



IHLET

SZOCIÁLIS, KÖRNYEZETI ÉS GAZDASÁGI
PROBLÉMÁK KÖLCSÖNHATÁSAIT
KUTATÓ KÖZPONT KHT.

2363 Felsőpakony, Rákóczi út 41.

The Tisza River Development Program 3. Working Group Meeting



Budapest Best Western Lido Hotel January 20, 2007



The Tisza River Development Program 3. Working Group Meeting, Budapest Best Western Lido Hotel January 20, 2007

Minutes of meeting.



Signing of the foundation papers for the 5 offices in Serbia will be arranged in Backi Petrovac on the 15 of February 2007.

Signing of the foundation papers for the 5 offices in Ukraine will be arranged in Kiev on the 17 of February 2007.

Signing of the foundation papers for the 5 offices in Slovakia will be arranged in Kosice on the 19 of February 2007.

Signing of the foundation papers for the 15 offices in Hungary will be arranged in Budapest on the 22 of February 2007.

Signing of the foundation papers for the 18 offices in Romania will be arranged in Cluj Napoca in the middle of March 2007.

The participants agreed that the attached **“Tisza River Development Program paper”** is to be approved by experts invited from all EU member states plus experts from:

Norway, Russia, Ukraine, Japan, Croatia, Serbia, Paraguay, Vietnam, Kenya, India, Switzerland and U.S.A. This will be arranged in Brussels as a one-day presentation and a two days workshop in April from the 23. to the 25. The title of the arrangement will be **“IHLET Tisza River Development Program - local to global workshop”**

Signing of the IHLET charter will be arranged in Cluj Napoca on the first of June 2007.

Olegsandr Bondar

Kohári Nándor

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**The Tisza river development program – 3. working group meeting
Budapest Best Western Lido Hotel January 20, 2007****List of Participants**

Name	Country	Title	Signature
Mr. Peter Vinnai	Hungary	Head of Department, Hungarian Office for Territorial and Regional Development	
Ms. Vivien Gyuris	Hungary	Consultant – International Development	
Ms. Annemarie Ciure	Romania	Dep. Director Directorate for Water Management, Ministry of Environment and Water Management	
Mr. Jovan Miljkovic	Serbia	FDI Advisor SIEPA Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency	
Ms. Natalia Sajtos	Ukrenia	Consultant	
Oleg Melanchuk	Ukrenia	Senior Counsellor, Ministry for Catastrophe Management	
Olegsandr Bondar	Ukrenia	Representative of Ukraine Ecological League	
Mr. Derd Borsos	Serbia	Consultant	
Dr.Sc. Jan Sabo	Serbia	The mayor of Backi Petrovac	
Mr. Bela Jarolics	Hungary -- RETC	Project Director	
Mr. Miklos Mariafoldy	Hungary -- IHLET	Project Manager	
Sava Annamaria	Romania - IHLET	Project Manager	
Braz Tibor	Slovakia	Ekoinvent	
Bodnar Bela	Slovakia	Ekoinvent	
Pataki Csaba	Romania	Europai Inetgracio es Teruletfejlesztési Igazgatóság	
Sandor Jozsef	Serbia		



**The Tisza river development program – 3. working group meeting
Budapest Best Western Lido Hotel January 20, 2007**

List of Participants

Name	Country	Title	Signature
Mr. Képes Kálmán	Hungary	ORKI vice president	
Mr. Kohári Nándor	Hungary	Ihlet Kht General manager	
Ms. Kocsispéter Éva	Hungary		
Ms. Hernádi Eszter	Hungary	Secretary	



The Tisza River Development Program: 3. Working Group Meeting Budapest Best Western Lido Hotel January 20, 2007

Provisional Agenda

10:00 – 10:10 AM

Opening by Bela Jarolics, Director, IHLET

10:10 AM – 1:00 PM

Project status review and working group discussions moderated by Bela Jarolics:

- Review project status summary overall and by country.
- Review of the work plans for the 48 network offices in the five countries.
- Review next steps by the country representatives for the upcoming three months, leading to the signing of the Charta.
- Discussion about the signing of the Charta, logistics and other operations aspects.
- Review other pending matters.

