

**icpdr iksd**

International  
Commission  
for the Protection  
of the Danube River

Internationale  
Kommission  
zum Schutz  
der Donau

# Shared waters – joint responsibilities

## ICPDR Annual Report 2014

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



# ICPDR highlights in 2014

Major advances were made towards the ICPDR's long-term vision for sustainable integrated river basin management in the Danube Basin. As well as updating our current knowledge-base, implementing actions outlined in the 1st Danube River Basin Management Plan and meeting European Union reporting targets, attention was focused on management plans for the 2015–21 cycle, as required by EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive.

## Among the many ICPDR initiatives, events and cooperative activities in the Danube River Basin (DRB) during 2014, highlights included:

- Celebration of **20 years of the ICPDR** with a special presentation at the 3rd EU Strategy for the Danube Region Annual Conference in June 2014, along with a dedicated edition of Danube Watch – see p12.
- Adoption of a **Joint document on ICPDR / EU Strategy for the Danube Region cooperation and synergy** – see p5.
- Publication of the **2013 Danube Basin Analysis**, providing an overview of pressures on of the Danube basin waters – see p6.
- Adoption of the **updated Interim Overview on Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI)** in the Danube basin, following a six-month public consultation – see p5 and 11.
- Completion of the first draft of the **2015 Update of the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan**, sent out for over 6-month public consultation – see p5.
- Completion of the draft **2015 Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management (DFRM) Plan** for public consultation, providing the first ever comprehensive Danube River Basin overview of flood risk and management priorities – see p9.
- Publication of a **Report on the June 2013 floods** outlining lessons learned – see p9.
- Finalization of the Technical Report on the **3rd Joint Danube Survey (JDS3)** – see p7 and 11.
- Dissemination of national language versions of the **Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development** – see p5.
- Ongoing participation in **sub-basin management planning** including completion of the *Progress in Implementation of the Joint Program of Measures in the Tisza River Basin* – see p12.
- Celebrating 10 years of Danube Day at the 11th Danube Day – see p11.

## The ICPDR also provided participation and partnership in important activities and events throughout the Danube basin and across the world:

- Completion of the **draft 2015–2020 Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program** – see p12.
- Ongoing participation in the **Danube Sturgeon Task Force** – see p5.
- Keynote speech at the **World Water Week** launch of the Source-to-Sea global multi-stakeholder platform – see p12.

## Long-term cooperation with corporate partners is central to many of the activities of the ICPDR:

The **Green Danube Partnership** with the Coca-Cola system forms the ICPDR's main business partnership; notably supporting Danube Day, Danube Art Master and the Danube Box education kit. The Coca-Cola system and other **Business Friends of the Danube** have made commitments to water stewardship and the support of long-term ICPDR projects. Activities in 2014 focused on strengthening existing cooperation and seeking ways to enhance relationships with the newer members.



# World class expertise: the operational and institutional framework

Since its creation in 1998, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River has brought together representatives from the highest ministerial levels, technical experts and members of both civil society and the scientific community to improve the state of the Danube and its tributaries.

**The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is the largest international body of river basin management experts in Europe. Its mission is to promote and coordinate sustainable water management for the benefit of all the people of the Danube River Basin.**

## The structure of the ICPDR

In 1994, the Danube countries signed the [Danube River Protection Convention](#) and established the ICPDR in 1998. The ICPDR is made up of [15 Contracting Parties](#) (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the European Commission) who have committed themselves to implementing the Danube River Protection Convention. The ICPDR serves as a forum for coordination on water management issues in which the Contracting Parties agree on legal, administrative and technical measures to maintain and improve the quality of the Danube River and its tributaries.

The ICPDR is steered through an [Ordinary Meeting](#), which establishes policy and strategy, and a [Standing Working Group](#) that provides guidance and prepares decisions. Furthermore, Expert Groups, Task Groups and representatives of stakeholder groups provide the scientific and technical basis for the ICPDR's work.

[Expert Groups](#) (EG) are a vital part of the structure of the ICPDR. They address the requirements specified under the Convention and also those related to implementation of the [EU Water Framework Directive](#) (WFD) and the [EU Floods Directive](#) (FD). The Expert Groups comprise:

- [River Basin Management Expert Group](#)
- [Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group](#)
- [Pressures and Measures Expert Group](#)
- [Flood Protection Expert Group](#)
- [Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group](#)
- [Information Management and GIS Expert Group](#)
- [Public Participation Expert Group](#)
- [Strategic Expert Group](#).

