

# Creating a Green and Blue Infrastructure for healthy sturgeon ecosystems

**As the sturgeon swims**

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# EU Policy context for Sturgeon conservation

## Range of relevant EU policies

- ❖ EU Biodiversity strategy
- ❖ EU Nature legislation: Habitats and Birds Directives
- ❖ Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Floods Directive
- ❖ Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and Nitrates Directive (pollution control)
- ❖ Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- ❖ Wildlife trade regulations and CITES (caviar trade, illegal fishing)
- ❖ Sustainability of existing infrastructure and of new developments (e.g. inland navigation, hydropower, flood protection, ...)
- ❖ Common fisheries policy
- ❖ Macro-Regional Strategies
- ❖ Funding programs (LIFE, INTERREG, CF, ERDF, ...)
- ❖ Others

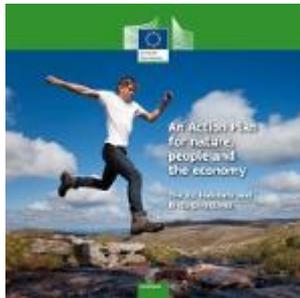


## ***Outcomes of 2018 Vienna workshop***

- ❖ Sturgeon protection: **Cross-cutting issue** with relevance for different policy fields – requires **coordinated action**
- ❖ EU environment and water **acquis relevant for sturgeons in multiple ways**
- ❖ EU policies cover **significant but not complete geographical scope** where actions are needed
- ❖ Need to **avoid further degradation** of aquatic ecosystems
- ❖ **Measures** to protect, strengthen and re-introduce sturgeon stocks (i.e. ex-situ measures)
- ❖ Need for long-term **commitment**, concrete follow-up and “**champions**” taking practical action
- ❖ **Communication** and **political** support are key, including funding

# The Nature Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

- **4 priority areas** of Action, **15 Actions**, Timeframe 2017-2019



- Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

- **Forthcoming package to be published soon:**

EU Green Infrastructure  
Strategy  
implementation review

Guidance on a strategic  
framework supporting the  
deployment of EU-level green  
and blue infrastructure

Guidance on integrating  
ecosystems and their  
services into decision-  
making



# Green and blue Infrastructure

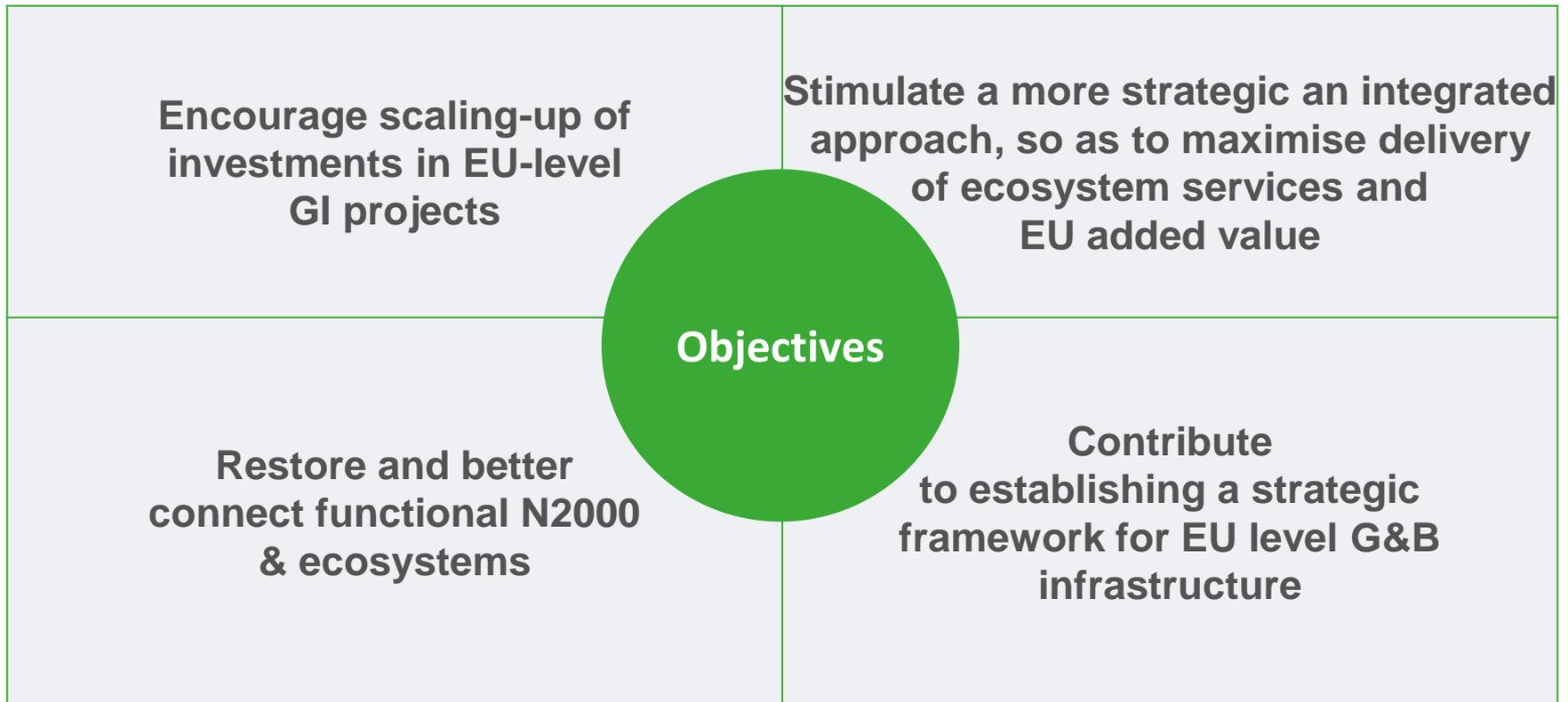
A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver wide range of ecosystem services (in terrestrial, aquatic, coastal & marine environments)



