

Thematic Areas

Background Document

Thematic Area 3: Objectives and measures of Flood Risk Management Plans

- Floods are natural phenomena and can appear anywhere at any time throughout the entire river basin. They can become disasters when affecting humans, damaging property and infrastructure, or even cause injuries or casualties.
- The most important principle in the international ICPDR Danube Flood Risk Management Plan Update 2021 (DFRMP) is the solidarity principle, which guarantees that regions located downstream within the basin are not negatively affected by measures that were adopted in the upstream part of the watershed and vice versa.
- The DFRMP Update 2021 summarizes the results of the updated preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) which was undertaken to provide an assessment of potential risks stemming from floods and identifies the areas of potential significant flood risk (APSFR). The results of the updated PFRA also provided the public and stakeholders with an important evidence that the areas with potential significant flood risk in the Danube River Basin are being taken care of for the benefit of all inhabitants and countries of the Danube River Basin. For the APSFR in catchments >4,000km² the flood hazard maps and flood risk maps have been produced and are displayed in the draft DFRMP Update 2021.
- The ICPDR agreed upon the following objectives of the DFRMP Update 2021: (i) Avoidance of new risks; (ii) Reduction of existing risks; (iii) Strengthening resilience; (iv) Raising awareness and (v) Promoting the solidarity principle. These objectives are broad and robust enough to accommodate all relevant topics and options including the impacts of climate change.



**OUR OPINION –
OUR DANUBE**
ICPDR Stakeholder Consultation
Workshop 2021

29th to 30th June 2021
– Online via Zoom –

Tuesday 29th, 09:00 am – 15:00 pm
Wednesday 30th, 09:00 am – 12:00 pm

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- The draft DFRMP Update 2021 in chapter 5 (and Annex 2) refers to the strategic basin-wide level measures to prevent and reduce damage to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. In the frame of their prioritization those measures were favoured which are sufficiently robust to the uncertainty in forecasting of climate change impacts.
- Special attention is given in the draft DFRMP Update 2021 to measures employing areas which have the potential to retain flood water. Natural water retention measures, natural barriers, and other nature-based solutions are an already existing tool which can help prevent the worst flooding. Flood retention structures on the other hand, can also comprise artificial manmade constructions, providing a retention volume to decrease a flood's peak or volume. Water retention can be provided naturally and technically by reconnecting retention sites to the river, such as wetlands, floodplains, reservoirs, detention / retention basins, or flood polders. All flood retention measures and structures contribute to flood mitigation and their planning, construction, operation, maintenance, and reconstruction is given top priority in the draft DFRMP Update 2021 due to their substantial downstream effect.
- To better demonstrate key actions of basin-wide importance the measures described in the draft DFRMP Update 2021 are combined with the examples of best practices.
- The coordination of the WFD and the FD offers the opportunity to optimize the mutual synergies and minimise conflicts between varying interests, aiding the efficiency of the implementation of measures and increasing the efficient use of resources. Countries are asked to take appropriate steps to coordinate the implementation of both Directives.



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