ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

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Core group on pilot projects, third meeting
Global Network of basins working on climate change adaptation, first meeting

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ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
Danube River Basin – South-East Europe

Approximately 800,000 km² and 80 Mio. inhabitants
19 countries located within the basin - 14 countries with catchment areas > 2,000 km² Contracting Parties to the Danube River Protection Convention

Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

- Projects directly supported by the UNECE Water Convention and ENVSEC
- Projects in the programme, implemented by other organizations

Map produced by 2011 Environment Network, February 2012
Main challenges

• Making the first steps – first time Adaptation to Climate Change is addressed in a structured and coordinated way on the Danube basin-wide level

• Making the right steps under existing uncertainty

• Making the appropriate steps – what can be accomplished in a fist step and what is relevant to be coordinated on the basin-wide level?

Main aim of the project

Development of a Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Danube River Basin and integration in upcoming River Basin Management Plans
CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE PAST YEAR

• Knowledge base created – Study completed in January 2012, summarising existing information on climate change and related impacts in the Danube River Basin

• Workshop accomplished – discussion of study results with broader audience (March 2012) as input for elaboration of Adaptation Strategy

• ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change finalised and adopted by Danube countries in December 2012
TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION – most important challenges

• Creation of a common understanding on the issue
  ➢ Establishment of an international and inter-disciplinary “Team of Experts” supporting the elaboration of the knowledge base and the Climate Adaptation Strategy

• Heterogenic knowledge base
  ➢ Summary of existing information available and identification of knowledge gaps to be tackled in the future

• Ensuring coordinated actions
  ➢ Identification of possible adaptation measures and incorporation of adaptation in international working groups for concrete decision making
OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

• Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change finalised
  – Summary of climate change scenarios and related impacts on different sectors
  – Summary of possible adaptation measures
  – Guiding Principles on Adaptation to Climate Change as tool for facilitating decision making process
  – Approach for integration of adaptation in ICPDR activities
  – Indication of next steps (management cycle, closing of knowledge gaps, revision and update)
LESSONS LEARNT

- Joint understanding (i.e. on scenarios and related impacts) and shared knowledge base is essential for joint decision making in a trans-boundary basin.

- Not all problems can be solved immediately (uncertainties, knowledge gaps, etc.), suggesting a step-wise and adaptive approach.

- Making best use of existing structures and water management instruments.

- Coordination requirements – climate change is cross-cutting issue (like IWRM), requiring interdisciplinary approach.

- Decision making process on adaptation measures to be embedded in different (water management) disciplines but exchange and coordination has to be ensured.
FUTURE PLANS

• “The journey hast just begun” – following finalisation of Strategy, adaptation has to be **practically incorporated** in water management planning processes

• **Different Expert Groups** were already involved in elaboration of Strategy – now **implementation of Strategy** required

• Elaboration process of next **River Basin Management and Flood Risk Management Plan** already launched – to be finalised by 2015 and climate adaptation to be incorporated

• Working towards **closing of knowledge gaps** (including vulnerability assessment)

• (Potential) **Update of the Strategy** in 2018 as basis for next (6-years) management cycle
Overview - timeframe water management planning cycles and different climate change scenarios
How far did you elaborate on a concrete approach for decision making under existing uncertainties, apart from targeting no-regret measures, low-regret measures, win-win solutions, etc.?