Spatial and functional structure delivering nature benefits to people



# Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure





# Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure

Draft structure

- 1 Introduction
- 2 **Key criteria** to help identifying and stimulating **EU-level** green infrastructure projects
- 3 **EU support:** through **EU financing instruments**; as well as through **scientific and technical tools** and instruments for the design of projects
- 4 Next steps



# Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure

1

Enhance the  
delivery of multiple  
ecosystem  
services

2

Significantly  
contribute to the  
goals of EU Nature  
legislation

3

Projects with  
a strategic  
approach &  
EU-level impact

DRAFT CUMULATIVE CRITERIA



# Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure

- DANUBEPARKS & DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0: Transnational Strategies for Conservation of Natural Heritage of Danube River

<http://www.danubeparks.org>

Some examples:  
Case studies



## Guidance on ecosystems and their services

**Increase awareness** of the potential benefits from healthy ecosystems and their services

**Prioritise working with nature** for sustainable and cost-effective solutions

### Objectives

**Enable working with nature** by highlighting steps, tools, instruments and case studies of integration

**Encourage learning by doing** in follow-up activities (2019-2020)



# ***LIFE proposal for 2021-2027***

**Budget increases** from  
€3.46 bn. to €5.45 bn.  
→ **almost €2 bn +**

## **Two main fields of action**

**Environment**  
(€3.5 bn)

**Climate Action**  
(€1.95 bn)

## **Sub-Programmes:**

**Nature & Biodiversity**  
(€2.15 bn)

**Circular Economy & Quality of Life**  
(€1.35 bn)

**Change Mitigation & Adaptation**  
(€0.95 bn)

**Clean Energy Transition**  
(€1.00 bn)



# ***Strategic Nature Projects in LIFE***

- *What is new?*
  - Increased focus on mainstreaming
  - Implementation of the PAF (incl. Green Infrastructure, etc.)
  - Thematic extension towards other Biodiversity issues
  - Transnational SNAPs (5% of SNAP budget?)
- *Key elements*
  - Programme of actions” & “complementary actions”
  - Institutional support and capacity building
  - Mobilisation and coordination of finance
  - Concrete conservation actions



# Other developments and next steps

- Pan-European action plan adopted by Bern Convention, to be endorsed as EU Species Action Plan
- Sturgeon Action Plan adopted by Helcom
- Iron Gate Feasibility Study kick off
- Guidance on EU level green and blue infrastructure to be adopted Q2 2019
- Revision of EUSDR Action Plan: launch in May 2018, to be concluded in October 2019
- Evaluation of biodiversity strategy (Q4 2020) and post-2020 policy framework
- Opportunities in the next EU budget

