

Situation in the Tisza River Basin – JOINTISZA project

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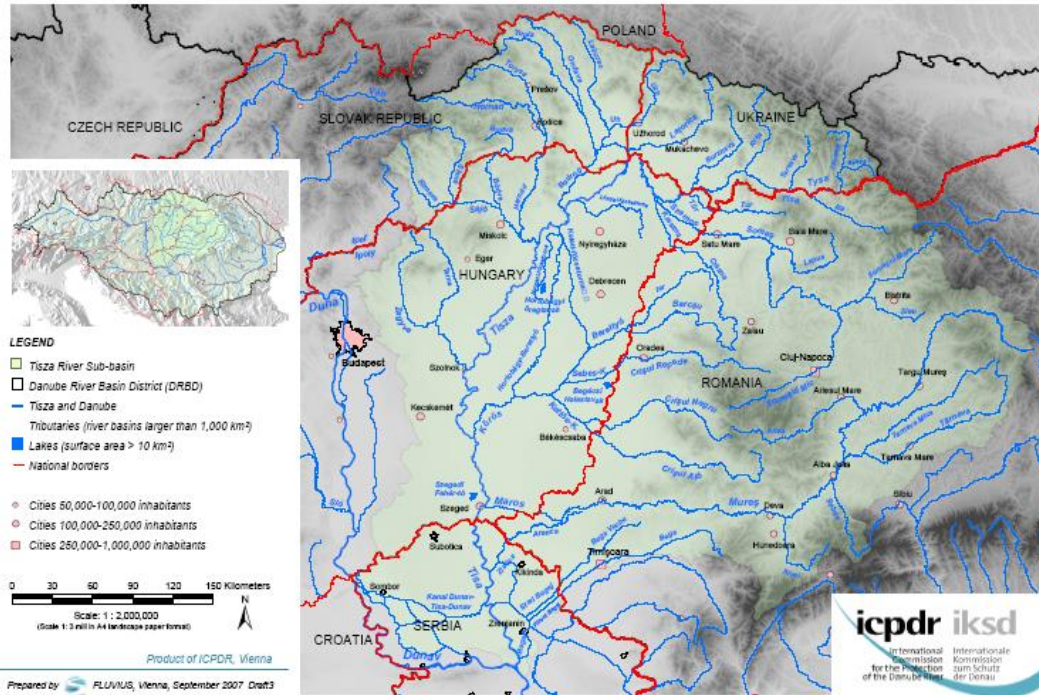
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Setting the Scene – The Tisza RB

Tisza River Sub-basin: Overview

MAP 1



Size of the Tisza River Basin	157, 186 km ²
Length of the Tisza River	966 km
Percentage of the TRB within the Danube River Basin	19,5%



