Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
EUROPEAN UNION

Output Quality Report

Output title:	
O.T.1.1. Integrative seminar to set base for harmonised measurement protocols of microplastic river pollution	

Type of output:	X Documented learning interaction ☐ Strategy/ Action Plan ☐ Tool ☐ Pilot action
Contribution to PO indicator:	P07 No. of documented learning interactions in finalised operations (Quantity: 1)

Summary of the output (max. 1500 characters)
On 4 November 2020, UNS organised the Microplastic Workshop as part of Activity T1.1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions, the workshop was held via Zoom. The workshop was attended by 34 project partner and associated project partner representatives. The purpose of the workshop was to exchange experiences of microplastic monitoring in water bodies in various countries, with a special focus on sampling techniques and analytical methods. The exchange of information and the results of this process will help define harmonised methodologies that can be applied within the project time-frame and determine the course of action. In the first part of the workshop, UNS staff presented existing techniques for microplastic sampling in water bodies, as well as analytical methods used for quantification. All partners then shared their own experiences. The second part of the workshop included discussion about the pros and cons of sampling, analytical methods used by each country, defining criteria for the selection of sampling and analytical methods, and determining the appropriate sampling and analytical methods and sampling locations. Conclusions: - A monitoring plan should be defined by January 2021, including detailed procedures (sampling – written protocols, equipment, costs) and detailed protocols (sample conservation and storage, QA/QC);   - At least 8 sampling points in total (in Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria) should be defined;   - More campaigns are necessary at each measurement point if the partner budget allows this;   - A decision must be made if different sampling techniques should be applied in different countries;

- Sample preparation and analysis will be conducted by the BOKU (A) and OVF (H) laboratories.

Added value (max. 1500 characters)

For documented learning interactions:

The Tid(y)Up Project involves partners from 6 Danube basin countries working in various fields including NGOs, academia, public agencies and government institutions. Each of the partners contributes to the fulfilment of the tasks in different ways. For instance, the Romanian partners are able to provide boats for the sampling campaigns; the Austrian and Hungarian partners have the necessary microplastic sampling equipment, and are technically capable of treating and analysing the collected samples; and the Serbian partners can assist in data management, presentation and application of the obtained results. Therefore, each partner can contribute their own expertise to the project, thus creating the required level of synergy directed towards the achievement of the project objectives.

Applicability and replicability (max. 1500 characters)

As an outcome of the workshop, the project partners have agreed on follow-up actions with the goal to initiate sampling campaigns in the first half of 2021. The main idea is to compare and then harmonise sampling protocols in order to obtain comparable results in the Danube basin in the long run. Due to the lack of technical capacity, not all partners are able to conduct laboratory analysis, and therefore two of the most experienced partners have agreed to accept samples from all participating countries.

Partners taking part personally in the sampling will gain necessary experience, which can then be replicated on other water bodies globally. Partners conducting the analysis will share their experience with the other project participants to facilitate the transfer of knowledge which can be applied once the partners build their own technical capacities.

Suggestions for improvement, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

N/A

Output Quality Level	☐ Low
	☐ Average
	☐ Good
	X Excellent

Name of the Quality Manager

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Signature of the Quality Manager