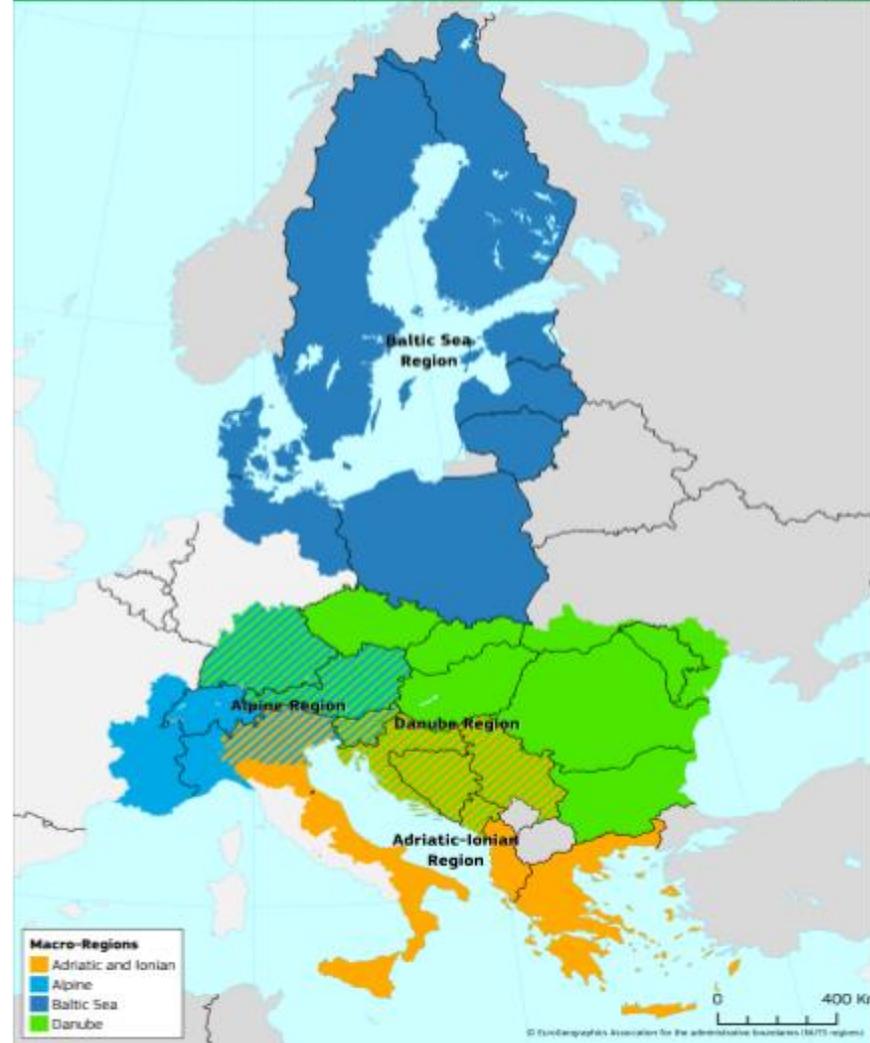




# MAP of EU 28



## Macro-Regions: Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube





# Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure

## Financing instruments

- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)
- Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
  - Innovative financing: NCCF
  - Horizon 2020

## Scientific & technical support

- MAES: EU initiative on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
  - KIP INCA: accounts on ecosystem condition and on ecosystem services
  - GIS modelling tools: upcoming EEA/JRC/ENV report



# Ecosystem services

The flow of benefits from nature to people –  
implies our critical dependence on nature:

**Life-support  
system**

air, food, water,  
shelter

**Wellbeing**

health, quality of life,  
inspiration

**Prosperity**

innovation, materials,  
green business and jobs,  
sustainable development



# Ecosystem services

- Provisioning, regulating/maintaining, cultural

- Full range depends on ecosystem condition

- Some services are underpinned by others

- Can provide cost-effective, integrated solutions

- May be visible and maximised - or less visible and neglected in decisions...



