

## **SS5. Societal and economic impact of the Danube River basin biodiversity protection activities**

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DANube WETlands REStoration (DaWetRest) Lighthouse is designed to develop and demonstrate concrete solutions applied on the Danube basin to address the challenges faced by its inland and coastal wetlands ecosystems', on biodiversity, water quality and availability, climate resilience and/or neutrality and socioeconomic benefits for the local communities, and isolated communities as well. These transformative and innovative solutions will be validated by local communities and main Regional and European-wide stakeholders.

DaWetRest has the role to prepare and plan the replication, deployment and scaling up of the validated innovative solutions for the next mission's phase. For this important scope, DaWetRest project proposes several strong ideas, such as building and selecting interventions based on extensive and prior know-how (sibling sites and non-EU experiences), local, regional and basin scale integrated interdependent analysis of results from the planned interventions, merge DaWetRest own data, models and digital tools with existing and future ones, towards a centralized knowledge centre in the future and involve the managing authorities and a number of local actors in the entire process, from the very beginning.

The demonstration of innovative and result-oriented solutions is organized in 3 DEMOs - DEMO Middle Danube (MD), DEMO Lower Danube (LD) and DEMO Danube Delta (DD). Each DEMO offers main intervention sites, pilots, sibling locations, replications, platforms/services, local stakeholders engagement and methodologies to strengthen the innovation, knowledge and cooperation in and beyond DaWetRest in Danube basin and across Europe. Via a widely representative consortium as well as active cooperation (e.g. Community of Practices), DaWetRest will provide tools for a significant transformation in the Danube.

**Keywords:** biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services provided by catchment areas, fresh water ecology, greenhouse gases, hydrology (Water science), social innovation, wetlands and flood plains restoration; biodiversity and water ecosystems monitoring; local communities; isolated communities, regional economy.

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