

DanubeFloodplain National Kick-Off Stakeholder Events

Report

WP	WP2: Communication Activities
Activity	Activity 2.2 Project communication, awareness raising & stakeholders engagement at Danube basin level
Activity leader	WWF, GWP CEE
Number and name of the deliverable/output	National Kick-Off events – reported under <i>D 2.2.5 Starting capitalization event back-to-back with project kick-off meeting</i>
Participating partners	all

1. General Data

Dates&Places

Partners all together organized nine National kick-off events inviting identified national level stakeholders and media to introduce and discuss the project with them.

- 2018-12-05 – Romania (Craiova)
- 2019-01-14 – Germany (Ingolstadt)
- 2019-01-23 – Hungary (Szolnok)
- 2019-01-23 – Bulgaria (Pleven)
- 2019-01-24 – Serbia
- 2019-01-25 – Austria (Vienna)
- 2019-01-31 – Slovakia (Bratislava)
- 2019-02-07 – Slovenia (Kostanjevica na Krki)
- 2019-02-25 – Croatia (Zagreb)

Documents

Annex1.1: Template for national kick-off event report

Annex1.2: Reports about each event with

- scanned list of participants,
- agenda,

2. Report

Participants

The complete number of participants of the events.

Romania: 46
Germany: 34
Hungary: 87
Bulgaria: 59
Serbia: 35
Austria: 20
Slovakia: 31
Slovenia: 40
Croatia: 30

All participants at the 9 events: 382

Target groups	Number of participants
Local public authority	55
Regional public authority	106
National public authority	65
Sectoral agency	29
Interest groups including NGOs	32
Higher education and research	52
International organization	10
General public	33

**according to the Target groups identified in AF*

3. Discussion on Project Outputs

Discussed topics with stakeholders

WP3 - Floodplain evaluation

Mapping of floodplains along the Danube River

Data for prioritization of floodplains
Evaluation of floodplains
WP4 - Flood prevention pilots
<p>Restoration scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be effective measures for floodplain restoration? • How would they affect flood risk? Do you have experience on the effect of restoration measures on flooding? • How would they improve the ecological state?
<p>Hydraulic modelling: Do you have experience in hydraulic modelling activities of floodplain restoration or in investigating large-scale model chains?</p>
<p>Ecosystem Services (ESS): What are benefits of floodplain restoration?</p>
<p>Extension of CBA with ESS: Where do you see a link between ecosystem services, floodplain restoration and cost benefit analysis?</p>
<p>Costs of flood protection measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are restraints of floodplain restoration? • How much could the implementation of floodplain restoration cost in your country? • What are costs of technical flood protection measures in your country?
<p>Possible solutions:</p> <p>Define a win-win-situation regarding floods and floodplain restoration</p>
WP5 - Danube Floodplain Guide
Existing policy documents related to flood management and river basin management in your country which have foreseen win-win measures
Do you know some examples of successful implemented/under implementation/planned restoration projects with good results in mitigation the effects of floods?
Which are the lessons learned and the conflicts you have encountered in promoting, planning, implementing floodplain restoration or other win-win projects/measures?
What are the main issues that should be tackled in the frame of the manual and guidance documents on floodplain restoration and preservation in order to be helpful and useful for all stakeholders which are involved or interested in such kind of projects?
Are you interested to actively participate in the process of development of Danube River Basin Floodplain restoration and preservation action plan?
General

How can you contribute to the project?

In which way do you want to be involved and stay informed?

4. Outcomes

Stakeholders' feedback

What were stakeholder's comments/observations on the presented outputs, which are planned in the Danube Floodplain project?

Were they interested to be informed further or/and involved into the project activities?

Romania

The stakeholders were open to cooperate and find solutions for flood risk reduction and they are participating to all stakeholders meetings and they will be informed through e-mail and the sites of partners.

Germany

The stakeholders were interested in the project and most of them want to stay informed about the further progress of the project. Overall, there was an agreement that the aims of Danube Floodplain are relevant from a large scale perspective. However, within Germany there are already established instruments for floodplain and river management. Thus, from an implementation perspective, the project was considered to be mainly of interest for the countries at the lower Danube.

Hungary

There were no specific comments on the project outputs. They see potential in restoration of the rivers' floodplain in the Danube basin that has many ecosystem services. They were interested in the Hungarian pilot where they have local knowledge and experiences and showed less interest about the whole project results. The stakeholders know many ecosystem services of the floodplains and the rivers and see big potential in improving them.

They were generally interested in the project activities that would be implemented on the pilot.

Bulgaria

Different representatives of the stakeholders presented their opinion and proposals to the planned activities and expressed their interest to be further informed on the project implementation.

It would be useful to extend the evaluation of floodplains for other tributaries of the Danube River (some proper locations were mentioned for Osam River and Iskar River).

The stakeholders put emphasis on the importance of precise evaluation of potential floodplains and their good maintenance in order to avoid negative side/subsequent effects (e.g. an increased level of groundwater in the area concerned).

