
Terms of Reference of the River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG)



International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River
Internationale Kommission
zum Schutz der Donau

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(RBM EG) of the ICPDR

Document number: IC-103
Version: rev4-final
Date: 15-Dec-2021



1. Introduction

- 1.1 The River Basin Management Expert Group (RBM EG) is an Expert Body of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).
- 1.2 The ToR provide a mandate to the RBM EG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance to the work, which the RBM EG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements.

2. Objective (Mission statement)

The overall objective of the Group is to provide guidance and coordination to ICPDR activities related to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube River Basin (i.e. prepare and manage all the work needed in order to achieve a coordinated implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan and its updates) and those related objectives of the DRPC.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The RBM EG is responsible for initiating, guiding and ensuring the successful completion of the work required under its ToR.
- 3.2 The RBM EG will report regularly to the ICPDR and its Standing Working Group on the implementation of ongoing activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved.
- 3.3 The RBM EG is responsible for the establishment - subject to the approval of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group - and guidance of time limited Task Groups to provide needed input to fulfil the tasks listed below.
- 3.4 RBM EG proposed activities with policy or financial implications for the ICPDR must be approved in advance by the ICPDR countries.

4. Main tasks of the RBM EG

The RBM EG is entrusted to carry out the following main tasks, taking into consideration experiences gained from the last implementation cycles of the WFD:

- 4.1 Coordination of all tasks related to WFD implementation in the Danube River Basin District at the basin-wide level.
- 4.2 Preparation of the draft interim report on progress of implementation of the JPM, preparation of the data collection for the Danube River Basin Management Plan and its updates, in particular with regard to the risk assessment and draft reviews and updates of the DRBMP; coordination of other ICPDR Expert Groups and guidance for all tasks related to the development of the mentioned products (FP EG, MA EG, PM EG, IMGIS EG and PP EG).

- 4.3 Initiate development and carry out of the actions needed to fulfil the WFD requirements for public information and consultation at the basin-wide scale. This task shall be closely coordinated with the Public Participation EG.
- 4.4 Coordination of all aspects related to hydromorphology.
- 4.5 Coordination of all aspects related to economics based on WFD requirements.
- 4.6 Coordination and synergies with FP EG on all aspects of integration of the WFD and the Flood Risk Management Directive.
- 4.7 Coordination of WFD with relevant aspects of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation.
- 4.8 Coordination of integration of other policies relevant for River Basin Management, specifically hydropower and navigation , moreover facilitating the required steps for important issues like the adaptation to climate change, next to addressing water scarcity and droughts, as well as activities on the water balance, and other related topics like sturgeons and sediment management.
- 4.9 Coordination of activities among sub-basins, for which an international river basin management plan is being prepared, in order to ensure consistency between the management plans on the basin-wide and sub-basin level.
- 4.10 Coordination of the reporting requirements under the WFD on a Danube basin-wide scale; this task has to be closely coordinated with all relevant EGs, in particular the IMGIS EG.
- 4.11 Coordination of the activities in the Danube Basin with the relevant WFD implementation activities at the European Union level.
- 4.12 Coordination with those activities under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region relevant for WFD implementation in the Danube Basin.
- 4.13 Preparation, as appropriate, of project proposals in support of the required objectives and following up on project implementation.
- 4.14 Review its ToR on a regular basis and propose amendments for approval by the ICPDR.
- 4.15 Preparation of appropriate information for dissemination to interested bodies and the public about RBM EG activities in close cooperation with the PP EG.
- 4.16 Preparation of a Work Program for future activities of the RBM EG. This will be prepared according to the requirements of the ICPDR and should include action(s) planned for the following three years (in detail) and for subsequent years (in outline).

5. Cooperation with other ICPDR Bodies

The RBM EG will collaborate closely with all other ICPDR Expert Bodies, as appropriate. The RBM EG has a coordinating function in the preparation of all necessary steps for the implementation of the WFD (i.e. the development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan). RBM EG meetings should therefore be scheduled to take place after meetings of all other ICPDR Expert Groups, but before the meetings of the Standing Working Group and Ordinary Meetings. The RBM EG shall always invite the Chairperson or a nominated representative of the relevant EGs to their meetings to support the necessary coordination.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The RBM EG consists of the representatives as nominated by the Contracting Parties to be a standing member of the RBM EG. Additional experts may also participate in meetings if their particular specialist knowledge is required.
- 6.2 Each Contracting Party may propose candidates (one or more) to participate in time-limited Task Groups organised to address specific issues.
- 6.3 Representatives of other organisations may become accredited observers to the RBM EG and/or its Task Groups by following the relevant procedures of the ICPDR relating to observer status.

7. Working Arrangements

The general working arrangements for the RBM EG are provided by the ICPDR Rules of Procedure.