WASTE WATER: Continue boosting major investments in building, upgrading, maintaining and rehabilitating urban wastewater treatment facilities and promote alternative collection and treatment of wastewater in small rural settlements, including measures to build capacity at the regional and local level across the Danube basin
3. WATER & AGRICULTURE: Promote prevention and reduction of diffuse pollution, promote nutrient retention, smart irrigation and water reuse, foster and develop an active process of dialogue and cooperation between authorities responsible for agriculture and environment to ensure that measures are taken to address diffuse pollution and ensure smart water use
4. DRINKING WATER: Promote measures aimed at reducing knowledge deficits related to protecting water resources and safeguarding drinking water supply
5. MIGRATORY FISH: Promote measures to enable fish migration in the Danube river basin
6. CLIMATE CHANGE: Promote measures to adapt to climate change impacts in relation to water quality and quantity
7. TOOLS: Enhance cooperation, increase and exchange knowledge and secure financing to water quality measures in the Danube Region



# The European Green Deal (EGD)

*COM(2019) 640 final*

# The European Green Deal



The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

# The European Green Deal







# EU Action Plan 'Towards Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water and Soil' – A Pathway to a Healthy Planet for Healthy People

*COM (2021) 140 final*

*12 March 2021*

# Timetable (key actions)

## First Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2022)

- Revision of **Air Quality Directive**
- Revision of the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**
- Revision of **water pollutants list** (Environmental Quality Standards and Groundwater Directives)
- Revision of the **Mercury Regulation**
- Implementation Report of **Environmental Noise Directive**
- Establish EU priority watch list for **soil**

## Second Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2024)

- Recommendations on implementation of **polluter pays principle**

2021

2022

2023

2024

## Launch of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (2021)

- New emission limit values for motor vehicles (**EURO7**)
- Revision of the **Industrial Emissions Directive** and EU Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (or early 2022)
- Revision of the **Environmental Crime Directive**
- Launch global initiatives, e.g. on **lead batteries recycling**

## EEA's European Environment & Health Atlas (2023)

- Review of **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- Review of **Bathing Water Directive**
- Fitness Check of **Environment Liability Directive**
- Assess pathways and policy options for **indoor air quality**
- Dedicated nutrient (ammonia) actions contributing to the **Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan**
- Zero pollution contribution to **European Green Deal Dataspace**





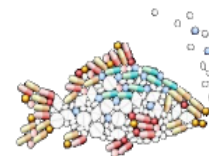
## CEAP - Key targets related to water

- **Food, water & nutrients** - one of the key product value chains addressed.
- **Water reuse and water efficiency:**
  - Facilitate **water reuse** and **water efficiency**, including in industrial processes
  - Application of the new **Water Reuse** Regulation (2020/741/EU)  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2020:177:FULL&from=EN>
- **Sustainable product policy framework** – aim to set principles for product policy and requirements on products placed on the EU market.
- **Review of the Industrial Emissions Directive**, and integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques (BAT) reference documents
- Address and prevent **microplastics** → Environment, drinking water and food
- Key sectors: **Building** and **textile**



# Strategy on Energy System Integration

- Planning and operation of the **energy system 'as a whole'** → Multiple energy carriers, infrastructures, and consumption sectors
- 3 pillars: **1) More circular energy system** **2) Greater direct-electrification** **3) Clean fuels** where electrification is difficult
- **Reduce the energy-water footprint:**
  - 1) Under Pillar 1: Potential of **energy produced from bio-waste or in waste water treatment plants**
  - 2) Circular Economy Action Plan → Increased sustainable production of **bioenergy from waste-water**, waste and residue, exploiting synergies and avoiding trade-offs
  - 3) Renewable and low-carbon fuel → Minimum shares or quotas in specific end-use sectors (including **maritime**) | Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive | Additional measures assessed under the REFUEL Aviation and **FUEL Maritime initiatives** (2020)
- **A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe** → H<sub>2</sub> can become an alternative low emission fuel for **waterways** and **short-sea shipping**



# EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PiE)

## *Main elements – Reminder*

- [COM\(2019\) 128 final](#) adopted on 11 March 2019, feeds in the Pharmaceutical Strategy
- Objective → To address the environmental implications of **all phases of the lifecycle** of pharmaceuticals (human and veterinary), from design and production through use to disposal
- Action areas:
  1. Increase **awareness** and promote prudent use
  2. Support the development of pharmaceuticals intrinsically **less harmful** for the environment and promote greener manufacturing
  3. Improve environmental **risk assessment** and its review
  4. Reduce **waste** and improve the management of waste
  5. Expand environmental **monitoring**
  6. Fill other **knowledge** gaps

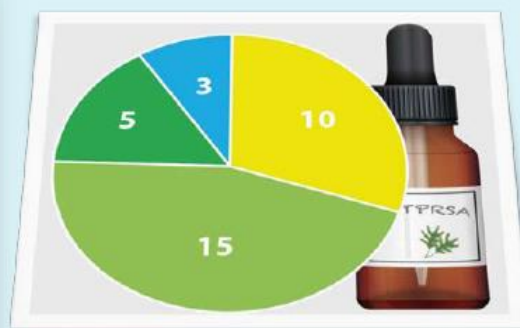


# EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment – progress and implementation



Publication - 24 November 2020

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-dangersub/pharmaceuticals.htm>



Actions' status:

- ✓ 10 started
- ✓ 15 ongoing
- ✓ 5 good progress
- ✓ 3 achieved



Most advanced actions:

- Additional pharmaceuticals included in the **WFD Surface Water Watch List** (rev. August 2020)
- Provisions in the Regulation on veterinary medicinal products for more prudent use of **antimicrobials in animals** and to fight antimicrobial resistance
- New guidelines on **hazardous domestic waste**. Pharmaceuticals included in the **UWWTD impact assessment**
- Pharmaceutical concentration and antimicrobial genes **sampled in JRC-LUCAS soil survey** (results expected in 2022)
- **Work with MS** e.g. to ensure health professionals consider environmental impacts of medication





# EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

- Towards a climate-resilient **water management**
  - Improve **coordination of thematic plans and other mechanisms** (incl. water resource allocation and water-permits) across sectors and borders
  - **Reduce water use:**
    - Raising the water-saving requirements for products
    - Encouraging water efficiency and savings
    - Promoting the wider use of drought management plans
  - Stable and **secure supply of drinking water** → climate change-risks in risk analyses of water management
  - Sustainable **soil management and land-use**
  - **Nature-based solutions** to achieve the goals of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive



Albufeira Barragem de Salgueiro  
© Creative Commons – Victor Oliveira



**To mobilise the necessary investments, the Commission is putting forward a two-fold response:**



### **Next Generation EU**

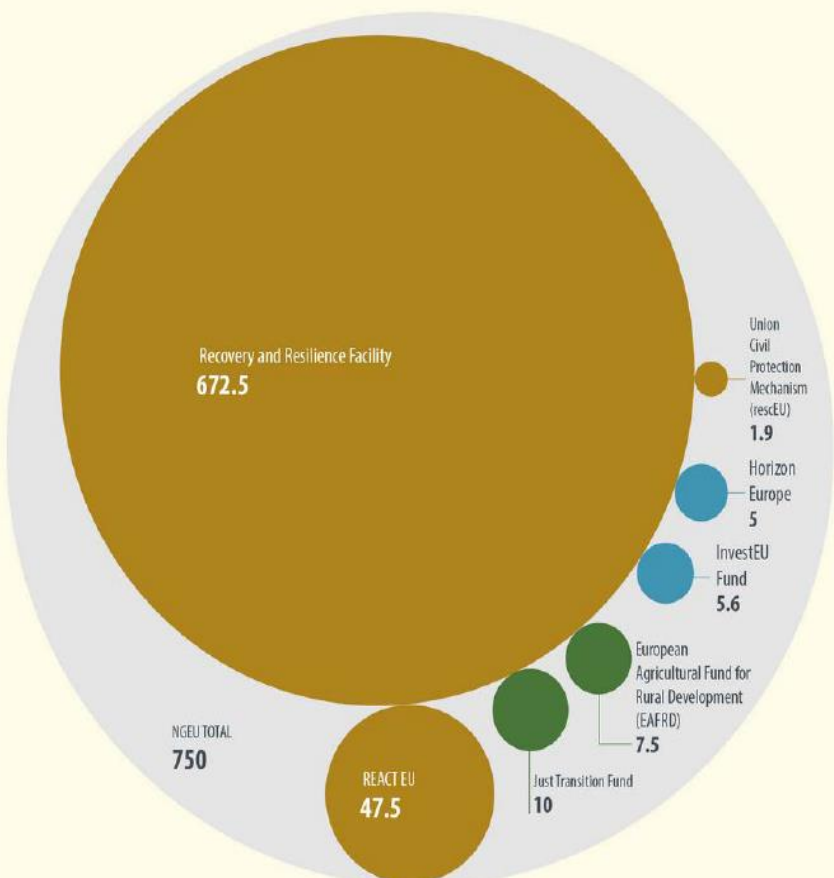
a new recovery instrument of €750 billion which will boost the EU budget with new financing raised on the financial markets for 2021-2024



