

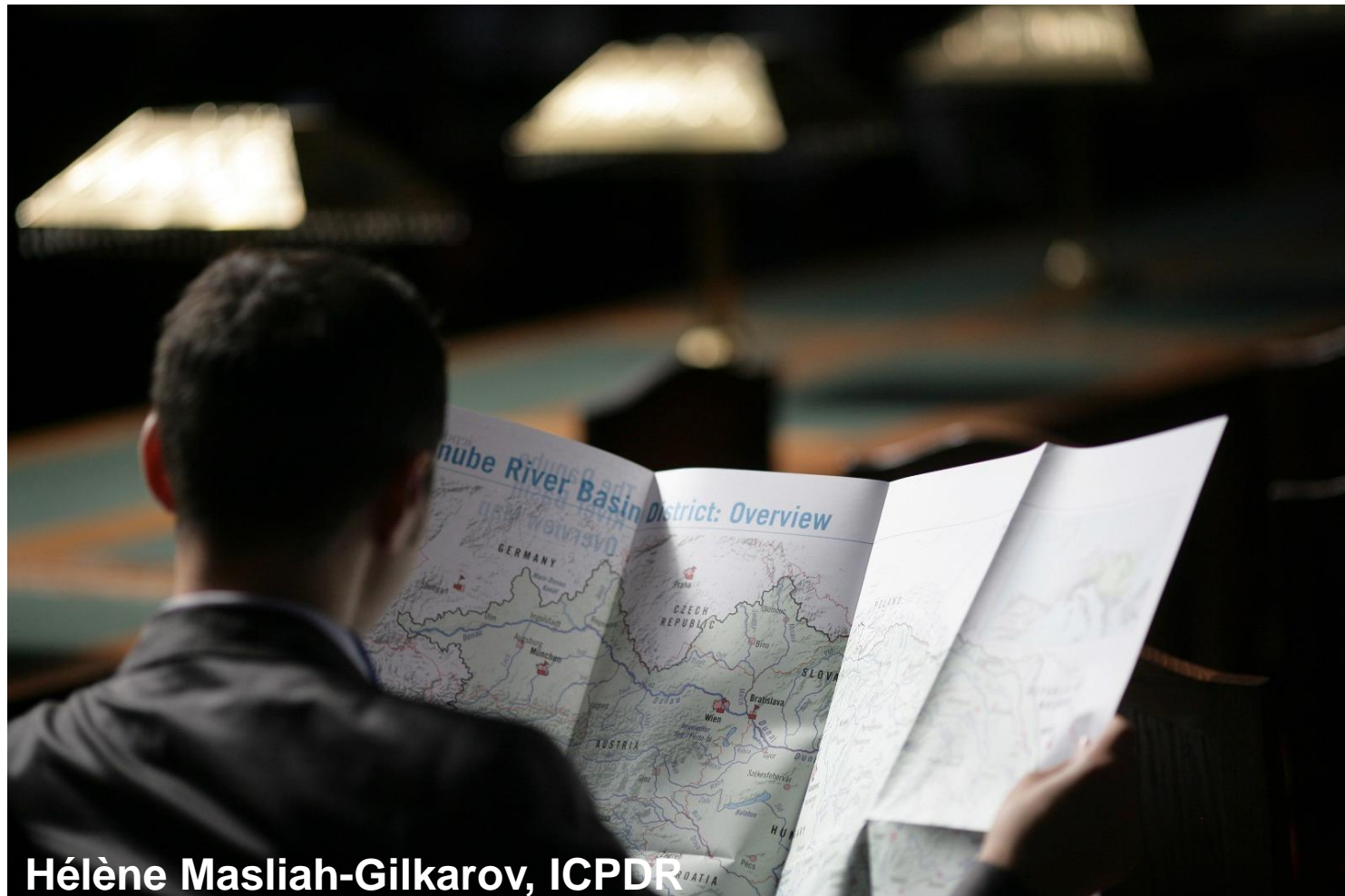
Participatory Basin Management Case Study:

Danube



International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale Kommission
zum Schutz der Donau



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Section 1: Legal Requirements



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Art. 14 (WFD) [link](#)

1. Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans. Member States shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users:

- (a) a timetable and work programme for the production of the plan, including a statement of the consultation measures to be taken, at least three years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;***
- (b) an interim overview of the significant water management issues identified in the river basin, at least two years before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers;***
- (c) draft copies of the river basin management plan, at least one year before the beginning of the period to which the plan refers.***

On request, access shall be given to background documents and information used for the development of the draft river basin management plan.