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Conclusions and closing remarks by Bela Jarolics.

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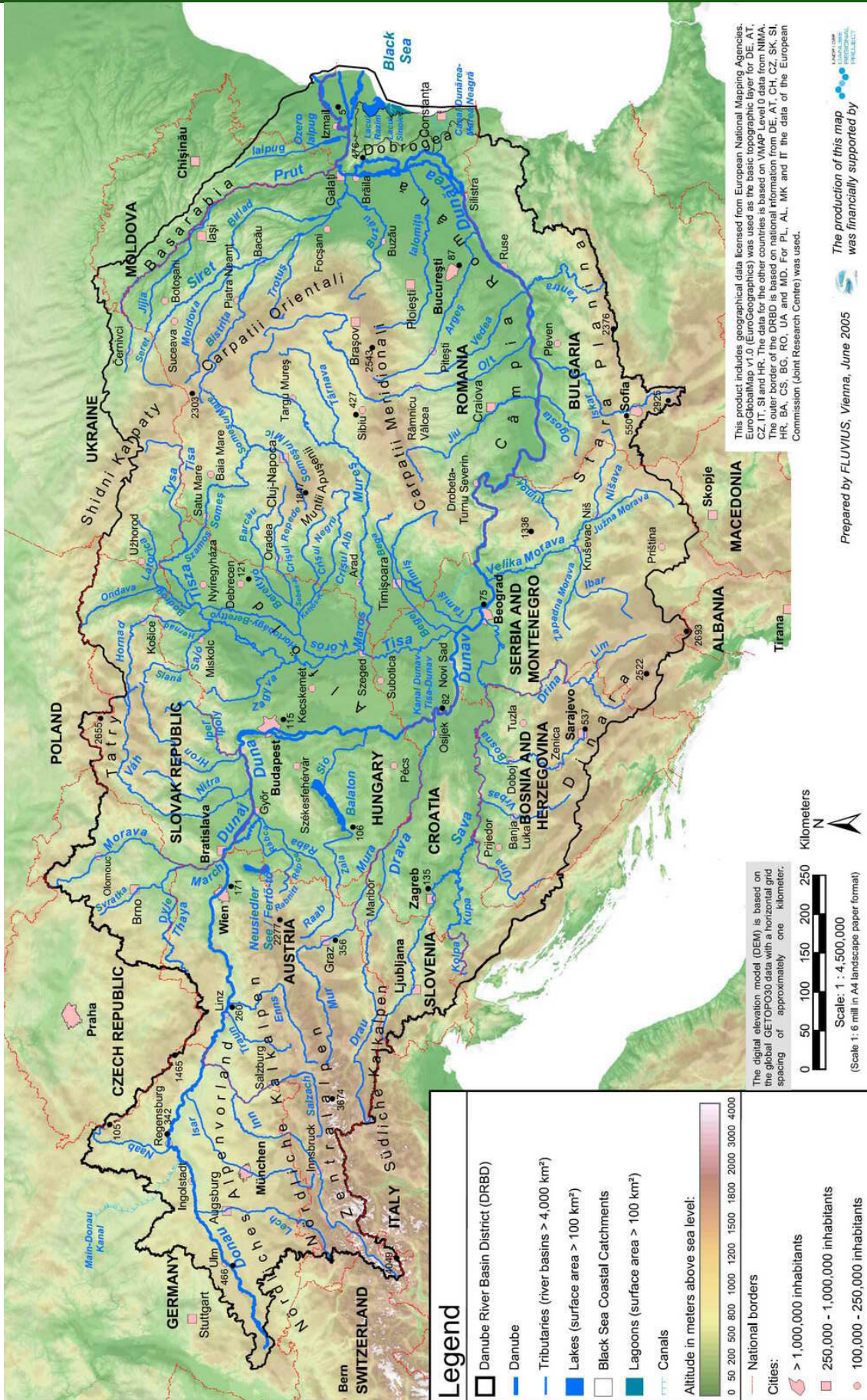
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Mr. Peter Vinnai	Hungary	Head of Department, Hungarian