The Strategic Expert Group is an ad-hoc expert group formed for specific tasks.

[Task Groups](#) (TG) are established under the responsibility of the permanent expert groups and comprise delegates from existing expert bodies or additional specialists. They include professionals specifically needed for a particular task. Task groups have been formed to deal with issues concerning hydromorphology, economics, groundwater management and nutrients.

## ICPDR Observers

Environmental protection is a community responsibility and the active involvement of the public is a core principle in sustainable water management. 23 organisations have taken the opportunity to become observers to the ICPDR:

- [Black Sea Commission \(BSC\)](#)
- [Central Dredging Association \(CEDA\)](#)
- [Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians](#)
- [Danube Civil Society Forum \(DCSF\)](#)
- [Danube Commission \(DC\)](#)
- [Danube Competence Center \(DCC\)](#)
- [Danube Environmental Forum \(DEF\)](#)
- [Danube Parks](#)
- [Danube Tourist Commission \(DIE DONAU\)](#)
- [European Anglers Alliance \(EAA\)](#)
- [European Barge Union \(EBU\)](#)
- [European Water Association \(EWA\)](#)
- [Friends of Nature International \(NFI\)](#)
- [Global Water Partnership \(GWP/CEE\)](#)
- [International Association for Danube Research \(IAD\)](#)
- [International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area \(IAWD\)](#)
- [International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO \(IHP/Danube\)](#)
- [International Sava River Basin Commission \(ISRBC\)](#)
- [RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands](#)
- [Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe \(REC\)](#)
- [VGB PowerTech e.V.](#)
- [viadonau](#)
- [World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme \(WWF DCP\)](#)

# River Basin Management: a sustainable future for the Danube

Actions by the River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG) focussed on finalising key analysis and drafting the updated management plans outlining progress and next steps for the sustainable management of the Danube basin waters.

**2014 saw the online publication of the 2013 Danube Basin Analysis (DBA). Assessing the main pressures and risks for the Danube waters provides essential input into the development of international priorities for the 2015 Update to the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan, as well as EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation. Analyses concerning characterisation, pressures/impacts and economic issues were updated following a major data gathering exercise.**

An updated [Interim Overview on Significant Water Management Issues \(SWMI\) in the DRB](#) was adopted in December, following a 6-month public consultation. The report outlines the key challenges to the region's sustainable management, emphasizing ongoing activities to address four issues: pollution from organic, nutrient and hazardous substances and effects of hydromorphological alterations.

The draft [2015 Update of the DRBM Plan](#) was agreed and sent out for more than 6-months of public consultation in December. The Plan updates the basin-wide management approach to protect and enhance the Danube basin waters and ensure their sustainable use. Outlining progress since the 1st DRBM Plan, it details 2015–2021 objectives, in line with Water Framework Directive implementation, and integrates data from the 2013 Danube Basin Analysis. A new section on integration issues is included. Following a stakeholder conference in July 2015, the plan will be ready for adoption in December.

The [Hydromorphology Task Group](#) finalised inputs to the Joint Danube Survey 3, 2013 Danube Basin Analysis, and the Significant Water Management Issues report. Data was collected on hydro-morphological assessment procedures in each country for a 2015 workshop on methodology.

The [Economics Task Group](#) finalized inputs for the key reports of 2014 (including an economics chapter in the updated Danube River Basin Management Plan) and discussed issues from the EU Floods Directive.

Regarding [sediment management](#), Budapest University of Technology and Economics led a consortium to prepare a revised *Sediment Management Project* proposal for the Danube Transnational Cooperation Program. Institutions from the three lead countries Austria, Hungary and Romania met in July and December to plan content and ensure emphasis on management issues.

[Coordination with and between EU strategies and directives](#) is at the centre of many RBM Expert Group activities. Inter-linkages between the Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive were incorporated into specific chapters in the DRBM Plan update and 1st Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan. Coordination requirements for the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive were also outlined. Formalizing relations with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), a [Joint Paper on Cooperation and Synergy for the EUSDR Implementation](#) was developed with Priority Areas, Priority Area 4 (Water quality) and Priority Area 5 (Environmental risks).

Preliminary actions on [navigation](#), aimed at implementing the *Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and the Environment*, were developed at a meeting of Priority Area 1a (Inland Navigation) and Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity) in Vienna in May.

Concerning [hydropower](#), a number of national language versions of *Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development* were disseminated and the countries reviewed issues and activities for input into the updated Danube River Basin Management Plan. A hydropower workshop is planned for 2016 to firm-up priorities.

