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## Minutes of the kick-off meeting

**Project “Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region”**

**20 – 21 December 2010  
Odessa, Ukraine**

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## Table of content

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1 Opening of the meeting .....	4
2 Adoption of the Agenda .....	5
3 General information on framework and project partners .....	5
3.1 General information on the ENVSEC Initiative .....	5
3.2 ICPDR – Framework for cooperation in the Danube River Basin .....	6
3.3 Centre for Regional Studies – information about the Project activities .....	6
4 . Water Management in the Danube basin and Danube Delta.....	7
4.1 EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management in the Danube Basin and Sub-basin Initiatives7	
4.2 Presentation of River Basin Management in RO – focus Danube Delta .....	7
4.3 Presentation of River Basin Management in UA – focus Danube Delta .....	8
4.4 Presentation of River Basin Management in MD – focus Danube Delta.....	8
4.5 Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta.....	9
5 Joint Monitoring in the Danube basin and Danube Delta.....	9
5.1 Joint Danube Survey .....	9
5.2 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities UA .....	10
5.3 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities RO.....	10
5.4 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities MD.....	11
6 Parallel working sessions.....	11
Working group 1: Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis (DDSA).....	12
Working group 2: Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS) .....	16
7 Final discussion and conclusions .....	17
Final discussion .....	17
Conclusions .....	18

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## Opening of the meeting

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### Speakers:

**Tatiana BELOUS**, Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the ICPDR.

**Nickolai DENISOV**, Representative of the UNEP / ENVSEC regional desk for Eastern Europe.

**Mykola MELENEVSKIY**, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Head of the Ukrainian delegation to the ICPDR.

**Vadim POZHARSKIY**, Head of the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

**Igor STUDENNIKOV**, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies.

**Marian TUDOR**, Researcher at the Ecological Restoration Department of the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Romania.

**Philip WELLER**, Executive Secretary of the ICPDR.

### Summary:

**Igor Studennikov** opened the welcoming session and gave the floor to Mr. Mykola Melenevskiy.

**Mykola Melenevskiy** welcomed the participants on behalf of Ukraine. He expressed the interest of Ukraine in the project and any joint activities in the Danube Delta helping to build a platform for cooperation between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova and achieving mutual understanding and trust between them. “We are the neighbours, – emphasised Mr. Melenevskiy – and the principle of good neighbourhood is important to us and has to be indivisible from relations between the three countries”. He expressed gratitude to the ICPDR and the ENVSEC for this initiative pointing out that the project has concurred with the Ukrainian presidency at the ICPDR which starts in January 2011.

**Philip Weller** welcomed the participants on behalf of the ICPDR. He presented the ICPDR and its activities in the Danube River Basin. The adoption of the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) was pointed out as an important step towards fostering cooperation between the parties of the Danube River Protection Convention. The activities which have been launched in the Danube Delta Sub-basin are important in terms of approaching to the development of an integrated management plan for the area. He also mentioned the EU Strategy for the Danube Region which is crossing with the DRBMP in terms of fostering integration in the management and sustainable use of water resources in the Danube River basin.

**Nickolai Denisov** welcomed the participants on behalf of the ENVSEC initiative and UNEP. Information was provided about ENVSEC and its activities. He focused the participants’ attention on the activities conducted in the Danube Delta area and the Dniester involving Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

**Marian Tudor** provided a welcoming speech on behalf of the Romanian institutions and authorities involved in the project. He emphasised the importance of cooperation between Romania, Ukraine and Moldova. A good basis for the current activity was made due to a series of joint Phare and Tacis projects. He mentioned the project proposal submitted to the Joint Operational Programme “Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova” in the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals hoping that this project will be launched fostering to move towards a trilateral management plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin.

**Tatiana Belous** welcomed the participants on behalf of Moldova and emphasised that the project is important in terms of closer linking of Moldova to the Danube Delta Sub-basin integrated management process.

**Vadim Pozharskiy** welcomed the participants on behalf the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine. He stated that the ministry supports the project and emphasised the importance of cooperation with the ministry and Ukrainian authorities to achieve the project's success. He informed the participants that the ministry had introduced its own procedure of registration of projects related to environmental protection and stated that it is expected that the project will be registered at the ministry.

