River restoration practices and the institutional capacity building aspects of Bodrog river corridor management

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The SEE River project & Bodrog pilot river approach:

- river corridor concept
- stakeholder involvement
- both cross-sectoral and at different levels (local/regional/national)
- integration of water management + nature conservation + regional development, pilot areas and pilot rivers, trans-boundary cooperation
The Bodrog river corridor in general
Common issues and goals

- promoting regional development,
- improvement of water management and conservation practices at local/regional level, trans-national cooperation for common river corridor management goals,
- sustainability of activities after the project, etc.)
The Bodrog procedure

• National level workshops involving stakeholders
• Discussion of potential common goals by Bodrog partners
• Trans-national Bodrog workshop with stakeholders and project partners
• Bodrog Vision, Action plan
Slovakia – specific problems, solutions, and achievements

**Problems:**
- Intensive agriculture production
- Erosion and increased vulnerability of area to floods
- Property rights changes
- Harmful subsidies to farmers applied

**Solutions:**
- Intersectoral approach, synergy among supporting schemes
- Sanitation of small municipalities
- Making space for water
- Drainage systems, flood protection and wetland restoration
- Support for Local Action Groups

**Achievements:**
- Local and trans-border partnership established
- Several projects executed: local projects, “Making space for waters” in Laborec-Uh
- Several project proposals prepared
Hungary – specific problems, solutions, and achievements

Specific problems, solutions
• Maintenance and upgrading of the existing flood defense system
• Elimination of the transboundary influx of floating litter
• Precedence of nature conservation regulations over economic development projects
• Development of cooperation among Bodrog countries (SK, UA, HU) in the field of river management, nature conservation, tourism, cultural exchange
• Rehabilitation of ecosystems in the river and on the river corridor (incl. revitalization of oxbows)
• Improvement of nature friendly tourism infrastructure (bicycle path along the river, harbors and camp sites for boaters)
• Strengthening of the environmental education, environmental awareness raising in connection with the Bodrog
• Improvement of the communication between the two riverbanks (by bridge or ferry)
• Complex development program for tourism along the Bodrog
• Promoting nature friendly agricultural activities on the floodplain (grazing, bio products, etc.) instead of intensive production

Achievements
• Broad consensus of main stakeholders concerning necessary measures
• Prioritization of possible measures
Ukraine – specific problems, solutions, and achievements

Problems
• Insufficient communal waste management
• Absence of centralised wastewater treatment
• Bad quality of drinking water
• Inundation of settlements
• Dominance of invasive species (Heracléum sosnówskyi, Reynoutria sachalinensis)
• Low income of the people

Solutions
• Waste water management - institutional (waste tariffs establishment) and technical support (waste management infrastructure – containers, trucks, landfills)
• Joint small scale flood protection measures as the ones which were implemented in Baranintsy
• Low cost wastewater treatment solutions + tools for additional treatment of priority pollutants found already (cadmium)
• Joint project on green tourism opportunities in the basin (including new routes)

Achievements
• Highlighting again at international level of need of communal waste management infrastructure – synergy: Coca-Cola beverages Ukraine supplied containers for separate waste collection for Baranintsyi village
• Feasibility study of the drinking water preparation (following Drinking Water directive requirements) is implemented in Kvasovo village: opening of drinking water source.
The Bodrog Vision and Action Plan

Proposed and agreed: 8 strategic targets
And 17 areas of measures

Covering:
• Tourism
• Flood Protect and Prevention
• Transport
• Water quality
• Nature Protection and Conservation
• Environment protection
• Green Economy
Lessons learned

• the relevant stakeholders are interested in solving inter-sectorial problems, national–local approaches
• EU, national and other financial support schemes are very complex, the consultation is necessary. The project can facilitate effectively these consultations.
• Participants at the National and International Workshops were very active. It seems that the project is interesting for them because of inter-sectorial approach and proper timing (after ending of current EU financial period and before starting of new 2014–2020 period)
Thank you for your attention