



Transboundary and International Cooperation in the Danube River Basin

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ICPDR **IKSD**

International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale Kommission
zum Schutz der Donau

The Danube River Basin



- ✓ 800.000 km²
- ✓ 10% of surface Continental Europe
- ✓ 19 countries
- ✓ 79 million people
- ✓ Role model in transboundary cooperation



Historical Transformation / Danube as Connector

Early Agreements: Focus on trade and navigation

Later agreements: Focus on cooperation and water quality

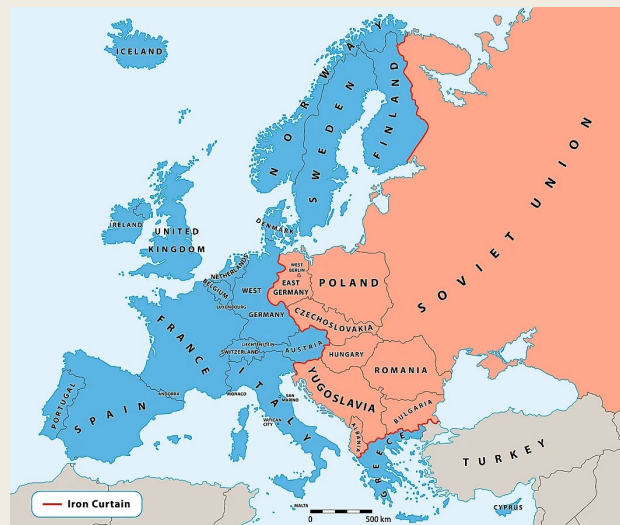
1985 / Bucharest Declaration :

Water monitoring, resources conservation & rational use

Prevention and control of Danube pollution

Integration into national law

Potential objective: Stepwise development towards Danube Convention



Source: www.worldatlas.com/geography/iron-curtain.html

1989 / Fall of the Iron Curtain: Geo-political transformation

New frontiers through Europe

Bringing Danube Basin countries closer together

Basis of a new cooperation basis



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Historical Transformation / Danube as Connector



● 1991 - Environmental Programme for the Danube River

● Interim Task Force to develop Strategic Action Plan

- From planning to implementation
- Addressing environmental threats with action
- Danube countries, EC, Banks, UNDP, UNEP, NGOs
- Coordination Unit in Vienna

Danube River Protection Convention

● signed 29 June 1994, Sofia (Bulgaria)

● enforced in October 1998

● 1998/99 ICPDR established / ICPDR Secretariat in place

15 Contracting Parties

High diversity: 9 EU Member States – 5 Non EU MS; 24 Observers



Protection of water & ecological resources



Sustainable & equitable use of water



Reduce nutrients & hazardous substances



Manage floods & ice hazards

Challenges and Activities

Joint identification and tackling / Sharing Information



Künzelmann, UFZ



ICPDR/Mello



Transnational Monitoring

Climate Change Strategy

Greener Navigation

Tailings Management



Stakeholder Involvement/
Public Participation



Künzelmann, UFZ



Joint Danube Survey

Accident Warning System

Sustainable Hydropower

Sustainable Agriculture

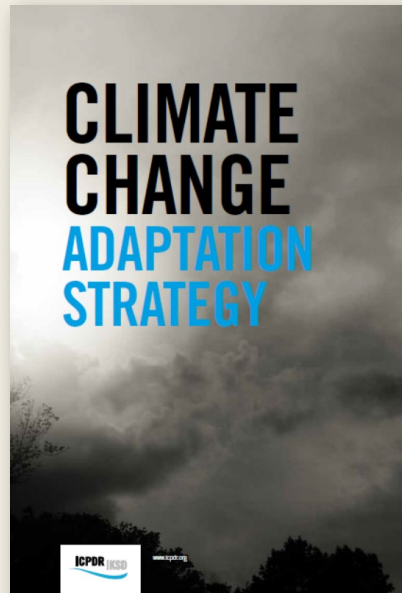
Transforming National RBM Approaches into Basin-Wide Ones



2021 / 3rd Edition



2018

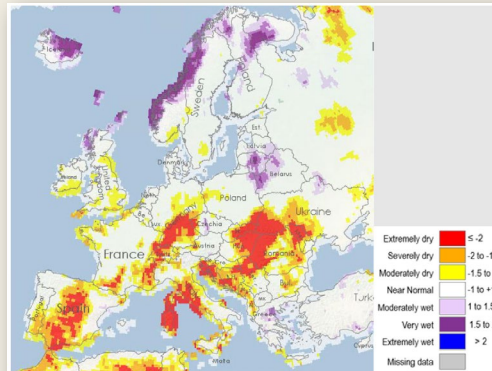


Commitments for Action - Many achievements

2021 / 2nd Edition



Drought/Water Resilience - emerging topics



JRC (2022), Drought in Europe August 2022

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Danube Declaration 2022

On 8 February 2022, in Vienna, the ICPDR convened its 4th Ministerial Meeting of Ministers and high-level representatives responsible for water management from the 14 Danube River Basin countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) as well as the European Commission.

This Ministerial Meeting endorsed two essential plans for the Danube: the updated Danube River Basin Management and Danube Flood Risk Management Plans. The meeting also adopted the 2022 Danube Declaration, which shows the highest level of commitment for the ICPDR concerning its future work to address the Danube basin's shared challenges.

Danube Declaration – Let us explain!

Every six years, a new and updated 'Danube Declaration' is signed and adopted by the ICPDR countries, updating, and extending the objectives and direction of travel for the Danube River Basin (DRB). It's a vital part of strengthening the ICPDR's goals for improving and maintaining the DRB.



ICPDR International Cooperation



Exchange between RBOs is essential to share experience and learn from each other

ICPDR exchanges with other RBOs on a regular level:

- **Special budget** fund allocated (Thiess River Prize to ICPDR, 2007)
- **Session** at the International River Symposium (Vienna, 2022) and **roundtable discussion** at the ICPDR Secretariat:
 - Mekong Commission, National Mission for Clean Ganga, ORASECOM, OKACOM
- **Study visits** of RBOs / water authorities to ICPDR
- Revision **institutional set-up** of the National Mission for Clean Ganga: Danube cooperation mechanism as key example
 - In the frame of the GIZ Support for Ganga Rejuvenation Programme and the India-EU Water Partnership



ICPDR International Cooperation



Support of ICPDR to the ORASECOM:

- **Orange-Senqu River Learning Box** (based on ICPDR Danube Box)
- **Joint Water Resources Quality Survey** (based on ICPDR JDS)
 - ✓ ORASECOM Joint Basin Survey (2010): first shared data on water quality
 - ✓ ICPDR supported planning the event and shared know-how
 - ✓ The Orange-Senqu River Commission's team of water resources quality joined the national teams during JDS3 and JDS4 sampling