Ukraine	Romania	Hungary	Slovakia	Serbia
8,1%	46,2%	29,4%	9,7%	6,6%

*Percentage of the Tisza River Basin in the Tisza countries

Solid waste pollution – The origin of the waste



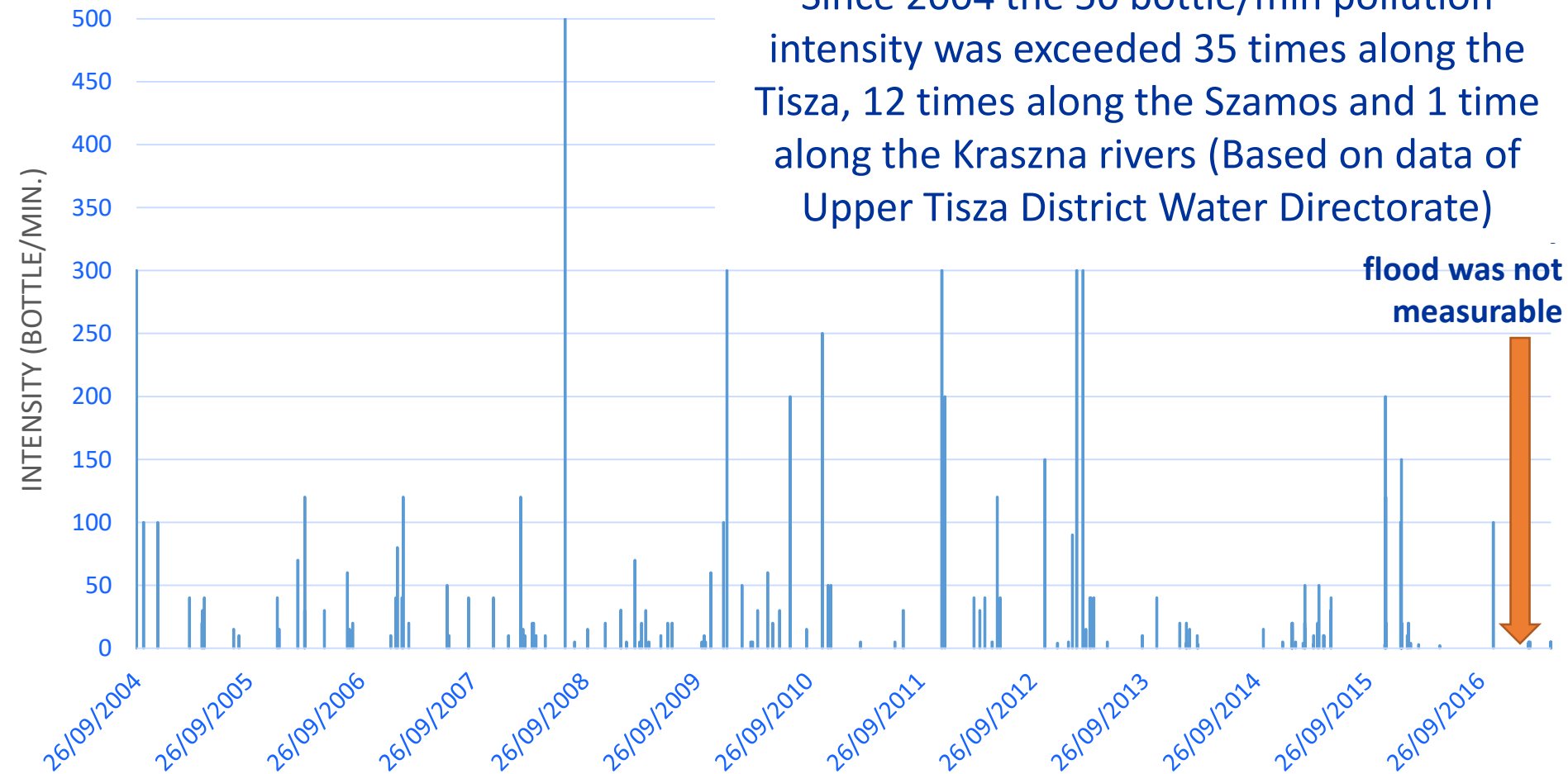
- Effecting the quality of waters
- Having impact on human health
- Aesthetic pollution also effecting tourism along the Tisza River...

Aesthetic pollution also effecting tourism along the Tisza River



Communal waste pollution intensity along the Upper Tisza (2004-2017)

Since 2004 the 50 bottle/min pollution intensity was exceeded 35 times along the Tisza, 12 times along the Szamos and 1 time along the Kraszna rivers (Based on data of Upper Tisza District Water Directorate)



Communal waste in the Transcarpathian Region

Hydrotechnological Committee and Tisza EGTC information about the Transcarpathian Region in 2016:

- 174 registered waste dumps (technical protection?, loaded in 75-85%)
- 213 mapped illegal landfills
- Around 3 mill. tons of waste
- 365 out of the 609 settlements has an operating waste management system (mostly larger settlements on the plains)
- Locally existing selective waste collection
- Investment plan exists – no financial resources
- No recycling centre can be found in the Transcarpathian region
- The works at the Janosi recycling centre were not completed yet (test run in December 2015) because of the lack of financial sources.
- Plans of three other recycling centres were prepared, but investments cannot be started because of financial matters.