**Igor Studennikov**, on behalf of the project team, expressed gratitude to the project partners and participants for their contribution to the development of the project idea and the funding proposal, and to ENVSEC/UNECE/UNEP for the support of the project. He pointed out that this project is a natural extension of joint activities which have been implemented in the Danube Delta by the project partners. It was emphasised that this project is the first example of a real joint activity conducted by Ukraine, Romania and Moldova together as before mainly bilateral projects (Romania/Ukraine, Romania/Moldova) were possible due to the rules of the European Commission's cross-border cooperation programmes in the framework of Phare and Tacis. It was stated that the CRS team's approach to the implementation of projects in Ukraine is based on close cooperation with the governments and local authorities to ensure their success and to make them really beneficial for the countries and communities. Therefore the CRS is looking for close involvement in the project activities of authorities, the scientific community and key stakeholders. Concluding he pointed out that this project, in addition, will be helpful in terms of promoting cross-border cooperation in the framework of the Lower Danube EuroRegion.

(Full List of Participants: see ANNEX 1).

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## Adoption of the Agenda

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The meeting agenda was adopted without changes. See ANNEX 2.

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## General information on framework and project partners

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### Speakers:

**Nikolai DENISOV**, Representative of the UNEP / ENVSEC regional desk for Eastern Europe.

**Philip WELLER**, Executive Secretary of the ICPDR.

**Oleg DYAKOV**, Senior researcher of the Centre for Regional Studies, regional project coordinator.

### 3.1 General information on the ENVSEC Initiative

**Nikolai Denisov** informed the participants about the "Environment and security" Initiative (ENVSEC) and its efforts to assess environmental and security risks and address them through promoting international dialogue and regional cooperation involving international organizations: OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, REC and NATO. A lot of projects in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have been launched in the framework of the ENVSEC.



“Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region”

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Good results achieved by ENVSEC in others basins were demonstrated.

It was emphasized that the ENVSEC/ICPDR preparatory project implemented in 2008-2009 (Danube Delta Project I) is a good basis for the ongoing project “Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region” (Danube Delta Project II).

The role of UNEP/UNECE in the Project was explained.

For more information see ANNEX 3.1.

### 3.2 ICPDR – Framework for cooperation in the Danube River Basin

**Philip Weller** provided general information about the ICPDR and its structure and explained its role as a platform for cooperation in the Danube basin, overviewed its activities and projects and outlined the basic principles of its work. The Danube River Basin Management Plan adopted by the contracting parties of the Danube River Protection Convention in February 2010 and the Joint Danube Survey 2 under the umbrella of the ICPDR provided good examples for the ongoing activities in the frame of the Danube Delta Project II.

The ICPDR is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Project in cooperation with UNEP, UNECE and regional partners, including representatives of the three Danube Delta countries (Romania, Ukraine and Moldova).

The Project will establish a basis for the development and enhancement of a coordinated water management policy in the Region based on the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the provisions of the Joint Declaration of the Heads of Delegations from the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine “Towards a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta supporting sustainable development of the region” (Vienna, December 2007).

For more information see ANNEX 3.2.

### 3.3 Centre for Regional Studies – information about the Project activities

**Oleg Dyakov** (senior researcher of the Centre for Regional Studies, regional project coordinator) briefly presented the Centre for Regional Studies (CRS), its mission and activities. Then he made a presentation of the Danube Delta Project II focusing on the project aim, objectives and main activities. He explained the project partners’ role and level of their involvement in the project. (see **ANNEX 3.3 & 3.3.a**).

The general objective of the Project is to improve the cross-border cooperation in the Danube Delta and to build capacities for introducing a river basin approach for the management of natural resources in the Danube Delta Region. Specifically, the project aims at:

- Elaboration of the Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report;
- Carrying out of the Joint Danube Delta Survey and field studies in sub-basin area and coastal zone;
- Developing GIS
- Dissemination of information

The CRS is responsible for the management of the Project at regional (Danube Delta Sub-basin) level.

For more information see **ANNEX 3.3 & 3.3.a** (Presentation & Project Summary).