Office for Territorial and Regional Development
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Mr. Jovan Miljkovic	Serbia	FDI Advisor SIEPA Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
Ms. Zuzana Ruzicka	Slovak Republic	Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union
Ms. Natalia Sajtos	Ukrenia	Consultant
Oleg Melanchuk	Ukrenia	Senior Counsellor, Ministry for Catastrophe Management
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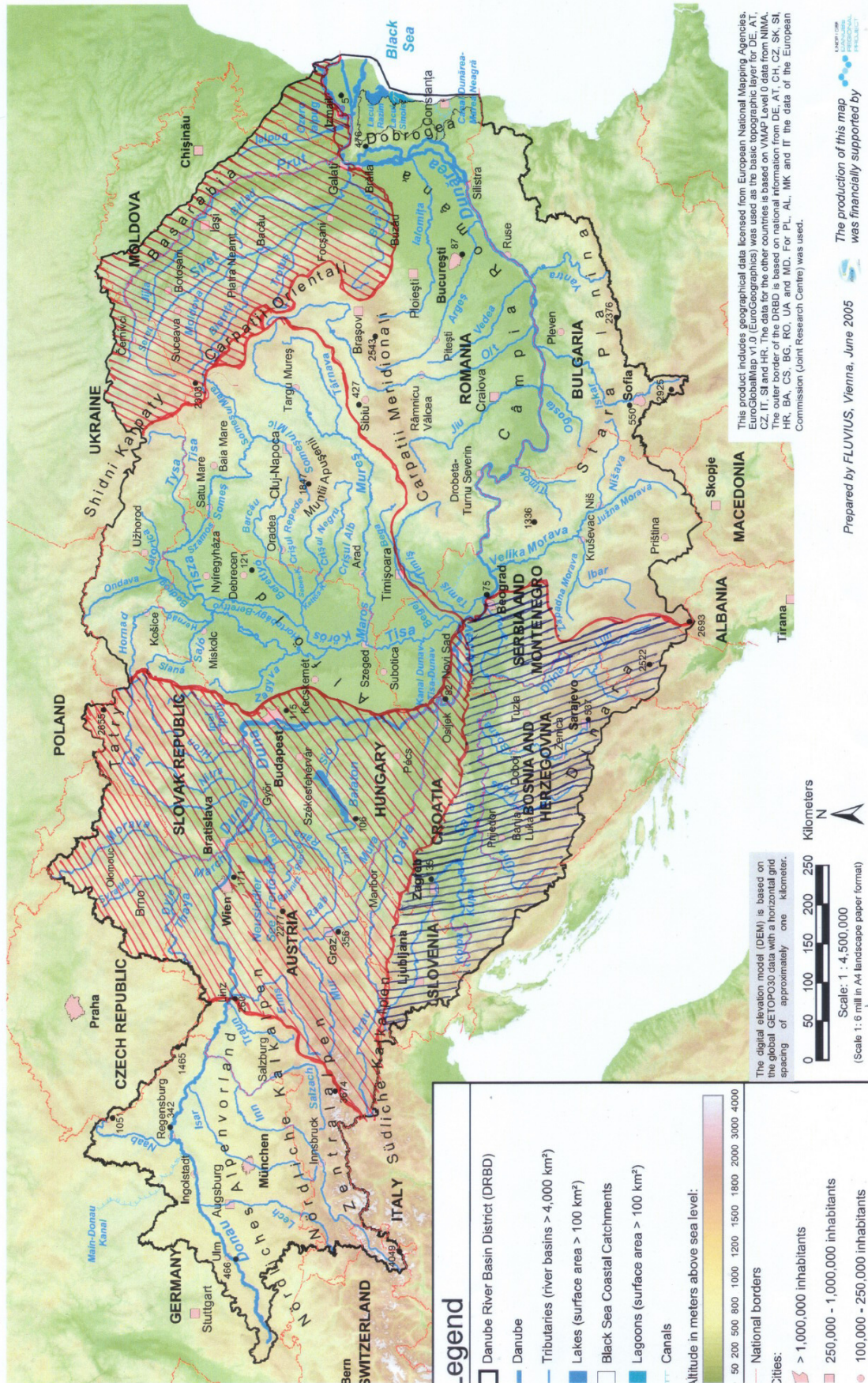
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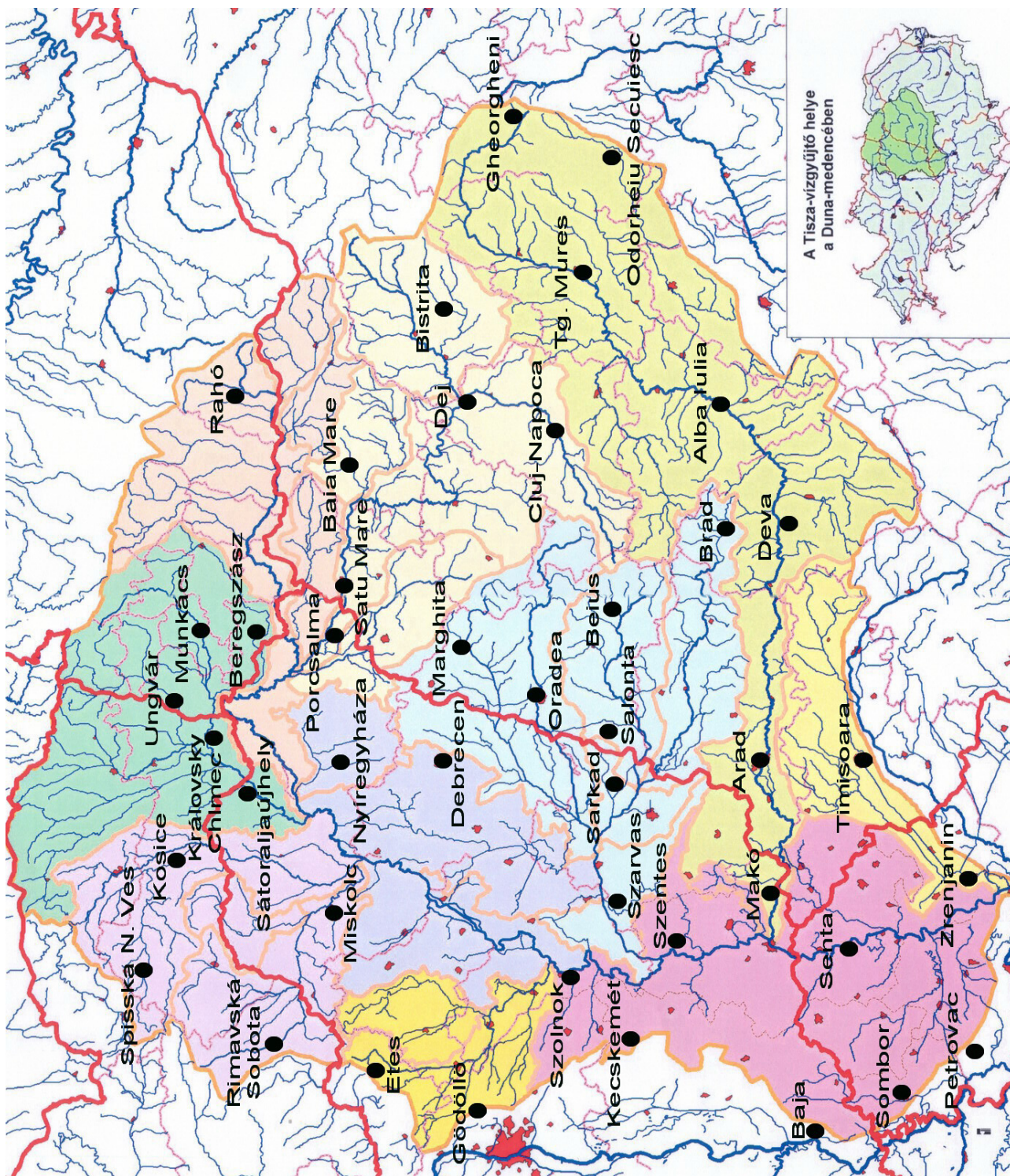




