

MINUTES

1st Periodic Partner Meeting, Capitalisation Event and Danube Forecasting Forum

Danube River Basin Enhanced Flood Forecasting Cooperation – DAREFFORT

Project code: DTP2-064-2.1

4-5-6th of February 2019, Budapest

Venue: Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna

Participants: Representatives of Project Partners, Associated Partners and Guests

Total number of participants: 72 people, of which

- 52 - Capitalisation Event;
- 47 - Data Provider Conference;
- 26 - SCOM + SAB Meeting;
- 59 - DAFF;
- 34 - DAREFFORT Management;
- 20 - Software Developers Event.

(See the scanned attendance lists)

DAY 1, 4th February 2019

10:30–12:30 Capitalisation Event

Chair person Zoltán Bálint from leading partner Environ Viziterv Hungary welcomed the participants and the guests.

Péter Juhász, responsible for communication in WP2 as subcontractor of General Directorate for Water Management in Hungary, gave a brief status of the communication activities provided by WP2 team, including the contact database, the communication channels (website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Newsletter), and the online questionnaire for the hydrological data source analysis on national levels. Opportunities for capitalisation will be examined and collected in following weeks among other projects of the thematic poles in the relevant priority areas. Mr Juhász reported about the progress of national project partners' deliverables regarding communication, such as brochures, posters and stakeholders list.

IMPORTANT:

- ERDF Partners will be obliged to translate, edit and print the flyer in their own language and disseminate it on capitalisation events. The editable flyer can be found on the DAREFFORT FTP server. (Management Toolbox > DTP Documents for Project Implementation > **dareffort_poster_editable.ai**)
- Obsolete online form: <https://buzzword.typeform.com/to/FDdc47> **DO NOT USE**
- New online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PYFRCRL> **USE THIS PLEASE!**

Marlene Heimann introduced DanubeSediment, a project initiated to improve water and sediment management as well as the morphology of the Danube River in the 9 partner countries. (LINK: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danubesediment>) DanubeSediment launched more than a year before Dareffort in 2017

Markus Eder held a presentation about Danube Floodplain, a project examining the historical and seasonal mutation of territories around the Danube Basin, serving a floodplain in excessive water situations. As the agricultural and rural activities consume more and more territories from the buffer zones, a proactive regulation is inevitable. Prior to that a proper database and evaluation of such regions is necessary. Without such a preventive action floods will represent higher risk and cause more damage in related European countries. LINK: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danube-floodplain>

CAMARO-D, a DTP project which ends soon in mid 2019 is nearing to the development of a comprehensive recommendation list towards a strategic policy for the implementation of an

innovative transnational catchment-based “Land Use Development Plan” for the Danube River Basin. Representing the leading partner, Hubert Siegel invited all those who are interested to follow the final conference to be held in Vienna as well, in early June. (LINK: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/camaro-d>)

IMPORTANT: potential capitalisation event, CAMARO-D final meeting June 2019

JOINTISZA, another DTP project turning well into the second half of its lifecycle, aims to strengthen transnational water management and flood risk prevention in Tisza basin. The main output of the project will be an updated final draft of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan, which already includes the primary aspects of the Floods Directive. György Rátvai gave an overview of the project, describing many interesting examples of successful capitalisation activities targeting professionals stakeholders and public audience. (LINK: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/jointisza>)

Kinga Perge from the EUSDR responsible for priority area 5, described the potential capitalisation activities within the well categorized network of projects.

Zoltán Bálint from the leading partner, Environ Viziterv asked the invited lecturers to describe briefly where these projects acquire flood forecasting water level data, or whether they are involved in developing data transport between countries.

DECISION: Guests agreed that there are opportunities for cooperation between Dareffort and other projects in the second thematic pillar, because most projects have to rely on inhomogeneous types of water level informations or certain indicators only with a lower level of reliability. Dareffort water level database will be a good source of information to such projects as well.

13:30–17:00 Data Provider Conference

Philip Liedl from STASA described the agenda for the Data Provider Conference. In his presentation he described the goals of common data exchange. Goal is to enable a standardized data exchange among national data providers, but also to other institutions like ICPDR. This comprises: flood forecasting and IT expert recommendations agreed by all partners; a common format for hydrological and meteorological data exchange; a common data exchange software service to convert national data formats to the common format; store the converted data in a common data base; provide the common data to others.

Common data exchange is not willing to replace national hydrological information systems; or establish a common forecasting system; neither to provide a GIS system (as it is part of

ICPDR's DanubeGIS) Philip Liedl listed all the requirements and the main characteristics of the data exchange platform from different point of views of the project itself and the national project partners.

