

icpdr **iksd**

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau

Shared waters – joint responsibilities

ICPDR Annual Report 2012

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



“Every ICPDR presidency has its own flavour. 2012 was primarily focussed on the core activities of the ICPDR: the work done by expert groups and the many activities linked to the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. New initiatives were skilfully intertwined with this core business and as a result, I hope that 2012 has set the course for the ICPDR into a fruitful future.”

Wolfgang Stalzer, ICPDR President in 2012

ICPDR highlights in 2012

The ICPDR reached a number of key milestones on the road to sustainable integrated management for the Danube River Basin in 2012. Major strides were taken in implementing objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management (DRBM) Plan and corresponding EU directives. Many of the achievements have required a cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary approach: the ICPDR has been instrumental in bringing together formerly conflicting stakeholders to negotiate a workable and sustainable way forward.

Specific highlights included:

- Adoption of the [Interim Report on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures](#) by the ICPDR Heads of Delegation in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (see p5).
- Adoption of the ICPDR [Danube Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) following a major two year investigation into likely effects and appropriate adaptation (see p5).
- The website [ICPDR.org](#) was re-launched with a new design
- Annual 14-country [Danube Day celebration](#) on June 29th, involving over 900 organisations (see p11).
- Hosting of an [Agricultural Forum](#) and a [Workshop on agriculture and water](#), engaging major businesses and the agricultural sector in the need to develop more sustainable means of production (see p6).
- Major progress in agreeing [guiding principles for hydropower development](#) through discussions between hydropower and environmental sectors (see p 5).
- Formation of the core team for the [3rd Joint Danube Survey](#) in 2013 (see p7).
- Development of a new [Accident Emergency Warning System](#), to be tested across the basin in January 2013 (see p8).
- Promotion of measures to protect [migratory fish species such as Danube sturgeons](#) and support for the newly established “Danube Sturgeon Task Force” (see p5).
- Submission of the [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report for the Danube Basin](#) to the European Commission, along with progress on flood risk mapping (see p9).



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 (DRPC). 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 Group](#), 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](#) (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
- 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. 22 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 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.](#)
- [via donau](#)
- [World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme \(WWF DCP\)](#)

On track for a sustainable future for the Danube Basin

Activity in 2012 focussed on the core work of the ICPDR: implementation and assessment of the DRBM Plan Joint Programme of Measures and planning required to update knowledge of Danube Basin resources.

Progress towards basin-wide objectives of the DRBM Plan continued apace in 2012, culminating in the adoption of the Interim Report on Implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures (JPM) by Heads of Delegation. Ensuring implementation is on track, harmonised and in line with EU reporting requirements dominates the work of the 14 Danube States.

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

Elaboration of the [2012 Interim Report on JPM Implementation](#) has been a two-year process undertaken by the [Expert Group on River Basin Management](#) (RBM EG) and other EG and TGs, following ministerial agreement on management objectives in 2010. Involving a major, 14-country data collection and harmonisation process, the report details status of implementation for each of the *Significant Water Management Issues* (SWMIs) and includes selection of *Lighthouse Projects*.

Planning for the [2013 Danube Basin Analysis](#) (DBA) was an RBM priority in 2012; the report set to be completed mid-2014. Updating of 2004 analyses on characterisation, pressures/impacts and economics is obligatory under the EU WFD for EU Member States. The programme for updating, along with data templates and additional chapter proposals (e.g. RBM – flood risk management links; water scarcity/droughts and climate change) was discussed within relevant groups. Risk assessment procedures were clarified with the Monitoring and Assessment EG and Groundwater TG.

Much of the work of the [Hydromorphology TG](#) involved harmonisation and simplification of GIS templates and preparation of data collection. Assessment procedures in preparation for the Joint Danube

Survey (JDS3) and a *Discussion Paper on Good Ecological Potential* were further developed. As was the ecological prioritisation approach for river restoration and habitat continuity: a workshop on updated methodology and fish migration took place in September 2012, which also provided input for the elaboration of a Technical Paper on Measures for Fish Migration recently published.

