

'Train the planners' learning interaction

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1. Development of the ‘Train the planners’ seminar content and technical background

WWF Hungary was responsible to organize the TTP (WP6, Activity 6.5/2) in order to train the planning experts of the JOINTISZA project partners on effective public involvement and its methodologies. It was agreed at the first WP meeting in Budapest (01-02.03.2017), that the place and date of the TTP will be Szolnok 27-28.06.2017.

WWF Hungary set up an internal team of 4 colleagues in order to organize the workshop and started to develop a content and agenda for the workshop from April 2017. We started to search for possible facilitators and speakers. Parallel to this processes, we also started to work on the technical background of the TTP, heaving different negotiations with service providers (f.e. meeting rooms, catering). We also had a personal meeting with the local staff of the OVF/KÖTIVIZIG in Szolnok (Tisza Office) plus some service providers on 19.05.2017. After we agreed with facilitators and speakers (mostly experts with a scientific background in communication, social sciences and water management) on cooperation, we organized a face to face preparatory meeting in Budapest (12.06.2017) in order to establish the core team and develop the agenda for the TTP. Presentations were held on the JOINTISZA project (Dávid Bogyó, WWF HU) and the TTP agenda and content itself (Klára Kerpely, WWF HU) (see Annex Ia and Ib), followed by a long brainstorming event. The list of participants is available in the Annex II.

The goals of the meetings were:

- Team established
- Common understanding of the objectives and expected outcomes of TTP
- Common understanding of the content of TTP
- Agreed roles and tasks in TTP
- Final draft agenda of TTP
- List of tools needed for TTP
- Next steps defined

During this preparatory workshop, the first draft agenda and content of the event was commented and formed by the participants, followed by email conversations. A first invitation with a general training description was sent out to the project partners on 02.05.2017 in order to estimate the number of participants. The official invitation to the TTP and the back-to-back organized SVP training and registration forms were sent out on 09.06.2017 by the LP. The final agenda was prepared and sent out to the project partners, speakers and facilitators on 23.06.2017., again by the LP.



Facilitators and experts working at the Budapest TTP preparatory meeting, 12.06.2017 (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

During this preparatory phase a handout on SH involvement was also prepared in cooperation with a sociologist (Zoltán Ferencz) to disseminate it on the event (Annex III).

Just before the TTP WWF HU organized a working dinner for the 'Train the planners' seminar experts and organizers (26.06.2017, Szolnok, Hungary) in order to discuss the final details, tasks and responsibilities before the seminar, and the details of the follow-up process was also discussed. The meeting also served as a "team building" event. Participants were: facilitators (Alexander Zinke, Erzsébet Gergely, Tamás Cseloszki, Beáta Pataki, Laurice Ereifej), follow-up experts (Ioana Tetelea, Christian Tetelea (Invisible Nature), Olga Denyschik, Natalija Bratuljevic, Gergana Majercakova (GWP CEE)), WWF team (Klára Kerpely, Tamás Gruber, Dávid Bogyó, incl. Laurice Ereifej also).



Facilitators and experts working at the Szolnok TTP working dinner, 26.06.2017 (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

2. Train the planners seminar: 27-28.06.2017, Szolnok (Hungary)

2.1. Participants

During the training all Tisza countries and almost all project partners were represented, mostly with more than one participant. Together with the WWF HU staff, facilitators and speakers (including the SVP training staff of the USACE), plus the experts of the follow-up phase (see later) we had 57 participants at the event (see the List of participants – Annex IV).



Participants at the first day of the TTP seminar in Szolnok, Hungary, 27.06.2017 (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

As mentioned above - according to the AF - the WWF HU subcontracted national level follow-up experts from Romania, Serbia and Ukraine to lead the SH involvement at a national level. This experts were also invited to the training and were actively involved into the work of the national level workshops (see chapter 2.3.)

2.2. Agenda and presentations

The final agenda (Annex V) was circulated together with the agenda of the SVP training, which followed the TTP at the same place. The whole TTP was facilitated by Alexander Zinke (UBA).

On the first day of the seminar - after the registration in the first session - we introduced the SHI to the participants through 7 presentations and we also introduced the timeline and milestones of the JOINTISZA project as well as the PIP strategy of the project. An important part of this session was to learn about good examples and to have time for questions and answers, plus having the possibility to share own experiences by the participants. In the second session the theory and methodologies of the SHI was presented in order to have a solid background before splitting participants into random small workshop groups. Further details on the theory and methodologies of the SHI was presented during the same day and during the second day of the seminar too.



Hal Cardwell (USACE) holds his presentation on SHI and SVP methodology at the seminar, 27.06.2017, Szolnok, Hungary (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

For future use all TTP presentations and the SHI handout were uploaded to the JOINTISZA project page of the member area in the DTP homepage (<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/>).