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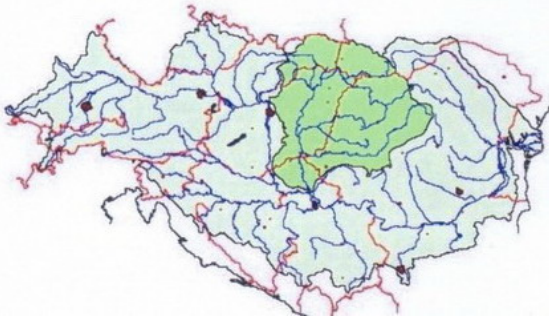




The Tisza River Development Program paper

Background

The Tisza Development Program is initiated by IHLET, a non-profit Research Center of Social, Environmental and Economic Matters, established vis-à-vis the Regional Environmental Technology Center (RETC) in 1998. IHLET's Tisza Development Program is a cross-border initiative, embracing five countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine – see chart 1 below) along the Tisza River. The target area of this regional cooperation is 154.039 km², with a population of approximately 15.7 million.



The Program's primary goal is to develop the Tisza Watershed from three perspectives:

1. Environmental protection;
2. Economic development;
3. Social development.

This holistic development policy approach reflects the essence of the Johannesburg Declaration whereas only considering these pillars as inseparable can sustainable development be achieved.

A regional cross-border cooperation along the Tisza Watershed is especially important in light of the more frequent and severe floods, and recent cyanide poisonings and other water quality incidents. The Tisza Watershed area is also the place with several communities living in extreme poverty, the majority of them of Roma origin. Also, in general, this area is economically declining or stagnating, not attracting significant investment and trade opportunities.

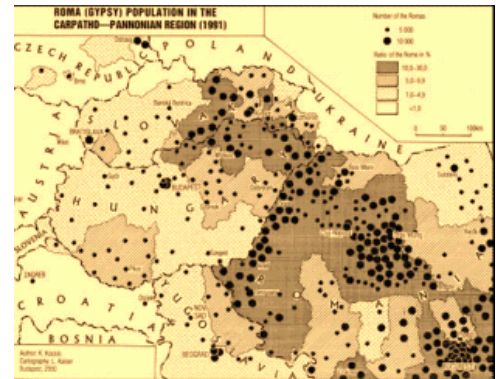
The Tisza Development Program builds on a network of local governments and civil society organizations, including business enterprises and research institutes, attempts to address these issues by creating a cross-border spatial data infrastructure for the Tisza Basin. 80% of data used in public administration is directly or indirectly spatial in nature, e. g. addresses, real property ownership registration numbers, regulatory zones, neighborhood, use of public areas, etc. A harmonized and co-operative utilization and exchange of such data, using the network of IHLET, could increase the efficiency and, thus the impact of managing environmental, social and economic problems.

The Program, thus, aims at establishing an environmental and flood protection system, building on a unified and harmonized watershed management. This will include the development of a cohesive environmental monitoring system, able to respond to special local requirements and needs, and to take on an essential prevention role, providing timely warnings and action plans.



The Program will also set up the social cadastre of the affected cross-border area, identifying the most impoverished settlements, those that offer unhealthy living conditions. The Roma is the most affected social group (see chart 2 below) in the area, requiring supportive social policies and employment generation. It is essential for the respective local governments, as well as national and international development agencies to get access to an unbiased and reliable source of information or a database, defining the settlements and geographical areas that need attention.

