
Terms of Reference of the Information Management and GIS Expert Group (IMGIS EG)



Terms of Reference of the Information Management and Geographical Information System Expert Group (IMGIS EG) of the ICPDR

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The IMGIS EG is an Expert Body of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR),.
- 1.2 The ToR provide a mandate to the IMGIS EG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance to the work, which the IMGIS EG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the IMGIS EG is to support ICPDR activities related to the operation and further development of the ICPDR information system. It comprises control over the development, implementation, testing and maintenance of a common Danube River Basin Geographical Information System (DRB GIS). The IMGIS EG will support the integration of the DRB GIS with the existing and future ICPDR information system, and facilitate the access to all relevant information, thus serving the information needs of and facilitating the information exchange within the ICPDR and its Expert Bodies.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The IMGIS EG is responsible for initiating, guiding and ensuring the successful completion of the work required under its ToR.
- 3.2 The IMGIS EG will report to the ICPDR and its Standing Working Group on the implementation of on-going activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved.
- 3.3 Establishment - subject to the approval of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group - and guidance of time limited Task Groups to provide needed input to fulfil the tasks listed below.
- 3.4 Proposed activities with policy or financial implications for the ICPDR must be approved, in advance, by the ICPDR.

4. Main tasks of the IMGIS EG

The IMGIS EG is entrusted to carry out the following main tasks:

- 4.1 Support the further development and operation of the ICPDR Information System.
- 4.2 Organise, if necessary, training workshops in order to ensure the usability of the ICPDR Information System by delegates and members of the ICPDR Expert Bodies.

- 4.3 Guide further technical development of the DanubeGIS with regard to termination of the life cycle of certain technological components, responding to new requirements due to a wider variety of tasks, especially of other ICPDR Expert Groups, and to new requirements for access to data in the DanubeGIS.
- 4.4 Assist in processes of data harmonisation of national datasets considering data requirements of the WFD and ICPDR Expert Bodies (including data and metadata modelling, data validation, encoding, etc) and in development of GIS-related criteria needed to set up and operate the DRB GIS.
- 4.5 Guide the development of cartographic and GIS-related tools necessary for the implementation of DRPC requirements and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive in the Danube River Basin District.
- 4.6 Explore both the potential for a closer cooperation and the technical implications of enabling inter-operability of the Danube GIS and the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and to identify concrete steps for making it operational.
- 4.7 Assist in the production of reports and maps required by ICPDR Expert Bodies.
- 4.8 Assist in developing and utilising specific information management tools considering the needs of other ICPDR Expert Bodies.
- 4.9 Prepare, as appropriate, project proposals in support of its tasks.
- 4.10 Review its ToR on a regular basis and propose amendments for approval by the ICPDR.
- 4.11 Prepare appropriate information for dissemination to interested bodies and the public about IMGIS EG activities in close cooperation with the PP EG.
- 4.12 Prepare a Work Program for future activities of the IMGIS EG. This will be prepared according to the requirements of the ICPDR and should include action(s) planned for the following year (in detail) and for subsequent years (in outline).

5. Cooperation with other ICPDR bodies

The IMGIS EG will collaborate closely with all other ICPDR Expert Bodies.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The IMGIS EG consists of the representatives as nominated by the Contracting Parties to be a standing member of the IMGIS EG. Additional experts may also participate in meetings if their particular specialist knowledge is required.
- 6.2 Each Contracting Party may propose candidates (one or more) to participate in (time-limited) Task Groups organised to address specific issues.
- 6.3 Representatives of other organisations may become accredited observers to the IMGIS EG and/or its Task Groups by following the relevant procedures of the ICPDR relating to observer status.

7. Working Arrangements

The general working arrangements for the IMGIS EG are provided by the ICPDR Rules of Procedure.