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International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

ICPDR Annual Report 2007

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



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1. Foreword

The year 2007 highlighted important issues within the basin – from the threat of floods and questions about whether our detergent is safe, to concerns about sturgeon migration and sustainable navigation.

This Annual Report not only highlights the activities of the ICPDR over the past year, but also chronicles five years of commitment by the ICPDR and its partners to implement the Joint Action Programme throughout the Danube Basin – an outstanding experience which has been a total success. The results of this initiative will give us the opportunity to see the status of the Danube environment and to outline the main steps to achieve ‘good water’ status in the basin.

The ICPDR should be proud of its achievements in legislation and investments in the basin. Several major accomplishments stand out from this year, including development of a common flood risk assessment and a joint approach for flood control in transboundary areas.

Another important achievement was the start of the operation of the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN), now in compliance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. In addition, the successful Joint Danube Survey 2 was carried out in August and September and its results will give us the opportunity to better know the status of the Danube and provide the basis for further steps to achieve the best for the environment and the people.

The ICPDR is a model of success among other international river basins – a unique organisation that brings together individuals from all levels of government, as well as from the private sector and civil society, to solve problems and seize special opportunities within the Danube River Basin. Our outstanding achievement in river restoration and management was recognised in 2007 with the award of the International Thiess River prize – the most significant and valuable prize in the field worldwide – for the ICPDR’s collaborative approach to improve water quality.



*Lucia Ana Varga,
ICPDR President 2007
State Secretary of the
Ministry of Environment and
Sustainable Development
of Romania*

Over the last year, we have seen an increase in the political awareness and commitment needed to better tackle future environmental challenges. In February, Romania organised a meeting of the Environmental Ministers of the Danube and Black Sea countries to improve cooperation between the ICPDR and Black Sea Commission. Based on an agreement reached at this meeting, we should develop specific programmes and projects for future water environment protection.

Finally, at the end of 2007 we started a dialogue with the business community from the Danube River Basin. The first meeting was held in Romania and both the ICPDR and business community agreed to develop closer cooperation to allow sustainable development of the region.

Looking ahead, the ICPDR faces many challenges, especially the development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. I am confident that by building on the work completed in 2007, the ICPDR will be more effective than ever in our efforts to facilitate the dialogue through which individuals make sustainable lifestyle choices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucia Ana Varga'.

Lucia Ana Varga,
ICPDR President 2007

2. Working for the Danube River Basin: operational and institutional framework

The ICPDR is the largest and most active international body of river basin management experts in Europe. The mission of the ICPDR is to promote and coordinate sustainable water management, including conservation, improvement and the rational use of waters for the benefit of all people of the Danube River Basin.

Since its creation in 1998 the ICPDR has effectively promoted policy agreements and set joint priorities and strategies to improve the state of the Danube and its tributaries. Today national delegates, representatives from the highest ministerial levels, technical experts and members of the civil society and the scientific community all work together under the ICPDR. In 2007, Montenegro informed the ICPDR of its intention to join the ICPDR – since its territory includes more than 2,000 km² of the Danube River Basin – and to participate in the work of the Commission. Ratification of the Danube River Protection Convention is hoped to take place in 2008.

The Romanian Presidency in 2007, under the leadership of President Lucia Ana Varga, continued to ensure the effective functioning of the ICPDR and pursued selected new initiatives. In addition to continuing efforts to prepare the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBM Plan), Ms. Varga mobilised the interest and commitment of Romania to host the [Danube Black Sea Ministerial Conference](#) that provided a political commitment to continue the actions that have improved water

quality in the Danube and the Black Sea. As the largest country in the Danube and a Black Sea coastal country, Romania was ideally suited to provide the leadership to strengthen the link between these two regions on water management.

Bringing experts together

The active participation of all countries in Expert Groups ensures success in fulfilling the goals of the Danube River Protection Convention. Expert Groups have the possibility to form Task Groups, where specific tasks requiring specific experience arise.

Task Groups involve experts from the respective group as well as additional experts. Task Groups have specific mandates and their work is usually time-specific. Several Task Groups were active in 2007. [The Accident Prevention Task Group](#) works to increase public safety by preventing accidental pollution and improving precautionary control. The technological and organisational safety levels of some

Structure of the Cooperation

ICPDR – Delegations of the Contracting Parties

ICPDR Secretariat				
Expert Groups and Task Groups	River Basin Management Expert Group	Pressures and Measures Expert Group	Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group	Flood Protection Expert Group
	Hydromorphology Task Group	Accident Prevention Task Group	Groundwater Task Group	Flood Monitoring and Forecasting Task Group
	Economics Task Group	Nutrients Task Group	Accident Emergency Warning System Task Group	
Supported by	Ad hoc Info and GIS Expert Group	Ad hoc Public Participation Expert Group	Ad hoc Strategic Expert Group	



The Danube Black Sea Ministerial Conference organised under the Romanian ICPDR Presidency brought together high-ranking political representatives to discuss and approve strategies to enhance the cooperation between the Danube and the Black Sea countries.

industrial plants in lower Danube countries still present deficiencies which have caused or still pose considerable risk. The ICPDR regularly updates the inventory of high potential risk sites and promotes the implementation of guidelines and checklists to improve the plant safety level with regards to water protection. With the use of checklists and the help of trained inspectors, the efficiency, as well as the comparability of the technical safety checks can be improved. [The Accident Emergency and Warning System Task Group](#) coordinates basin-wide communication of alarm and information messages.

In addition, several Task Groups were set up to facilitate the work for the Danube River Basin Management Plan. [The Hydromorphology Task Group](#) works to update the hydromorphology chapter in the Danube River Basin Analysis 2004, and to assess the status and the compilation of the respective national programmes for the Joint Programme of Measures of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. [The Economic Task Group](#) supports the compilation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan and the Joint Programme of Measures (JPM) related to the economic aspects of the EU Water Framework Direc-

tive, with a focus on the collection and assessment of economic data and the development of basin-wide economic indicators for the significant water management issues. [The Nutrients Task Group](#) focuses on the development of appropriate approaches for nutrient management tools to be promoted through the Danube River Basin Management Plan and the related reduction scenarios. [The Groundwater Task Group](#) focuses on monitoring groundwater and on the development of joint programmes for the protection and sustainable use of international groundwater bodies.

Observers add expertise

The active involvement of the public is a core principle in sustainable water management, and the ICPDR is committed to encouraging involvement by groups and observers. In 2007, four organisations (detailed below) joined the ICPDR as observers, representing diverse interests. These new observers will provide valuable input and expertise and ensure an even broader level of involvement in the work of the ICPDR.



Since the 1990s, [Friends of Nature International \(IFN\)](#) has supported sustainable development in cross-border regions by granting the Landscape of the Year distinction. The IFN helps such regions by mounting activities, offering advice on professional tourism and regional development and fostering media and public relations. The Danube Delta has been chosen as the Landscape of the Years 2007-2009.

The [European Anglers Alliance \(EAA\)](#) was launched in Brussels in 1994 and has 5 million members in 19 countries. The mission of the EAA is to safeguard the fish stocks and fisheries of Europe and to protect the interests of all those who fish with rod and line for recreational purposes.

The [Central Dredging Association \(CEDA\)](#) provides a forum for all those involved in activities related to dredging and who live or work in Europe, Africa or the Middle-East. CEDA encompasses a wide range of disciplines and activities and does not represent the interests of any particular industry sector.

The [European Water Association \(EWA\)](#) is one of the major professional associations in Europe covering the entire water sector – from drinking water to wastewater as well as water-related waste. The EWA provides a forum for the discussion of key technical and policy issues affecting the growing European region.



The various meetings of the ICPDR serve as the major platform to define common goals and agree on joint initiatives.

3. The 'Blue' Danube: water quality and hydrological situation in the Danube River Basin

The waters of the Danube River Basin connect 19 countries and the water quantity and quality affect the lives of some 81 million people living in the region.

Though famously declared 'Blue' in the popular waltz by Strauss, the Danube ranges in colour as it flows across Europe. In its journey from the Black Forest to the Black Sea, the conditions of quality and quantity in its waters change considerably.

In 2007, the total discharge of the Danube River was 177.6 km³, which was approximately 85.8% of the long-term average total annual discharge of 207 km³. In terms of the average mean flow, its value in 2007 was 5630 m³s⁻¹ to the long-term average of 6500 m³s⁻¹.

On 27 September 2007, the 50-day Danube expedition (Joint Danube Survey 2 or 'JDS2') was successfully completed with a final event held in Tulcea, Romania. All 124 of the sampling sites along the Danube and its main tributaries were sampled. The collected data will be analysed in laboratories and scientific institutes across Europe, and the final conclusive results will be reported to the public in the late summer of 2008.

Hydrological situation

In the **Upper Danube**, 2007 was another year in succession showing higher-than-average sunshine duration and remarkably higher air temperatures. This trend was most evident in winter and spring, when temperatures were significantly elevated (January, February, March, April and May), deviating as much as +5°C in January. In many regions in Bavaria, April was the warmest month since weather recording began. The sum of precipitation in the upper Danube Basin was comparable to the long-term mean 1961/1990, but not adequately seasonally balanced: while April, June and October were drier than

normal, May and August were wetter than average. Unusually high precipitation in September (250% of the long-term average) caused a flood situation at the Enns and the eastern Part of Lower Austria.

The **Middle Danube** also experienced extreme precipitation in September, but in general there was a water deficit in this area in 2007. The annual stream flow in Slovenia was 30% below long-term mean flow and medium to low flow conditions prevailed in Hungary too. Heavy and abundant precipitation which affected the western, north-western and northern parts of Slovenia on 18 September 2007, caused a quick rise in river discharges especially in the region of Baška grapa, Dav a, the Cerkljansko and Škofja Loka Hills. The high waters of the Savinja River put its middle and lower reaches at risk. The Dravinja flooded in the middle and lower reaches as well. The discharge of the Sava River was increased in the middle and lower part. The discharges exceeded the one hundred year return period.