Chart 2: Spatial Distribution of Roma in the Tisza Watershed



Finally, in order to achieve long term and thus, sustainable development, the region's ability to attract investment and promote trade is of primary importance. The Program will assemble, synchronize and collate spatial data that could become useful and valuable for investors, even foreign ones. A systemic database offers possibilities for different types of analysis, necessary to launch economic activities. This component of the Program will also have a positive impact on labor market analysis and actual employment generation.

As you can see, this is a truly cross-border cooperation project, with 48 offices in five countries (see chart 3 below). It builds on the network of local governments and other local players, creating synergies and launching common actions among the five affected countries. TDP is independent from central governments, and thus central budgetary allocations. It uses local government funds and those gained through the economic development component. These funds will then get re-channelled into the social and environmental components.

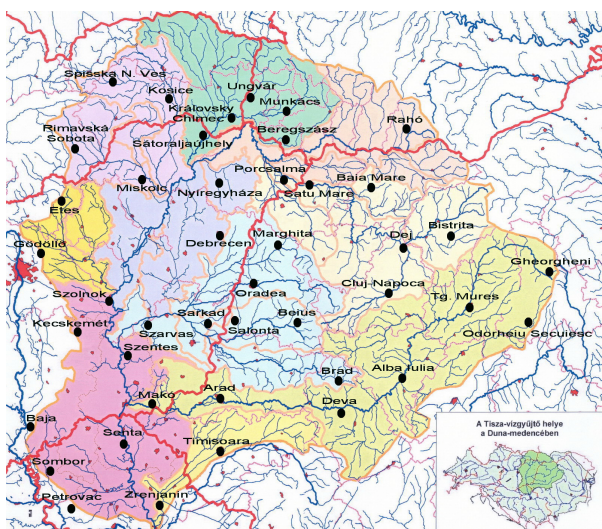


Chart 3: The Distribution of the 48 Offices/End Points of IHLET/TDP

An international Charta, laying down the principles of the program, and the involvement of the different players, is expected to be signed by the respective Ministers or Prime Ministers of the five affected countries, representatives of the involved international financial institutions,

the 48 local offices, and other founding partners. The Charta will be signed during a high-level ceremony potentially during June 2007.



Relevance of the Tisza River Development Program to the European Commission

-- from the perspective of European Union enlargement and development
aid coordination.

The Tisza Development Program of the IHLET's Research Center of Social, Environmental and Economic Matters is a cross-border initiative, embracing five countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine) along the Tisza River. The program's primary goal is to develop the Tisza Watershed from three perspectives:

1. Environmental protection;
2. Economic development;
3. Social development.

A regional cross-border cooperation along the Tisza Watershed is especially important in light of the more frequent and severe floods, pollution and other water quality incidents. The Tisza Watershed area is also the place with several communities living in extreme poverty, the majority of them of Roma origin. Also, in general, this area is economically declining or stagnating, not attracting significant investment and trade opportunities.

The five affected countries have decided to launch this initiative as a common effort to help improve the life of the communities living along the Tisza River. Technical international agencies, such as the Tisza Committee, The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (UN/FAO) are aware of this initiative and endorse its importance.

From the perspective of the European Commission, this initiative can also be interesting since this is the only region currently in Europe that embraces 3 EU members (Slovakia, Hungary and Romania), 1 Western Balkan – Sap (Serbia), and 1 European Neighborhood Policy partner country (Ukraine). This is a unique and intensively complex space/region which condenses the most important legal, environmental, economic and social issues the EC has to and will eventually have to face and resolve. These include, for instance, water poisoning and flood problems, originating from outside of the EU, though affecting the EU's territory. From this perspective, the EC's awareness about this initiative is of ultimate importance.

In addition, three of the five affected countries are new European Union members that pledged to fulfill their commitments as emerging donors. Both Slovakia and Hungary along with the rest of the EU members adopted the European Union Statement on Aid Effectiveness (March 2, 2005) and the European Consensus on Development (November 23, 2005). In these statements, it was stated, "*national ownership, donor coordination and harmonization, starting at field level, alignment to recipient country systems and results orientation are core principles.*" Also, the Consensus sets out that the "*EU will advance coordination, harmonization and alignment*".



