



European Strategy for the Danube Region
Priority Area 4 „To restore and maintain the quality of waters“

Trust-building between Water and Agriculture Sectors in the Danube Region

Conclusions

Workshop, Bratislava, 4 October 2016

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Workshop Conclusions

- To improve the state of waters requires water policy makers and stakeholders to engage with agricultural sector, farms in particular.
- Key point of successful cooperation – requires establishing trust between water and agriculture sectors – both need a better understanding of the others „world“ and to share their respective visions and direction.
- By sharing these different visions – commonalities (over-laps) may emerge – „win-win“ solutions can then be put forward for joint working.
- Need to fill the gaps in the cooperation between agriculture and water sectors by implementing the relevant EU legislation (Water Framework Directive, Nitrate Directive, Common Agricultural Policy). **The benefits for agriculture sector of better implementation should be communicated – e.g. resource efficiency/ turning waste into resources.**



Workshop Conclusions

- **Danube countries have made significant efforts to reduce agriculture nutrient pollution by implementing respective measures.**
- **However to reach WFD good status further actions are required.**
- **Better collection and use of agri and water data and innovative modelling technologies and establishing network in stabile areas are needed to allow the targeting of cost effective measures to where they will deliver the effective reductions of nutrient loses (critical areas/hot spots).**
- **There is need for developing and launching of joint access water research network in the Danube Basin on the issues presented to achieve a break-through in understanding and measuring the area of non-point source pollution processes.**
- **Despite that Danube Region currently has lower intensity of agriculture production in relation to EU average, decoupling of agricultural development from pollution is the integral part of the sustainable development of agriculture in this region.**



Workshop Conclusions

- **Water and agricultural policies need to be aligned at government level, to ensure that they work in synergy and not against each other. This requires effective joint working by ministries responsible to define priorities and communication to all relevant stakeholders.**
- **It is necessary to promote the best agricultural practices and cost-effective measures.**
- **Measures should be targeted to large farms and agro industrial holdings and important flow pathways with the focus on the non-point sources.**
- **Crops have to follow water sources availability (irrigation strategies should be built on a comprehensive water balance and respect WFD quantitative elements).**
- **The water quantity demands of crops must be taken into consideration together with nutrients requirements.**



Workshop Conclusions

- **Strategies for agriculture should enhance farm profitability within environmental boundaries established by the WFD.**
- **Green measures in towns are needed to help increase infiltration and reduce run-off losses in urban areas.**
- **Costs of water in agriculture has to strike the balance between allowing the sector to develop but to do so sustainably.**
- **Realisation and improvement of anti-erosion measures in the river basin is still actual.**
- **Rural Development Plans are among the key tools of the implementation of the measures of the river basin management plans by the agriculture sector, and also help to make the sector more sustainable.**