

# ***30 Years of Cooperation in the Danube River Basin***



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Europe

The Danube Basin



**The Danube has always been one of Europe's most important river**



**Lifeline** for people and countries

**Ecological richness & biodiversity**



**Danube is a connector** with the Black Sea: Important regarding many aspects

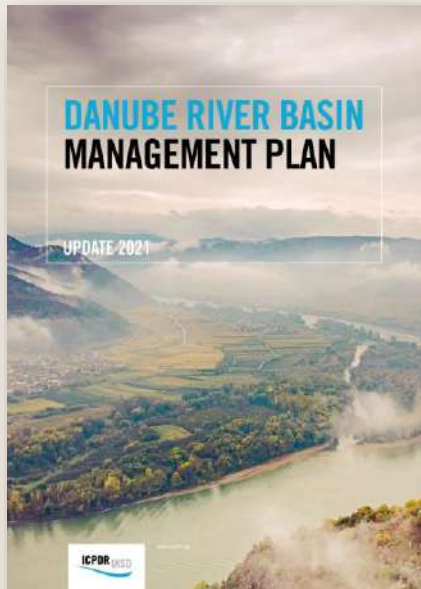
**International cooperation plays a key role in the DRB**

# ICPDR Implementation Responsibilities

- ✓ Cooperation under 1994 Danube River Protection Convention



- ✓ Transboundary coordination of EU WFD & FD

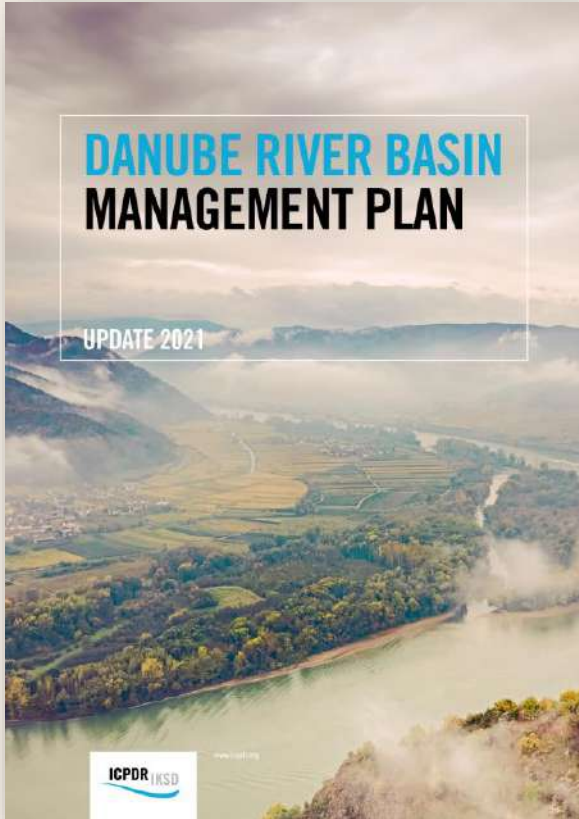




# Key Challenges Towards Solutions



## 5 Significant Water Management Issues



**Organic  
Pollution**



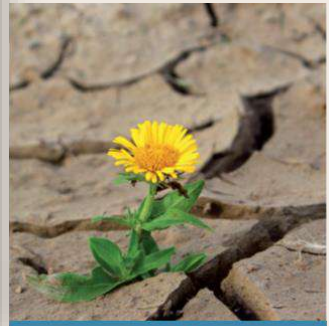
**Nutrient  
Pollution**



**Hazardous Subst  
Pollution**



**Hydromorphological  
Alterations**



**Effects of Climate  
Change (drought,  
water scarcity,  
extreme hydrological  
phenomena and other  
impacts)**

# Transforming Alterations into *Good Status* through Monitoring



Monitoring, sharing information and warning system  
were first joint actions in the DRB also protecting Black Sea

