

icpdr **iksd**

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

Shared waters – joint responsibilities

ICPDR Annual Report 2011

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



“In 2011, the ICPDR made a number of key advances. Having developed a framework for integrated river basin management over previous years, 2011 saw the Danube Basin countries apply it at the sub-basin level. These activities were at the core of events such as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the five Tisza countries (at the Ministerial Meeting held in Ukraine) and the Joint Danube Delta Survey undertaken in the autumn. The ICPDR enhanced both its international relations work and its world standing. Our expert groups and staff continue to ensure that the ICPDR is fully effective and constantly adapting to ensure progress towards the goals of cleaner rivers and sustainable development. In the year that saw endorsement of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, our work has distinguished the ICPDR as a reliable pillar for water management across the entire region.”

*Mykola Melenevskyi, ICPDR President in 2011
and Ambassador at Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine*

Shifting the emphasis from planning to implementation: ICPDR highlights in 2011

The ICPDR reached a number of key milestones on the road to sustainable integrated management for the Danube River Basin in 2011. Major strides were taken in implementing objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan and activities in the sub-basins were a particular focus.

Specific highlights included the:

- Official approval of the Integrated [Tisza River Basin Management Plan](#) at the Ministerial Meeting in Uzhgorod in April (see p12).
- Ceremonial unveiling of plaques by the five Tisza countries in June, reaffirming their ongoing [commitment to joint management of the Tisza Basin](#) (see p12).
- Annual 14-country [Danube Day celebration](#) on June 29th (see p11).
- Inaugural three-country [Joint Danube Delta Survey](#) in September–October, facilitated by the commencement of UNECE/UNEP ENVSEC project funding (see p12).
- [PLATINA Sustainable Water Planning Conference](#) in Brussels in November, bringing together stakeholder groups to ensure environmental considerations are addressed (see p6).
- [Formation of the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group](#) (see p8).



Bringing experience together: 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 Union) who have committed themselves to implementing the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC). The ICPDR serves as a forum for coordination on water management issues where 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](#) 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](#) (EFD). 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 (formed 2011)
- 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](#) 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. Including the Danube Competence Center joining at the Ordinary Meeting in December 2011, a total of 22 organisations have taken the opportunity to become observers to the ICPDR.

- [Black Sea Commission](#)
- [Central Dredging Association](#)
- [Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians](#)
- [Danube Commission](#)
- [Danube Environmental Forum](#)
- [Danube Parks](#)
- [Danube Tourist Commission](#)
- [European Anglers Alliance](#)
- [European Barge Union](#)
- [European Water Association](#)
- [Friends of Nature International](#)
- [Global Water Partnership](#)
- [International Association for Danube Research](#)
- [International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area](#)
- [International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO](#)
- [International Sava River Basin Commission](#)
- [RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands](#)
- [Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe](#)
- [VGB PowerTech e.V.](#)
- [via donau](#)
- [World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme](#)
- [Danube Competence Center \(DCC\)](#)

On track for a sustainable future for the Danube Basin

With ministerial agreement in 2010 on management objectives for the region, 2011 has seen the spotlight move from planning and negotiation to implementation and assessment.

Progress towards achieving the basin-wide objectives of the DRBM Plan has taken centre-stage in 2011. Ensuring that implementation of the actions laid out in the Joint Programme of Measures (JPM) is on track, harmonised and inline with EU reporting requirements has dominated the work of the 14 Danube States party to the Danube River Protection Convention.

The JPM outlines the detailed basin-wide actions required to improve the environmental condition of the Danube and its tributaries by 2015. These actions are fundamental to achieving the long-term [Visions](#). Sound assessment of the progress towards the implementation of the agreed JPM forms a crucial component of this process.

Elaboration of the [2012 Interim Report on JPM Implementation](#) has been a specific focus of the ICPDR [Expert Group on River Basin Management](#) (RBM EG) and other relevant Expert and Task Groups. Particular progress has been made on content, data collection issues and harmonisation between topics. Reporting guidelines on the status of measures implementation for each of the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) were drawn up in line with national EU reporting requirements, thereby minimising effort and enhancing the report's consistency. Launch of the data collection process took place in November, with the expectation that the data will be available in spring 2012 for the finalisation of the report until the end of 2012.

