



**Transboundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin**

**11-12 September 2013, Budapest**

Hungarian Academy of Sciences: 1051 Budapest Széchenyi István tér 9

**Joint Stakeholder Conference within the framework of the Pillar „Protecting the Environment”  
of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region**

Water is among the most precious resources of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Both overabundance and scarcity of water threaten the sustainable development of many regions throughout the world. River basin management in a transboundary context is an essential and rapidly developing element of stepping up to ensure security and a better life for all.

The Danube River Basin can leverage from the widest range of potential platforms and tools. It is supported by the international and European legislation, conventions and cooperation on a wide spectrum of transboundary water management. To further utilize these potentials and to add a horizontal, intersectoral development and policy framework, fourteen countries and landers together with the European Commission established the Pillar 2 „Environment” of the EU Strategy for the the Danube Region. Facing economic crisis together with climate change, floods, droughts and numerous pressures the first years of implementation of the Strategy brought progress beyond the expectations. Preparing to the 2014-2020 EU Multiannual Financing Framework and the challenges we are to face it is time to reflect on scientific and technological solutions the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) employ and offer.

With a view to promoting the implementation of the EUSDR, Hungary as co-coordinator of water related Priority Areas of Pillar 2 volunteered to organise a conference enabling further discussion on water in the Danube macro-region. For this reason it will hold with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences a **professional, Pillar 2-related scientific stakeholder conference in Budapest on 11-12 September 2013 with a title of Transboundary water issues in a macro-regional context: the Danube basin.**

The aim of the conference is to provide an overview about scientific results and methods which are essential to the implementation of the water-related goals of the EU Strategy for the Danube Macro-region: innovative methods, new models and strategies will be presented which constitute the main contribution of science and innovation to the Danube Strategy.

The event will explore strategies and cooperative solutions to overcome these challenges and discuss the potential role that the stakeholders of the EUSDR could play in this context. The exchange of experience between river basins, also from outside Europe, is a key to address also climate change, changing patterns of water use and river basin management related issues in a timely manner.

The main messages and conclusions of the Conference will be summarised demonstrating the research results, project developments and experiences in the Danube macro-region. The conclusions will also serve as an input for further discussions at the forthcoming high-level Budapest Water Summit hosted by Hungary in October 2013 in cooperation with the UN.



To place the event into a wider political context the Conference **will begin in the morning of 11 September 2013 with an introductory session comprising high level participants from DG REGIO, DG ENVIRONMENT and responsible Pillar 2 Danube countries.**

Following the introductory session experienced international technical experts will share their views with the participants in several topics as follows:

- **Transboundary co-operation,**
- **EU water policy and legislation, including the WFD, UWWT, FD;**
- **Sharing waters, integrated river basin and international watercourse management**
- **Complex flood and drought management**
- **Drinking water protection in changing climate**
- **Sanitation and waste water treatment improvements**
- **Climate adaptation focusing on ecosystem protection and cross cutting issues**
- **Implementation of economic instruments**

The conference will also provide an opportunity to stakeholders to exchange experience in the context of the implementation of the EUSDR and several water issues.

### Expected results

- An overview about latest developments in the **tools, platforms and potentials in international river basin management;**
- A clearer **understanding** of EUSDR's contribution to environmental protection in Europe and in the Danube macro region;
- Greater **awareness** of this contribution, particularly among policy-makers at EU and international level;
- Examples of **successful implementation practices**

### Target audiences

The conference brings together:

- **Professionals** (public authorities, SMEs, other industries, academia)
- EU and Member States **policy-makers** (Commission and Member states)
- **Stakeholders** of the EUSDR (beneficiaries, EC, other funders).

to discuss the achievements and the future of the water issues in the Danube Region in this field.

The Conference will be held in the main building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: 1051 Budapest Széchenyi István tér 9. The programme of the conference is attached.

Please send your registration to participate at the event to the following address:

[macroregionalwaterdanube@neki.gov.hu](mailto:macroregionalwaterdanube@neki.gov.hu)



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### DAY 1. Wednesday 11/09/2013

#### High level session

CHAIR: Balázs Medgyesy Government Commissioner of the EU Danube Strategy

- 10.00 AM HE Tamás Németh, FM, General Secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
10.07 AM HE Enikő Győri, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
10.14 AM HE Zoltán Illés, Minister of State, Ministry of Rural Development  
10.21 AM HE Ing. Vojtech Ferencz, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Slovak Republic  
10.28 AM Normunds Popens, European Commission, Deputy Director General of the Directorate General Regional & Urban Policy  
10.35 AM Marianne Wenning, Director, European Commission, Directorate General Environment  
10.42 AM HE Ermina Salkičević- Dizdarević, Deputy Minister Bosnia and Herzegovina, President International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River  
10.49 AM Wolfgang Klug, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health  
10.56 AM Olimpia Negru, Priority Area Coordinator Priority Area 5 Romania

