

Priority Area 5 has got three targets and 8 Actions. The following will summarize the progress target by target using the results of the underlying Actions.

Target 1

To address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts based on the 2013 update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation, in the Danube River Basin Management Plan to be adopted by 2015.

- Action 7: “Anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research”.
- Action 8: “To develop spatial planning and construction activities in the context of climate change and increased threats of floods”.

The Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy has been finalised and was adopted at the XVth Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR on 11-12 December 2012 in Vienna. Specific chapters on climate change adaptation are included in the draft “Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015”. The issue is also addressed in the 1st Danube Flood Risk Management Plan.

Based on a query made by the River Basin Management Expert Group of ICPDR countries and the main sectors have been identified where water scarcity and drought is considered a serious issue (not all country in the Danube Region is concerned). Relevant steps were taken to address the issue in the 2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis and the draft Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015. At the current stage, a further exchange on the topic in the frame of the ICPDR via the exchange of best practice examples was indicated by the Danube countries to be the preferred approach.

Target 2

Implement Danube wide flood risk management plans - due in 2015 under the Floods Directive – to include significant reduction of flood risk by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change.

- Action 1: “To develop and adopt one single overarching floods management plan at basin level or a set of flood risk management plans coordinated at the level of the international river basin
- Action 2: “To support wetland and floodplain restoration as an effective mean of enhancing flood protection, and more generally to analyse and identify the best response to flood risk (including “green infrastructure”)”.
- Action 3: “To extend the coverage of the European Floods Alert System (EFAS) system to the whole Danube river basin, to step up preparedness efforts at regional level (including better knowledge of each other’s national systems) and to further promote joint responses to natural disasters and to flood events in particular, including early warning systems”
- Action 4: “To strengthen operational cooperation among the emergency response authorities in the Danube countries and to improve the interoperability of the available assets”

The ICPDR at the 13th StWG Meeting adopted the updated version of the DRAFT DFRM Plan – Update 2015, including its annexes and maps, as of 15 May 2015 and asked the Secretariat to publish the updated version of the draft “DFRM Plan – Update 2015” on the ICPDR website for launching the intensified public consultation process and asking for comments until 22 July 2015.

The DR Oper & Cooper document has been adopted by the ICPDR and the PA5 SG. The implementation has been started with the preparation of the DAREFFORT project proposal and with flood protection capacity building training program that was organized in Sarajevo by the Hungarian leadership of the Priority Area 5 and with the financial support of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

A project concept was handed in by Romania under EUSDR PA5 in spring 2015 for receiving Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) support towards the elaboration of a Danube Floodplain Project. The application was successful and TAF support was granted. The technical project proposal has already been finalized and the project consortium is being set up.

The European Flood Awareness System is running operationally with the participation of all 14 Danubian countries.

The roadmap based on the results of the SEERISK project has been prepared. This is the basis for the implementation of Action 4 which start soon.

Target 3

Update of the accidental risk spots inventory at the Danube River Basin level by 2013.

- Action 5: "To continuously update the existing database of accident risk spots (ARS Inventory), contaminated sites and sites used for the storage of dangerous substances"
- Action 6: "To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution"

In most of the countries the data collection process is on-going for which new templates have been developed. The revised ARS and CS inventories are expected to be available in September 2015 but till spring 2016 at latest, the basin-wide analysis is planned to be conducted in autumn 2015/spring 2016.

Although visualization of the risk hot spots is a sensitive issue, the Accident Prevention and Control EG of ICPDR agreed that a certain spatial detail for the visualization (mapping with coordinates) is needed. The assessments of the ARS and CS inventories might be executed in autumn 2015/spring 2016 once the country data are available.

The updated draft document on guidelines and checklist for contingency planning in cross-border areas has been finalized and presented at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention. Testing of the method is planned in the frame of the Danube Delta projects and further feedback/update is expected based on the experiences.