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1. Introduction

The EcoDaLLi project, short for “ECOsystem-based governance with DAnube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes," is the Coordination and Support Action of the Danube and Black Sea Lighthouse within the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”. [1] The project's primary aim is to revolutionize the governance structures of the Danube River basin, leveraging innovative solutions to enhance ecological restoration, protection, and preservation throughout the basin and its delta. This endeavour is propelled by the urgent need to address the pressing environmental challenges outlined in the EU's 2030 and 2050 Green Deal goals.[2]

EcoDaLLi represents a pivotal step towards achieving the freshwater targets outlined in the European Green Deal. By embracing a systemic approach to restoration, protection, and preservation, the project seeks to usher in a new era of sustainable water management practices within the Danube Basin.[3] Through coordinated actions and innovative methodologies, EcoDaLLi aims to centralize governance structures, fostering a robust innovation ecosystem anchored by a dynamic Living Lab system.[4,5]

At its core, EcoDaLLi is committed to harnessing the power of innovation to tackle complex environmental issues. By facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange through dedicated Living Labs, workshops, website and digital portal, the project empowers stakeholders to co-create and implement transformative solutions. These solutions not only promise to enhance water restoration efforts but also address social innovation aspects, mitigate the effects of climate change, and drive economic growth in the Danube Basin.[6]

Through improved governance structures and innovative tools provided by EcoDaLLi, stakeholders will be equipped to navigate the complexities of water ecosystem restoration with greater efficiency and efficacy. This, in turn, will contribute to the overarching goals of the Green Deal, fostering cleaner water, healthier ecosystems, and the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas like the Danube Delta.

EcoDaLLi's holistic approach to innovation and governance sets the stage for a more resilient and prosperous future for the Danube Basin and beyond. By fostering synergies, facilitating knowledge exchange, and supporting the development of circular services, the project paves the way towards a Sustainable Blue Economy that benefits both present and future generations.[7]

[1] EcoDaLLi – Horizon Project. About EcoDaLLi Project. Retrieved from https://ecodalli.eu/about.html.

[2] European Union. (2019). The European Green Deal. Retrieved from https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

[3] ICPDR. (2020). International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Annual Report 2020. Retrieved from https://www.icpdr.org/library/publications/annual-reports.

[4] Schlaepfer, R., et al. (2021). Innovation ecosystems in the EU: A systemic approach to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 10(1), 1-20.

[5] Living Labs Global. (2022). Best practices in the development and operation of Living Labs. Retrieved from https://enoll.org/publications/.

[6] European Environment Agency. (2021). Climate change impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2020. EEA Report No 1/2021. Retrieved from https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/climate-change-impacts-risks-and-adaptation.

[7] European Union. (2021). Circular Economy Action Plan. Retrieved from https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en.

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1.1 Key Concepts and Definitions - Glossary

Understanding key concepts and definitions is crucial for successful participation in the EcoDaLLi project and for effective water resource management. This section of the catalogue provides an overview of basic terms relevant to the municipalities of Draž and Tulcea and other stakeholders in the Danube River Basin.[8]

1.1.1. Sustainable Water Resource Management

Sustainable water resource management encompasses strategies, policies, and practices that ensure the preservation of aquatic ecosystems and the safe provision of water for all needs, considering socio-economic and ecological aspects.[9] In Draž municipality, for example, sustainable water resource management is crucial for preserving local aquatic ecosystems, including rivers and lakes that provide essential resources for the local population.

1.1.2. Participatory Water Resource Management

Participatory water resource management involves engaging local communities, stakeholders, and other relevant actors in decision-making processes and the implementation of measures for water conservation.[10] In Tulcea municipality, a participatory approach enables the local population to participate in the planning and implementation of projects for the protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, resulting in greater empowerment and support for local initiatives.

1.1.3. Ecological Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems

The ecological restoration of aquatic ecosystems involves activities aimed at restoring the natural functions and biological diversity of aquatic habitats, including shores, wetlands, and watercourses. Parallel with the EcoDaLLi project, Draž municipality may implement ecological restoration programs to rehabilitate damaged water areas and improve the quality of water resources for the local community.

1.1.4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Impact

Monitoring and evaluation of impact are key steps in the process of water resource management, enabling continuous tracking of progress and assessment of the success of implemented measures.[11] In Tulcea municipality, a monitoring and evaluation system allows local authorities to identify priorities and adjust strategies to achieve the goals of sustainable water resource management.

Understanding key concepts and definitions is essential for the success of the EcoDaLLi project and for effective water resource management in the municipalities of Draž and Tulcea and beyond in the Danube River Basin. Through examples and definitions provided in this section of the catalogue, stakeholders could better understand the importance and complexity of preserving aquatic ecosystems and apply their knowledge in practice.[1]

[8] European Commission. (2020). Horizon Europe: The next EU research & innovation investment programme (2021 – 2027). Retrieved from https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en

[9] Gleick, P. H. (2003). Water Use. Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 28(1), 275-314. DOI: 10.1146/annurev.energy.28.040202.122849.

[10] Reed, M. S., Graves, A., Dandy, N., Posthumus, H., Hubacek, K., Morris, J., Prell, C., Quinn, C. H., & Stringer, L. C. (2009). Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource management. *Journal of Environmental Management, 90*(5), 1933-1949.

[11] Hynes, W., et al. (2020). Resilient Water Management: Innovations in governance for a more sustainable future. Water Policy, 22(1), 76-91.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement stands as a pivotal aspect of the EcoDaLLi project, integral to the project's mission of sustainable water management within the Danube River Basin. Building upon the established importance of stakeholder involvement, this section explores practical strategies for effective engagement, drawing from both academic literature and real-world applications.

2.1. Importance of Stakeholder Engagement

The significance of stakeholder engagement cannot be overstated. Research has consistently shown that involving stakeholders in decision-making processes enhances project outcomes and fosters long-term sustainability.[10] By actively involving stakeholders, projects can tap into local knowledge, increase social acceptance, and build support for initiatives, ultimately contributing to the success of environmental endeavours.[12]

Key benefits of stakeholder engagement include:

- *Improved Decision-Making:* Engaging stakeholders brings diverse perspectives and local knowledge, which can lead to more informed and effective decisions[13].
- E*nhanced Social Acceptance:* Projects that involve stakeholders are more likely to gain public support and acceptance, reducing resistance and fostering cooperation.[14]
- *Resource Mobilization:* Engaged stakeholders can contribute resources, whether through funding, expertise, or volunteer efforts, enhancing the project's capacity.[15]

The broad identification of stakeholders within the EcoDaLLi project is designed to ensure a comprehensive approach to engagement that captures the diverse needs, expectations, and potential contributions of various actors involved in sustainable water management. This approach aligns with similar methodologies seen in other Mission Ocean lighthouse projects, where comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement were conducted across different levels, from local communities to regional governance structures. In EcoDaLLi, the significance of including diverse stakeholder groups lies in facilitating more robust decision-making processes, harnessing local knowledge, and ensuring that solutions are socially accepted and sustainable. For example, the EcoDaLLi project has mapped out stakeholders from multiple sectors, including local authorities, NGOs, and businesses, to ensure that every voice is considered when shaping strategies for water resource management.

