

# Legal and Institutional framework **ICPDR** IKSD of the ICPDR



Gaborone, 29 May 2019  
Ivan Zavadsky, ICPDR  
Executive Secretary

# Welcome to the most international river basin in the World!

ICPDR IKSD





# Block I – Setting the scene



- ✓ Part I – legal framework
  - ✓ The Danube River Protection Convention
  - ✓ The ICPDR as the main tool for the implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC)
  - ✓ Seat Agreement & Rules of Procedure
- ✓ Part II - role and functioning of ICPDR
  - ✓ The ICPDR Approach
  - ✓ Transboundary river basin management
  - ✓ Expert and Task groups
- ✓ Part III – Levels of involvement
  - ✓ Observers
  - ✓ The wider public
- ✓ Q & A's



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# The Danube River Basin in 1990

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environmental  
degradation



19 countries



environmental  
awareness

# Human activities and their impact on the Danube



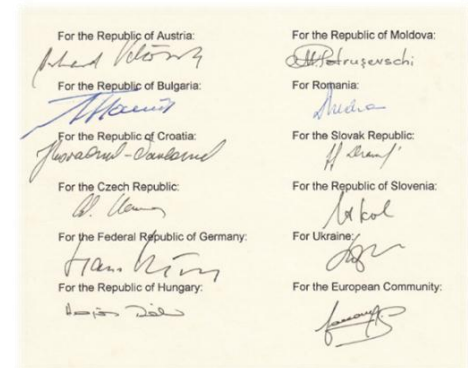
Water **pollution**, **hydromorphological** alterations



# The Danube River Protection Convention



- Full name: *Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Danube River Protection Convention)*
  - legal instrument for co-operation and transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin
  - Came into force in October 1998 when ratified by the 9<sup>th</sup> signatory
  - 11 Danube countries are signatories
  - 15 Contracting parties (14 countries that have more than 2000 km<sup>2</sup> of the basin and the European Commission)
- Main objective: *ensure that surface waters and groundwater within the Danube River Basin are managed and used sustainably and equitably.*



# The DRPC as the legal mandate of the ICPDR



Sustainable & equitable use of water



Protection of water & ecological resources



Reduce nutrients & hazardous substances



Manage floods & ice hazards

**ICPDR**: platform for **transboundary cooperation** on water management:

- Implementation of the **DRPC** (1998)
- Coordination of the implementation of EU **Water Framework** Directive (2000) & EU **Floods** Directive (2007)



# ICPDR Contracting Parties



Germany



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Austria



Serbia



Czech Republic



Montenegro



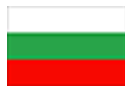
Slovakia



Romania



Hungary



Bulgaria



Slovenia



Rep. of Moldova



Croatia



Ukraine



European Union



EU Member States (9)

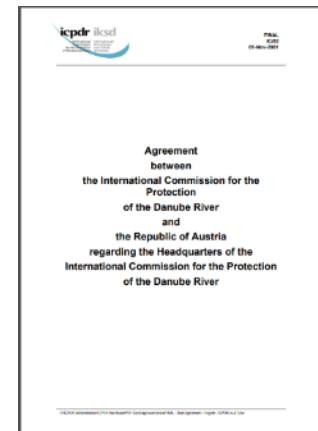
Non-EU Member States (5)

# Seat Agreement



Agreement between the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Republic of Austria regarding the headquarters of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

- Signed in December 2000
- Agreement to host the headquarters in Vienna
- Establishes the ICPDR as a legal entity



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# Rules of Procedure (1)

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- **The ICPDR:**

- Consists of delegations nominated by the CPs (max. 5 members);
- The International Commission conveys at least once a year on invitation of the President (ordinary meeting);
- Extraordinary meeting can be convened on request at least three CPs;
- Takes formal, legally binding decisions;
- Is the highest decision making body under the Convention (equals to CoPs).

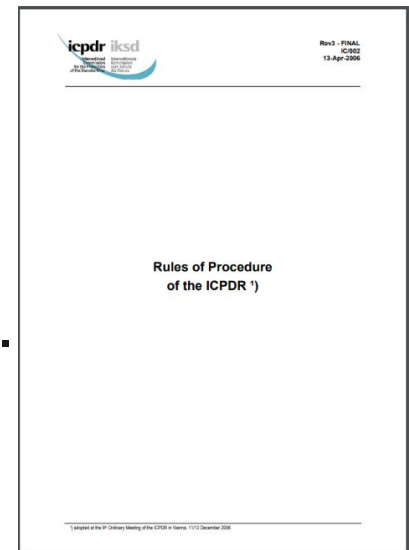


# Rules of Procedure (2)



## ■ The Standing Working Group:

- Coordinating body of ICPDR work;
- Consists of delegates (Heads of Delegation and/or their nominated representatives);
- guides the activities of the Expert Groups and prepares the main strategic issues to be resolved;
- It may revise the Programmes of Work of the Expert Groups;
- Reviews administrative and financial issues, which need urgent consideration.



# Rules of Procedure (3)

## ■ The Presidency:

- The President chairs the Commission for one year
- Annual rotation occurs in alphabetical order,
- The President, as a rule, does not take the floor on behalf of his/her delegation within the meetings of the International Commission,
- The President may be supported by the previous President and by his/her future successor (Troika approach).