Planning for the [2013 Danube Basin Analysis](#) was an RBM priority in 2011. Review by 2013 of previous analyses concerning characterisation, pressures and impacts, and economics is obligatory under the EU WFD. Proposals were drawn up to update the original 2004 report and refinements are currently discussed by relevant EGs and TGs including [Hydromorphology \(HYMO\)](#) and [Economics TGs](#).

The HYMO TG gave initial input on assessments for the next Joint Danube Survey (JDS3). Preliminary discussions took place on the *ecological prioritisation approach* for river restoration and habitat continuity (highlighted in the 2010 Danube Declaration), along with a review of a WWF proposal on wetland / floodplain reconnection. A joint workshop with the Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group (MA EG) on good ecological potential also proved fruitful and provided an overview of national approaches.

Coordination with the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) was strengthened during 2011. Work on addressing integration topics also continued apace. For [hydropower](#), 2011 saw the formation of a team to develop Guiding Principles on Hydropower Generation, the launch of data collection for the Hydropower Assessment Report and progress on cooperation with the hydropower sector. On [climate adaptation](#), interim results on the Danube Climate Adaptation Study, developed by the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, were presented and discussed (final results ready early 2012). Issues concerning the inter-linkage between river basin management and flood risk management, coordination with sub-basin activities and discussions on the review of future infrastructure projects were subject to ongoing work. Action on [sediments](#) saw the development of a Danube Sediment project proposal. The proposal, developed by an international consortium under the leadership of Prof. Józsa of Budapest University, was submitted to the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Program and recognised as part of the EU Danube Strategy.

Limiting pressures, reversing declines, rejuvenating the Danube environment

Pressures on the Danube environment are historically severe, leading to the extremely broad range of activities of the ICPDR to address them.

Eliminating emissions of untreated wastewater, limiting eutrophication, removing threats from hazardous substances, mitigating and reversing impacts from hydromorphological alterations and protecting groundwater supplies are the key priorities in the DRBM Plan. Fundamental to this is the integration of EU policies such as the WFD, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Nitrates Directive and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive into national and basin-wide strategies. Accurate and ongoing quantification of the state of the environment, as well as assessment of implementation and effectiveness of specific measures, is vital for success.

The [Pressures and Measures Expert Group](#) (P&M EG) promotes measures to achieve the objectives of the DRBM Plan. Assessing implementation of the JPM at the national level and preparations for the 2012 [Interim Report](#) and 2013 Danube Basin Analysis (DBA) formed the core work of 2011. A method for monitoring measures implementation in each country was agreed, with specific details developed for urban wastewater treatment. The P&M EG will be responsible for supplying information and advice on all measures implementation addressing organic, nutrients and hazardous substances pollution. By providing this overview, solutions to joint problems can be elaborated. Discussion papers on organic, nutrient and hazardous substance pollution were drawn up as input into the 2012 Interim Report. For the 2013 DBA, an approach for performing the analysis for each SWMI was prepared, to be refined by other EGs.

Progress on pollution

Draft technical guidelines on establishing an [inventory of hazardous substance emissions, discharges and losses](#) were completed in 2011, helping to plug a significant gap identified in the DRBM Plan. The P&M EG will deliver a Danube case study for the EU in close cooperation with the relevant EU Drafting Group. Work continued on ensuring the emissions database and collection cycles are aligned with those required by EU directives. P&M experts addressed another gap highlighted in the Plan by ensuring assistance be provided to non-EU countries for reporting on urban wastewater developments. Regarding industrial pollution, ongoing tasks included compilation of existing [Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers](#) (2007/8) and guidance on national registers. A review of the preparedness of countries for the detergents [phosphate ban](#) was undertaken. The group investigated extending the limitation to dishwasher detergents (in light of the recent EU decision to severely restrict their use) and is in the process of updating model calculations of anticipated effects in reducing phosphates. Dialogue with the detergent industry was intensified.