Understanding and managing stakeholder expectations are critical for fostering trust and maintaining positive relationships throughout the project lifecycle. This section delves into the importance of addressing stakeholder expectations and provides strategies for effectively managing them within the context of the EcoDaLLi project.

[12] Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A Ladder of Citizen Participation. *Journal of the American Institute of Planners, 35*(4), 216-224.

[13] Keeney, R. L. (1992). Value-Focused Thinking: A Path to Creative Decisionmaking. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

[14] Bryson, J. M. (2004). What to do when stakeholders matter: Stakeholder identification and analysis techniques. *Public Management Review, 6*(1), 21-53.

[15] Warner, J. (2006). More sustainable participation? Multi-stakeholder platforms for integrated catchment management. *International Journal of Water Resources Development, 22*(1), 15-35.

2.1.1. Addressing and Managing Stakeholder Expectations

Stakeholders often have diverse expectations regarding their involvement in the project, desired outcomes, and the level of influence they expect to exert. It is essential to identify and address these expectations early on to align project objectives with stakeholder needs and aspirations.

Clear communication is paramount in managing stakeholder expectations. Project managers should engage stakeholders in open and transparent dialogue, providing regular updates on project progress and any changes that may affect stakeholders. Additionally, setting realistic goals and timelines, and managing stakeholder feedback effectively can help prevent misunderstandings and mitigate potential conflicts.[16]

2.1.2. Tailoring Engagement Approaches

Different stakeholders may have varying expectations and preferences regarding their engagement in the project. Tailoring engagement approaches to accommodate these differences can help ensure that stakeholders feel heard and valued. By offering multiple avenues for participation and soliciting feedback regularly, project managers can demonstrate their commitment to addressing stakeholder expectations.

Effectively managing stakeholder expectations is essential for building trust, fostering collaboration, and ultimately achieving project success. By proactively addressing stakeholder expectations and adapting engagement strategies accordingly, the EcoDaLLi project can cultivate a supportive and engaged stakeholder community, driving positive outcomes for water resource management in the Danube River Basin.

2.2. Strategies for Stakeholder Engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement requires deliberate planning and implementation of tailored strategies. Scholarly literature emphasizes the importance of conducting stakeholder analyses to identify key actors and their interests. Furthermore, establishing clear communication channels and facilitating participatory decision-making processes are essential for meaningful engagement and collaboration. Key Strategies Include:

1. Stakeholder Analysis:

- Objective: Identify and understand the interests, influence, and relationships of stakeholders.
- Methods: Utilize tools such as stakeholder mapping, interest-influence matrices, and social network analysis[16]

2. Clear Communication Channels:

- Objective: Ensure transparent, consistent, and open communication with all stakeholders.Methods: Develop communication plans, use multiple tools (newsletters, social media, public meetings), and ensure regular updates.[17]

3. Participatory Decision-Making:

[16] Freeman, R. E. (1984). *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach*. Boston: Pitman.

[17] Rowe, G., & Frewer, L. J. (2000). Public participation methods: A framework for evaluation. *Science, Technology, & Human Values, 25*(1), 3-29.

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- Objective: Facilitate stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process to enhance ownership and commitment.
- Methods: Organize participatory workshops, focus groups, and public consultations[16]

Engagement strategies play a pivotal role in the success of the EcoDaLLi project, especially concerning municipalities like Draž in Croatia and Tulcea in Romania. Drawing from insights provided by previous projects such as PREP4BLUE and incorporating knowledge about the Danube River and European Union initiatives, a variety of engagement strategies can be employed to effectively involve stakeholders in the project.

2.3. Levels of Engagement

In addition to understanding the importance of stakeholder engagement, it is essential to recognize the varying levels of engagement that stakeholders may have throughout the project lifecycle. This section examines different levels of engagement and their implications for the EcoDaLLi project, drawing insights from scholarly research and practical experiences.

Stakeholder engagement can occur at various levels, ranging from consultation to collaboration and empowerment. At the consultation level, stakeholders are informed about project decisions but have limited opportunities for input. Collaboration entails active involvement in decision-making processes, where stakeholders contribute ideas and expertise. Finally, empowerment involves delegating decision-making power to stakeholders, enabling them to shape project outcomes.

2.3.1. Implications for the EcoDaLLi Project

Understanding the levels of engagement is crucial for tailoring engagement strategies to different stakeholder groups within the EcoDaLLi project. By recognizing stakeholders' preferences and capabilities, project managers can design engagement approaches that maximize participation and collaboration while respecting stakeholder's autonomy and expertise. Recognizing and accommodating varying levels of engagement among stakeholders is essential for the success of the EcoDaLLi project. By adopting a flexible and inclusive approach to engagement, the project can leverage the diverse perspectives and capacities of stakeholders to achieve its objectives effectively.

2.4. Framework for Stakeholder Engagement

Involving stakeholders in the project process is crucial for achieving sustainable outcomes and long-term success. This section explores various aspects of the framework for stakeholder engagement in the EcoDaLLi project, providing guidelines and recommendations for its successful implementation.

2.4.1. Development of Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Developing an appropriate framework for stakeholder engagement is based on a thorough analysis of their needs, interests, and capacities. This process involves identifying key

stakeholders, defining engagement goals, and selecting appropriate methods and tools to achieve those goals.[18]

2.4.2. Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Implementing the stakeholder engagement framework requires systematic management of the engagement process, including regular monitoring of progress, evaluation of performance, and adjustment of strategies in response to changes in context and stakeholder needs.

2.4.3. Evaluation of Stakeholder Engagement Framework Impact

Evaluating the impact of the stakeholder engagement framework is essential for assessing its effectiveness and identifying potential improvements. This evaluation should include assessing achieved outcomes, stakeholder satisfaction, as well as the impact of engagement on decision quality and project implementation.