On [climate change](#), implications of the 2012 *ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and EU CIS Guidance Document on Climate Adaptation* were discussed within each Expert Group and Task Group, with content prepared for the key reports.

Meetings of the [Danube Sturgeon Task Force](#) saw discussions on habitat mapping and conservation project proposals. The *Improving fish migration at the Iron Gates I and II* project was completed in 2014 with a meeting publicizing results and next steps in September.

# Pressures and Measures: assessing challenges, targeting priorities

Updating understanding of the pressures affecting the Danube environment and the effectiveness of measures designed to alleviate them is vital to achieving long-term sustainable management.

**Eliminating untreated wastewater emissions, limiting eutrophication, removing threats from hazardous substances and protecting groundwater are among the key basin-wide goals. Fundamental to these is the integration of EU policies into national and basin-wide strategies. These include the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD); Nitrates Directive; Industrial Emission Directive and Regulation on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR).**

The [Pressures and Measures Expert Group](#) (PM EG) promotes ways to achieve the objectives in the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan, focusing on three Significant Water Management Issues: organic, nutrient and hazardous substance pollution. Its core work involves data collection on pollution and measures' implementation; compilation of basin-wide overviews and the revision of templates in line with EU reporting. Tasks in 2014 revolved around finalizing the key reports to facilitate and set-out planning for 2015–21.

The [2013 Danube Basin Analysis Report](#) was finalized, considering pollution from urban waste water/industry; diffuse nutrient sources and hazardous substances. A reasonable fit was found between the enhanced [MONERIS](#) (Modelling Nutrient Emissions in River Systems) model and observed river loads, suggesting it provides a realistic simulation of large-scale, long-term emission patterns and the impacts of management interventions. For hazardous substances, case-study testing of *CIS Guidance Document No. 28* comprised a general significance analysis of priority substances and a detailed in-stream analysis to prepare priority substance inventories.

Finalizing inputs to the [2015 Update of the Danube River Basin Management Plan](#) came close to completion. The 2013 Danube Basin Analysis provided preliminary data, to be updated with details

in 2015. 2015–21 pressures were prioritized for relevant Significant Water Management Issues. Compatible with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register reporting, country data on [urban wastewater and industrial sectors](#) was collected (reference year 2011-12). On [nutrient emissions](#), the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin undertook MONERIS modelling (2010-12 reference period). Country data collection for [hazardous pollution](#) involving point sources, extended TNMN (TransNational Monitoring Network) data and 3rd Joint Danube Survey results was near completion in several countries. Support with data templates continued for non-EU countries. The PM Expert Group also met with the EU Research and Innovation FP7 SOLUTIONS project over emerging pollutants analysis of Joint Danube Survey 3 samples.

Progress in implementing the 2009–15 [Joint Program of Measures](#) (JPM) was assessed and fed into Joint Program of Measures revision. Objectives were revised for relevant Significant Water Management Issues. The PM Expert Group identified actions to be continued in the 2015-21 cycle; areas where additional measures may be required and activities to reduce knowledge gaps.

Revision of [management scenarios](#) (models depicting impacts of different conditions over various timescales) was close to completion. Data beyond baseline scenarios were collected on supplementary measures likely to be implemented; on expected delays; on national priorities; and for non-EU members, on realistic investment and on national plans. Mid and long-term scenarios are to be based on climate, economy and social change drivers.

Development began on a harmonised [ICPDR emissions database](#), integratable with DanubeGIS. Cooperation with the European Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#) continued with a nutrient emissions meeting. Feedback was provided on the [CO-WANDA](#) Danube Ship Waste Convention and [EU Strategy for the Danube Region pilot studies](#). The PM Expert Group acted as observers to the [GLOCAD initiative](#) of Danube basin research institutions.

The [Task Group on Nutrients](#) continued its agricultural focus by assisting in updating the DRBM Plan; nutrient modelling and measures' implementation.

# Monitoring and Assessment: quantifying problems... and progress

Ongoing water assessment is a vital process: ensuring our water is fit for consumption and targeting action to enhance chemical, ecological and quantitative status.

**The Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group (MA EG) is responsible for water quality assessment issues including the Joint Danube Surveys (JDS). Its remit covers operation of the Trans-National Monitoring Network (TNMN) and Analytical Quality Control program. 2014 priorities were inputs into key reports: the 2013 Danube Basin Analysis; 2015 Update of the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan and the third Joint Danube Survey (JDS3).**

The MA Expert Group finalized inputs on water body characteristics and risk assessment for the [2013 Danube Basin Analysis report](#). For the [draft 2015 Update to the Danube River Basin Management Plan](#), data collection continued: the majority of surface water status information will be incorporated into later drafts. Information on monitoring networks and status assessments were reviewed, ecological status gap analysis has been finalized.