- This is unusual and not the same in most river basins

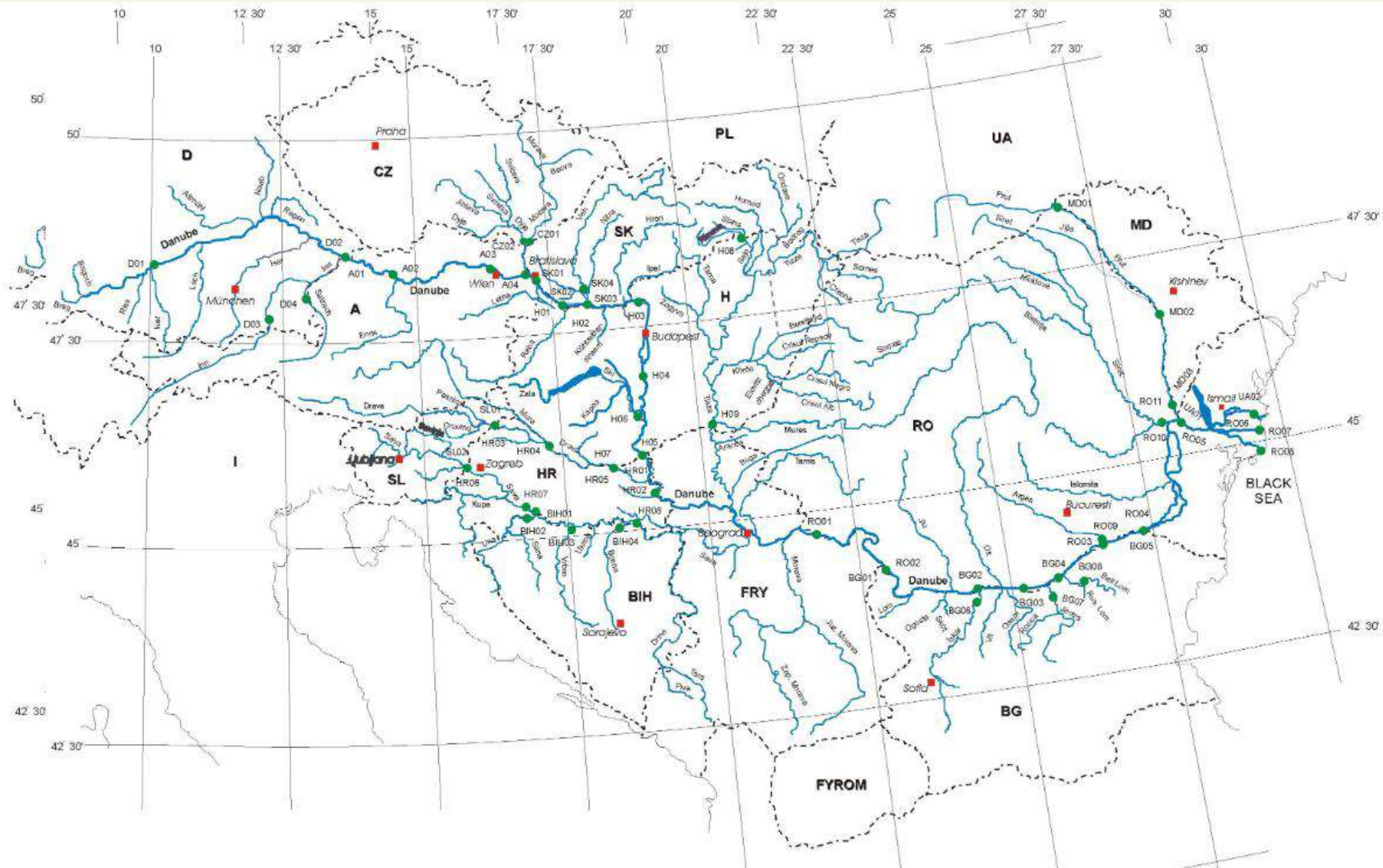


- **1993:** Design of Transnational Monitoring Network
- **1996:** Transnational Monitoring Network is in operation
- **2001:** First Joint Danube Survey (2007, 2013, 2019, **2025**)



# 1996: Initial Transnational Monitoring Network

- 61 sampling sites





# 2007: EU WFD Transnational Monitoring Network

- 101 sampling sites

## Transnational Monitoring Network - Surface Waters

DRBMP Update 2021 - MAP 21



\*Surveillance Monitoring 1 provides an assessment of the overall surface water status in the Danube River Basin District.

\*\*Surveillance Monitoring 2 provides an assessment of long-term trends of specific pollutants and of loads of substances transferred downstream the Danube.