The development, implementation, and evaluation of the stakeholder engagement framework are crucial steps in achieving successful and sustainable EcoDaLLi project outcomes. Through consistent application of this framework, the project can ensure active stakeholder participation, improve decision quality, and achieve positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

To address concerns about the theoretical nature of the stakeholder engagement discussion, EcoDaLLi has integrated practical engagement examples throughout the content catalogue. This approach is inspired by the tools and frameworks used in other Mission Ocean lighthouse projects, which include participatory workshops, focus groups, and digital engagement tools. For example, EcoDaLLi utilized digital engagement tools to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders in remote areas of the Danube River Basin. This allowed for real-time feedback and collaboration, demonstrating the practical applicability of these tools beyond theoretical discussions.

2.5. Identification and Analysis of Stakeholders

Identification and analysis of stakeholders are crucial steps in the EcoDaLLi project, especially in the context of involving municipalities like Draž in Croatia and Tulcea in Romania. By leveraging insights from previous projects such as PREP4BLUE and knowledge about the Danube River and European Union initiatives, this process can be comprehensive and tailored to the specific contexts of these municipalities.[19]

2.5.1. Stakeholder Identification

In the context of the Danube River Basin, stakeholders are diverse and complex, ranging from local communities to government agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and international organizations. For municipalities like Draž and Tulcea, key stakeholders may include:

- *Local Communities:* Residents of Draž and Tulcea are directly affected by decisions regarding water resource management, including fishermen, farmers, and residents dependent on the river for their livelihoods.

[18] Cornwall, A., & Gaventa, J. (2001). From users and choosers to makers and shapers: Repositioning participation in social policy. IDS Working Paper, (127), 1-35.27

[19] Reed, M. S., Vella, S., Challies, E., de Vente, J., Frewer, L., Hohenwallner-Ries, D., Huber, T., Neumann, R. K., Oughton, E.

- *Local Government:* Municipal authorities play a crucial role in water management policies and implementation, making local governments in Draž and Tulcea essential stakeholders.
- *Environmental NGOs:* Organizations focused on environmental protection, such as those involved in the PREP4BLUE project, can provide valuable expertise and advocacy.
- *Businesses:* Industries reliant on water resources, such as agriculture, tourism, and shipping, are significant stakeholders with economic interests tied to water management.
- *Academic Institutions:* Universities and research institutes, including those involved in EU-funded projects like PREP4BLUE, contribute scientific knowledge and research capabilities.
- *International Organizations:* Bodies such as the Danube Commission and the EU, through initiatives like the Danube Strategy and Horizon 2020, shape policies and provide funding for regional water management projects.

2.5.2. Stakeholder Analysis

Power-Interest Grid: Utilizing a power-interest grid helps prioritize stakeholders based on their influence and interest in the project. For example, local governments and influential businesses may have high power and interest, requiring close collaboration, while less influential local communities may have lower power but high interest, necessitating regular communication to address their concerns.[10]

Stakeholder Mapping: Mapping stakeholders based on their relationships and interests allows for targeted engagement strategies. For instance, identifying potential conflicts between stakeholders, such as industries and environmental NGOs, can guide efforts to find common ground and build consensus.[18]

Stakeholder Engagement Strategies: Tailoring engagement strategies to stakeholders' preferences and capacities is essential. For example, local communities may prefer participatory approaches such as community meetings or citizen science initiatives, while businesses may respond better to economic incentives or regulatory frameworks.[12]

Identifying and analysing stakeholders in the EcoDaLLi project, especially within municipalities like Draž and Tulcea, requires a nuanced understanding of local contexts, EU initiatives, and previous projects like PREP4BLUE. Through engagement with diverse stakeholders and strategic analysis, the project can foster collaboration, resolve conflicts, and ultimately achieve goals of sustainable water resource management in the Danube River Basin.

After the initial assessment has been completed, stakeholder prioritization can occur. A power/interest grid is a very helpful tool for prioritization. It helps project managers categorize stakeholders and create effective communication strategies for each category of stakeholder on the project. This tool is one of the most common techniques utilized to group stakeholders according to their level of authority (power) and their level of concern about the project's activities and outcomes (interest).[20] The stakeholder power/interest grid is a two-dimensional matrix with four quadrants. Power refers to the authority of stakeholders through which they can affect the course of activities and decisions and may block facilitate and accelerate them. Interest refers to stakeholders' level of concern about the project's activities and outcomes, and how they are affected by them, either negatively or positively. While carrying out the

[20] Kerzner, H. (2017). *Project management: a systems approach to planning, scheduling, and controlling*. John Wiley & Sons.

activities to identify stakeholders, we should conduct our research and investigation thoroughly to determine and prioritize the stakeholders. Some stakeholders would have more power and interest in our project. Therefore, we should identify them and create a strategy to engage them during the project. These strategies have been indicated in Figure 1 for each quadrant based on the level of power and interest.

2.5.3. Properties of Each Quadrant with the Potential Stakeholder Inside Them

1. High power – High interest: These stakeholders are decision-makers and have the biggest impact on the project's success; hence, we must closely manage their expectations.[21] We should work closely with them to ensure that they agree with and support the change.[22] The project sponsor, project manager, and the team can be included in this quadrant.

2. High power – Low interest: These stakeholders need to be kept satisfied even though they aren't interested because they wield power. This type of stakeholder should be dealt with cautiously as well since they may use their power in an undesirable way in the project if they become unsatisfied. Government and regulatory agencies which inspect the quality of your work in compliance with legal provisions and standards can be included in this quadrant.

3. Low power – High interest: We should keep these stakeholders adequately informed and talk to them to ensure that no major issues are arising. They are likely to be very concerned and may feel anxious about a lack of control. They can often be very helpful with the details of your project. Our customers or end-users who are willing to purchase the outcome of the project (e.g., a product or a service) can be included in this quadrant.

4. Low power – Low interest: We should monitor these stakeholders, but not bore them with excessive communication. The public and the customers who are not willing to purchase our products can be included in this quadrant. We can send them newsletters once every month, but not every week. We should monitor their interest and power level in case they change.

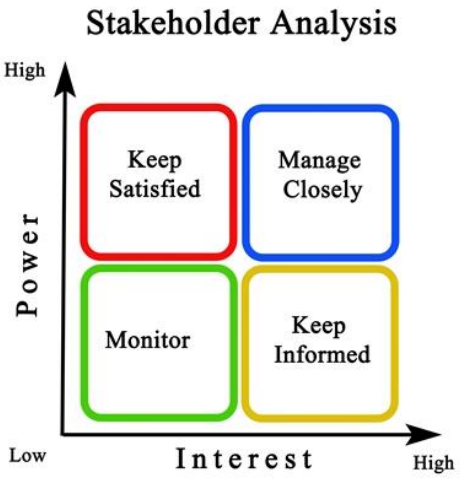

Figure 1: Power/Interest Grid

Retrieved from: *https://peoplefirstprojectmanagement.com/stakeholder-analysis-a-practical-example-from-a-successful-project/*

[21] Crawford, J. K. (2007). *Project management maturity model*. CRC Press.

