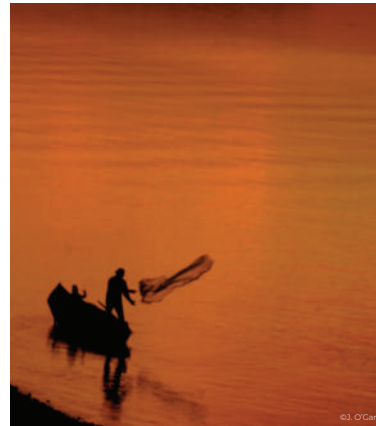


# IDES

Improving water quality in the Danube river and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on Ecosystem Services



Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

Lead partner:  
Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt, Germany

Overall project budget: **1,951,170.00 €**  
ERDF and IPA Contribution: **1,658,494.50 €**  
ERDF Contribution: **1,581,388.45 €**  
IPAI Contribution: **77,106.05 €**

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IDES project aims to develop and implement a transnational integrative ecosystem service approach to improve water quality management and thus, generating win-win-situations for multifunctional floodplains instead of trade-offs.

The IDES tool should enable the national key actors in water quality management to identify the most sustainable measures without neglecting the needs of other sectors. The innovative IDES tool will provide both in pilot areas and on the transnational level an ecosystem service assessment for floodplains that supports sustainable decision making in water and floodplain management.

From its source to its mouth in the Black Sea, the Danube covers a distance of more than 2,800 kilometres, flowing through ten countries, and its water even comes from 20 different countries. Land use in the Danube floodplains varies widely, from agriculture, forestry, industry, mining to urban areas, all having different impacts on water quality and providing more or less diverse ecosystem services. More than 80 million people live in the catchment area of the river, and - just like flora and fauna - are dependent on a good water quality.

"The flow of nutrients in water does not stop at national borders. That is why it is our concern to jointly establish strategies for comprehensive water quality management with this international project. The floodplains along the Danube play a key role in this, as they are able to retain nutrients" explain Prof. Dr. Bernd Cyffka, head of the Floodplain Institute at Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt.

### **During the two-and-a-half-year implementation timeline, the innovative actions will focus on the following**

- » **Analysis of the actual situation** of water quality and its pressures and of ecosystem services in the whole Danube region by geographical explicit models, GIS analysis and literature review. Harmonization of different approaches and joint development of the framework of an ecosystem service evaluation tool (IDES tool) on basis of these enquiries.
- » **Stakeholder workshops** in five pilot areas in Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia and Romania where innovative water quality management concepts will be elaborated and assessed by the newly developed IDES tool. The results and the experience on the implementation of the IDES tool will be summarized in the IDES manual and transferred to key actors of the participating countries during national training courses.
- » **Joint developing of a transnational strategy** providing the operational pathway to integrate the ecosystem service approach in future water quality planning processes. Feedback from a transnational stakeholder workshop will help to fine-tune the IDES tool and strategy in the final phase and to foster its implementation.

### **Project partners**

**Germany** - Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries

**Austria** - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna

**Romania** - University of Bucharest, WWF-Romania, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests

**Hungary** - Middle Tisza District Water Directorate

**Slovenia** - Slovenia Forest Service, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

**Serbia** - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad

**Bulgaria** - Climate, Atmosphere and Water Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

### **Associated strategic partners**

**Germany** - Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection

**Austria** - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austrian Federal Waterway Administration, Danube floodplain National Park

**Romania** - National Institute for Hydrology and Water Management

**Hungary** - General Directorate of Water Management

**Slovenia** - Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia

**Slovakia** - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

**Serbia** - Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province

**Croatia** - International Sava River Basin Commission, WWF Adria - Association for the protection of nature and conservation of biological diversity

**Bulgaria** - Association "Global Water Partnership-Bulgaria"

**Moldavia** - EcoContact P.A.

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