2. Member States shall allow at least six months to comment in writing on those documents in order to allow active involvement and consultation.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply equally to updated river basin management plans.



Section 1: Legal Requirements

Art. 9 (EFD) [link](#)

Member States shall take appropriate steps to coordinate the application of this Directive and that of Directive 2000/60/EC focusing on opportunities for improving efficiency, information exchange and for achieving common synergies and benefits having regard to the environmental objectives laid down in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC. In particular:

- 1. the development of the first flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and their subsequent reviews as referred to in Articles 6 and 14 of this Directive shall be carried out in such a way that the information they contain is consistent with relevant information presented according to Directive 2000/60/EC. They shall be coordinated with, and may be integrated into, the reviews provided for in Article 5(2) of Directive 2000/60/EC;***
- 2. the development of the first flood risk management plans and their subsequent reviews as referred to in Articles 7 and 14 of this Directive shall be carried out in coordination with, and may be integrated into, the reviews of the river basin management plans provided for in Article 13(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC;***
- 3. the active involvement of all interested parties under Article 10 of this Directive shall be coordinated, as appropriate, with the active involvement of interested parties under Article 14 of Directive 2000/60/EC.***



Section 1: Legal Requirements

Art. 10 (EFD) [link](#)

1. In accordance with applicable Community legislation, Member States shall make available to the public the preliminary flood risk assessment, the flood hazard maps, the flood risk maps and the flood risk management plans.

2. Member States shall encourage active involvement of interested parties in the production, review and updating of the flood risk management plans referred to in Chapter IV.



Section 1: Legal Requirements

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Deliverables

Two key deliverables will be produced by the end of our public consultation campaign.

1) Final Drafts of the Management Plan Updates

Several comments and suggestions from the consultation process, will be taken into consideration in the final draft versions.

2) A Public Consultation Report

This will document all of the comments received (whether accepted or not) during the public consultation process, including detailed results from the questionnaire.



Section 2:
How Public Participation
Works in the
Danube River Basin



Section 2: How PP Works



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- Yes – it's a legal requirement of the WFD and FD.
- But! Both the DRBMP and DFRMP lie at the core of the ICPDR's central work programs – so they really should be developed with strong involvement of civil society and stakeholders from the beginning.
- As an international institution, we support stakeholder and public involvement at **all possible levels**.





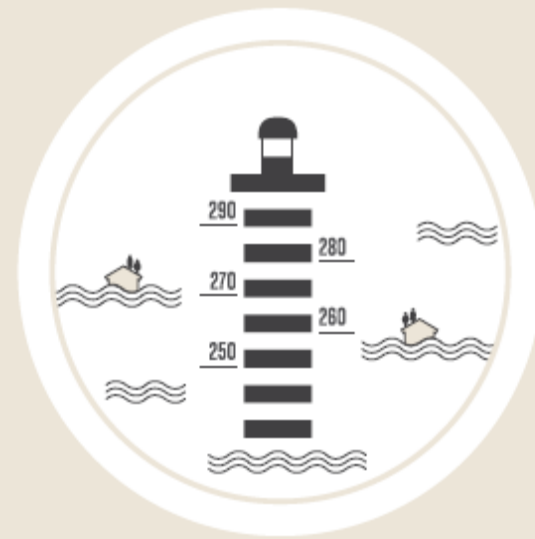
Cleaner

cleaner water



Healthier

a healthier home for aquatic
animals and plants



Safer

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

3 pillars for our action



Section 2: How PP Works



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Stakeholder Consultation: 5 sets of activities