The [Task Group on Nutrients](#) continued to focus on agricultural pollution, investigating impacts of agri-policy on water resources; formulating assumptions for scenarios; developing the list of key measures for agricultural pressures and reporting on implementation of the Nitrates Directive. A [Nutrient Management Strategy](#) is being drafted and a stakeholders workshop on agriculture is planned for 2012.

Pioneering approach on inland waterway management

The PLATINA Sustainable Water Planning Conference brought together stakeholder groups with traditionally conflicting aims to cooperate for the benefit of Europe's waterways. Representatives from the inland waterways transport industry joined conservation groups to discuss how best to work together to ensure environmental considerations are built into waterway projects. The Brussels conference was the first time the two groups had fully collaborated and was organised by the ICPDR and Inland Navigation Europe, under the EU's Platina project. Attending the conference, Matthias Ruete (Head of the EC Directorate General (DG) for Mobility and Transport) and Karl Falkenberg (Head of DG Environment) endorsed the cooperation as a major step forward. A Czech version of the *Platina Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning* was launched during the event.

Quantifying the problems ... and the progress

The [Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group](#) (MA EG) is responsible for all water quality assessment issues including the [Joint Danube Surveys](#) (JDS). Its remit includes operation of the Trans-National Monitoring Network (TNMN) and the Analytical Quality Control programme. MA priorities in 2011 were wide-ranging, with activities involving priority substances, implications of EU Directives, a gap analysis on ecological status and guidelines on invasive species, as well as preparatory work for the next steps of the DRBM process.

A key task was the collection of data on [priority substances causing failure to achieve good chemical status](#). Research was also carried out to identify those priority substances that had not yet been subject to analysis in the DRBM Plan. Regarding assessment of [ecological status](#), Austria collated a gap analysis on the national situation across the Basin. A draft list of [invasive alien species](#) (IAS) and guidance on how to deal with this issue in status assessments was prepared by Hungary and Serbia. Work is ongoing to draw up recommendations for IAS monitoring and assessment for the JDS3, as well as a classification of species according to level of ecosystem impact. A joint workshop with HYMO TG on *good ecological potential* was held (see p. 5).

MA EG activities fed directly into designing the next steps in the overall process, namely the JDS3 and the 2013 update to the 2004 DBA, which will ultimately define many of the revisions in the 2015 DRBM Plan. Much progress was made on preparations for [JDS3](#), with Romania and Serbia offering boats to accommodate the survey team. Germany and Romania drew up a list of proposed target substances and countries were asked to identify which ones they were able to analyse in national laboratories. Ukraine will prepare a proposal for isotope analysis. A JDS3 biological monitoring core group was established, which drew up a comprehensive set of proposals for monitoring biological quality elements (BQE) during the survey. Joint brainstorming with the HYMO TG on cooperation on the hydromorphological survey took place and the MA EG formulated a set of added values to be delivered by JDS3.

Experts from Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in a BQE training workshop in Slovakia. Focusing on the assessment of phytobenthos and macrophytes, the EU-funded workshop supported the development of WFD-compliant methods in the non-EU countries.

Amongst other activities, Hungary analyzed the performance of the *QualcoDanube Analytical Quality Control* system, concluding that revisions are required. The [TNMN Yearbook for 2009](#) was finalised by Slovakia and included a separate chapter on groundwaters of basin-wide importance using data provided by the [Groundwater Task Group](#). Other key outcomes from this TG included preparation of a draft template for data collection for the 2012 Interim Report on JPM implementation and initial work on an inventory of bank filtered water. The group also focused on the preparatory work for the next steps of the DRBM process and on promoting a greater emphasis on groundwater in the JDS3 and put forward proposals to screen groundwater bodies along the Danube for emerging pollutants.



New team to focus on accidental pollution: prevention, warning systems and mitigation

The smooth, rapid execution of the ICPDR Accident Emergency Warning System is crucial in limiting the downstream impacts of incidents such as the 2010 Ajka toxic sludge spill. Operation of the system, along with identification and action at risk sites and also emergency response planning results in a cleaner, safer Danube environment.

2011 saw the formation of an ICPDR Expert Group to fully integrate and tackle accidental pollution issues. The new Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) was formed from the merger of two existing groups: the Accident Prevention and Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) Task Groups. The new EG brings together ICPDR experts working to reduce the occurrence of accidents with all those involved with limiting the negative consequences when things do go wrong.