**A reinforced long-term budget of the EU for 2021-2027**

# Recovery and Resilience Plans

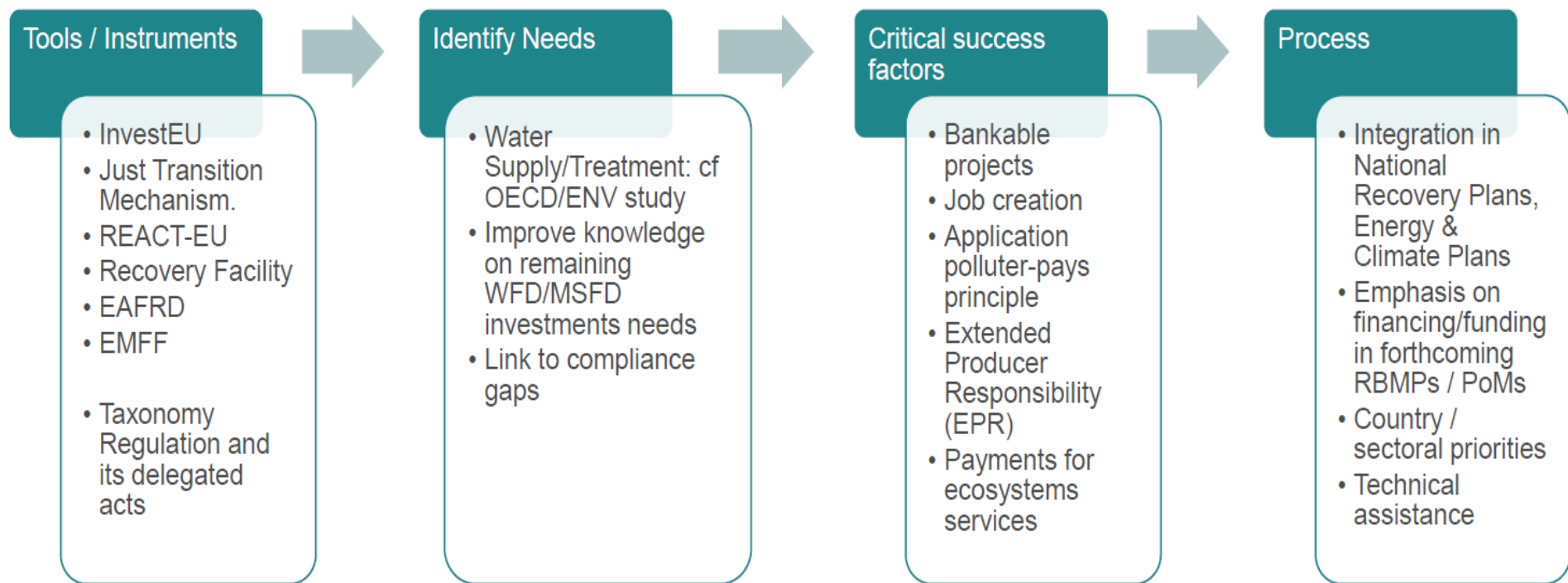
All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)