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Assessing Stakeholder Interest and Power

When considering a stakeholder's interest, we should assess the following:

- How is their performance evaluated?
- Will their performance be impacted by the project and/or the project's outcomes?
- Are they needed to help produce the project's outcomes?

When considering a stakeholder's power, we should assess the following:

- What position do they currently hold in our organization or their organizations?
- How much authority does this position afford them over the project?
- Can they influence people in positions of high power?

Tools such as the stakeholder power/interest grid help project managers prioritize stakeholders. Some stakeholders have little interest and little power in a project and as a result, do not require as much contact from the project team. Understanding who these stakeholders are allows the project team to spend more time with the stakeholders who have a significant interest in the project and who exert significant influence over the project. Project teams assess the interest and power of project stakeholders by researching their current positions and their actions in previous change initiatives, and by directly speaking with them about the project.

Figure 2: Project Stakeholder Management Cycle

(Source: Cleland, D. L. (1988). *Project stakeholder management. In D. L. Cleland and W. R. King (Eds.), Project Management Handbook (2nd Ed.). New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold. Copyright ©1988. This material is used by permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)[22]

[22] Cleland, D. L. (1988). Project stakeholder management. In D. L. Cleland and W. R. King (Eds.), *Project Management Handbook* (2nd Ed.). New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Table 1: Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	Role	Interest	Influence
Local community	Resource Provider	High	Medium
Government	Regulator	Medium	High
NGO'S	Advocate	High	Medium
Academics	Researcher	Low	Low

Table 2: Strategies for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Mapping	Identifies stakeholder and their relationships
Interest-Influence Matrix	Analyze the power dynamics among stakeholders
Communication Plan	Outlines methods and frequency of communication
Participatory Workshops	Involves stakeholders in decision-making through workshops
Digital Collaboration Tools	Facilitates virtual collaboration and communication
Field Visits and Tours	Provides on-site experience and direct stakeholder interaction

2.6. Stakeholder Analysis

Diversity of Stakeholders as the Foundation of the Project

Identifying different stakeholders—local communities, NGOs, academic institutions, entrepreneurs, and government bodies—helps EcoDaLLi encompass a wide range of knowledge, experiences, and interests, which is crucial for successfully addressing the challenges related to water resource management and ecological restoration. For example, through Work Package 3 (WP3), a detailed stakeholder map was created, resulting in a database of 321 local actors (MS3.2). This stakeholder mapping process allowed for an understanding of local needs and capacities, which was crucial for defining specific engagement objectives for the project.

Furthermore, through WP4, a knowledge-sharing community was established, and four Living Labs were launched (MS4.2). Three events organized within these Living Labs brought together 481 participants who discussed issues related to biodiversity, water management, and climate change adaptation. By engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders—from local communities to water resource experts—the project ensures that the solutions developed are locally relevant, accepted, and sustainable.

Engagement at Four Levels of Governance

It is important to emphasize that the EcoDaLLi project operates at four levels of governance—local, regional, national, and European—to ensure that all actors are involved in the decision-making process. Within WP3, the focus was on mapping relevant governance structures and

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strategies, as well as assessing local governance needs in the four Danube units. The results of these workshops, which covered gaps and needs in biodiversity, water quality, and the circular economy, were documented in D3.2 and attended by more than 150 participants.

In WP6, the EcoDaLLi portal was developed, which will serve as a repository for the project's results and a tool for stakeholder engagement, particularly within the governance sector. The portal was designed as a space for connecting citizens and governance structures, making broad stakeholder engagement not only beneficial but also necessary for achieving project objectives.

Added Value of Engaging a Broad Spectrum of Stakeholders

Engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders enables EcoDaLLi to address multi-layered challenges related to water management and ecological restoration in the Danube comprehensively. Each stakeholder group brings a unique perspective that helps shape innovative solutions. For instance, local communities provide knowledge about specific local conditions, which is crucial for designing solutions that will be accepted and implemented. NGOs contribute expertise in environmental protection, while the academic community ensures the scientific validity of the proposed measures.

The project is based on the idea that only through collaboration between different stakeholders can we achieve sustainable and innovative solutions to the ecological challenges faced by the Danube region. This approach ensures inclusivity, relevance, and sustainability, which are key factors for success in achieving the goals of the European Green Deal by 2030 and 2050.

In summary, the inclusion of diverse stakeholders is not incidental but is a key strategy of the EcoDaLLi project, ensuring a comprehensive approach to water resource management and ecological restoration of the Danube. Such stakeholder inclusivity helps strengthen the innovation ecosystem and ensures the successful implementation of the mission "Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030."

The EcoDaLLi deliverable D6.2, as a content catalogue, outlines a structured collection of engagement activities, tools, and best practices tailored to the project's objectives. The catalogue builds on the methodological foundations seen in the other Mission Ocean lighthouse projects, where a similar compilation of stakeholder engagement strategies was created to support mission objectives. The EcoDaLLi catalogue is designed not only as a theoretical framework but also as a practical guide for implementing stakeholder engagement through Living Labs. For instance, the EcoDaLLi Living Labs in Draž and Tulcea have hosted participatory workshops and pilot activities where local community members, academic experts, and policymakers collaborated to develop actionable solutions for water management challenges.

3. Step-by-Step Engagement Process

Engaging stakeholders in the EcoDaLLi project requires careful planning and implementation of a process that ensures the involvement of all relevant stakeholders within the Danube River Basin in an appropriate manner. Given the complexity and diversity of the areas covered by the Danube River Basin, special attention is paid to identifying, analysing, and engaging stakeholders from various geographical, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

1. Stakeholder Identification

The first step is the detailed identification of all relevant stakeholders within the Danube River Basin. This includes local communities along the river, water authorities, tourism agencies, farmers, industrial sectors, non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions that have an interest or influence in sustainable water management.

2. Stakeholder Analysis

After identification, an in-depth analysis of the needs, interests, attitudes, and power of each stakeholder group is conducted. Understanding the different perspectives and needs is crucial for developing successful engagement strategies that cater to the diversity of stakeholders within the Danube River Basin.

3. Development of Communication Strategies

Based on the analysis, communication strategies are developed that consider the specificities of each stakeholder group. This includes tailoring messages, communication channels, and tools to ensure the effective and meaningful involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

4. Implementation of Engagement

Following the development of strategies, the engagement process is implemented, tailored to the needs and characteristics of stakeholders within the Danube River Basin. This may involve organizing local meetings, online consultations, educational campaigns, and other activities aimed at engaging stakeholders.