The [ECON TG](#) developed JPM cost calculations and investigated financing options, including dialogue with International Finance Institutions (IFIs).

Integration topics featured strongly in 2012, particularly [climate change](#). Two years of preparation led by Germany and a study by the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich resulted in the adoption of the [ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#). Based on a thorough assessment of current studies, it details expected temperature increases and precipitation changes. Recommended water management strategies for mitigating impacts are outlined, requiring a combination of preparatory, ecosystem-based, behavioural, technical and policy measures to be integrated in subsequent water management planning cycles.

2012 saw the formation of the [Danube Sturgeon Task Force](#) (DSTF), an initiative of WWF, IAD, ICPDR, governments and others in the frame of Danube Strategy Priority Area 6 to push conservation efforts based on the 2005 Danube Sturgeon Action Plan. The DSTF provided input to the RBM EG to discuss WFD-related support.

Regarding [hydropower](#), progress on the *Assessment Report on Hydropower Generation and Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development* was significant; the latter establishing a sustainable and workable balance between economic and environmental needs. Reports are to be finalized after an ICPDR conference on hydropower and water management (March 2013).

Coordination with the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) was strengthened during 2012 through DSTF liaison and meetings with Priority Area Coordinators and interlinks between WFD and the [EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) were explored.

Limiting pressures, reversing declines, rejuvenating the Danube environment

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.

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 (UWWT) Directive, Nitrates Directive and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive into national and basin-wide strategies.

The **Pressures and Measures Expert Group** (P&M EG) promotes measures to achieve DRBM Plan objectives. Assessing implementation at the national level and basin-wide compilation for the *2012 Interim Report on JPM Implementation* formed the core work of 2012. SWMI chapters (organic, nutrient and hazardous substance pollution) were finalised, as were national reports and/or basin-wide overviews for UWWT development, Nitrates Directive and agricultural measures implementation; priority substances knowledge gaps; and updated scenarios for *Baselines*, *Best Available Techniques* and UWWT, Nitrates and IPPC Directives. The 2013 DBA procedures for each SWMI were finalised; further refinements will be necessary due to developments in 2013.

Progress on pollution

Technical guidelines on establishing the **inventory of hazardous substance emissions, discharges and losses** were published in 2012, helping to plug a significant gap identified in the DRBM Plan and meet EU Environmental Quality Standards (EQSD). Results from the first pilot study applicability test were included in the *Interim Report on JPM Implementation*. On **UWWT development**, a system for monitoring national implementation and 2012 reporting was agreed and assistance to non-EU countries secured. Concerning **diffuse source and nutrient pollution**, MONERIS was updated and developed. Issues were raised concerning the need to improve nutrient assessment given JPM implementation and future threats, especially from agriculture.

Adjustment of the **emissions database** model and collection cycles to fall in line with EU directives was completed, aimed at securing long term data rationalization. To this end, the P&M EG will be supported in 2013 by the Information Management and GIS EG.

An updated review of preparedness of countries for the detergents **phosphate ban** was undertaken, which will be further developed following an EU decision on additional consumer product limits. Ongoing dialogue with AISE (International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products) and the detergent industry intensified during 2012.

The **Task Group on Nutrients** developed the draft **Nutrient Management Strategy** and continued its agricultural focus, investigating impacts of agri-policy on water resources; formulating scenario assumptions and assessing measures. In March, the ICPDR hosted an **Agriculture Forum** in Budapest, bringing together big business, governmental water management and agriculture authorities and NGOs to facilitate private-public partnerships that can deliver benefits for conservation and water management in the DRB. Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders and water management sectors was also central at an ICPDR **Agriculture and Water workshop** in November in Bucharest. The workshop, aimed at encouraging stakeholder involvement in the JPM, presented benefits arising from sustainable agricultural practices and instigated dialogue on overcoming barriers to implementation.

Quantifying the problems ... and the progress

Water assessment is a vital and never-ending process, ensuring our water is fit for consumption and informing us of where action should be focussed to improve chemical, biological and quantitative status.

