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Founding documents of the Danube & Black Sea Task Force Panel





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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADRM	Association of Danube River Municipalities
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
DALIA	Danube Region Water Lighthouse Action
DANSER	Danube Sediment Restoration: towards the deployment and upscaling of sustainable management of the sediments across the Danube catchment basin
Danube4All	Restoration of the Danube River Basin for ecosystems and people from mountains to coast
DaWetRest	Danube Wetlands and flood plains Restoration through systemic, community engaged and sustainable innovative actions
DBS	Danube & Black Sea
EcoDaLLi	ECOsysteM-based governance with DANube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes
IA	Innovation Action
ICLEI	ICLEI European Secretariat GmbH
iNNO SED	Innovative Sediment management in the Danube River Basin
IP Tulcea	Tulcea County Prefecture
MAA	multi-actor approach
MEWF	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania
Restore4life Basin	Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin
SEZ	Steinbeis 2i GmbH
SUNDANSE	Sustainable Sediment solutions for the Danube - Black Sea system
WP	Work package





1. CHARTER

1.1. Background

The EcoDaLLi (ECOsystem-based governance with DANube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes) project, as Coordination and Support Action (CSA) of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse under the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, aims to pilot and scale up integrated governance and innovation ecosystems to restore freshwater and marine ecosystems. Within this broader framework, Task 3.3: Setting up the EcoDaLLi Local Panel plays a central role in creating a structured mechanism for multi-level, cross-border cooperation and innovation integration across the Danube River Basin.

T3.3 is part of *Work Package 3 – “Innovative practices in spatial policies for the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity”*, coordinated by ADRM, and implemented with the contribution of MEWF (Task Leader), ICLEI, IP Tulcea, and Draž Municipality. The overarching objective of WP3 is to position the Danube CSA Lighthouse as a key point for exchange and learning on innovation in biodiversity, water systems, and climate change for river cities and cross-border regions. It also focuses on boosting local innovation potential and upscaling, as well as promoting citizen engagement.

In this context, T3.3 aims to formalize a collaborative Task Force framework, which represents the EcoDaLLi Local Panel, designed to support local and transnational policy integration and stakeholder engagement. Specifically, the task delivers:

- A charter, describing the governance and purpose of the panel;
- The definition of sub-panels (hereinafter referred to as Task Forces) to address targeted topics;
- A program of knowledge exchange and collaborative action, drawing from local innovation activities and WP5 priorities.

Crucially, T3.3 besides being linked to WP5, it is also linked to Milestone #7 of the project, which requires the delivery of founding documents for the panel, along with proposals on innovation potential, upscaling practices, and citizen engagement methodologies. The verified result will be an integrated service within the EcoDaLLi Innovation Ecosystem, embedded in both the EcoDaLLi Portal and the Mission Implementation Platform.

To ensure regional specificity and stakeholder relevance, the task takes inspiration from the multi-actor approach (MAA) used, where local consultation groups guide innovation uptake and co-creation through contextual understanding. Similarly, the EcoDaLLi Local Panel serves as a trans-territorial platform to harness regional knowledge and co-design effective pathways for freshwater ecosystem restoration. By engaging stakeholders from the quadruple helix—policy, academia, civil society, and industry—the panel not only shares knowledge but actively translates research and innovation into actionable, scalable solutions.

The structure of the panel is built upon the Danube Lighthouse Roadmap, which was developed collaboratively through the Mission-supported projects in the region. Therefore, the panel uses the existing Danube Lighthouse Task Forces as functional sub-panels, ensuring continuity, resource efficiency, and strategic alignment across the Mission framework. To ensure consistency and shift the emphasis from the CSA project to the Lighthouse the EcoDaLLi Local Panel will be addressed as the **Danube & Black Sea (DBS) Task Force Panel** in the following.





1.2. Purpose and Objectives

The DBS Task Force Panel serves as a collaborative governance and innovation hub to support the objectives of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse under the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”. This panel will facilitate local, cross-border, and transnational integration of policies, strategies, and solutions to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity in the four Danube River Basin territorial units (Upper, Middle, Lower Danube, Danube Delta and Black Sea).

