



Donaukommission – Commission du Danube – Дунайская Комиссия – Danube Commission

Austria Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Moldova Romania Russia Serbia Slovakia Ukraine



METEET Workshop 16 March 2021

Top 6 - Key factors for a successful integration of environmental policies and requirement in IWT projects
Lessons learnt from METEET trainings

Lessons learnt from METEET trainings – participants level

Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube Basin, 2007 11 Workshops (yearly)	Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning, 2010 Living document	METEET Mixed Environment Transport External Expert Team on Integrated Planning of IWT projects, since 2016 6 Workshops	NEW TO COME Expert Workshop "Building with Nature" Integrated river engineering methods and practices Biennial as from 2022	Key instruments
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Complex & progressing EU Environment Legislation to prevent loss of biodiversity & to protect freshwater ecosystem Conventions, Birds - FFH - Natura 2000, WFD, Flood Risk, EIA, SEIA, etc.	Need for projects to improve navigability and environmental functioning of waterway/riverine eco-system "Integrated interdisciplinary projects" [GNS & GES]	Challenges faced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate change adaption & mitigation ➤ Policy objectives: Green Deal, Mobility Strategy [shift to IWT/zero-emissions] ➤ Completing RD core corridor to ensure sustainable economic growth
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(Human) Resources - Institutional capacity Waterway administrations & IWT authorities, Environmental authorities	Coordination Cross-border/cross-administration/cross-sector	Cooperation Stakeholder involvement & engagement	Knowledge gain & Know How Transfer Education, training, information provision	Action needed
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Lessons learnt from METEET trainings – specific viewpoints

Key aspects of integrated projects (trainer's perspective)

- Apply integrated planning process from the very beginning via interdisciplinary teams -> joint planning objectives
- Involve stakeholders and ensure stakeholder commitment over entire planning in implementation phase
- Minimize the impacts of engineering interventions, use non-structural measures
- Use best practice to achieve the required objective
- The designers of technical measures should apply:
 - Case-by-case approach, integrated design (hydraulics, morphology and ecology)
 - Adaptive form of measures, use of restoration potential, ensure no deterioration of floodwater levels (flood risks)
 - Working with nature philosophy
- “Working with Nature” means reversing the order:
 - Establish project needs and objectives – understand the environment - make meaningful use of stakeholder engagement - to identify possible win-win opportunities - prepare initial project proposals/design to benefit navigation and nature [PIANC Guidelines 2008]
 - Achieve the project objectives in an ecosystem context rather than assess the consequences of a pre-defined project design
 - Identify mutually beneficial solutions rather than simply minimize ecological harm

Lessons learned for the organisation of the workshops/webinars

- Strengths: strong commitment of host countries, willingness of stakeholders to participate, interactive character, integrative character, open exchange of positions, simultaneous translation offers better learning
- Weaknesses: unbalanced participation of key sectors, especially from environmental stakeholder side, real case study instead of virtual project case preferred
- First round of workshop priorities: awareness raising, know-how transfer, good practice dissemination and lessons learned for failure prevention (“jump in training”)
- Potential second round adaptations: modified concept addressing stronger practical problems faced in project preparation and design (“dive deep training”)

Thank you for your attention!

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