

2. MEDIA RELEASE:

INTERREG CAMARO-D – project at the halfway point

The project consortium can look back on more than one year of intensive work, since after the launching of CAMARO-D in January 2018, not only a lot of reports were developed by the 14 project partners, but also comprehensive activities respectively surveys have already started within 14 different pilot areas. The aim is to provide a sustainable protection of water resources and improved flood risk prevention by means of a catchment-based approach.

First of all, the current status concerning existing gaps and policies was investigated in the involved countries, based on intensive stakeholder involvements by means of workshops and questionnaires respectively interviews. As a result, the most important environmental threats and natural disasters were identified to be considered by the stakeholders during their daily activities: surface water pollution, floods, droughts and invasive plant species. Unsustainable intensive agriculture was determined as the most severe factor responsible for environmental degradation. Agriculture is sensed as the most frequent cause for degradation processes such as water and wind erosion, soil degradation and soil compaction. A policy review shows the importance of the local/regional policy guidelines and the national legislation, whereby the general European policy framework harmonizes the national legislations and supports solving of potential transboundary conflicts.

Thereupon, best management practice catalogues for agriculture, grassland, forestry and spatial planning were developed by an expert committee, pointing out the most important transnational improvements towards better water quality and flood control due to water retention in the landscape. In this context, adequate agricultural management was identified to play a crucial role as this is the most frequent category of land cover and represents the biggest degraded retention potential within the Danube catchment. Thus it is responsible for an enormous part of non-point pollution of water. Furthermore, also other land uses have to be adopted, whereby spatial planning plays a key role in this project.

The first results will be presented to a broader audience and discussed during a mid-term-conference, which will be held in Ljubljana city center on June 13th, jointly organised with another INTERREG-project - PROLINE-CE - funded by the Central Europe Programme.