- The EU's long-term budget and the **“Next Generation EU” instrument**: A total of **€1.8 trillion** to help rebuild a post-COVID-19 greener, more digital and more resilient Europe
- Next Generation EU (2021-24) = **EUR 750 billion**
- **30% of the EU funds to fight climate change**, the highest share ever of the European budget (NGEU, MFF).
- **MS Recovery and Resilience Plans** due on 30 April: reform and investment agenda (green and digital transitions, fairness, macroeconomic stability)



# Investment opportunities for water



- Still a lot to be done at Commission and Member State levels to ensure good projects emerge and benefit from funding!

# Examples of green investments in water sector

Ensuring supply of safe and clean drinking water, in line with the revised DWD

Improving water distribution networks /eliminating leakages

Promoting water saving and reuse, water-efficient technologies

Constructing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure, complying with UWWTD

Upgrading existing wastewater installations, including on treatment of chemical substances (such as pharmaceuticals)

Promoting industrial symbiosis technologies and projects for reuse of wastewater in industry

Constructing eco-friendly water storage infrastructure

Removing outdated infrastructures or upgrading existing water infrastructure to render them environmental or climate friendly

Supporting preparation for implementation of the new Regulation on Water Reuse

Implementing coherent and tailored-made River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans

Improving implementation of the WFD and other water-related Directives

Investing in natural water retention measures

Investing into measures at source to counteract pollution

Promoting nature-based solutions

Optimising performance in green infrastructure and water infrastructure services

Promoting further synergies among water-related Directives

More published by the EC:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green\\_semester/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/index_en.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green\\_semester/pdf/Water\\_examples\\_projects\\_Oct2020.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/pdf/Water_examples_projects_Oct2020.pdf)

- **Cohesion Fund: 42,5 B EUR**

Environment, transport

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 200 B EUR**

Five policy objectives:

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe
3. More connected Europe
4. More social and inclusive Europe
5. A Europe closer to citizens

- **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI): 71,8 B EUR**

- **JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)**

Technical assistance partnership that helps cities and regions absorb European funds through top-quality projects



- **European Energy Efficiency Fund** ([www.eeef.lu](http://www.eeef.lu))

An innovative public-private partnership that provides market-based financing for commercially viable public energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the EU Member States

- **Horizon Europe: 90,1 B EUR**
- **Interreg: 7,95 B EUR**
- **LIFE+: 5,432 B EUR**

**Environment (€3.488 billion):**

- Nature and biodiversity (€2.143 billion)
- Circular economy and quality of life (€1.345 billion)

**In the field of Climate (€1.944 billion):**

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation (€0.947 billion)
- Clean energy transition (€0.997 billion)



# Water in Horizon Europe

**Horizon Europe:** 95.5 Bo € for 2021-2027 (incl. 5.4 Bo € NextGenerationEU) - 30% increase

- EP and Council reached a [political agreement](#) on 11 December 2020 and will adopt the legal acts
- [1<sup>st</sup> Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#) (2021-2024) published on 19 March 2021
- First [work programmes](#) published as of April 2021

Elements to highlight:

- **6 Thematic clusters** → Collaborative research relating to societal challenges
- **5 EU missions** → Ambitious, time-bound and achievable goals  
EU mission on [Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters](#)
- **European Partnerships** → Research and innovation programmes jointly developed and implemented by the EU, private and public partners  
Co-funded partnership → 'Water Security for the Planet' ([Water4All](#))  
Co-programmed partnership → 'Zero-emission Waterborne Transport'

# Horizon Europe programme structure

## Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe and EIT

Exclusive focus on civil applications

### Pillar I

**Excellent Science**

[European Research Council](#)

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

[Research Infrastructures](#)

### Pillar II

**Global Challenges and European Industrial  
Competitiveness**

#### Clusters

- [Health](#)
- [Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society](#)
- [Civil Security for Society](#)
- [Digital, Industry and Space](#)
- [Climate, Energy and Mobility](#)
- [Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Environment](#)

[Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research  
Centre](#)

### Pillar III

**Innovative Europe**

[European Innovation Council](#)

[European Innovation Ecosystems](#)

[European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#)

## Part: Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

[Widening participation and spreading excellence](#)

[Reforming and enhancing the European Research and Innovation system](#)



# Missions

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Horizon Europe incorporates research and innovation missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets.