The stakeholders are willing to cooperate and contribute to the successful implementation of the project activities.

Serbia

All stakeholders are highly interested in being kept informed and remaining involved in the project activities.

Austria

The Stakeholders were very interested in the project outcomes and want to be informed in future. Comments were about the difficulties in ranking the evaluated floodplains and they would like to be informed about this process and maybe involved, because this is also a political discussion. An involvement in the project could be as well related to the hydrodynamic modelling, due to the expertise of the stakeholders in this particular area.

Slovakia

- The key method used for stakeholder engagement was mapping and visualization of key stakeholders and activities at the pilot area on an interactive map
- Stakeholders received detailed information and were familiarized with the importance of early stakeholder involvement in general
- The ecosystem services were grouped according to types and the participants visualized these services on the interactive map.
- The participants were able to identify the increase/decrease of ecosystem service benefits before and after the project implementation
- The participants were able to identify the influence (low/high) and power (low/high) of key stakeholders
- The stakeholders received responses to what, why, when regarding the pilots directly at the workshop.

Slovenia

Beside overall approval about the main idea, goals and future results of the project, some stakeholders expressed their expectations and opinions, which are in direct opposition with some others. For example, the representatives of farmers would like to have as much as possible of irrigation water (from the Krka river or other tributaries) especially in a dry period, when the Krka river faces low water levels and very high temperatures, what causes a development of the algae, reduction of the oxygen, and nitrification, etc.

Some stakeholders expressed their willingness to cooperate on similar projects and with institutions present on an event. Nobody expressed any disagreement to be informed about the project development and the results. So, we will inform them periodically about the process and development on the project, also we will invite them on the event at the end of the project, we will provide them with the outcomes, manual and guidance documents on floodplain restoration, etc.

Croatia

Most of the stakeholder expressed an interest in being informed about the project progress.

Outcomes

What would you consider to be the main outcomes of the National Kick-off stakeholder event?

Romania

The stakeholders were informed about the national level flood risk management plans, planned outputs and deliverables of the project. It was an idea exchange on their inputs and expectations on Danube Floodplain outputs. The stakeholders have been invited to participate in different meetings/parts of the project implementation and they received explanations why and when the partners are expecting inputs from them. They were informed about synergies with the NAIAD.

Germany

Main outcome of the meeting was to get the relevant local stakeholders informed about the project and raise their awareness for potential results.

Hungary

- The number of participants showed that the stakeholders are generally interested in the floodplain management.
- They have the basic knowledge on the existing management.
- The land use and the land ownership significantly influence how the floodplain is managed. There are some big land owners or institutions that manage the state owned lands, but the 'small' stakeholders have many idea on the alternative way of the floodplain management and also the management of related sites, outside the flood protection dykes.

Bulgaria

The main outcomes of the event could be summarised as follows:

- the stakeholders got aware of the possibility and importance of implementing the floodplain restoration measures as a mean to mitigate and reduce the flood risk;
- the stakeholders were informed in details on project activities and expected outcomes;
- the stakeholders are interested on project outputs and effect of the implementation of floodplain restoration measures;
- the stakeholders are willing to be further informed on project outputs and to contribute for the successful implementation of the project activities;
- it is necessary to apply the theoretical experience gained during the project implementation into practice and to apply the needed changes into the national legislation.

Serbia

Great hospitality, positive energy, interest and concern for flood protection measures with a positive effect on nature.

Austria

Main outcomes:

- understanding of the project, its aims and outcomes

- the acceptance of the delineated floodplains and evaluation methodology
- the identified potential floodplains and ecological improvements

The stakeholders were very interested in the project and provided valuable feedback for the floodplains and the later evaluation. Information about further results of the project should be provided to them as well.

Slovakia

The main outcome of the workshop was the successful familiarization of the Czech and Slovak stakeholders with the Danube Floodplain project, during which the project partners managed to raise awareness of the floodplain potential. The other main outcome was that the project partners managed to actively and meaningfully engage the stakeholders at this very early stage of the project and consulted them about possible scenarios for the Morava river pilot site.

Slovenia

- Building of trust among the stakeholders
- Establishment of an appropriate cooperative environment
- Stakeholders connecting
- Informing of local community, experts, and public about the project, its challenges, aims, goals, and process of implementation
- Getting of the feedbacks, opinions, remarks and suggestions about issues which are addressed by the project from those, who know their surroundings and fields of work
- Collecting of information about the flood issues in the region
- Collecting of information about the natural conservation and water protection issues in the region
- Commitment to cooperation in the future

Croatia

Stakeholders showed great interest in staying informed about the project. Using green infrastructure in reducing damages caused by flooding is an approach that is being applied in water management recently. Hence, projects dealing with implementation of green infrastructure measures that would improve ecological status of specific areas, like Danube Floodplain project, are most welcome. Based on the feedback from the participants of the meeting, it is important to provide relevant information about the project progress to all stakeholders and interested public.