

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

### Second Stakeholder Seminar of the Water Quality (PA4) and the Environmental Risks (PA5) Priority Areas

## *"EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WATER SECTOR"*

## SEE RIVER

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# Aim of the Project



**SEE River**

## Sustainable Integrated Management of International River Corridors in SEE Countries

### ➤ Project theme

Cross-sectoral participatory management of transboundary river corridors

### ➤ Project aim

- to reach **cross-sectoral agreement** among stakeholders on integrative management of **river corridors**
- for **harmonising both development and conservation interests** along six selected international rivers
- based on a combination of local, regional, national and transboundary approaches
- to improve capacities of existing local, regional, national and international stakeholders for effective transboundary and cross-sectoral linking and networking in executing river corridor management issues.

# Project objectives and outputs

- SEE River Toolkit
- Drava River Action Plan for integrative management
- Five Local Action Plans (IT, AT, SI, HR, HU) - multi-sectoral stakeholder agreements for the management of five pilot areas along the Drava River corridor
- Five Draft Action Plans for integrative management of the Bodrog, Neretva, Prut, Soča, and Vjosa river corridors
- Directory of good practices of integrative management of international river corridors, capacity building seminars for the dissemination of the Toolkit, follow-up project proposals prepared on the basis of future joint actions
- Sustainability plan for future cooperation of the SEE River network.

# General information on the project



- **Funding instrument**

European Territorial Cooperation Programme, South-East European Transnational Cooperation Programme

- **Time frame of the project**

1 October 2012 – 30 November 2014

- **Ratio of co-financing**

85% EU funding / 15% project partners

- **Project partners**

26 (21 from EU and 5 from non-EU countries)

# SEE countries and project partners

12 SEE countries

26 project partners

96 project team  
members

involved



# Project leader institution

## ➤ **Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IzVRS)**

A public research and development institution, specialized in the field of:

- sustainable solutions for water usage and water engineering,
- hydrology,
- river basin management planning,
- environmental economy,
- flood management,
- analysis and modelling of the water environment,
- information, consultation and public participation.

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Project manager:

**dr. Aleš Bizjak** (IzVRS)

International coordinator:

**Mateja Softić** (Institute Iskriva)

# Application procedure 1.

## ➤ Project concept development

- The SEE River project was initiated on the basis of the Drava River Vision Declaration, signed in Maribor in 2008 by representatives of the Drava countries.
- The Declaration set ten long-term goals that reflect the priorities of contemporary Drava River management.
- Through discussions on administrative and expert levels, it was decided that the above-mentioned goals were to be developed into a more concrete action plan within a new, special project.
- In addition, the need for similar initiatives on other transboundary rivers in countries of the SEE region was identified through the partner network.

# Application procedure 2a.

## Work packages

**WP0 – Project preparation activities:** Bilateral and multilateral meetings with project partners, observers, SEE region stakeholders; definition of project goals, etc.

**WP1 – Transnational project and financial management,** administrative management, monitoring and evaluation, SC, QMB, and project meetings.

**WP2 – Communication activities:** comm. strategy, website, project visual identity, promotion packages, leaflets, brochures, newsletters, media relations, final publication.

# Application procedure 2b.

## Work packages

**WP3 – Development of the SEE River Toolkit:** Analysis of existing river management procedures, collection of good practices on integrated mng. of international rivers, preparation and evaluation of the Toolkit.

**WP4 – Establishing the Drava River Corridor Agreement and Action Plan:** National and Joint River Corridor Analysis Reports, consensus building by local and national stakeholder workshops.

**WP5 – Elaborating common future vision and Action Plan on 5 International rivers:** Bodrog, Neretva, Soča, Prut, Vjosa.

**WP6 – Knowledge transfer in SEE countries and sustainability plan:** national capacity building seminars, project ideas elaborated on key problems of the 6 river corridors. Sustainability plan for stakeholder networks as well as for project partnership cooperation.