The Commission engaged policy experts to develop studies, case studies and reports on how a mission-oriented policy approach will work.

[Read more about the mission approach](#)

5 mission have been identified.

[Adaptation to Climate Change mission](#)

[Climate-neutral and smart cities mission](#)

[Cancer mission](#)

[Soil Deal for Europe mission](#)

[Restore our Oceans and Waters mission](#)



## European partnerships

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Horizon Europe supports European partnerships in which the EU, national authorities and/or the private sector jointly commit to support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities.

The goal of European partnerships is to contribute to the achievement of EU priorities, address complex challenges outlined in Horizon Europe and strengthen the European Research Area (ERA).

[Read more about the different kinds of partnerships](#)

Partnership candidates and contact details are available to view grouped in the themes below.

[Partnerships across themes](#)

[Climate, energy and mobility](#)

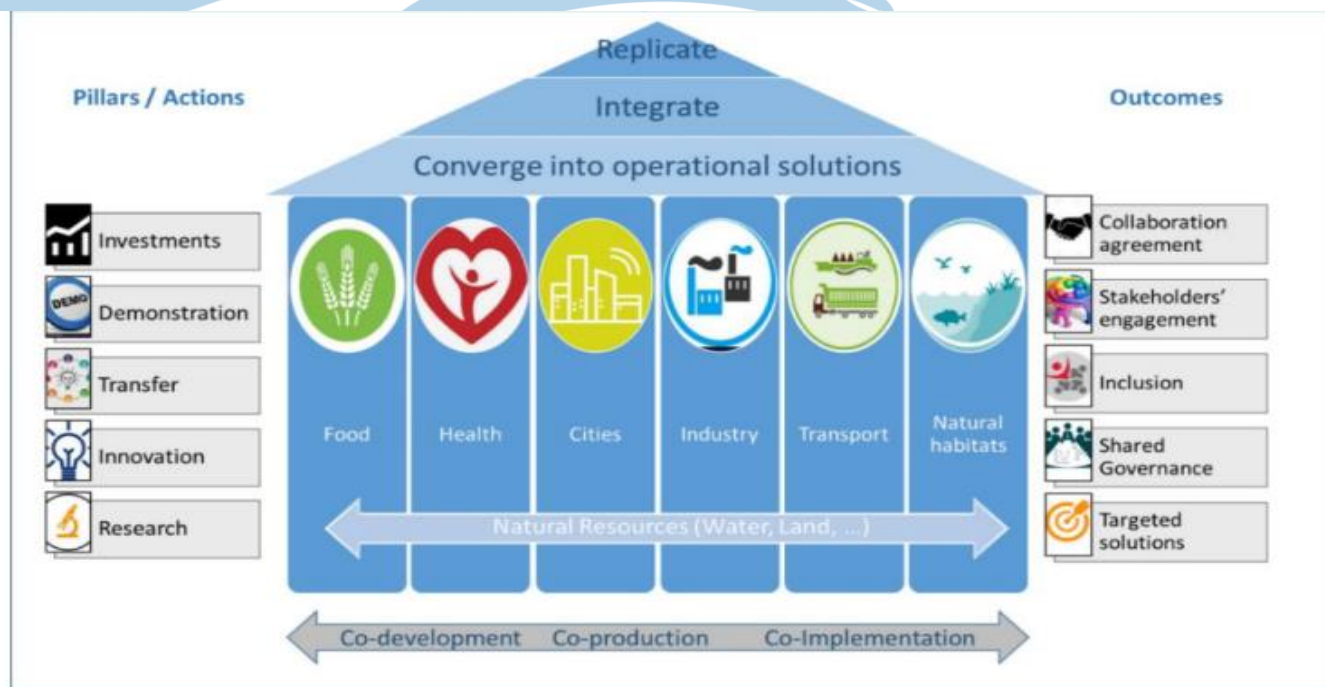
[Digital, industry and space](#)

