

# Transboundary Cooperation in the Lower Reaches of the Danube River Basin

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The main directions of cooperation in the Lower Danube region are focused on the following:

- Ensure sustainable and equitable supply of water resources for major economic sectors in riparian countries.
- Ensure conservation and rational use of surface and ground water resources.
- Establish monitoring over discharge of sewage, nutrients and hazardous substances coming from point and non-point sources of pollution.
- Monitor floods and dangerous ice phenomena.
- Monitor hazardous phenomena resulting from accidents (preventive measures) and establish the warning systems.
- Reduce pollution load on the Black Sea ecosystems from the Danube River Basin

In order to develop cooperation, the riparian countries have elaborated and agreed on the following mechanisms:

- Conference of the Parties to discuss bilateral issues related to implementation of the Lower Danube management plan, as well as to discuss development plans for major national economic sectors and infrastructures.
- International Commission on Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). It is a neutral platform for discussion and development of recommendations on rational use of natural resources, including water.
- Expert Groups consisting of representatives from all countries, and a group consisting of heads of national delegations.
- Task forces for:
  - River basin management
  - Monitoring and evaluation of aquatic ecosystems
  - Loads and measures
  - Floods

Based on the cooperation lessons learnt during the lifetime of the Danube Convention, which entered into force in 1999, the measures are currently being developed on adaptation of the river basin management plan to climate change, on development of a Network of biosphere reserves, and on strengthening of border cooperation at the level of local authorities. A new direction of cooperation is the Danube strategy aimed to implement measures for sustainable development in the region, which can be implemented through the joint cooperation of all countries in the region.

References:

1. Danube Strategy, Vienna, 2011
2. Action Plan Moldova –EU, Chisinau, 2010