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## . Water Management in the Danube basin and Danube Delta

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### Speakers:

**Raimund MAIR**, RBM Technical expert of the ICPDR

**Catalin ANTON**, Coordinator of the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Basin Committee of the Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate, National Administration "Apele Romane"

**Ivan CHEROY**, The Head of the Danube River Basin Management Department

**Victor BUJAC**, Manager of the State Enterprise "Basin Water Management Authority", Moldova

**Gerhard WINKELMANN**, Germany Federal Environment Agency

### **4.1 EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management in the Danube Basin and Sub-basin Initiatives**

**Raimund Mair** provided a general overview on the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and experience in its implementation focusing on the following aspects:

- Key principles of the EU WFD
- Implementation of the EU WFD in the Danube River Basin through the ICPDR
- Sub-basins Initiatives in the Danube River Basin
- Coordination and responsibilities of the EU WFD implementation
- Timetable for the EU WFD implementation
- Content/structure of the Danube Basin Analysis Report 2004
- Anthropogenic pressures and significant water management issues

The Danube Delta Analysis Report will be a significant step to the development of a joint Management Plan for the Danube Delta Sub-basin. The process will contribute to the approximation of water management and monitoring practices to the principles and requirements of the EU WFD, and will be a major step in creating harmonization in water management between Romania as an EU member state and its non-EU neighbours, which is essential for improving mutual understanding on specific issues.

For more information see Presentation (ANNEX 4.1)

### **4.2 Presentation of River Basin Management in RO – focus Danube Delta**

**Catalin Anton** briefly presented the River Basin Management of the Romanian part of the Danube Delta in respect to the EU WFD requirements.

Information concerning the Romanian part of the Danube Delta included:

- General characterisation
- Characterisation of surface waters (ecoregions and typology, surface water bodies)

- Identification of pressures and impacts (Point sources of pollution, industrial and agricultural pollution sources, dams, future infrastructure projects, anthropogenic pressures, human impact and risk assessment of environmental objectives)

For more information see (ANNEX 4.2)

#### 4.3 Presentation of River Basin Management in UA – focus Danube Delta

**Ivan Cheroy** described the current situation in the introduction of a river basin management approach in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta sub-basin. Particular attention was paid to:

- Legal framework
- Management plan for the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta Sub-basin: status and implementation
- Responsibilities and activities of the Danube River Management Department and the Danube Basin Council
- The key points of the Report “Integrated assessment of water resources and water management on the area of Danube River Management Department activity”

For more information see (ANNEX 4.3)

#### 4.4 Presentation of River Basin Management in MD – focus Danube Delta

**Victor Bujac** provided information on the steps towards the harmonization of the national legislation of Moldova in the field of water resources management based on the provisions of the EU WFD. Special attention was paid to the state of transboundary cooperation in the field of water management in the Lower Danube-Prut area.

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region was also considered focusing on the priorities and actions in the field of environmental protection and water management. He pointed out five priority actions outlined in the document which are seen as a good background for closer cooperation between Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in the Danube Delta region:

- Prevention of pollution in the Danube basin / ecological safety
- Prevention and reduction of consequences of natural disasters
- Protection of biological diversity and transboundary natural areas
- Mitigation of the impacts of climate change
- Harmonisation of the national legislations in the field of environmental protection and water resources management in the Danube River Basin and strengthening of transboundary cooperation.

Vision of further steps towards river basin management in the Lower Danube area were outlined:

- Strategic planning is needed. Integrated water management plans are seen as essential element of this.
- Delineation of water bodies in compliance with the EU WFD
- Stakeholders’ involvement and public participation
- New water quality standards in monitoring
- Hydrological monitoring (flood risk management and protection, small rivers sanitary flows, water scarcity etc.)
- Developing GIS
- Effective Cooperation between basin neighbouring states – the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania

For more information see (ANNEX 4.4)

## 4.5 Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta

**Gerhard Winkelmann** presented the Danube Delta Project that aims to improve hazard and crisis management in and between Moldova, Ukraine and Romania in the frame of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

The project started in mid December 2010. An official kick-off meeting will take place on 3-4 March 2011 in Bucharest, Romania.

The general objective is to improve cooperation between the three Danube Delta countries on Risk Management. This project would help to prevent industrial accidents and, in the event of an accident, assure effective cooperation in emergency response. This is especially important in view of localization of oil terminals in the Danube Delta in Giurgiulești (Moldova), Galati (Romania) and Reni (Ukraine).

Both projects are going in parallel on the same Danube Delta territory that's why possibility of the future synergy between projects is under consideration now.

