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## **Introduction of the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin Representative of the RETC and member of HUNAGI**

I represent HUNAGI the Hungarian umbrella organization of the GIS society. HUNAGI is a member of the EUROGI (European umbrella organization). The Hungarian organization was established in 1996, it has about 100 members. There are 4 groups of members of HUNAGI.

The first is academic institutions – universities, colleges. The second is the governmental sector, which means ministries, local authorities. These are interested in applying LIS, GIS systems in public administration. The third one is the civil sphere and the non-profit organizations. The last one is profit oriented companies.

My small company is interested in GIS consultancy. At the end of the year 2002 Mr Bla Jarolics approached HUNAGI and they found his Tisza Basin project very interesting. HUNAGI considered this project as a project that is fully in line with the European initiatives. It strongly connects to the GINIE project, that is a very important project of the European Commission and it aimed to support the policy makers of the European member states to establish the national GIS policy to harmonize these policies together with the European policies.

The second important project is the Inspire project. The Inspire plans to establish a common legal base for GIS development in Europe. After having reviewed the project the HUNAGI chief secretary, Dr. Gbor Remetey-Flpp proposed me to support to this initiative. My activity was started about a year ago my consultancy services were focused on forming a strategic view that is in line with the GIS understanding of these problems.

So my presentation concentrates on the GIS aspect of this initiative. What does it mean GIS and LIS? These magic words will be mentioned during my presentation. There were several studies that investigated the information that are managed by the governmental sector by the private sector. And it was found most of the information that are managed by IT systems is strongly connect to the earth or to the land. It is very expensive to get those information for instance for a market campaign or private campaign to sell something on a geographical area. The initiatives of the European Union would like to establish a data infrastructure for everyone. So the GI deals with gathering, processing this information and providing this information to the end users.

After this foreword I am starting the presentation, which connects to this project. When we review Mr Bla Jarolics’s plans we analysed what are the specialities of this approach to this problem.

The water network is very important, the population that is covered is a major size. If you go closer to the Tisza Basin your first idea is that there is a strong separation, the border separates the people. The border separates the problems for instance if the upper area of the Tisza Basin has a flooding problem this problem goes through the border, the border line is



the limit of a country but not the border line of the problem. There are seven border segments and the coordination is an extremely high problem. To coordinate problems through seven border sections is difficult especially when issues that must be solved are fragmented by countries. The problem is managed as many sectors of the public administration interests like water management sector, social sector and so on. However the core of the problem comes from one integrated source. The coordination up to now is ad hoc. When the Tisza was poisoned there were ad hoc response formed. The coordination of negotiation among stakeholders was ad hoc too.

The next important aspect is the togetherness. If one has a look at these countries it is found the economical and political history is almost the same. These countries had the same political regime and belong to the socialist block of Europe. The next feature is the alive connections between societies. There are established relations between the universities based on their good connections during the socialism. And the cultural heritage, it's a strong factor for common cooperation for the future. There are more than ten ethnics and many of them are sporadic in this region and the most important is the roma/gipsy minority that lives within this area.

The interdependence is another important feature of this area. There are lot of interdependences these people who live in these countries – economical disaster, floods, poverty and the migration – the internal migration within these countries. Most of these countries are going to join to the European Union. The internal migration has long tradition so it is an important aspect too.

However there are common opportunities. The first one is political integration. Slovakia and Hungary have already been member of the EU since the 1st of May. Other countries belong to the group of those countries which have an economic transition from a command based economy to a market driven system. The transportation – to utilize the transportation of the Tisza River is another opportunity.

Now about the goals. What are the goals of the common initiative for an SDI Driven development of the Tisza Basin? It aims to improve the living conditions in the Tisza Basin driven by cooperation and access to information related to shared pace. As I mentioned earlier this interpretation of the project is a GIS based interpretation. An initiative that needs GIS data to improve the living conditions.

What is the history of this project? The initial idea came in 1992, when a few Hungarian settlement made an association, but they realized that they cannot cope with the problems, related to the Tisza, without established connections to other communities or other settlements on the other side of the Tisza Basin from Romania or from Slovakia. In 2000 there was the first forum, the first international forum where a general partnership agreement was established for local authorities. In 2001 the Hungarian PMO declared their support for this Tisza project.

