

Our Opinion – Our Danube

ICPDR Stakeholder Consultation Workshop – 29th to 30th June 2021



THEMATIC AREA 3 - Objectives and measures of Flood Risk Management Plans

Danube Cafe Results

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1) NBS/Green measures in FRMP

ICPDR approach: Chapter on NWRMs to promote water retention as combination of natural retention measures (for smaller flood events) and flood retention measures (for larger flood events)

Strong emphasis on promoting green measures exists but there is room for improvement:

- a) Better explained benefits and efficiency of these measures for flood protection
- b) Further research on costs and effects of NBS (especially on long term scale for mitigation of CC effects)
- c) Improve communication and promotion of the measures continuously and with examples from the Danube basins

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1) NBS/Green measures in FRMP

More knowledge:

- knowledge on benefits and efficiency of NBS for flood protection needs to be systematically collected, evaluated and assessed and better communicated to the stakeholders
- ICPDR could support research projects or network (e.g. conference) of institutions which would research further cumulative effectiveness of NBS on basin wide level.

Efficient communication:

- to add concrete examples of already implemented green measures in the Danube basin

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISCUSSION

2) List of measures

- List of measures is like a shopping list. No information on how these measures are coordinated and implemented in practice.

What is missing:

- progress achieved in implementing these measures / evaluating the progress made

CALL TO ACTION

- To be added: a simple summary/table how different measures are implemented/included in the national plans
- More efforts towards better evaluation of the progress with implementation of measures

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISCUSSION

3) Coordinated development of the FD and WFD planning document

- Significant increase in coordination and cooperation between FRMP and RBMP but with different experiences on the national level (**subsidiarity**)
- Need for better integration of different directives/frameworks: flood protection, habitat directive, Natura2020, RBMP, ...

CALL TO ACTION

Better communication

- to increase the understanding and awareness why this coordination supports better implementation by avoiding conflicts and implementing win-win solutions



4) Upstream – downstream cooperation

- Transparency of measures; Annex 4 covers bilateral agreements where measures that will have potential down/upstream effects are consulted and agreed
- Solidarity principle is important principles of the plan. It is well established in the countries.
- Measures along bordering or trans-boundary rivers need to be negotiated and agreed upon in the frame of bilateral river commissions, not in the frame of ICPDR.



5) Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Better cooperation/coordination on cross-sectoral level when implementing measures (spatial planning, building regulation, emergency management, agriculture, forestry, environment, etc.)
- Spatial planning sector need to be included in the whole process.
- Better incorporation of the agricultural sector where farmers would offer their agriculture area for retention areas.

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6) Role of ICPDR

- Role of ICPDR is a coordinating one. The decisions on the implementation of the FD rest with the contracting parties and cannot be solved on ICPDR level
- Based on national data the ICPDR achieve a common approach and method to delineate and publish the areas of potential significant flood risk as well as the flood hazard and risk maps.
- The implementation of the FD and support of EU funded projects highlights the need for a harmonised data set on hydrological and hydraulic base data and basin-wide project results. A Danube Hydrological Information System is in its setup phase.
- There is a strong focus of ICPDR on international cooperation projects which bring added value also to each country.

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- 1) **Relevant challenges and processes are incorporated in the plan**
- 2) **Synergies** by implementing NWRM, NBS with the implementation of the WFD, CC Adaptation Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, etc. shall be **better promoted**
- 3) Some extra effort is needed (e.g. executive summary) to make the **DFRMP better understandable**, especially for the general public
- 4) **Cooperation/coordination and integration** of all relevant sectors is the key element of reducing flood risk in a sustainable way.