2.3. Workshops

During the TTP seminar we involved all the participants (mostly the planners of the new ITRBMP) into an active role. First we randomly placed them into four groups (marked with different colours on their badges) at the afternoon of the 27.06.2017 and they worked together broken down into two sections.

The goal of the group work was to think about the detailed planning of SH involvement steps in the WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6: stakeholder analysis, identification of ITRBMP subjects and issues to discuss with the SHs. This group work was facilitated by Tamás Cselószki, Laurice Ereifej, Erzsébet Gergely and Beáta Pataki, while plenary phases and the sum up was facilitated by Alexander Zinke.



Group work of participants during the TTP 27.06.2017, Szolnok, Hungary (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

On the second day of the seminar, the most important element of the whole training was performed. Participants were forming groups by countries and prepared a national level SH Involvement Action Plan. All the five countries planned an active involvement of SHs from an early stage. This group work was facilitated by Tamás Cselószki, Laurice Ereifej, Erzsébet Gergely, Beáta Pataki and Alexander Zinke. For group work reports see Annex VI, VII, VIII, IX and X.



Group photo of participants during the TTP, 28.06.2017, Szolnok, Hungary (Photo: Dávid Bogyó)

2.4. Outcomes

In line with the AF, the project partners were trained about the basics, possibilities and methodology of SHI. They have seen good examples of SHI along other rivers from different countries. They have seen the current status of the project milestones and the PIPS and became familiar with the roles and responsibilities of different actors of the SHI (project partners, planner colleagues of the project partners, WWF HU and its subcontractors, SHs etc.). As an outcome, they drafted 5 national level SH Involvement Action Plans (see Annex VI, VII, VIII, IX and X) and agreed on the finalization and implementation of that plan during PP2 and PP3, as it was foreseen in the AF.

2.5. Lessons learned

According to the evaluation sheets disseminated by WWF HU and filled by ca. 37% of the participants most of them were:

- satisfied with the overall structure and content of the TTP;
- highly satisfied with the venue and organization of the TTP;

The average percentage of positive answers to the question “Did you gain new knowledge regarding SHI during the TTP” was about 65 %, which means that the majority of the participants heard about significant, new information – however, about 1/3 of the people already had some kind of knowledge about the topic, which can make the future follow-up process even easier. Most of the participants highlighted the importance of presented good examples of the SHI and the importance of the group works. The organizers believe that the seminar was effective and useful. They learned that more breaks, shorter general and theoretical presentations and more practicing would be even more useful during that kind of trainings.

3. Summary and next steps

WWF HU organized (with the support of OVF/KÖVIZIG/REC) a successful TTP seminar in Szolnok, Hungary from 27 to 28. 06. 2017 with more than 50 participants, representing the most important planners of the ITRBMP.

The participants developed national level action plans on SHI during their work on the updating of the ITRBMP. According to this plans, together with WWF HU (and its subcontractors) and GWP CEE, project partners can start to implement SHI in their own countries and they can use the input during the updating of the ITRBMP. This process starts immediately after the training and lasts during the end of the PP3 as it was foreseen in the AF (Activity 6.5/3). The goals described in the AF according to the TTP were completely fulfilled.

Abbreviations

AF	Application Form
DTP	Danube Transnational Programme
ITRBMP	Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan
KÖVIZIG	Közép Tiszai Vízügyi Igazgatóság (Middle Tisza Water Management Directorate)
OVF	Országos Vízügyi Főigazgatóság (General Directorate of Water Management)
REC	Regional Environmental Center
SH/SHI	Stakeholder/Stakeholder Involvement
SVP	Shared Vision Planning
PP	Project Period
UBA	Umweltbundesamt GmbH
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
WP	Work Package
WWF HU	World Wide Fund for Nature Hungary

List of annexes

Annex Ia, b – Presentations of David Bogyó (a) and Klára Kerpely (b) (WWF HU) on the “JOINTISZA project” and “Draft TTP content” held on the TTP preparatory meeting (12.06.2017, Budapest)

Annex II – List of participants at the TTP preparatory meeting (12.06.2017, Budapest)

Annex III. – TTP HANDOUT: Introduction to the methodology of stakeholder involvement – compiled by WWF HU & Zoltán Ferencz (Monitor Kft., Hungary)

Annex IV. – List of participants at the TTP event (27-28.06.2017, Szolnok)

Annex V. – Final agenda of the TTP event (27-28.06.2017, Szolnok)

Annex VI. – TTP group work report by Tamás Cselószki, Öko-Team Bt., Hungary

Annex VII. – TTP group work report by Laurice Ereifej, WWF Hungary, Hungary

Annex VIII – TTP group work report by Erzsébet Gergely, Hungary

Annex IX. – TTP group work report by Alexander Zinke, Umweltbundesamt GmbH, Austria

Annex X. – TTP group work report by Beáta Pataki, Hungary