The [Guidance Paper on Invasive Alien Species](#) was updated. The site-specific bio-contamination index for macrozoobenthos, indicating contamination intensity, was mapped.

December saw finalization of the [Technical report on the Joint Danube Survey 3](#), the largest international river monitoring cooperation. The production of a summary report to target a broader public was initiated.

Slovakia completed the [Transnational Monitoring Network Yearbook for 2012](#). Wessling Consortium were contracted to undertake the [TNMN Analytical Quality Control program](#) in 2014–2018. Test samples for 2014 were distributed and analyzed before the end of the year for the report to become available in spring 2015. The MA Expert Group agreed to reduce the [QualcoDanube](#) program to testing nutrients annually and priority substances every three years.

Cooperation with the [Black Sea Commission](#) was ongoing. The accelerated reporting procedure for Danube loads at Reni performed well: Romania's early reporting of 2013 data allowed the [Transnational Monitoring Network Data Centre](#) in Slovakia to complete processing before the end of 2014 so that the report on Danube loads could be delivered to the [Black Sea Commission one year earlier](#).

Options for upgrading the [Transnational Monitoring Network](#) with [climate change impacts](#) were investigated. The need for this was detailed in the [2012 ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#). Countries were asked to identify candidate monitoring sites and data availability.

Based on [Joint Danube Survey 3](#) data, the [draft List of Danube River Specific Substances](#) was updated, to be further revised by the EU Research and Innovation FP7 SOLUTIONS project. The ad-hoc joint [MA Expert Group – PM Expert Group “Task Group on Danube Specific Substances”](#) was reactivated to discuss appropriate methodology and further revision of the list.

The [Groundwater Task Group](#) provided inputs on groundwater bodies of basin-wide importance for the 2013 [Danube Basin Analysis](#) (detailing characterization, pressures and risk assessment) and for the updated [Danube River Basin Management Plan](#). Analysis of groundwater used in drinking water was completed for both reports, covering 99% of the [Danube River Basin](#) area and its population. Work progressed on a groundwater leaflet for a general audience.

# Accident Prevention and Control: reducing risks and responding to emergencies

Rapid execution of the ICPDR Accident Emergency Warning System; identification and action at risk sites and planning cross-border emergency responses all result in a cleaner, safer Danube environment.

## The workload of the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) was dominated by testing the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) and developing risk site inventories and safety measure strategies.

The AEWS system was tested in March, June and November to check for functionality, Principle International Alert Centres (PIAC) cooperation and 24/7 operability. Both 24/7 tests confirmed the system was working well but some Principle International Alert Centres reacted with certain delay which indicated problems with 24/7 operation. Therefore the ICPDR recommended measures be taken to ensure the Danube AEWS operates 24/7. The goal of the multinational accident test organized in March 2014 was to check the functioning of the system and the cooperation of Principle International Alert Centres in handling an accident that propagates downstream a large international river. All Principle International Alert Centres participated actively in this test and they all were able to perform their essential tasks within the updated system.

The Accident Emergency Warning System was moved to a new dedicated server to improve reliability and stability. The *International Operations Manual for PIACs of the Danube AEWS* was adopted and countries encouraged to translate it. [Accident Emergency Warning System training](#) took place and online tutorials are available for PIACs. It was also agreed that a three-year overview of DRB contingency planning exercises will be compiled and that Accident Emergency Warning System fax communication should be retained as a back-up.

On [accident prevention planning](#), data collection continued for [Accident Risk Spots \(ARS\)](#) and [Contaminated Sites \(CS\)](#), facilitating mapping of risk spots and basin-wide risk analyses for the [2015 Update to the Danube River Basin Management Plan](#). The APC Expert Group identified priority areas based on past assessments and accidents. Mining, oil and chemical processing; hazardous substance storage and abandoned polluted sites constituted greatest threat. Ongoing/planned activities include development of: mining and industrial tailing facility checklists and prevention measures; oil terminal safety guidelines; refinery checklists and fire safety procedures on water storage.

Preparations took place for a meeting to prioritise accident prevention tasks. Additionally, as APC Expert Group expertise is concentrated more on Accident Emergency Warning System, countries were asked to nominate additional experts to ensure progress continues in accident prevention.

