

News & Events

2016 Danube Declaration accessible to a broader public

On 9th February 2016 in Vienna, the ICPDR convened its third Ministerial Meeting of Ministers and high-level representatives responsible for water management from the 14 Danube River Basin countries as well as the European Commission. This Ministerial Meeting endorsed two important plans for the Danube: the Danube River Basin District Management Plan Update 2015 and the Flood Risk Management Plan. The meeting also adopted the 2016 Danube Declaration, which shows the highest level of commitment for the ICPDR concerning its future work of addressing the joint challenges facing the Danube Basin. The 2016 Danube Declaration, the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting, is an important document, which deserves to be brought to the attention of the public. One of the first steps towards increased recognition was the slogan for the 2017 Danube Day: "Get active for a cleaner Danube", based on one of the three pillars of the declaration, which outlines the path towards a cleaner, healthier and safer Danube River by 2021. As a second step, a two-page summary is now available for all interested parties.



For more information, visit:
https://www.icpdr.org/main/sites/default/files/nodes/documents/summary_danube_declaration2016.pdf



15th Standing Working Group Meeting of the ICPDR in Brussels



For more information, visit:
<http://icpdr.org/main/15th-standing-working-group-meeting-icpdr-congregates-brussels>

On 8-9th June 2017, the ICPDR held the 15th Standing Working Group Meeting in Brussels. Key issues were discussed over the two-day meeting, ranging from expert group reports to new projects and initiatives such as JOINTISZA, the preparation of the 4th edition of the Joint Danube Survey and visibility measures including a short version of the Danube Declaration. The European Union holds the 2017 Presidency of the ICPDR and President Gammeltoft chaired the meeting, which was held in the prestigious chamber where the European Commission regularly meets. Peter Gammeltoft also used the opportunity to reaffirm the priorities of the EU Presidency of the ICPDR. These priorities also include the development of ICPDR Guidance on Sustainable Agriculture and the pilot activities of the Mixed Environment Transport External Expert Team (METEET). The Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) of the EU organised a Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) workshop to inform the countries about EU funding opportunities. The focussed and lively discussions that this workshop stimulated demonstrated once again how well cooperation mechanisms within the ICPDR work between its contracting parties.

Neptune Water Award 2017



The Neptune Water Award (Neptune Wasserpreis), focussing on water and ecology, is the Austrian Ecology and Innovation Award. Launched in 1999, it is awarded every two years and was established to illustrate the importance of water as a resource for life, the environment, business, art and society. The initiative is sponsored by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economics (BMWFUW), the Austrian Association for the Gas and Water Industry (ÖVGW) and the Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (ÖWAV). The main award for 2017 went to the project Social Pool.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.wasserpreis.info/>



Danube Water Conference: ICPDR invited to share technical expertise

On 17-18th May 2017, the annual Danube Water Conference, jointly organised by the International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD) and the World Bank within the scope of the Danube Water Program (DWP), served as an international platform for dialogue between countries and people from different sectors involved in the delivery of water services. Key sector representatives from entities including national utility associations, the regional network of associations of local authorities, water and wastewater utilities, line ministries, regulatory authorities, the donor community and other international stakeholders met in Vienna to discuss progress made and the challenges that lie ahead for the water supply and sanitation sector in the Danube region. The ICPDR President 2017, Peter Gammeltoft took part in a panel discussion with Guang Zhe Chen, Senior Director of the World Bank's Water Global Practice and shared interesting insights into funding sources needed to close the financial gap and achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) for water and understand how the ICPDR, as Keeper of the Danube, addresses challenges in the basin.



For more information, visit:
<http://www.iawd.at/>



Over 350 Volunteers spend more than 1,000 working hours for the Danube Dry Habitat Corridor!



For more information, visit:
www.danubeparks.org



Facing the long-term effects of climate change, dry habitats are becoming more and more relevant for ecological connectivity. To tackle this issue, the Danube River Network of Protected Areas launched the first Danube Volunteers Day on 24th August. Fourteen events in nearly all Danube countries mobilised more than 350 volunteers to spend over 1,000 working hours at endangered dry habitat sites including dry meadows, steppic grasslands and "Heissland".

Youth and school groups, local NGO's, municipalities, the secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme and various other stakeholders removed bushes, mowed steep slopes and restored sites for endangered species.

As part of the project DANUBEPARKS, Danube Protected Areas is striving to preserve the most valuable natural sites. Since January 2017, the project DANUBEPARKS CONNECTED, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, has been working to strengthen habitat connectivity on a Danube-wide scale. In 2018, the second Danube Volunteers Day will focus on dynamic river habitats. Join us!