In the **Lower Danube** area in Romania, the mean temperatures were 1.6°C - 2°C higher than climatologically normal in most regions (expressed as a long-term mean over 1961-1990) and winter 2006-2007 was the warmest ever recorded. There were significant differences in precipitation in the Lower Danube area on a monthly level: in April, June and July, precipitation deficits were recorded in most regions, the highest values being registered in western Romania and in most parts of the southern territories (April); and from August precipitation was higher than climatologically normal over large areas.

Discrepancies in hydrological characteristics between particular months were remarkable. Flooding events occurred in February, March, September, October and November in many river basins. However, from April to August very low discharges were recorded on Romanian rivers due to the prolonged meteorological drought. At the end of July, the absence of rainfall determined a continuous decrease in discharge of the Danube in the Bazia section to 2700 m³/s and continued into August. These low discharge values caused water levels to fall below that necessary for navigation from July until the first part of September.

Water quality situation

Due to the meteorological conditions in the spring, 2007 higher-than-average water temperatures were recorded in **Bavaria, Germany**. Concentrations of dissolved oxygen were highly determined by high photosynthetic activity resulting in significant daily variations in oxygen content including frequent over-saturation. Algal blooms usually occurring in the Danube River in the early autumn had already developed during the period March to May. Total phosphorus declined in 2007, while nitrogen remained at a constant level. Priority and hazardous substances were generally low or not detectable.

Besides a slight improvement in several chemical parameters and chlorophyll, no significant changes in water quality in TNMN sites in the **Czech Republic** were recorded.

In **Slovakia** there were no significant changes observed in the water quality compared to 2005-2006. Generally for the Danube River itself – as well as for its tributaries – quality elements representing the oxygen regime, basic physical-chemical elements and nutrients indicated good quality of the surface waters (except for nutrients in the Ipeľ River). An unacceptable water quality situation was observed for aluminium concentrations and for the microbiological elements (based on the national classification system). No significant changes in water quality were observed in **Hungary** in 2007.

Watch your Danube

Regensburg, 14 Aug → Wien, 20 Aug →
Bratislava, 22 Aug → Budapest, 28 Aug →
Osijek, 2 Sep → Beograd, 6 Sep →
Turnu Severin, 12 Sep → Ruse, 19 Sep →
Vilkovo, 25 Sep → Tulcea, 27 Sep

A fleet of three ships is travelling down the entire Danube River. They include scientists from all Danube countries. Looking into the Danube to uncover what lies beneath the surface, they are testing the water for pollution and waste and seeing what kinds of organisms depend on the river for their lives – from tiny plankton to fish.

We all want clean water for drinking and swimming, and as a home for the plants and animals that we love and care for. We are watching your Danube. You can too.

Get involved! Online (www.icpdr.org/JDS) you can view the JDS2 and some of its results, stories and pictures. Or just come to the river and see it live!



In [Slovenia](#) the water quality in 2007 improved in comparison with previous years. This improvement could be seen at monitoring stations as a reduction in dissolved metals concentration. The water quality of the Sava at the Jesenice na Dolenjskem monitoring station also improved through reduced emissions of AOX. According to the saprobic index for benthic invertebrate fauna, the water of both Slovenian Transnational Monitoring Network stations belongs to quality class II.

There were no significant long-term changes in water quality observed in [Serbia](#); however, several events of river water quality deterioration were recorded in 2007. At the Tisza River an oxygen deficiency was observed between 31 August and 7 September at the Senta, Padej, Novi Becej and Titel profiles and at the mouth of the river. High concentrations of orthophosphates and COD_{Mn} were detected in the Tisza at the Padej profile. In July in the Velika Morava, as well as in the Danube River downstream of the Velika Morava confluence, the phenol index and total zinc concentrations were above the 'good' class limit.

In [Romania](#) in 2007, water quality classes I and II were recorded in about 74 % of the total river length; class III in about 20 % of the total river length and class IV and class V in about 6 % of the length of all monitored rivers. This evaluation was based only on the saprobic index of macroinvertebrate communities, using a modified non type-specific Pantle-Buck method.

The implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) made the revision of the Transnational Monitoring Network (TNMN) in the Danube River Basin District necessary. The revised TNMN is under operation as of 2007 – in line with the WFD implementation timeline.

Joint Danube Survey 2: A fleet of three research ships travelled down the Danube River – from Germany to the Black Sea. The ships included scientists from all of the Danube countries, who investigated the Danube to uncover what lies beneath the surface and communicate their discoveries to the wider public.



4. Achieving basin-wide goals: implementing the EU Water Framework Directive

In 2000, the EU Water Framework Directive came into force, requiring all EU waters to reach 'good status' by 2015. In response, countries cooperating under the Danube River Protection Convention, including those outside the EU, agreed to implement the Directive throughout the basin.

The first step of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) process was completed in 2004 with the 'Danube Basin Analysis', or Roof Report. The Roof Report helped identify four **significant water management issues (SWMI)** in the Danube Basin District for surface waters: organic pollution, nutrient pollution, pollution by hazardous substances and alterations to hydromorphology (such as changes to the structural characteristics of the shape, boundaries and content of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters). It also identified and two transboundary groundwater issues including alterations to quality and quantity. Four issue papers were published in 2007 on each of the surface water issues and were made available to the ICPDR website.

The development of the DRBM Plan/Joint Programme of Measures (JPM) is the main objective and all the ICPDR Expert Groups and Task Groups are working jointly in close cooperation to achieve this. In addition, the work of the ICPDR towards the WFD receives the strong support of the European Commission.

Identifying significant issues

The four SWMI papers served as a basis for the SWMI Document, published in 2007. The SWMI Document includes **visions and operational management objectives** for each SWMI, supporting the guidance of work towards the common aims of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. The proposed visions are based on shared values and describe the environmental objective for the basin with a long-term perspective. The SWMI Document also includes the implementation time plan and milestones toward the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

The SWMI Document was prepared by the River Basin Management Expert Group with coordinated support from the other ICPDR groups – especially the Pressures and Measures Expert Group. The document was finalised by the ICPDR at the Ordinary Meeting 2007 and made available to the wider public on the ICPDR website. A summary document for the SWMI Document was created and is also available on the website.

Working towards the Joint Programme of Measures

In 2007, a coordinated discussion began on the data collection for the DRBM Plan/JPM. The collection of data towards the DRBM Plan/JPM is an important part of the timeline and the data will serve as the basis of the plan. Data will be collected to update and fill the gaps of the Roof Report and to report the measures of the national Programme of Measures regarding each SWMI to be included in the JPM. Data collection for the DRBM Plan/JPM will begin in 2008.

Taking action

Further work towards the DRBM Plan includes activities on sturgeon issues in the region. The ICPDR began development of a project proposal towards a feasibility study on **Re-opening migration routes for sturgeon and other migratory species to enable upstream and downstream passage at the Iron Gate Dams 1 and 2 including habitat surveys** as part of the management objectives for hydromorphological alterations in the SWMI Document. The project proposal will be submitted within the EU Transnational Cooperation Programme – South Eastern European Space in 2008. The project aims to conserve and protect sturgeon and other migratory species in the DRB and – if successful – will help achieve the basin-wide management objective regarding hydromorphological alterations in the basin as part of the DRBM Plan/JPM.



In October, a workshop with significant support from the ICPDR Task Group on Economics was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the WFD and economic issues. The workshop contributed to the development of practical and pragmatic economic approaches – in terms of baseline scenarios, cost effectiveness, cost-benefit analysis/exemptions and cost recovery – as required by the WFD. The outcomes of the workshop helped to identify economic issues of relevance on the basin-wide scale and to further develop an appropriate approach towards the DRBM Plan. These issues will be advanced in 2008 by the Economics Task Group.

Addressing shared threats

Climate change is on top of the global political agenda; however, the issue has not been addressed explicitly in the work of the ICPDR. Recognising the increasing importance of the topic in the region, the Austrian Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and of European and International Affairs together with the ICPDR organised the international conference [Adaptation of Water Management to Effects of Climate Change in the Danube River Basin](#), held in Vienna on 3 December 2007. The results of this workshop will support the development of this chapter on climate change in the DRBM Plan.

To ensure comparison of national quality classes among countries – as required by the normative definitions of the WFD – an intercalibration exercise has been performed in recent years and was partially finalised in 2006. The EU Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy had a leading role in this process. Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia participated in the exercise of the Eastern Continental GIG. Furthermore, new leadership of the EC GIG was determined at the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR: The Czech Republic and Hungary will co-lead the EC River GIG and Romania will lead the EC Lake GIG.

In 2007, the ICPDR developed visions and management objectives for the major significant water management issues, including organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution and hydromorphological alterations.

5. Water management at all levels: river sub-basins

Countries are working to produce river basin management plans for all of the Danube's major sub-basins – the Prut, Sava and Tisza Rivers, as well as the Danube Delta – to ensure that the waters of the region are protected at all levels.

According to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), member states may supplement river basin management plans by producing more detailed programmes and management plans for sub-basins. The ICPDR has taken an active role in sub-basin planning – supporting and encouraging the processes and assisting in stakeholder involvement as well as providing additional information to local and regional planners.

The Prut River Basin

The Prut River Basin is one of the four sub-basins for which sub-basin plans should be developed as part of the Danube River Basin WFD implementation process. The basin (27,500 km²) is shared by Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

The main challenges the Prut River Basin faces in implementing the WFD, especially in Ukraine and Moldova, are overcoming the lack of data regarding chemical and biological monitoring of the tributaries; establishing special monitoring for water bodies which are possibly at risk of failing 'good status' so that pressures can be determined and generating models and adopting evaluation criteria to complete water quality characterisation.

