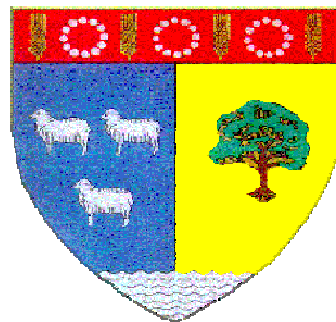
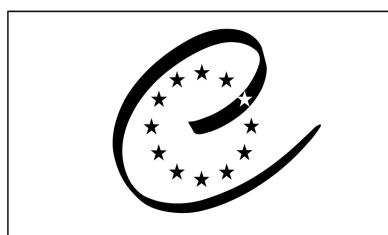




TELEORMAN COUNTY



**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON
THE ROLE OF TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES
IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RIVER BASINS – THE DANUBE
-PART II-**



**COUNCIL
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING FOR BORDER REGIONS IN DANUBE BASIN: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY OF AUTHORITIES

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We live from the planet's capital
instead of its dividends.

Claude Fussier, UNEP IE 1994, v.17, No.4

Though the whole history of our Civilisation river basins acted as priority zones for the human development. Paradox of XXI century is that these zones look (from the anthropocentric point of view) like “noose of the neck” for further Sustainable Development.

In Legislation of many States definition “Natural Environment” was transformed though last decade into “Naturally-Anthropogenic” one. This change reflects attempts to find more precise equilibrium between the nowadays-economical development & future generation's survival [1].

River basins became the main “indicators” to attain such equilibrium. And their problems are focal for further Sustainable Development and for success of concrete modern approaches, such as Spatial Planning, Environmental Management, Technology Foresight, Pollution Prevention, Cleaner Production, Eco-efficiency, Life Cycle Assessment etc. In former Socialist Countries, and especially in their frontier Regions along the new ELI & NATO border, these problems become more & more actual. Destroying of previous huge Economy and Legislation, used by authoritarian regimes, intensifying contradictions between the necessity of market transformations, regional policy, environmental & technogenic safety and obstacles of post-communist mentality [2].

New framework for further collaboration in these border areas was just established in Communication [3], aimed “to avoid drawing new dividing lines in Europe, promote:

- a) stability and prosperity within and beyond the new borders of the Union;
- b) integration into Transport, Energy and Telecommunications Networks and the European Research Area;
- c) closer economic integration and sustainable development, which will be provided by political support and assistance.

Equally, threats to mutual security, whether from the trans-border dimension of environmental hazards, serious pollution and deficiencies in managing waste, will require joint approaches in order to be addressed comprehensively... Increasing environmental and economic efficiency should also proceed hand-in-hand... Taking into account the constraints that may arise in the short-term, the Commission will consider the possibility of creating a new Neighbourhood Instrument which builds on the positive experiences of promoting cross-border co-operation within the PHARE, TACIS and INTERREG programmes. This instrument will focus on trans-border issues, promoting regional and sub-regional co-operation and sustainable development. The Commission will consider proposals for a new Neighbourhood Instrument focussing on ensuring the smooth functioning and secure management of the future Eastern borders”.

In general environmentally sound aspects of these problems and ways for their resolution were formulated by 16- countries Summit in Bucharest [4]. More precise recommendations were given in [5] - for the trans-frontier co-operation, in [6] — for regional development and in [7] - for spatial planning.

Till the end of the 1990-th the north-eastern part of Danube Basin (its longest tributary Prut and the 5-th —Siret) were the “white spot” on the map of Danube Pollution Reduction Program. Involvement of Ukrainian part and the last years catastrophes in the basins of Tisa & Siret stimulated new political framework for the Carpathian— Danube Region [4] as well as the certain system of solutions [8].

Euroregions, organised through the last decade by the regional authorities of Danube Basin countries, should be used as efficient tool for further step-by-step cross-border resolution of transfrontier problems in this Region [9]. Such way is worthy response both to “Wider Europe” [3] and also to Carpathian Convention & Water Initiative prepared for subscription in Kiev on Pan-European Environmental Conference in May 2003. For a long time Ukraine develops Water Management System by basin principle accordingly to these new Acts. But owing the above-mentioned inattention to the Ukrainian parts of the Danube Basin, tributaries of Danube included into the Dnestr Basin Management System. Euroregions became new “points of growth” in the “Europe of Regions”. Through them can be co-ordinated endeavours and resource concentration by the Local, Regional, National Authorities & International Organisations, aimed to solve the problems of the border river basins. The argument for such claim is that the main part of the Eastern Euroregions have the names of the border rivers: “Neman”, “Bug”. Danube-Kris-MuresTisa”, “Neisse”, Elbe/Laba”, “Danube-Drava-Sava”, “Upper Prut”, “Lower Danub& etc. At the same time it's possible to utilise here new forecasting mechanisms [9], simultaneously in National Regional Policy and for the cross-border areas development [10].

