

**icpdr iksd**

International  
Commission  
for the Protection  
of the Danube River

Internationale  
Kommission  
zum Schutz  
der Donau

# Shared waters – joint responsibilities

## ICPDR Annual Report 2013

/// Deutschland /// Österreich /// Česká republika /// Slovensko /// Magyarország /// Slovenija /// Hrvatska /// Bosna i Hercegovina /// Srbija /// Crna Gora /// România /// България /// Moldova /// Україна //



**“A river is a diverse network of ecosystems, highly dynamic, sensitive to changes and pressures. One of the main characteristics of the Danube River Basin is its diversity, extending beyond environmental aspects. For almost 20 years, the ICPDR draws support from regions among the richest and poorest in Europe; people with different languages, landscapes and cultures. These stakeholders are united by their joint responsibility for the water they share.”**

Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević, ICPDR President in 2013

# ICPDR highlights in 2013

Major advances were made towards the ICPDR's long-term vision for sustainable integrated river basin management in the Danube Basin. As well as focusing on updating our current knowledge-base, implementing actions outlined in the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan and meeting EU reporting targets, attention increasingly turned to the next management plans as required by EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive.

## Among the many ICPDR initiatives, events and cooperative activities in the Danube River Basin (DRB) during 2013, highlights included:

- The [3rd Joint Danube Survey \(JDS3\)](#) – see p7.
  - Publication of the [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) – see p5.
  - Introduction of the [enhanced Accident Emergency Warning System \(AEWS\)](#) – see p8.
  - Launch of the new enhanced [DanubeGIS](#) mapping system – see p10.
  - Public consultation steps in the development of the [2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan](#) and [1st Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan](#) – see p5 & 11.
  - Celebration of the [10<sup>th</sup> Danube Day](#) on the theme of “Get active for the sturgeons!” – see p11.
  - Adoption and publication of [Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development](#) – see p5.
  - [Ivan Zavadsky](#) welcomed as the new Executive Secretary of the ICPDR.
- Support to the publication of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force “Sturgeon 2020” strategy and also the ICPDR technical paper on Measures for ensuring fish migration at transversal structures – see p5.
  - [Extension of the UNECE Water Convention](#) to become a global water instrument: ICPDR participates in conferences and events to support this expansion.
  - ICPDR President Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević’s participation at the launch of the [UN International Year of Water Cooperation](#) at UNESCO Headquarters – see p11.

## ICPDR support and involvement was also provided to a number of important activities and events through participation and partnership:

- Presentation of the ICPDR work at the [Budapest Water Summit](#) and award ceremony for the Danube Art Master with Hungary’s President János Áder – see p11.
- Partnership with the International River Foundation (IRF), European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) and Coca-Cola Company to establish the [first European Riverprize](#) – see p11.



# World class expertise: The ICPDR institutional framework

Since its creation in 1998, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River has brought together representatives from the highest ministerial levels, technical experts and members of both civil society and the scientific community to improve the state of the Danube and its tributaries.

**The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is the largest international body of river basin management experts in Europe. Its mission is to promote and coordinate sustainable water management for the benefit of all the people of the Danube River Basin.**

## The structure of the ICPDR

In 1994, the Danube countries signed the [Danube River Protection Convention](#) and established the ICPDR in 1998. The ICPDR is made up of [15 Contracting Parties](#) (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the European Commission) who have committed themselves to implementing the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC). The ICPDR serves as a forum for coordination on water management issues in which the Contracting Parties agree on legal, administrative and technical measures to maintain and improve the quality of the Danube River and its tributaries.

The ICPDR is steered through an [Ordinary Meeting](#), which establishes policy and strategy, and a [Standing Working Group](#) that provides guidance and prepares decisions. Furthermore, Expert Groups, Task Groups and representatives of stakeholder groups provide the scientific and technical basis for the ICPDR's work.

[Expert Groups](#) (EG) are a vital part of the structure of the ICPDR. They address the requirements specified under the Convention and also those related to implementation of the [EU Water Framework Directive](#) (WFD) and the [EU Flood Directive](#) (EFD). The Expert Groups comprise:

- [River Basin Management Expert Group](#)
- [Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group](#)
- [Pressures and Measures Expert Group](#)
- [Flood Protection Expert Group](#)
- [Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group](#)
- [Information Management and GIS Expert Group](#)
- [Public Participation Expert Group](#)
- [Strategic Expert Group](#).