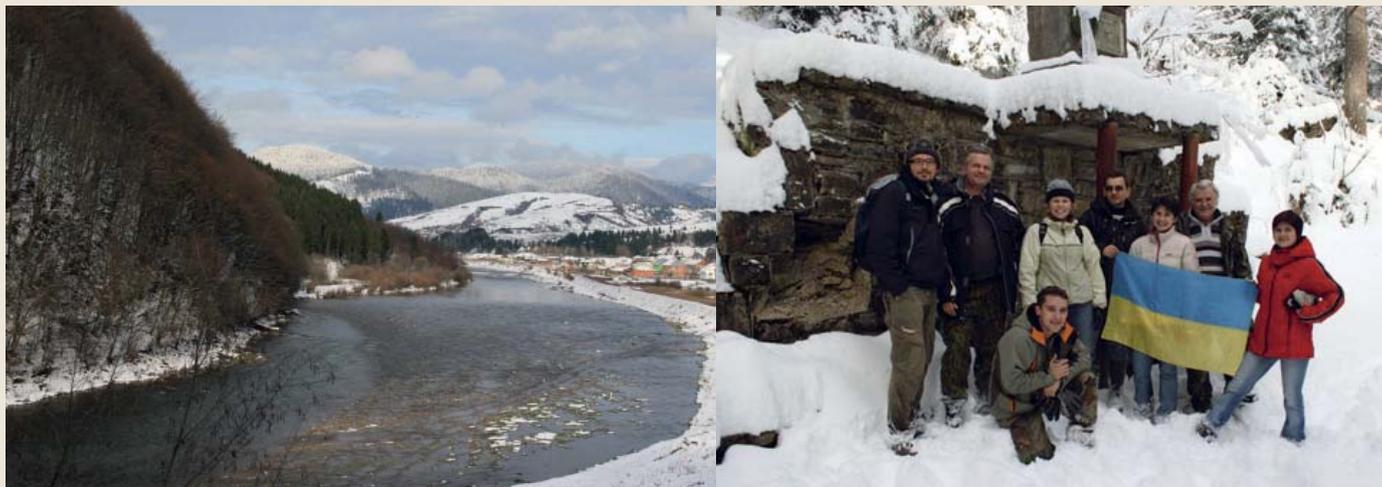
During 2007, an inter-ministerial unit was established in Moldova as a strategic body with responsibilities for WFD issues. Meetings throughout the year set the work plan and focused on new water law in Moldova; and how it fits to the provisions of the WFD. The inter-ministerial unit also identified the data needed for the development of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan for the Danube in Moldova, discussed how to clarify gaps and uncertainties and determined future steps to overcome the main problems and continue to reach deadlines.

The Sava River Basin

The Sava has the largest discharge of water to the Danube of any tributary and is the second largest by catchment area (95,719 km²). The Sava River Basin is shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

The first meeting of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia on June 1st 2007. At the meeting, the parties adopted the report on the work of the Sava Commission from 2004 –2007, the Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and the Declaration of the First Meeting of the Parties. To strengthen the connection between ICPDR and ISRBC, the two commissions began to develop the Memorandum of Understanding in 2007. The Memorandum of Understanding between the ICPDR and the Sava Commission should be signed on 5 June 2008 in Belgrade as one of the numerous events that will be organised in order to celebrate Sava Day.

The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project – Development of Sava River Basin Management Plan – Pilot Project was finalised in February 2007. The project provided an overview of the quality and quantity of data gaps for WFD implementation and supported the development of a Pragmatic Sava River Basin Management Plan in 2007. This plan, together with national plans, will serve as the basis for action on transboundary issues in the Sava River Basin and for future investments by international and bilateral donors.



The Tisza River Basin is the largest sub-basin in the Danube River Basin. In October 2007, the 'Tisza River Basin Analysis 2007: Summary Report – A Call to Action' was adopted by the Ministers of the Tisza countries in the frame of the 6th Ministerial Meeting 'Environment for Europe'.

The Tisza River Basin

The Tisza River Basin, at 157,186 km², is the largest sub-basin in the Danube River Basin and the Tisza River is the longest tributary of the Danube. The Tisza River Basin is shared by Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The Tisza Group is the platform for strengthening coordination and information exchange related to international, regional and national activities in the Tisza River Basin and to ensure harmonisation and effectiveness of related efforts. The Tisza Group countries agreed to prepare the Tisza River Basin Management Plan by 2009, integrating issues on water quality and water quantity, land and water management, flood and drought.

The first step toward this object is the 'Tisza River Basin Analysis 2007: Summary Report – A Call to Action', which was presented publicly by the Ministers of the Tisza countries within the framework of the 6th Ministerial Meeting 'Environment for Europe' in Belgrade in October 2007. The summary report presents the key assets and risks in the Tisza River Basin, as well as a suggested plan of action for the future. The report was based on Tisza Group work then in progress for an extensive technical report – the 'Analysis of the Tisza River Basin – 2007' – the final version of which will be available in 2008.

The Danube Delta

A Joint Declaration of the Heads of Delegations from Moldova, Romania and Ukraine on cooperation in the Danube Delta was drafted by the ICPDR and revised at the 9th Ordinary Meeting.

As a first step towards the Danube River Basin Management Plan, the declaration includes the elaboration of a joint analysis on the current situation in the Danube Delta using the Danube Basin Analysis 2004 as a template. The Memorandum of Understanding declares that the Danube Delta countries are committed to an integrated international Danube Delta cooperation; agree to cooperate more closely in the framework of the ICPDR to achieve the ecological status of Danube Delta set by the WFD and agree to prepare a Danube Delta Analysis Report.

The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding aim to develop coordinated river basin management planning; measures for the protection and sustainable use of water resources; harmonised monitoring, and nutrient and sediment control to reduce environmental risks, prevent transboundary pollution and increase environmental safety.

The Delta Declaration is a major step toward establishing effective cooperation which will support sustainable development in the Danube Delta Region to improve the quality of life for the people living in the region.

6. Clean rivers and a healthy environment: pollution control strategies

Throughout the basin, planning and construction is under way to provide advanced water pollution control to reduce the long-term effects of pollution, such as diminished biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems and threats to drinking water.

Reducing pollution is a practical concern for the ICPDR. Full integration of EU policies into national law and basin-wide pollution control strategies is a long-term challenge for the ICPDR. In the short term, the ICPDR proposes a gradual approach based on key priority objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

In response to the WFD requirements, a new system to collect and calculate emission data for the whole basin has been designed which links in with the efforts of non-EU countries in the Danube River Basin. This will facilitate a harmonised data collection system and methodology for all Danube countries.

Cooperating on regional problems

The ICPDR's water pollution abatement activities continue to focus on the effective coordination of approaches to regional problems. The ICPDR has undertaken one stage of the characterisation involving the assessment of pressures on water bodies, including point and diffuse sources of pollution. This assessment allows for the identification of those water bodies which are at risk of failing to meet relevant WFD objectives.

The results of the Danube Basin Analysis 2004 are being used to build further information about the pressures, impacts and the economic aspects of water uses. This is necessary to develop measures and compare their likely effectiveness in supporting achievement of WFD objectives. Detailed information on pressures and impacts is needed to justify cases for designating water bodies as heavily modified or artificial, and cases for exemptions from the Directive's objectives.

The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

There has been a high level of transposition of the EU Directives into the national legislations of the Danube countries. The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) and the Directive for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) are considered the most challenging areas for compliance. This is reflected in the negotiated derogation periods and agreed upon long transition periods for the UWWTD (such as 2010 for the Czech Republic, 2015 for Slovenia and 2018 for Romania) or on the IPPC Directive (2012 for the Czech Republic, 2011 Slovenia, and 2015 for Romania).

The Pressures and Measures Expert Group prepared the methodologies to improve the pressures analyses for municipal, agricultural and industrial sectors. For Danube countries, the overall goal is to make the best use of mandatory reporting requirements and time constraints given by the implementation of the WFD. All Danube countries have provided data on the EU Directives (UWWTD, IPPC, etc) using the same methodology as the Member States.

The preliminary assessment - concluded by the end of 2007 on the development of urban wastewater treatment in the Danube River Basin - aims to give a comprehensive overview of status, development plans, generalised cost estimates for implementation of the UWWTD for EU and EU Accession Countries or the national development plans for urban wastewater treatment in non-EU countries. The assessment addresses the anticipated impacts of these measures in terms of nutrient and organic pollution loads for the period of 2006-2015.

A total of 1,375 agglomerations with more than 10,000 population equivalents (p.e.) have been reported, served by 1,170 wastewater treatment plants. There are still 226 collecting systems lacking wastewater treatment plants. For agglomerations having between 2,000 and 10,000 p.e, 3,802 have been reported, served by 1,153 wastewater treatment plants. There are still 358 collecting systems lacking wastewater treatment plants.

Development of the E-PRTR for the Danube Basin

Member States are obligated to promote awareness of the European Regulation on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and take appropriate measures to access the information of the E-PRTR. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 12 of the E-PRTR Regulation, the Commission will provide opportunities for public participation in the further development of the E-PRTR.

Through the development of the E-PRTR for the Danube River Basin, integrated National Pollutants Registers (PRTRs) shall be developed in EU Accession States and in non-EU countries in the ICPDR. In order to ensure reporting under the E-PRTR, the ICPDR will launch a broad Danube Basin consultation on the current state of play and possible developments in those areas of environment policy which address impacts of large point and diffuse sources on the environment.

