



PA 1A
Waterways Mobility

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Improvement of fairway conditions along the Danube and its navigable tributaries	Stable fairway conditions are the basis for profitable Danube navigation. Measures to achieve such a situation have been summarised in the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Masterplan, which was endorsed by the Danube Ministers of Transport in 2014. Although the PA1a Working Group on Waterway infrastructure & management is continuously active, all additional project initiatives to solve bottlenecks or improve waterway management procedures are most welcome. The transnational impact of projects in this thematic area is inherent, as they improve the entire transport axis.
2.	Modernisation of the inland waterway fleet	Projects aiming to raise the operational efficiency of vessels and reduce emissions contribute to the environmental and economic performance of inland navigation. Thereby, they enhance competitiveness of the sector and contribute to the achievement of the PA1a targets.
3.	Reduction of administrative barriers in Danube navigation	This thematic cluster aims at improving border control procedures by promoting projects to reduce waiting times at border crossings as well as the duration of controls are beneficial for the inland waterway industry. This would contribute to the target set for PA1a to increase cargo transport on the river. The involvement of control authorities and decision-makers at EU-level is crucial. The transnational impact of projects in this thematic area is inherent.



PA 1B
Rail-Road-Air Mobility

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Develop socio-environmentally appropriate and socio-economically sustainable transport services in rural areas for improved mobility of peoples	<p>Right to mobility and accessibility to health services (hospitals), education (schools, universities), culture (museums, opera/drama) has to be equal for all peoples of the Danube region, in particular to young and older population and people with reduced mobility in small settlements in remote areas. Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparison of present solutions in the Europe, and in particular between Scandinavian countries and the Danube region; - Exchange of best practices between stakeholders in the Danube region countries (workshop/seminar); - Developing models of public services (road, rail) in mountainous areas (e.g. Dinarids, Alps, Carpathians) or/and flat areas (e.g. Pannonian basin); - Evaluation that considers economic, social and environmental effects in comparison to the conventional existing methodologies is to be provided; - Preparation of set of recommendations for decision makers.

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<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
2.	Develop and demonstrate operational solutions to at least double the speed of trains on macro-regional railway network by 2030 with the aim to improve attractiveness of passengers transport and competitiveness of freight transport.	<p>Stable transport conditions for infrastructure managers and service operators are preconditions for planning infrastructure investments and service providing. Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capitalization of results of the studies carried out in the last 10 years by different stakeholders acting in the Danube region, such as SEETO, SEE, UN ECE TER project, in particular related to removing administrative obstacles at border crossings. - Search of best practices in the Europe and their presentation to stakeholders from the Danube region (by means of workshop or seminar); - Exchange of best practices between national administrations and railway operators, - Developing proto-type project showing at least one operational solution demonstrating reduced travel time between one of the EU capital cities and one non-EU capital city of the Danube region (e.g. between Budapest and Belgrade); - Developing ways to optimize business models for freight transport;
3.	Applying contemporary transport technologies and/or operational solutions for macro-regional freight and passenger transport, as well as private car use at local level.	<p>Our industry is evolving rapidly, new ideas emerge and approaches evolve constantly. Application of the newest technologies in transport and development of new is the basis for sustainable development of efficient transport in the Danube navigation. Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of play in the Danube region (for clarity reasons can be presented within three functional areas – Upper Danube, central Danube, Lower Danube); - Exchange of knowledge; - Sharing available information, - Demarcation of areas where car use is the most optimal mode of transport and will remain at least until 2030. Areas where tram, rail or regional air connections are the optimal solutions should be also presented.

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4.	Develop and demonstrate innovative or improved transport and logistics solutions.	<p>Solutions and policy reactions often focus on decreasing the negative impacts of freight transport, rather than on developing a more efficient freight transport system. Stable transport conditions for infrastructure managers and service operators are preconditions for planning infrastructure investments and service providing. Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search of the EU and national legislation that hampers or support efficient logistics solutions; - Present role of ICT and big data in nowadays logistics. - Innovative concepts should be developed and tested. - Demonstrate innovative and/or improved transport and logistic solutions with potential to move large volumes of freight away from long-distance road transportation. - Stimulate the take-up and application of green transport solutions for macro-regional freight and passengers transport.