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 2012 were wide-ranging but focussed on designing next steps and analysis of gaps and uncertainties from the 2009 DRBM Plan; both ultimately defining the revisions of the 2015 Plan.

Concerning the [2013 DBA](#), agreement was reached on procedures for risk assessment. Hungary and Serbia updated the [Guidance Paper on Invasive Alien Species](#) (IAS), addressing status assessments, and initiated data collection on non-indigenous species for both the 2013 DBA and 2015 Plan.

Much progress was made on [JDS3](#) preparation, with the core team agreed, most of the national coordinators in place and unanimous agreement on Jaroslav Slobodnik as Technical Coordinator. Both in-kind and financial contributions were secured from 7 countries towards the estimated budget of EUR 1.17 million but there is still a gap between the budget needed and the commitments made. Given difficulties in securing the full amount, the MA EG explored options for reducing the scale of JDS3 but concluded replication of the previous JDS model was the only viable option, albeit at a reduced capacity. Regarding method, the list of JDS3 sampling

sites was approved; Germany and Romania updated procedures for chemical analyses; biological procedures were revised; Romania and Austria prepared a proposal for physico-chemical analyses (restricted mainly to supporting biological quality assessment); HYMO TG agreed to give priority to longitudinal and on-site hydromorphological survey and the P&M EG prepared a proposal to concurrently monitor key WWTPs.

A significant task for the MA EG was investigation into implications of the implementation of the [EU Directive 2009/90/EC](#) on the assessment of the chemical status. Analysis of data from 12 member states identified assessment problems for 7 substances, where Limit of Quantification (LOQ) was greater than WFD Environmental Quality Standards (EQS).

Slovakia finalised the [TNMN Yearbook for 2010](#), with data collection for 2011 ongoing.

The [Groundwater Task Group](#) (GW TG) completed input to the *Interim Report on JPM Implementation*. For DBA 2013, data collection has started for GW bodies of basin-wide importance, covering reasons for failure of *good chemical* and quantitative status and current/future pressures. Discussions with TZW/IAWD secured their input on the interaction of Danube waters with groundwater/bank-filtrate during JDS3.

Addressing accidental pollution: prevention, warning systems and mitigation

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

With positive reaction to the new Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) and near completion of new inventories of Accident Risk Spots as well as Contaminated Sites, 2012 saw major strides in minimizing accidental pollution and its consequences. The amalgamation of accident prevention and AEWS expertise within the Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) improved both efficiency and outcomes.

2012 saw scrutiny of the new AEWS 2.0 system, designed to provide enhanced navigation, overview of potential action and efficient access to incident information, as well as the facility to add comments. The APC EG reported overall satisfaction with the new system, which will be tested in January 2013, for a March 2013 launch.

An April 2012 test of the existing system, to check 24/7 operability, demonstrated a high level of preparedness at the Principal International Alert Centres (PIAC), with all 14 PIACs reacting well within the 3 hour response time. The need for quick update of coordinates in personal settings and notification areas following changes was reiterated.

With regard to [accident prevention and control](#), a revised reporting structure to enhance information exchange during accidents was agreed. This comprises new templates for inventories of accidental risk, contaminated and mining sites, with all countries involved in inventory preparation; new procedures for report updating and checking criteria and risk site assessments at the national level; and the preparation of national annual accident reports to be compiled at the basin level.

Finalised [Inventories of Accident Risk Spots \(ARS\)](#) and [Contaminated Sites](#) will be available in 2013, together with assessment of potential dangers from environmentally relevant industrial plants, on the basis of the WRI (Water Risk Index). Preparation of Mining Sites inventories is well underway with agreement on templates for data collection, definitions and actions.

Consideration of the need to test real risk assessment methodology for industrial plants handling hazardous substances (including consideration of technical safety precautions) is ongoing. A draft safety guidance and good practice on cross border contingency planning is being carried out by the APC EG and UNECE Joint Expert Group of the Industrial Accidents Convention; to be completed by May 2013. The APC EG is also monitoring mitigation following the 2010 Ajka spill in Hungary.