Regarding [cross-border emergency and contingency planning](#), the *Safety guidance and checklist method for cross-border contingency planning* was elaborated by the UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents with the participation of the ICPDR Technical Expert. The APC Expert Group is observer in the *Improving the safety of industrial tailings management facilities* project.

# Sustainable flood protection across the Basin

The ICPDR's Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection sees movement away from defensive action against hazards in favour of proactive, sustainable and dynamic management of flood risk.

**Understanding and mapping flood risk forms the foundation for integrated basin-wide flood protection. The Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) is responsible for implementing the EU Floods Directive (FD) on the basin-wide level. It's also active in analysing of and generating lessons learned from the major flooding events.**

Activities focused on the data collection and preparing the [draft 2015 Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management \(DFRM\) Plan](#). The Plan summarizes the results of the preliminary flood risk assessment which were undertaken to provide an assessment of potential risks stemming from floods and presents the areas of potential significant flood risk (APFSR). For such sites in catchments >4000 km<sup>2</sup> the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps have been produced and are also presented in the Plan. The following maps were completed:

- (i) flood hazard and flooding scenarios;
- (ii) flood risk and population;
- (iii) flood risk and economic activity;
- (iv) flood risk and IPPC installations;
- (v) flood risk and Water Framework Directive protected areas.

The key part of the Plan are the strategic basin-wide level measures planned to be taken to prevent and reduce damage to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. Special attention in the Plan is given to measures employing areas which have the potential to retain flood water, such as natural flood plains as well as the other areas enabling controlled flooding. The draft flood risk management plan was put to six-month public consultation until July 2015.

The successful cooperation with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on [Danube-EFAS](#) (European Flood Alert System) continued. Output from the system is used by Danube flood monitoring centres as an additional warning tool. Ukraine became an European Flood Alert System partner in 2014 with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro's applications pending. A new hydrologic model calibration was made available. Additionally, the Joint Research Centre asked for support in carrying-out a study on capacities of flood early warning and/or monitoring systems in EU candidate and neighbouring countries.

The FP Expert Group published a [Report on the June 2013 floods](#), which reviewed meteorological and hydrological features of the flood event; evaluated the damages and outlined lessons learned.

The new FP Expert Group Chair, Karoly Gombas, attended a coordination meeting for a [Regional conference for flood prevention and management in Western Balkans](#) to follow-on from the International Donors Conference in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

Ongoing [cooperation with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) saw discussion with Priority Area 5 (Environmental Risks) on the outcomes of the enhanced flood management survey. Principles of cooperation were agreed including statements on the ICPDR and Danube Strategy's complementary roles and the need for close cooperation to maximize synergies.



# GIS: mapping out a positive future for the Danube

Developing measures that address basin-wide problems relies on an accurate and current knowledge-base; one that also allows different scenarios to be modelled and evaluated.

**The Information Management and Geographical Information System Expert Group (IMGIS EG) plays a vital role in conceptualising, informing and presenting the tasks of the ICPDR. It is responsible for the creation and improvement of datasets and maps; the management and development of the Danube River Basin GIS (DanubeGIS) and other online systems such as the ICPDR website. As such, it supports and advises other EGs and sub-basin activities. GIS maps provide a detailed picture of the state of the region – its utilisation and management – elucidating future scenarios and pinpointing areas with optimal potential.**

Production of maps for [EU Floods Directive reporting](#) came closer to completion in 2014 with an updated [Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk map](#) and [draft Flood Hazard and Flood Risk maps](#) for most countries.

For the [2013 Danube Basin Analysis](#) 24 maps were finalised – based on data received from 11 countries. Initial set of 18 [draft maps for the Danube River Basin Management Plan 2015 Update](#) were produced using available Danube Basin Analysis data. Total of 37 maps were planned to be updated eventually, as the new data, specifically for the Danube River Basin Management Plan Update 2015, was scheduled to be collected.

Revisions to [DanubeGIS](#) included a new template for reporting flood events. Data was supplied by the five relevant countries for the [Report on the June 2013 floods](#). Existing templates were deemed sufficient for the [draft 2015 Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan](#). Other development included establishment of analysis functions to retrieve aggregated tables and charts for current and future reporting needs; second-level data checks and enhanced dataset overviews.