Zoran Major from ICPDR described Sava HIS as a reference project. Sava HIS is a working platform for sharing and dissemination of hydro-meteorological data and information in the basin and common channel for exchanging and viewing HM data and information in emergency situations.

Levente Peres, chief IT expert from Environ introduced Hymedes, the Danube Hydrological and Meteorological Common Data Exchange Service. It is a modular, distributed application-hosting and data collection / dissemination platform, which can store, access and manage environmental data in a common place and common form. The system safety relies on public and private keys, while the flexibility is served by its open source character. Data providers will have to accept at least one of the following requirements: Provide remote access to existing data interfaces from the outside to a plugin written by Viziterv to collect the data, OR Agree to host a small, open-sourced application written by Viziterv for the purposes of locally uploading the data from "on site", OR Agree to implement (develop) and host a plugin application using the API.

IMPORTANT: As Philipp Liedl from STASA emphasized, a crucial point of the project is not only technically enable the collection of the data, but to create a responsible and safe system which fulfills all the national requirements, and can be authorised by all national data providers. Igor Liska from the ICPDR stressed out that there is no minimal data request from ICPDR, and participants have to accept if a partner can negotiate only a fewer set of data on national level. It does not mean automatically that other countries need to leave out such type of data as well. Likewise, harmonising warning levels is also not necessary. He also noted that the Danube HIS agreement refers to the collection of meteorological and hydrological data for flood forecast and scientific purposes as a requirement.

Zoran Major reminded the partners that the purpose of Dareffort is to prepare the background for data collection and sharing, make suggestions and create a pilot for forecasting, but not to develop a working flood forecasting system. Founding a safe and reliable system for data exchange is more important than getting committed to one type of forecasting methodology, as the set of data may be enhanced later on. As Zoltán Bálint explained: suggestions are not enough, a functional pilot prototype is required to be prepared at the end of the project. The data exchange platform will be separate topic on the third day of the conference.

17:00–18:30 SCOM + SAB meeting

Substitutions:

Lucia Cizmaziova (SK), Bojana Horvat, (HR) Alfons Vögelbach

Ildikó Czeglédi from Environ described the management toolbox, the available documents and materials on the project FTP server. These enable the project partners to follow the budget plans, be on time with deliverables and fulfill the requirements. She drew the attention to the fact that some phases will be more difficult, as the number and difficulty of deliverables will be higher, so timing remains to be a key issue.

László Perger described the quality assurance procedures followed by the quality assurance manager and his team.

IMPORTANT: Zoltán Bálint asked the project partners to provide preferably 3-4 weeks before deadlines so that quality assurance has time to investigate earlier and provide advices, taking care of which will be possible within the time frames.

Closing the day.

DAY 2, 5th February 2019

8:30–15:30 Danube Forecasting Forum

Philip Liedl: climate change requires new solutions for hydrographic analysis of Austria as well. Processing larger data sets, getting more information from big flood events. Big events based the flood and forecasting activities.

1961 first conference of Danube flood forecast and prevention took place in Budapest. DAFF may be the first forum to create commitment and cooperation for international data exchange and operation.

As Karoly Gombas from the ICPDR underlined, in the case of the Danube River, although the involved countries and institutions are very different, the positive cooperative attitude of the partners is undeniable, and the project also received endorsement from the ministers. There are 14 countries in ICPDR and 23 observing assemblies stakeholders. In 2004, ICPDR created a sustainable flood protection programme.

DANUBE HIS: Dareffort will support establishing this system. Macedonia and Bosnia not need to be in HIS, they will be in Sava HIS. Dareffort has political support, and ICPDR is behind it.

Peter Salamon from the JRC described the European Flood Awareness System, which is a fully operational, European flood forecasting system with the aim to support the national authorities with complementary, added value flood forecast information and to provide a European overview to the Emergency Response Coordination Center of the European Commission in Brussels. EFAS is part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service. It provides probabilistic, river basin wide flood forecasts with a 10 days lead time. EFAS data is accessible for EFAS partners either through a web interface or as raw data. Archived EFAS forecasts older than one month are freely accessible. EFAS does not redistribute raw meteorological or hydrological gauging data as it is not the owner of the data but can share a lot of experience with regards to collecting data from a large number of different data providers. EFAS can furthermore serve as a future test user of the Danube HIS.