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In sum, this Program could very well demonstrate and/or pilot how three new donors coordinate their development activities not only among each other, but also with the next wave of potential EU members and a European Neighborhood Policy partner country, to achieve higher scale and sustainable results at a coordinated and harmonized fashion. In addition, a true ownership demonstrated by the five countries largely contributes to the expected final positive outcomes. The Tisza Development Program can thus, represent an interesting development cooperation program among EU members, potential candidate countries and a European Neighborhood Policy partner country.

Organizational and Technical Aspects

The Tisza Basin covers an area of about 154.039 square kilometers of five countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine), with a population of about 15.7 million.

In the framework of the IHLET program, the Regional Centre for Environmental Technology has been established by 48 associations at NUTS4 level in the five countries for harmonizing development strategies, planning and running joint projects, and providing common services. The organization is an NGO; its main activities are oriented to prevent future damages of natural and industrial catastrophes, to collect and disseminate data, to channel and transfer environmental innovation, and to assist in co-financing.

The environmental needs of the region have generated a comprehensive IT system, focusing on:

- Catalytic effect: Environmental sub-system needs tight co-operation of partners and this tight cooperation enables wider exploitation of common services;
- Interdependencies: An environmental measure depends on and impacts on the economic and social aspects;
- Channeling innovation: This common infrastructure makes possible to access metadata and transfer good-practice and applications.

The Tisza Basin is not just a geographic area but an organic system based on environmental, economic and social analogies and interdependencies. In order to solve spatial related problems of common interest, an interoperable geographical information (GI) infrastructure is necessary. In November 2000, representatives of the local associations of the five affected countries declared their intention to establish a common GI infrastructure. However, the simple unification of the five countries by itself is unlikely to lead to a common regional level GI system, since it cannot easily solve problems of interoperability, dissemination, access rights, etc. For these reasons, the INSPIRE initiative, and especially the Environmental Thematic User Needs Position Paper, issued by the INSPIRE Environmental Thematic Coordination Group in 2002, is considered the main source to start the technical design of developing a common GI infrastructure for the Tisza Basin.



Standards and Specifications

The ground is laid by ISO and OGC. The industry adopted numerous new standards. Other standards such as COGI standard for projection and INSPIRE results will be taken into consideration when available.

Success factors

The main success factors for a common GI infrastructure for the Tisza Basin can be summarized as follows:

- Solving targeted (environmental, economic and social) problems are of great interest for the involved countries;
- The project objectives are relevant for accessing various kind of EU Funds;
- National GI Infrastructure is being strengthened in the region;
- Focus is on regional scale and adding value;
- Tools and GI information are becoming more common;
- Synergy with others is the main success factor.
- Addresses the needs of the socially excluded.

The GI infrastructure will be managed on three levels:

1. Centre - Tisza Basin Region level

- Aggregated and generalized data.
- Data to cover gaps of the national GI infrastructure (orthophoto).
- Added subjects: environmental, economic, social.
- Meta data.

2. Node Points - National

- Aggregated and generalized data.
- Access to relevant national level thematic maps.

3. Local Offices - Association at NUTS4 level

- Local large scale data: cadastre, utilities, urban planning, etc.

The motivations to maintain the infrastructure are mainly economic. The Centre must recover its costs. In addition, the role of policymakers at all levels, including mayors and Parliamentarians, are of ultimate importance in order to help prevent and alleviate the risks of potential environmental disasters in the Tisza River basin.

The e-government aspects are of interest at the local level, though they receive limited attention by the local administrations. The private sector will be involved as suppliers of standard and customized GIS and maintainers of the GI data.



Data flow, production, distribution and use

The members of the geographic infrastructure can access their own data, also that at the National Node-points and the Centre. External user can only access the data of the Centre.

Data production is not a core business of the Centre and its members, thus it is inevitable to involve national and international GI bodies. Additional GI data could also be gathered by the Centre or by local associations.