This ICPDR product is based on national information provided by the Contracting Parties to the ICPDR (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA) and CH. EuroGlobalMap data from EuroGeographics was used for all national borders except for AL, BA, ME where the data from the ESRI World Countries was used. Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) from USGS Seamless Data Distribution System was used as elevation data layer; data from the European Commission (Joint Research Center) was used for the outer border of the DRBD of AL, IT, ME and PL.

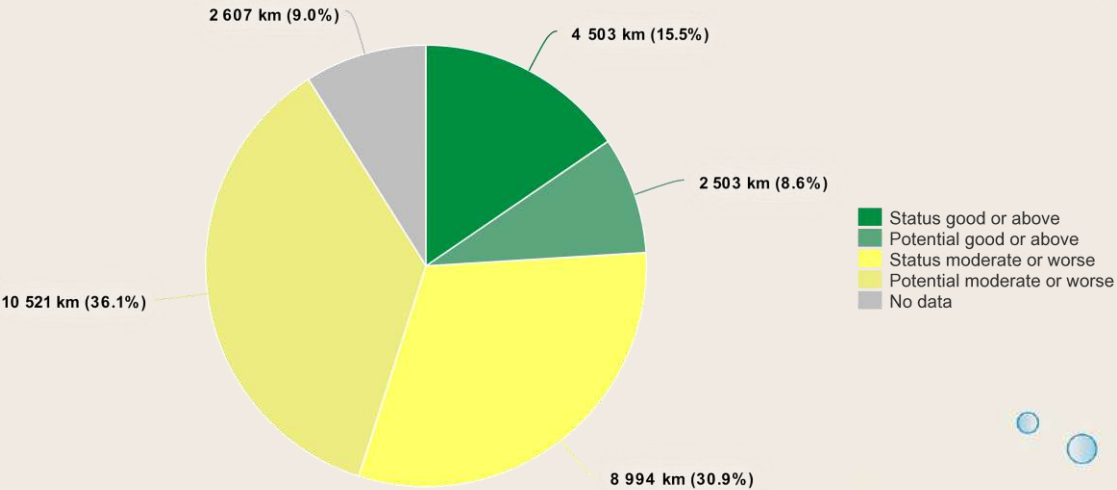


# Assessing Good Water Status based on Monitoring



Ecological Status and Ecological Potential of Surface Water Bodies

DRBMP Update 2021 - MAP 23



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# Improving Basin-Wide Wastewater Treatment & Water Status