Progress on [database integration and harmonization](#) saw agreement on merging the PM Expert Group [emissions database](#) with the DanubeGIS. Direct upload of Excel datasets without shape file format conversion was agreed. Countries will decide whether PM or IMGIS experts are responsible for uploads. Discussions took place with the APC Expert Group on merging the [Accident Risk Spots, Contaminated Sites and Mining Sites inventories](#) with DanubeGIS. The IMGIS Expert Group agreed on the technical implementation of harmonized reporting for transboundary continuity interruptions, future infrastructure projects and hydrological alterations on national borders.

The [International Sava River Basin Commission](#) started a project to implement a SavaGIS, to be completed in 2015. The IMGIS Expert Group initiated coordination and proposed a joint meeting to ensure reporting duplication is minimized and datasets are consistent.

The IMGIS Expert Group presented the DanubeGIS system to the [Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project](#) on water quality improvement in transboundary basins of the wider Black Sea region. DanubeGIS training was provided for project members – to ensure that Moldova and Ukraine are ready to provide data for the Danube River Basin Management Plan 2015 Update.

Cooperation continued with the Joint Research Centre over [Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure \(DRDSI\)](#), a facility for accessing comparable, harmonised datasets related to Danube Strategy priorities. The ICPDR was invited to promote DanubeGIS metadata and services via the Danube Reference Data and Service Infrastructure.

# Promoting public participation and communicating the Danube!

Publicizing information about the Danube basin and encouraging involvement is central to the activities of the ICPDR.

Actions spread messages of sustainable development; environmental conservation; Danube solidarity and good practice throughout the region.

## 2014 saw the Public Participation Expert Group (PP EG) put detail to the public consultation plans to promote the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), EU Floods Directive (FD) and 3rd Joint Danube Survey, alongside the 2015 Update to the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan and Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management (DFRM) Plan.

Working with the RBM and FP Expert Groups, the comprehensive programme of six-month public consultations began with the online publication of updates to the [Significant Water Management Issues \(SWMI\)](#). Involvement was promoted via the ICPDR and national websites and Danube Watch; and comments passed to the RBM Expert Group for review. The process will be repeated in 2015 with the draft management plans.

Discussions emphasized the need to maximize the active participation of a wide range of stakeholders, and promote links between the plans and between basin-wide and national activities. Two questionnaires were developed on key aspects of the plans, to be distributed in 2015. Also under preparation were a major [stakeholder workshop](#) involving PP, RBM and FP Expert Groups in Zagreb (July 2015); a social media campaign; online texts and a short film.

Planning communications for the [Joint Danube Survey 3 findings](#) was a key task. With the *Technical Report* approved in December, a wide distribution was planned and a consultant contracted to produce an accessible summary. Award-winning images will be featured: Andre Künzelmann of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research won the 2014 German Prize for Science Photography for his Joint Danube Survey 3 photographs.

The [11th Danube Day](#), the ICPDR's flagship outreach event, was overshadowed by the flooding in the Western Balkans. However, Danube Day partners maintained an almost full country coverage with over 200 events. PP Expert Group activities included: a poster; regularly updated [danubeday.org](#) website and partner sites; basin-wide and country reviews and giveaway 2015 diary, bags etc.

Funded through the [Green Danube Partnership](#) and coordinated by the ICPDR, Global Water Partnership organized the [11th Danube Art Master](#) competition in 11 countries, with the winning entry from Moldova. A dynamic theme was selected for 2015 with children tasked to create costumes and masquerades from found materials.

Several new initiatives were endorsed in 2014. Development of a six-year [sturgeon communication strategy](#) will streamline and capitalize on the: PP Expert Group's existing sturgeon activities; ICPDR flagship species status; 2014 establishment of *World Fish Migration Day*; and PP Expert Group involvement in a Danube Sturgeon Task Force awareness project. Agreement was reached on a PP Expert Group pilot study to explore communication opportunities arising from a 350% increase in [Danube cruise passengers](#) since 2003. An [educational online game](#) is under development by a Budapest agency through the [Green Danube Partnership](#) with the Coca-Cola System.

Promotion of existing materials continued. Now comprising seven national versions, Serbia distributed their [Danube Box](#) education kit. The [ICPDR website](#) maintained its raised viewing figures. Revisions included fortnightly news; a higher profile for revamped flood-related pages and a home page location for the ICPDR promo-video, for which several national subtitles were developed.

# Partnership and cooperation: river basin planning in the sub-basins and across the world

Forging strong, successful partnerships at the local, national and international scale makes the work of the ICPDR a model for the rest of the world.