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## Rules of Procedure (4)



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### Meetings:

- Once a year convened by the President:  
**Ordinary Meetings**
- Once a year held between Ordinary Meetings:  
**Standing Working Group Meetings**
- Bi-annually:  
**Expert Group Meetings**

### Permanent Secretariat

### Expert Groups

### Task Groups



# Permanent Secretariat

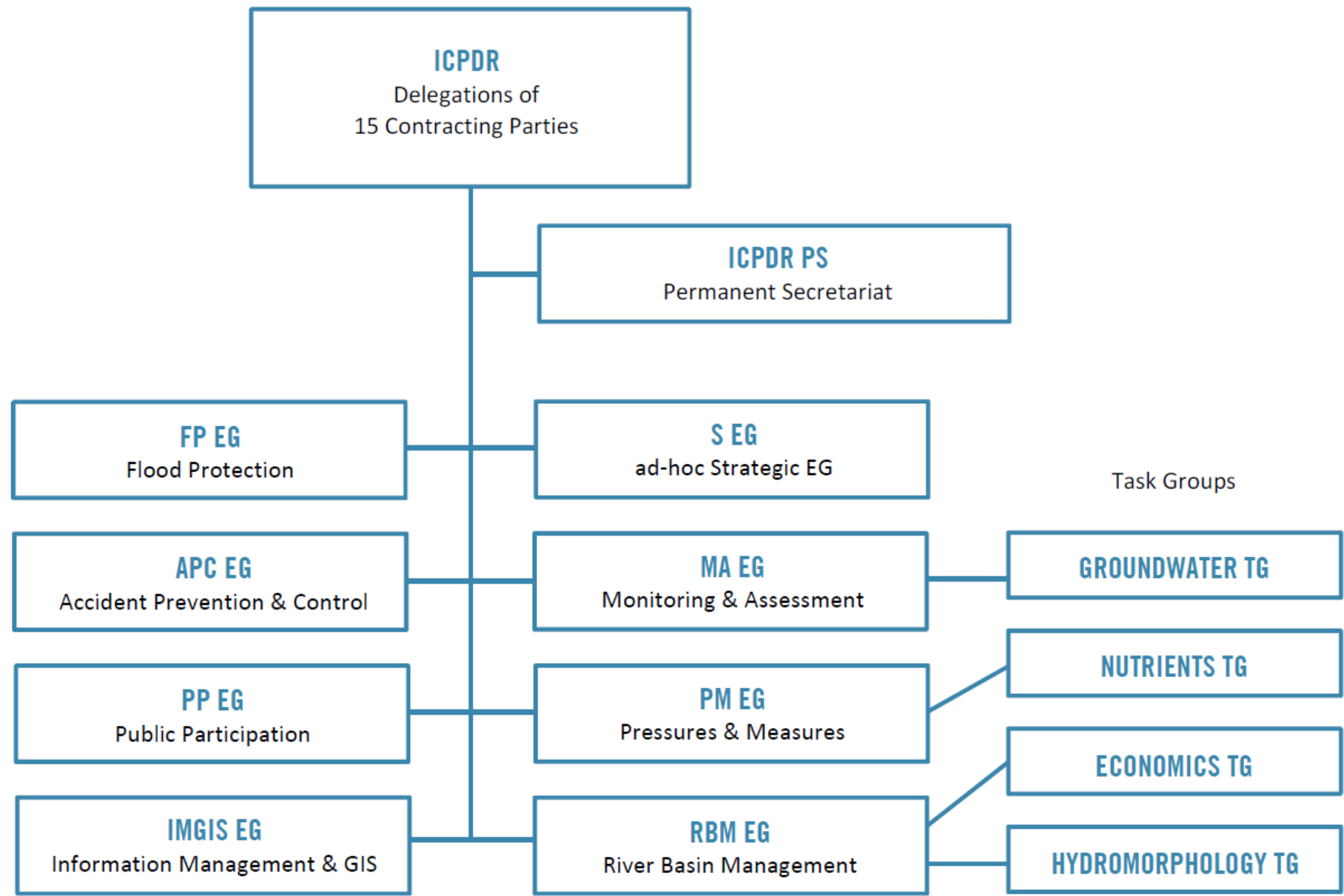


- Supports the work of the ICPDR and its expert groups, assists project development and implementation
- **Executive Secretary:** Executive Official responsible for administration, budget planning and management
- 2 administrative staff members: Office Management & Finance Administration
- 6 professional technical staff members (Technical Experts) in the relevant fields
- Support from project staff, interns and external consultants





Expert Groups



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# The ICPDR approach

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Based on two governing **principles**:

- The **basin-wide approach** is the only approach to properly manage water resources
- River Basin Management** is the only functioning water management mechanism

ICPDR's **backbone**:

- The legal international mandate of the Convention
- The Expert Groups
- Public participation

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# Water quality monitoring: Major drivers

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- **DRPC** (According to the Article 9 of the DRPC the Contracting Parties to DRPC have agreed to co-operate in the field of monitoring and assessment of the water resources)
- **EU WFD** (establishing of WFD compliant monitoring networks)