With its broader remit, the group reviewed many of the procedures in place and made recommendations for the future. With regard to [accident prevention and control](#), a new reporting structure will increase efficiencies in information exchange during accidents. Enhancements included new templates for inventories of accident, contaminated and mining sites, with all countries involved in inventory preparation; new procedures for updating reports and checking criteria and risk site assessments at the national level; and the preparation of national

annual accident reports to be compiled and mapped at the basin level. [Inventories of Accident Risk Spots](#) (ARS) and [Contaminated Sites](#) were updated and an evaluation of the safety measures at ARS is ongoing. Discussions took place on quantification of real risk at industrial plants handling hazardous substances and integration of mining accident risk reduction procedures into ICPDR Accidental Risk Prevention policy (in line with the EU Mining Waste Directive). The Group is also preparing guidelines for countries on emergency accident management procedures.

As regards the [AEWS](#), the Ajka spill highlighted the absolute necessity for the system to respond rapidly, vital in ensuring confidence and avoiding suspicion of non-disclosure. Reducing the time taken between the initial incident and awareness at the Principal International Alert Centres (PIAC) is required; 24/7 operation of all PIACs is an essential prerequisite of this. The March test of the AEWS, designed to check 24/7 operability, showed a marked improvement since 2010, with all 14 PIACs responding and all but one within the 3-hour deadline. Similarly, the November test showed positive results. Regular training and refinements to operational procedures were also undertaken during 2011. Proposals for updating the AEWS hardware and software were made: a demo version of the new system will be presented in 2012, which will take into consideration developments in integrated systems at the EU level.



Progress on sustainable flood protection across the Basin

In light of the catastrophic flooding seen in recent years, the ICPDR's Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection is shifting management from defensive action against hazards to a proactive, sustainable and dynamic management of flood risk.

Understanding and mapping flood risk forms the foundation for developing integrated, basin-wide flood protection for the region. 2011 saw the completion of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Report for the Danube Basin. Based on input from the Danube countries, the report identifies Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk, an important step towards implementing the EU Floods Directive (EFD).

The PFRA report provides information on major flood events that occurred in the Danube River Basin. It summarizes the methodologies and criteria used at the national level to identify and assess floods that occurred in the past and their past adverse consequences and whether the likelihood of such floods remains relevant. It also addresses the methodologies and criteria used to identify and assess significant floods that occurred in the past that would have significant adverse consequences were they to reoccur in the future and methodologies and criteria used to identify and assess potential future significant floods and their potential adverse consequences. A brief description of the methodology is provided used to identify the areas of potential significant flood at both national and basin-wide level. The [Flood Protection Expert Group](#) (FP EG) will finalise the report in 2012 on receipt of information outstanding from a number of countries.

The present FP EG's work to implement the [ICPDR Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection](#) is concentrated on meeting the requirements of the EFD. The Group produced a concept paper on coordination aspects of the EFD implementation at the basin-wide level, which will be updated regularly to provide a Danube guide to EFD implementation.

Under the EFD, flood risk maps are to be drawn up by 2013. Detailed discussions took place on the content of [flood risk and hazard maps and these will continue in 2012 and will include organization of a flood risk mapping workshop](#). A list of issues concerning joint implementation of the WFD & EFD in the Danube Basin was prepared.

2011 also saw the publication of a [Report on the 2010 Floods](#). Mapping the key flood events, the report assessed the effectiveness of hydrological forecasting and flood interventions and detailed casualty numbers, overall damage and lessons to be learned. The lessons learned from 2010 floods showed that while reliable forecasting of flash floods is rather complicated, an efficient application of structural and non-structural measures such as providing sufficient space to rivers by creating dry polders and revitalization of floodplains, or regular maintenance of river channels ensuring unhindered flow during extreme hydrological conditions can remarkably decrease the risk of flood damages.



Mapping out a positive future for the Danube environment

Developing and implementing measures that address basin-wide problems can only be achieved through an accurate understanding of the Danube environment.

