

1. MEDIA RELEASE:

CAMARO-D – a new INTERREG project was launched

The project CAMARO-D (Cooperating towards Advanced Management routines for land use impacts on the water regime in the Danube river basin) started in January 2017 and is financially supported by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA) within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020. During the two and a half years of project implementation the project will develop **comprehensive recommendations towards a strategic policy for the implementation of an innovative transnational catchment-based “Land Use Development Plan” for the Danube River Basin.**

Intensive land use practices often cause severe negative impacts on groundwater resources as well as on torrents and rivers due to increased erosion processes, floods, soil compactions, surface runoff, invasive plant species and water pollutions. By means of a new transnational guidance with a tailored, **application-oriented tool-kit for relevant stakeholders and decision-makers** a sustainable protection of water resources and improved flood risk prevention shall be provided. This will foster the trans-sector and transnational cooperation in the field of water management, forestry, agriculture, spatial planning and nature conservation.

Newly developed **best practices** in function-oriented sustainable land use management – considering also climate change issues – **will be tested and documented within various Pilot Actions. Supported by intensive stakeholder workshops and trainings**, the initiation of the practical tool-kit implementation will be conducted within selected pilot areas.

To guarantee a broad basis of different geographic, scientific and decision-making fields the partnership consists of 14 project partners and 9 associated partners representing governmental bodies, water suppliers, research and education institutions, agro-meteorological institutions, environmental agencies and spatial planning institutes acting on local, regional and national levels and originating from nearly all Danube basin states (Austria, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Serbia). The Forest Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management assumes the Lead partnership of this project.

CAMARO-D outcomes will eventually provide **important inputs for the further development of EUSDR (EU Strategy for the Danube Region)** and other relevant EU-policies like Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive as well as for the Danube river basin Management Plans. To underline the importance of the implementation of this transnational catchment-based “Land Use Development Plan” a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by notable representatives of each partner country during the Final Conference in Vienna in June 2019.