



Watch your Danube



JDS2: EXCELLENT PARTNERS AND COOPERATION

About the Joint Danube Survey 2

The Joint Danube Survey 2, also known as 'JDS2', is the world's biggest river research expedition in 2007. Its main goal is to produce highly comparable and reliable information on water quality and pollution for the entire Danube River and many of its tributaries. The Secretariat of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) coordinates the implementation of JDS 2.

Launched on August 14, 2007 from Regensburg, Germany, the three boats of the JDS2 will travel 2,375 km downstream the Danube River, through 10 countries, to the Danube Delta in Romania and Ukraine until late September.

Excellent Partners and International Cooperation

Even before the JDS2 expedition begins, one of its greatest achievements is the high level of cooperation and support that it has already received, and has been further pledged, from its partners. This includes national, regional and local governments from almost all of the Danube countries - Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine - including EU and non-EU members. Other key partners are the European Union, scientists, private and publicly-run laboratories throughout Europe, international organizations (such as IAEA, IAWD), private sector companies, non-governmental organizations and of course, the incredible mix and variety of people living near the Danube.

Both the planning and implementation of the entire JDS2 are highly complex tasks, requiring inputs and agreement from many stakeholders, logistic precision, administrative support and financing. Working and living conditions on the boats can become difficult over such a long period of time and in such a variety of locations, testing human perseverance. Cooperation and teamwork are therefore essential ingredients for the expedition's success.

Scientific Teams

The full-time International Team travelling the entire length of the Danube includes 18 scientists from Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania and Denmark. The Core Team consists of a Team Leader, a large group of biologists including fish experts, chemists, microbiologists and experts in hydromorphology.

The Team Leader, Béla Csányi, heads the Department of Hydrobiology at the VITUKI water research centre in Hungary and advises the national government. From managing staff to checking laboratory efficiency to jumping into Danube waters to get the best samples, he is known as "Mr. Biology of Hungary" to many of his colleagues. He has also served on many previous Danube expeditions including the Equipe Cousteau in 1993 and JDS1 in 2001.

The other members of the Core Team were nominated by top scientists within their countries to represent

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them on the expedition. Many also represent their countries at international and EU forums, providing expert advice and participating in high-level decision-making affecting Europe and the globe. Some are university professors while others are young and promising scientists. For example, Austria's Brigitte Schmidt represents a leading group of scientists that develops EU policy on underwater plants.

Examination of fish fauna is a new element in the ICPDR surveys. The Fish Team includes experts from the Upper Danube as well as Lower Danube and is led by Niels Jepsen from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

In case there would be an emergency need to replace a member of the Core Team, Reserve Core Team experts have also been nominated. In parallel with the activities of the Core team, National Teams of scientists will also help with sampling and testing on board the ships on river stretches in their countries such as the Morava, Drava, Tisa, Sava, Velika Morava, Arges, Olt, Iskar, Rusenski Lom, Jantra and Prut. Finally, some of the scientific testing will take place en route, from analyzing water samples on a ship's laboratory to electro-fishing along the Danube's banks.

Other Support from Danube Governments

The Team will use three boats donated from different countries and institutions: Serbia's *Argus* will serve as the main research vessel; Hungary's *Széchenyi* ice-breaker will provide accommodation for the team and carry cargo and supplies; and the EU's Joint Research Centre ship *Piscius* will assess fish species. The *Argus* and *Piscius* will be equipped with special technical equipment. The *Piscius* will also have an air-lift sampler – a cutting-edge technology sampling device.

Danube national and local governments have also planned several events to celebrate the arrival of the ships along their Danube banks. In total, this includes ten cities in nine different countries.

Laboratories throughout Europe

Many samples that were not tested on the ships' own laboratories will be sent to private and publicly-run laboratories throughout Europe for testing – all centres of excellence for particular water quality parameters. For example, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy has offered to perform chemical and fish analyses.

Other laboratories providing chemical analyses include Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt in Munich, TZW in Karlsruhe (Water Technology Center), Water Research Institute in Prague and Brno, VITUKI Budapest, Apele Romane in Bucharest (Romanian Waters), Water Research Institute in Bratislava, Umweltbundesamt in Vienna and Hydrometeorological Institute in Kiev. The biological expertise is based on the knowledge of many institutions such as the: University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna, Water Research Institute in Bratislava, Institute of Limnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences of the University of Vienna, Medical University in Vienna and Federal Institute for Water Management in Vienna.



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Private Sector

Significant support was provided by private sector companies operating in the Danube River Basin including the Alcoa Foundation, Kommunalkredit Austria, Dexia Kommunalkredit Bank and Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company.

Danube People

Finally, local authorities, NGOs, the media and people living near the Danube will help in raising awareness and concern about Danube pollution and the need for everyone to participate in making it clean and healthy. This includes help for public events.

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!

Contact: icpdr@unvienna.org, Tel: +43 1 26060-5738

JDS2 Stops:

Regensburg, 14 August
Vienna, 20 August
Bratislava, 22 August
Budapest, 28 August
Osijek, 2 September
Belgrade, 6 September
Turnu Severin, 12 September
Ruse, 19 September
Vilkovo, 25 September
Tulcea, 27 September