- 30% nitrogen emissions

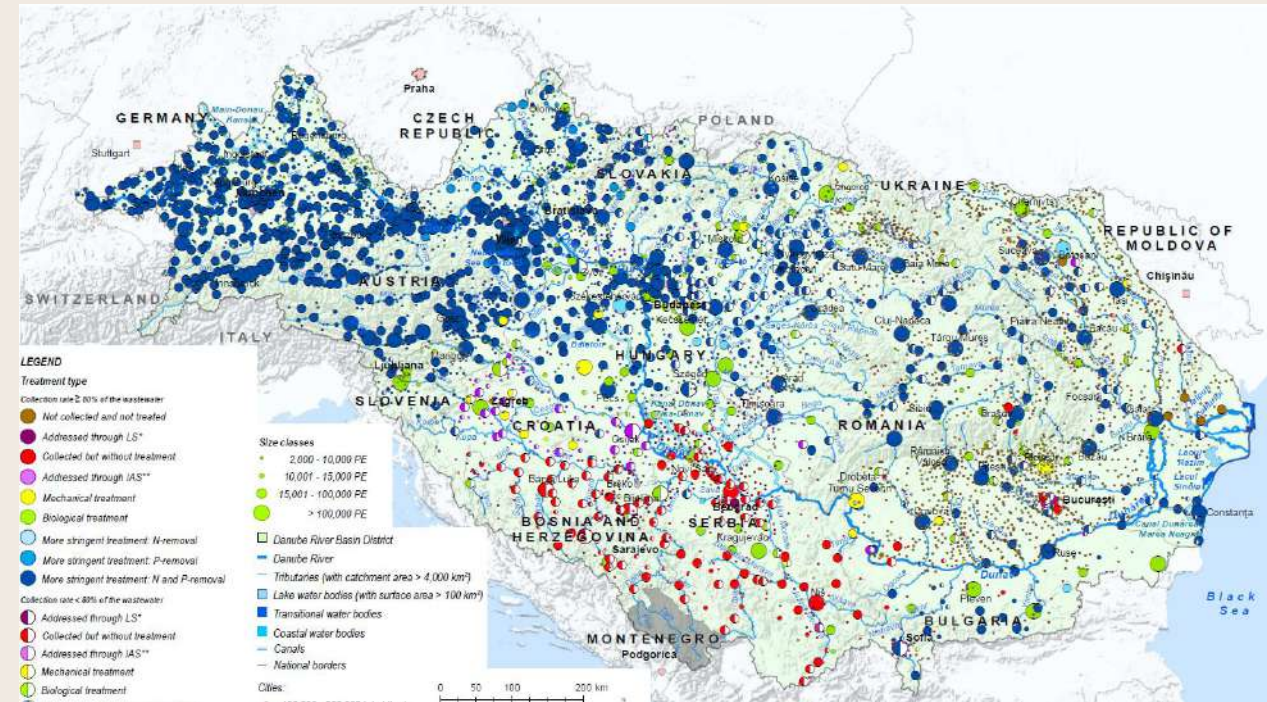
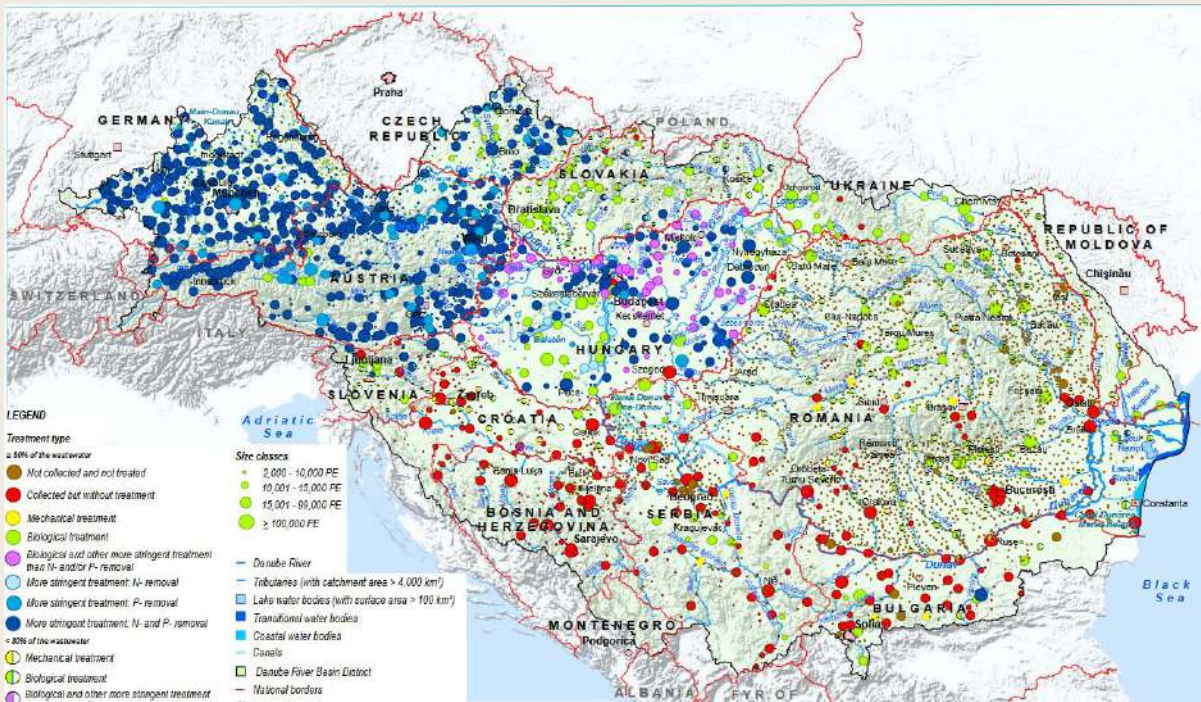
- 60% organic emission  
28 € billion investment

- 50% phosphorous emissions



Urban Wastewater Treatment 2009

Improved Urban Wastewater Treatment 2021





# Status 2021: Interruptions of River Continuity for Fish Migration



## Danube RBM Plan 2021:

- 624 river continuity interruptions are still not passable for fish migration



# Planned Improvement by 2027: Interruptions of River Continuity for Fish Migration

Interruptions of River Continuity for Fish Migration - Expected Restoration Measures by 2027

DRBMP Update 2021 - MAP 36



In case of overlapping continuity interruption symbols, they are drawn on top of each other in this order (top to bottom): Not implemented by 2027, Not yet determined, Implemented by 2027, Already implemented by 2021, Not necessary for GES/GEF, Not applicable.