- (1) direct collection of comments
- (2) stakeholder consultation workshop
- (3) social media campaign
- (4) online questionnaire
- (5) dissemination of information via
website dedicated page and *Danube Watch*

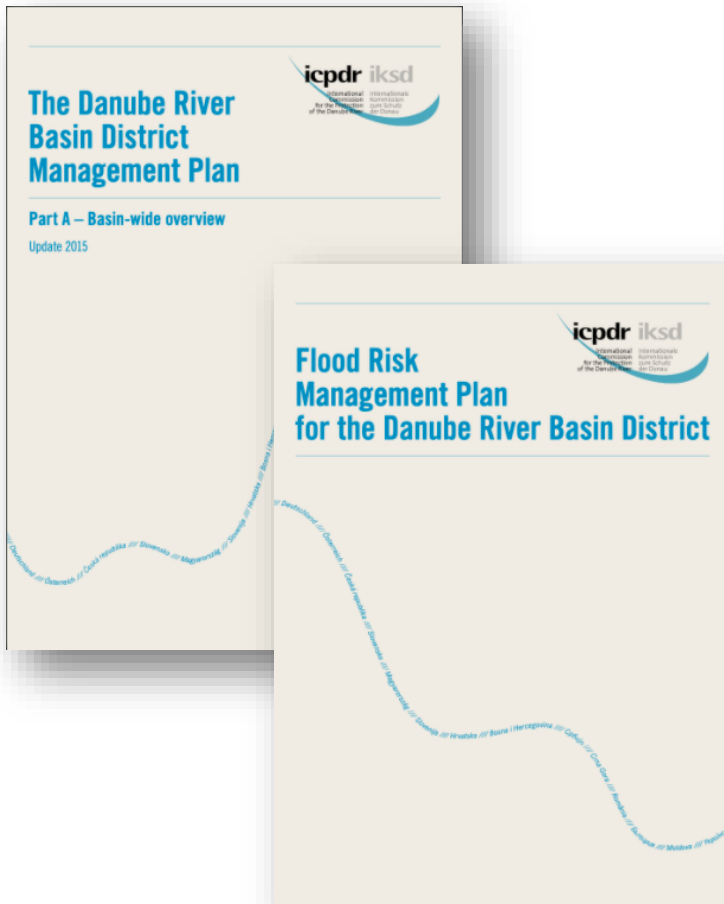


Public Consultation Activities (1/4)



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1. Publicizing the Draft Plans for Comment

The draft DRBMP and draft DFRMP Updates are published via the ICPDR website, and made available to the public.

Individuals, public bodies, NGOs, and other interest groups can make comments on plans by post or to a **dedicated email address**: wfd-fd@icpdr.org.

This period lasts 6 months.

Comments will be taken into account during the review and finalisation of the plans until December 2021.

Public Consultation Activities (2/4)



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2. The DRBMP/DFRMP 2021 Questionnaire

- ☐ Designed to check the public's understanding of the two plans
- ☐ Will help the ICPDR to locate gaps / where it needs to work in future
- ☐ A tool made to *confirm* the plans (not open-ended input on changes)
- ☐ Will quickly educate the public about what is said in the plans
- ☐ In 2021 published in 10 Danubian languages PLUS English to maximise reach

DRBMP & DFRMP Updates 2021 – Public Questionnaire



Introduction

This questionnaire will last approximately 10 minutes. Your opinion is of great value to us at the ICPDR, and your contribution will be very appreciated.

What is the purpose of this questionnaire?

Let us explain! This questionnaire is seeking your input as a member of the public living in the Danube River Basin. It has been designed informative for you as a member of the public, and to help us to find out more about public perception and knowledge of draft management of the River Basin.

What are the DRBMP & DFRMP?

Let us explain! Every six years, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) updates its "Danube River Basin Management Plan" (DRBMP), including assessments and measures towards the achievement of "good status" in waters of the Danube River. The previous update to the Danube River Basin Management Plan was in 2015, followed by its second update forthcoming in 2021.

