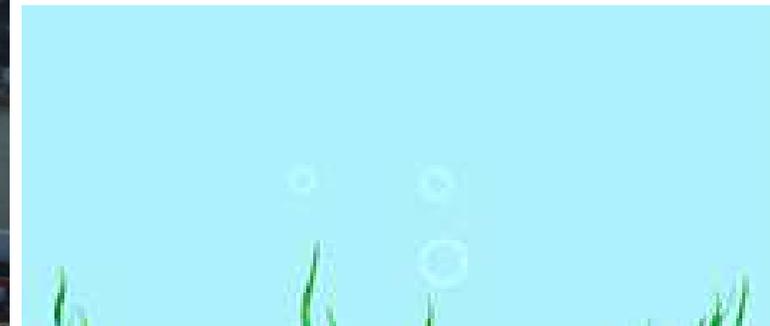
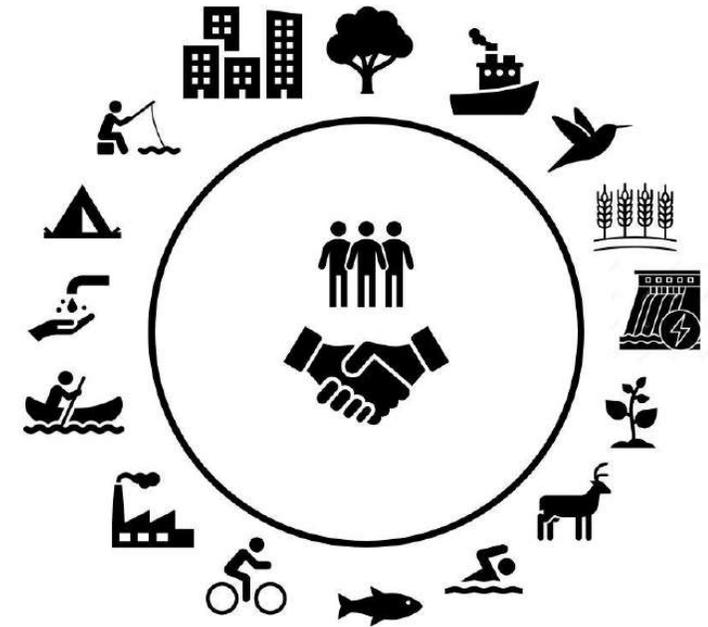
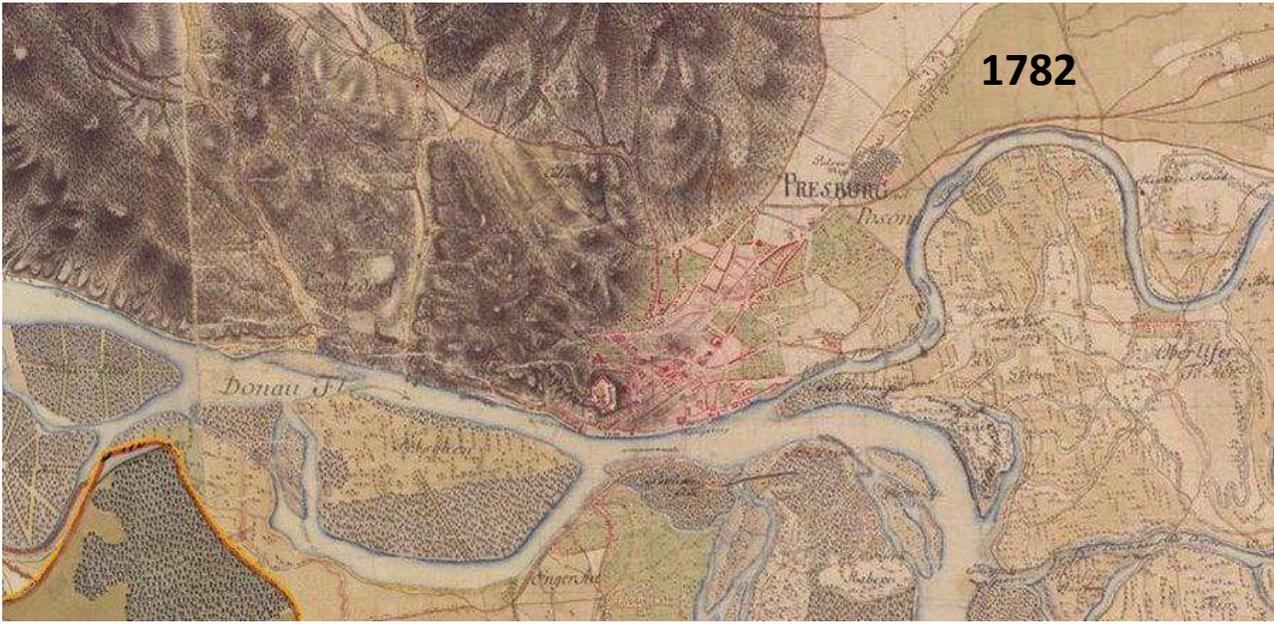