The Strategic Expert Group is an ad-hoc expert group formed for specific tasks.

[Task Groups](#) (TG) are established under the responsibility of the permanent expert groups and comprise delegates from existing expert bodies or additional specialists. They include professionals specifically needed for a particular task. Task groups have been formed to deal with issues concerning hydromorphology, economics, groundwater management and nutrients.

## ICPDR Observers

Environmental protection is a community responsibility and the active involvement of the public is a core principle in sustainable water management. 22 organisations have taken the opportunity to become observers to the ICPDR:

- [Black Sea Commission \(BSC\)](#)
- [Central Dredging Association \(CEDA\)](#)
- [Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians](#)
- [Danube Commission \(DC\)](#)
- [Danube Competence Center \(DCC\)](#)
- [Danube Environmental Forum \(DEF\)](#)
- [Danube Parks](#)
- [Danube Tourist Commission \(DIE DONAU\)](#)
- [European Anglers Alliance \(EAA\)](#)
- [European Barge Union \(EBU\)](#)
- [European Water Association \(EWA\)](#)
- [Friends of Nature International \(NFI\)](#)
- [Global Water Partnership \(GWP/CEE\)](#)
- [International Association for Danube Research \(IAD\)](#)
- [International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area \(IAWD\)](#)
- [International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO \(IHP/Danube\)](#)
- [International Sava River Basin Commission \(ISRBC\)](#)
- [RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands](#)
- [Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe \(REC\)](#)
- [VGB PowerTech e.V.](#)
- [via donau](#)
- [World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme \(WWF DCP\)](#)

# River Basin Management: a sustainable future for the Danube

Activity in 2013 focussed on two core areas: updating knowledge on the condition of the Danube Basin and planning management priorities for 2015 onwards.

## 2013 saw the successful operation of the 3rd Joint Danube Survey and launch of data collection for updating the Danube Basin Analysis. Both are essential in capturing the current condition of the Danube Basin: vital input into the development of international priorities for the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan (2015-2021).

The development of the [2013 Update of the Danube Basin Analysis](#) (DBA) was a central focus of the [Expert Group on River Basin Management](#) (RBM EG). A major data collection exercise was launched in July, leading to DBA completion during 2014. Updating of analyses on characterisation, pressures/impacts and economics is required by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The [Interim Overview on Significant Water Management Issues \(SWMI\) in the DRB](#) was sent out to 6-month public consultation in December. The document suggests to maintain activities on further reducing pollution from organic, nutrients and hazardous substances as well as addressing hydromorphological alterations as the four SWMIs and therefore regional priority issues to be tackled.

The SWMI document outlines key issues challenging the region's sustainable management, to be inputted into the [2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan](#) (DRBM Plan). Detailed preparation got underway in 2013 producing an agreed outline; national data requirements and timeframe: a draft will go to public consultation in December 2014. The Plan will update the basin-wide management approach (Joint Programme of Measures) to protect and enhance all Danube Basin waters and ensuring sustainable use. Outlining progress since the 1st DRBM Plan (2009-2015), it will detail management objectives for 2015-2021, in line with the EU WFD.

The [Hydromorphology TG](#) focussed on 2013 DBA, SWMI report, JDS3, and 2nd DRBM Plan inputs, including activities towards updating the ecological prioritisation approach.

Inter-linkage between EU WFD and Floods Directive (EFD) was deliberated, to be discussed further with the Flood Protection EG. Plans were made for a WFD-related hydromorphological methods workshop.

The [Economics TG](#) commenced DBA data gathering on water services, incentives and economic instruments plus water pricing policies; and discussed DRBM Plan requirements. April 2013 saw a *Vienna Workshop on Financing the Joint Programme of Measures*, the basin-wide actions required to improve environmental conditions in the DRB.

Establishing a workable balance between economic and environmental needs regarding [hydropower](#). *Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development* were published, following a number of meetings of the established Team of Experts and an ICPDR *Conference on Hydropower and Water Management* in Ljubljana.

On [climate change](#), publication of the *ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change* was a major milestone towards achieving sustainable management in the DRB. Efforts in 2013 were targeted on dissemination and how best to integrate recommendations throughout ICPDR, WFD and EFD processes.