1.3. Main Objectives

i. **Strengthen Governance & Policy Integration:**

- Foster cooperation among stakeholders at local, national, and transnational levels.
- Align policies with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse objectives.

ii. **Support Innovation Transfer & Upscaling:**

- Provide recommendations for WP5 workshops on upscaling innovation.
- Enable knowledge exchange between the CSA (EcoDaLLi) and Innovation Action (IA) projects (DANUBE4all, DALIA, DaWetRest, Restore4Life, SUNDANSE, INNO SED and DANSER)

iii. **Enhance Stakeholder & Citizen Engagement:**

- Define strategies for stakeholder involvement in innovation adoption.
- Promote citizen engagement techniques such as citizen science initiatives.

iv. **Facilitate Cross-Border and Transnational Cooperation:**

- Act as a platform for local authorities, researchers, and businesses to collaborate.
- Enable coordination among the four territorial units of the Danube River Basin.

v. **Promote Awareness & Communication:**

- Develop joint branding, newsletters, and outreach strategies.
- Support demonstration site cooperation and transnational learning.






1.4. Structure of the Panel: Task Forces & Program

As stated in , to ensure coherence with the broader coordination efforts of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse, the **DBS Task Force Panel** has been structured using the existing **Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse Roadmap** (developed by SEZ) as its foundational framework. Developed through a collaborative process involving all Coordination and Innovation Actions in the Lighthouse (EcoDaLLi, DANUBE4all, DALIA, DaWetRest, Restore4Life, SUNDANSE, INNO SED and DANSER), the Roadmap already outlines key areas of synergy, governance mechanisms, and thematic priorities across the basin (Upper, Middle, Lower Danube, Danube Delta & Black Sea). This shared foundation enables alignment with Mission Ocean objectives and leverages work already undertaken by experts from across the participating projects.



By building on this strategic structure, the DBS Task Force Panel is not starting from scratch, but rather reinforcing a **common vision** for freshwater ecosystem restoration. It also avoids duplication of efforts, supports more efficient integration of project outcomes, and facilitates engagement across regions and levels of governance.

Within this framework, the DBS Task Force Panel consists of the following **five Task Forces** or thematic Sub-panels (*both notions should be used as synonyms*), each focusing on a specific field essential to the success of the Mission and the transfer of innovation at local and transnational levels:

Task Force	Program	Logo
Mission Ocean & Lighthouse	Ensuring alignment with the Mission Ocean objectives . Developing a common vision for the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse .	
Communication	Joint branding, newsletters, and outreach. Coordination of events and social media campaigns.	
Stakeholder & Citizen Engagement	Engaging key stakeholders (public authorities, NGOs, private sector). Building partnerships for innovation transfer. Encouraging citizen engagement in freshwater restoration efforts. Implementing citizen science initiatives.	
Innovation & Sustainability	Supporting knowledge transfer and innovation management. Defining pathways for upscaling best practice.	
Associated Regions & Demo Site	Facilitating cooperation among demonstration sites. Scaling up successful restoration projects.	



1.5. Members & Meetings

Members of the Task Forces are representatives of all projects that are part of the Mission Ocean's Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse: the CSA EcoDaLLi and the IAs DANUBE4all, DALIA, DaWetRest, Restore4Life, SUNDANSE, iNNO SED and DANSER. Each consortium nominates project partner who is delegated the task to participate in the meetings of the respective Task Force. Each Task Force is comprised of at least one member per project.

All members of the Task Forces are invited to participate in regular meetings. These meetings are organised and moderated by EcoDaLLi as a CSA of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse of Mission Ocean.

Each Task Force has a shared folder, provided by EcoDaLLi, to store shared documents such as meeting minutes, Excel files to collect data or monitor information, etc.

2. TASK FORCES

2.1. Mission Ocean & Lighthouse Task Force

The Mission Ocean & Lighthouse Task Force has two main objectives:

- To coordinate all activities of the Danube Lighthouse that relate to the Mission Ocean & Waters.
- To develop a common vision of the Lighthouse and supervise the efficient collaboration between all projects in the Lighthouse.

2.1.1. Common vision of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse

A common vision of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse will help all projects to organise their work in pursuit of a common goal. Frequent exchange on issues facing all projects such as the interpretation of particular phrases in the Grant Agreements will help avoid confusion and create a unified front.

