

**Minutes of
Initial Workshop of Strategic Planning
Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin**

Location: Dun. Streda, Conference room of Carda Kondoros

Date: December 16-17 2003.

Attendants: parties, name and organisation:

N°	Party	Name	Title	Represented organisations
1.	Serbia & Montenegro	Mr Borsos Derd	Head of Execution Committee	Town Council of Zenta
2.	Romania	Mr Arthur Lazar	Local Liaison	RETC - Regional Environmental Technology Centre
3.	Hungary	Mr Mátys Kovács	Director	RETC - Regional Environmental Technology Centre
4.	Hungary	Mr Béla Jorolics	Project Director	RETC - Regional Environmental Technology Centre
5.	Hungary	Mr Ádám Podolcsák	GI Consultant	IRUNAGI (delegate to this event)
6.	Slovakia	Mr Arpád Hideghéty	Vice minister	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
7.	Slovakia	Ms Gyongyi Háziová	Liaison to the Tisza Project	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
8.	Slovakia	Mr Eugen Radványi	Economic Adviser	Environ Kft,
9.	Int. Advisor	Dr. Max Craglia	Giinic Coordinator	Giinic, EC; University of Sheffield, UK

Agenda:

16th December

Time

Subject

19:00 - 19:10 Welcome to Slovakia
Mr Arpád Hideghéty Vice Minister

19:10 - 19:30 Introduction and Introducing Participants
Mr Arpád Hideghéty Vice Minister

19:30 - Dinner

17th December

Time

Subject

09:00 - 09:10 Opening the First Session
Mr Arpád Hideghéty Vice Minister

09:40 - 10:10 Guidance to Understand the European SDI Policy
Dr Max Craglia, Giinic co-ordinator

09:10 - 09:40 Introduction of the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin
Ádám Podolcsák, GI consultant

10:10 - 10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 Issues, Stakeholders, Objectives, Potential Projects and an initial SWOT
Mr Ádám Podolcsák, GI consultant

11:30 - 12:30 Debate Drafting Recommendation

12:30 - 13:15 Lunch Break

13:15 - 14:00 Debate, Drafting minutes, discussion, finalisation and approval

Resolutions:

After having reviewed the current status of this Tisza Initiative the attendants have worded the following recommendations:

1. The approach to the development of the Tisza Basin is fully in line with European developments that recognize the trans-border nature of environmental issues, and the need to focus at the area level appropriate to the problem e.g. river basin. It is also in line with recent European legislation e.g. Seveso Directive, Water Framework Directive, and programmes like INTERREG. Therefore these documents should be addressed and referred in project planning.
2. The logic of the project rationally builds on a full assessment of current problems and opportunities (see the problem tree and objective tree of the enclosed presentations). However it needs to be implemented through a step/wise approach focusing at the beginning on water and risk management of the Tisza river in line with the Water Framework Directive. This implies the establishment of a spatial data infrastructure SDI, in line with the principles and recommendations of the INSPIRE initiative, with a view to build the human, technical, and organisational capacity necessary to address in subsequent stages the other social, economic, and environmental problems identified in the Basin.
3. A series of workshops need to be organised at an early stage to involve most of the key players in this Tisza initiative and elaborate the implementation strategy.
4. The bottom-up structure and the planned key role of the local players is worthwhile and a strong point of the initiative. The timely establishment of the network of the local offices is highly recommended.
5. Since the coordination is crucial element of any SDI the following elements should be addressed when the implementation plans are elaborated:
 - Strategic coordination (liaison, policy watch, capacity building, impact analysis)
 - Operational Coordination (technical specifications, implementation, technical support, geo-portals)
 - These coordinating functions need not be expensive but are crucial to ensure that resources are deployed effectively, and that it is somebody's job to follow all the necessary activities in the project, ensuring that they all build onto each other, and that the stated objectives are met.
6. The profile, content, and structure of this project are highly relevant for the 2005 GMES "Global Monitoring for Environment and Security" call for proposals. It is recommended to inform relevant European Bodies about this Tisza Initiatives with a view to prepare a proposal for an Integrated Project.
7. It is highly recommended to analyse the impacts of the planned measures. The result of INSPIRE project is a good starting point and the last workshops should be dedicated to this aspect.

8. Need to secure benefits at an early stage by providing services, training, and employment opportunities at the local level.
9. Link to e-gov and economic strategy to develop companies and jobs in the private sector (PPI) particularly among Small and Medium Enterprises.
10. Facilitate dissemination and use of Geographic information to private companies in an open and transparent market to provide services to government, business and citizens.
11. Coordinating local and regional authorities across five countries will take time, but the step/wise implementation envisaged will allow to build the necessary capacity and engage fully all the local stakeholders.

The participants in this meeting were informed and have agreed with the following advice by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development that was made at the preparatory meeting and put it to the top of the list of the Recommendation:

12. Related projects of the Tisza Basin and the Carpathians should be reviewed and analysed during the forthcoming series of workshops, and one event should be dedicated to this subject.

The following lessons of the GINIE Project are highly relevant to this Tisza initiative and should be adopted:

13. „Best examples closely link SDIs to e-gov strategies, modernization of public administration, and promotion of economic development through close involvement of private sector... is a very relevant lesson of the GINIE project and it should be taken into consideration at this Tisza initiative.
14. “SDIs are not just about having a lot of data. They are about developing a strategic infrastructure to underpin the development of the Information Society and the Knowledge Economy.”