# Trans National Monitoring Network – TNMN

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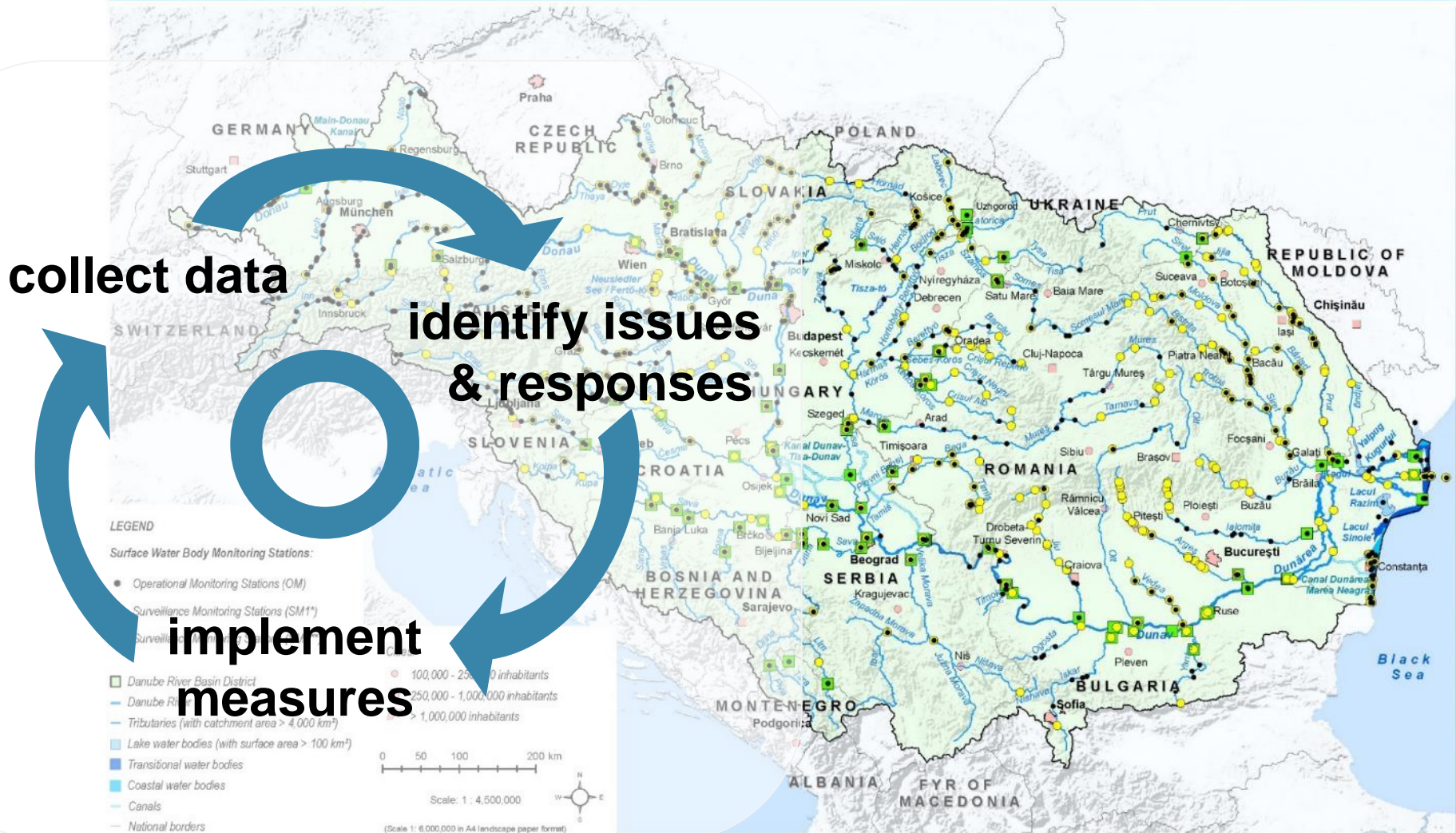
# Transboundary River Basin Management

## TNMN: Monitoring Waters

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Transnational Monitoring Network - Surface Waters

DRBM Plan - Update 2015 - MAP 19





# Investigative monitoring

## Joint Danube Surveys (every 6 years)

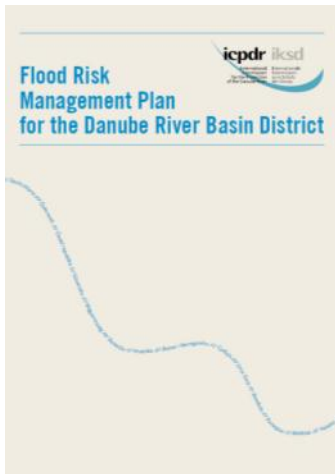
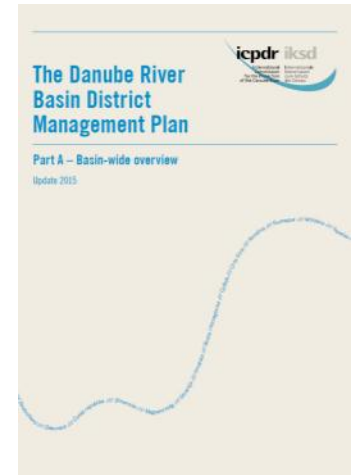
- Producing homogeneous information on water quality for the whole of the length of the Danube River including the major tributaries.
- Providing information necessary for the implementation of EU WFD (ecological & chemical status)
- Complementing the basic data set from annual TNMN.