#### Session 1. The policy context -- 11.00-13.00 AM

CHAIR: HE Ermina Salkičević- Dizdarević, President International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

##### a) Transboundary cooperation

- 11.10 AM **Science and innovation supporting macroregional development agenda**  
Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria Dr. Erhard Busek, Chairman of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Austria
- 11.20. AM **The Danube basin cooperation** Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
- 11.30 AM **The ASEM cooperation mechanisms** Peng Qinghui, Assistant to Secretary General, ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center, China
- 11.40 COFFE BREAK
- 12.10 AM **The experiences of the UNECE concerning transboundary water cooperation**  
Dr. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- 12.20 AM **Water protection and human rights in the Danube basin**  
Marcel Szabó, Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
- 12.30 AM **Macro regional co-operation in relation to water issues: the experiences of the REC**, Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre
- 12.40 AM **b) Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Floods Directive: setting the scene**  
Marianne Wenning, Director European Commission, Water Marine Environment & Chemicals Directorate D,



12.50 AM **c) Context of EU water policies and the EUSDR**  
Péter Kovács, State Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary

13.00-14.10. LUNCH

## Session 2. **Challenges and integrated measures**

14.10.-16.30 PM CHAIR: András Báldi, General Director of the Centre for Ecological Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

### **Sharing waters, integrated river basin and international watercourse management**

- (i) Sediment issues and consequences in the Danube river – Józsa J., H. Habersack (Budapest University of Technology and Economics - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - Water Research Institute, VUVH, Slovakia)
- (ii) The Water Blueprint hydro-economic assessment for European regions (European Commission Joint research Centre, - Dr. Ad de Roo, Italy)
- (iii) Longitudinal continuity for international watercourses – Cr. Sandu, Gúti G. (International Association for Danube Research - MTA Ecological Research)
- (iv) Complex and innovative monitoring system for river basins - Kovács Zs. - Török A., (Pannon Egyetem - OKI)
- (v) Exchange of experiences on water resources management with transboundary river basins in the world (twinning the experience of the Danube with other macro-regions) - Dr Amadou Lamine NDIAYE, Directeur de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de l'OMVS-Senegal, Senegal River Basin Agency
- (vi) Compatibility of environmental requirements and sectoral water needs including navigation, agricultural domestic and industrial water use –R.Mair, I. Liska (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River)
- (vii) Transboundary water management in Sava River Basin focusing on sediment and biodiversity issues – Dejan Komatina, Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission Secretariat (Slovenia and Sava Commission Countries)



## DAY 2. Thursday 12/09/2013

10.00 -11.20 AM CHAIR: Olimpia Negru, Priority Area Coordinator PA5 Romania

### (b) Complex flood and drought management

- (i) The Hungarian-Ukrainian joint Upper-Tisa flood management development program, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling– Lajos Illés-Zoltán Tóth-János Szabó (VIZITERV Environ Kft.-ELCOM Kft.-Hydroinform Kft.)
- (ii) Experiences of current flood events
  1. Hydro-meteorological antecedents of 2013 flood – Ákos Horváth (Hungarian Meteorological Service) and András Csík (Hungarian Hydrological Forecasting Service of General Directorate of Water Management, Hungary)
  2. The contribution of science to the operative flood management - Prof. János Józsa (Budapest University of Technology and Economics)
  3. Training of flood managers – Zoltán Melicz, (Eötvös József College, Baja)
- (iii) The contribution and opportunities of the EU Danube Region Strategy in relation to the Flood and Drought Management - Péter Bakonyi and Olimpia Negru (PA5 coordinators)

11.20-11.45 AM COFFE BREAK

11.45-12.45 AM CHAIR: Florian Ballnus, Priority Area Coordinator PA6 Bavaria

### (c) Drinking water protection in changing climate

- (i) CC WaterS: a model for water supply management measures - G. Kuschig (Vienna Waterworks)
- (ii) CC WARE: mitigating vulnerability of water resources in a changing climate – L. Perger, I. Bogárdi (NeKI- Eötvös Loránd University)

### (d) Sanitation and waste water treatment improvements

- (i) Deployment and upgrade of urban waste water treatment in the context of the River Basin Management- Cs. Haranghy (Water Works of Budapest)
- (ii) Integrated solutions for waste water treatment in small settlements and rural areas – A. Clement (Budapest University of Technology and Economics)

### (e) Climate adaptation focusing on ecosystem protection and cross cutting issues

- (i) Regional climate modelling and coordinated policy responses – S. Szalai (Szent István University)

### (f) Implementation of economic instruments

- (i) Combine objectives of efficiency, fairness and cost recovery – G. Ungvári (Corvinus University of Budapest)
- (ii) Translate ecosystem services into social benefits – Simonffy Z. (Budapest University of Technology and Economics)

13.45 AM Closing remarks

LUNCH offered