How can a country mobilize national domestic funding to support basin investment plan activities? Experience sharing from Hungary

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Hungary in the Danube Basin

The Danube is the most international river basin, covering 800,000 km² across 19 countries with a total population of 81 million inhabitants.
Transboundary co-operation in the water sector

- **Bilateral co-operation**
  - Transboundary (neighbouring countries)
  - With other countries

- **Multilateral co-operation**
  - International Conventions
    » (Helsinki, Danube, etc.)

- **European (Union) level co-operation**
Transboundary River Commissions

HU – has TRC with all 7 neighboring country – historical form of cooperation – different structures – identical objectives

AT, SK, UA, RO, RS, HR, SL

• Flood management, river engineering
• Hydrological forecast, data exchange
• Water quality protection
• Water management, protection of water resources (quality & quantity)
• Integrated River Basin Management

Bi- and multilateral projects, data and information share, early warning, solid legal base for cooperation, institutional background.
Agreements

- Agreement on the regulation of water management issues in the borderland between Hungary and Austria signed 09 April 1956, Vienna
- Agreement between the governments of the Hungarian Republic and the Republic of Croatia on water management, signed 10 July 1994, Pécs
- Convention between the Government of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on cooperation in the field of sustainable water management in transboundary waters and river basins of common interest, signed on 15 April 2019 (entered into force on 24 April 2020)
Financing of transboundary cooperation

Core activities financed from state budget:
(built in into the budget of the General Water Directorate of Hungary and 12 Regional Water Directorates)
- Regular meetings of the Plenipotentiaries, Sub-commissions, joint water sampling, etc.
- Travel, accommodation covered by the countries, additional cost (meeting room, technic, etc. by the host country)

Additional activities financed from various sources:
- By the Government from state budget (financial support)
- Joint project development (EU funds, Danube Transnational Fund, Cross-border Funds)
- Activities jointly financed or by one party
Danube River Protection Convention

29 June 1994, Sofia (Bulgaria)

Protection of water & ecological resources
Sustainable use of water
Reduce nutrients & hazardous substances
Manage floods & ice hazards

ICPDR coordinates basin-wide implementation of EU Water Framework Directive & EU Floods Directive
Financing of transboundary cooperation

Core activities of ICPDR financed from compulsory contributions of the Contracting Parties:

Hungary’s share is 8,37% 98 545 EUR from state budget

Staff cost, office costs, publications, travel costs, meetings and events, services,

Additional activities financed from various sources:
- Contracting Parties extra contributions (financial support)
- Project participation, Leadership (EU funds, Danube Transnational Fund, Cross-border Funds)
- Special Funds (e.g. International River Prize)
The UNECE Water Convention

A legal framework based on cooperation principles

An institutional framework with possibility to adapt to evolving challenges

Projects & capacity building to support accession and implementation

Voluntary contribution of HU: 20 000 USD (built in state budget)
Thank you for your kind attention!

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