# Two Management Plans for the Danube River Basin



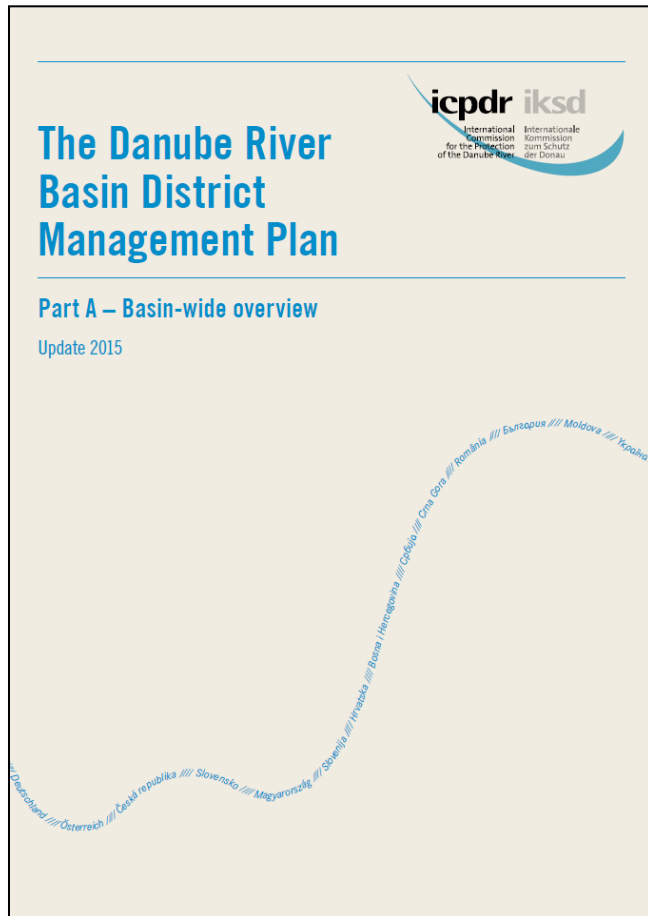
## Danube River Basin Management Plan Update 2015



## 1st Danube Flood Risk Management Plan



# Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBM Plan)



- Assessment of **pressures on water**
- Results **monitoring** programs
- **Program of Measures** for 6 years
- Based on **public consultation**
- 1st Plan: 2009; 2nd Plan: 2015
- **Adopted** by International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
- **Endorsed by Danube Ministers**

# Significant Water Management Issues on basin-wide level



Organic  
Pollution



Nutrient  
Pollution



Hazardous  
Substances Pollution

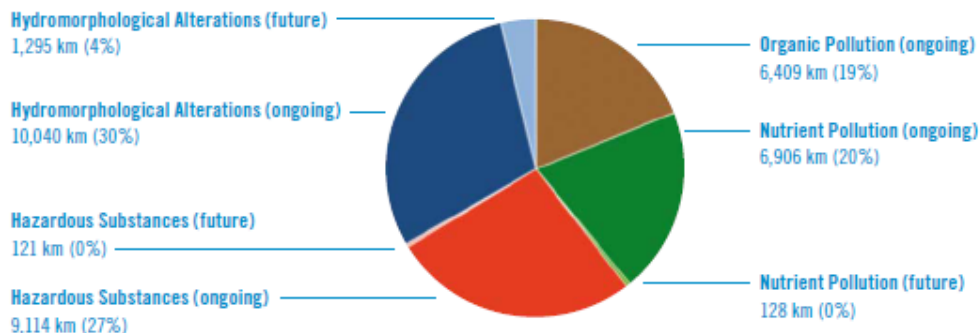


Hydromorphological  
Alterations

- **Priority pressures for actions requiring joint actions** by Danube countries
- Updated **every 6 years**

Surface Waters (River WBs) –  
Risk of failure to achieve good surface water status by 2021 sorted by pressures

FIGURE 4





# Progress from 1st DRBMP (2009) to 2nd DRBMP-Update 2015

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**-50%**  
organic  
emission

**120**  
fish migration  
aids constructed

**50,000**  
hectares of  
wetlands &  
floodplains  
reconnected

**-10%**  
nitrogen  
emissions

**-30%**  
phosphorus  
emissions





# Recent catastrophic floods in Danube River Basin



C. Weinberger, Ach

2002

2005

2006

2010

2013

2014



ISRBC



Zsófia Kugler - BME



Zsófia Kugler - BME

# EU Floods Directive



Three steps of flood risk management:

- a) Preliminary flood risk assessment (2011),
- b) Flood risk and flood hazard maps (2013),
- c) Flood risk management plans (2015).





# Mapping and coping with flood risks

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Flood Hazard and Flooding Scenarios

MAP 1



FHA data for the Danube floodplain in BA, RO and RS was taken from the Danube Floodrisk Project. FHA data for Vojvodina floodplain in RS was taken from the SOPRAD 1 project. FHA data for SI was provided for 11 out of 21 relevant flood hazard areas (based on watershed size and national importance criteria).

