

# WFD & EFD: Public Participation Plan



Outline of activities of the ICPDR to meet the requirements of WFD (Directive 2000/60/EC) and EFD (Directive 2007/60/EC) regarding public consultation and communication in the course of developing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and the 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan for the Danube River Basin, both for the implementation cycle 2015 to 2021.

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## 1 Timing & Framework

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This document serves as a blue print for Public Participation activities for the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> DRBMP) until 2015 and the Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> FRMP). It deals with public participation on the basin-wide, international level. The legal requirements described in EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) result in the following **general timeframe for activities**:

**Water Framework Directive:** Publication of timetable, work program and statement on consultation measures (December 2012); collection of comments, revision and endorsement (June 2013); publication of interim overview on Significant Water Management Issues (December 2013); collection of comments, revision and endorsement (June 2014); publication of a draft management plan (end of 2014); collection of comments (June 2015); revision and endorsement (end of 2015).

**European Floods Directive:** Publication of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (March 2012; done); Publication of Flood Risk Maps and Flood Hazard Maps (March 2014); development of 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan, with active encouragement of interested parties to get involved (December 2014); revision and adoption of 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan, with active encouragement of interested parties to get involved (December 2015). As far as public participation is concerned, efforts should be aligned with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive as appropriate.

This general timeframe leads to the following deadlines for deliverables; abbreviations are explained below the table:

Deliverable	Timeframe
Publication of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	March 2012 (done)
Draft timetable and work program for the production of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan; draft statement on consultation measures to compliment this timetable and work plan (this document)	May - Nov 2012
Publication of drafts (timetable, work program and statement on consultation measures); and collection of comments in writing for six	Dec 2012 – June 2013

months	
Draft timetable and work program for the production of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan; draft statement on consultation measures, timetable and work plan revised as appropriate (this document)	Dec 2012
Revision of timetable, work program and consultation measures	Autumn 2013
Endorsement of revised time table, work program and statement on consultation measures	Dec 2013
Interim overview of Significant Water Management Issues	May – Nov 2013
Publication of interim overview of Significant Water Management Issues and collection of comments in writing for six months	Dec 2013 – June 2014
Revision of overview of Significant Water Management Issues	Autumn 2014
Endorsement of the interim overview of revised Significant Water Management Issues	Dec 2014
Publication of Flood Risk Maps and Flood Hazard Maps	March 2014
Development of the draft 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan	Until Dec 2014
Publication of draft copy of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan; collection of comments on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan in writing for six months and, if appropriate, on 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan	Dec 2014 -Jun 2015
Revision of draft 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan	Jun-Dec 2015
Endorsement of the revised 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan; political (ceremonial) endorsement likely to follow in 2016	Dec 2015

## 2 Consultation Measures

Deliverable/Measure	Deadline
<b>All accredited observers are actively participating</b> in the ongoing work of the ICPDR and are providing their input in the development of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan, but also the 1 <sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan.	ongoing
<b>Specific discussions are held with selected key stakeholders</b> about the activities of the ICPDR regarding the implementation of Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive; such stakeholders can go beyond the observers and include the navigation sector, hydropower sector, agriculture, etc. The results of these discussions will be publicly available.	Ongoing
<b>Raise awareness and inform wider stakeholder groups about the opportunity for public participation, the activities and the timetable regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Ongoing, but matched in particular with the publishing deadlines

<p><b>Flood Risk Management Plan by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• including a note on the ICPDR website with links to the national activities and relevant national websites</li> <li>• include relevant statements in fact sheets or other technical reports, especially if dealing with issues such as significant water management issues</li> <li>• publishing articles in the Danube Watch</li> <li>• targeted mailings to stakeholder groups</li> <li>• publishing information in other media</li> </ul>	specified above
<p><b>Stakeholder Workshop:</b> After the identification of the Significant Water Management Issues, a stakeholder workshop can be held to support the development of the plan. Through such a workshop, a larger and very focused group of people can get involved in the formalization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Danube River Basin Management Plan and the 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan.</p>	2014
<p>A response paper on the inputs is developed and published, so that the stakeholders can see how their input has been considered by the ICPDR.</p>	Spring 2016

### 3 Legal Background

As part of the efforts to coordinate the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) in the entire Danube River Basin, the ICPDR, in its role as coordinating platform, has put a special emphasis on the promotion of public participation and the implementation of certain communication activities. These activities are carried out (1) on the basis of the legal requirements defined in the two mentioned directives and (2) in accordance with the ICPDR communication approach.

The relevant passages in Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) read as follows (note: the two quoted preambles are not legally binding):

***Preamble 14***

*(14) The success of this Directive relies on close cooperation and coherent action at Community, Member State and local level as well as on information, consultation and involvement of the public, including users.*

***Preamble 46***

*(46) To ensure the participation of the general public including users of water in the establishment and updating of river basin management plans, it is necessary to provide proper information of planned measures and to report on progress with their implementation with a view to the involvement of the general public before final decisions on the necessary measures are*

adopted.

**Article 14 - Public information and consultation**

1. Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans. Member States shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users:

(a) a timetable and work programme for the production of the plan, including a statement of the consultation measures to be taken, at least three years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;

(b) an interim overview of the significant water management issues identified in the river basin, at least two years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;

(c) draft copies of the river basin management plan, at least one year before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers.

On request, access shall be given to background documents and information used for the development of the draft river basin management plan.

2. Member States shall allow at least six months to comment in writing on those documents in order to allow active involvement and consultation.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply equally to updated river basin management plans.

**Annex VII - RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS**

A. River basin management plans shall cover the following elements:

...

9. a summary of the public information and consultation measures taken, their results and the changes to the plan made as a consequence;

...

11. the contact points and procedures for obtaining the background documentation and information referred to in Article 14(1), and in particular details of the control measures adopted in accordance with Article 11(3)(g) and 11(3)(i) and of the actual monitoring data gathered in accordance with Article 8 and Annex V.

The relevant passages in the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) read as follows (note that a coordination is required “as appropriate”):

**CHAPTER V - COORDINATION WITH DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC,  
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION**

**Article 9**

Member States shall take appropriate steps to coordinate the application of this Directive and that of Directive 2000/60/EC focusing on opportunities for improving efficiency, information exchange and for achieving common synergies and benefits having regard to the environmental objectives laid down in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC. In particular:

*1. the development of the first flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and their subsequent reviews as referred to in Articles 6 and 14 of this Directive shall be carried out in such a way that the information they contain is consistent with relevant information presented according to Directive 2000/60/EC. They shall be coordinated with, and may be integrated into, the reviews provided for in Article 5(2) of Directive 2000/60/EC;*

*2. the development of the first flood risk management plans and their subsequent reviews as referred to in Articles 7 and 14 of this Directive shall be carried out in coordination with, and may be integrated into, the reviews of the river basin management plans provided for in Article 13(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC;*

*3. the active involvement of all interested parties under Article 10 of this Directive shall be coordinated, as appropriate, with the active involvement of interested parties under Article 14 of Directive 2000/60/EC.*

**Article 10**

*1. In accordance with applicable Community legislation, Member States shall make available to the public the preliminary flood risk assessment, the flood hazard maps, the flood risk maps and the flood risk management plans.*

*2. Member States shall encourage active involvement of interested parties in the production, review and updating of the flood risk management plans referred to in Chapter IV.*