

MANAGING **ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS** IN THE DANUBE REGION





FACTS ABOUT THE DANUBE REGION



14 COUNTRIES

2,800 KM LONG



EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Areas



PA 1A

Waterways Mobility



PA 1B

Rail-Road-Air Mobility



PA 2

Sustainable Energy



PA 3

Culture & Tourism



PA 4

Water Quality



PA 5

Environmental Risks



PA 6

Biodiversity & Landscapes



PA 7

Knowledge Society



PA 8

Competitiveness of Enterprises



PA 9

People & Skills



PA 10

Institutional Capacity & Cooperation




PA 11

Security

The Danube is the **second longest river** of Europe and has the most international river basin in the world. The Danube River **stretches over Europe** and flows into the Black Sea and settles into the delta, which forms the **richest biodiversity area** in Europe. The drainage area of the river is also influenced by the **Alps and the Carpathians** mountain chains. Therefore, **water management** is essential to the region, as environmental **disasters do not recognise borders** and their management requires strong **coordination and cooperation** between the countries.


To support that purpose, the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** was adopted during the Hungarian EU Presidency in **2011**. As territorial development framework, the main aim is to **reduce disparity** in the Danube Region through 12 priority areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY

Priority Area 5 is coordinated
by Hungary and Romania



MINISTRY OF WATERS AND FORESTS

EUSDR PA5 STEERING GROUP

All member states of the Danube Region participate in the Steering Group, which is the main **decision making body** of the priority area. The meetings are organized twice in one year.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



The Disaster Management Working Group, established in 2019, invites members from the field of **disaster response** in order to **address the challenges** faced by organizations dealing with environmental risks in the region.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River



European
Commission



Global Water
Partnership
Central and Eastern Europe



INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

CHALLENGE

SUFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT



DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF ICPDR DANUBE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Flood protection techniques, technologies and experiences
- Operative flood protection methods and equipment
- Floodplain management
- Information exchange
- Operative flood management plans
- Education/training network



Floodplain Management

- Development of Strategic Guidance



Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Danube Floodplain





Education

- InterFloodCourse project established International Postgraduate Course on Flood Management







CHALLENGE

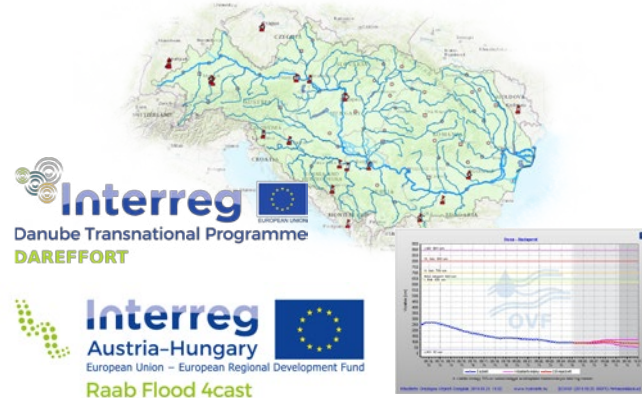
UNEXPECTED EVENTS



BASIN-WIDE OR REGIONAL FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEMS

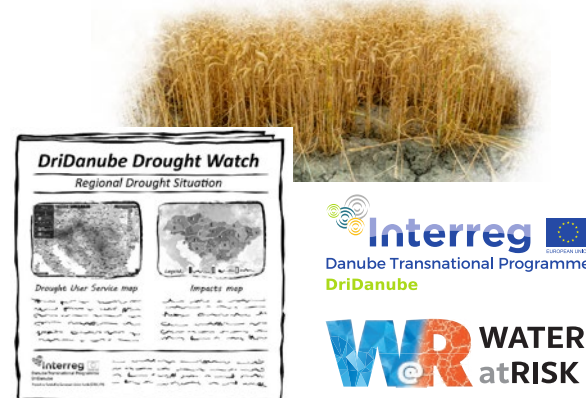
Early warning systems for floods

- Exchange of information and data
- Develop flood forecast system and warning tool



Drought risk reduction

- Develop more accurate and efficient drought monitoring and timely early warning



CHALLENGE

COORDINATION OF DISASTER RESPONSE



STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Resilience & joint activities of disaster responders



- Strengthen flood response activities in the Danube Region
- Resilience, training, recommendations for better preparedness



Monitoring of risks



European Civil Protection



- EU Civil Protection Mechanism Advisory Mission served as basis for REVITAL I project
- Revitalization process of the Solotvyno salt mine and surrounding area
- Complex monitoring system
- Raising awareness for the risks



CHALLENGE

HUMAN IMPACT



DECREASE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES

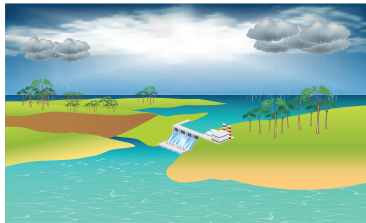
Accidental Hazard Sites ICPDR

- Prevention of accidental pollution and improvement of the response capability by listing all relevant Accidental Hazard Sites



Flood Risk Management Plan

- Optimizing the management of dams and reservoirs for an optimal flood propagation
- Hydrological evaluation of possible events
- Survey and mapping of reservoirs, dams and lakes



Tailing Management Facilities ICPDR

- Checklist of UNECE "Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs"
- Trainings for operators
- Narrow knowledge gaps



CHALLENGE

AWARENESS RAISING



IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Activities of the EUSDR Environmental Risks Priority Area

Operative Flood Management Workshop

- Ice management on Danube
- Shared flood basins
- Evacuation plans and procedures, safeguarding people, goods, emergency rescue plans



Raising flood risk awareness

- E-learning material about floods



Publishing in scientific journals

- Journal of Environmental Geography, special issue on climate change adaptation



DAREX 2019

DANUBE REGION EXERCISE

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESPONSE EXERCISE

EXERCISE SCENARIO

According to the exercise scenario, **severe flooding** occurred in the upper part of Tisza River, which resulted in a situation where the assistance needed from **national and international volunteer organizations** to support disaster response efforts. The organizing teams have prepared **realistic environment** for the participants coming from Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. The teams arrived with **different capacities**, which were challenged during the exercise days. The units had to **support** the local responders with tea and refreshments continuously, just as in reality, the **work never stops regardless if it is day or night**. They had to **cooperate** with the local emergency response teams by providing first aid, flood protection, food distribution, handover of in-kind assistance, search for missing persons and shelter those who had to evacuate from their homes. The exercise with **more than 100 participants** reflected one of the most important action points of the Environmental Risks Priority Area, which is to **strengthen operational cooperation** among the emergency response organizations in the Danube countries and to **improve the interoperability** of the available assets.



In case you have an initiative or a project proposal aiming a Letter of Recommendation from the Priority Area 5 of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region, please contact us!

CONTACT INFORMATION

EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 5

„To manage environmental risks”

e-mail: danube.envirisks@mfa.gov.hu

web: www.environmentalrisks.danube-region.eu



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