This ICPDR product is based on national information provided by the Contracting Parties to the ICPDR (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA) and CH. EuroGlobalMap data from EuroGeographics was used for all national borders except for AL, BA, IE where the data from the ESAI World Countries was used. Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) from USGS Seamless Data Distribution System was used as elevation data layer; data from the European Commission Joint Research Center was used for the outer border of the DRBD of AL, IT, IE and PL.

[www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

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International Commission  
for the Protection  
of the Danube River

The objectives of the plan are linked to the respective measures:

- ✓ Avoidance of new risks
- ✓ Reduction of existing risks
- ✓ Strengthening resilience
- ✓ Raising awareness
- ✓ Solidarity principle

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# ICPDR – a forum for technical cooperation

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Common  
understanding  
of water  
conditions  
(TNMN)

First-hand  
data on  
pollution  
inputs  
(Pollution  
Inventory)

Accident  
early  
warning  
system  
(AEWS)



# Areas of inter-sectoral work



Navigation



Climate Adaptation



Agriculture

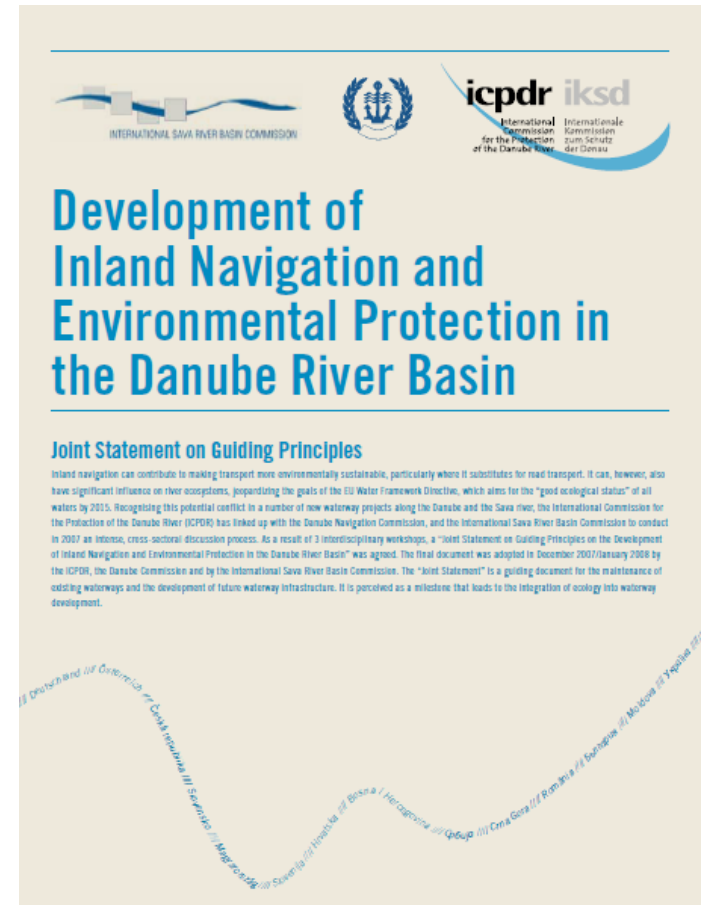


Hydropower

# Inland navigation

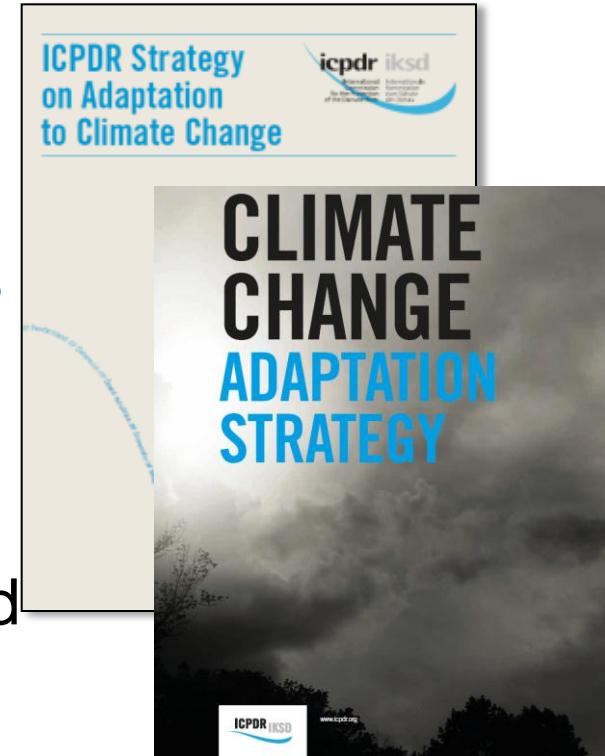


- **Joint Statement initiative** was launched in **2007** by the **ICPDR** in cooperation with the **Danube Commission** and the **International Sava Commission**
- Joint Statement summarises **principles and criteria for environmentally sustainable inland navigation** on the Danube and its tributaries
- **Regular meetings** with cross-sectoral discussion process