PA 2
Sustainable Energy

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Energy Efficiency: Energy Efficiency in buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: improvement of the energy efficiency of public buildings, contribution to reduction of total EU energy consumption and lower CO2, promotion of the use of renewable energy resources and smart solutions - Focus on: energy efficiency and smart solutions in public buildings, promotion of the use of renewable energy resources at the municipalities, promotion of smart solutions at municipalities cooperation among municipalities - Areas: heating, cooling
2.	Promotion of RES: More efficient use of RES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: contributing to the goals of the Energy Union, diversification of supply, reducing gas dependency and increasing the availability of renewable resources for domestic use. - Focus on: biomass, hydropower and solar energy - Areas: decentralization in district heating system, district heating system switch, promotion of the utilization of RES in public buildings
3.	Smart Grids: Power System Automation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: reduction of emission in the EU and household energy consumption - Focus on: smart and sustainable solutions - Areas: smart cities, smart metering, energy storage, management systems

SEED MONEY FACILITY: List of focus topics
agreed by the SG of all PAs



<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
4.	Low Carbon Energy: Cutting Carbon in Transport (E-mobility: public transportation, e-cars, e-bikes, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: contributing to an environment-friendly local transport system with the reduction of carbon emission - Focus on: cars and public transportation - - Areas: green transportation, electromobility, green transport infrastructure development



PA 3
Culture & Tourism

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Revival and protection of traditional crafts in the Danube region	This topic addresses all the expressions of traditional craftsmanship. Projects under this thematic topic shall aim at identifying traditional craftsmanship in different parts of the Danube region, identifying artisans and encourage them to produce crafts, also to support policies or strategies oriented towards revival and development of traditional building crafts. Another direction refers to conducting studies on traditional crafts for the Danube region. By developing training programs dedicated to the already active artisans, teaching them to adapt to the conditions of a continuously changing market, to identify new sources of financing and to create networks the projects will contribute to a sustainable preservation of this part of the intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, by co-interesting and training the young people from the local communities (apprenticeship programmes) the passing on of the tradition will be ensured.
2.	Develop applications and other innovative tools for tourists that use information and communication technologies (ICT) promoting and clearly illustrating the natural and cultural heritage of the Danube region	Nowadays the ICT tools are very important in for an effective information flow, especially in the tourism sector. It was proven that the touristic potential of large regions remains barely known due to numerous factors (low accessibility, deficient advertising etc). Projects shall help the tourists to identify the natural and cultural heritage from their interest region, to find information about their characteristics, visiting programme, events organised in the nearby areas etc. At the same time, they shall enable tourists to exchange information in real time, rating the places they have visited, giving permanently updated advice to other potential tourists.

SEED MONEY FACILITY: List of focus topics
agreed by the SG of all PAs



<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
3.	Promotion of SPA and wellness tourism in the Region	Promotion of SPA and wellness tourism is included in the Actions plan of EUSDR. Projects shall aim at exploring the potential for development of SPA and wellness tourism in the region, including studies, exchanges of best practices, know-how and networking. Also development of traditional, on-line and web based communication and promotional tools, training for stakeholders, incl. self-study modules.
4.	Create new and support existing transnational routes for sustainable and activity tourism in the Danube region.	Target 3 of EUSDR PA3 refers to developing new and supporting existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region. Projects developed under this thematic topic shall aim at attaining this target with a clear focus on its transnational dimension, identifying or supporting routes extended in three or more countries of the Danube region.



PA 4
Water Quality

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Implementation and promotion of eco-friendly waste water treatment for small settlements	Focus on waste water collection in rural areas with regard to social aspect of inhabitants and natural resources protection
2.	Support effective management of water resources from the water quality viewpoint in the conditions of climate change (e.g. drought, water scarcity)	Following climate change impact on river sub-basins it is necessary to focus on their particularities (urbanization, industry, agriculture) and public interest from the viewpoint of hydro-ecological, hydro-soil and hydrogeological conditions of related territory and to draft optimal way of water resources management
3.	Solving the problem of Hazardous and Problematic substances (problematic infrastructures) endangering water ecosystems in the in the DRB	Following the monitoring of hazardous and problematic substances occurrence in the Danube Basin it is necessary to focus on drafting the most effective technologies for their removal in a way to meet the environmental goals of the Water Framework Directive which would be manifested in radical improvement of water and land ecosystems
4.	Development of knowledge building and policy recommendations on the level of pharmaceuticals and other emerging substances (e.g. cyano bacteria toxins) in the water	Focus on involvement of professionals and specialists in the field of pharmacy, chemistry, water management, and technology as well as central bodies of state administration into the process of occurrence assessment and elimination of pharmaceutical and emerging substances