Such approach needs new comprehension of all the above mentioned actors as well as more efficient usage of transfrontier collaboration between the neighbouring territories. Principally new opportunities assumed now the inter-territorial co-operation according to Protocol Nr. 2 (1998) to the Madrid Convention of 1980 and, especially, Linz Declaration of March 21, 2002. Also good “proving ground” for inter-regional collaboration demonstrated by CADSES Initiative under the aegis of INTERREG III. These new challenges are utilised in Euroregion “Upper Prut” [9] through new model of EcoEuroRegion and establishment of partnership with the administrative-territorial units of the EU countries and also of Poland & Russia.

The following step should become the consolidated support of concrete projects in border river basins by the whole above-mentioned Hierarchy of Authorities. To realise decisions of [8] Chernivtsi Regional Authorities initiated in April 2000 special UkrainianRomanian Seminar under the support of UNDP [12]. Representatives from all border Oblasts of Ukraine & Counties of Romania (authorities, environmental control departments & NGOs), Central Governments. International Organisations and Bavarian partner of the Euroregion “Upper Prut” jointly worked out the principal List of core environmentally sound cross-border Problems and the ways for their resolution. One of the results became decision of Bavarian Ministry for Regional Planning & Environment to support the environmental projects in Euroregion “Upper Prut”. This judgement was made on the sitting of Ukrainian-Bavarian inter-governmental Commission in June 2001 as special objective for the Ukrainian-Bavarian Working Plan. Accordingly to the provisions of General Ukrainian-Romanian Treaty of 02.06.1997, further realisation of such common decisions should be intensified by the intergovernmental Agreement for the Environment Protection. Year ago Ukrainian & Romanian members of the Euroregion “Upper Prut” proposed to include the special article for the inter-regional collaboration in the sphere of this Agreement. But till now we have no answers from the correspondent Ministries.

The absence of agreed inter-governmental position for co-ordinated support of transfrontier environmental projects in the spirit of the Bucharest Declaration [4] makes dramatic the interaction between Euroregions and EU Commission.

Besides the successfully realised projects [13-16]. EU Commission refused 7 projects proposals of EcoEuroRegion. prepared jointly by the Regional & Local Authorities of members & EU partners of the Euroregion “Upper Prut”:

- TACIS CBC project proposal “Environmental Centre for Administration & Technology “ECAT-Bukowina” submitted by the Chernivtsi Regional Administration and agreed by the Botosani & Suceava Counties Councils, Provincial Government of Carinthia and Romanian State Secretary Ioan Jelev at 04.09.1996.
- TACIS CBC project proposal “Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Water Resources in the River Prut Basin. (International co-operation of Ukraine, Moldova and Romania in Prut river water quality assessment and water resources management)” submitted by the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine at 1998.
- TACIS BISTRO project proposal Nr. BIS/97/126 “Training Services for the Rehabilitation of the Water Supply in the Pilot Area of Chernivtsy, Ukraine”. This project was submitted as a part of the pilot project, aimed to realise the results of the TACIS City Twinning project Nr. 1796-69 “Concept for Water Supply in Chernivtsy”. The costs of the pilot project should be around 300,000 ECU. 100,000 ECU had been provided by Ukrainian Lands, 100,000 ECU by the Austrian Funds for Eastern European Aid and the last 100,000 ECU should be financed by the TACIS BISTRO Facilities.
- TACIS CBC project proposal “Sustainability for Euroregion “Upper Prut” (SERUP) submitted in 2000 by Carinthia, Chernivtsy Region of Ukraine, Suceava & Botosani Counties of Romania and Belts & Edinets Counties of Republic of Moldova;
- TACIS CBC project proposal “Water Management Plan for Siret River” (WMPS). submitted in 2000 by Carinthia, Chernivtsy Region of Ukraine and Suceava & Botosani Counties of Romania;
- TACIS CBC project proposal “Upper Prut Cross-border Institute for Eco-Efficiency and Sustainable Development (UPCIES)” submitted in March 2001 by the members of Euroregion “Upper Prut” together with Carinthia;
- TACIS CBC project proposal “Environmental Action Plan for the Euroregion Upper Prut’ (ENUP) submitted in March 2002 by the members of Euroregion “Upper Prut” together with Carinthia;

These rejections aggravate the situation in the border river basins and will make additional obstacles for further Sustainable Development in Danube Region. The following examples allow judging on the importance of the problem.

