

# MANAGING **ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS** IN THE DANUBE REGION





# FACTS ABOUT THE DANUBE REGION



14 COUNTRIES

2,800 KM LONG



### EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Areas

 <b>PA 1A</b> Waterways Mobility	 <b>PA 1B</b> Rail-Road-Air Mobility	 <b>PA 2</b> Sustainable Energy	 <b>PA 3</b> Culture & Tourism
 <b>PA 4</b> Water Quality	 <b>PA 5</b> Environmental Risks	 <b>PA 6</b> Biodiversity & Landscapes	
 <b>PA 7</b> Knowledge Society	 <b>PA 8</b> Competitiveness of Enterprises	 <b>PA 9</b> People & Skills	
 <b>PA 10</b> Institutional Capacity & Cooperation		 <b>PA 11</b> Security	

The Danube is the **second longest river** of Europe and has the most international river basin in the world. The Danube River **stretches over Europe** and flows into the Black Sea and settles into the delta, which forms the **richest biodiversity area** in Europe. The drainage area of the river is also influenced by the **Alps and the Carpathians** mountain chains. Therefore, **water management** is essential to the region, as environmental **disasters do not recognise borders** and their management requires strong **coordination and cooperation** between the countries. To support that purpose, the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** was adopted during the Hungarian EU Presidency in **2011**. As territorial development framework, the main aim is to **reduce disparity** in the Danube Region through 12 priority areas.



# ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS



Priority Area 5 is coordinated by Hungary and Romania



MINISTRY OF WATERS AND FORESTS

## EUSDR PA5 STEERING GROUP

All member states of the Danube Region participate in the Steering Group, which is the main **decision making body** of the priority area. The meetings are organized twice in one year.



## DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



The Disaster Management Working Group, established in 2019, invites members from the field of **disaster response** in order to **address the challenges** faced by organizations dealing with environmental risks in the region.

## COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



## CHALLENGE

# SUFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT



## DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF ICPDR DANUBE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Flood protection techniques, technologies and experiences
- Operative flood protection methods and equipment
- Floodplain management
- Information exchange
- Operative flood management plans
- Education/training network



### Floodplain Management

- Development of Strategic Guidance



### Education

- InterFloodCourse project established International Postgraduate Course on Flood Management





## CHALLENGE

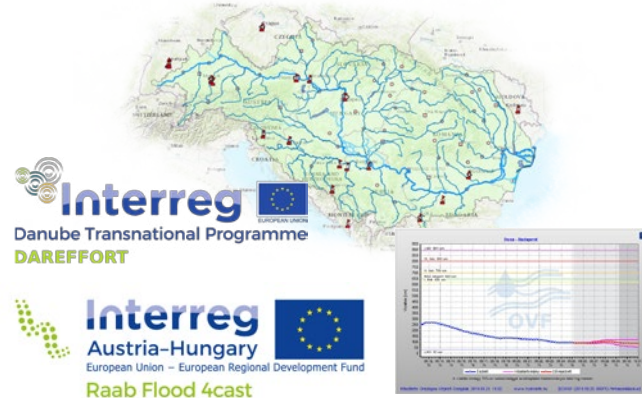
# UNEXPECTED EVENTS



## BASIN-WIDE OR REGIONAL FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEMS

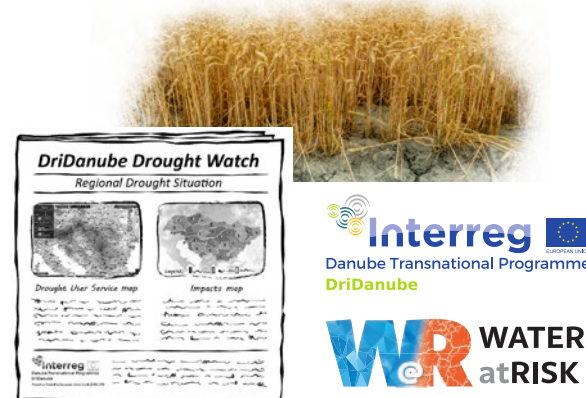
### Early warning systems for floods

- Exchange of information and data
- Develop flood forecast system and warning tool



### Drought risk reduction

- Develop more accurate and efficient drought monitoring and timely early warning



## CHALLENGE

# COORDINATION OF DISASTER RESPONSE



## STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

### Resilience & joint activities of disaster responders



- Strengthen flood response activities in the Danube Region
- Resilience, training, recommendations for better preparedness



### Monitoring of risks



European Civil Protection



- EU Civil Protection Mechanism Advisory Mission served as basis for REVITAL I project
- Revitalization process of the Solotvyno salt mine and surrounding area
- Complex monitoring system
- Raising awareness for the risks





## CHALLENGE

# HUMAN IMPACT



## DECREASE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES

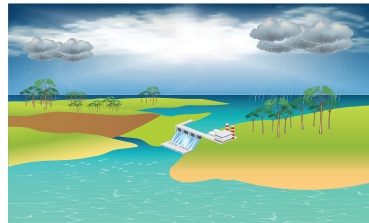
### Accidental Hazard Sites ICPDR

- Prevention of accidental pollution and improvement of the response capability by listing all relevant Accidental Hazard Sites



### Flood Risk Management Plan

- Optimizing the management of dams and reservoirs for an optimal flood propagation
- Hydrological evaluation of possible events
- Survey and mapping of reservoirs, dams and lakes



### Tailing Management Facilities ICPDR

- Checklist of UNECE "Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs"
- Trainings for operators
- Narrow knowledge gaps



## CHALLENGE

# AWARENESS RAISING



## IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

### Activities of the EUSDR Environmental Risks Priority Area

#### Operative Flood Management Workshop

- Ice management on Danube
- Shared flood basins
- Evacuation plans and procedures, safeguarding people, goods, emergency rescue plans



#### Raising flood risk awareness

- E-learning material about floods



#### Publishing in scientific journals

- Journal of Environmental Geography, special issue on climate change adaptation





## DAREX 2019

### DANUBE REGION EXERCISE

#### INTERNATIONAL FLOOD PROTECTION TRAINING AND RESPONSE EXERCISE



#### EXERCISE SCENARIO

According to the exercise scenario, **severe flooding** occurred in the upper part of Tisza River, which resulted in a situation where the assistance needed from **national and international volunteer organizations** to support disaster response efforts. The organizing teams have prepared **realistic environment** for the participants coming from Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. The teams arrived with **different capacities**, which were challenged during the exercise days. The units had to **support** the local responders with tea and refreshments continuously, just as in reality, the **work never stops regardless if it is day or night**. They had to **cooperate** with the local emergency response teams by providing first aid, flood protection, food distribution, handover of in-kind assistance, search for missing persons and shelter those who had to evacuate from their homes. The exercise with **more than 100 participants** reflected one of the most important action points of the Environmental Risks Priority Area, which is to **strengthen operational cooperation** among the emergency response organizations in the Danube countries and to **improve the interoperability** of the available assets.





In case you have an initiative or a project proposal aiming a Letter of Recommendation from the Priority Area 5 of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region, please contact us!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 5

„To manage environmental risks”

e-mail: [danube.envirisks@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:danube.envirisks@mfa.gov.hu)

web: [www.environmentalrisks.danube-region.eu](http://www.environmentalrisks.danube-region.eu)



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MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
OF HUNGARY