5. Evaluation and Adaptation

Continuous assessment of the engagement process allows for the adaptation of activities to ensure their effectiveness and relevance. Stakeholder feedback is crucial for improving future initiatives and ensuring broad support for sustainable water management in the Danube River Basin. This step-by-step process underscores the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders within the Danube River Basin in the EcoDaLLi project, ensuring broad support and success in achieving project goals. [21]

3.1. Planning for Engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement begins with thorough planning to ensure that the process is well-organized, targeted, and aligned with project objectives. This section outlines the key steps involved in planning for engagement within the EcoDaLLi project:

Setting Clear Objectives: Define specific objectives for stakeholder engagement, outlining what the project hopes to achieve through engagement activities. These objectives should be aligned with the overall goals of the EcoDaLLi project and reflect the desired outcomes of engaging stakeholders within the Danube River Basin.[18]

Identifying Stakeholders: Conduct a comprehensive stakeholder analysis to identify all relevant stakeholders within the Danube River Basin. Consider geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic factors to ensure inclusivity and diversity in stakeholder representation.[10]

Assessing Stakeholder Needs and Expectations: Understand the needs, expectations, and interests of stakeholders through surveys, interviews, or focus group discussions. This

information will guide the development of tailored engagement strategies that address the specific concerns and priorities of stakeholders.[16]

Selecting Engagement Methods: Choose appropriate engagement methods based on stakeholder characteristics, objectives, and preferences. Methods may include workshops, public meetings, online tools, or participatory decision-making processes.[12]

Developing Communication Plans: Design communication plans that outline how information will be shared with stakeholders, including key messages, channels of communication, and timelines for engagement activities. Clear and transparent communication is essential for building trust and fostering meaningful dialogue with stakeholders.[17]

Allocating Resources: Allocate sufficient resources, including personnel, time, and budget, to support engagement activities effectively. Adequate resources will enable the implementation of planned activities and ensure the engagement process runs smoothly.[23]

Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms: Set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of engagement activities and measure progress towards objectives. Regular monitoring allows for timely adjustments to strategies based on feedback and emerging issues.[18]

3.2. Conducting Engagement Activities

Once the engagement plan is in place, engagement activities can be implemented according to the defined objectives and strategies. This section outlines the process of conducting engagement activities within the EcoDaLLi project:

Communication and Outreach: Initiate communication with stakeholders through various channels, such as emails, newsletters, or social media platforms. Provide clear information about the project, its goals, and opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

Organizing Workshops and Meetings: Arrange workshops, seminars, or meetings to facilitate direct interaction and dialogue with stakeholders. These events provide opportunities for stakeholders to voice their opinions, ask questions, and contribute ideas to the project.

Facilitating Collaborative Decision-Making: Foster collaborative decision-making processes that involve stakeholders in project planning, implementation, and evaluation. Encourage active participation and ensure that diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making.

Utilizing Online Tools: Make use of online tools, such as project websites or forums, to engage stakeholders who may be geographically dispersed or prefer virtual participation. These tools enable continuous communication and information exchange throughout the project.

Providing Feedback Mechanisms: Establish feedback mechanisms that allow stakeholders to provide input, ask questions, or express concerns about the project. Respond to feedback in a timely and transparent manner to demonstrate commitment to stakeholder engagement.

Documenting Engagement Activities: Keep records of engagement activities, including meeting minutes, survey results, and feedback received from stakeholders. Documenting

[23] Warner, J. (2006). More sustainable participation? Multi-stakeholder platforms for integrated catchment management. International Journal of Water Resources Development, 22(1), 15-35.

engagement activities ensures accountability and provides valuable insights for future planning.[14, 24]

3.3. Reviewing and Adjusting Strategies

Regular review and adjustment of engagement strategies are essential to ensure their effectiveness and relevance throughout the EcoDaLLi project. This section outlines the process of reviewing and adjusting strategies based on feedback and evolving project needs[10,25]:

Evaluating Engagement Activities: Conduct evaluations of engagement activities to assess their impact, reach, and alignment with project objectives. Gather feedback from stakeholders to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in engagement strategies.

Analyzing Feedback and Data: Analyze feedback and data collected from stakeholders to identify trends, patterns, and emerging issues. Look for common themes or concerns that may require attention or adjustment in engagement strategies.

Identifying Lessons Learned: Reflect on lessons learned from past engagement activities and incorporate them into future planning. Identify successful approaches, as well as challenges or obstacles encountered, to inform adjustments to engagement strategies.

Adjusting Strategies: Based on the evaluation and analysis, make adjustments to engagement strategies as needed. This may involve revising communication plans, adapting engagement methods, or reallocating resources to address identified gaps or areas for improvement.

Communicating Changes: Communicate any changes or updates to stakeholders transparently and effectively. Ensure that stakeholders are informed about adjustments to engagement strategies and understand the reasons behind them.

Continuously Monitoring Progress: Maintain ongoing monitoring of engagement activities to track progress and evaluate the effectiveness of adjustments made. Monitor stakeholder satisfaction, participation levels, and outcomes achieved to ensure that engagement efforts remain on track.

By following this iterative process of planning, conducting, reviewing, and adjusting engagement strategies, the EcoDaLLi project can effectively engage stakeholders within the Danube River Basin, foster collaboration, and achieve sustainable water management objectives.

4. Engagement Tools and Techniques

Effective citizen engagement relies on a variety of tools and techniques tailored to the specific context and objectives of the project. This section explores a selection of engagement tools and techniques relevant to the EcoDaLLi project within the Danube River Basin, with references and examples from the municipalities of Draž and Tulcea. This section will be

[24] Healey, P. (1997). Collaborative Planning: Shaping Places in Fragmented Societies. Macmillan.

[25] Crawford, L., Pollack, J., & England, D. (2007). Uncovering the trends in project management: Journal emphases over the last 10 years. International Journal of Project Management, 25(2), 175-184.

primarily focused on engagement activities that were tackled under the concept of Living Labs and Practices Living Labs Systems.

he choice of engagement methodologies in EcoDaLLi, such as focus groups, surveys, and interviews, is based on a thorough stakeholder analysis that categorizes stakeholders according to their power, influence, and interest in the project outcomes. This strategic approach is similar to the power-interest grid methodology employed in the other Mission Ocean lighthouse projects, where stakeholders were prioritized based on their potential impact on the project's success. By adopting this framework, EcoDaLLi ensures that engagement strategies are not only well-justified but also aligned with stakeholder needs and project goals.