Is the water clean and passable enough for fish to survive?

The state of the Danube reflects the people who live on its banks and who manage it

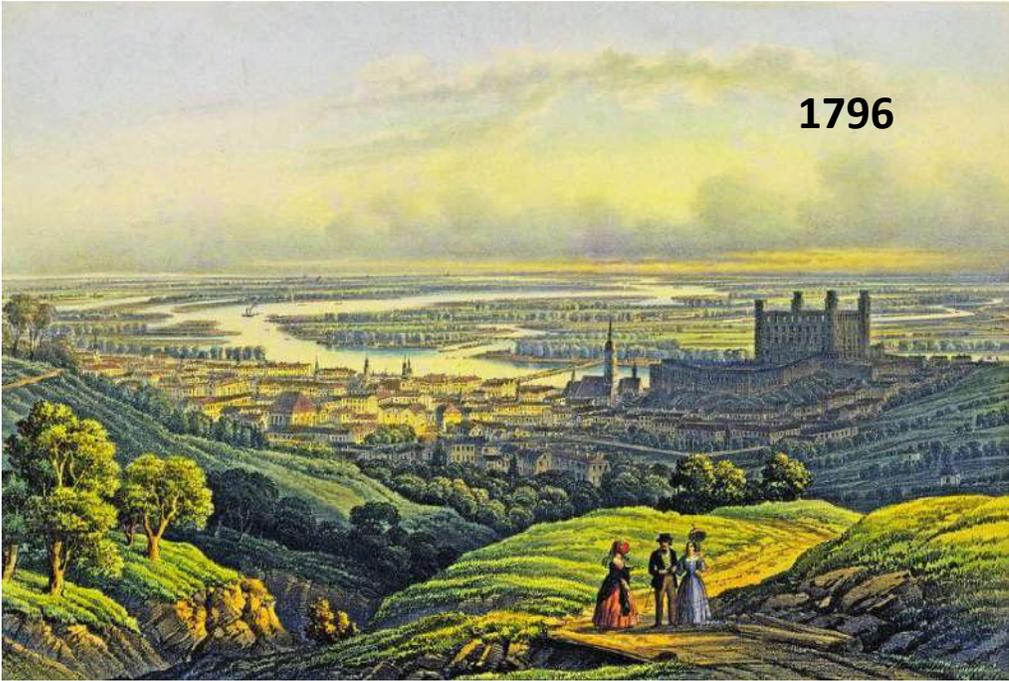
Martin Misik – Association of Boating Clubs of Bratislava





1782

today



1796



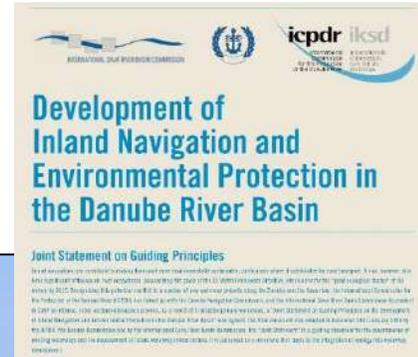
How has our view of the economic uses of the Danube changed?