The [Danube Sturgeon Task Force](#) (DSTF), an initiative of different entities including the ICPDR, saw key progress with the publication of the [Sturgeon 2020 strategy](#): objectives and actions for population rehabilitation. 2013 also saw the launch of the *Fish migration in the Danube and Iron Gates* project, operational until June 2014, and publication of the ICPDR technical paper on [Measures for ensuring fish migration at transversal structures](#).

Regards [sediment management](#), the ICPDR brought together Lead Countries, stakeholders and EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators (PAC) to discuss funding instruments, work packages and outcomes, aimed at producing an updated project proposal in 2014.

Coordination with the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) (EUSDR) strengthened in 2013 through the ICPDR's participation at Priority Area Steering Committees; PAC meetings; DSTF liaison; and efforts to integrate ICPDR, WFD and EFD schedules.

# Pressures and Measures: Assessing challenges, targeting issues

Maintaining and enhancing accurate understanding of the pressures affecting the Danube environment, as well as the effectiveness of measures aimed to alleviate these, is an essential ongoing task.

**Eliminating emissions of untreated wastewater, limiting eutrophication, removing threats from hazardous substances, mitigating and reversing impacts from hydromorphological alterations and protecting groundwater supplies have been identified by the ICPDR as key basin-wide goals. Fundamental to achieving these is integration of EU policies into national and basin-wide strategies, most notably the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Urban Wastewater Treatment (UWWT) Directive, Nitrates Directive; Industrial Emission (IE) Directive and Regulation on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR).**

The [Pressures and Measures Expert Group](#) (PM EG) promotes measures to achieve objectives set out in the 1st DRBM Plan, focusing on three SWMIs: organic, nutrient and hazardous substances pollution. Much of their core work involves ongoing data collection on pollution and measures implementation; compilation of basin-wide overviews and undertaking templates revision to secure alignment with EU reporting. Tasks in 2013 were centered on developing key documents aimed at assessing the current status of DRB resources and the impacts of achievements and ongoing pressures, in order to plan for the next 2015–21cycle.

In contributing to the [Interim Overview on SWMIs in the DRB](#), current water quality issues, ultimate objectives and current and future measures' impacts were specified.

Text, data summaries and maps were developed for the [2013 DBA](#), with a preliminary draft submitted to the RBM EG, to be finalised by April 2014. On [urban wastewater and industrial pollution](#), 2009–10 UWWT and E-PRTR aligned data collection was close to completion by year-end. The improved [MONERIS](#) nutrient emissions model with updated database was used to assess actual [diffuse nutrient pollution](#) in the DRB, with results for 2000–2008. The PM EG also finalised testing of CIS technical guidelines for the [inventory of hazardous substance emissions, discharges and losses](#), meeting EU Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and providing a preliminary draft list of priority substances, specific DRB parameters and methodology for assessment of emissions.

In preparing input for the [2nd DRBM Plan](#), SWMI data collection schedules and content structure were decided, aligned with 2011–12 UWWT and E-PRTR reporting schedules and MONERIS requirements (agreed reference years: 2010–12). Agreeing a need to focus on actualizing the Joint Programme of Measures objectives by 2021, basin-wide measures not yet implemented will be identified, assessed and next steps recommended.

To aid national data collection and transparency, a meta-database is planned to outline national requirements. Possibilities for a single, harmonised, consistent emissions database linked to DanubeGIS were discussed; with possible options to be pursued with the Information Management and GIS Expert Group (IMGIS EG).

The [Task Group on Nutrients](#) continued its agricultural focus, investigating impacts of agri-policy on DRB resources (concerning CAP and its reform; basic measures in line with the Nitrates Directive and Best Agricultural Practices).

# Monitoring and Assessment: Quantifying problems... and progress

Ongoing water assessment is a vital process: ensuring our water is fit for consumption and targeting action to enhance chemical, ecological and quantitative status.

**The Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group (MA EG) is responsible for all water quality assessment issues including the Joint Danube Surveys (JDS). Its remit includes operation of the Trans-National Monitoring Network (TNMN) and the Analytical Quality Control (AQC) programme. 2013 priorities were the third Joint Danube Survey (JDS3); 2013 Danube Basin Analysis (DBA) and updates for the 2nd Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan.**

The successful operation of JDS3, the largest international river sampling cooperation in the world, took place over 6 weeks in August and September. The major logistical exercise involved a core team of 20 scientists surveying 2,375 km of the Danube through 10 countries. Topping EUR 2 million, most of the financial and in-kind contributions were secured from Contracting Parties, the NORMAN reference laboratories and research centres network and the Vienna Medical University. The survey was accompanied by public events at 9 locations. The approved technical report is expected autumn 2014, published alongside a summary targeted at the general public.