Progress on 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 developing integrated, basin-wide flood protection for the region. The Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) is responsible for implementing the ICPDR Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Protection, much of which integrates EU Floods Directive (EFD) requirements. 2012 saw submission to the European Commission of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Report for the Danube Basin and progress on flood risk mapping.

Based on input from the Danube countries, the [PFRA Report](#) identifies [Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk \(APSF\)](#), a key EFD milestone. It details major flood events, summarizing national methodologies for identification and impact evaluation, and assesses risk and consequence of reoccurrence. The APSFR map is current as of January 2012 data from several countries have to be updated.

Under the EFD, [flood hazard and risk maps](#) should be drawn up by 2013. To support preparation at the basin level, a *Workshop on Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps* in September saw agreement on content for maps on: hazard and flooding scenarios; risk and population; risk and economic activity; risk and IPPC installations and WFD protected areas. Flood hazard maps will be submitted via *DanubeGIS* under close cooperation with the Information Management and GIS Expert Group, with the final draft expected November 2013.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to gauge [national EFD implementation](#). The FP EG's *Concept paper on Coordination Aspects of EFD implementation in the Danube Basin*, which addresses the fundamental tasks of basin-wide level EFD implementation, was updated accordingly. The agreed work programme until 2015 continues to focus on EFD implementation, particularly map preparation and the DRB flood risk management plan.

With the [Danube FLOODRISK project](#) in its final phase, the *Manual of Harmonized Requirements for Flood Mapping Procedures* was completed. This provides a basin-wide guide to damage assessment and flood hazard evaluation. Romania organized the final Floodrisk conference in October 2012, where the *Danube Atlas* comprising flood hazard and risk maps was presented. The maps are to be made available on the ICPDR website.

Successful cooperation with the EC DG Joint Research Centre on [Danube EFAS](#) (European Flood Awareness System) is ongoing. With current funding ending in 2013, the ICPDR requested the EC continues EFAS operation beyond this date.

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. *DanubeGIS* integrates datasets on key aspects of the Danube environment. Principle output to-date has been the production of maps for the DRBM Plan, Tisza RBM Plan and PFRA 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.

The work of the [Information Management and GIS Expert Group](#) (IMGIS EG) is vital in developing, informing and presenting the tasks of other ICPDR Expert Groups, through creation and improvement of datasets, GIS, maps, websites and systems development. Ms. Dragana Ninkovic (Serbia) was elected new Chairperson of the IMGIS EG, following Ms. Eva Sovjáková (Czech Republic) who could not continue anymore in this position.

[Harmonisation of the river network and lakes](#) continued throughout 2012 with the aim of producing a seamless basin-wide network. Templates (harmonisation points and stretches) have been implemented in *DanubeGIS* and guidance updated, and can be used by countries dealing with bi- and tri-lateral water bodies.

Relating to [EU reporting](#), template changes were agreed for the 2013 Danube Basin Analysis (DBA) including a new template for morphological alterations. IMGIS EG updated the map of *Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk* (APSEFR) for the *Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report* (PFRA) required for EU Floods Directive reporting as well as test maps for the FP EG *Workshop on Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps*. Agreement was reached on a *DanubeGIS* template for Flood Hazard Areas and draft templates were proposed for *Accidental Risk Sites*, *Contaminated Sites* and *Mining Sites*.

Redevelopment of *DanubeGIS* continued with the drawing up of a development plan and start of the first phase of implementation. A new system based on open source software including a relational database back-end will be available in 2013, after which the current server will be shut down. The [ICPDR website](#) was successfully re-launched in June 2012.



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

The [Public Participation Expert Group](#) (PP EG) developed a number of communication tools in 2012. A central focus was generating active participation in ongoing ICPDR activities. Along with the RBM and FP EGs, a [Public Participation Plan](#) was finalised to promote awareness of the 2015 DRBM Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan, in line with WFD and EFD requirements. Support for [JDS3](#) awareness-raising and public access to findings was pursued through private-public partnership discussions. The PP EG also contributed to the [Communication Plan for the Tisza](#), the re-launch of the ICPDR website and the promotion of the two-part documentary [The Danube: Europe's Amazon](#). Co-produced by the ICPDR, this groundbreaking documentary premiered at ORF Zentrum in Vienna, it has been screened at several ICPDR events.