2.1.2. Mission Ocean Charter

The projects of the Danube Lighthouse are part of the Mission Ocean & Waters and must contribute to the Mission Charter. A joint strategy for disseminating information of the Charter will help induce more stakeholders to endorse the Mission Charter and increase the visibility of the Danube & Black Sea basin.

2.1.3. Mission Ocean Events

The projects of the Danube Lighthouse are part of the Mission Ocean & Waters and must contribute to the objectives and activities of the Mission. The goal of the Mission Ocean task force is to coordinate all activities of the Danube Lighthouse projects that relate to the Mission Ocean.



2.2. Communication Task Force

The Communication Task Force is comprised of at least one member per project. All WP Communication & Dissemination Leaders are involved as well as other relevant partners involved in the WP.

All activities of the Communication Task Force have the goal of increasing the outreach of all projects within the Lighthouse by establishing joined communication channels and activities.

2.2.1. Joint Branding

A joint “Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse” branding is being pursued to act as a unified lighthouse for joint events or activities vis-à-vis the public, stakeholders as well as other actors within the Mission Ocean & Waters, i.e. the European Commission and the Mission Lighthouses. Figure 2 shows the joint branding created by Restore4Life after feedback and approval from all four other projects in the Lighthouse.



Figure 1: Joint logo of the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse

2.2.2. Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse newsletter

EcoDaLLi initiated the idea of a joint newsletter to address stakeholders from the Danube region in a coordinated and well-structured way. A joint Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse Newsletter is easier to disseminate thus increasing visibility and reach, while simultaneously allowing all projects to pool their resources. People who want to be informed about activities in the Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse – be it employees of the European Commission, the other Lighthouses or Mission Ocean projects, stakeholders or interested citizens – only have to subscribe to one newsletter to stay informed about all activities.

The joint Danube & Black Sea Lighthouse Newsletter therefore is a collective effort to share latest project activities, upcoming events, opportunities to engage as well as news from the Mission Ocean network. In addition, the newsletter features a section “Voices from our partners” giving every project partner of all five projects the opportunity to present itself while simultaneously giving the newsletter a personal touch.

In its footer, the newsletter includes links to all communication channels per project such as all websites and social media channels. This not only provides an overview of existing communication tools but also increases the traffic on all channels.

The newsletter is published quarterly, beginning in January 2024 with seasonal editions. Furthermore, a welcome issue introducing all projects and explaining the relation to the Mission is automatically being sent to all new subscribers.

Potential content of each newsletter is collected through an Excel file in a shared folder, allowing all projects to feature their activities. The editorial in the beginning of each newsletter issued is provided by each project in turn and discussed at the regular meetings.



2.3. Stakeholder & Citizen Engagement Task Force

The Stakeholder Task Force is comprised of at least one member per project. All projects have nominated the partners most involved in stakeholder mapping and engagement.

All projects within the Lighthouse need to engage with the same pool of stakeholders and to connect with citizens in the Danube River Basin to involve them in the project progress. Some of the projects have specific activities related to citizen science.

The goal of the Stakeholder & Citizen Engagement Task force is therefore to ensure the most effective engagement for all projects in the Lighthouse as well as to avoid confusing and exhausting stakeholders and citizens across the Danube River Basin.

2.4. Innovation & Sustainability Task Force

The Innovation and Sustainability Task Force is comprised of at least one member per project. All projects have nominated the partners most involved in innovation management.

All projects within the Lighthouse work with innovations, the development of new innovations and the transfer and upscaling of innovations across the Danube River Basin. The goal of the innovation task force is therefore to pool resources and facilitate close cooperation between the projects thus ensuring the sustainability and exploitability of results beyond the project implementation.

2.5. Associated Regions & Demo Site Task Force

The Associate Region and Demo Site Task Force is comprised of at least one member per project including the representatives of the Demo sites and/or the partner involved in the associate region calls in the projects.

The goal of the Associated Regions & Demo Site Task Force is to familiarize the representatives of the different Demo sites with the actions carried out in different locations. Afterwards the possibility of mutual support will be explored.

3. CONTACT

If you are interested in the Task Forces and consider joining one, please reach out to: coordination@ecodalli.eu

