

Climate mitigation & adaptation in DDBR

(Integrated Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Danube Delta)

It is in the interest of local communities in the DDBR area to address activities such as reducing carbon emissions and improving resilience to climate change. In the long run, the study area will want to become a society characterized by reduced carbon emissions and resilience to climate change. It should be among the first regions in the country to meet the targets for reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption, as well as increasing the amount of energy from renewable sources, which is a national commitment in the Green Deal and climate neutrality targets.

Measures to adapt to climate change are sectoral and need to be integrated into sectoral activities, such as flood protection in rural and urban areas and the adoption of climate change-adaptive fishing and farming practices.

Nature based solutions (NBS) could serve both, mitigation and adaptation. According to IUCN (2016) NBS represents “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”. Two concepts are integrated: a) the use of ecosystems (through protection, management, or restoration actions); and b) to address societal challenges (climate change, food security, disaster risks, water security, socio-economic development and human health).

NBS for mitigation - using nature to retain or sequester carbon to directly target atmospheric CO₂ concentration. NBS for adaptation - using nature to help people build their resilience and adapt. These could address other societal challenges caused by climate change - such as water security, food security, and disaster risks.

Although there are different types of sectoral measures, there is a general need to improve the local capacity to plan, finance and implement, but also to raise public awareness in the study area. The first step would be to formulate local recommendations on climate change mitigation and adaptation based on a sound scientific basis and studies (vulnerability assessment) on local conditions.

Atmospheric carbon concentrations and adaptation to climate change are closely monitored, based on cross-sectoral scientific information, and promote well-documented public policy and sustainable, low-carbon development.

Healthcare industry is a contributor to climate change and environmental pollution, but there are solutions to help enhancing its environmental performance.

Objectives and activities:

A. Reducing the environmental impact and minimizing the carbon footprint of healthcare industry

- A.1 Lowering overall emissions by greening the supply chain, reducing the wasteful activities such as energy and water consumption, waste production
- A.2 Identifying stakeholders that have potential to modulate the use of micropollutants
- A.3 Educating people to choose less carbon-intensive products and reducing overall pharmaceutical usage
- A.4 Reducing pharmaceutical contamination of water and soil by ensuring proper drug disposal
- A.5 Establish mitigation measures for veterinary medicinal products with PBT properties (persistent, bio accumulative and toxic)
- A.6 Strengthening the healthcare infrastructure by promoting cloud-based telehealth services
- A.7. Increasing public trust and social acceptance of innovative digital healthcare solutions
- A.8. Encouraging cloud technology adopting for healthcare data and organizing trainings on technical expertise for cloud computing

B. Preventing diseases and sustaining healthy populations in Danube Delta

- B.1 Developing a hazard warning surveillance and risk assessment and management system to address the One Health concept
- B.2 Integrating general knowledge on inter-related climate challenges and impacts on environment, human and animal health at regional level
- B.3 Building community resilience and implementing health intelligence activities to prevent significant impacts caused by climate changes
- B.4 Evaluating the emergence and dynamics of biological infectious agents, vector-borne diseases and enteric infections related to climate changes (ex. weather patterns)
- B.5 Strengthening the collaboration and cooperation of health and veterinary capacities to raise awareness about the need of early detection of climate related health threats and to quickly respond to potential disease outbreaks
- B.6 Integrating human and animal health climate change adaptation into Delta's ecosystems sustainable management and reducing populations' vulnerabilities
- B.7 Fostering innovative partnerships to support cross-sectoral collaboration focused on health climate change mitigation actions
- B.8 Promoting human health linked with ecological and animal health.