[Health](#)

[Food, bioeconomy, natural resources,  
agriculture and environment](#)



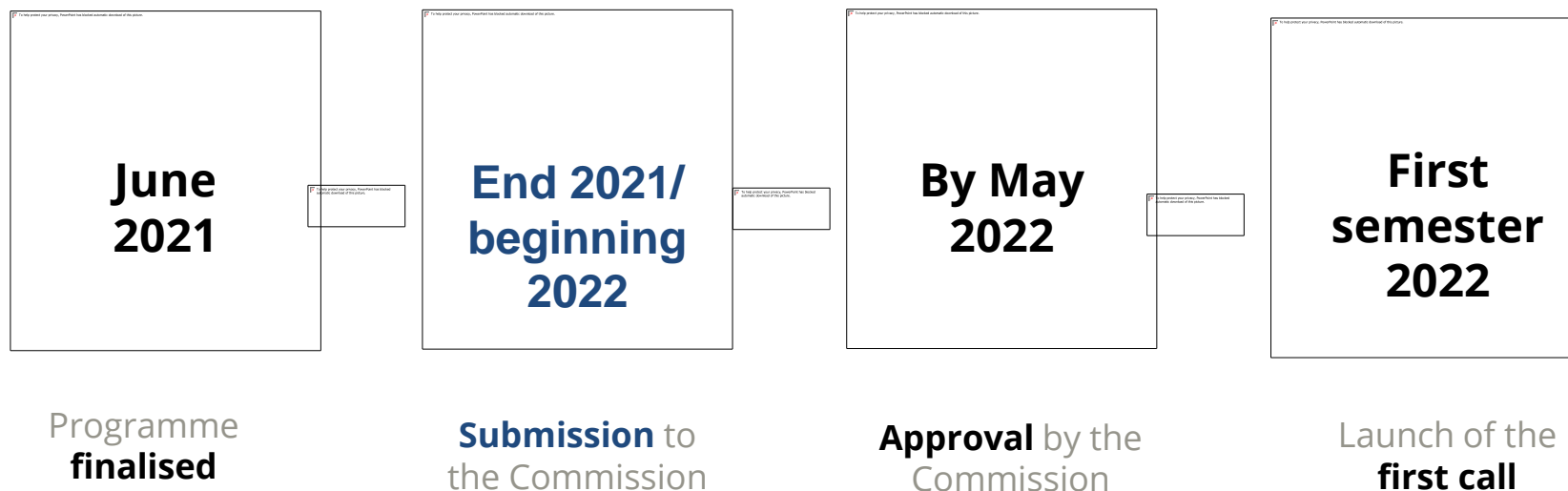
# Horizon Europe Water 4 All – co-funded partnership



The **planned activities** of the partnership are proposed considering available information on eligibility of actors relevant for a successful Partnership and can be adjusted to the final commitments:

- **Pillar A** - Ensure coordination and alignment of EU/Nat./reg. programmes and continuum in actions from Research & Innovation to implementation
- **Pillar B** - provide new knowledge and innovative solutions at the relevant scales of implementation from local to regional and global
- **Pillar C** - foster the uptake of R&I results by engaging industry, users and policy makers while developing skills and capacity building at EU and intl. scale
- **Pillar D** - Demonstrating the efficiency of innovation solutions and leveraging with “downstream” funding programmes (equipment investments, demonstration ) by replication
- **Pillar E** - Attracting new partners for creating the necessary critical mass required by global water security challenges and developing innovation cooperation tools

## Provisional **timeline**



[www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/2021-2027](http://www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/2021-2027)