4.1. Overview of the Living Lab Concept

A Living Lab is an open-innovation approach where diverse stakeholders collaboratively co-create solutions for real-world problems. It involves both individual and community learning processes, generating new knowledge and transferring it to other regions, scientific communities, and policymakers. Living Lab concept tackles ecological, social, and political aspects of sustainability challenges like climate change, water, and soil issues. They are platforms for developing and refining innovative ideas, technologies, or solutions in collaboration with end-users, bridging the gap between research and practical implementation.

Living Labs are characterized by several core principles:

- Collaboration: Multiple stakeholders, including researchers, companies, public agencies, and citizens, work together to address complex challenges.
- Co-Creation: Solutions are developed through a participatory approach, ensuring that the needs and insights of all stakeholders are considered.
- Real-World Context: Innovations are tested and validated in real-life environments, making the outcomes more relevant and applicable.
- Iterative Feedback: Continuous feedback loops are established to refine and improve the solutions, ensuring sustainable impact.

Bridge the Gap Between Research and Implementation: By creating environments where new concepts can be tested and validated in real-life situations, Living Labs facilitate the transition from theoretical research to practical application. Sustainable Impact: Through iterative feedback processes and stakeholder engagement, Living Labs aim to create long-lasting, sustainable solutions.

Living Labs employs various tools and methods to engage stakeholders, such as:

- Workshops and Co-Design Sessions: Bringing stakeholders together to collaboratively design solutions.
- Pilot Projects: Testing innovations in a controlled, real-world setting to gather data and insights.
- Surveys and Interviews: Collecting feedback and insights from a broad range of stakeholders to inform the development process.

A typical Living Lab goes through several phases:

- Initiation: Identifying the challenge and forming the stakeholder group.
- Planning: Defining the goals, methodologies, and metrics for success.

- Development: Co-creating and developing innovative solutions.
- Implementation: Testing the solution in a real-world setting.
- Evaluation: Assessing the performance and impact of the solution.
- Refinement: Iteratively improving the solution based on feedback.
- Dissemination: Sharing the results and insights with a broader audience.
- Replication: Applying the successful solutions in other contexts or regions.

Living Labs have been applied to various domains, including:

- Climate Change: Developing and testing climate resilience strategies.
- Water Systems: Innovating in water management and conservation techniques.
- Biodiversity: Enhancing biodiversity through community-led conservation projects.
- Urban Development: Creating sustainable urban environments through participatory planning.
- Data Collection and Management

Effective data collection and management are critical to the success of Living Labs. This involves:

- Inputting Data: Capturing and collecting data from various sources and stakeholders.
- Processing and Analysis: Converting raw data into meaningful insights.
- Output and Dissemination: Sharing the processed information with stakeholders to inform decision-making and future actions.

Living Labs provide a robust framework for addressing complex sustainability challenges by fostering collaboration, co-creation, and real-world testing. They help bridge the gap between research and practice, ensuring that innovative solutions are not only developed but also effectively implemented and sustained.

The EcoDaLLi project emphasizes the implementation of innovative solutions in stakeholder engagement by incorporating citizen science and digital tools. This approach empowers local stakeholders, enhances transparency, and strengthens the governance structures for effective water resource management.

4.2. Overview of Practices Living Labs Systems

The Practices Living Labs Systems (PLLS) tool, developed by Smarter Mobility Solutions Ltd in 2020, was introduced in the EcoDaLLi project to engage stakeholders on topics related to Mission Ocean's objectives, particularly wetlands restoration. This tool, adapted from an initial design, is used to gather stakeholder input and facilitate engagement in the Danube River Basin (DRB), addressing themes such as water systems, biodiversity, climate change, and innovation.

Practices Living Labs System (PLLS)

PLLS serves as a framework for engaging stakeholders and capturing their views on various topics aligned with Mission Ocean's objectives. Within EcoDaLLi, it functions as a tool to portray existing knowledge and identify stakeholder engagement in the DRB. This involves sectors of the Danube River: upper, middle, lower, and the Danube Delta, with a focus on water, biodiversity, climate, and innovation.

Framework and Pillars

The PLLS framework is built on eight pillars, which interact to gather relevant data on major stakeholders and their activities. These pillars are:

- Policy: Evaluating ecological restoration plans, implementing biodiversity conservation in policies, and promoting circular economy practices.
- Governance: Monitoring water systems and biodiversity, trialling new community engagement methods, and auditing existing engagement processes.
- Human Capital: Conducting skills audits, incorporating sustainability training, and engaging leadership to foster a culture of continual learning.
- Financial Capital: Assessing socio-economic benefits of low-carbon projects, sharing best practices on financial instruments, and upskilling teams in business case development.
- Data: Setting clear KPIs for restoration projects, selecting appropriate reporting tools, and implementing digital technologies for data collection and reporting.
- Innovation: Promoting restoration innovations, creating innovation networks, and mapping local and regional innovation landscapes.
- Hard System/Nature-Based Infrastructure: Implementing best practices for conservation and restoration, assessing existing infrastructure, and deploying sustainable solutions.
- Soft System: Promoting behavioural change towards wetland perception, creating information hubs, and developing communication plans to influence eco-responsible behaviours.

PLLS employs a methodology based on targeted questions and maturity self-assessment exercises to gather information from stakeholders. This data informs the design of actions and engagement processes. Information is collected through technical reports, consultations, expert meetings, and interviews, focusing on themes like innovation ecosystems, water systems, climate change, and biodiversity.

Stakeholder data is collected via questionnaires, either online or in-person, forming part of an information system designed to support decision-making, stakeholder assessment, and knowledge transfer. This system involves capturing data, processing it into meaningful information, and disseminating it to support project activities and the Mission's objectives.

The PLLS tool identifies current situations and priorities of stakeholders, defining required actions and developing implementation plans. These actions include gathering state-of-the-art information, designing strategic questions, engaging with diverse stakeholders, and managing data effectively. The information gathered guides the planning and execution of tasks, ensuring alignment with EcoDaLLi's objectives and broader regional needs.

Living Labs typically progress through phases such as initiation, planning, development, co-creative design, implementation, evaluation, refinement, dissemination, and replication. These phases support sustainable innovation through participatory methods, enhancing the effectiveness of PLLS in real-world settings.

4.3. Living Labs as a Practical Framework

Living Labs were implemented across four sectors of the Danube River Basin—Upper Danube, Middle Danube, Lower Danube, and Danube Delta—to foster community-driven initiatives and

promote innovative solutions for local environmental challenges. The Living Labs approach was characterized by several phases, including initiation, planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and refinement.