Over recent years, considerable effort has gone into developing a harmonised multi-thematic geographic information system (GIS) of the Basin. The *DanubeGIS*, launched in 2007, integrates datasets on key aspects of the Danube environment. Principle output to-date has been the production of maps for the DRBM Plan, Integrated Tisza RBM Plan and EU reporting. The maps provide a detailed picture of the state of the region, its utilisation and management, as well as displaying future scenarios and identification of areas with greatest potential for particular management.

Recent efforts have been targeted on improving the datasets and updating the GIS. During 2011, a primary task of the [Information Management and GIS Expert Group \(IMGIS EG\)](#) involved [geometric harmonisation of the river network and lakes](#) with the aim of producing a seamless basin-wide network. Case studies of border harmonisation and technical considerations were discussed and processes for agreement between partners dealing with bi and tri-lateral water bodies are being developed. Templates and a guidance document for transboundary rivers have been prepared and a new list of the main cross-border rivers (detailing all local names) will assist in dealing with current gaps in national datasets.

Various technical decisions about the [future development of DanubeGIS](#) were agreed. The revised system will be more adaptable and user friendly, with a new user interface that will allow variable access to public and expert users. The changes will ease data processing, give a more immediate and clearer feedback to data providers, provide bulk download to facilitate data sharing and allow more integrated analysis and reporting using data from other ICPDR databases. A concept paper was produced on developing DRB [Reference Datasets](#), which will allow the more efficient production of maps and development of the *WebGIS*, as well as facilitate harmonization.

Another important task is the management of the ICPDR's information system infrastructure. As much of the system is now outmoded, the web sites and databases are being transferred to a new virtual machine, ensuring high availability, scalability, security of the ICPDR information systems.



Promoting public participation and partnership

With an emphasis on encouraging public participation and strong partnerships at the local, national and international scale, the work of the ICPDR is a model for the rest of the world.

Focussing on public participation

In order to enhance public involvement and understanding of key issues, several communication tools were developed in 2011.

A draft [Communication Strategy](#) to increase awareness of the DRBM Plan was produced by the [Public Participation Expert Group](#) (PP EG) and a schedule to ensure active public participation in development of the 2015 Plan was drawn up. Experts drafted criteria for overhauling the [ICPDR website](#), which will be re-launched in spring 2012, and a *Waltzing Waters* documentary began production.

A series of workshops were held on a ship travelling from Belgrade to Vienna. Their objective was to examine ways to develop [educational youth initiatives](#) across the Basin to promote awareness of environmental and water-related issues. Outcomes included proposals on how to integrate the [Danube Box](#) interactive education kit and the conclusions will also form the basis for some national activities. Promotion of the Danube Box is ongoing in 6 countries. 2011 saw Hungary host the first International Danube Box competition in cooperation with GWP (Global Water Partnership) Hungary, Coca-Cola Hellenic Hungary and the ICPDR. The successful 3-day event was combined with a Danube Box Workshop, where teachers from 7 countries shared experiences. Assistance to the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) on an *Orange River Box* for southern Africa is ongoing.

The ICPDR's flagship public event, [Danube Day](#) held annually on the 29th June, continues to expand in size and influence. 721 partners and 440 schools from 14 countries got involved in 210 events to promote Danube solidarity and understanding – a record year in all respects. The [Danube Art Master](#) (DAM) schools competition was successfully organised by GWP Central and Eastern Europe in all 14 countries.

ICPDR print publications in 2011

[The Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan](#)

[3 editions of Danube Watch](#)

[Danube Day 2011 Review Pocket Diary](#)

[Danube Basin Facts and Figures Leaflet](#)

[ICPDR Annual Report 2010](#)

[Flood Action Plan Fact sheet \(reprint\)](#)

[Platina Manual CDs \(including translated versions of the Joint Statement\)](#)

[New Danube River Basin Overview Map](#)

Developing corporate partnerships

Cooperation with business partners progressed on both the company and strategic level. An approach was developed for expanding the successful partnerships of the [Business Friends of the Danube](#) (BFoD) to strengthen corporate commitment to water stewardship and engage companies in supporting ICPDR activities such as JDS3 and Danube Day. Enlisting the support of the agricultural private sector is a key component. Initial work began on finding ways to involve them in supporting ICPDR work on water quality via contribution to the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) (SDR), particularly agricultural pollution reduction. A conference for agricultural and environmental actors is planned for 2012, with proposals to invite Agriculture and Environment Ministers and members of the BFoD to discuss joint SDR contributions.