The "Danube Flood Risk Management Plan" (DFRMP) – a similar document focusing on the assessment and management of flood risk in the Danube River Basin – was first published in 2015, and is receiving its first update in 2021.

The ICPDR's mission in implementing the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and the Danube Flood Directive (FD) – as well as the various directives and strategic plans shaping its work – is to achieve the ICPDR's three key pillars:

Addressing Hydromorphological Alterations

Do you know what Hydromorphological Alterations are?*

Yes

No

Let us explain! Over the last few decades, human activities – such as building dams and reservoirs, fragmenting rivers, ponding or channelizing them, and abstracting water – have led to changes in the physical conditions of the Danube and its tributaries. Even small stretches can be massively affected when the river's natural course is changed. These changes in physical conditions are called 'Hydromorphological Alterations'. Consequently, natural habitats have been substantially decreased and biodiversity significantly reduced (e.g. due to interrupted fish migration routes). Today, however, Danube countries are working hand-in-hand to make our waters a healthier home for aquatic life once again, with great benefits for society.



Such hydromorphological alterations in the river are making it more difficult to reach EU environmental goals to restore rivers and return them to a near-natural state.

Please consider the following statements:

1. Returning rivers to a near-natural state is not a priority, and new infrastructure, demanding hydromorphological alterations (e.g. dams, bridges) is more important
2. Returning rivers to a near-natural state is a priority, and new infrastructure, demanding hydromorphological alterations has to be prevented
3. Infrastructure demanding hydromorphological alterations, is worth it even though it makes it hard to return/preserve rivers in a near-natural state. Negative impacts have to be mitigated in the best possible way.

3. Stakeholder Workshop



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Public Consultation Activities (3/4)

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Danube Café Thematic Areas




Thematic Area 1 - Organic, Nutrient and Hazardous Substances Pollution of Surface and Groundwater




Thematic Area 2 -Hydro morphological Alterations & Integration Issues (Flood risk management, Hydropower, Nature Protection, Navigation, Agriculture)



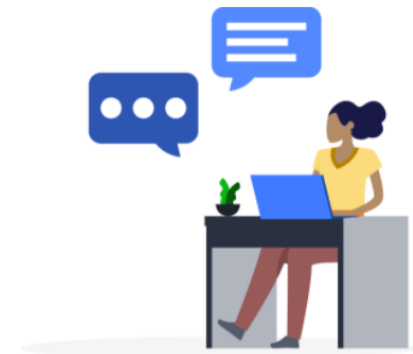
Thematic Area 3 - Objectives and measures of Flood Risk Management Plans



Thematic Area 4 - Support to implement both plans, Financing of the measures



Thematic Area 5 - Communication and Public Participation



4. Social Media



Stakeholder Involvement: 24 Observers

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Danube Strategy
Civil Society
Forum

viadonau



dstf
Danube Sturgeon
Task Force



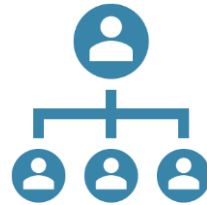
DANUBE PARKS
network of protected areas



**Danube Tourist
Commission**



dcc | danube
competence
center



Section 3: The Benefits of PP



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Acting early is also important, and helps ensure **buy-in** and a **sense of ownership**. Any basin/sub-basin approach will stand a better chance of success.

Benefits include:

- fewer misunderstandings, fewer delays and more effective implementation and monitoring;
- the resulting smoother running of a project can lead to more cost-effective solutions;
- all later decisions are more likely to receive public acceptance, commitment and support. Attitudes to the decision-making process will also be generally improved;
- increasing stakeholder awareness of the various issues in the related river basin district and sub-basins before environmental efforts become worse and thus harder to resolve;
- helping to normalise common discourse earlier in the implementation process.

Thanks for your attention & Acknowledgments



The [LIFE programme](#) is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. As members of the LIFE family of the European Commission – and under LIFE's 2019 preparatory programme – the ICPDR is able to develop and disseminate the [DRBMP & DFRMP Updates 2021](#).