Now a few words about the principles of this project. The first is a holistic approach – sustainable development, it covers three aspects of the development, the economic aspect, the environmental and the social aspect are identified within this holistic approach. The next one is the cross-border cooperation, to make partnership agreements as much as possible. The public private partnership and subsidiarity and later on the information society concept. This network doesn't want to influence the local players, they would like to establish a bottom up system (40 local offices). The project now is in strategy making, they are organizing themselves, the Centre was established in 2000 and they are forming now their institutions, Internet accesses and projects (Some of them co-financed by EU, some of them local)

Thank you for your attention.

# Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin

Part One

Ádám Podolcsák  
External Consultant

## Foreword

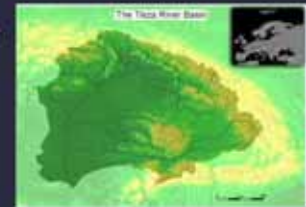
- This presentation reflects a single consultant's own understanding
- It is intended to provide a baseline for disputes
- Therefore:
  - Supplementary comments are required
  - Certain aspects should have more emphases
- Comments, critics are warmly welcome

## Table of Contents

- Approaching the Tisza Basin
- Goal of this Initiative
- History
- Principles
- Institutional Background - RETC
- Developing Strategies – Part Two

## Approaching the Tisza Basin

- General facts
  - Area: 154039 Km<sup>2</sup>
  - Population: ~15 million
    - Hungary: ~4 million
    - Romania: ~6 million
    - Serbia: ~2 million
    - Slovakia: ~2 million
    - Ukraine: ~1 million
  - settlements: ~6800
    - Hungary: 1 200
    - Romania: 4 500
    - Serbia: 150
    - Slovakia: 500
    - Ukraine: 500



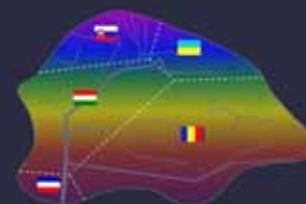
## Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Separation
  - Five Countries are interested
    - H, RO, S+M, SK, UA
  - Seven border segments
    - Some 1200 km
  - Issues are fragmented
    - By countries
    - By border segments
    - By sectors
  - Ad hoc, indirect, slow...
    - Horizontal communication
    - Horizontal cooperation



## Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Togetherness
  - Common History
    - Economic, politic, ...
  - Living relations
    - Institutional
    - Private
  - Cultural Heritage
    - work, custom, arts, ..
  - Ethnical diversity
    - More than 10 ethnics



## Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Interdependence

- Common treats
  - Flooding
  - Ecological disaster
  - Poverty
  - Migration
  - Etc.

- Common opportunities in:
  - Political integration
  - Economic Transition
  - Technology transfer
  - Transportation
  - Etc.



## Goal

- The goal of the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin is:

Improving living conditions in the Tisza Basin driven by cooperation and access to information related to shared space

## History of this Initiative

- 1992 The initial idea occurred
- 1995- Establishing partner relations
- 2000 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum
  - Partnership agreement of Local Authorities
- 2001 Hungarian PMO declares their support
- 2001 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum
  - Agreement on Local Offices and their financing
- 2003 Searching for EU partners
- 2003- Workshops: Planning Implementation

## Principles

- Holistic approach covering Environmental, Economic and Social aspects as the three components of the Sustainable Development
- Based on cross-border cooperation
- Well established partnership arrangement
- New services to be established based on PPP – Public Private Partnership
- Subsidiarity with a special attention to NUTS4/5 levels
- Considering the Information Society concept

## Holistic approach

- Standard in sustainable development
- Several particular issues of Tisza Basin are already tackled, but not in a broader context
- Consequence: Not competing just complementing



## Partnership

- Tackling common problems needs partnership
- Trans-border cooperation to be encouraged
- Local initiatives are the starting point and local bodies should receive funds
- Projects should be developed and managed locally
- Consequence: Close node points to partners needed