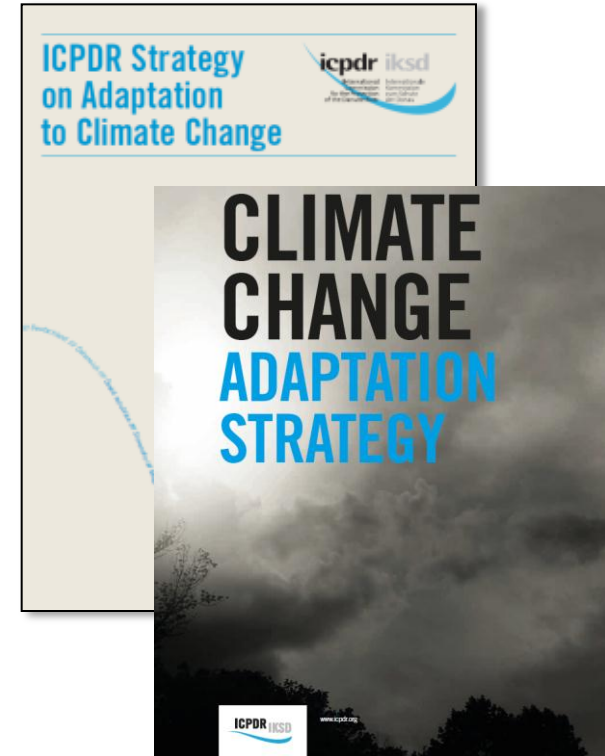
# Climate Change Adaption (1) **ICPDR** **IKSD**

- First Climate Change Adaptation Strategy jointly **elaborated with all ICPDR Expert Groups in 2012**
- **Tool to support adaptation measures** as part of the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan and the 1st Flood Risk Management Plan by 2015
- Update of climate change scenarios and water-related impacts with **particular focus on drought, low water, irrigation and agriculture** published 2019



# Climate Change Adaption (2) **ICPDR** **IKSD**

- **Sound, institutionalised water management** is a key to climate change adaptation
- ICPDR countries use their **River Basin & Flood Risk Management Plans** to address water scarcity, droughts and climate change pressures
- A **cyclical, adaptive approach** is needed to continuously address **uncertainties and new scientific findings**





# Guiding Principles on Hydropower





# Sustainable Hydropower in the Danube River Basin (1)



- Need to **increase energy from renewable sources** plays a significant driver for hydropower in the Danube River Basin
- ICPDR “**Guiding Principles on Sustainable Hydropower Development** in the Danube Basin” adopted in 2013
- Impacts of hydropower development – why should we care?
  - **Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation** issues
  - Economic, social and environmental benefits can be maximised in case all **benefits and impacts are considered from the very beginning**

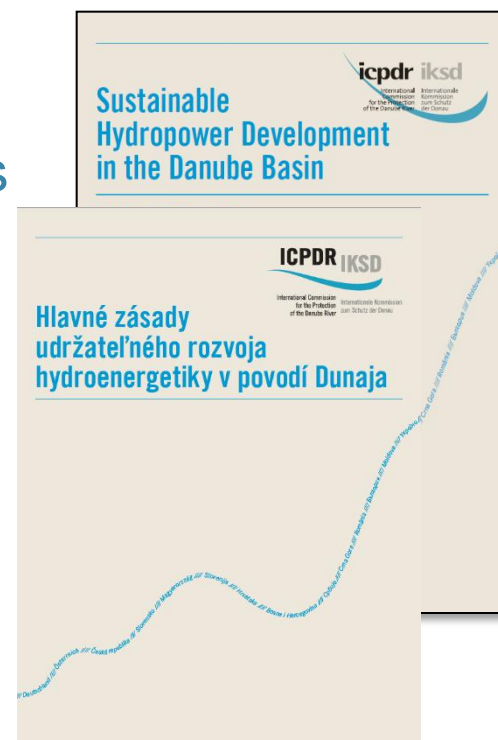
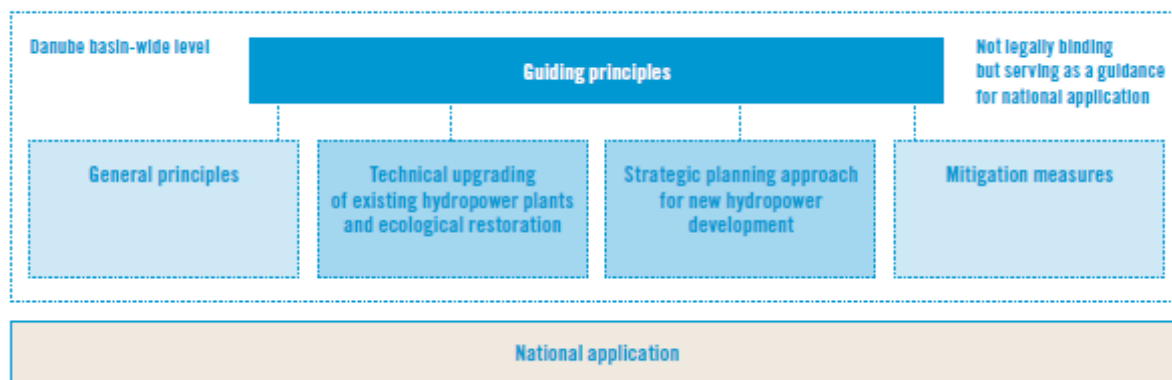
# Sustainable Hydropower in the Danube River Basin (2)