For more information see (ANNEX 4.5)

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## Joint Monitoring in the Danube basin and Danube Delta

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### Speakers:

**Franz WAGNER**, Austrian Ministry of the Environment and Chairperson of the ICPDR Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group

**Mikhail KORNILOV**, The Deputy-Head of the Danube Hydrometeorological Observatory

**Irina KURILOVA**, The Head of the chemistry lab of the Danube River Basin Management Department

**Marian TUDOR**, Researcher at the Ecological Restoration Department of the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Romania.

**Gabriel GILKA**, Head of the analytical laboratory, Moldova

## 5.1 Joint Danube Survey

**Franz Wagner** provided a presentation on the Second Joint Danube Survey (JDS 2).

JDS 2, conducted in 2007, was the world's biggest joint river research expedition. Its goal was to produce comparable and reliable information on water quality and pollution for the Danube and some tributaries. The ICPDR coordinated its implementation. Launched on August 14 2007 in Germany, three JDS 2 boats were traveling downstream the Danube, through 10 countries, to the Danube Delta.

The presentation covered general information regarding preparation, coordination and implementation of the cruise manual, emergency scenarios, scientific work, sampling parameters (hydromorphology, biology and chemistry), methods, laboratory analyses, results and reporting public awareness training and harmonization, conclusions and benefits.

The work which was carried out in the frame of JDS 2 (but also in the course of the first joint river expedition – JDS 1) provides an important basis for carrying out a similar exercise for the Danube Delta in the frame of the project.

For more information see (ANNEX 5.1)

## 5.2 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities UA

**Mikhail Kornilov** and **Irina Kurilova** informed on monitoring activities in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta. The types of monitoring conducted in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta are as follows:

- Meteorological monitoring
- Hydrological monitoring
- Hydro-chemical monitoring
- Other joint actions in the field of monitoring and exchange of data

The current legal framework for the exchange of data between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova is stipulated by:

- Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Romanian Governments on cooperation in the field of the management of transboundary waters (1997) and
- Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldavia on use and protection of transboundary waters (1994).

For more information see (ANNEX 5.2 & 5.3)

## 5.3 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities RO

**Marian Tudor** presented the Romanian monitoring program that has become operational since 2006 and which was implemented to meet the requirements of the EU WFD. The subjects of monitoring are surface waters and ground waters as well as protected areas. In Romania monitoring activities include, based on the requirements of the WFD:

- Surveillance monitoring
- Operational monitoring
- Investigation programme

The monitored elements include water, sediments and biota, the quality parameters and minimum monitoring frequencies are based on WFD requirements.

The national authority responsible for the coordination of water monitoring in Romania is the National Administration "Romanian Waters". Water monitoring is implemented through the monitoring programs conducted by the territorial units of "Romanian Waters".

For some water bodies in the Danube Delta monitoring is done by the Danube Delta National Institute of Research and Development – Tulcea - for bodies and coastal water monitoring is done by

Dobrogea-Seaside Water Directorate in cooperation with the National Institute for Research – Marine Development "Grigore Antipa" - Constanta.

For more information see (ANNEX 5.4)

## 5.4 Presentation of Joint Monitoring Activities MD

**Gabriel Gilka** explained how Moldova is involved in the transnational monitoring system, in particular outlining:

- National and international legislation
- Institutional framework for monitoring implementation
- Methods of dissemination of information related to quality of transboundary surface water at the national level
- Monitoring on the Prut, the Danube and the Dniester
- Biological monitoring

The current legal framework for the exchange of data between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova is stipulated by:

- Regulations on observations of water quality of the Prut River in the framework of bilateral cooperation between Romania and Moldova (1992), and
- Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on use and protection of transboundary waters (1994).

The currently used national classification of water quality has been revised according to the 5 water quality classes of the EU WFD.

Recommendations on the improvement of transboundary monitoring were presented.

For more information see (ANNEX 5.5)

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## Parallel working sessions

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Speakers:

**Raimund MAIR**, RBM Technical expert of the ICPDR

**Zsuzsa BUZÁS**, International consultant (Hungary)

**Franz WAGNER**, Austrian Ministry of the Environment and Chairperson of the ICPDR Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group

**Oleg DYAKOV**, Senior researcher of the Centre for Regional Studies, regional project coordinator.

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## Working group 1: Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis (DDSA)

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The elaboration of a Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report (DDSA) is seen as the first essential step towards integrated management of the Danube Delta Sub-basin. The DDSA will significantly improve knowledge about the Danube Delta Region suggesting a comprehensive picture of the situation in the region in the context of the state of the environment, water quality and quantity, human activities in the region and pressures on the environment, the current management of water and natural resources, gaps and opportunities etc.