**The ICPDR supports the development of sub-basin programmes and partnerships with neighbouring regions. Such cooperation is vital for sustainable integrated management of the Danube Basin.**

## Sava River Basin

2014 saw development of the [Sava River Basin Management Plan](#); the [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for the Sava River Basin](#); and a [Hydrological Yearbook](#); as well as systems on flood forecasting/warning and hydrological/meteorological data exchange. The International Commission for the Sava River Basin was also active in projects including the *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment*; *Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions*; *Flood Mapping Study*; *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan*; *Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation* and stakeholder initiatives.

## Tisza River Basin

Gauging progress in implementing the [Integrated Tisza River Basin Management \(ITRBM\) Plan](#), the [ICPDR Tisza Group](#) finalised the report on *Progress in Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures in the Tisza River Basin*. Next steps to update the [Tisza Analysis Report](#) and Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan were discussed, to be supported by an ICPDR-allocated EU Danube Strategy Priority Area 4 fund.

## Prut River Basin

Activity focussed on projects in Ukraine and Moldova and EU Directives. Work progressed on the EU ENPI 2012–16 [Environmental Protection of International River Basins \(EPIRB\) project](#), aiming to improve water quality in cross-border rivers of the Black Sea region and Belarus, including a [joint Moldova-Ukraine Prut River Basin Management Plan](#) and ICPDR-EPIRB data workshop. Other activities encompassed monitoring; information exchange; climate adaption; environmental conservation and proposals for a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

## Danube Delta

Two major projects dominated. Firstly, Environment and Security Initiative's ICPDR-implemented [ENVSEC Danube Delta Project](#) concerns cross-border cooperation and capacity-building towards integrated River Basin Management. A [draft Danube Delta Analysis Report](#) including evaluation of SWMIs was elaborated in 2014, to be

further elaborated in 2015. Secondly, [Climate proofing the Danube Delta through integrated land and water management](#) covering Ukraine, Moldova and Romania was funded through the European Commission's Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources programme. The [Danube Delta Adaptation Strategy](#) and [Action Plan](#) were presented at a final conference in Tulcea in September 2014.

## Black Sea Commission

The [draft 2015–2020 Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program](#) was presented in 2014. Cooperation via the [Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group](#) was successful in producing accelerated reporting of Danube loads. A concept was agreed for a report on the Black Sea ecosystem, to be included as an annex. Bulgaria stated its intention to strengthen the relationship when they hold the Black Sea Commission Presidency in 2015.

**The ICPDR is an acknowledged global leader in river basin management, with particular expertise in fostering international cooperation.**

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

2014 brought a major step forward with the adoption of a [Joint document on ICPDR/EUSDR cooperation and synergy](#). The ICPDR was prominent at the 3rd Annual Forum of the Danube Strategy in Vienna, with a special session marking 20 years of the ICPDR plus active participation in plenary and working group sessions and Danube Strategy exhibitions. Funding was obtained for project proposals for priority actions on sediments, sturgeon and the Tisza and Sava sub-basins, as well as facilitate the Iron Gates Technical Workshop in Bucharest.

The ICPDR receives many requests from commissions, institutions and countries to attend meetings, share experience and support research. The commission is informally involved with the [IW:Learn](#) (International Waters Learning Exchange & Resource Network), a group of water management bodies developing knowledge sharing tools. The ICPDR provided a World Water Week keynote speech at the launch of the [Source-to-Sea global multi-stakeholder platform](#), bringing together freshwater, coastal and marine communities.

# Regular Budget and Financial Contribution

## Regular Budget for the Financial Year 2014

Three independent auditors, appointed by the Contracting Parties, audited the consolidated financial statement including the accounting records of the ICPDR for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

The Audit Team certified that the Statement of Accounts is correct and the contents, structure and details are in accordance with ICPDR rules and regulations and accounting principles assuring transparency of financial management.

## Contributions Financial Year 2014

Contracting Party	Contribution in %	Contribution in Euro	Actual payment 2014 in Euro
Germany	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Austria	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Czech Republic	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Slovakia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Hungary	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Slovenia*	8.60	98,000.00	0.00
Croatia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Serbia	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Bulgaria	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Romania	8.60	98,000.00	98,000.00
Moldova	1.00	11,395.35	11,395.35
Ukraine	4.00	45,581.40	0.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.00	45,581.40	45,581.40
Montenegro	2.50	28,488.37	28,439.37
European Union	2.50	28,488.37	28,488.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,139,534.89</b>	<b>995,904.49</b>