**Interreg  
Europe**

European Union | European Regional Development Fund



# Projects on water



**Improving the European Rivers Water  
Quality through Smart Water  
Management Policies**



**Sustainable heritage management of  
Waterway REgions**



**Water reuse policies advancement  
for resource efficient European  
regions**



**European Network of Lindane waste  
affected regions working together  
towards a greener environment**



**Floating Cultures in River Deltas**

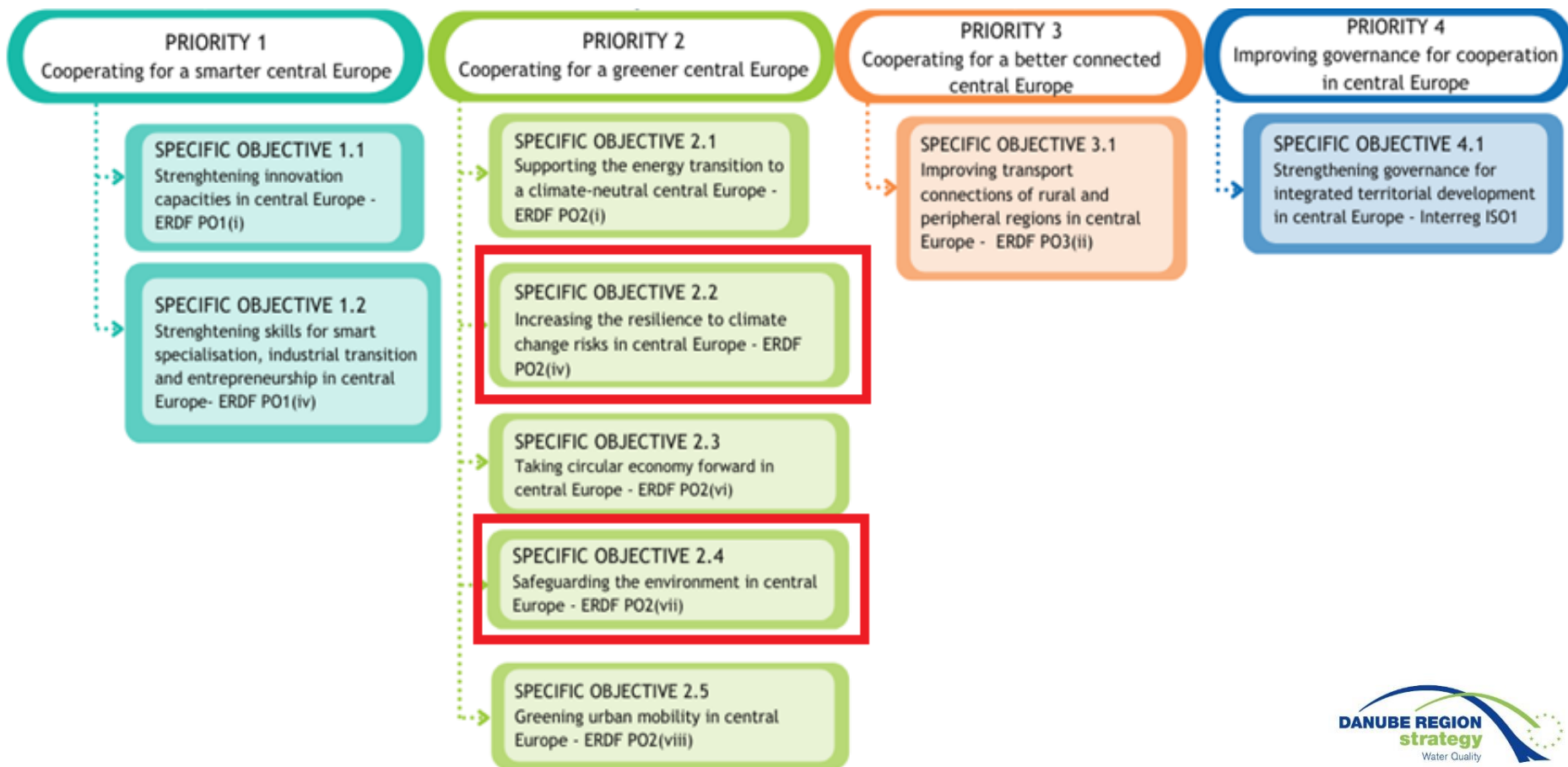


**Sustainability of the land-sea  
system for eco-tourism strategies**



**Water Technology Innovation Roadmaps**

# 4 Priorities and 9 Specific Objectives



***SO 2.1 Supporting the energy transition to a climate-neutral central Europe***

- Smart integration of carbon-neutral solutions across sectors
- Renewable energy sources
- Energy efficiency of buildings and public infrastructures
- **Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from industry and other sectors**
- Energy planning at local and regional levels
- Energy demand management and behavioural change
- Financing schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments
- Energy poverty