The event will be supported by the [Green Danube Partnership](#). This 6-year-long firm cooperation between The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola Hellenic and the ICPDR continues to bear fruits both at the international level and in 12 countries of the region, as well as in terms of corporate social responsibility. Outputs included funding for Danube Day promotional materials, the DAM Winners' Trip, Danube Box activities and events in several countries including the 5-country commemorative plaques celebration at the source of the Tisza.

Supporting river basin planning in the sub-basins and around the globe

Active ICPDR involvement in planning at the sub-basin level is fundamental to accomplishing sustainable and integrated management of the Danube Basin. The Danube Declaration reaffirmed support for such initiatives in the Sava, Tisza, Danube Delta and Prut regions.

The EU WFD encourages development of more detailed sub-basin programmes to supplement river basin management at the basin-wide scale. The ICPDR strongly supports this work, assisting local and regional planners in following the DRBM process at the sub-basin level. 2011 saw major strides forward in securing a positive future in the Tisza, Sava and Danube Delta sub-basins: adoption of the river basin plan for the Tisza, initial public consultations on the draft plan for the Sava and completion of the first Joint Danube Delta Survey.

Tisza River Basin

2011 was a landmark year for the Tisza sub-basin as Ministers gave approval to the [Integrated Tisza River Basin Management \(ITRBM\) Plan](#) developed by the [ICPDR Tisza Group](#). Official recognition of the work as well as strengthening the commitment to support sustainable development of the basin (signature of the updated Memorandum of Understanding) took place at the Ministerial Meeting of 11th April 2011 in Uzhgorod, organized with the support of Ukraine and the now completed UNDP/GEF Tisza project (TP). In June, the achievement was celebrated at the source of the Tisza, where officials from the five countries and an EU delegation unveiled plaques commemorating cross-border cooperation and ongoing commitment to joint river basin management. Based on outcomes from the DRBM Plan and achievements from both the Tisza Group and TP, an [EU DRBM Plan 2010-12 Grant](#) was launched to support key actions of the DRBM and ITRBM Plans.

An updated Tisza Group Terms of Reference was adopted by the ICPDR HoDs and a draft [Communication Strategy](#) was drawn up by the TP and Tisza Group to promote understanding of integrated sub-basin management. Work on the 2012 WFD Interim Report and also Tisza Basin case studies on climate change and agriculture-water management links are ongoing; as is cooperation between Tisza countries and the [UNEP Carpathian Convention](#).

Danube Delta

During 2011, major progress on achieving a similar level of collaboration and planning in the Danube Delta sub-basin took place. The start of two-year [project funding from UNECE/UNEP ENVSEC](#) (Environment and Security Initiative) helped strengthen cooperation between the Delta countries Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in their efforts to introduce a river basin approach towards the development of a sub-basin management plan. As implementing agency, the ICPDR accomplished two of the key activities in 2011: the [Joint Danube Delta Survey \(JDDS\)](#) and initial steps on the development of the [Danube Delta Sub-Basin Analysis Report \(DDAR\)](#). JDDS results are an important building block to provide comparable and reliable information on water quality for the Delta region, based on the JDS approach. More than 20 experts from Moldova, Romania and Ukraine jointly undertook water sample analysis and hydromorphological assessments. Results will feed into the DDAR.

Partnership around the globe

The ICPDR is a global leader in river basin management, with particular expertise in fostering international cooperation. 2011 saw great advances in plans to expand on its successful cooperation with other bodies managing international waters (e.g. ORASECOM). Consultations took place with the [International River Foundation \(IRF\)](#), GEF IW Learn, IUCN, EU, The Nature Conservancy Great Rivers Partnership, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and ORASECOM. A new position is to be created to develop international activities, funded in part by a two-year commitment from the ICPDR's Thiess Riverprize funds. With additional funding from the IRF, the ICPDR will help establish an IRF presence in Europe with a [European Riverprize](#) competition to be awarded for the first time in 2013. A joint [ICPDR-IRF advisory body](#) and a network of [European River Ambassadors](#) are also planned.