Nutrient pollution

Reducing nutrient pollution is of special importance. The ICPDR's basin-wide vision is balanced management of nutrient emission via point and diffuse sources so that neither the waters of the Danube Basin nor the Black Sea are threatened or impacted by eutrophication.

The ecological situation in the Black Sea has improved considerably over the last decade which has led to reduced eutrophication, the disappearance of anoxic conditions as well as the regeneration of zoo-benthos and phytoplankton. However, the improvement was only partly due to the effect of changed environmental policies. A considerable part of the reduction was caused by economic crises and the consequent drop in the use of fertiliser in the agricultural sector in several lower Danube countries.

However, the rapid economic development might endanger improvements and further efforts have to be taken. The ICPDR works to achieve nutrient reduction by introducing best agricultural practices, conserving wetlands, improving the financial operations of water and wastewater utilities, reducing phosphate use in laundry detergents, and improving public awareness. Therefore in January 2007, the ICPDR organised a workshop to discuss the issue of P-free detergents. It clearly revealed that the use of P-free detergents offers a quick, low cost solution for governments and that there is an urgent need to introduce P-free (phosphate-free) detergents in all Danube countries. In addition, in May 2007 the ICPDR organised an expert workshop to discuss the current understanding of the nutrient sources, and to develop further strategies to prevent the deterioration of the Black Sea.

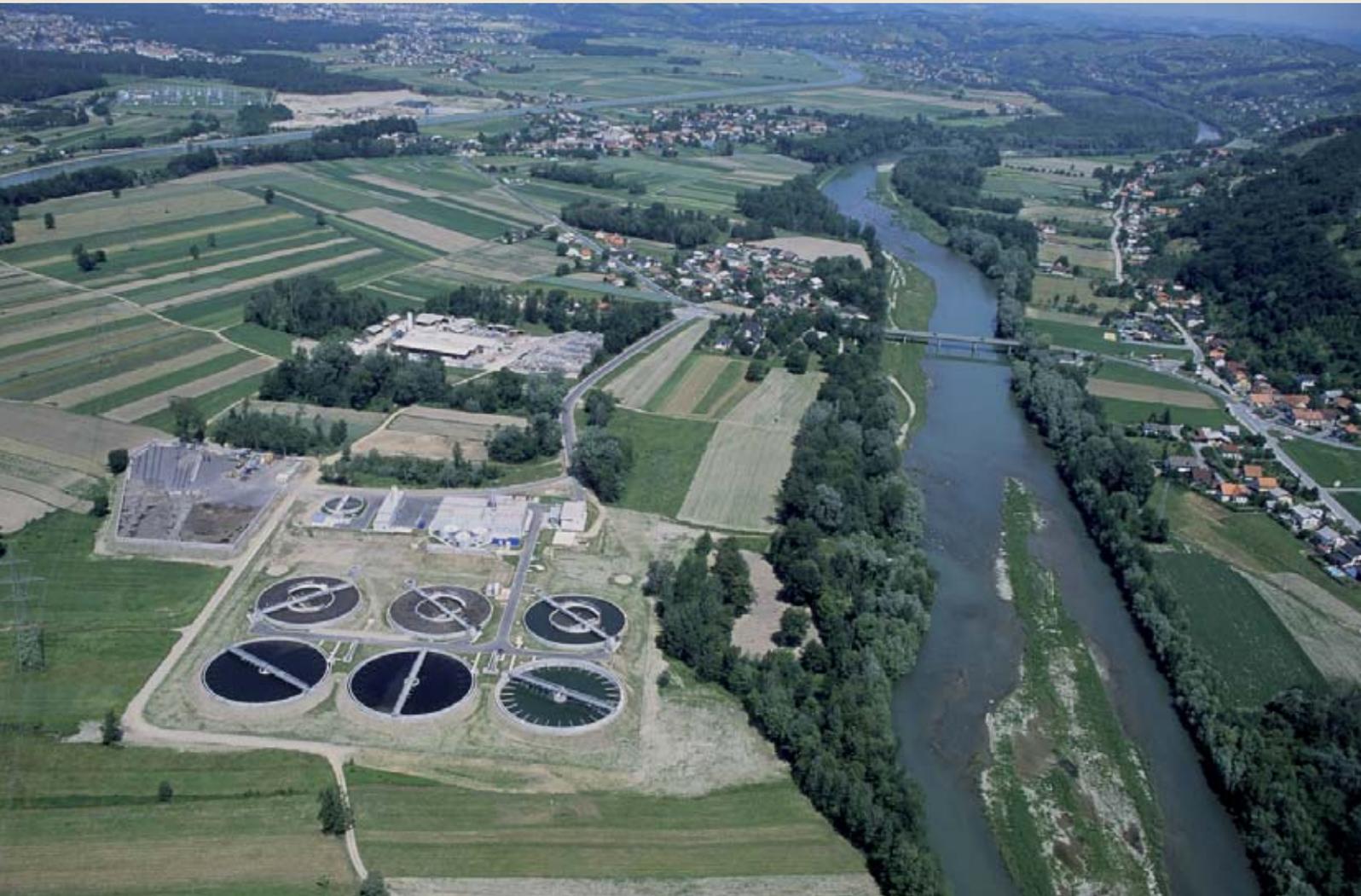


Achievements of the Joint Action Programme

The analysis of the Joint Action Programme shows there has been substantial legislative reform and in particular the implementation of EU community law within the Danube River Basin. The WFD has added strength to the efforts to coordinate actions in support of integrated river basin management and pollution control and reduction. Still the key challenge for non-EU-Danube countries in the policy field is to identify the most effective ways of transposing EU environmental directives. How a country chooses to achieve compliance with EU directives will have a significant influence on compliance costs.

Eutrophication of the north-western Black Sea has decreased over the last decade, but economic growth in the Danube countries might reverse this trend again. It is therefore a key challenge of the ICPDR to develop further strategies to reduce the nutrient load into the Black Sea.

Throughout the basin, planning and construction is under way to provide water pollution control and abatement from municipal and industrial wastewater discharges into the Danube Basin waters. Regulatory demands regarding the implementation of tertiary treatment are variable among the Danube countries, depending primarily on how the sensitivity of surface water resources has been classified in national legislation. The majority of the projects in the countries have tertiary treatment technology, as a result of legislative transposition during the EU accession period. Nitrogen removal is more prevalent than phosphorus removal among the municipal projects. All projects completed in the four new EU-Member States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia) by 2003 have tertiary treatment technology.



Left: The use of phosphate-free detergents offers a quick, low cost solution for governments. There is an urgent need to introduce these detergents in all Danube countries.

Right: One of the major goals of the ICPDR is the efficient operation of wastewater treatment plants throughout the Danube River Basin - as it would remarkably reduce the input of nutrients in the waters of the Danube and the Black Sea.

Many of the municipal sector improvements in Danube countries are only now starting to be realised. Tertiary treatment (nitrogen and phosphorus removal) is being applied for a large number of the upgraded and new wastewater treatment plants. Furthermore, demands for nitrogen and phosphorus removal for wastewater treatment plants in rural communities, representing approximately 40% of the Danube River Basin, are lower than for urban settlements.

A considerable amount of pollution reduction has been achieved through the implementation of 140 municipal wastewater projects amounting to € 3.5 billion. Annual reductions are estimated at more than 198,000 tonnes of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), nearly 32,000 tons of total nitrogen and approximately 11,000 tonnes of total phosphorus.

7. The Danube Accident Emergency Warning System: alerting downstream neighbours

An internet-based information system, integrated with the ICPDR's Danubis system, provides round-the-clock communication in the event of a major transboundary accident.

Snapping into action

The Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) is activated whenever there is a risk of transboundary water pollution, or threshold danger levels of hazardous substances are exceeded. The system's warning messages to downstream countries help national authorities put environmental protection and public safety measures into action. The ICPDR Secretariat maintains the central communication system, which is integrated with the ICPDR information system Danubis.

In 2007, the Danube AEWS was activated by five accidents. As in recent years, the most common polluting substance released by accidents was mineral oil – the oil spills were primarily caused by leaks from on-shore installations. An overview of the events is given in the table below.

More support needed

A test of the AEWS organised in November 2007 showed that with the exception of Principal International Alert Centres (PIAC) in Moldova and in Ukraine (PIAC in Uzgorod), the system is satisfactorily providing its key function – the timely warning of accident pollution. However, national AEWS experts stressed that the PIACs need more attention and support from national governments to ensure appropriate system operation of the Danube AEWS and to guar-



Immediate action by professionals is critical in accidents to prevent further damage to people and environment.

antee round-the-clock preparedness. The Danube AEWS must be adequately linked with all relevant actors at the national level such as fire brigades, police and civil protection to ensure concerted mitigation of accidental spills. Moreover, good international cooperation in accident mitigation must be ensured in the case of accidents involving the potential for a transboundary impact.

Site & date of accident	Affected river	Primary pollutant		Routing of international messages
Vidin 10.01.2007	Danube, rkm 777 to 767	Mineral oil	PIAC09 ► PIAC08, PIAC13 PIAC13 ► PIAC09 PIAC08 ► PIAC09, PIAC13	"Request for information" "Standard message" "End of alert"
Slavonski Brod 22-23.06.2007	Sava, rkm 364 to 354	Mineral oil	PIAC07 ► ISRBC, PIAC06, PIAC14 PIAC07 ► ISRBC, PIAC06, PIAC14 PIAC06 ► PIAC07 PIAC14 ► PIAC07 PIAC14 ► ISRBC, PIAC06, PIAC07	"Request for information" "Request for information" "Standard message" "Standard message" "End of alert"
Pancevo 27.06.2007	Danube, rkm 1154 to 1145	Mineral oil	PIAC13 ► PIAC08, PIAC09 PIAC08 ► PIAC13	"Standard message" "Request for information"
Timok 02.07.2007	Svrljiški Timok and Beli Timok Rivers	Organic substances	PIAC08 ► PIAC13 PIAC13 ► PIAC08	"Request for information" "Standard message"
Satu Mare 13.07.2007	Szomes/Samos	Mineral oil	PIAC05 ► PIAC08 PIAC08 ► PIAC05	"Request for information" "End of alert"

8. Managing risks: flood protection in the Danube River Basin

In the last ten years, floods in Europe have caused 700 deaths, the displacement of half a million people, and €25 billion in insured economic losses. The work of the ICPDR, in line with a new EU directive, is helping to ensure better management of these risks.

