

Update to the Annual Work Programme for grants in the Environment
Policy Area for the year 2010

The present work programme constitutes an update to the initial annual work programme for grants C(2009)7682 in the area of Environment adopted on 14 October 2009.

It covers a grant to be awarded without a call for proposals to a body with a de jure / de facto monopoly.

The present work programme serves as financing decision in accordance with article 75 of the Financial Regulation.

1. LIFE + PROGRAMME - GRANT TO BE AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 168(1)(C) AND 168(1)(F) OF THE DETAILED RULES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATION.

1.1. Action grant to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) – Implementation and follow-up of the first Danube River Basin Management Plan and Tisza sub-basin management Plan

1.1.1. Beneficiary

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

1.1.2. Legal basis:

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) (OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1)

1.1.3. Budget amount: € 300 000

1.1.4. Budget line : 07 03 07 - LIFE+ (Financial Instrument for the Environment — 2007 to 2013)

1.1.5. Objective of the action/project:

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC obliges Member States to cooperate within shared river basins and to the joint elaboration of monitoring programmes and river basin management plans. The action will provide a crucial contribution for implementing the Directive within the Danube river basin and Tisza sub-basin, by supporting the execution and follow-up of the first Danube River Basin Management Plan and of the Tisza sub-basin Management Plan.

These plans are a major achievement in international integrated river basin management, but show room for improvement related to the following issues: data gaps in ecological status assessment, incorporation of climate change and integration with water users.

In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, the project will focus on the following main work packages:

- (1) Filling gaps in the Danube River Basin Management Plan, mainly related to ecological status and sediments. This will be done by further data collection and comparison of country information and methodologies. The work for the Tisza sub-basin will be integrated into this task.
- (2) Incorporating climate change adaptation aspects into river basin management. This will be achieved by bringing together existing research results, making use of existing EU guidance, focusing on preparing proposals for adaptation actions and integrating these in the river basin management plan. A specific case study will be done for the Tisza sub-basin.

- (3) Integration of environmental concerns and water aspects in the development of future infrastructure projects and in agricultural practices. This will be done by organising dialogues with specific sectors responsible for the development of future infrastructure projects, such as hydropower and navigation, and with the agriculture sector in the Danube River Basin District. It will build on the agreed Joint Statement on navigation and ecology for the Danube. For the Tisza sub-basin, this activity will focus on flood protection and agriculture.

All work components will include active stakeholder involvement and related communication activities.

The tasks will be coordinated via the ICPDR Permanent Secretariat and will be discussed at basin wide level in the frame of the River Basin Management Expert Group and of the Tisza Group meetings. The Tisza Group meetings will ensure suitable coordination of the sub-basin developments. Continuous discussion and coordination will be ensured via task meetings

1.1.6. Expected results:

The expected outputs include:

Task 1) -Updated assessment of the status of water bodies in the Danube River Basin District and the Tisza River Basin District, focusing on ecological status; overview of basin wide problems and objectives related to the management of sediment quality and quantity for the Danube River Basin District;

Task 2) - Overview of relevant research projects and their outcomes for the Danube River Basin District and Tisza sub-basin; development of a common understanding among main stakeholders on how climate change affects the Danube River Basin District and Tisza sub-basin; first strategy for incorporating climate change impacts in river basin management and adaptation measures on the longer term

Task 3) - Dialogues with agriculture, hydropower, flood protection and navigation representatives at the Danube RBD level and Tisza sub-basin scale; common understanding on integrated river basin management in the Danube and Tisza River Basin District; identification of good practices for integration; development of methodologies to solve existing integration issues.

1.1.7. Justification for the de jure / de facto monopoly of the beneficiary:

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is the Executive Body implementing the Danube River Protection Convention which all riparian countries and the EU have ratified. The ICPDR deals with protection of the Danube river basin against pollution and other environmental impacts which are closely related to, and driven by, EU water policy. The working responsibility of the ICPDR covers not only the main stream of the Danube, but – as foreseen in the Water Framework Directive – the whole catchment. EU Member States are under obligation to endeavour appropriate coordination with Third Countries in shared river basins (article 3(5) Water Framework Directive). The ICPDR is the only international organisation in the region with these responsibilities, and has been entrusted by Contracting Parties including the EU the role of the operational platform for implementing the Water Framework Directive.

1.1.8. *Implementation:*

Finance rate (max) :	50 % co-financing of the eligible costs.
Calendar for concluding the grant agreement	September 2010
Implementing DG	ENV