

Back to Office Report

Places	Bucharest, Romani
Dates	29 September 2016
Participants	Sabina Bokal
Issue: <i>Thematic Annual Event 2016: BLUE DANUBE - Danube Transnational Programme: Key instrument for supporting water as a transnational resource</i>	
<p>Purpose of the trip:</p> <p>Danube Transnational Programme are planning to organise a series of annual events focused on specific themes relevant for the Danube region and to be addressed in the DTP calls for proposals. The thematically-focused annual events aim to become a forum to stimulate discussion on the selected theme with the help of experts, programme stakeholders, interested institutions and organisations, potential applicants and project partners. This kind of events will allow a better preparation of future calls, fostered innovative proposals, better implementation of projects and more capitalisation opportunities.</p> <p>This year event was focusing on water management in the Danube Region. GWP CEE participated while this programme is interesting for our activities; GWP CEE is already part of the two consortiums who submitted project proposal under 1st call (JointTisza and DriDanube) and most probably will submit SANDAUBE in its 2nd call.</p> <p>Programme of the meeting:</p> <p>At the beginning Marco Onida, EUSDR coordinator-DG for regional and urban policy from European Commission stresses the importance of water and the common goal of the Danube TP to implement projects which will help achieving results of the EUSDR and support sustainable development of the Danube region. This was an opening presentation which was followed by general presentation of the Danube Transnational Programme (by Alessandra Pala, Head of the DTP Joint Secretariat) and presentation of one of the main needs and challenges for the Danube region from “water” perspective (by Karl Schwaiger, Acting water director in Austria).</p> <p>Afterwards four parallel workshops were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Innovative solutions for Transnational Water Management</i> - <i>Transnational Water Management for a sustainable future</i> - <i>Environmentally-friendly transport systems: waterborne transport</i> - <i>Strengthening transnational multi-level governance for better Water Management</i> <p>At the end of the programme Zsuzsanna Kocss-Kupper (member of the PA4 coordination team of the EUSDR) gave interesting overview of current financial instruments on transnational water management.</p> <p>Main messages:</p> <p>Among the main challenges that Danube Region is facing, management of the risks (such as floods and droughts) and access to sustainable sanitation especially in rural areas of the region, were emphasized; all these topics are also covered in the GWP CEE workplan and programme.</p> <p>In the projects there is a need to:</p>	

- make more room for innovations; not to duplicate efforts already done in previous projects;
- engage civil society already in the designing the project proposal;
- think about the sustainability of the results already at the preparation phase;
- have measurable results.

In financial instruments usually “water” does not get any specific heading (like publishing the call with the name Water) but can be found in several other “headings” such as growth and jobs (EC “fancy” word and water related themes can be found under this topics in HORIZON2020 or LIFE, etc.); economic, social, territorial cohesion; sustainable growth; natural resources (LIFE), etc.

The biggest amount of money is available through national programmes. Each country has different name for those programmes. For example, in Slovakia it is called Quality environment, in Slovenia “Operational Programme for the implementation of the EU cohesion policy 2014 – 2020”, etc.

Cross boarder or transnational cooperation programmes have the highest success rate (cca. 40%); in case of Horizon2020 is under 14% and LIFE 10%. In Cross boarder and Transnational programmes co-financing rate is the highest (85%), while with other two is smaller (LIFE only 50-60%).

HORIZON2020 had some specific calls on water but most of the big calls were already published (or will be publish) this year.

Follow up:

- SANDANUBE idea was presented in a “partner search” area and got a lot of attention and offers for joining the partnership. Contacts of all interested partners will be send to GWP CEE.
- Results of the 1st DTP Call will be officially sent to lead applicants in following days.

Interesting links:

- <https://danube-euroaccess.eu/> (tool for searching financial instruments)