The enclosed map shows real transition potential of this Region due to its geopolitical place. More than 100 years ago former Austrian Land Bukowina was constructed as one of the first models for nowadays Europe of Regions. Then, in the zone of Austrian, Russian & Romanian borders was built large transport knot both for the shortest transit from Russia to Balkans & Southern Europe and as the most safe way from Eastern Mediterranean Area to Baltic Region bypass Carpathians.

Utilisation of the Region’s transit nature becomes now the single way for its further survival. And the Technology Foresight [11] predicts intensive restoration & further development of railways, roads, pipelines in combination with the accompanied productions & services: different kinds of tourism, recreational activity, complex service, terminals, settle the mountain woody districts, investments in agro-processing sector etc. At the same time there should increase transit & production of the energy-ware.

As it was shown in [9], such scenario leads to crucial change in the Economy and of all anthropogenic impacts in the basins of Prut, Siret & Dnestr. For instance, already today exist real danger of water break through karst from the reservoir of Dnestr Hydroaccumulated Station to the Prut river. Partly is due to the pumping out of the mining water in Moldovian pit near Kriva.

For such conditions immediate implementation of the European Standards for the Environmental Management as well as for Quality Systems can’t give the same results as in countries with traditionally market economy, competitive production & democratically’ principles. It’s shown

enough apparently by recent disasters in basins of Tisa & Siret. The joint source of danger & non-competitiveness is in interior self-organisation of (practically all) productions and services [17]. For instance, new Small- & Middle-size Business Enterprises (SMEs), should fulfil market gaps (niches), but they can't directly barrow the Western experience, whereas they act in quite another economical, social & legal environment. Previous Economical system of artificially low Resource Prices & declarative Environmental Legislation makes them now non-competitive owing to very high energy & material losses in production and to environmental impacts.

A lot of such SMEs use more or less officially the facilities of former military plants or other large enterprises: for instance — production sections for electrodeposits, stirred reactors, rinsers, extractors, ore-dressing equipment etc. But the former safety systems (labour protection, environmental services, natural resource utilisation control etc.) were not simultaneously transformed into the Market Society Institutions both in Technical & Control Norms and in the Population Mentality.

So, the transformation of the production & information technologies as well as in Social & Safety Spheres, Energy Supply & Utilisation and of all levels of Management didn't bring for new SMEs adequate security mechanisms both in economical activity & in population mentality.

For Water Management Systems on the cross-border flows this reality brings up a huge knot of multilevel problems. Their step-by-step resolution will be possible when, instead to struggle with consequences, Authorities of all levels will do away with causes. And further absence if causal-investigatory connections between the economical & environmental aspects in this area as well as in activity of Authorities will aggravate the situation.

Therefore the "survival" of existent & new enterprises under the new conditions as well as their attraction for necessary Investments & International Support. will directly depend of systems Accounting, Appraisal, Risks Assessment & Audit implementation.

Today Romania demonstrates nice examples of the enterprises reporting (outside data) completely harmonised with the EU regulations. But parallel to the Environmental Inspectors the separately collected data is referred to other control bodies (Sanitary Service, Workmen's Protection, Emergency Planning, Statistics Office, Municipal Structures, Water Management etc.)

But at the source of information is absent the interior self-organisation accordingly to the "Process Approach", foreseen by International Standards of Quality - ISO 9000:2000 & Environmental Management — ISO 14000. Experience of Ukrainian-Austrian-Romanian project [15] already demonstrated, that such approach is profitable for the Enterprises, Regional Executive Authorities & Local Self-Governments, whereas it concentrates limited resources for the key (weak) points & sectors. And simultaneously it generates a good opportunity for joint revealing and agreement of win-win solutions.

On the other hand the same principles becomes now a basis for safe development of business and investments in the Eastern Europe [18].

To realise such systems approach Chernivtsi Regional Administration & Council introduced by joint Order the enclosed Form for the primary accounting of waste & used package by the enterprises, as it foreseen by the Ukrainian Law "On Waste". This form was agreed by Ukrainian Ministries of the Environment, Industry, Health Protection and State Committee for Statistics & Entrepreneurship

Such interior document for each enterprise aimed to order their own knowledge about the flows of waste (losses, sewage, discharges & package materials). The general outside task this Form becomes the universal primary source of information for further accounts to Environmental & Water Management Structures, Emergency Planning, Labour Safety, Sanitary & Municipal Services, Statistics Office etc.

In general, the implementation of this Form is the first step, which brings together the interests of the enterprises, Local, Regional & National Authorities for the Natural Resource Conservation, safe Water Management & Waste Minimisation and Competitiveness of Productions & Services as core elements of Sustainable Spatial Development in Danube Basin.

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