Co-operation in the Danube River Basin

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The start of international co-operation after the World War I

- Commission de Regime des Eaux du Danube (CRED)
  - the Hungarian-Romanian Water Regime Agreement (1924)
  - the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian Water Regime Agreement (1928)
- Transcarpathian Region (Czechoslovak-Hungarian-Romanian) Commission
Bilateral agreements

- Hungarian-Slovakian (1978)
- Hungarian-Ukrainian (1999)
- Hungarian-Romanian (2003)
- Hungarian-Yugoslavian (1955)
- Hungarian-Croatian (1995)
- Hungarian-Slovenian (1995)
- Hungarian-Austrian (1955)
Multilateral Co-operation

- Helsinki Convention (1996)
- ICPDR (Sofia Convention) (1998)
- EU Water Framework Directive
- Tisza Water Forum (2001)
- Budapest Initiative (2002)
The role of international organisations

- ICPDR  Focus on Danube level matters
- UNDP, UNEP, WWF, Wetland International, GEF
- Projects related to Tisza basin
- Tisza River Basin Integrated Sustainable Development Programme
National aims:
- Considering the special needs and circumstances of flood control
- Introduction of the open planning process in water management

ICPDR aims:
- Coordinating the common objectives of the Danube basin

EU objectives: sustainable use of water
Cooperation in the ICPDR

- Participation in the preparation of Roof Report
- Co-ordination of the implementation of WFD
- Leading the Flood Protection Working Group
- Participation in the River Basin Management Group
- Participation in the newly created Tisza Group which prepares a sustainable management plan for the Tisza river
Important tasks of water commissions

- water level and volume measurements
- checking the state of the dykes and the hydrotechnical constructions
- flood protection
- agreement of development and technical plans
- water balance
- water quality measurements and evaluation
The structure of the frontier water commissions

- By catchment principle:
  - Tisza Subcommission

- By technical or administrative principle:
  - Water Management Subcommission
  - Hidrometeorological Subcommission
  - Financing Subcommission
“Like a mad who throw away his chains
Run the river across the plains
Crying, moaning broke its way through the dyke
And wanted to gulp the world wide.”

Sándor Petőfi

By the Tisza
The start of multilateral co-operation

- COMECON Tisza Group (9 topics)
- Convention on measures to combat pollution of the Tisza river and its tributaries (1986, Szeged)
New challenges

- Pollution, Floods, Deforestation, Loss of biodiversity
  - Cyanid and heavy metal pollutions in 2000
  - Environmental Protection Programme (2001)
  - Heavy floods on the river Tisza 1998-2000
  - Budapest Declaration (2001)
Tisza Water Forum

- WG I. National characteristics of the Tisza River Basin (Yugoslavia)
- WG II. Description of the flood control situation by countries (Romania)
- WG III. Increase of lead time available for preparation (Hungary)
- WG IV. Definition of the design flood levels (Slovakia)
- WG V. Implementation of the necessary measures (Ukraine)
- WG VI. Environmental impact assessment (Slovakia)
- WG VII. International co-operation, legal framework (Hungary)
- WG VIII. Integrating the outputs (Romania)
- Tisza River Basin Flood Control Concept (2002)
Main results of the Forum

Co-operation under the Forum covers:
- review of the national flood policies
- harmonisation of the national
- Common Flood Control Concept
- involvement of third partners
Ministerial MoU
Vienna, 13-14 December 2004

• Towards a RBMP for the Tisza River supporting sustainable development of the region
• Formulation of Ad hoc Tisza Group
• Harmonisation with the UNDP/GEF Tisza projects and the Tisza Water Forum
Latest multilateral Developments

- Co-operation with the ICPDR (Harmonizing the activities of Flood Protection EG of ICPDR and the WG 8 of the Forum)
- EU and ICPDR Initiative for strengthening the co-operation on sub-basin level
Latest developments in the bilateral co-operation

- Draft of Hungarian-Slovakian Frontier Water Agreement
- Hungarian-Slovakian Committee of Common Water Basins and Frontier Waters
- Referencies relating to multilateral conventions
- Bilateral enforcement of multilateral goals
Summary

- After WW I: Bilateralism relying on CRED
- After WW II till 1994: Stronger bilateralism
- Sofia Convention: Possibility of multilateralism
- Important role of international organisations
- 2004 Tisza MoU: Stronger multilateralism
Thank you for your kind attention