## PPP – Public Private Partnership

- Provides more transparency
- Establishes new institution more flexible
- Gives governments more freedom
- Balances multilateral cooperations
- Consequence: A public benefit organisation should undertake the implementation and operation

## Subsidiarity

- "... decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen.." Glossary Info regio
- After having adopted this concept by the democratization of the 90s it strengthened Local Authorities
- Consequence: Information services are needed that support decision making structure

## Information Society Concept

Quotes from the '97 list of *the Information Society*:

- ... electronic data interchange and electronic commerce among businesses globally,
- ... to outsource portions of their information processing to different countries around the world, creating transborder data flow issues for the countries involved and increasing the rapidity with which jobs migrate globally,
- ... baseline information services or fees-for-all-services,
- the role of place and space in visions and practice of digital libraries and electronic forums,

## Institutional Background

1997-2000

Association of 10 Settlements

2000-2003

Regional Central European Centre for Environmental Technology

2003-

Regional Environmental Technology Centre

2004-

Consortium of 48 locally established Public Companies

## Role of the Regional Environmental Technology Centre

- **Mission:** Implementing the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin
- **Vision:** Network of Local Offices that provides information, knowledge and financial services to support local players in identifying, planning and implementing projects

## Role of the Regional Environmental Technology Centre

- **Present tasks:**
  - strategic planning
  - organising
  - building local institutions, called local offices
- **Future tasks:**
  - to run joint IT systems (e.g. early warning)
  - to support the coordination of local offices
  - to foster innovation transfer
  - to assist in co-financing of projects

## Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin

*Part Two*

Ádám Podolcsák  
External Consultant

## Foreword

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## Table of Contents

- Reminder
- Scope of the Initiative
- Stakeholders
- Problem tree
- Objective tree
- Current Project proposals

## Reminder

- Goal of this Initiative:
  - ◆ Improving living conditions in the Tisza Basin driven by cooperation and access to information related to shared space
- RETC:
  - ◆ Mission: Implementing the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin
  - ◆ Vision: Network of Local Offices that provides information, knowledge and financial services to support local players in identifying, planning and implementing projects

## Scope of the Initiative

- Geographic extension: Tisza Basin
- Focus on: NUTS 4 and NUTS 5 level entities
- Subject: Sustainable development
- Increasing the co-operation of players
- Time scale:
  - ◆ start within 1 year;
  - ◆ 5 years time horizon
- Means: information and environmental technologies

## Identification of Stakeholders

- Administration -> **PPP**
  - ◆ Local Authorities (NUTS5)
  - ◆ Association of Settlements (NUTS4)
  - ◆ Counties (NUTS3)
  - ◆ Regions (NUTS2/ NUTS1)
  - ◆ Bodies of Central Governments
- Universities -> **Innovation**
  - ◆ Located in the TB

## Identification of Stakeholders

- **Public Companies -> No Competition**
  - Territorial Development Agencies
  - Public Transportation Companies
  - Waste management Companies
  - Water management Agencies
- **Donors -> Trust**
  - Local
  - Global: EC, World Bank, USAID
  - Bilateral

## Identification of Stakeholders

- **Vendors -> Suppliers or can donate general market stimulation but independence must be kept**
  - High tech: IT, Environmental Technologies
  - Financial products, Insurance, banking, etc.
  - Telecommunication Companies
  - Existing ones and potential entrants
- **Spatial Data Providers -> Data suppliers**
  - Mapping Agencies and Companies
  - Statistical Offices

## Identification of Stakeholders

- **Politicians -> reasonable programme**
  - MEP - Brussels
  - MPs - Capitols
  - Chairmen of Councils and Associations
  - Majors - Local
- **Public -> awareness**
  - Citizens
  - Professional society