# Guidance on ecosystem services

**Policy-makers and  
authorities at different  
levels and across sectors**

**Planners at regional  
and local level**

**Target  
Audiences**

**Business decision-  
makers**



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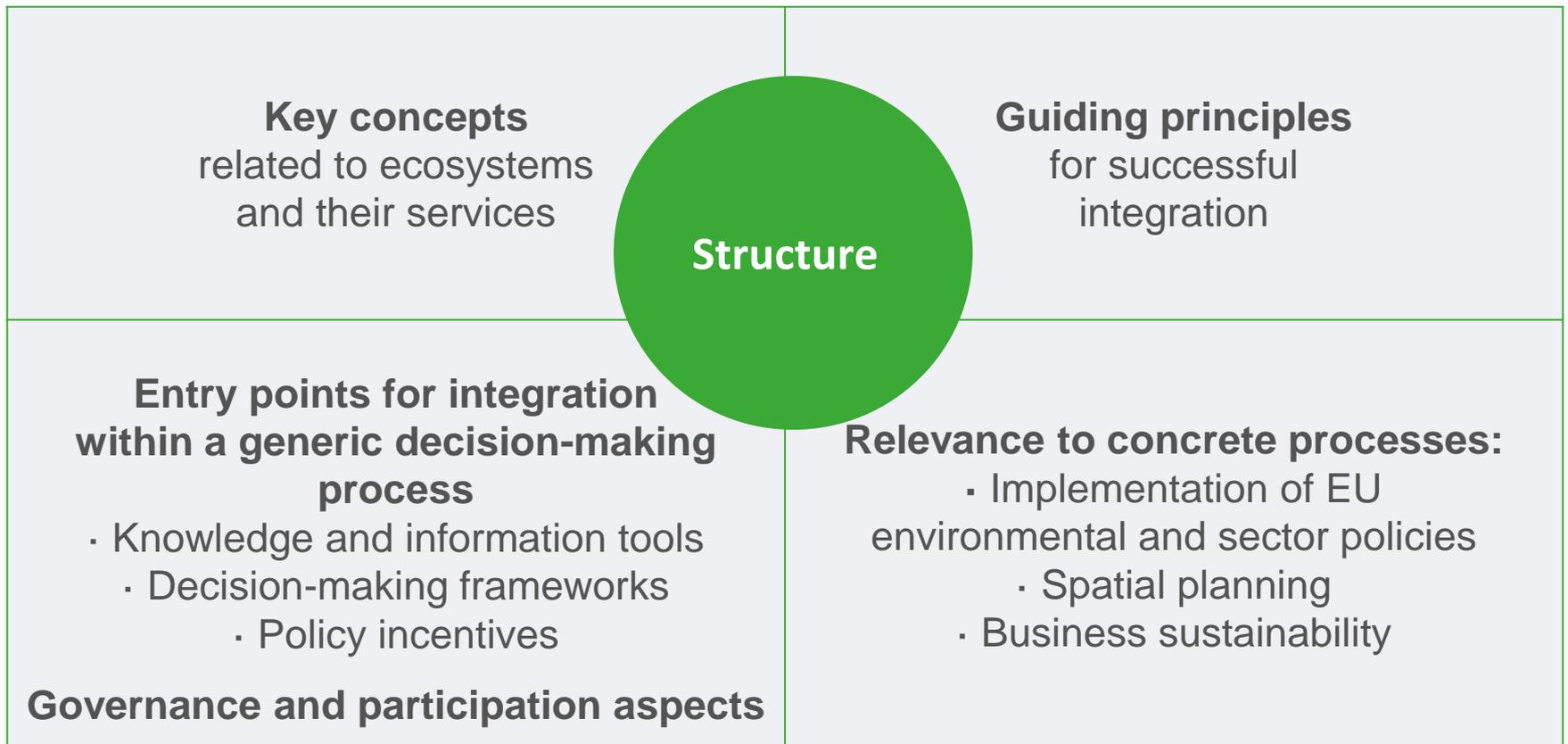
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### 3. Guidance on ecosystems and their services





## ***Why SNAPs ?***

*Build on positive experience with Nature Integrated projects (Nature IPs), in term of:*

- ***institutional support and capacity building***
- ***mobilisation of financing from other EU and national programmes for Nature***
- ***integration of nature into other policy sectors (mainstreaming)***

*Promote implementation of EU nature policy based on strategic planning approaches (PAFs – Prioritised Action Frameworks)*

*Allow for an extension of the scope beyond EU Nature directives and PAFs*



## ***Implementation modalities***

- *Annual calls for SNAP projects, or at least every 2 years (with concept note phase)*
- *First call for SNAPs as soon as LIFE Regulation and first Multi-annual work programme (MAWP) are adopted*
- *Actions for supporting MS or regions in the development of SNAPs (e.g. through a preparatory projects call), if sufficient evidence for an interest otherwise: no changes compared to current modalities...*



## ***National allocations for SNAPs?***

- *Indicative allocations*
- *To be established in the frame of the MAWPs*
- *criteria still to be established (Natura 2000 coverage, financing needs established under the PAFs, ???)*

*How to deal with national allocations, knowing that:*

- ***SNAPs can be submitted by individual regions/groups of regions***
- ***region-level SNAP from 1 MS may be submitted in different years***
- ***not all MS and region may be interested in submitting SNAP proposals***



## ***Transnational SNAPs ?***

*Allocate 5 % of SNAP budget to transnational SNAPs*

*Aim: implement transnational strategies and translate them into concrete programmes of actions*

*Many open questions remain about feasibility, added value, project size, potential applicants and their willingness to apply, complementarity with national SNAPs, link with PAFs, etc.*