The EU Floods Directive (EFD), which entered into force on 26 November 2007, aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such areas, countries then need to draw up flood risk maps by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015.

The ICPDR on target

The basic principles of the EFD were incorporated into the Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection in the Danube River Basin during its preparation four years ago. At present, ICPDR flood protection experts are striving to achieve full compatibility of both these flood policy documents, which are crucial for minimising flood damage in the area. Much attention has also been given to bringing together flood protection with ecological aspects through coordination of flood risk management plans with river basin management plans, and through coordination of the public participation procedures in the preparation of these plans. All assessments, maps and plans prepared shall be made available to the public.

Although floods are natural phenomena, society has become more vulnerable to natural hazards with more people living and working in former floodplains.

To ensure a common approach in flood risk mapping in the Danube River Basin for the future, the ICPDR organised a Flood Risk Mapping Workshop in September 2007. The workshop focused on a comparative overview of available methodologies, and shared information on survey and mapping techniques necessary for the production of digital maps and elevation models.

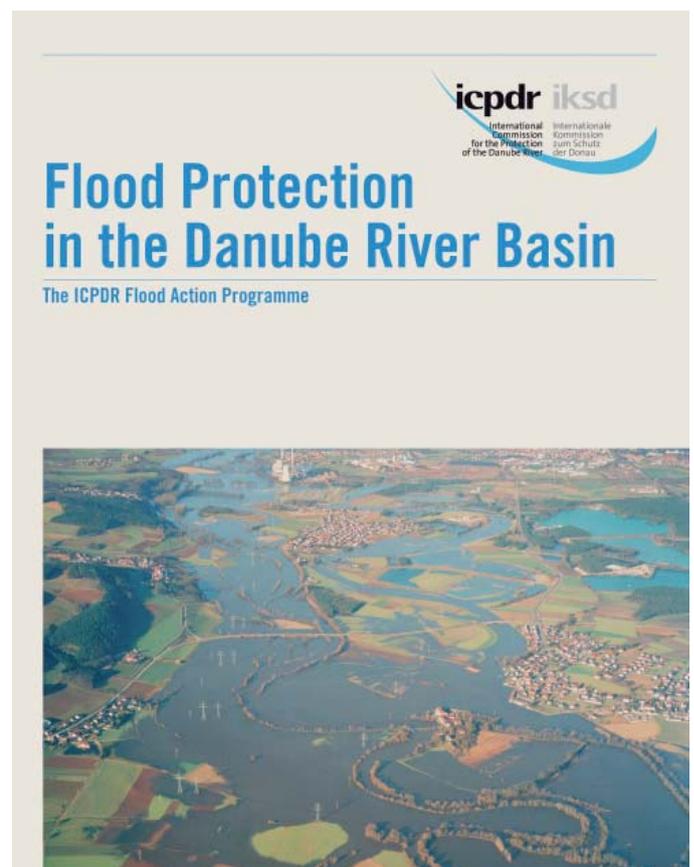
The workshop also addressed the individual and combined impact of uncertainties of mapping methodologies, river and overland flow modelling in flood hazard mapping as well as the use of various flood risk elements (such as population, land uses and economic activities, ecological and cultural values and the vulnerability of all these elements)

in modelling. The key outcome of the workshop was the formulation of the minimum recommendations for flood risk mapping in the Danube River Basin. These recommendations were adopted by the ICPDR and are a milestone for harmonisation of flood risk mapping in the Danube River Basin.

Sharing risk management strategies

An informative fact sheet for the public on the background, principles, basin-wide targets and resources, the sub-basin-wide targets and measures of the ICPDR Flood Action Programme was developed by the Flood Protection Expert Group. The fact sheet also gives advice on how regional development and individuals can contribute to the reduction of flood risks, and contains a list of useful websites in the Danube countries which provide more information on flood risk management issues at the national level.

The ICPDR Flood Fact Sheet provides valuable information on the activities of the ICPDR to assist countries in their efforts to combat damage caused by floods and high waters.



9. Keeping stakeholders involved: information systems and public participation

It takes everyone working together to bring about change in the Danube Basin. ICPDR programmes are bringing vital information to stakeholders and encouraging cooperation to ensure that the ecological value of the river and its tributaries can be preserved for future generations.

The ICPDR provides information via the website www.icpdr.org and two additional websites – dedicated to Danube Day (www.danubeday.org) and the Joint Danube Survey 2 (JDS2, www.icpdr.org/jds) – to decision makers, journalists, scientists and the general public. More than 70,000 people visited the ICPDR website during 2007 and the top 20 visiting countries were the Danube countries plus Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, India, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA. The most visited content covered the Black Sea, river basin management, floods and water pollution. Material on the website is continuously updated with information on ICPDR activities, events and related projects as well as with new issues of Danube Watch magazine.

The [JDS Logbook](#) website was launched in August to accompany the survey with stories, photos and on-board results from the crew. The website includes links to many online press articles and some videos about JDS2 and will be used to present final results in 2008.

Working together to share information

The ICPDR Information System [Danubis](#) provides the delegations and expert groups with an internal working area to share documents and other information related to their work. In 2007, 147 new users were registered to Danubis, bringing the total number of users to 850. Danubis also provides access to several databases – the Emission Inventory Database, the DABLAS Investment Projects Database and the Transnational Monitoring Network, which is updated yearly and currently contains water quality data from 1996 to 2005.

The [Danube Geographical Information System \(GIS\)](#) provides a tool for GIS experts to share and display geo-coded data for harmonisation and map production tasks. Implementation of the system was finished in 2007 and will be extended in 2008 for data collection towards the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

In 2007, three issues of [Danube Watch](#) were published and 8,000 copies were printed per issue and distributed free of charge. Several other publications were produced in 2007 highlighting the work of the ICPDR, including the [Tisza Sub-river Basin: The Call for Action](#); posters, postcards and a calendar for [Danube Day 2007](#); posters, leaflets and fact sheets for the [JDS2](#); the [Annual Report for 2006](#); an ICPDR fact sheet on the [Flood Action Programme](#); the ICPDR [Partnership Handbook](#) and Danube water quality reports for 2003 and 2004.

The success of the ICPDR's work depends on the participation of stakeholder groups in the region. Securing the active participation of stakeholder groups is a cross-sectoral initiative of the ICPDR and is encouraged in all its working groups and delegation meetings.

Inviting public participation

Indeed, stakeholder involvement is not limited to the ad-hoc Public Participation Expert Group, but in fact occurs additionally in all Expert Groups. Only with full and active involvement of interest groups can the ICPDR ensure integrated management of the Danube River Basin.

The [Ad-hoc Public Participation Expert Group](#) focuses on the outreach programme of the ICPDR, including Danube Day and the Danube Box (see chapter 12), and on networking and sharing information between the Danube countries. In 2007 the Public Participation Expert Group continued its work based on the network of experts throughout the basin, focusing on sharing experiences in WFD public participation activities at the national level; linking various different levels of implementation activities for the involvement of the public (local, national, sub-basin, international); communicating results and updates from the JDS2 and discussing and implementing joint outreach projects, such as for Danube Day and the Danube Box.

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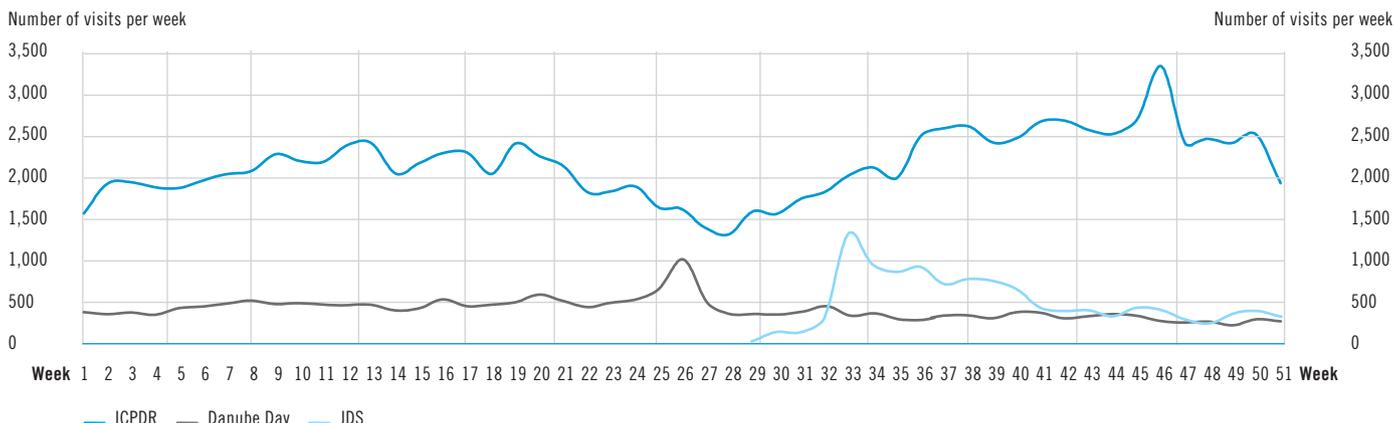
Information on the internet includes the website of the ICPDR, the Danube Day website (not shown) and also newly launched website for the JDS 2, providing readers with valuable tools to access simple and up-to-date information.

