

BTOR

Place	Zagreb, Croatia
Date	5-6 May 2014
Participants	Elena Fatulova
39th River Basin Management Expert Group	
<p>39th RBM EG Meeting Hrvatske Vode, Zagreb</p> <p>GWP CEE has an observer statute in the ICPDR RBM EG comprising of official representatives from the Danube countries and nominated representatives of NGOs. RBM EG has been established with the aim to provide the platform for cooperation of the Danube countries on the production of the Joint Danube River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Introduction The 39th RBM EG Meeting was dedicated inter alia to discussions on the update of the Danube Basin Analysis as a basis for the 2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan and issues concerning intersectoral cooperation.</p> <p>2013 Update Danube Basin Analysis Report Updated draft of the Danube Basin Analysis (DBA) Report was presented. Existing significant data gaps did not allow completing the necessary assessments. DBA was prepared in line with the Article 5 of Water Framework Directive (WFD) containing required items – water body characterization including heavily modified and artificial water bodies, significant pressures, impacts and risk assessments, economic analysis, integration issues and public information and consultation.</p> <p>Also water scarcity and drought issues are part of DBA (chapter 9.5). It was concluded that water scarcity and drought is not considered as an issue requiring coordination and management on the basin-wide level at this stage. This also due to the fact that the relevance of the issue and the situation is differing between the countries and regions within the Danube River Basin. However, maintaining an exchange on the topic is considered to be beneficial, also in relation to the ongoing discussions on climate change adaptation, what should be facilitate via the exchange of best practice examples. Furthermore, a specific chapter on water scarcity and drought is planned to be devoted in the 2nd DRBM Plan, which should also reflect on the diversity of the situation within the basin.</p> <p>It was concluded that updated DBA should be finalised and submitted for adoption at the 12th Standing Working Group Meeting in June 2014.</p> <p>2nd Danube River Basin Management Plan The 3rd draft of the structure and outline of the 2nd Danube RBMP was presented and discussed. RBMP will consist of 9 chapters and the main items are: significant pressures, protected areas, monitoring and water bodies status assessment, environmental objectives and exemptions, integration issues, economic analysis, joint programme of measures, public information and consultation.</p> <p>Water scarcity and drought will be included in the RBMP as a chapter 6.6. The following</p>	

information will be included in the 2nd Danube RBMP:

- Updated information on the issue from the 2013 DBA
- Link to CIS process, example from NWRM project in a box if appropriate
- Indication on way forward – how to deal with WS&D in the future?

Concerning the DRBMP the planned next steps include the following:

- Provision of updated version to the 12th StWG Meeting in June 2014
- Preparation of draft 2nd DRBM Plan until December 2014 for launching the public consultation
- Preparation of updated version of draft 2nd DRBM Plan for intensified public consultation
- Update and finalisation of 2nd DRBM Plan by December 2015.

ICPDR activities and developments:

Sturgeons in the DRB

The task force presented detailed information on the progress of the project “Fish migration at the Danube and Iron Gates”. The intention of ICPDR is identification of the next steps towards an integration of sturgeons i.e. in the 2nd DRBM Plan.

Guiding principles on Sustainable Hydropower Developments – presentation of the draft hydropower questionnaires.

Inter-linkage WFD – Floods Directive – information on final version EU Resource Document and LAWA Recommendations and discussion on coordination activities in relation to the 2nd DRBM Plan and 1st DFRM Plan.

Adaptation to Climate Change

In December 2012 Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Danube River Basin was developed and adopted. The questionnaire on climate change adaptation was prepared based on the Strategy and discussed in other relevant EG. One of the planned next steps is preparation of input for the 2nd DRBM Plan based on the results of the questionnaire for discussion at the 40th RBM EG Meeting.

Other activities – for information:

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Joint Danube Survey 3

Activities for the HYMO Task Group

Activities of the Economics Task Group

EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the ICPDR

Sub- basin initiatives: Sava, Tisza, Danube Delta, Prut.

Conclusion:

During the discussion on water scarcity and drought issues the information on the IDMP CEE and the interim results have been provided. The cooperation offered from GWP on this topic was welcomed from the ICDPDR side, but no concrete steps have been agreed.