

EUSDR PA5 – The Danube Basin Approach to Drought and Water Scarcity

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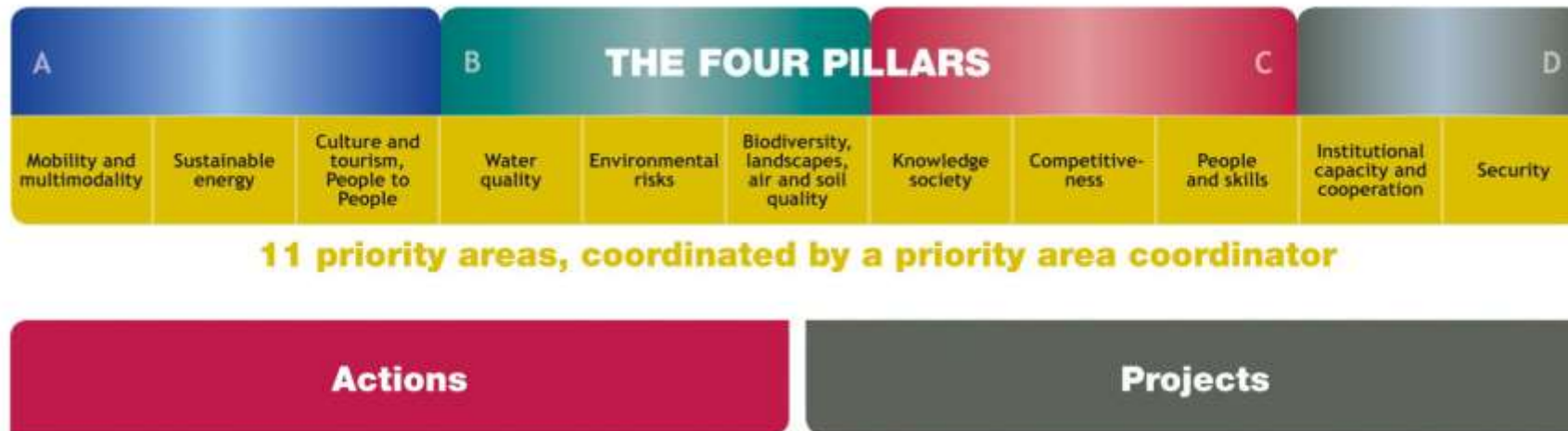
EUSDR a macroregional strategy

- A number of issues in the Danube Region require working together, across borders and national interests
- Political commitment needs to be translated into action
- Actions need to be coordinated and carried out together
- Need to ensure cohesion of the Danube Region



EUSDR organization

The strategy addresses these various topics through
4 pillars
11 priority areas,
and actions and projects



EUSDR Pillars

- Connecting the Danube Region
- Protecting the environment in the Region
- Building prosperity in the Region
- Strengthening the Danube Region

“The cross-sectoral approach”

- **Priority areas** have to be considered with other policy fields:
 - environment \Leftrightarrow navigability \Leftrightarrow economic development \Leftrightarrow labour
 - \Leftrightarrow market mobility \Leftrightarrow human resource \Leftrightarrow development \Leftrightarrow soft
 - \Leftrightarrow security issues \Leftrightarrow institutional development \Leftrightarrow etc.
- **3 underlying principles:**
 - ✓ Right to live in a clean and preserved environment
 - ✓ Right to have good living standards
 - ✓ Right to live in security

Pillar B. Protecting the environment in the Region

Key problems/potentials identified:

- Water quality : 3 main sources of pollution: nutrients, organic, hazardous substances; too many interruptions
- Fantastic biodiversity to be preserved but growing pressure to be addressed (hydromorphological alterations, economic development, transport, energy, etc. possibly resulting in loss of habitats)
- High risks - mainly floods, droughts and potential accidents