Dealing with plastic waste pollution in international level in the Tisza River Basin (2009-2011)

Conclusions
Of the International roundtable conference on
"Solid communal waste treatment and preventing transboundary water pollution"
held in Nyiregyhaza, in 25 of March 2009

Participants representing water management authorities/organizations, environmental protection authorities as well as competent territorial authorities and municipalities from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine adopted the following conclusions, related to their competencies, concerning the prevention of the transboundary floating waste during high water events:

The Upper-Tisza River catchment area is shared between Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. To protect the environment and the water courses in the Tisza sub-basins corresponding to the territories of these countries special attention should be paid to communal waste disposal regulations.

Following the floods of the past few years transboundary floating waste of communal origin has become regular along the Upper-Tisza River and its tributaries, which has led an effect on the lower sections of the River Tisza. The pollution can be traced back to the increase in the quantity of communal waste and also to the imperfection of waste collection and disposal techniques.

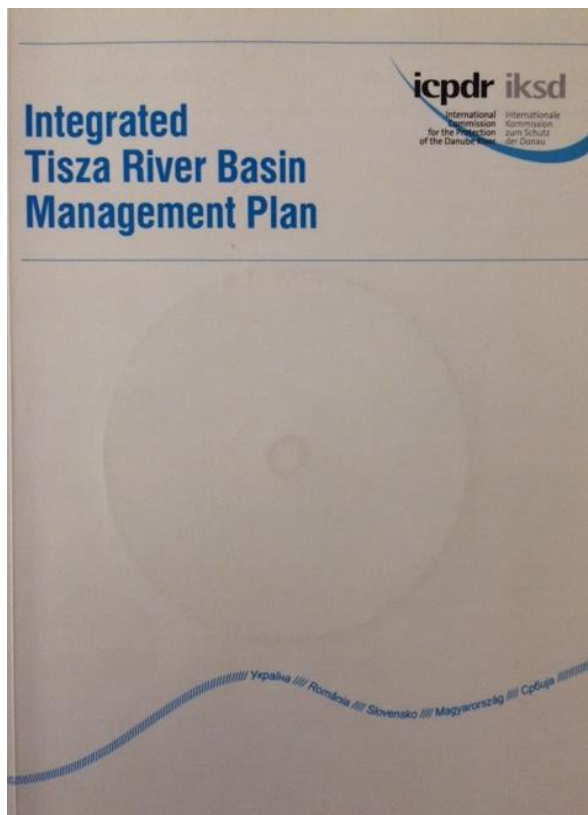
To the initiative of Hungary, the organisations of water management and environmental protection in the concerned countries – Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine – as well as the representatives of the competent territorial authorities and municipalities held a round table discussion in Nyiregyhaza on 25 March, 2009 on the actual situation and the possible solutions.

With respect to the fact that the countries situated on the water catchment area of the Upper-Tisza River are equally interested in:

- the preservation of the natural environmental status in the water catchment area of the Upper-Tisza River and providing the conditions needed,
- meeting the requirements set up in the Water Framework Directive of the European Union and the Danube River Protection Convention i.e. improving water quality on the whole basin and achieving good chemical and ecological status,
- influencing the attitude of inhabitants living and cultivating lands in the water catchment area, raising environmental awareness to ensure the preconditions of sustainable development,
- the strengthening of cross-border co-operation, furthermore, gaining EU and other international funding for the implementation of joint water management and environmental projects,

Heads of the participating delegations agreed to cooperate on the followings:

- 1) To support the measures for restraining transboundary floating waste:
 - co-operation and experience exchange of the competent authorities/territorial institutions on water management and environmental protection in the four countries,
 - strengthening the measures for cleaning up the wastes in the floodplains of the Upper-Tisza in their countries and its tributary, and preventing further illegal waste disposal,
 - looking for possibilities to prevent the spreading of communal wastes across the borders with all possible means,
 - encourage local authorities and municipalities to prevent illegal waste deposition.
- 2) To support the implementation of projects and investments serving joint interests:



Plastic waste – a very visible indicator of pollution



Abstract: Plastic waste is a global issue that has received relatively little attention within the GEF IW community. It is a problem that is recognisable to a wide population and the source of the problem is often this same wide population. Plastic waste also serves as a very visible indicator of pollution and solving the problem of inappropriate disposal may have additional benefits of reducing other pollutants and helping to engender an enhanced appreciation of the environment. Through a pilot demonstration project, UNDP/GEF have reduced the amount of plastic (and other waste) in the Tisza River Basin and assisted with reducing transboundary tension that this pollution caused. The activities have already been replicated with private sector funds and there is significant regional support to further sustain these activities including a proven willingness of the local population in the pilot area to pay for solid waste collection.

UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP

Conclusion paper
(2009)

Integrated Tisza River Basin
Management Plan (2011)

UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP
project – outcomes (2011)

Dealing with plastic waste pollution in international level in the Tisza River Basin – EUSDR (2011 onwards)

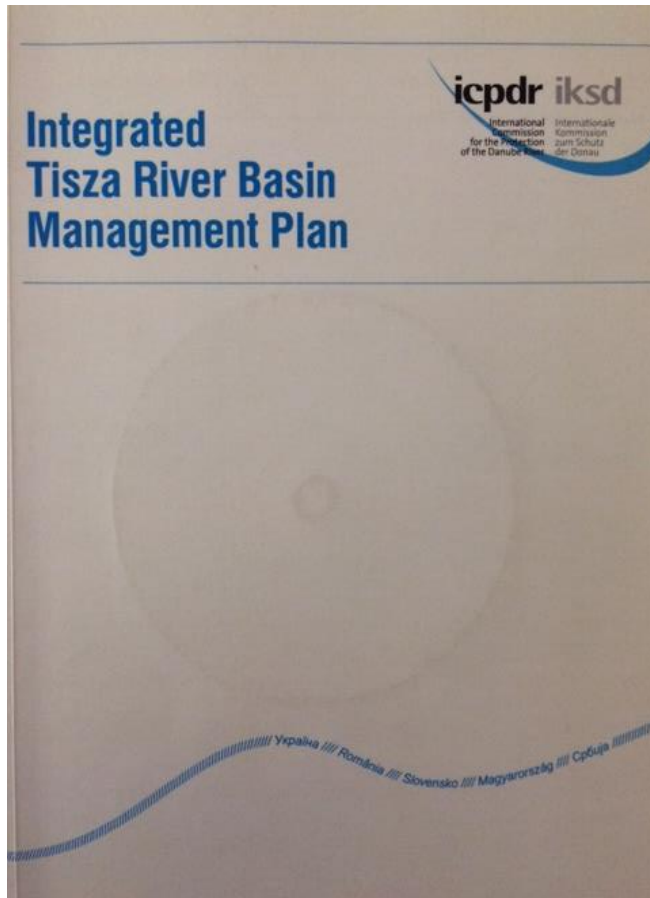


- Action 6.10: To ensure appropriate treatment of solid waste
- Action 6.16 To build capacities of local authorities in the environment-related matters



