Cross-sectoral River Corridor Management – Reaching agreement on the Drava River Corridor Regional Development Concept in Slovenia

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Content

- Why regional development concept
- What is Drava river corridor development concept and how did we prepare it
- Lessons learned and SEE River project achievements
Why regional development concept
Slovenian Lower Drava river corridor - state of play

- channel type HPP chain
- Natura 2000 site
- tourism potential
- flood damage
Slovenian Lower Drava river corridor - state of play

- lack of integration between sectoral plans and procedures
- weak municipality cooperation
- no regional spatial planning
Drava river corridor development concept (DRC DC)

- coordinated cross-sectorally on local, regional, national and international level
- focused on development of all economic activities based on natural resources of the corridor
- with stakeholder participation
- **main objectives:**
  - improve the state of the environment and quality of living
  - reduce the amount of environmental risks
  - ensure the sustainable use of local natural resources
  - take advantage of spatial attractiveness of the region
  - rationally guide investments
Definition of the river corridor between Maribor and Zavrč

- 46 km long
- area of 160 km²
- 15 municipalities
The structure of DRC development concept

Development Concept

Contemporary Drava River Corridor Concept

Main Pillars

- Water, Nature Conservation and Energy Production Management and Use of Drava River
- Adopted Forestry and Agricultural Practices on Flood Prone and Aquifer Areas in Drava River Corridor
- Sports - Recreation - Touristic Water Axis Maribor - Ptuj - Zavrč
- Education and Public Awareness
- Spatial Planning and River Corridor Management, Transboundary Context

Goals

Measures and Activities + Guidance and Mutual Harmonization of Goals

Action Plan
Lessons learned

- River corridor development concept addresses complex problems – also solutions are complex and hard to reach

- Long-term process is needed for bigger changes
Lessons learned

- wide participatory approach took a lot of time

- time management and the amount of work represented a serious challenge, put more focus in time and work planning!
Lessons learned

- visualizations of possible development scenarios helped the stakeholders to decide

- because we stressed out our “neutral” status and moderated the workshops in that way stakeholders thought also beyond their sectoral frame
Agreement on development of river corridor, agreements for future projects
Stakeholder involvement, democratically reached solutions
Better cross-sectoral cooperation, cooperation of municipalities
River corridor development concept can be successful tool to start the process of river “modernization”!
Thank you!

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