Providing data directly comparable along the river and including parameters not covered by ongoing monitoring, JDS3 results will feed into the 2nd DRBM Plan. Progress was also made on DBA content through submission of data assessing the risk of failure to achieve good ecological and chemical status of water by 2021.

Ongoing activities contributed to preparation of the 2nd DRBM Plan. A Romanian study on assessment implications arising from Directive 2009/90/EC was completed. Hungary and Serbia initiated basin-wide national data collection on non-indigenous species, with the view to update the Guidance Paper on Invasive Alien Species as a DRB SWMI.

Slovakia completed the TNMN Yearbook for 2011, with data collection for 2012 ongoing. The Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group confirmed Reni as the Danube loads sampling site. Increased efficiencies will see Romania deliver data for early approval and accelerated reporting to the Black Sea Commission.

The Groundwater Task Group (GW TG) continued risk analysis data collection for DBA 2013. DBA text on the characterization of GW bodies was drafted, as was feedback on the Interim Overview on SWMIs and report on implementation of the Joint Tisza Programme of Measures. A leaflet is under preparation summarizing groundwater issues, such as the use of groundwater for drinking water production and significant bank filtered water abstractions.



//// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //// Österreich

Slovensko //// Magyarország

# Accident Prevention and Control: avoiding pollution, warning systems and mitigation

Rapid execution of the ICPDR Accident Emergency Warning System; identification and action at risk sites and cross-border emergency response planning result in a cleaner, safer Danube environment.

## Positive reaction to the newly launched Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS); on-going data collection by new inventories for Accident Risk Spots and Contaminated Sites; and contribution to development of trans-national emergency guidance demonstrates the strong progress made by the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) in 2013.

Launched in March 2013, the [AEWS 2.0](#) system provides enhanced navigation and overall usability, potential actions overview, efficient incident information access and a new commenting facility. System training was undertaken and the new quick reference sheet and screencast tutorials were particularly welcomed. Most national user-interface translations were completed.

The new system operated without issue; no alerts were raised, apart from scheduled tests. A 21st January launch preparation test involved active participation of all Principle International Alert Centres and facilitated perfection of the user interface. A regular 24/7 preparedness test took place in November 2013 and its results served as a good tool for the strengthening of the operativeness of national PIACs.

Regarding [Accident prevention tasks](#), APC EG maintained effort on data collection for [Accident Risk Spots \(ARS\)](#) and [Contaminated Sites \(CS\)](#); several countries failed to contribute results. Inventories are to be finalised by the end 2014. For identification of potential ARS, the *Water Risk Index* is used to assess threat from relevant industrial plants, with real risk to be revisited at a later date. For CS, M2 methodology was utilized for potential and real risk identification. Preparation of [Mining Sites](#) inventories has been put on agenda. Obtaining reliable data was noted as an ongoing constraint by countries; one that required reliability evaluation tools. Legal and other difficulties were reported as obstacles to risk site mapping.

[Cross-border emergency and contingency planning](#) continued in 2013, the UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents in cooperation with the APC EG is finalizing a guidance on minimum requirements and good practice. Completion is expected by 2014.



# Sustainable flood protection across the Basin

The ICPDR's Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection sees movement away from defensive action against hazards in favour of proactive, sustainable and dynamic management of flood risk.

**Understanding and mapping flood risk forms the foundation for developing integrated, basin-wide flood protection for the region. The Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) is responsible for implementing the EU Floods Directive (EFD) requirements on the level of the international Danube River Basin District. It is also active in generating lessons learned from recent flooding, such as the extreme June 2013 event.**

DRB mapping of the [Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk \(APSF\)](#) was completed in 2013. This updated the information submitted to the European Commission (EC) in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) report, outlining EFD-related progress.

Regarding EFD requirements, work on [flood hazard and risk maps](#) continued apace. Basin-level templates and layout were agreed and the following draft maps produced:

- (i) flood hazard and flood scenarios;
- (ii) flood risk and population;
- (iii) flood risk and economic activity;
- (iv) flood risk and IPPC installations and
- (v) flood risk and Water Framework Directive (WFD) protected areas.

