

Terms of Reference of the Public Participation Expert Group (PP EG) of the ICPDR

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The PP 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 PP EG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance to the work, which the PP EG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the PP EG is to initiate, steer and support ICPDR activities regarding communication and public participation issues including awareness raising.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The PP EG is responsible for initiating, guiding and ensuring the successful completion of the work required under its ToR.
- 3.2 The PP EG will report to the ICPDR and to the Standing Working Group (StWG), as appropriate, on the implementation of these responsibilities, of ongoing activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved.
- 3.3 Where issues are also addressed by other EGs, the reports to the ICPDR and the StWG will be consulted and agreed with the other EGs before submission.
- 3.4 Proposed activities with policy or financial implications for the ICPDR must be approved in advance by the ICPDR.
- 3.5 The PP EG develops and reinforces cooperation with interested and active partners or stakeholders involved in ICPDR activities.

4. Main tasks of the PP EG

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

- 4.1 provide guidance and input to the ICPDR in issues related to public participation in the implementation of EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) and EU Directive 2007/60/EC (Flood Directive) in close cooperation with the RBM EG and FP EG;
 - 4.2 provide guidance to other activities related to public outreach (e.g. Danube Day, Stakeholder Conference, Joint Danube Survey, etc.);
 - 4.3 share experience in the field of public participation and ensure the communication flow horizontally and vertically;
 - 4.4 establish - subject to the approval of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group - and guide time limited Task Groups to provide needed input to fulfil the tasks listed above.
 - 4.5 develop public participation and communication strategies to ensure that ICPDR communication efforts remains in line with current needs and that stakeholder involvement is constantly being reviewed.
 - 4.6 develop a work program for future activities of the PP EG.
 - 4.7 review its ToR on a regular basis and propose amendments for approval by the ICPDR.
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5. Cooperation with other ICPDR bodies

As the primary body within the ICPDR responsible for the initiation, steering and supporting of activities concerning public participation and communication, the PP EG should be consulted by any other EG working on issues relevant for these field. This relates to both relevant contents (such as the development of significant reports that have the potential to be used as a basis for public information work) and activities (such as the organisation of events that have the potential to be used for outreach work).

6. Membership

- 6.1 The PP EG consists of the representatives as nominated by the Contracting Parties to be a standing member of the PP 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 PP 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 PP EG are provided by the ICPDR Rules of Procedure.