Green transport for the blue Danube

Cooperation between the environment and navigation sectors in 2007 resulted in the [Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin](#). The process to create the statement was led by the ICPDR, Danube Commission on Navigation and the International Commission for the Sava River Basin (ICSRB). Over 50 stakeholders, including 12 basin governments and 22 industry and environmental interest groups participated in the year-long process.

This statement will serve as a basis for ensuring that environmental concerns are taken into account in projects to improve navigation – including how to maintain the existing infrastructure such as navigation channels, sluices and ports – without conflict. The dialogue with the navigation sector will also serve as a model for future interactions between the ICPDR and other stakeholders.

Visits to the ICPDR sites in 2007



10. One river, many interests: international and regional cooperation

A shared river means a shared responsibility. To achieve the goal of integrated river basin management, the ICPDR relies on cooperation with regional and international agencies, NGOs and scientific and business communities.

With 81 million people sharing the basin, the Danube River Basin is the most international in the world. As rivers know no borders, it is only through a joint effort that the environmental problems of the region can be effectively addressed.

The ALCOA Foundation

The specific objectives of the ongoing two-year 2006-2007 ALCOA Foundation grant, implemented in the Mures River Basin, fit within the ALCOA specified area of excellence 'Conservation and Sustainability' and aim to support the monitoring efforts of Romania and Hungary in transboundary areas.

The second ALCOA Foundation grant component implemented in 2007 focused on encouraging partnerships between communities, government and NGOs to reduce pollution and protect natural resources. One outcome was a handbook, finalised in 2007, on cultivating and pursuing partnerships with stakeholders. The handbook provides advice on identifying the potential nature and scope for public involvement, ensuring ongoing participation and partnership experiences. The handbook captured the best practices and lessons learned about using water quality monitoring data to communicate with various stakeholders within the Danube River Basin.

Cooperation with the Coca-Cola System

Since 2005, The Coca-Cola Company and its largest European bottler Coca-Cola Hellenic have worked with the ICPDR to encourage stakeholder participation, extend celebrations of Danube Day and bring together local governments, educational institutions and NGOs for hands-on projects throughout the Danube River Basin.

Cooperation with Coca-Cola in 2007 provided financial and technical support in connection with international Danube Day celebrations and for national activities in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. Their support also made it possible for the winners of the 'Danube Art Master' competition to attend the award ceremony held in Budapest and take part in a three-day environmental programme.



Financial and technical support from Coca-Cola also brought the Danube Box to more classrooms throughout the basin. [See Section 12 for more information on these activities.](#)

This year the ICPDR, supported by Coca-Cola, legally created the 'Business Friends of the Danube Fund'. The Fund offers companies the opportunity to enter into long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships that will help to preserve and protect the basin, its resources and ecosystems. Furthermore, Coca-Cola provided support for the communication activities of the Joint Danube Survey 2 as well as for supplies to the survey itself such as bottled water.

Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group

The ICPDR, in line with the previous agreements, annually reports to the Black Sea Commission (BSC) on an agreed set of parameters. In 2007, the ICPDR began evaluating data on the ecological status and content of priority substances in sediments and biota in the Danube region near the Black Sea. The Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) assesses the completeness and suitability of parameters provided and the extent and character of missing data.

The ICPDR's visit to the Mississippi River Commission proved to be valuable for cross fertilisation in the areas of flood management, navigation and wetland restoration.



The sixth meeting of the JTWG took place on 4 June in Istanbul. The focus of the meeting was to update new members of the BSC on issues of common concern and to agree on data exchange between the two commissions and assessment procedures. The Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project agreed to work with the BSC to prepare a table of information on indicators from the data available in the period 2001-2004 and 2005, and the JTWG will revise the completeness and suitability of parameters provided and assesses the extent and character of missing data.

Study tour of high level officials

A seven-member delegation from the ICPDR and the ISRBC visited the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) in August 2007 at the invitation of the US Army Corps of Engineers through their London office of the Engineering Research and Development Centre (ERDC).

The delegation visited the MRC offices, the ERDC Vicksburg offices and laboratories, the US Army Headquarters in Washington D.C. and the US Environmental Protection Agency in D.C. The delegation joined a low-water inspection tour by the MRC and visited ERDC's

Vicksburg offices for discussions with the MRC, the Mississippi Valley Division, the Ecosystem Planning Centre of Expertise and the ERDC on common concerns – such as flood management, navigation and wetland restoration. The US EPA visit focused on wastewater treatment and nutrient management.

The trip generated overwhelmingly positive responses for the Danube and many participants expressed willingness to continue to exchange information and develop collaborative relationships. An agreement with the ERDC identified several common interests, including sturgeon passage, especially by the two Iron Gate dams; flood risk management; floodplain and wetland restoration and the sustainable operation and management of waterways.

11. Looking back on 15 years: the Danube Regional Project comes to a close

The UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project was a flagship model of good practice for applying integrated river basin management to other transboundary river basins across the globe.

In August 2007 the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (DRP) was finalised. During its final years, the DRP implemented 22 project components in 6 key areas: river basin management, agriculture and diffuse pollution, industrial and municipal activities, wetlands, public participation and awareness raising and institutional strengthening. Activities in 2007 were particularly focused on disseminating information on the project's results and achievements.

Sharing success in the region

The DRP organised a Final Seminar in February 2007 in Bucharest, Romania, with representatives from ICPDR country delegations, UNDP/GEF, World Bank and regional NGOs. The seminar presented DRP results, discussed how these results will be used by the ICPDR, and shared feedback and lessons learned from Danube countries and the ICPDR. The seminar was followed by a High-level Ministerial Meeting with representatives from Danube and Black Sea countries hosted by Romania's Prime Minister.

Key Achievements

River Basin Management: analytical documents for the RBMP - Roof Report; Danube GIS prototype; sub-basin initiatives to support WFD implementation; upgrade of TNMN; harmonising intercalibration methods; database for biological parameters to meet WFD monitoring demands; harmonising river typologies and assessing sediment quality in the Iron Gate Reservoir.

Agriculture and Diffuse Pollution: series of agricultural reports, inventories, policy reviews, manuals, pilot projects and trainings; a basin-wide workshop on pollution trading and economic instruments.

Industrial and Municipal Activities: review of industrial pollution legislation and identification of gaps for reforms and measures; policy, institutional and enforcement summary relating to industrial policy reduction; road maps and country-specific work plans for BAT implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine; an ASTEC model for water tariffs and charges calculations; study on detergents and an M2 methodology for assessing contaminated sites in flood risk areas.

Wetlands: land-use assessment methodology; wetland pilot projects in Slovakia, Romania and Croatia; guidance document for wetlands and river basin management; Small Grants Programme projects focused on wetland restoration; database of scientific reports related to nutrient retention in wetlands and wetland restoration and nutrient removal projects.

Public Participation and Awareness Raising: Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) Publications (website, bulletins, publication on wetlands); NGO expert database; Small Grants Programme Projects – 114 national and 10 regional projects; DRP and ICPDR communication strategy; public awareness campaigns in Slovenia, Slovakia and Serbia and pilot projects in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina on guidelines for public access to information.

Institutional Strengthening: upgrade of the Danube Information System 'DANUBIS'; strengthening the capacities of the DEF; re-establishment of the Joint Technical Working Group between the ICPDR and Black Sea Commission; capacity building workshops for ICPDR experts, Heads of Delegations and support for Expert Group meetings.

In April 2007, the DRP organised a workshop in Tulcea, Romania to present the results of its wetlands project activities. In order to provide a statement on the nutrient status of the Danube and NW Black Sea in its final report to UNDP/GEF, the DRP organised a Nutrients Workshop in May 2007 which brought together key experts with experience in modelling as well as point and diffuse sources of nutrients. This meeting also served as an opportunity for the ICPDR to clarify the basin-wide needs for scenario development and management tools.

The DRP was officially closed in August 2007, however all project results are available on the ICPDR's website, or on the DRP website, www.undp-drp.org, which will be online for the next two years.



12. Reaching out to communities: Danube Day 2007 and the Danube Box

Through the international celebrations of Danube Day this year, and with the success of the ICPDR's innovative education kit, the Danube Box, the ICPDR brought people together to focus on what each and every person in the basin can do to help the river and keep it in the hearts and minds of future generations.

The theme of Danube Day 2007, 'Celebrating Danube Cultures', inspired people across the Danube Basin with folk groups, dancing, music, colourful costumes and traditional crafts. Through a diverse range of educational and public awareness activities such as field trips, eco-camps, scientific demonstrations and films, participants gained a stronger emotional connection to the Danube Basin and its unique diversity.

"We are proud to receive the International Winner's prize, but the fact that we are here now with so many children from other countries fills us with even more pride" said Kitti Ottlakán from the winning Hungarian Danube Art Master team.

As President of the ICPDR in 2007, Romania brought energy and creativity to their large-scale celebrations, which took place over the two weeks before June 29. In Bucharest, Danube Day celebrations included a symbolic water filtration event attended by the Romanian government ministers and representatives of other Danube countries, the ICPDR, Coca-Cola and environmental NGOs. River water collected from each Danube country was passed through a special filtration system and poured into a large aquarium, into which native Danube fish and plants were then introduced. This symbolic event represented the long cleaning process of the Danube's water, so vital to maintaining the health of the river's environment and biodiversity.

Channelling creativity into positive change

The Danube Art Master competition, jointly organised by the ICPDR and the Danube Environmental Forum, had another successful year as part of this year's Danube Day celebrations, inspiring more than 3,000 children from all 14 Danube countries to celebrate the Danube and its tributaries visually. The national winners of the Danube Art Master competition gathered in Budapest, Hungary in November for the award ceremony, which honoured the children of the 14 participant countries and declared Hungary the international winner.