Professor András Szöllösi-Nagy: global practice of hydrological forecasting, based on Amazon and Niger experiences, problem is not with science and technology, but rather with politics. Luckily in case of Danube, the political background is safe, even if multicoloured. Need to develop a common methodology, nothing else. But, need to define and separate forecasting and statistical predictions. Probability distribution is getting more and more difficult, because lately the incoming data shows irregularities, owing to climate change conditions. Estimating figures also include estimating its probability and reliability. Hydrological forecasting includes uncertainty, a few parameters need to be freely estimated. We need to have capability of adapting parameters to new conditions. Diversity of current forecast models is really high.

S. Van Der Heijden gave a presentation about the transnational cooperation around River Rhine. He reminded us that collective agreements date back to 80-90-s, when big floods occurred, because tragic events always bring actions. Earlier than that, no single agreements existed between countries, just bilateral contracts for data transfer.

DISCUSSION:

Igor Liska: it would be great that such a forum remains sustainable, not because ICPDR likes it, but because participants find it useful, too. Professor Szollosi-Nagy added, that many institutions deal with water level, every second year there is a conference about forecast of flood, but common methodology and basis of the knowledge guarantees there will be no conflict. There is no more practice of blackmailing the lowstream countries with lack of data. Trust is developed by communities. Unesco is also an international body for international water issues.

Marius Matreata emphasized: DAFF helps bringing up the topic to priority, not to create new institutions or useless redundant elements.

11:00–15:30 DAFF Country Reports

All participating country partners gave a short presentation about the national hydrological data sources, forecasting systems, and the facts they provided into the online questionnaire as well.

- Germany – STAS/STMUV
 - Falko Bader, STASA
- Austria – ECONOMICA/BMNT
 - Franz Higer, Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria
- Slovakia – SHMU
 - Eva Kopacikova, SHMU
- Hungary – VIZITERV/OVF
 - András Csík, OVF
- Slovenia – UL, ARSO
 - Saso Petan, ARSO
- Croatia – CW
 - Bojana Horvat, CW
- Serbia – RHMSS
 - Dejan Vladikovic, RHMSS
- Romania – NIHWM
 - Marius Matreata, NIHWM
- Bulgaria – NIMH BAS
 - Snezhanka Balabanova, NIMH BAS
- Ukraine – UHMC
 - Victoriya Kornienko, UHMC

All partners are required to provide a country reports by the 8th of March 2019, which should be based on the same information as the presentations. If we do not get the reports until this date, they can not be included in the final report!

IMPORTANT: Mitja Brilly remarked that the content of the 4th Section of National country Status Quo reports should be further elaborated in accordance with potential financial needs that could rise from future country projects and plans.

16:00–16:30 the way forward in relation of WP3

- National reports – some are still missing
- The way forward:
 - evaluation report on flood and ice forecasting systems
 - maps of networks and core observing stations

Questions, discussion

- who will write these reports? Obviously the WP3 team need to analyse the questionnaires-

DECISION: reviewing of the reports: what is missing, what is needed. Two weeks for review and two weeks for respond may be enough. Finish report drafts by end of March. Finished reports with conclusions: end of May Internal revision at least two months before deadline

DECISION: Kiev conference in November is eligible for capitalisation

IMPORTANT: Zoran Major asked from where will the datas come from for the maps? The answer is, from country reports. If there is good documentation in national languages, not necessary to translate

16:30–17:00 the way forward in relation of WP4

- Blue lines in Gantt are the ones that are already underway
- Levente: shouldn't wait for deadlines for testing developments etc. but should test and develop well before deadlines; Data providers should have separate test systems
- Philipp agrees that tests should start as soon as possible, but we should have the data ASAP, so they could see if something's wrong or missing; what Levente says is considered within the deadlines
- Marius M.: first internal testing, then distributing to the LP
- Lucia C.: who would be the authority to authorize the system access key → PL: automatically gen. key; Levente: public and private key, access giving authorization is a different part, probably automatically

17:00–17:30 the way forward in relation of WP5

Event minute and summary: first draft proposed deadline Feb 18-20, 2nd: Feb 27-28., final: March 10-15 → to quality management team

Organizing knowledge exchange workshops

- o 9 countries, 9 workshops? → WPL will provide the thematic parts,

IMPORTANT: WP2 communication team contacts application form creators, how the workshops were supposed to be organized. By whom, how often? What kind of questionnaire is there necessary as mentioned in Gantt. Can workshops be organized around regular meetings, or dissemination events?

data management guidelines

- o summary of good practices, recommendations. According to the AF there should be something produced (like a concept paper) by the end of period 1, not only by the end of period 5 (BZ)
- o other activities are starting later (Dec, next year etc.)

Next meeting:

21-22 May periodic meeting in Bucharest – last week of May or first week of June?