

## Capitalization within Thematic Pole 4 Water Management

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### Abstract

The paper gives a short overview of the thematic capitalization strategy of the Danube Transnational Programme and its Water Management Thematic Pole in operation as of 2017.

### Keywords

Danube Transnational Programme, water management, capitalization, Danube Strategy

### BACKGROUND

The late South East Europe Programme 2007-2013 (SEE) designed a Thematic Capitalisation Strategy to streamline the process of creating synergies between 122 SEE transnational partnerships, and capitalising on results of previous initiatives. The SEE Capitalisation Strategy was formally launched close to the edge of the previous programming period, in June 2013 and it aimed to strengthen the links between projects working on similar topics (Thematic Poles), to enable projects to exploit and consolidate one another's achievements, and create a higher leverage effect (*Southeast*).

### THE DTP CAPITALIZATION STRATEGY AND ITS PROCESS

At the end of 2016 the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) initiated to start its Capitalisation Strategy right at the momentum of projects awarded funding in the first DTP Call commenced. Capitalization was launched on 25-26 January 2017 in Budapest, with the first Call Lead Partner Seminar for the Lead Partners of all those 54 projects selected ([http1](http://1), [http2](http://2), [https5](https://5)). The launch was attended and welcomed by the newly approved projects of the DTP and by the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) as well. With this early start, the capitalization process would make it possible for the projects and PACs to get to know each other's work, establish professional links to cooperate and score better outcomes and results through peer learning, benchmarking. As the DTP announced, the DTP Capitalization Strategy would grow together with the projects, hand in hand, grasping important aspects, welcoming and integrating the projects from the future calls and working as "knowledge and inventory manager" (*Interreg-Danube*). The overall aim of DTP capitalization is therefore to cooperate with each other most efficiently, to build synergy between the DTP projects, as well as with other projects funded by other financial instruments; the latter meaning that capitalization is not limited to DTP projects only, but other projects are welcomed as well.

The capitalization process is mutually beneficial for the selected projects, for the Programme, but also for the EUSDR stakeholders as well as all DTP Priority Axis and related Specific Objectives show direct linkages to the pillars of one or more EUSDR Priority Areas. In relation to the EUSDR, the DTP Joint Secretariat (JS) has created the different Thematic Poles (TP) based on the EUSDR Priority Areas to reinforce the links between the Programme

and the Strategy and foster the capitalisation opportunities (*Interreg-Danube*). It is indeed efficient for the EUSDR as it could benefit of newly formed networks and collect information and valuable inputs from the ground.

### The objectives of DTP Capitalisation Strategy (*Interreg-Danube*)

- To valorise and further build upon the knowledge resulting from projects working in a thematic field
- To fill knowledge-gaps by linking actors with complementary thematic specialisation, experiences, methodological approaches or geographical scope
- To increase the visibility of the projects and the programme and to ensure their impact on the policy making process at local, regional, national and European levels
- To strengthen strategic thematic networks in the Programme area
- To encourage the wider take-up of project outcomes from outside the DTP Programme area
- To contribute to the design and/or implementation of future transnational cooperation in the area.

### Target groups

- DTP projects working on similar or complementary topics
- Beneficiaries of DTP project outputs
- DTP stakeholders
- DTP Programme bodies
- EUSDR bodies and stakeholder
- Projects and stakeholders outside the programme area, relevant to the identified thematic poles





### Activities

- The DTP Capitalisation Strategy provides the list of capitalisation activities which includes but not limited to:
- Joint communication actions (e.g. newsletters, etc.)
  - Joint thematic meetings to exchange on projects' content and outputs
  - Joint thematic studies and policy recommendations
  - Peer review or benchmarking of project outputs
  - Exchange visits between projects, if this enables cross-fertilisation and/or take-up of results
  - Joint dissemination activities such as joint (final) conferences addressing common stakeholders.

### THEMATIC POLE WATER MANAGEMENT

Four DTP projects were identified by the JS originally in January 2017 to cooperate in the capitalization framework of DTP Thematic Pole 4 in connection to Water Management (Thematic Pole Water Management). While the projects address different issues like steering land use to safeguard water resources and reduce flood risk; coordinating sediment man-

agement along the Danube river; developing an integrated river basin and flood risk management plan for the Tisza River Basin; improving drought monitoring, management and emergency response in the Danube Region; they seek for synergies for the common benefit (*Interreg-Danube*). The DTP projects involved in the DTP Thematic Pole 4 – Water Management are the following:

1. CAMARO-D - Cooperating towards advanced management routines for land use impacts on the water regime in the Danube River Basin ( <i>http4</i> )	
2. DANUBESEDIMENT - Danube Sediment Management - Restoration of the Sediment Balance in the Danube River ( <i>http5</i> )	
3. DRIDANUBE - Drought risk in the Danube Region ( <i>http6</i> )	
4. JOINTISZA - Strengthening cooperation between river basin management planning and flood risk prevention to enhance the status of waters of the Tisza River Basin ( <i>http7</i> )	

Apart the above-mentioned DTP projects and the JS designated project officer, Mr Gusztáv Csomor, also two Priority Areas of the EUSDR take active part in the capitalization procedure: the coordination teams of Priority Area Water Quality (PA4) and Priority Area Environmental Risks (PA5). At the initial discussion at the referred Lead Partner Seminar in January 2017 the Pole members agreed that the Thematic Pole Water Management will be lead and coordinated by EUSDR PA4 Coordinator, Mr Balázs Horváth, from the Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management.

In February 2017, the Thematic Pole Water Management agreed and adopted its document on capitalization, where identified its next steps towards capitalisation, its potential synergies and created its contact list. During spring 2017 the Thematic Pole Water Management further elaborated its Capitalisation Strategy, identified synergies, described its internal and external communication, listed its planned events for 2017, elaborated its peer review and

established a Roadmap. The Thematic Pole Water Management Capitalization Strategy document is a working document that is regularly being reviewed and updated. During the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Group (SG) Meeting of Priority Area Water Quality on 25-26 April 2017 in Bratislava, further projects were identified that are welcomed to take part of the capitalization: STREAM, DANUBEarksCONNECTED, FramWat, DREAM, Sturgeon 2020, some of which are funded by different financial sources than DTP.

Direct results of the DTP Capitalization Strategy are already visible: Thematic Pole Water Management projects invited each other to their own kick off events in March 2017; and all Pole projects were invited to the SG meetings of Priority Area Water Quality and Priority Area Environmental Risks. JOINTISZA and DANUBESEDIMENT held a joint event on Transnational Cooperation for Sustainable River Basin Management Conference on 11 April 2017 (Budapest, HU). All team members participated and jointly held an EUSDR PA4 and PA5 organized

side event of the Hungarian Hydrological Society's Annual Conference on 5-7 July 2017 (Mosonmagyaróvár, HU). Further joint events are already foreseen for 2017: several DTP Capitalization Workshops will be held in the frame of the Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Budapest, in the morning session of 19 October 2017, where capitalization will be discussed further (*Danube-Forum*).

Networking and further capitalization is under progress based on the great initiation of DTP and we, on behalf of the concerned Priority Areas of EUSDR look forward to a streamlined cooperation together with the projects to gain additional, synchronized and tangible results for our Danube Strategy and turn policy into practice.

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