In cooperation with IMGIS EG, flood hazard data was submitted via DanubeGIS. Finalised data is still required from several countries: the maps are to be finalised by June 2014. Additionally, the first draft of the [Summary Report on EFD Implementation in the DRB regarding flood hazard and flood risk maps](#) was drawn up.

The FP EG agreed outline contents and basin-wide objectives for the [2015 Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management \(DFRM\) Plan](#):

- (i) Avoidance of new risks;
- (ii) Reduction of existing risks;
- (iii) Strengthening resilience;
- (iv) Raising awareness; and
- (v) Solidarity principle.

Emphasis will be given to transboundary aspects. An ICPDR DFRM Plan workshop is planned for 2014.

The EC document on [links between the EFD and WFD](#) was utilized in DFRM preparation. The ICPDR *Concept paper on Coordination Aspects of EFD implementation in the Danube Basin* was updated following changes in basin-wide EFD implementation driven by the FP EG.

The [Danube FLOODRISK project](#) published the [Danube Atlas](#) (1:100,000), displaying areas exposed to flood hazard; damage potential and flood risk assessment. PDF versions are available on the ICPDR website.

The successful cooperation with EC DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) on Danube-[EFAS](#) (European Flood Awareness System) is ongoing. The system is now operated by consortium partners. The outcomes of the system are used by the flood monitoring centres in the Danube countries as an additional warning tool.

In reaction to the extreme floods in 2013, the FP EG began work on a [report on the June 2013 floods](#) to review the meteorological and hydrological characteristics of this flood event, to summarize the flood warning and monitoring activities and flood interventions and mitigation actions and to assess the casualties and damages. The lessons learned for the report will be a valuable contribution to the flood risk management activities.

# GIS: Mapping out a positive future for the Danube

Developing measures that address basin-wide problems relies on an accurate and current knowledge-base; one that also allows different scenarios to be modelled and evaluated.

**The Information Management and GIS Expert Group (IMGIS EG) plays a vital role in conceptualising, informing and presenting the tasks of the ICPDR. Responsible for the creation and improvement of datasets and maps, the management and development of the Danube River Basin Geographical Information System (DanubeGIS) and other online information systems like the ICPDR website, it regularly supports and advises other EGs and sub-basin activities. GIS maps provide a detailed picture of the state of the region – its utilisation and management – elucidating future scenarios and pinpointing areas with optimal potential. Output in 2013 was focused on EU Floods Directive (FD) reporting; updating the Danube Basin Analysis (DBA) and enhancing the new DanubeGIS system.**

The IMGIS EG welcomed the new ICPDR GIS Technical Expert for GIS, Zoran Major, to the team. His first task involved production of maps for EU FD reporting: [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment](#), [Flood Hazard and Risk Maps](#) for the Danube River Basin; although not all countries provided required data in time.

Regarding the [EU Water Framework Directive](#) reporting ([2013 DBA and 2015 Danube River Basin Management Plan](#)), the DanubeGIS templates and upload guidance document were updated in consultation with other EGs and TGs, and countries began uploading data for the 2013 DBA.

Liaison with the [Pressures and Measures EG](#) over future requirements and possibilities for a harmonised emissions database linked to DanubeGIS was fruitful. The IMGIS EG will review MONERIS input data to consider how future collection may occur through DanubeGIS. New maps were proposed to enhance analysis.

Several years in the planning, the new [DanubeGIS](#) was developed based on open source software and became operational in 2013, with all data migrated to the new system. System management was transferred from Umweltbundesamt Vienna to the ICPDR Secretariat. A new tool for uploading datasets was implemented in parallel with updated 2013 DBA templates and validation rules; and the old server was shut down. The *2007 DanubeGIS Data Policy* was also updated to improve data classification clarity and request processing.

[Geometric harmonisation of the river network](#) was ongoing: the IMGIS EG keeps providing a platform for bilateral harmonisation and presentations of country case studies.

The ICPDR and IMGIS EG agreed to supply support to the [International Sava River Basin Commission](#) in production of the 2nd Sava River Basin Analysis and related EU FD reporting, utilizing DanubeGIS templates which were all designed for collecting both data on DRB and on more detailed sub-basin level.

