
Danube River Basin Management Plan: Public Participation



Outline of the public participation activities of the ICPDR in 2008-2009 - to secure the active participation of stakeholders in the development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan

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1 Background

The timely and effective implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube River Basin District is a priority for the ICPDR. A detailed “Road Map for the Developing of the Danube River Basin District Management Plan” on how to achieve this ambitious tool has been developed and approved for implementation (see: IC 110).

Since the very beginning the information, consultation and active involvement through different means of the public, including the representation and participation of organised stakeholder groups has been ranked high on the ICPDR agenda. The respective activities are based on the “Public Participation Strategy” (IC WD 160), the “ICPDR Stakeholder Analysis” and are also included in the activity list of the “Road Map”.

The public participation work of the ICPDR is based on the following principles:

- *Public participation has to be seen as a process and is not a one-time event. The ICPDR has therefore a strategic approach and plans the activities carefully and in line with the other activities for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.*
- *Public participation activities need to be tailor-made for different stakeholder groups; the ICPDR therefore agreed on the following three strategies:*
 - a. *Information of wide stakeholder groups using different tools such as the ICPDR website, the Danube Watch Magazine, publications and presentations.*
 - b. *Consultation of stakeholder groups after the first draft of plans has been finalised. This includes the organisation of open stakeholder events, topic-specific discussions with selected groups and collecting inputs / comments through electronic means, via the circulation of feedback forms.*
 - c. *Active participation during all stages of the development of strategies and plans; stakeholder groups which are recognised as observers to the ICPDR have the possibility to actively participate in all ICPDR Expert Groups and therefore to actively influence the outcomes. In special cases the ICPDR also contacts stakeholder groups actively to seek their input and to encourage their cooperation as observer.*
- *Public participation is only successful if carried out on and coordinated amongst all four levels: Danube River basin level (international level), sub-basin level (transboundary or/and national), national level (the key “implementing” and managing level), local level (where the WFD actually gets implemented). The ICPDR ad-hoc Public Participation Expert Group is ensuring this exchange of information and expertise in the Danube river basin.*
- *Of specific importance is the implementation of the concept of public participation at the sub-basin level. The ICPDR will strive to ensure the public participation in the different sub-basin initiatives, such as the Tisza sub-basin.*
- *This document only focuses on the basin-wide level and is complementary to the public participation processes on the national and sub-basin levels, which follow closely Article 14 of the WFD and its timetable. To participate on the national and sub-basin public participation processes, please get in contact with the respective national ministries responsible for the implementation of the WFD.*

2 Overall Goal and Objectives

The most important public participation step according to Article 14 of the WFD is the consultation on the River Basin Management Plan, including the programmes of measures. In case of the basin-wide level in the Danube river basin, this involves information and consultation about the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBP) including the Joint Programme of Measures (JPM).

The objectives can be listed as follows:

1. *The stakeholders (on the basin-wide level) are informed on the activities for public participation of the ICPDR.*
2. *The stakeholders are adequately informed about the DRBMP, especially the significant water management issues.*
3. *The comments and input of the stakeholder groups is collected.*
4. *The input of the stakeholders is reflected in the final DRBMP.*
5. *Feedback/information is given to stakeholder groups on how the comments have been taken into account in the final DRBMP.*

3 Activities and Timeplan

Ongoing public participation activities	
All accredited observers are actively participating in the ongoing work of the ICPDR (especially in the River Basin Management Expert Group and the Pressures and Measures Expert Group) and are providing their input in the development of the DRBMP.	ongoing
Specific discussions are held with selected key stakeholders about the activities of the ICPDR regarding the implementation of the WFD; such stakeholders include the navigation sector, detergent industry, agriculture, the metal industry, etc. The results of these discussions will be publicly available. These discussions are driven by the needs of the ICPDR Expert Groups.	ongoing
Specific public participation activities focused on the DRBMP	
Raise awareness and inform wider stakeholder groups about the opportunity for public participation, the activities and the timetable regarding the DRBMP in 2008/2009 (as listed below) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including a note on the ICPDR website with links to the national activities and the relevant national internet addresses • including a statement in the fact sheet of the significant water management issues • publishing an article in the Danube Watch • direct mailings to stakeholder groups • publishing information in other media 	From 2008 onwards

Publish the Document on Status of Preparation of the DRBM PLAN , which should be used for the participation activities in the respective countries of the Danube River Basin.	December 2008
The draft DRBMP is approved by the ICPDR and ready for being discussed with the public.	April 2009 ¹
The draft DRBMP is made available to the public. In addition a feedback form is developed and distributed to the stakeholders to collect comments / feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft DRBMP and feedback form published on the ICPDR website • draft DRBMP and feedback form actively sent to the stakeholders 	April – June 2009
A series of roundtable discussions on specific topics (suggested by the Expert Groups) are organised for selected stakeholder groups; these discussions are open to a limited number of persons to keep them focused and target oriented (10-15 people).	until June 2009
2nd ICPDR Stakeholder Forum²: 1.5 day conference with workshop discussion on selected topics 100 participants representing the stakeholders groups of the basin-wide level Moderation and steering of the discussion by the members of the ICPDR EG	May/June 2009
Analysing the input of the stakeholders, providing feedback to the national level³ and revising the draft DRBMP where feasible.	May - November 2009
Approval of the DRBM at a Ministerial Meeting. The DRBMP will be published.	January / February 2010
A response paper on the inputs is developed and published, so that the stakeholders can see how their input has been considered by the ICPDR.	Spring 2010

4 Budget

The minimum budget of the different activities should be included in the regular budget of the ICPDR:

Publications	10.000 €
Roundtable discussions	each 5.000 €
<u>2nd Stakeholder Forum</u>	<u>20.000 €</u>
	50.000 – 60.000 €

1 It is important that this task will be implemented until end of April 2009, as the following tasks are depending on the availability (and approval) of the draft DRBMP.

2 In nature and style the 2nd ICPDR Stakeholder Forum refers to the 1st ICPDR Stakeholder Forum, which was organised to discuss and get feedback on the Danube River Basin Analysis in 2005.

3 All feedback and comments received will be passed on to the national levels by end of June 2009 at the latest.