## Problem Tree

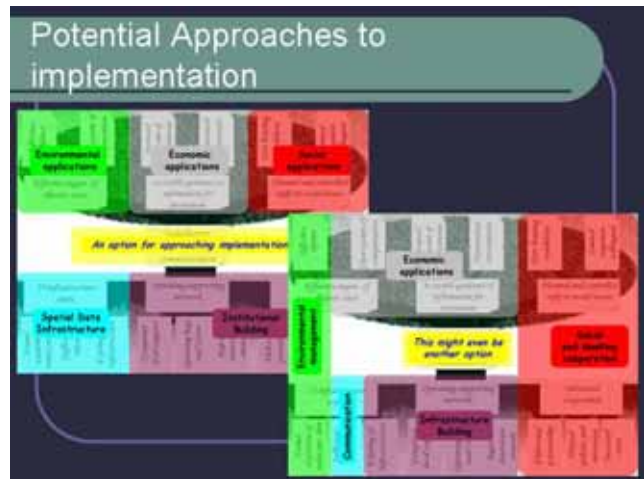
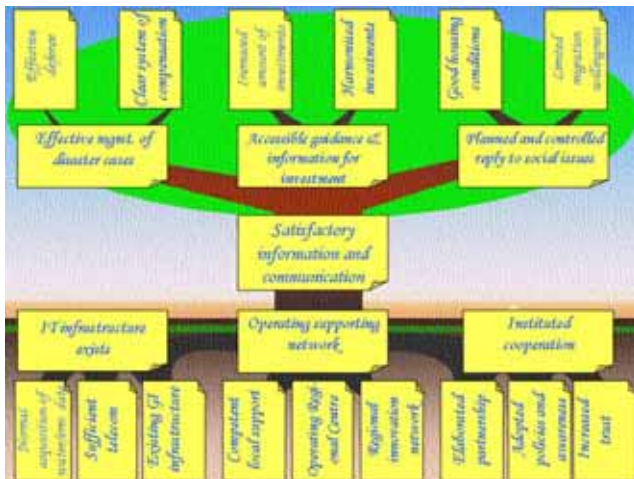
- **Constructed based on**
  - Existing documents and interviews
- **Core problem:**
  - „Inadequate information and communication“
  - It is within the scope and simplifies the complex reality
- **Other problems:**
  - Cause or effect the core problem



## Objective Tree

- **Constructed based on**
  - the problem tree
- **Defines positive, desirable situations**
- **Reflects the present project ideas**





- ### Current Project proposals
- Setting up Local Offices
  - Planning implementation (small project)
  - Developing an initial SDI for TB
  - Cadastre of Socially Inadequate Residences
  - Feasibility of Telecommunication

- ### Setting up Local Offices
- **Why:** To have local network
  - **What:** 48 offices
  - **How:** accommodated & made registered
  - **Donor:** Various
  - **Status:** Ongoing Negotiation
  - **Time scale:** by March 2004

- ### Planning implementation
- **Why:** To have mutually approved plans
  - **What:** Logframe and project fiches
  - **How:** Workshops
  - **Donor:** MEAT
    - MEAT- Hungarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Transport
  - **Status:** Ongoing Negotiation
  - **Time scale:** Start at February 2004

- ### Developing an initial SDI for TB
- **Why:** Having initial SD services
    - Operating services with limited functionality
    - Better understanding of problems
    - Lessons and experience
  - **What:** Operable local and central offices
  - **How:** Tech Specs, GIS, Data, training
  - **Donor:** EC Structural Funds – Preparatory Fund
  - **Status:**
    - 1<sup>st</sup> proposal was evaluated as suitable but was not selected
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal is being refined



## Cadastre of Socially Inadequate Residences (slums)

- **Why:** Makes possible planning, execution and monitoring the improvement measures
- **What:** GIS based register of slums and related measures
- **How:** Tech Specs, Data Acquisition, Appl. dev.
- **Donor:** Hungarian Gov., Slovakian Gov.
- **Status:**
  - PPP agreements are being prepared
  - Preparation of Feasibility study

## Feasibility of Telecommunication

- **Why:** Clarifying the feasibility
- **What:** Feasibility Study
- **How:** Specifying Requirement and identifying Technical Options
- **Donor:** RETC
- **Status:**
  - Contracting experts

## Thank you for your attention

- Your comments are warmly welcome