Initial activities began regarding cooperation with the EC Joint Research Centre over the [Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure](#) (DRDSI), a facility for accessing comparable and harmonised data sets related to the four EUSDR priorities.

# Promoting public participation and international partnership

With an emphasis on encouraging public participation and strong partnerships at the local, national and international scale, the work of the ICPDR is a model for the rest of the world.

## Promoting involvement

Actions of the Public Participation Expert Group (PP EG) revolved around RBM activities, the 3rd Joint Danube Survey (JDS3) and Danube Day – collectively promoting good practice in the UN International Year of Water Cooperation.

2013 saw initiation of a public consultation plan promoting the EU Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive, alongside the DRBM and DFRM Plans. A [Public Participation schedule for both plans](#) was finalised and a stakeholder workshop proposed for 2015.

Alongside [JDS3](#), public and media events were held in 9 countries. Factsheets and blogs conveyed the excitement and international nature of the operation, and brought scientific investigations to a wider audience. Fact sheets and a blog on [danubesurvey.org](#) allowed people from throughout the Danube Basin to connect to JDS3.

An ICPDR promotional video was made, utilizing footage from 'The Danube – Europe's Amazon' multi-international-award winning documentary co-produced by the ICPDR. Following relaunch of the [ICPDR website](#), visits increased strongly.

The 10<sup>th</sup> [Danube Day](#) (DD), ICPDR's flagship outreach event, saw 900 organisations hold events in 13 countries. Communication activities included: transferring the event flag from Slovakia to the Czech Republic; regularly updated [danubeday.org](#) website; free merchandise and reviews in Danube Watch and the giveaway 2014 Diary. EU Commissioner, Johannes Hahn, sent a video message highlighting the importance of sturgeon conservation, in line with the 2013 theme of "Get active for the sturgeons".

The [International Danube Art Master](#) contest run by Global Water Partnership (GWP) CEE and the ICPDR, was entered by 2021 children from 237 schools. Communicated via the web, partners organised national contests. The competition was supported through the [Green Danube Partnership](#) between ICPDR and the Coca-Cola System. GWP funded winners' attendance at the Budapest Global Water Summit in October.

Promotion of water issues continued through dissemination of the [Danube Box](#) education kit. Now available in seven national versions, Serbia launched their box in 2013.

## Long-term corporate partnerships

Cooperation with business progressed, strengthening corporate commitment to water stewardship and engaging companies in supporting ICPDR activities in the long-term.

The [Green Danube Partnership](#) with the Coca-Cola System forms the ICPDR's main business partnership; notably supporting Danube Day and the Danube Box.

## Partnership around the globe

The ICPDR is an acknowledged global leader in river basin management, with particular expertise in fostering international cooperation.

Partnership with the [Orange-Senqu River Commission](#) continued with a delegation from Southern Africa observing JDS3. RBM experts and academics visited to exchange knowledge, for example the US Charles River Watershed Association, the Korean Environment Institute and the Japanese Universities of Kyoto and Nagoya. As part of a packed international schedule, representatives attended the UN International Year of Water Cooperation launch; EU-Central Asia High Level Conference on Environment and Water; International River Symposium and GEF Biennial International Waters Conference.

2013 saw the awarding of the [first European Riverprize](#) by European Commissioner Janez Potocnik, resulting from collaboration between the ICPDR, International River Foundation (IRF), European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) and Coca-Cola Europe. Showcasing projects that have overcome the challenges facing river environments, the inaugural award went to the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine.

# River basin planning in the sub-basins and across the region

Planning at the sub-basin level - in the Sava, Tisza, Danube Delta and Prut regions – is vital for sustainable integrated management of the Danube Basin, as is liaison with Black Sea initiatives.

## The ICPDR strongly supports the development of detailed sub-basin programmes and partnerships with neighbouring regions, in line with EU initiatives.

### Sava River Basin (SRB)

The *Sava RBM Plan* entered its final phase, ready for 2014 adoption by the *International Sava River Basin Commission*. Projects included initial SavaGIS development; AEWS alert centre readiness improvements; hydrological and meteorological data exchange; publication of *2009 Hydrological Yearbook* and development of *Protocols to the Framework Agreement on the SRB*. Stakeholder engagement was a major focus with production of a *Stakeholder Analysis and Public Participation Plan*. Other work concerned sustainable sediment management; flood mapping; flood risk management – climate change linkage for the *Sava Flood Risk Management Plan*; navigation restoration and a water and climate adaptation plan.