- We already know, that if we want to benefit from the Danube, it must be alive and healthy river – and we want it beautiful as well.
- To use the Danube in such a way that it is at the same time a living, healthy and beautiful river
- Sustainability - 3 pillars: economic, environmental, social Sustainable Development Goals 2030
- A well-thought-out and balanced combination of hydropower and free-flowing sections of the Danube, i.e. not the construction of water works wherever the topography and geomorphology allow.
- Inland navigation also changes the approach of water transport



Innovative approaches in navigation

- Water transport, which deviates from the idea of ensuring and improving navigation with the help of water impoundment, towards compromise sensitive and innovative modifications of the Danube in combination with healthy hydro morphology, using innovative solutions (RIS, Water Level Model, longer forecasts , flexible intermodal transfer of goods, innovative vessels, but also innovative regulatory structures – groins, chevrons).



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS DEFINED

- **Nature-based solutions (NBS)**: An umbrella term referring to actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
- **Green Infrastructure**: A subset of NBS that utilizes natural systems to help produce higher-quality, more resilient, and lower-cost infrastructure services to improve water security.

It is not enough to just protect the Danube, it must be very actively restored

- main river channel banks
- side arms and channels
- reconnected flood-plains
- natural river flow parameters



Who should restore the Danube?

- This role will also be fulfilled by people together with nature in the future.

People must make restoration measures and the forces of nature will gradually take over and improve the restoration.



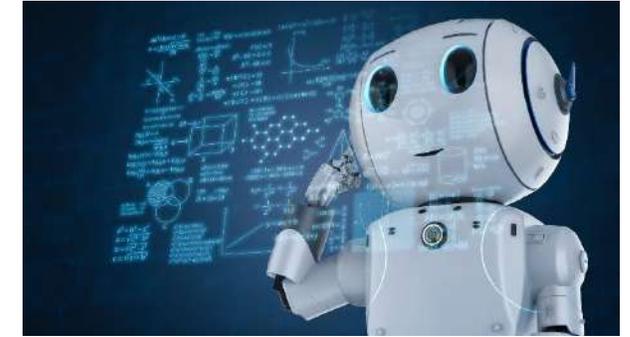
Win-win for navigation and ecology by integrative waterway infrastructure projects on the Danube

The state of the Danube reflects the people who live on its banks and who manage it

Living near a river can have both positive and negative impacts on quality of life. On the positive side, rivers can provide access to recreational activities like fishing, boating, and hiking, as well as scenic views and a sense of tranquillity. However, proximity to a river can also come with risks such as flooding, pollution, and erosion. **It's important for communities to implement sustainable river management** practices to maximize the benefits of living near a river while minimizing potential hazards.



Chatbot
GPT



Sustainable river management involves implementing practices that aim to protect and restore the health of rivers while also meeting the needs of society. This can include measures such as reducing pollution, conserving water resources, restoring habitats, and promoting responsible land use practices along riverbanks. **It's about finding a balance between human activities and the preservation of natural ecosystems for the benefit of both people and the environment.**

How to finance the restoration of the Danube?

- As part of all investment plans and regular maintenance of existing infrastructure - hydropower, inland navigation, flood protection...
- Targeted financial support schemes for nature and river ecosystem restoration schemes
- Monetarized ecosystem services – part of infrastructure projects cost-benefit analyses