Regular Budget and Financial Contribution

Regular Budget Financial Year 2011

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 2011.

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 the accounting principles assuring transparency of financial management.

Contributions Financial Year 2011

Contracting Party	Contribution in %	Contribution in Euro	Actually payment 2011 in Euro
Germany	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Austria	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Czech Republic	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Slovakia	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Hungary	8.85	97,000.00	96,900.00
Slovenia	8.85	97,000.00	96,900.00
Croatia	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Serbia	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.00	32,881.36	32,881.36
Bulgaria	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Romania	8.85	97,000.00	97,000.00
Moldova	1.00	10,960.45	10,960.45
Ukraine	3.00	32,881.36	32,881.36
Montenegro	2.00	21,920.90	4,975.75
European Union	2.50	27,401.13	27,401.13
Total	100.00	1,096,045.20	1,078,900.05

Expenditures Financial Year 2010

Budget Headings	Approved Budget in Euro	Expenditures in Euro	Balance in Euro
Staff	569,000.00	567,788.88	1,211.12
Office Running	142,000.00	141,420.68	579.32
Publications	102,500.00	101,126.37	1,373.63
Travel & Meetings	104,000.00	101,184.63	2,815.37
Services	178,545.20	178,398.12	147.08
Total	1,096,045.20	1,089,918.68	6,126.52

Contracting Parties and Heads of Delegations

Austria

Karl SCHWAIGER, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
www.lebensministerium.at/

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Reuf HADZIBEGIC, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
www.mvteo.gov.ba/

Bulgaria

Ivelina VASSILEVA, Ministry of Environment and Water
www.moew.government.bg/

Croatia

Zdravko KRMEK, Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management
www.mrrsvg.hr/

Czech Republic

Vaclav DVORAK, Hana RANDOVA as of 2 June, Ministry of the Environment
www.env.cz/

Germany

Fritz HOLZWARTH, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
www.bmu.de/

Hungary

Istvan KLING, Ministry of Rural Development
www.vm.gov.hu/

Moldova

Tatjana BELOUS, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
www.medi.gov.md/

Montenegro

Velizar VOJINOVIC, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
www.minpolj.gov.me/

Romania

Dan CARLAN, Ministry of Environment and Forests
www.mmediu.ro/

Slovakia

Norbert HALMO, Ministry of the Environment
www.enviro.gov.sk/

Slovenia

Mitja BRICELJ, Ministry of the Environment & Spatial Planning
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Mykola MELENEVSKYI, Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP)
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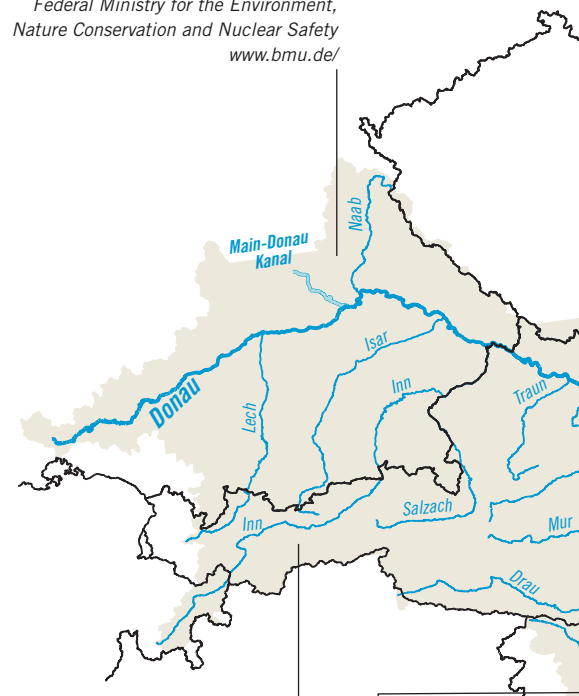
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Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
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Slovenia