- Set of **general principles**
- Technical **upgrading of existing hydropower plants** combined with **ecological restoration**
- **Strategic planning approach** for new hydropower based on two level assessment (regional + site specific)
- **Mitigation** of negative ecological impacts
- Translation in Danube-basin countries languages

Main elements of the Guiding Principles

FIGURE 10



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# Public participation

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Art. 14 (WFD)  
Art. 9 & 10 (EFD)



# Public Consultation



## Four sets of activities:

- (1) collection of comments directly given
- (2) stakeholder consultation workshop
- (3) social media campaign
- (4) online questionnaires



See: [icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/consultation-2015](http://icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/consultation-2015)

# “Voice of the Danube and to the Danube”





# Outreach, education & public information

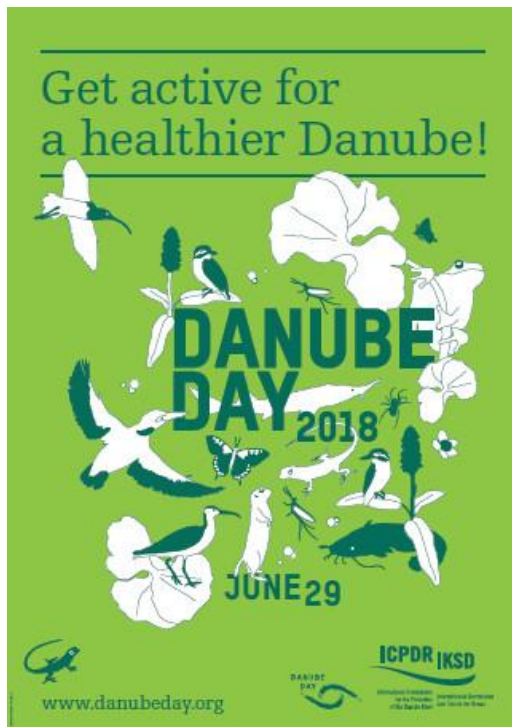


Inform → engage

involve → consult



# Danube Day, 29 June





# Danube Watch magazine

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# The instruments of Public Participation

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- ☐ A dedicated Public Participation Expert Group
  - ☐ Outreach activities across a broad spectrum
  - ☐ Public information
  - ☐ Social Media
  - ☐ Inter-sectorial dialogue
- 
- ☐ 23 Observer Organisations
  - ☐ Stakeholder consultation



# Stakeholder Involvement: 23 Observers

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Danube Strategy  
Civil Society  
Forum



