



*This project is partly financed by the European Union and the City of Vienna*

Between **1.04.2015 – 31.03.2016**, the Danube Sturgeon Task Force, with the support of its partner organizations, implements the EUSDR – START project

***Ex-situ survey to preserve sturgeon genetic diversity  
in the Middle and Lower Danube (Acronym: STURGENE)***

**Leading Partner** - International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

**Partners:** University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Institute for Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Vienna, Austria

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER – BAS), Sofia, Bulgaria

Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (IMR), Belgrade, Serbia

Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Sturgeon Conservation Group (DDNIRD), Tulcea, Romania

## **Geographic area**

Middle and Lower Danube countries: Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine

## **Project objectives**

1. Obtain an overview of existing ex-situ facilities in Middle and Lower Danube area
2. Acquire support of local stakeholders and fishery authority for sturgeon conservation
3. Develop a roadmap for future actions in ex-situ conservation

## **Activities**

### **A1. Explore ex-situ opportunities**

- An inventory of existing facilities, of existing brood stock and expertise
- Field surveys in selected hatcheries and direct discussions of an experienced expert with hatchery stakeholders in Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine

- A workshop with national stakeholders will be organized by the project partners in RS, BG, RO, UA to exchange ideas and increase local support for sturgeon conservation

#### **A2. Mobilize political support for ex-situ conservation**

- The results of the field visits will be discussed with the DSTF experts and a roadmap for further actions will be elaborated.
- This roadmap, together with DSTF recommendations, will be disseminated during a high-level event to raise the support of the decision makers.
- Further dissemination activities are planned until project completion via websites and newsletters of partner organizations, being addressed to the wide public and local stakeholders.