Public spaces along river banks and recreational use



- People like Danube banks and want to spend great time at them



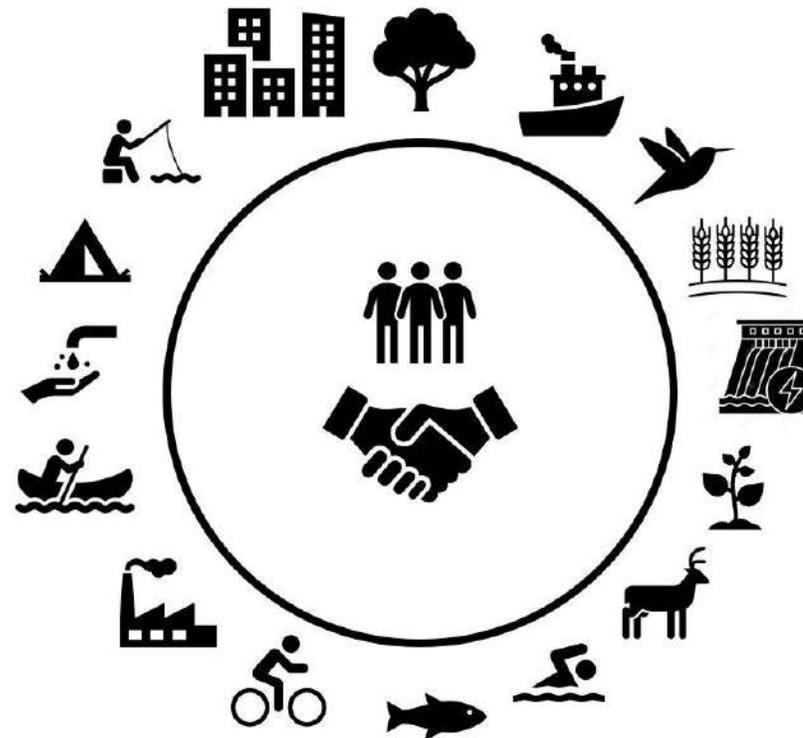
Public spaces along river banks

- People like Danube banks and want to spend great time at them



Stakeholders involvement and public participation

- Participation in strategies
- Early involvement in infrastructure planning
- Co-designing
- Multi purpose solutions



Good strategies and legislation – not so strong implementation

- In the European effort to achieve at least a good ecological status of our rivers (WFD), it will be necessary to add above all one key element. This is **education and enlightenment**.



Danube River Advocates – river heroes

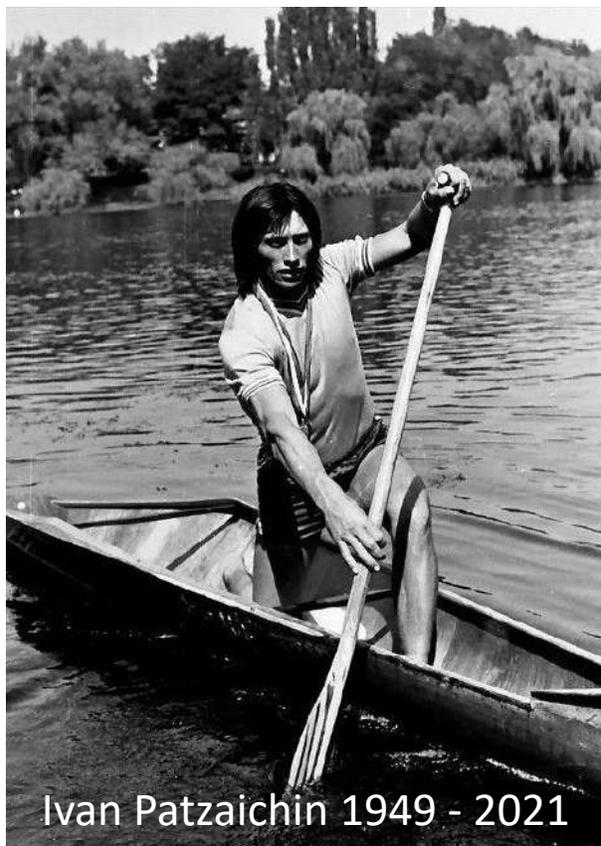
- People advocating rivers – professionals, local citizens, nature conservationists, artists, politicians
- Canoeists, rowers, boaters (love and passion for the Danube, sport fair-play attitude, **endurance**)



PET canoe



Bratislava Danube Park team



Ivan Patzaichin 1949 - 2021





Thank You for attention

Martin Mišík

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