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New assessments and  
improvement will be presented  
in the Danube RBM Plan 2027

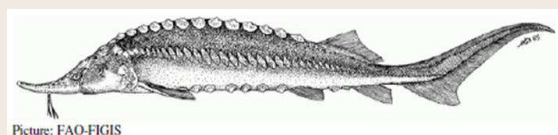


# Restoring Longitudinal Connectivity / Fish Migration



- 2008: Protecting our Flagship species the Sturgeon – Task Force
- 2023: Feasibility options to make Iron Gate Dams I&II passable for fish
- 2022 onwards: Work on Feasibility for Gabčíkovo passability

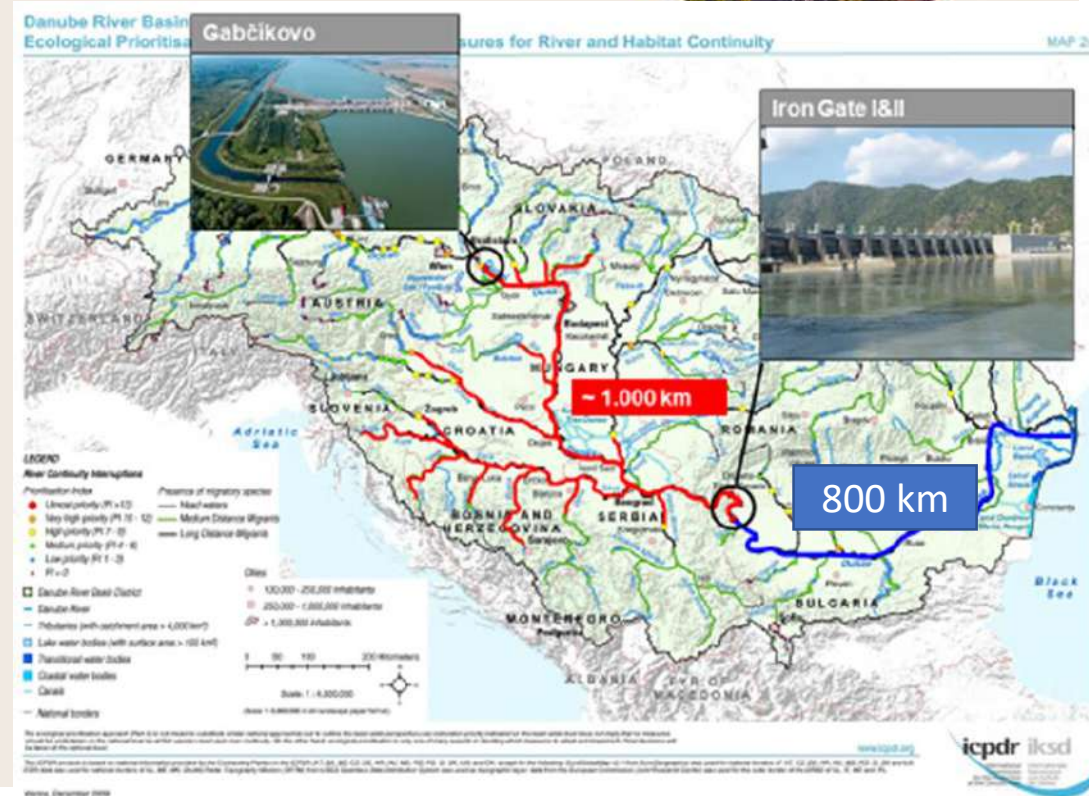
**Aim: Connect 1.800 km of the Danube itself and to the Black Sea**



Picture: FAO-FIGS



Picture: FAO-FIGS





# Concluding Thoughts



## Water quality and fish migration

- Transnational monitoring is key basis for transboundary management, water status information and providing healthy habitats
- Restoration measures to ensure habitats for fish is critical and need implementation
- Ensuring river continuity is essential for short and long-distance fish migration and healthy fish populations

## Continue reacting to challenges with transformation

- Basin-wide cooperation is the key tool for success
- Cooperation with the EUSDR
- Cleaner, healthier and safer Danube River Basin