PA 5
Environmental Risks

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Coordinate the operative flood management and civil protection plans	Focus on evacuation plans and procedures, safeguarding people, goods, emergency rescue plans, regional catastrophe plans including contingency plans for water scarcity etc.) considering the benefits of the civil protection mechanisms for the shared flood basins or stretches of common interest to better use the available resources.
2.	Safety of the critical water infrastructure on shared river basins, contingency planning for failure (havaria management)	Investigation and evaluation of lakes, reservoirs and their dams or complex water bearing structures which could have transboundary/ international effects if busted or malfunctioning. The extreme natural conditions or the failure of these manmade objects would cause environmental risks, like sudden inundation, water quality problems and additionally block of freshwater supply, irrigation, transport etc. The topic covers the estimation of the effects and calculation of the response time and develop possible measures, action plans. The aim is to raise preparedness and get aware of the potential threats to act in advance. The activities need to be communicated in the border commissions and international collaboration should be set up for such cases.
3.	Basin/Sub-basin wide technical/professional water resource management masterplans	Projects are expected to facilitate the adaptation of the Danube countries to climate change and to support anticipating local and regional impacts of climate extremities (e.g. ice management, border crossing flood or excess water inundation – beside the river network including shared lake surface and littorial)
4.	Improve the capacities to tackle accidental pollution risk at the transboundary, regional and basin level,	Focus on the development and/or modernization of plans, equipment (including monitoring capacities), information and warning systems and joint trainings, taken also into account the effects of climate change



PA 6
Biodiversity & Landscapes

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Fostering Ecological Connectivity within Danube Region	Projects to extend green corridors in the Danube Region and to establish links also to neighbouring Regions and Organizations (Carpathian Region / Carpathian Convention, Alpine Space, EUSALP, EUSAIR) towards a TEN-G (Trans-European Network for Green Infrastructure).
2.	Improvement of the Air Quality in the Danube Region	Projects to strengthen improvements in Air Quality, specifically to enable a stakeholder dialogue between experts, policy level, civil society and citizens. Focus on Residential Heating with biomass and its impact on human health. Focus should be laid on public participation, awareness raising campaigns, transnational certification for municipalities, learning tools and concrete efforts to reduce negative impact on human health.
3.	Fostering transnational cooperation in monitoring and measures against Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Danube Region.	Projects aiming at the harmonization of Data, the development of joint early warning systems and joint direct response systems when IAS are introduced into the Danube River. Involvement of the public and awareness raising activities are also welcomed.
4.	Improvement of the water quality of Danube river systems as regards the loss of nutrients and phosphates.	Projects aiming to strengthen the efforts of joint measures from nature protection and agriculture to prevent the loss of nutrients and phosphates in the water body of the Danube River System. Stakeholder dialogues, transnational agreements and best practice exchange could be included in the activities..



PA 7
Knowledge Society

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Fostering cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs), industry and government (public) institutions stimulating the automotive industry in the Danube region, in order to:	<p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting the industry’s requirement of skilled manpower - running employability-skill enhancement programs and to set-up training centers/labs - improving the competitiveness of industry - increasing the relevance and innovativeness of research in HEIs - knowledge transfer
2.	Promoting the development of a common accredited course focused on “the Development of the Danube region” through which HEI students and teachers from various Danube region countries will be able to:	<p>Focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exchange the knowledge and share information via online platforms / social media - preparation of topics of MA-thesis and/or dissertation thesis and compare their results - exchange visits (via existing mobility programs or newly developed schemes) - raising the issues of political interest
3.	Empowering Research and innovation Support centers in the Danube Region –proposals supporting excellent science	Development of concepts for training programs, incl. organization of a pilot trainings (e.g. summer/winter school) focused on raising awareness regarding EU (and other) funding programs and generating project
4.	Analysis of status quo in research and innovation performance in the Danube Region	Development of co-publications, co-patents and similar with the aim to foster discussion among policy makers and relevant stakeholders (i.e. representatives from the other EU-macro-regional strategies, HEIs, research institutions, industry etc.)



PA 8

Competitiveness of Enterprises

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	To increase professionalization and visibility of cluster organisation in the DR	Focus on Bioeconomy through networking of companies, improved innovation models and training measures for cluster organisations and cluster managers
2.	Preparatory feasibility studies for the better use of environmental technologies	Entrepreneurship development and improvement the competitiveness of the DR, like: sewage treatment, refuse disposal, generation of energy from renewable sources with a special focus also on rural areas
3.	Strengthening of SMEs capacities to improve their competitiveness and profitability	Innovative training measures for a better use of ICT tools and skills for entrepreneurs, with particular consideration of women Entrepreneurship.
4.	To strengthen SMEs capacities to improve their competitiveness in EU regional markets	Promoting measures on SME/Cluster-level for an effective implementation of important elements of dual education and vocational training.