Data owned by the members and the Centre will be managed based on copyrights. Local authorities, being members through the local associations, can share data among them; however, external users will be charged for access.

The process of assessing user needs has not yet started. For such, the INSPIRE Environmental Thematic User Needs Position Paper is taken as the starting point and then a second step will be to interview the partners.

Categories of users are three-fold: project (environmental, regional development, etc), member, partner, etc; nature of the user (Local Authority, Utility company, etc).

January 16, 2007

Comments on the Tisza River Development Program

by

Rudolf Schneeberger / Dominik Angst, ITV Geomatik AG

General

The paper gives a good and full overview of the situation and the problems in the Tisza Watershed region and describes the need for action very well. The paper itself focuses clearly on EU donors (specially with the second section). The goals of the Tisza River Development Program are clear.

Benefit of the Program

Potential donors, whether Worldbank, KfW, FAO, Swiss government, EC or others need information about the benefit of a program and the return on their investment. The value of the development of a regional spatial data infrastructure has to be particularly emphasized.

In the paper it is noted that 80% of the data used is spatial nature. This is true. Furthermore 70% - 80% of the political, economical and private decisions have a spatial impact. With the help of a spatial data infrastructure the implications and consequences of these decisions can be better assessed which leads to better decisions. This is by the way one of the most important justifications for the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure, whether it is regional, national, European or worldwide.

Environmental benefit

The Program will enable better spatial planning in the region, as with the spatial data one knows where the polluted areas are and where the developing areas are best placed. And with this data it will be possible to identify polluted areas and define action plans to clean these areas. With purging the polluted areas the Tisza water will become cleaner too. All this helps to save our environment. Furthermore it is possible with defined polluted areas to point out actions for solving the environmental problems.

Economic benefit

Reliable spatial information is a key factor for investors. Cadastral maps are the basis for the registration of parcels and buildings and guarantee the property right from a legal point of view. With the help of geographic data on regulatory zones and restrictions the landowner knows about the facts he has to deal with. This secures his investment in the property and also in buildings and possible plants. If investors build plants workers are needed. This will increase the amount of employment. And if the inhabitants of the region have a livelihood they will stay there. This will have a positive impact on migration problems, which is a benefit for the donor countries.

Social benefit

Besides the social benefits mentioned in the paper the cultural aspects of the different countries involved in the program have to be particularly highlighted. The program has to deal with more than five different cultures, as there are regional differences too. This can be a big value for the European Commission, as the Commission has to deal with such cultural differences every day. The Tisza River Development Program can bring in the experiences they have gained during the implementation.

The interdependency of the benefits can be summarized as follows:

The availability of spatial data and a spatial data infrastructure enables investment, which causes an economical development. This leads to a social development and less migration. Spatial data is also an indispensable requirement for the solution of environmental problems and the protection of our environment.

Sustainability of the Program

Another critical aspect for the donors is the long-term sustainability of a program and the protection of the investment. A sustainable program needs a political commitment on the highest level on one side and a good integration in the local organisations on the other side.

The Tisza River Development Program can guarantee the required long-term sustainability, as the ministers of the five affected countries will support it. With their signature of the Charta they will express their commitment and approve the program. Given that the program is based on 48 local offices in the region, means that it is well established within the population and the local organisations.

Tisza River – a pilot for a INSPIRE

There is a significant relation between INSPIRE and the Tisza River Development Program. The aim of INSPIRE is to establish a European Spatial Data Infrastructure. This infrastructure will be built on National Spatial Data Infrastructures, which themselves are a networking of Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures. Known difficulties to overcome when establishing a Spatial Data Infrastructure are not only data capture issues but also cross-border-problems. The co-operation between regions and states is not that easy even if they are all EU-members. With the establishment of a Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Tisza Basin part of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure is being built. As there are five nations involved one has to deal with all the problems a European Spatial Data Infrastructure will have to deal with and therefore the Tisza Spatial Data Infrastructure can be something like a pilot infrastructure for INSPIRE.

Regensdorf, 18.01.2007