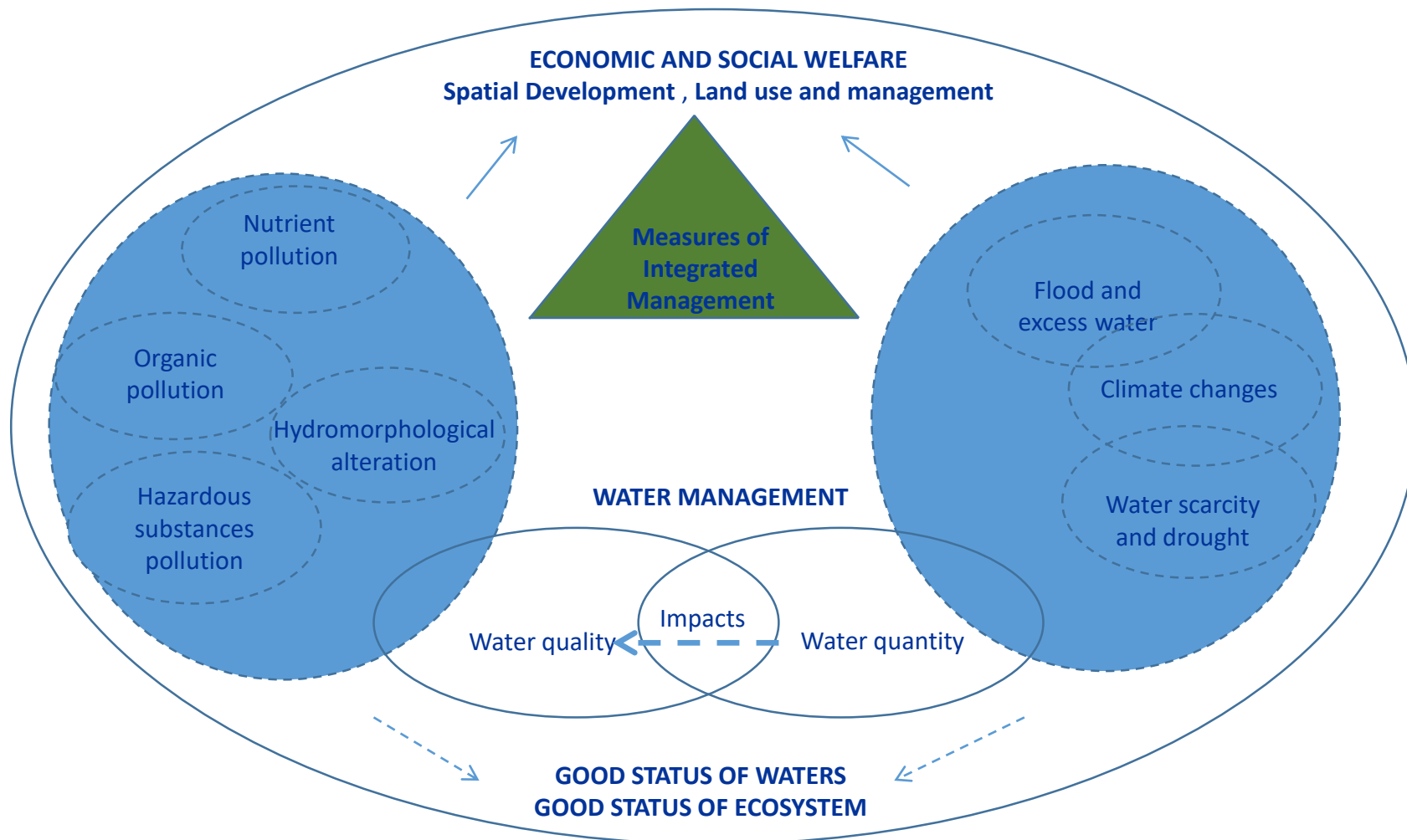
- addressing accidental pollution risks (PA5) and water quality problems (PA4)
- interested in solid waste and micro-plastic pollution of rivers, or waste transported by floods

The Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan



- Developed by the ICPDR Tisza Group in 2007-2011;
- ICPDR Tisza Group is an international body within ICPDR and serves as a platform for strengthening cooperation, coordination and information exchange among relevant institutions in the Tisza River Basin;
- Since 2014 the Hungary-based Tisza Office also helps the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group.
- The plan was developed according to the concept set in the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