EUSDR Governance at implementation level

1. Priority Area Coordinators (2 per Priority Area)

- Encourage and coordinate project leaders & partners
- Report to Commission on progress and difficulties
- Supported by a Steering Group with representatives of all participating countries

2. Project leaders

- Leading role
- Volunteer to find partners (with help of NCPs)
- Seek out funding opportunities
- Report on progress, difficulties and results

PA5 target for droughts

- To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015, the report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015 (due in 2016) and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation.
- Promotion of projects targeted to coordinate actions at the Danube Basin level in order to reduce the risks of droughts and water scarcity
- Increase cooperation with ICPDR on droughts issues

Revision of the EU policy instruments, related to drought and water scarcity mitigation

- Study developed by GWP CEE with PA5
- Objective to revise the EU policy instruments and their potential to contribute to EU droughts and water scarcity policies prepared as a collaboration of Integrated Drought Management Programme in CEE and EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- Field of interest: water, agriculture, climate change, energy, industry, transport, nature protection, and biodiversity

Criteria used in the study

- Monitoring;
- Incentives to water efficiency and circular economy;
- Knowledge and research;
- Measures to improve drought management and to develop drought management plans;
- Financial instruments.

Conclusions

- There is currently no EU directive or policy especially dedicated to drought
- Current legislation, sectoral policies, and instruments in the fields of water, agriculture, climate change, energy, industry, transport, nature protection, and biodiversity are partially or at least marginally related to drought management and can therefore support drought management policies.
- Managing drought needs to be reconceptualized in the light of climate change, taking into account that drought is a slow onset disaster
- Green Infrastructure can play an important role in mitigating droughts, both in urban and rural areas and green infrastructure concepts need to be integrated into spatial planning and territorial development.
- The links between the preparation of drought management plans and river basin management plans may have a synergistic effect in achieving environmental objectives.

DriDanube

Drought Risk in the Danube Region

- The main objective of DriDanube project was to increase the capacity of the Danube region to manage drought related risks.
- The project aimed at helping all stakeholders involved in drought management to become more efficient during drought emergency response and prepare better for the next drought.
- Promoted a new approach from reactive to proactive drought management
- Enabled more accurate and efficient drought monitoring and timely early warning.

WHY?

Current status

Monitoring

- untimely delivery
- cross-border inconsistencies
- lack of integration of risk and impact data
- increase in the number and duration of droughts in the Danube region in last decades (in 2003, 2007, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Impacts and risk assessment

- no systematic collection of drought impacts
- lack and incomparable drought risk assessment methodologies
- despite the impacts on the economy and welfare of people, mainly in agriculture, drought is still not considered an issue of high priority

Management

- reactive, dealing mainly with losses and damages
- cooperation between key actors is missing
- formal legislation does not exist

Drought is becoming one of the major challenges in water management in the Danube region.

HOW?

DriDanube Tools and Strategy

Drought User Service

An innovative tool integrating all available data, including large volume of remote sensing products and serving the authorities to monitor, forecast and respond during drought development faster and with higher precision.

Methodologies for drought impact and risk assessment

Unification and cross-border coherence of drought Risk and Impact assessments. Establishment of network of reporters as additional source of information for drought impacts in agriculture.

DriDanube Strategy

A clear guidance for overcoming the gaps in the drought decision-making processes and improvement of drought emergency response in the Danube region.

Engagement of stakeholders is key for the development of DriDanube Tools and their sustainable use.

WHAT?

The change we want to make



Improved drought emergency response and better cooperation among operational services and decision making authorities in the Danube region on national and regional level.

Conclusions and questions

- Drought Risk management become one of the major environmental risk within EUSDR
- Further projects will be develop for dealing with transboundary effects of droughts and water scarcity
- But, what will be left after these projects ?
- What will be necessary to avoid a water crisis within Danube River Basin
- How to better coordinate between grey and green measures ?
- There are enough financial resources to tackle drought and water scarcity ?

Thank you very much
for your attention!