\* Slovenia has settled its 2014 Contribution in the 2nd quarter of 2015

## Expenditure Financial Year 2014

Budget Heading	Approved Budget in Euro	Expenditure in Euro	Obligations in Euro	Remaining Balance in Euro	Remaining Balance in %
Staff	678,900.00	635,286.53	27,643.46	15,970.01	2.35
Office Running	158,900.00	116,045.57	14,143.50	28,710.93	18.07
Publications	105,000.00	75,525.13	10,625.29	18,849.58	17.95
Travel & Meetings	94,800.00	63,203.48	2,166.14	29,430.38	31.04
Services	101,934.89	92,039.36	6,197.95	3,697.58	3.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139,534.89</b>	<b>982,100.07</b>	<b>60,776.34</b>	<b>96,658.48</b>	<b>8.48</b>

# Contracting Parties and Heads of Delegations

## Austria

Karl SCHWAIGER, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management  
[www.bmlfuw.gov.at](http://www.bmlfuw.gov.at)

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

Reuf HADZIBEGIC, as of November Bosko KENJIC, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations  
[www.mvteo.gov.ba](http://www.mvteo.gov.ba)

## Bulgaria

Emilia KRAEVA, Ministry of Environment and Water  
[www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)

## Croatia

Drazen KURECIC, Ministry of Agriculture  
[www.mps.hr](http://www.mps.hr)

## Czech Republic

Karel VLASAK, as of July Josef NISTLER, Ministry of the Environment  
[www.env.cz](http://www.env.cz)

## Germany

Fritz HOLZSWARTH, as of March Heide JEKEL, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety  
[www.bmub.bund.de](http://www.bmub.bund.de)

## Hungary

Peter KOVACS, Ministry of Rural Development  
[www.kormany.hu/hu/belugyminiszterium](http://www.kormany.hu/hu/belugyminiszterium)

## Moldova

Tatjana BELOUS, as of April Valentina TAPIS, as of August Anatolie PIRLII, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
[www.mediu.gov.md](http://www.mediu.gov.md)

## Montenegro

Velizar VOJINOVIC, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
[www.minpolj.gov.me](http://www.minpolj.gov.me)

## Romania

Ionut Ciprian IUGA, Ministry of Environment and Forests  
[www.mmediu.ro](http://www.mmediu.ro)

## Slovakia

Norbert HALMO, as of November Vladimir NOVAK, Ministry of the Environment  
[www.enviro.gov.sk](http://www.enviro.gov.sk)

## Slovenia

Mitja BRICELJ, Ministry of the Environment & Spatial Planning  
[www.mop.gov.si](http://www.mop.gov.si)

## Republic of Serbia

Miodrag PJESCIC, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
[www.minpolj.gov.rs](http://www.minpolj.gov.rs)

## Ukraine

Mykola MELENEVSKYI, as of December Mykhailo TOMAKHIN, Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP)  
[www.menr.gov.ua](http://www.menr.gov.ua)

## European Union

Nicola NOTARO, European Commission, DG Environment  
[www.ec.europa.eu/environment](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment)

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European Commission, DG Environment  
[www.ec.europa.eu/environment](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment)



**Czech Republic**

Ministry of the Environment  
[www.env.cz](http://www.env.cz)

**Slovakia**

Ministry of the Environment  
[www.enviro.gov.sk](http://www.enviro.gov.sk)

**Hungary**

Ministry of Rural Development  
[www.kormany.hu/hu/belugyminiszterium](http://www.kormany.hu/hu/belugyminiszterium)

**Romania**

Ministry of Environment and Forests  
[www.mmediu.ro](http://www.mmediu.ro)

**Ukraine**

Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP)  
[www.menr.gov.ua](http://www.menr.gov.ua)

**Moldova**

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
[www.mediu.gov.md](http://www.mediu.gov.md)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations  
[www.mvteo.gov.ba](http://www.mvteo.gov.ba)

**Montenegro**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
[www.minpolj.gov.me](http://www.minpolj.gov.me)

**Republic of Serbia**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
[www.minpolj.gov.rs](http://www.minpolj.gov.rs)

**Bulgaria**

Ministry of Environment and Water  
[www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)



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## Imprint

**Editor:** Benedikt Mandl  
**Text:** Suzie Holt ([suzie@wyldwooded.co.uk](mailto:suzie@wyldwooded.co.uk))  
**Layout:** Barbara Jaumann  
**Corporate Design:** BüroX

**Photos:** page 2: Zsirmon Kudich; page 3: Hornbauer, ICPDR/Schedl;  
page 9: Victor Mello

**Print:** Printed on Munken Lynx, 100% TCF, FCS,  
awarded with the Nordic swan