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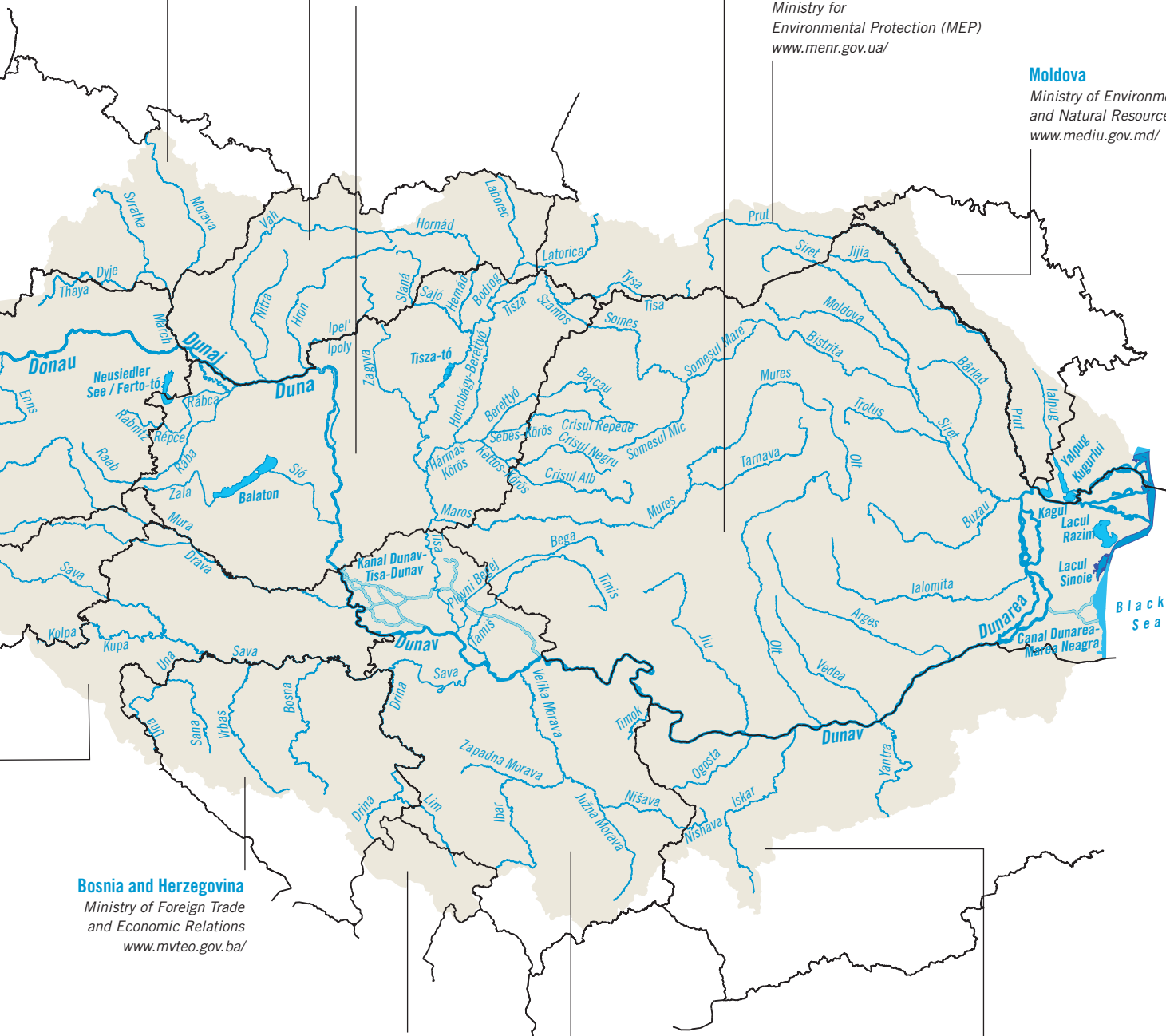
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Contact:

ICPDR – Permanent Secretariat
Vienna International Center, D0412
P.O. Box 500
1400 Vienna, Austria
T: +43 (1) 26060-5738
F: +43 (1) 26060-5895
icpdr@unvienna.org
www.icpdr.org

Editor: Benedikt Mandl

Text: Suzie Holt (suzie@wyldwooded.co.uk)

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