The ICPDR's flagship public event, [Danube Day](#) held annually on the 29th June, continued to expand in size and influence. Hundreds of thousands of people were encouraged to participate at 350 events involving 900 organisations. EU Regional Policy Commissioner, Johannes Hahn, undertook a 5-day regional tour, celebrating Danube Day in Serbia. Coordinated communication activities included the handing over of the event flag from Hungary to Slovakia; danubeday.org website publicity and reviews; international press release; events reviews in the 2013 Diary and Danube Watch article and giveaways.

The [International Danube Art Master](#) schools contest was organised by Global Water Partnership (GWP) CEE and the ICPDR, communicated via websites and social media; just like previous years, both Danube Day and Art Master were supported through funding from the [Green Danube Partnership](#) with the Coca-Cola System. 708 artworks from 1466 children in 14 countries were entered, with activities over 6 months.

Promotion of environmental water issues continued through dissemination of the [Danube Box](#) education kit. The kit is already available in 6 national versions, and a Serbian launch is under preparation.

Developing corporate partnerships

Cooperation with business continued to progress, strengthening corporate commitment to water stewardship and engaging companies in supporting ICPDR activities in the long-term. Seven years after initial collaboration, the [Green Danube Partnership](#) with the [Coca-Cola System](#) forms the major business partnership of the ICPDR; most notably supporting the Agricultural Forum, Danube Day and Danube Box during 2012.

[General Electric Romania](#) is the latest business to join [Business Friends of the Danube](#) (BFoD), agreeing to promote water and ecosystem conservation with the ICPDR across the DRB. A water efficiency and wastewater management workshop in Croatia was the first outcome of the collaboration. Talks took place with another member, [Borealis](#), over possible ICPDR and Black Sea Commission involvement in a waste recovery pilot project.

As part of the expansion of Business Friends of the Danube, 2012 saw the ICPDR co-support *Business, Water and Wetlands*, organised by WWF and Lafarge alongside the Bucharest [RAMSAR](#) Meeting. A high level meeting between Danube embassies and business was held to encourage contribution to the JDS3, European Riverprize and other activities. Discussions are ongoing with Agrana, Agrium, Cargill, Donau Chemie, Dreher, Siemens HU and UniWorld. A promotional animation and Danube Watch focus edition on business stewardship were also produced in 2012.

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. 2012 saw major strides forward in securing a positive future in the Tisza, Sava and Danube Delta sub-basins.

Tisza River Basin

Following completion of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management (ITRBM) Plan in 2011, the focus of the ICPDR Tisza Group (Tisza G) switched from planning to implementation in 2012. As part of this, assessment of progress in implementing the Joint Programme of Measures for the Tisza is ongoing: a report on measures implementation will be completed in 2013. As with the DRBM process, engaging and informing the public about sustainable water use is fundamental to the success of the JPM. A Communication Strategy for the Tisza River Basin (*Specific for Integrated Management*) to promote understanding of integrated sub-basin management was finalised by the Tisza G in 2012, with input from the PP EG.

As with the DBA, the 2007 analysis of the state of the Tisza sub-basin is now due for updating. Planning for the [Tisza Analysis Report](#) (TAR) took place throughout 2012, with completion scheduled for 2014.

The two-year EU funded *DRBM Plan* Grant came to an end in 2012 with the completion of two Tisza [case studies on climate change adaptation](#) and also on [integrated agriculture and water management](#). Meanwhile, progress on a [Joint Declaration between the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Carpathians Convention](#) (represented by UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention) is ongoing.

Danube Delta

Further progress on achieving a similar level of collaboration and planning in the Danube Delta sub-basin took place during 2012. The ongoing project funded from ENVSEC (Environment and Security Initiative) further 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. Following the accomplishment of the Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS) in 2011, assessments of the results were undertaken feeding into the ongoing development of the Danube Delta Sub-Basin Analysis Report (DDAR). This is an important building block to provide comparable and reliable information on water quality for the Delta region.