The winning sculpture, made by four Hungarian children, depicted the Danube Fairy hoisting anchor to collect people's waste from the river. The sculpture was inspired by the Hungarian folk song 'The wind is blowing from the Danube' and was made from materials found in the Danube River Basin such as wood, grass and flowers.

"Water is a very valuable resource. We have to engage young people and to teach them at school that drinkable water and clean rivers are not fixed rules" said Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Environment Minister, about the Danube Box.

After the ceremony, the children and their chaperones took part in a three-day environmental programme supported by Coca-Cola and organised by the Global Water Partnership Hungary and the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water. The programme included a Budapest sightseeing tour, a visit to the Tropicarium-Sea World in Budapest and a trip to the Danube Museum and the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest.

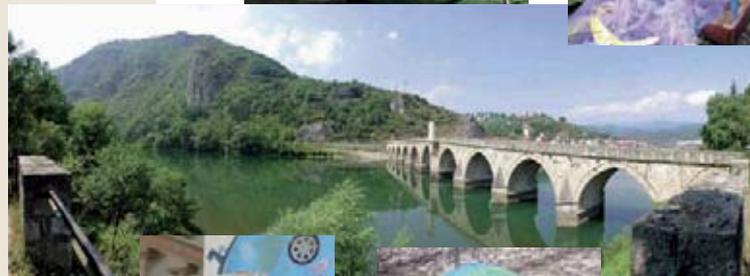
The Danube goes to school

The popularity of the Danube Box, introduced during last year's Danube Day celebrations, is spreading across the basin. In winter 2007, 3,000 copies of the Donau Box were produced for all schools in Germany. Hungary was the first to translate the Danube Box, and the Hungarian version, 'Duna ismerettár', was ready by the end of the year.

A translation for the Serbian Danube Box is in the final round for approval by the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and the 'Dunarea Box' is under preparation to help teachers in Romania engage young people in water and river-related issues. More than 20 teachers from schools ranging from the mountainous areas of the Romanian Danube down to the delta are involved in a two-year project to work intensively with the various tools of the educational kit to implement the Danube as a regular topic in their schools.

The Danube Box has been in use for the second year in Austria, and Austrian schools are now waiting for the English version of the Box which is ready to be distributed in 2008.

The Danube Box was developed as part of the Green Danube Partnership between Coca-Cola Hellenic, The Coca-Cola Company and the ICPDR.



//// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //// Österreich //// Česká republika ////

The celebration of Danube Day: a cornerstone in the outreach activities to mobilise people for the Danube and its tributaries.

13. ICPDR wins Riverprize for water management excellence

The work of the ICPDR was recognised for outstanding achievement in river restoration and management, and was awarded the most significant and valuable prize in the field worldwide.

On 4 September 2007, the ICPDR won the International Thiess Riverprize 2007 – the world’s largest prize in its field – for excellence in water management. The announcement was made in Brisbane, Australia, during a gala award ceremony at the 10th annual International Riversymposium.

The award, worth AUD\$300,000 (approximately €179,000), was given specifically to the Danube River Basin for the collaborative approach to improve water quality. The Danube was chosen over three other outstanding government and community groups from China, New Zealand and Canada.

Paul Greenfield, Chairperson of the Riversymposium, said the ICPDR exemplifies the spirit of the International Thiess Riverprize. “Many countries are facing a water crisis and now more than ever it is important for the International Thiess Riverprize to reward and promote best practice water management”, said Greenfield. “All people involved in the ICPDR project should feel proud their efforts have been recognised in this way.”

“Winning the International Riverprize was a fascinating experience,” says Gyula Holló, Head of Hungary’s Delegation to the ICPDR who accepted the award on behalf of the ICPDR. “Our successful legal framework was particularly praised. As a new member of the club there, we also now have the opportunity to better follow activities happening in that part of the world.”

Launched in 1998, the International Thiess Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival, an annual 10-day celebration of Brisbane’s river, people, culture and environment. The Riverprize identifies the world’s best practices in water management, preservation and restoration.



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In December 2007 the ICPDR celebrated its joint success in the presence of Ms Else Shepherd, Deputy Chair of the International Riverfoundation.



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14. Budget and Financial Contribution

Regular budget financial year 2007

Three independent auditors on the proposal of the Contracting Parties have audited and certified the consolidated financial statements including the accounting records of the ICPDR, for the fiscal year from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007. The audit did not give rise

to any objections. According to the results of the audit the consolidated financial statements are in accordance with the ICPDR rules and regulations and accounting principles assuring transparency of financial management.

Contributions Financial Year 2007

	Contribution in %	Contribution in Euro	Actually paid in Euro
Germany	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Austria	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Czech Republic	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Slovakia	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Hungary	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Slovenia	10.658	96,574.13	96,574.13
Croatia	7.638	69,211.46	69,211.46
Serbia	7.638	69,211.46	69,211.46
Bulgaria	7.638	69,211.46	69,211.46
Romania	7.638	69,211.46	69,211.46
Moldova	1.00	9,061.28	9,061.28
Ukraine	1.00	9,061.28	9,061.28
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.00	9,061.28	9,061.28
European Commission	2.50	22,653.19	22,653.19
Total	100.00	906,127.65	906,127.65

Expenditures Financial Year 2007

	Approved Budget in Euro	Expenditures in Euro	Balance in Euro
Staff	512,000.00	509,190.27	2,809.73
Office Running	103,000.00	102,802.99	197.01
Publications	93,000.00	92,791.24	208.76
Meetings & Travel	108,000.00	107,567.86	432.14
Services	90,127.65	99,909.42	-9,781.77
Total	906,127.65	912,261.78	-6,134.13

Special Funds in 2007

In addition to the regular budget, Special Funds provided by various donors have allowed the ICPDR to undertake activities in support of the Convention beyond those possible through the regular budget.

All financial contributions to the ICPDR are shown separately in the account of the ICPDR.

The [Joint Danube Survey 2](#) was conducted successful in 2007 with the substantial support of the Contracting Parties (cash and in-kind contributions) as well as contributions from Alcoa Foundation, Dexia Kommunalkredit Bank, European Union and Coca-Cola Hellenic.

In the framework of the [Green Danube Partnership](#) with The Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola Hellenic a series of joint activities were conducted supporting: Danube Day celebrations in all Danube countries; the International Winners' Trip of the Danube Art Master 2007 (bringing all national winners to the award ceremony in Budapest in December) and work on the German, Hungarian, Romanian and Serbian versions of the Danube Box. Coca-Cola covers all costs for the Danube Box.

The first [Analysis of the Tisza River Basin](#) was produced with the financial support of the European Union. The Report highlights the issues for the region that will enable the development of an integrated river basin management plan.

Through a grant from the [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#), a report on the basin-wide assessment of municipal investments; a case study for Romania and the updating of the existing ICPDR database, in the Danubis, have been carried out.

The project [Transboundary management of the Körös/Crisuri Basin](#) has been implemented in Hungary and Romania with a grant from the French GEF. The ICPDR Secretariat as a management authority has received a management fee for the work conducted on this project.



About the ICPDR

The **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)** is an international organisation consisting of 14 contracting parties, including the European Union. Since its establishment in 1998, it has grown into one of the largest and most active international bodies engaged in river basin management in Europe. Its activities relate not only to the Danube River, but also to the tributaries and ground water resources of the entire Danube River Basin.

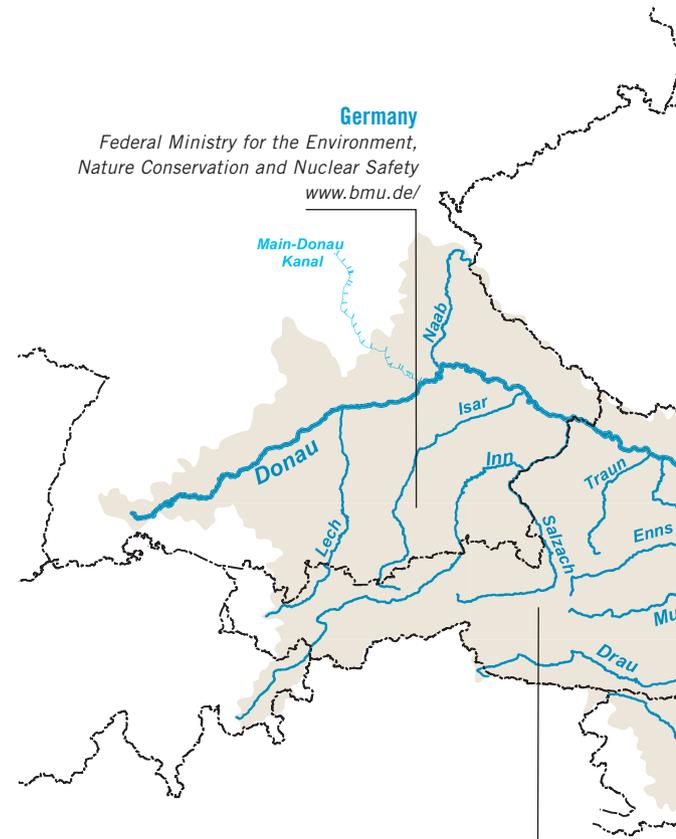
The ultimate goal of the ICPDR is to implement the Danube River Protection Convention. Its mission is to promote and coordinate sustainable and equitable water management, including conservation, and the improvement and rational use of waters for the benefit of the Danube River Basin countries and their people. The ICPDR pursues its mission by making recommendations for the improvement of water quality, developing mechanisms for flood and accident control, agreeing standards for emissions and ensuring that these measures are reflected in national legislation.

