

Ref: 16690

Vienna, 02 September 2019

Subject: Invitation to the International Workshop on Water and Agriculture in the Danube River Basin, 6th-7th November 2019, Budapest, Hungary

Dear Colleagues,

we have the pleasure of inviting you to the first “**International Workshop on Water and Agriculture in the Danube River Basin**“, which will take place from **6th to 7th November 2019** in **Budapest, Hungary**. The workshop is co-organised by the ICPDR, the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and the Danube Strategy Priority Area 4 and hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.

BACKGROUND

Sustainable **nutrient and drought management** are highly challenging issues in the Danube River Basin (DRB) and in need of being addressed. Nutrient pressures from diffuse agricultural sources may increase and affect the status of surface waters, groundwater and the Black Sea. In the context of climate change, the duration and magnitude of drought events will increase in summer months and extreme weather conditions could trigger serious water scarcity issues. The ICPDR as the coordinating body for transboundary water management in the DRB is committed to assist Danube countries with addressing these challenges.

At EU level, discussions on the **post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy** (post-2020 CAP) have started with the EC Regulation (COM (2018) 392), proposing the regulatory framework for a "future-proof" CAP. A more ambitious approach regarding environmental and climate protection has been proposed taking into account international commitments, EU environmental challenges and societal expectations. Member States will have to prepare CAP Strategic Plans in order to improve the economic, social and environmental performance of the agricultural sector and rural areas.

In line with the EC initiative of aligning water and agricultural policies in the post-2020 CAP, the ICPDR has launched a **dialogue with the agricultural sector** with the aim of developing a guidance document on sustainable agriculture. This document will aid Danube countries in preparation and implementation of their national agri-environmental policies, CAP Strategic Plans and relevant

strategies related to their River Basin Management Plans. The **guidance document** will include a set of recommended instruments and tools to facilitate national decision-making for water and agriculture and to identify common goals, set up tailor-made policies and implement joint actions and cost-effective measures within a consistent policy framework.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the **workshop** is to bring together experts and stakeholders from the water and agriculture sectors to discuss the needs and challenges of both sectors, to share ideas and thoughts on better alignment of the two sectorial policies, exchange good examples and experiences on sustainable agricultural practices and provide input for the finalisation of guidance document.

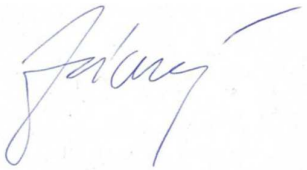
The workshop will particularly focus on **three pillars**:

- Aligning water and agricultural policies in favourable and less favourable areas;
- Best management practices to mitigate nutrient pollution and water scarcity/droughts;
- Fostering innovation, knowledge transfer and smart advisory services.

Further information on the event is attached to this invitation.

We are looking forward to your participation and to fruitful discussions during the workshop.

Sincerely yours,



Executive Secretary

ICPDR



President

ICPDR

EVENT LOGISTICS & CONTACT

Venue

Ministry of Agriculture, "Cupola Room"

Apáczai Csere János utca 9, Budapest 1052, Hungary

Event duration

Start: 6th November 2019 at 09 AM

End: 7th November 2019 at 1 PM

Registration

Registration to the workshop is now open and will close on **20th October 2019**.

We kindly ask you to **register here**: <https://danubis.icpdr.org/event/22156>

Please be aware that the registration may be closed earlier if the maximum capacity of the meeting room is reached.

Travelling and accommodation

Participants are kindly asked to arrange their travel to/from Budapest and to book accommodation in the city by themselves. Recommended hotels in Budapest are:

- Mercure Budapest Korona****, <https://www.accorhotels.com/en/hotel-1765-mercure-budapest-korona-hotel/index.shtml>
- Hotel Zenit Budapest Palace****, <https://budapest.zenithoteles.com/hu/>
- Prestige Hotel Budapest****, <http://prestigehotelbudapest.com/>
- Hotel President ****, <http://www.hotelpresident.hu/hu/>
- Starlight Suiten Hotel****, <http://starlight-suiten.hotel-rm.com/?l=gglrnk>

Workshop fee

The attendance is free of charge but a prior registration is required. During the workshop, snacks, lunch and dinner will be provided by the organisers.

Contact

Mr. Adam Kovacs, Technical Expert for Pollution Control at the ICPDR

Email: adam.kovacs@icpdr.org

Meeting documents and information

Further logistical information, a draft agenda and related documents will be shared in due time prior to the workshop via this link: <https://danubis.icpdr.org/event/22156>.

In order to ensure proper representation of **experts** from both, the **agricultural and water sectors**, we kindly ask you to **disseminate the information on the workshop** throughout your network.