Partnership around the globe

The ICPDR is a global leader in river basin management, with particular expertise in fostering international cooperation. 2012 saw continuation of the successful cooperation with other bodies managing international waters. Collaboration with the Orange-Senqu River Commission ([ORASECOM](#)), for example, continued throughout 2012. The ICPDR will host ORASECOM officials on board the JDS3 ships during the 2013 survey.

2012 saw plans for a [European Riverprize](#) take shape following cooperation between the International River Foundation (IRF) and European Centre for River Restoration. Following the model of the prestigious international Riverprize, awarded to those who have implemented outstanding, sustainable river management programmes, the European Riverprize will be awarded for the first time in 2013.

Regular Budget and Financial Contribution

Regular Budget for the Financial Year 2012

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 2012.

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 2012

| Contracting Party | Contribution in % | Contribution in Euro | Actually payment 2012 in Euro |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Germany | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Austria | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Czech Republic | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Slovakia | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Hungary | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 0.00 |
| Slovenia | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,400.00 |
| Croatia | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Serbia | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3.50 | 39,224.14 | 39,224.14 |
| Bulgaria | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Romania | 8.70 | 97,500.00 | 97,500.00 |
| Moldova | 1.00 | 11,206.90 | 11,206.90 |
| Ukraine | 3.50 | 39,224.14 | 39,224.14 |
| Montenegro | 2.50 | 28,017.24 | 4,992.75 |
| EU | 2.50 | 28,017.24 | 28,017.24 |
| Total | 100.00 | 1,120,689.66 | 1,000,065.17 |

Expenditures Financial Year 2012

| Budget Headings | Approved Budget in Euro | Expenditures in Euro | Balance in Euro |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Staff | 605,000.00 | 591,411.19 | 13,588.81 |
| Office Running | 159,000.00 | 132,612.45 | 26,387.55 |
| Publications | 110,000.00 | 98,044.11 | 11,955.89 |
| Travel | 117,000.00 | 90,164.44 | 26,835.56 |
| Services | 129,689.66 | 116,575.24 | 13,114.42 |
| Total | 1,120,689.66 | 1,028,807.43 | 91,882.23 |

//// România //// България //// Moldova //// Україна //// Deutschland //// Österreich //// Česká republika //// Slovensko //// Magyarország //// Slovenija //// Hrvatska ////