### Tisza River Basin (TRB)

Gauging progress in implementing the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management (ITRBM) Plan, the *ICPDR Tisza Group* developed document on *Progress in Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the TRB*, and discussed updates to the *Tisza Analysis Report*. 2013 saw adoption of a *Joint Declaration between the ICPDR Tisza Group and Carpathians Convention* (represented by UNEP Vienna – Interim Carpathian Convention Secretariat). Hungary offered to facilitate Tisza Group coordination until long-term proposals are agreed.

### Prut River Basin (PRB)

Actions were divided between enhancing RBM links with Ukraine (UA), Moldova (MD) and the wider Black Sea region; and developing EU reporting infrastructure. Under EC ENPI, the *Environmental Protection of International River Basins* (EPIRB) project aims to improve water quality in cross-border rivers of the Black Sea region and Belarus. The MD/UA Prut was selected as an RBM pilot, with initial meeting between MD, UA, Romania (RO) and the ICPDR.

The PRB is also active in two Danube Delta projects: an *ENVSEC initiative* and a *climate adaptation strategy* (see below). Prut was in addition chosen as pilot for the South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme *SEE River* project, where RBM-relevant activities are examined.

### Danube Delta (DD)

Two major projects dominated work in 2013. Firstly, Environment and Security Initiative's *ENVSEC DD Project*, implemented by the ICPDR, concerns cross-border cooperation and capacity-building towards integrated RBM. Reporting on the 3-country Joint DD Survey was finalised, contributing towards a *1<sup>st</sup> DD Analysis*. Secondly, *Climate proofing the DD through integrated land and water management* covering UA, MD and RO is funded through the EC Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (ENRTP) programme. Key stakeholders gathered to agree a *Joint Statement on Climate Proofing* based on the 2012 DD climate vulnerability assessment.

### Black Sea Commission (BSC)

The *Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group* met in January; further cementing BSC - ICPDR cooperation. Subsequent annual meetings will capitalise on shared interests and information exchange: the BSC reporting back on ecosystem assessment and the ICPDR providing earlier reporting on Danube pollution loads at Reni. A *workshop on monitoring and reducing nutrient loads to the BS* saw steps towards developing a decision-support tool, following the Baltic Sea experience, and finalizing hotspot methodology.

### European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

It was agreed to propose to EUSDR National Contact Points in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia that a joint paper between the ICPDR and Priority Areas 4 (Water quality) and 5 (Environmental risks) should be elaborated to clarify roles and enhance cooperation. Sturgeon protection was highlighted as good practice in EUSDR/ICPDR collaboration.

# Regular Budget and Financial Contribution

## Regular Budget for the Financial Year 2013

Three independent auditors, appointed by the Contracting Parties, audited the consolidated financial statement including the accounting records of the ICPDR for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2013.

The Audit Team certified that the Statement of Accounts is correct and the contents, structure and details are in accordance with ICPDR rules and regulations and accounting principles assuring transparency of financial management.

## Contributions Financial Year 2013

Contracting Party	Contribution in %	Contribution in Euro	Actual payment 2013 in Euro
Germany	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Austria	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Czech Republic	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Slovakia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Hungary	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Slovenia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Croatia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Serbia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.00	45,581.40	45,581.40
Bulgaria	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Romania	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Moldova	1.00	11,395.35	11,395.35
Ukraine	4.00	45,581.40	45,581.40
Montenegro	2.50	28,488.37	28,481.12
European Commission	2.50	28,488.37	28,488.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,139,534.89</b>	<b>1,139,527.64</b>

## Expenditure Financial Year 2013

Budget Headings	Approved Budget in Euro	Expenditure in Euro	Balance in Euro
Staff	668,000.00	661,478.69	6,521.31
Office Running	140,000.00	134,610.91	5,389.09
Publications	102,000.00	98,692.42	3,307.58
Travel	114,000.00	112,549.42	1,450.58
Services	115,534.89	114,961.24	573.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139,534.89</b>	<b>1,122,292.68</b>	<b>17,242.21</b>

# Contracting Parties and Heads of Delegations

## Austria

Karl SCHWAIGER, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,  
Environment and Water Management  
[www.lebensministerium.at](http://www.lebensministerium.at)

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

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[www.mvteo.gov.ba](http://www.mvteo.gov.ba)

