

## ICPDR STRATEGY ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN

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The work of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is based on the Danube River Protection Convention from 1994. 15 contracting parties - 14 countries and the European Union – are working towards the protection of water and associated ecological resources, the sustainable use of water as well as the management of floods and ice hazards in the Danube basin. The ICPDR is also mandated as the coordinating body for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Floods Directive (EFD) on the basin-wide scale.

In a clear political mandate from 2010 the ICPDR was asked to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the whole basin, what included three main steps:

- 1) Creation of a common knowledge base on climate change and adaptation: Elaboration of a meta-study, summarizing expected climate change impacts and possible adaptation measures
- 2) Discussion and dissemination of study results: Interdisciplinary workshop
- 3) Elaboration and adoption of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, finalized and adopted in December 2012, with the involvement of different stakeholders and ICPDR Expert Groups

Some key challenges had to be overcome for the elaboration of the Climate Adaptation Strategy. The heterogeneous knowledge base was addressed by the elaboration of the Study, summarizing and assessing all existing information on climate change and adaptation for the whole basin and for the creation of a common understanding on the issue. Furthermore, a discussion on issues relevant to be addressed on the basin-wide level took place in the frame of an interdisciplinary workshop.

Adaptation to climate change also requires coordination between different sectors and different levels of management. This is addressed by making use of existing structures and water management instruments for coordination which are also required for Integrated Water Resource Management. Different ICPDR Expert Groups were mandated to integrate climate change in their activities.

Finally, a step-wise and cyclic approach was chosen for adaptation to address the issue of existing uncertainty. Climate change adaptation measures are integrated into the regularly updated water management plans according to the WFD and EFD (6-years planning cycles), also allowing for a step-wise and cyclic approach for adaptation.

The ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change can be downloaded, together with the Study, from the ICPDR website: <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/climate-adaptation>