# Application procedure 3.

- **Setting up process of the project consortium, finding partners**
  - Core project partners worked together since 2008 (Drava River Vision) till 2011.
  - Partnership was expanded through ICPDR and other project activities to 5 more rivers to have wider exchange of experience and impact.
  - Close cooperation on preparation enhanced partners' motivation and commitment during implementation.
  
- **Seeking relevant programme possibilities**
  - The main initiative came from the DRV funded through the LIFE+ project Upper Drava.
  - The SEE call was identified as corresponded to our aims and we concentrated our efforts only to that one.

# Application procedure 4.

- **Time, human resource and financing requirements**
  - Informal networking for 2 years to build the concept and the partnership up till the call.
  - On the application about 600 hours were spent by the LP (4 prs) and a lot more by all partners actively involved in drafting the proposal.
- **Communication during project preparation with Programme managing bodies**
  - One meeting with the Joint Technical Secretariat of the SEE programme (JTS ) staff at their premises already before the call was launched.
  - Frequent communication with the JTS during the application period, they were supportive with clarifying the call and steering our efforts into the right direction.
  - Cooperation with the JTS was good throughout the project life.
  - National contact points were in most countries helpful.

# From project submission to contract

- **Project submission:** end of November 2011  
ca. 300 project applications submitted
- **Approval of the project:** end of June 2012
  - 37 projects approved in the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
  - SEE River - best scored project both on Priority 2 and overall
- **Conditioning phase - clarifications and justifications:** July-September 2012
- **Final approval of the project:** 29th September 2012
- **Official start date of the project:** 1st October 2012
- **Signature of the Subsidy Contract:** end of October 2012

# Project realization 1.

## ➤ **Project schedules, deviation from schedule**

Extension for 2 months was requested and granted, thus the project closing conference could be organised together with the 6th European River Rehabilitation Conference in Vienna, November 2014.

## ➤ **Reporting and financing characteristics**

- Reporting periods were 3 or 6 month long with attention to continuous financing for project partners.
- Due to the strict project coordination by the lead partner, there were no major problems with fulfilling reporting obligations and with the acceptance of reports, neither at project level (Joint Technical Secretary, JTS) nor at the national First Level Control.

# Project realization 2.

## ➤ Expected and real results

- Project achieved all expected targets, all outputs were finalised, all project indicators met, at some cases even more was achieved than planned.
- Due to very ambitious goals, we could not really go to the depth we would have wanted , this is reflected in the quality of some of the final outputs.
- The most important achievement is the changed perspectives of stakeholders on participatory and integrative river corridor management – in all partner countries and transnationally, along those rivers. And this is something we are really proud about.

## ➤ Unexpected (positive and negative) occurrences

- Increasing acceptance of project goals and methodologies by local stakeholders
- Difficulties at the sustainability of stakeholder networks
- Institutional instability at some of the project partners

# Project realization 3.

- **After project closing, further development possibilities/ideas**
  - First priority: keeping the partnership alive.
  - After 2 years of high project workload and parallel tasks at the 'home institution' it proved difficult to find the drive within the partnership for immediate continuation.
- **Would you submit a new project or would you choose an other programme?**
  - The SEE programme has ended, the new programmes are geographically different, therefore the project can not be directly continued, not even on Drava.
  - A project focusing on the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube (as a follow-up project), was applied to the Interreg Danube Programme by WWF Austria, involving some of the other partners, as well as SEE River stakeholders.
  - Partners from Drava countries are working to develop a project for implementation of International Drava River Corridor Action Plan with Central Europe call identified as a possible funding source, to apply to next year.