***SO 2.2. Increasing the resilience to climate change risks in central Europe***

- Climate change resilience and adaptation measures
- Climate-proof landscape and urban planning
- Resilience to weather extremes and related hazards (rainfall events, floods, landslides, heat, draughts, water scarcity, wildfires etc.)
- Risk awareness, prevention and management
- Socio-economic and health-related impacts of climate change

***SO 2.3. Taking circular economy forward in central Europe***

- **Waste prevention and management, recycling and recovery of resources and raw materials**
- **Repair and re-use**
- Circular economy value chains
- **Clean production processes and closed loop systems**
- Sustainable product design (e.g. eco-design) and product development processes
- **Behavioural changes of producers, consumers, public buyers etc.**

***SO 2.4. Safeguarding the environment in central***

- Biodiversity conservation and recovery, including urban green spaces
- Protection of natural heritage, ecosystems and valuable areas incl. Natura 2000 sites
- **Reduction of environmental pollution (air, water, soil, noise, light etc.) and their human health impacts**
- Integrated environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources
- Sustainable land management and landscape planning that optimize human activities with biodiversity protection and enhancement measures
- **Ecosystem services (e.g. production of food and water, clean air, recreational benefits)**
- Restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Sustainable tourism and the valorisation of natural heritage



# Danube Region Programme 2021-27 thematic scope



## PRIORITY 2:

### A greener, low-carbon Danube Region

Implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change.



## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

2. 1. Support greening the energy and transport sectors in the Danube Region by enhancing the integration of renewable energy sources.
2. 2. Promoting climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks (taking into account ecosystem-based approaches).
2. 3. Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance.
2. 4. Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational relevance in the Danube Region.

# Danube Region Programme 2021-27 thematic scope

**SO 2.3 Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube River Basin ensuring good quality and quantity of waters and sediment balance**

**Focus 1:** Capacities for prevention and mitigation of water pollution or for restoration of good quality of transnational water bodies

**Focus 2:** Harmonising management practises between water management and other key sectors to improve quality and quantity of water and sediment in transnational river systems, taking into consideration potential impacts of CC

**Focus 3:** Transnational coordination of water supply management, especially in relation to basin-wide importance of groundwater bodies

# Danube Region Programme 2021-27 thematic scope

## S02.3 Sustainable water & sediment management – type of actions

- Harmonised data availability, monitoring, modelling systems for transnational water management
- Strengthening capacities to prevent and mitigate water pollution or restore good quality of water
- Improving sediment balance and related morphodynamics
- Potentials of floodplain reconnection to improve water quality
- Monitoring, modelling of transboundary groundwater systems
- Measures ensuring balanced use of water, regarding CC impacts
- Measures in connection to CC induced low water periods on transnational rivers of DRB (sediment, navigation, HPP)

# Danube Region Programme new call


ENI CALL FOR PROPOSALS IS LAUNCHED: €6 MILLION TO FINANCE PROJECTS IN  
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE


*to increase the institutional capacity of the Ukrainian/ Moldovan stakeholders to develop and implement transnational projects in the thematic fields of the Danube Programme 2021-2027 through enhanced cooperation of relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local levels.*

focus on **Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges**


The call is open from the 26th January until the 10th March, 15:00 hrs CET.

<https://waterquality.danube-region.eu/>


[Home](#) [NEWS](#) [CONFERENCES](#) [MEETINGS](#) [PROJECTS](#) [PHOTOS](#) [DOCUMENTS](#) [PARTNERS](#) [CONTACT US](#) [All news](#)



Pharmaceuticals ONLINE




NEWS FROM THE DANUBE REGION  
September 2021



Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter  
and Plastic Pollution

## About Us



## Upcoming Events

19 OCT	22ND STEERING GROUP MEETING 19 OCTOBER 2021	EVENT DETAIL
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Thank you for your attention!