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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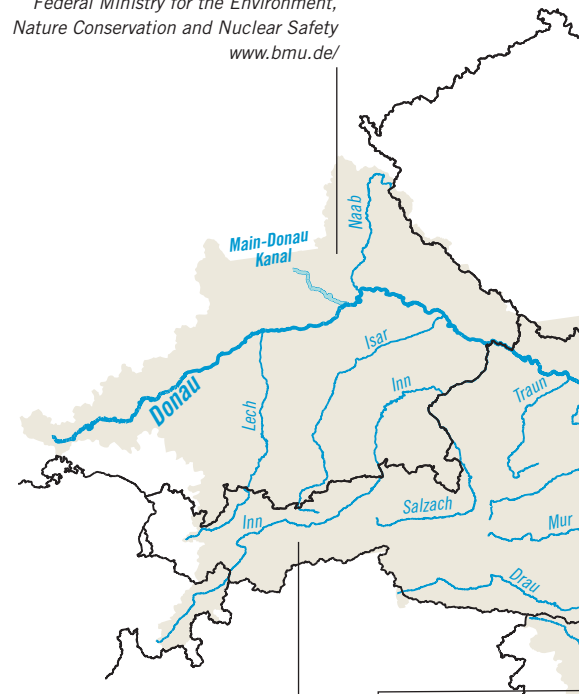
Jorge RODRIGUEZ-ROMERO, European Commission, DG Environment
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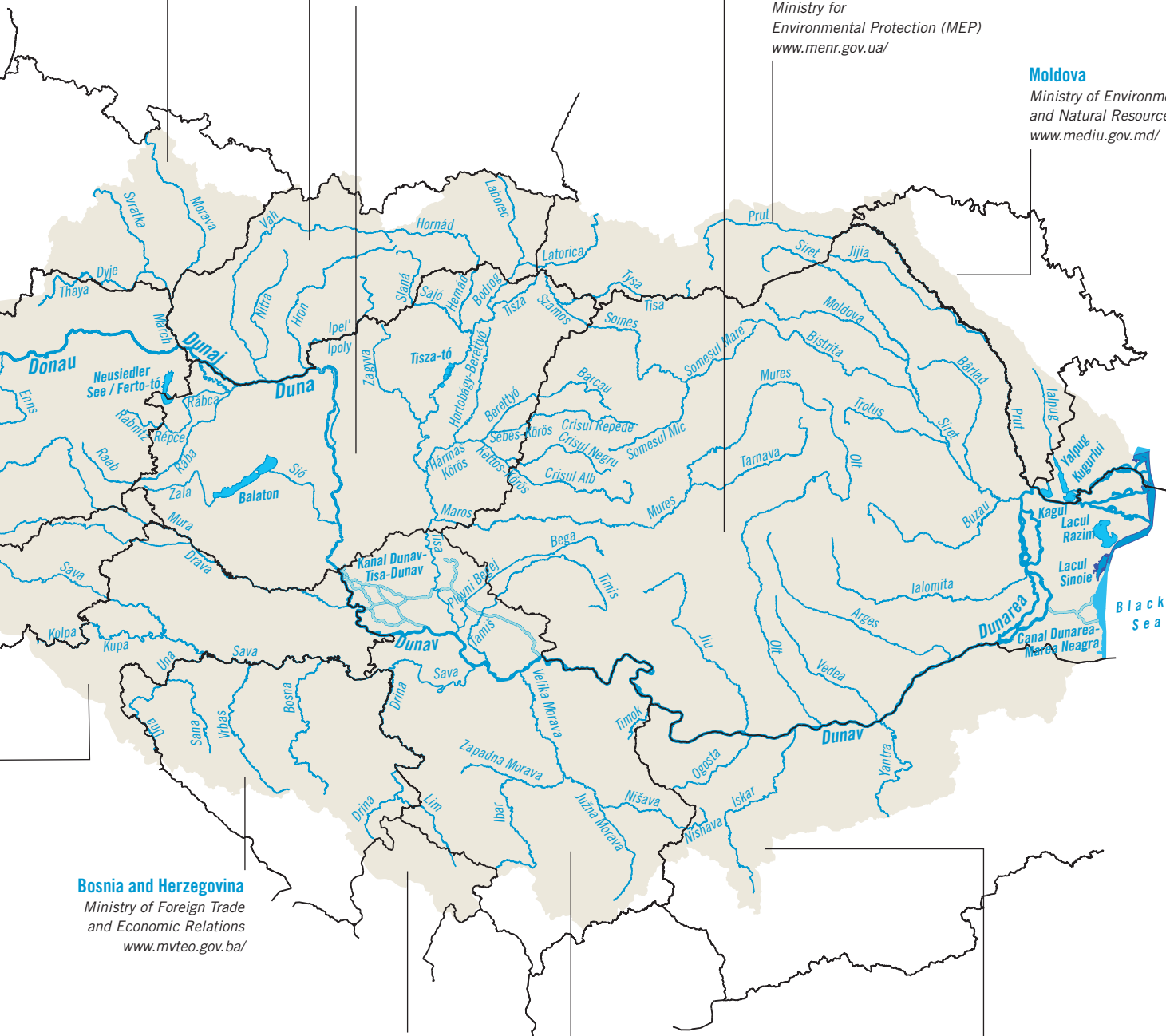
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Layout: Büro X, www.buerox.at

Photos:

pages 2, 8, 10: Zsirmon Kudich; page 3: various ICPDR;

page 9: SVP Banska Stiavnica

The ICPDR would like to thank the organisations and photographers for providing the pictures for free.

Print:

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