The ICPDR is supported by a Secretariat based in the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria.

The contracting parties to the ICPDR are shown here, along with their organisations and website addresses:

European Union

European Commission, DG Environment
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>



Germany

Federal Ministry for the Environment,
 Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
www.bmu.de/

Austria

Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry,
 Environment and Water Management
www.lebensministerium.at/

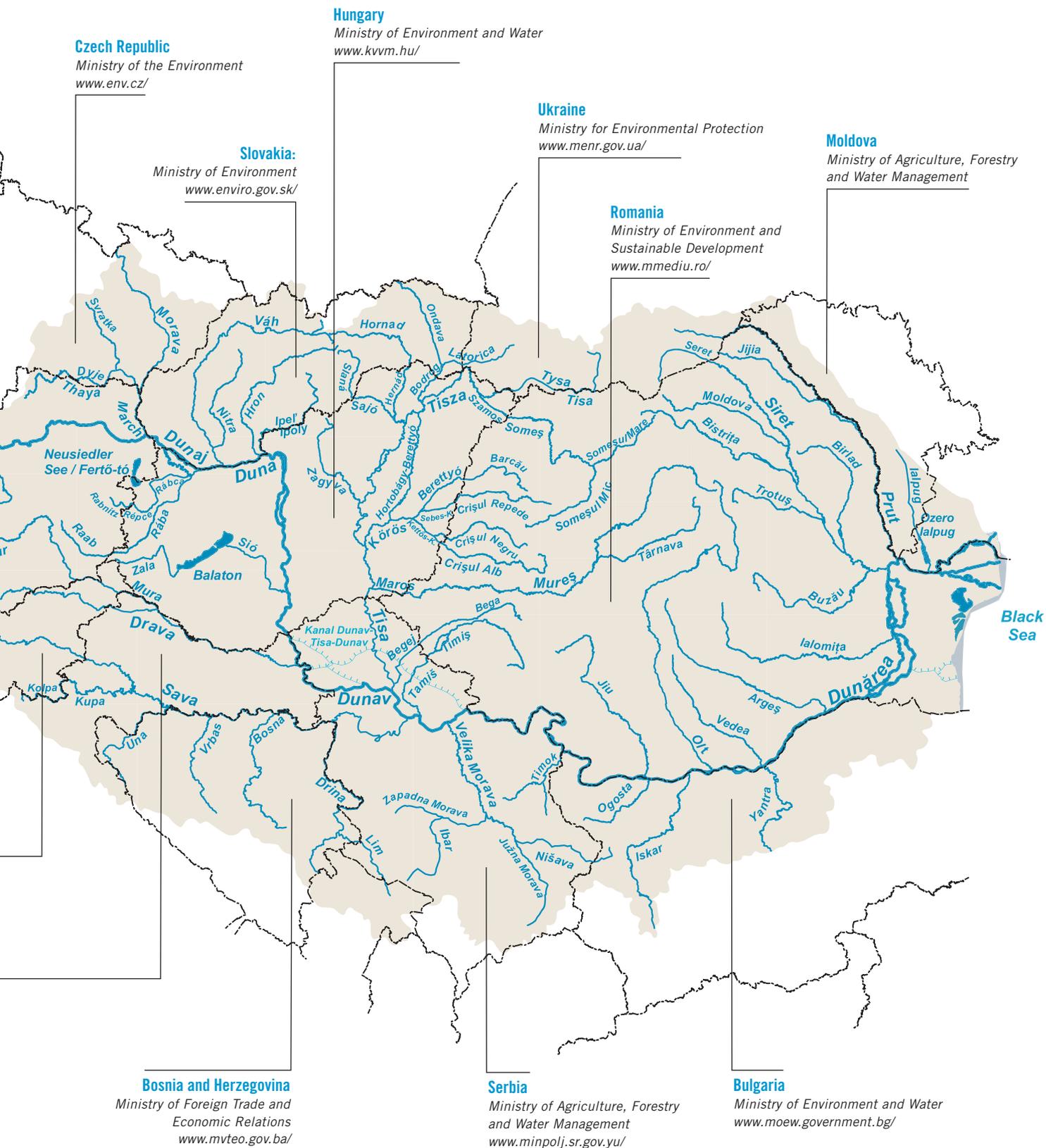
Slovenia

Ministry of the Environment
 and Spatial Planning
www.mop.gov.si/

Croatia

Ministry of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Rural Development
www.mps.hr/

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Annex

Composition of the ICPDR in 2007

1. PRESIDENT

Romania	Lucia Ana VARGA	State Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development 12 Liberatii, Sector 5, RO-04129 Bucharest
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2. HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Germany	Fritz HOLZWARTH	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Robert Schuman Platz 3, 53175 Bonn
Austria	Richard STADLER	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Section VII Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna
The Czech Republic	Jan HODOVSKY	Ministry of the Environment Vrsovicke 65, 10010 Praha 10
Slovakia	Marian SUPEK	Ministry of Environment, Division of Water and Energetic Sources Namestie L. Stura 1, 81235 Bratislava
Hungary	Gyula HOLLÓ	Ministry of Transport and Water Management, Department River Basin Management Fő utca 44-50, POB 351, 1394 Budapest
Slovenia	Mitja BRICELJ	Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning Dunajska cesta 48, 1000 Ljubljana
Croatia	Zeljko OSTOJIĆ	State Water Directorate Ulica grada Vukovara 220, 10 000 Zagreb
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Reuf HADZIBEGIC	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Musala 9, 71000 Sarajevo
Serbia	Nikola MARJANOVIĆ Aleksandar PRODANOVIC from November 2007	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water 2a Bulevar Umetnosti, 11000 Belgrade
Bulgaria	Lubka KATCHAKOVA	Ministry of Environment and Water Bd. Maria Luisa 22, 1000 Sofia
Romania	Gheorghe CONSTANTIN	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 12 Libertatii, Sect. 5, Bucharest
Moldova	Dumitru DRUMEA	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources 9 Cosmonautilor str., 2005 Chisinau
Ukraine	Stepan LYZUN	Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP) 03035 Uritskogo str., Kiev
European Commission	Helmut BLÖCH	EC DG Environment, Unit Water and Marine Protection 1049 Brussels, Belgium

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3. SECRETARIAT

Philip WELLER	Executive Secretary
Igor LISKA	Technical Expert - Water Management and Water Quality and Quantity
Mihaela POPOVICI	Technical Expert - Water Management and Pollution Control
Birgit VOGEL	Technical Expert - River Basin Management
Jasmine BACHMANN	Technical Expert - Public Participation and Public Relations
Alexander HÖBART	Technical Expert - Information Management and GIS Expert
Anna KOCH	Financial Management Officer
Sylvia KERSCH (until Nov)	Office Manager
Sylvia KOCH (from Dec)	Office Manager
Diana HEILMANN	Project Coordinator (Tisza)
Milica DJURIC (until May)	Intern
Veselka PAVLOVA (from April)	Intern
Dragana SPASIC (from June)	Intern
Aleksander MILICEVIC (from Nov)	Intern
Patricia FALTUSOVA	Administrative Support Staff

4. CHAIRPERSONS OF THE EXPERT GROUPS AND EXPERT SUB-GROUPS

River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG)	Joachim D'EUGENIO	European Commission, DG-Environment 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Pressures & Measures Expert Group (PM EG)	Joachim HEIDEMEYER	Umweltbundesamt Postfach 330022, 1419 Berlin, Germany
Monitoring & Assessment Expert Group (MA EG)	Liviu POPESCU	Senior Expert, ICIM Research & Engineering Institute for Environment Protection Spl. Independentei 294, Sect. 6, 77703 Bucharest, Romania
Flood Expert Group (Flood EG)	Sandor TOTH	General Directorate for Water and Environment Marvary u. 1/c, 1012 Budapest, Hungary
Ad hoc Strategic Expert Group (S EG)	Knut BEYER	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety WA I 6B, Robert Schuman Platz 3, 53048 Bonn, Germany
Ad hoc GIS & Information Management Expert Group (GIS&IM EG)	Eva SOVJAKOVA	Department of Water Protection, Ministry of Environment Vrsovicke 65, 100 10 Praha 10, Czech Republic
Ad hoc Public Participation Expert Group (PP EG)	Anemari CIUREA	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 12 Libertatii Bd, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania
Tisza Group	Joachim D'EUGENIO	European Commission, DG-Environment 1049 Brussels, Belgium

5. OBSERVER STATUS AT 31.12. 2007

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Global Water Partnership (GWP-CEE)	Milan Matuska, Regional Coordinator GWP-CEE Secretariat, Jeseniova 17, 83315 Bratislava, Slovakia
UNESCO/IHP	Minorad Miloradov, Chairman IHP NC Republic of Serbia
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VGB Power Tech	Juergen Lenz, CC2 Fossil fired Power Plants Klinkenstrasse 27-31, 45136 Essen, Germany
International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)	Dejan Komatina, Secretary Nova Ves 11, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
European Barge Union (EBU)	Theresia Hacksteiner, Managing Director Postbus 23210, 3001 Rotterdam, Netherlands
via donau	Manfred Seitz, General Director Donau-City-Strasse 1, 1220 Vienna, Austria
European Water Association (EWA)	Matthias Zessner, Official Representative for EWA TU Vienna, Karlsplatz 13/226, 1040 Vienna, Austria
Friends of Nature International	Christian Baumgartner, General Secretary Diefenbachgasse 36, 1150 Vienna, Austria
International Dredging Association (CEDA)	Anna Csiti, General Manager Rotterdamseweg 183c, 2629 Delft, Netherlands
European Anglers Alliance (EAA)	Peter Mohnert, President c/o ÖKF, Breitenfurter Str. 333, 1230 Vienna, Austria



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