viadonau



DANUBE PARKS  
network of protected areas



Danube Tourist  
Commission

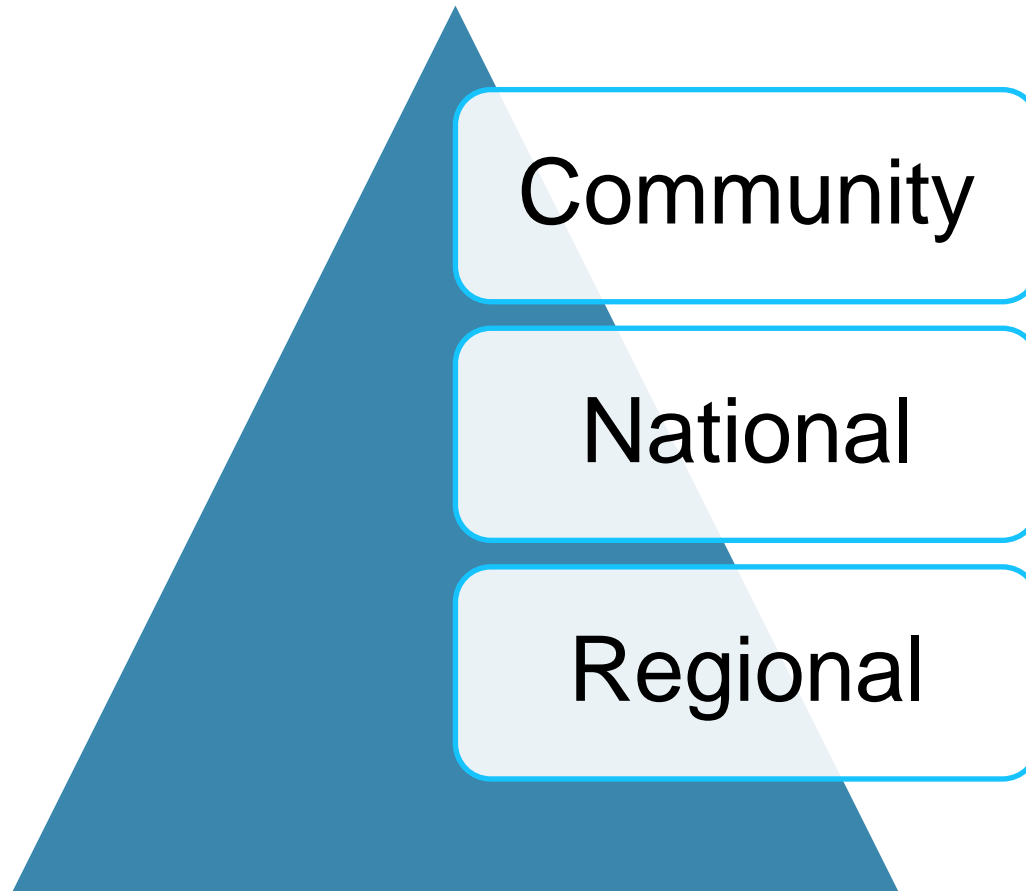


dcc | danube  
competence  
center

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# We act on all levels

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# 3 pillars for our action



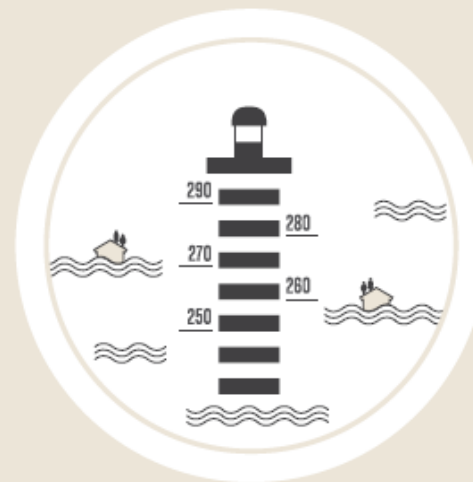
## Cleaner

cleaner water



## Healthier

a healthier home for aquatic  
animals and plants



## Safer

a safer environment for people to  
live without the fear of floods

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# Summary and Conclusions (1)

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## The ICPDR:

- covers all **major issues** of water management;
- is the **comprehensive and competent** platform for **political and technical water cooperation** covering the entire Danube Basin;
- is a forum for public participation and outreach - **making people aware** & advocates of water resources issues
- has a **sound scientific** and **technical** basis for **policy making** in transboundary context;

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# Summary and Conclusions (2)

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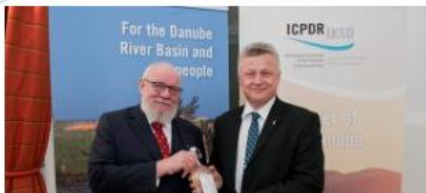
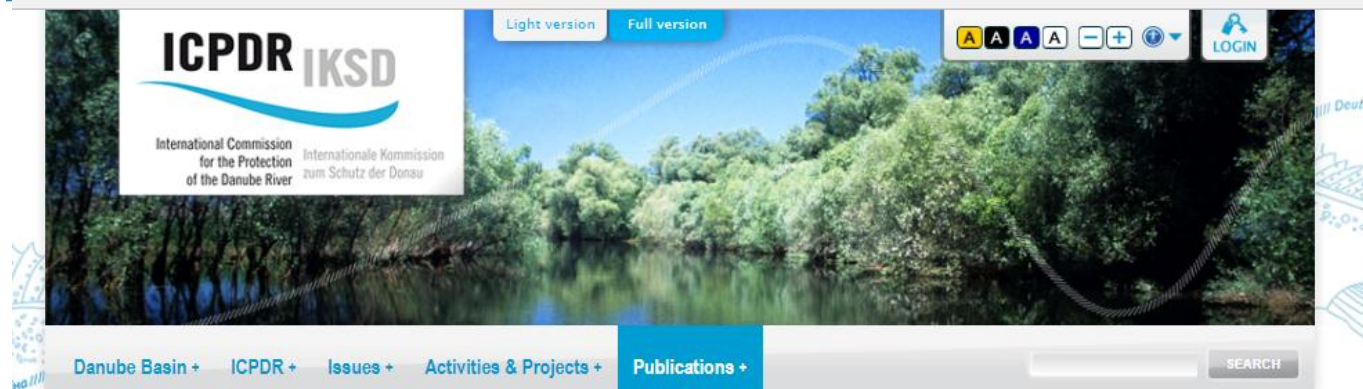


- The **basin-wide approach** has a proven track record of success in water resources management;
- **Science** is instrumental for filling the gaps in the RBM planning (e.g. **JDS3, JDS4**);
- Joint work, good co-ordination and achieved agreement on **key strategies and policies constitute a basis for implementation of plans and measures**;
- **Integration issues** need to address different challenges in the river basin to meet objectives of the plans and policies and requires **coordination with key sectors**.

# More information?

## #seeyousoon@[www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

**ICPDR** IKSD



Hungary takes over ICPDR Presidency for 2019 from Germany

(Press Release) VIENNA, 31 January – Residence of His Excellency the Ambassador of Germany to The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Vienna and to other International Organizations. As Hungary takes over the annual Presidency of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) today, incoming President Péter Kovács has set the main priorities for his term: finding ways to support the activities of the ICPDR, strengthening water security in the Danube Basin, implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Flood Directive (FD), as well as further strengthening the integrated approach of ICPDR and the basin-wide exchange of experiences.



Public Participation Schedule WFD & FD

Vienna, 19 Dec 2018. According to Art. 14 of the Water Framework Directive, public participation in drafting River Basin Management Plans needs to be ensured. The ICPDR now provides a blue print for Public Participation activities for the development of the third Danube River Basin Management Plan (3rd DRBMP) until 2021 and the second Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan (2nd FRMP).

[more information](#)

Welcome to ICPDR.org!



We hope to inspire you to learn more about our work towards cleaner, healthier and safer waters in the Danube River Basin for everybody to enjoy.

**Mr. Péter Kovács**  
ICPDR President 2019

Follow us!