# Drava – Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary



# Bodrog – Ukraina, Slovakia, Hungary



# Neretva – Bosnia, Croatia



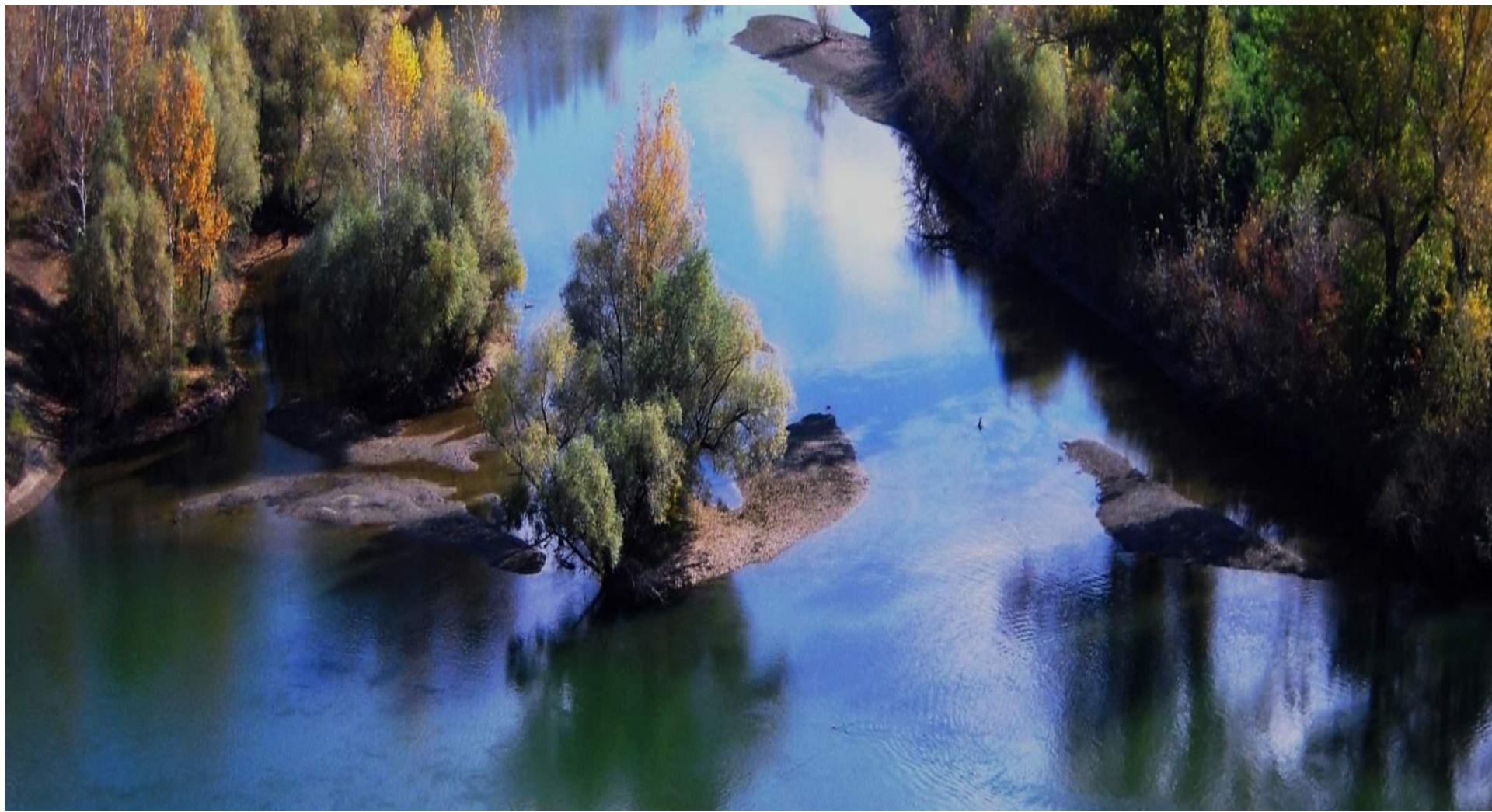
# Neretva – Bosnia, Croatia



# Prut – Ukraina, Moldavia, Romania



# Prut – Ukraina, Moldavia, Romania



# Soča / Isonzo – Italy, Slovenia



# Vjosa – Greece, Albania



# Vjosa – Greece, Albania



**SEE RIVER PROJECT**

**HAND IN HAND  
FOR RIVERS**

**WWW.SEE-RIVER.NET**



**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

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