## Bulgaria

Ivelina VASSILEVA, Ministry of Environment and Water  
[www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)

## Croatia

Drazen KURECIC, Ministry of Agriculture  
[www.mps.hr](http://www.mps.hr)

## Czech Republic

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[www.env.cz](http://www.env.cz)

## Germany

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and Nuclear Safety  
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## Hungary

Peter KOVACS, Ministry of Rural Development  
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## Moldova

Tatjana BELOUS, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## Montenegro

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## Ukraine

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## European Union

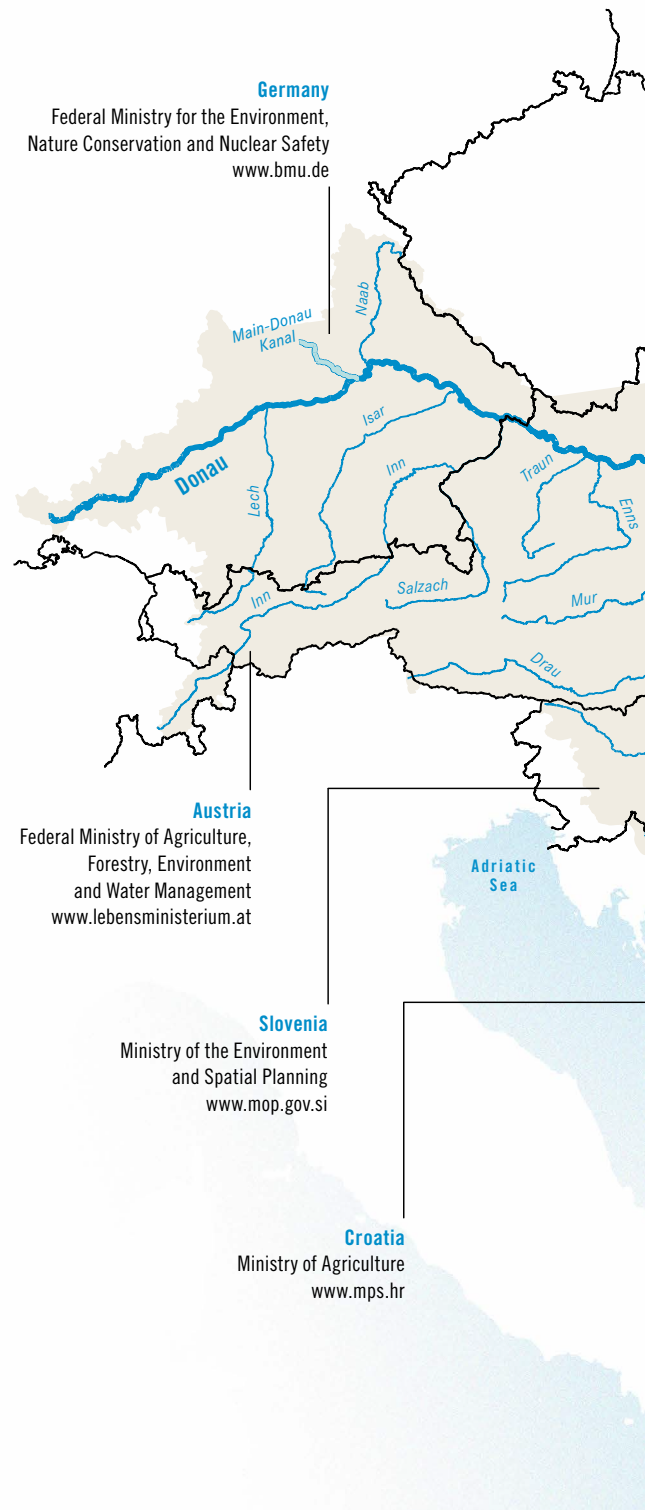
Marta MOREN-ABAT, as of July Nicola NOTARO, European Commission, DG Environment  
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## European Union

European Commission, DG Environment  
[www.ec.europa.eu/environment](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment)

## Germany

Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
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[www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)



## Austria

Federal Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry, Environment  
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## Slovenia

Ministry of the Environment  
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[www.mop.gov.si](http://www.mop.gov.si)

## Croatia

Ministry of Agriculture  
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**Montenegro**  
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**Republic of Serbia**  
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 Ministry of Environment and Water  
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