During the implementation phase, specific activities were carried out to ensure real-world testing and adaptation of innovative approaches. For example, in Tulcea, Romania, Living Labs focused on water management resulted in the development of locally adapted conservation measures involving local community members, stakeholders from various sectors, and academic experts. Similarly, in Draž, the Living Lab brought together diverse groups, including entrepreneurs and NGOs, to develop solutions for climate resilience and sustainable use of water resources.

PLLS Framework: Practical Application

The Practices Living Labs System (PLLS), developed by Smarter Mobility Solutions Ltd in 2020 and adapted for the EcoDaLLi project, was used as a comprehensive tool for gathering stakeholder feedback and facilitating their collaboration. The PLLS tool was tested during Living Lab workshops in the Danube units to assess stakeholder engagement on biodiversity, climate change, and water systems.

The PLLS framework was built on eight pillars, including policy, governance, human capital, and innovation, to support systematic stakeholder engagement and the collection of valuable data for the project's objectives. These pillars were used to inform engagement strategies during workshops, such as identifying key actors involved in biodiversity conservation and monitoring water quality. The PLLS was also used to assess governance needs and support policy changes in local contexts.

Details of Living Labs and Workshops Conducted

1. The Danube Delta Living Lab was held in Tulcea, Romania, on May 16, 2024, focusing on biodiversity. Around 200 participants, including local experts, community members, and scientists, attended discussions centered on the protection of natural resources in the Danube Delta.
2. The Lower Danube Living Lab was also held in Tulcea on May 14, 2024, focusing on innovations in water supply systems. Approximately 200 participants attended, offering a broad range of perspectives on the ecological challenges in the region.
3. The Middle Danube Living Lab took place in Osijek, Croatia, on May 11, 2024, with 150 participants, including representatives of local authorities, water resource experts, and community members. The focus was on climate change adaptation.
4. Workshops and Interactive Discussions: During Living Lab workshops held as part of the 31st International Symposium "Deltas and Wetlands" in Tulcea, interactive discussions were organized, where participants were divided into groups based on social, environmental, and economic aspects. Moderators guided the groups in identifying needs and developing action plans, which were later presented to the entire group. A total of 178 participants attended, and the results were included in the joint EcoDaLLi action plan.
5. Collaboration through PLLS: The Practices Living Labs System (PLLS) was also used to foster collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. This collaboration led to the development of strategic local action plans tailored to address specific environmental challenges.

The Living Labs and PLLS framework within the EcoDaLLi project are not merely theoretical concepts but practical frameworks actively applied in real-world settings. These frameworks have facilitated meaningful collaboration among stakeholders, supported the implementation of innovative solutions, and ensured an iterative process of refinement through stakeholder feedback.

4.4. Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys were used as an essential tool for gathering information from various stakeholders within the EcoDaLLi project, ensuring broad perspectives on the needs and priorities of the communities involved in the project.

- **Surveys in WP5**: Within WP5, partners ICARTI, Acteon SARL, and SMS developed a survey focused on stakeholders within the innovation chain. The goal of this survey was to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders involved in IA Mission Ocean projects and the wider Danube region. Surveys were distributed online and WP4 community to collect data on stakeholders' needs and priorities. Feedback from the surveys was used to tailor training programs to meet the needs of the stakeholders.

4.5. Focus Groups

Focus groups were used as a tool for collecting in-depth insights from community members and other stakeholders, providing a better understanding of specific challenges and potential solutions that could be implemented locally.

- **Focus Groups in Draž and Tulcea**: Focus groups were organized in Draž and Tulcea to gather insights on issues related to water resource management. These focus groups included local officials, environmental experts, and community members, discussing potential solutions for sustainable water management. Around 15-20 participants per session provided qualitative data that complemented the survey results.

4.6. Workshops

Workshops played a crucial role in stakeholder engagement and fostering collaboration among them. The focus of these workshops was co-creating solutions for specific community problems.

- **Workshops in Draž and Tulcea**: Workshops in Draž and Tulcea were held during May 2024, focusing on water resource conservation and ecological restoration. Participants, including representatives from local authorities, NGOs, and experts, worked on developing practical implementation strategies. The workshops included interactive exercises and group discussions, facilitating the exchange of ideas and collaborative problem-solving.
- **Workshops as Dissemination Activities**: Partners, including SEZ, IP Tulcea, and Acteon SARL, organized a series of workshops that also served as dissemination activities. For instance, during the International Forum on Sustainable Development in

the Danube River Delta, participants presented research results and developed new strategies for ecosystem conservation.

4.7. Interviews

Interviews provided an opportunity to collect personal experiences and insights from key stakeholders, complementing the results from surveys and focus groups.

- **Interviews with Local Leaders**: Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in Draž and Tulcea, including local officials, community leaders, and environmental experts. These interviews provided deeper insights into specific challenges related to water resource management and conservation and helped in developing local action plans.

4.8. Dissemination Activities of Partners

All of the aforementioned activities were complemented by dissemination activities carried out by EcoDaLLi project partners. Through presentations at events, workshops, and online platforms, partners ensured that the project results were shared with the broader public, raising awareness of environmental conservation issues.

- **Presentation at the Prefectural College**: IP Tulcea presented the EcoDaLLi project during the Prefectural College meeting in November 2023, ensuring that local authorities were better informed about the activities and plans for environmental conservation in the region.
- **Mission Ocean Forum in Brussels**: SEZ represented the project at the annual Mission Ocean forum in February 2023, where the project was highlighted among other EU-funded initiatives, including a stand where participants could learn more about the activities and goals of the project.
- **European Maritime Day in Romania**: SEZ presented the project during the "Innovative Partnership for the Restoration of the Danube and Black Sea Ecosystem" forum in June 2023, where innovators and stakeholders involved in water resource conservation participated.

5. Multilingual Support and Content Adaptation

To ensure maximum effectiveness and relevance of activities within the project, all content developed within the EcoDaLLi project, including surveys, questionnaires, and other materials was carefully adapted to the country where the activities, such as workshops, Living Labs, and other forms of engagement, took place. This localization of content was key to the success of each individual activity, ensuring that materials were culturally and linguistically tailored to the specific needs and conditions of local communities.

For example, during workshops held in Croatia, Romania, and Hungary, the content was adjusted so that all participants, regardless of their linguistic and cultural background, could easily understand the materials and actively participate in discussions and provide feedback.

Surveys and questionnaires were not only translated but also adapted to address the specific challenges and priorities of each region, ensuring that relevant and concrete data was collected for each community.

This content adaptation was crucial in ensuring the success of the project's activities as it enabled stakeholders to actively participate in the decision-making process, understand complex issues related to water resource management, climate change, and ecological restoration, and contribute to the development of sustainable solutions tailored to their region.

