

Memorandum of Understanding
for strengthening Tisza River Basin cooperation towards the
implementation of the updated Integrated River Basin Management
Plan for the Tisza River Basin supporting the sustainable development
of the region

Based on the cooperation of the countries sharing the Tisza River Basin, Hungary, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine (subsequently called the Tisza countries) in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding 'Towards a River Basin Management Plan for the Tisza river supporting sustainable development of the region' - signed in 13 December 2004, in Vienna - the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (ITRBM Plan) was developed by the Tisza Group of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and endorsed by the "Heads of Delegations" on 10 December 2010 following the adoption of the Ministerial Statement towards the development and implementation of a River Basin Management Plan for the Tisza River Basin supporting the sustainable development of the region at the ICPDR 2nd Ministerial Meeting on 16 February 2010.

On the occasion of the 2nd Ministerial meeting of the Tisza countries, initiated by the Ukrainian ICPDR Presidency, held in Uzhgorod on 11 April 2011, the relevant Ministers/High representatives adopted the ITRBM Plan and reinforced their commitment for cooperation with the signature of the 2nd Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

In the frame of the JOINTISZA project "Strengthening cooperation between river basin management planning and flood risk prevention to enhance the status of waters of the Tisza River Basin" financed by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, a draft of the updated Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan was developed.

On the occasion of the 3rd Ministerial meeting, initiated by the Hungarian ICPDR Presidency, held in Budapest on 26th September 2019, Ministers/High representatives of the Tisza Countries:

- **APPRECIATE** the achievements and outcomes of the updated draft Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan developed within the frame of the JOINTISZA Project and its acknowledgement by the Heads of Delegations of ICPDR;
- **DECLARE** the adoption of the updated ITRBM Plan in order to implement it in the Tisza River Basin;
- **PLEDGE** for continued support for an active involvement in the ICPDR Tisza Group as a basis to ensure the progress in implementation of the needed measures;
- **EXPRESS** their specific gratitude and appreciation
 - for financial support provided by the Danube Transnational Programme and the expertise from the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) Priority Area 4

“To restore and maintain the quality of waters” and Priority Area 5 “To manage environmental risks”,

- for the project partners and associated strategic partners cooperating in the JOINTISZA project implementation,
- for the cooperation of all other organisations and stakeholders active in the region.
- **UNDERTAKE** to continue close co-operation in order to facilitate the implementation of the updated ITRBM Plan aiming at the objectives set by the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Flood Directive as well as the objectives of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Danube River Protection Convention);
- **DECIDE** to continue the work on the implementation of the Joint Programme of Measures taking into account and underlining specific integration issues related to water quality and quantity management - as introduced in the ITRBM Plan – with specific emphasis to:
 - facilitate dialogue between river basin management and other relevant sectors such as agriculture, forestry, industry, energy, navigation, land use, etc.,
 - take coordinated steps to prevent accidental risks, and develop harmonised mitigation and response measures, with the aim to present an updated accident risks spot inventory by the end of 2021,
 - assess impacts of socio-economic developments in the Tisza River Basin on water resources and outline consequences in relation to water quality and water quantity management,
 - improve communal solid waste management and assess their impacts on water,
 - assess possible climate change impacts on transboundary water management and develop case study specific for the Tisza River Basin,
 - implement the ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy on the Tisza sub-basin,
 - prepare for the implementation of the Joint Tisza Survey developed in the frame of the JOINTISZA project,
 - asks the ICPDR Tisza Group to start with the regular preparation of the progress report on the implementation of the updated ITRBM Plan according to the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Flood Directive.
- **ENCOURAGE** the cooperation in the view of elaboration and application for joint projects related to the implementation of the updated ITRBM Plan in the Tisza River Basin,
- **INVITE** the ICPDR and its working bodies to further support this initiative in particular, by strengthening the work of the ICPDR Tisza Group,
- **INVITE** the EUSDR to provide further political support and assist the Tisza countries in identifying funds for projects and other follow-up activities related to the implementation of the updated ITRBM Plan;

- **INVITE** the Carpathian Convention and the ICPDR Tisza Group to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest;
- **ENCOURAGE** the ICPDR and its working bodies, in particular the ICPDR Tisza Group, to further support Tisza countries cooperation, and to assist in initiating projects and other follow-up activities related to the implementation of the updated Joint Programs of Measures and in preparing the regular progress report on their implementation and the next update of the ITRBM Plan;
- **APPRECIATE** the offer of Hungary to contribute to the future activities of the ICPDR Tisza Group in close cooperation with the ICPDR through the Hungarian Tisza Office based in Szolnok, when is necessary;
- **EXPRESS** the interest of the countries to explore further possibilities for a long term sustainable cooperation process and framework;
- **ENCOURAGE** all Tisza countries to ensure their further involvement through their respective institutions/bodies to continue co-operating in the frame of shared initiatives aimed at improving and implementing Tisza Basin wide cooperation.

Done in Budapest on 26th day of September 2019.

Oleksii ORZHEL – Minister
Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection
Ukraine

Ioan DENEȘ – Minister
Ministry of Water and Forestry
Romania

Vladimír NOVÁK – Director General
Directorate for Water Policy
Ministry of Environment
Slovak Republic

Dr. Sándor PINTÉR - Minister
Ministry of Interior
Hungary

Željko RADOŠEVIĆ – State Secretary
Ministry of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Republic of Serbia