Interlinkages between water quality and quantity related management issues identified by the ICPDR Tisza Group



Priority pressures and impacts in connection to the integrated water quality and water quantity issues



Hydromorphological pressures due to river engineering (related to flood protection measures)



Accidental pollution due to flooding



Loss of wetlands



Solid waste



Groundwater depletion due to over abstraction /Increased irrigation and related surface abstraction

How to manage plastic waste pollution in the TRB – recommendations of the ITRBMP

- Despite national regulations, solid waste remains a problem in the Tisza River Basin, mainly due to illegal waste disposal in the mountainous area in the Upper Tisza Basin.
- A high-level **roundtable conference on 25 March 2009** about ‘*Solid communal waste treatment and preventing transboundary water pollution*’ called attention to the importance of this problem, and the problem is further investigated under the **UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP** demonstration projects, and possible solutions
- Two demonstration projects for plastic waste recycling were implemented in Ukraine and Romania.
- The Ukrainian results will be introduced in the coming presentation.

Solid Waste pollution related conclusions and suggested measures addressed in the ITRBMP

- Inappropriate disposal of solid waste on river banks is a global issue that is a particular problem in the Upper Tisza River Basin resulting in the need **to remove hundreds of tons of waste plastic bottles from the main river per year.**
- Measures ranging from **education and awareness, river clean-up actions** to installing **collection and recycling facilities** are available and lessons learned replicated and taken into account.
- Suggested to **continue with the education and awareness raising, the collection and recycling actions.**
- **WHAT IS NEXT?**

The JOINTISZA Project

Basic data

- Number of partners: 17 (10 ERDF, 2 IPA and 5 ASPs) – **MFAT partner**
- Project Budget: 2,254,126.80 €
- Project Duration: January 2017 - June 2019.
- Project Lead Partner: General Directorate of Water Management - Hungary (OVF)
- Project Manager: Mr Balázs Horváth and
- Contact Details: jointisza@ovf.hu
- Funded by: INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme - European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and national funds
- Official website of the project:
- <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/jointisza>

The JOINTISZA Project

Objectives

- To strengthen approaches and cooperation among the relevant actors of the river basin management planning process especially actors of flood risk prevention/flood protection sector to enhance the status of waters of the basin.

Expected deliverables

- Improved GIS database for the Tisza river and its tributaries
- Final draft of the **update of the ITRBMP**
- Urban Hydrology pilot action
- Training of best management on urban hydrology
- Drought and climate change pilot action
- **Enhanced Stakeholder involvement, development of Public Involvement and Participation Strategy**

The JOINTISZA Project

- MFAT, as partner of the JOINTISZA project committed itself to facilitate dissemination activities within the project and to be involved in the development of the update of the ITRBMP.
- The today event main objective is to make also steps towards the implementation of the first ITRBMP (via awareness raising) and to outline additional outputs to the updated document in relation to the issue on plastic waste.
- As a next step the JOINTISZA project will also launch a boat during the PET CUP to be organised in 4-12 August 2018 (6th occasion) in the Upper Tisza Basin in Hungary.

The JOINTISZA INTERNATIONAL BOAT – Let's act together



Thank you for your attention!

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

Partners: General Directorate of Water Management, Hungary | Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, Slovakia | International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River | Ministry of Water and Forests, Romania | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary | National Administration "Romanian Waters", Romania | National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania | Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine", Serbia | Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary | The Jaroslav Černi Institute for the Development of Water Resources, Serbia | Water Research Institute, Slovakia | World Wide Fund for Nature Hungary

Associated Partners: Interior Ministry, Hungary | Republic of Serbia Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection – Water Directorate | Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC), Austria | State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine | Tisza River Basin Water Resources Directorate, Ukraine