PA 9
People & Skills

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Preventing early school leaving & re-integration of NEETS into education/labour market	Developing monitoring and warning systems for early school leavers as well as diagnostic tools. Setting up integrated measures with a focus on ESL prevention, on transition from school to occupation and re-integration for NEETS into education and labour markets (e.g. counselling, coaching, school social work, language support measures, qualification measures, trainings, second chance and adult education etc.)
2.	Promoting inclusive education and labour markets, including second-chance education, focusing on marginalised communities (e.g. Roma)	Identification of obstacles to inclusive education systems and labour markets and development of new measures to increase their inclusiveness. Improving access to education and improving labour market integration with a special focus on integrated approaches. Improving educational outcomes in particular of socio-economically disadvantaged learners (e.g. by improving teachers' competences regarding multilingualism, diversity, etc; individualisation, learning support, coaching, counselling, t etc.)
3.	Improving skills and competences for employability, entrepreneurship and active citizenship.	Projects should focus on skills development among youth and adults, ranging from basic skills in numeracy and literacy to financial, entrepreneurial, green and digital skills as well as critical thinking and democratic participation. Better alignment of skills with labour market needs (including improved skills forecasting). Modernising vocational education and training systems, in particular by promoting high-quality work-based learning (projects with an explicit focus on SME/Cluster-level, please refer to PA8 topic 4). Furthermore, developing approaches for shared understanding of key competences and foster their introduction in training curricula.



PA 10

Institutional Capacity & Cooperation

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Low-threshold provision of local services for ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma), refugees, people with disabilities, lone parents, migrants, low-skilled people, homeless people, early school leavers and/or elderly people in cities and municipalities.	Cities and municipalities are crucial in the implementation of public services that support sustainable development and social inclusion on a daily basis. Activities aiming at cutting bureaucracy, improving the quality of administrative procedures, facilitate accessibility, as well as improving skills, competences and motivation of civil servants are essential factors to improve the quality of public services that address ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma), refugees, people with disabilities, lone parents, migrants, low-skilled people, homeless people, early school leavers and/or elderly people.
2.	Fostering innovative models of cooperation between civil society and local public authorities to develop modern social and health services.	Projects under this topic should aim at improving the quality of public services and optimising governance mechanisms through innovative models of cooperation between civil society (organisations) and local public institutions. Projects addressing this topic should foster an open dialogue with different authorities and institutions, and a better acknowledgement of civil society expertise and views in public services in order to jointly develop modern social and health services.
3.	To create innovative tools to promote digital cities in the Danube Region in order to strengthen transparency.	The topic addresses projects aiming at the development and implementation of innovative tools that promoting the smart cities approach that entails an integrated strategy involving ICT and resilient development. Furthermore, the projects or studies need to address multi-stakeholder engagement with a special emphasis on cooperation between cities and companies.

SEED MONEY FACILITY: List of focus topics
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<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
4.	Fostering transnational/cross border cooperation at local level to overcome administrative interregional barriers	Establishing structures to facilitate cross-border service provisions such as cross-border fire fighting operations, emergency services, disaster response



PA 11
Security

<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
1.	Security offensive - Enhancing police cooperation with the aim of improving security and tackling serious and organised crime in the EUSDR countries and strengthening the efforts against terrorism threats	Fostering the cooperation in the field of countering smuggling and trafficking in human beings; enhancing the cooperation in the area of combating illicit drug smuggling; intensifying the cooperation in combating the Internet crimes (cybercrime) enhancing the fight against illicit trafficking of firearms in the Danube Region; strengthening and intensify the law enforcement and police cooperation in the field of property crime; intensifying the common approach in the fight against terrorism.
2.	Developing strategic long-term cooperation between law enforcement actors along the Danube river by strengthening networks for cooperation by 2020	Establishing a network of contact and coordination centers along the Danube River
3.	Improving the systems of border control, document inspection management and cooperation on consular related issues in the Danube region	Enhancing the cooperation on Consular and Visa Issues, document inspection management and better migration management in The Danube Region

SEED MONEY FACILITY: List of focus topics
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<i>Topics</i>		<i>Explanations</i>
4.	Promoting the rule of law and the fight against corruption.	Strengthening the joint efforts in combating corruption and organised crime