6. Case Studies and Examples

In developing our stakeholder engagement strategies, we have drawn on the guidelines provided by the Prep4Blues Citizen Engagement Toolbox, which offers valuable insights for Mission Ocean projects. The five methods selected: surveys, focus groups, workshops, interviews, and digital engagement platforms, are particularly relevant to the Danube River Basin due to their ability to facilitate broad and inclusive stakeholder participation. By incorporating EcoDaLLi's specific tools such as PLLS and Living Labs, we enhance this section with tailored approaches that address the unique challenges and opportunities within the Danube context.

6.1. Environmental Initiatives in Draž, Croatia

Environmental initiatives in Draž focus on addressing local challenges and leveraging regional resources and include a range of projects aimed at improving environmental sustainability. Notable efforts include:

Arsenic, Copper, Molybdenum, and Selenium Exposure: This study highlights the contamination of drinking water in rural areas of eastern Croatia, including Draž. The initiative emphasizes the importance of monitoring and mitigating exposure to hazardous elements to ensure public health.[26]

Urban Revitalization: This project in Kneževo, Baranja Region, involves sustainability principles to enhance local urban areas. Draž is part of this initiative, which aims to revitalize small settlements through sustainable urban planning.[27]

Soil Monitoring Programme: The Croatian Soil Monitoring Programme includes a pilot project that collects and analyzes soil data to report on environmental conditions, impacting areas like Draž.[28]

[26] Ćurković, M., Sipos, L., Puntarić, D., & Dodig-Ćurković, K. (2016). Arsenic, copper, molybdenum, and selenium exposure through drinking water in rural eastern Croatia. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies. Retrieved from Polish Journal of Environmental Studies.

[27] Krajnik, L. P., Krajnik, D., & Banić, P. (2023). Urban Revitalisation of Small Settlement in the Regional Context: Case study Kneževo in Baranja Region in Croatia. CORP. Retrieved from CORP.

[28] Mesić, H., Čidić, A., Dominković Alavanja, S., & Kisić, I. (2008). Croatian Soil Monitoring Programme: Project Development of the Croatian Soil Monitoring Programme with a pilot project. University of Zagreb Repository. Retrieved from University of Zagreb Repository.

Funded by the European Union

DaWeRest Project: This project uses a digital portal for citizen engagement, allowing them to participate in environmental protection, water resource management, and recreation issues (DaWeRest).[29]

6.2. Example Campaigns in Draž, Croatia

Sustainable Tourism Development: Initiatives in the Osijek-Baranja County, including Draž, focus on promoting sustainable tourism that balances economic growth with environmental conservation.[30]

Digital Heritage: The "Digital Danube" project aims to strengthen the image of the Croatian Danube Region as a "green destination." Draž benefits from this campaign by highlighting its cultural and environmental assets.[31]

6.3. Environmental Initiatives in Tulcea, Romania

Tulcea is involved in numerous environmental initiatives focused on environmental protection and sustainable development. Notable regional initiatives include:

Danube Delta Conservation: Tulcea is integral to conservation efforts in the Danube Delta, focusing on biodiversity protection, sustainable tourism, and habitat restoration.[32]

Integrated River Basin Management: This initiative involves managing water resources sustainably in the Danube River Basin, with Tulcea playing a key role in implementing and monitoring environmental policies.[33]

Interreg Europe - HERICOAST: This project focuses on maintaining public engagement and addressing cultural environmental challenges through local initiatives (Interreg Europe).[34]

6.4. Example Campaigns in Tulcea, Romania

Clean Danube Initiative: This campaign engages local communities in Tulcea in cleaning and maintaining the riverbanks, promoting environmental awareness and active participation.[35]

[29] DaWeRest. (n.d.). About – DaWeRest. Retrieved from https://dawetrest.eu/.

[30] Vučemilović, V., & Bartolović, V. (2023). Sustainable tourism development in the Osijek-Baranja County. CABI Digital Library. Retrieved from CABI Digital Library.

[31] Demonja, D. (2012). The importance of the Danube strategy for tourism and culture development of the Croatian Danube region. Geographica Pannonica. Retrieved from Geographica Pannonica.

[32] WWF, Danube Delta. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.wwf.bg/.

[33] European Commission, Danube Strategy. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/danube_en.

[34] Interreg Europe. (n.d.). HERICOAST TOOLBOX. Retrieved from Interreg Europe.

[35] Clean Danube, NGO Initiative. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.cleandanube.org/projekt/?lang=en.

Eco-Tourism Promotion: Efforts to boost eco-tourism in Tulcea focus on sustainable travel practices, protecting natural resources while attracting tourists interested in nature and culture.[36]

7. Conclusion

The EcoDaLLi Content Catalogue for Stakeholder Engagement serves as a dynamic tool that provides a structured repository of engagement strategies, methods, and best practices tailored to the diverse needs of stakeholders involved in sustainable water management across the Danube River Basin. It is designed to be used by project partners, local authorities, community organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders engaged in water resource management and ecological restoration. The catalogue is structured to guide users through the entire engagement process, from identifying stakeholders to implementing and evaluating engagement activities. Each section of the catalogue provides detailed descriptions of engagement methods such as participatory workshops, focus groups, and digital platforms alongside practical examples and case studies that demonstrate how these methods have been successfully applied in various contexts. Users can reference the catalogue to select appropriate engagement strategies based on the type of stakeholders they aim to involve, their level of interest and influence, and the specific project objectives they are addressing. For example, local authorities may use the catalogue to plan stakeholder consultations for policy development, while NGOs might apply it to design community-based workshops focused on ecological restoration. By offering a comprehensive set of tools and resources, the catalogue not only facilitates effective stakeholder engagement but also ensures that activities are aligned with the overarching goals of the EcoDaLLi project, promoting sustainable water management, enhancing community involvement, and driving innovation in the governance of aquatic ecosystems. The catalogue of stakeholder engagement described in D6.2 will be integrated into the EcoDaLLi portal, where it will be accessible in the dedicated section for WP6 results. This online platform will serve as a centralized repository for the content catalogue, providing users with easy access to engagement strategies, tools, and best practices. The EcoDaLLi portal is designed to facilitate broader dissemination and practical application of the stakeholder engagement framework, supporting both local and regional stakeholders in their efforts to engage effectively in water resource management initiatives. The portal, along with the D6.2 catalogue, will remain available to the public and project partners until the end of November 2024, ensuring that it serves as a valuable resource throughout the implementation phase of the project and beyond.

[36] Tulcea Tourism Board. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://romaniatourism.com/tulcea.html.