For doing that, a Danube Delta River Basin Management Expert Group (DD RBM EG) will be created in the frame of the project. The DD RBM EG will be responsible for the collection of materials, including those which were already prepared by other expert groups, available information in the countries, as well as new results obtained in the course of the project, and the coordination as well as compilation of the comprehensive document. A series of DD RBM EG meetings will be held to carry on the project and to ensure coordination.

The draft of the DDSA Report will be discussed and agreed with Romanian, Ukrainian and Moldovan central authorities responsible for environmental issues and water management in the frame of the DD RBM EG meetings. Public consultations will be held within the region of Tulcea (Romania), Izmail (Ukraine) and Kahul (Moldova) to ensure active involvement of the public and stakeholders. The DDSA Report will be published and disseminated in Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Romanian/Moldovan. Derived communication products will be developed to increase the report's impact among the public and decision-makers (popular summary, a collection of maps, electronic versions of all major outputs).

**Zsuzsa Buzás** together with **Raimund Mair** presented specific targets for discussion regarding: WFD requirements, General outline of the DDSA Report, Scale and Specific Danube Delta issues.

A discussion took place on the main elements of the DDSA Report including the following issues:

- The Danube Delta Sub-basin and its international coordination arrangements
- General characteristics of the Danube Delta Sub-basin
- Characterisation of Surface Waters
- Characterisation of Groundwater
- Inventories of Protected Areas
- Public information and consultation

The working session has become the beginning of the development of the DDSA Report. As a result, the participants have discussed and agreed:

1. WFD is the basis
  - EU Water Framework Directive requirements are the basis for the Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report
  - Existing Analyses Reports provide useful basis for activities in the Danube Delta (Danube Analysis Report 2004, Tisza Analysis Report 2007 – also available in Ukrainian language)
  - To follow structure of existing Analyses Reports in elaboration of Danube Delta Report
2. Delineation of project area
  - Further discussion and decision on delineation of project area and borders of “Danube Delta Sub-basin” needed in the frame of the Danube Delta River Basin Management Expert Group (to be established) based on WFD requirements

### 3. Scale

- Highlighted that scale of water categories (rivers, lakes, groundwater bodies, ...) to be addressed on sub-basin level should be in range between scale for Danube basin (e.g. 4.000 km<sup>2</sup> for rivers) and scale on national level (e.g. 10 km<sup>2</sup> for rivers)
- Submission of national information about catchment areas of rivers and area of lakes was agreed as basis for decision on threshold values for waters to be included
- Delineation of groundwater bodies considered to be challenging because of complex and unique hydrogeological features – further discussions have to take place

### 4. Identification of water categories

- Various water categories exist in Sub-basin area (rivers, lakes, transitional-, coastal waters, groundwater)
- Water category identification accomplished in Romania due to legal requirement as EU Member State, ongoing/partly accomplished in Ukraine and intended in Moldova
- Accomplishment of identification of water categories and typology prerequisite for subsequent steps, including HMWB and AWB designation
- Agreement to collect information on achieved progress regarding performed steps in the countries
- Basic steps of categorisation, typology, water body delineation has to be focus of work in the beginning

### 5. Data

- Use data structure / data templates in place based on work performed in the frame of ICPDR (e.g. data templates on pressures)
- Data collection on drivers and pressure (e.g. land use, urban wastewater treatment, industrial discharges, etc.) seems to be possible already at early stage and should be performed accordingly
- Discrepancies on information submitted by countries to ICPDR database regarding trans-boundary waters were highlighted and if possible should be solved.

### 6. Significant Water Management Issues and relevant topics

- SWMIs for Danube River Basin were highlighted (organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution, hydromorphological alterations)
- Discussion on additional SWMIs or important topics for Danube Delta to be addressed in report. Role of wetlands, biodiversity and pressures from tourism and fisheries were mentioned

### 7. Timeframe and work plan

January 2011	<p>Establishment of Danube Delta RBM Expert Group, dissemination of project related information, preparation of contact list with experts from involved organisations and representatives from RO, UA, MD</p> <p>Work Program</p> <p>Decision on delineation of sub-basin area</p> <p>Decision on experts who perform work on categorisation, typology and delineation of water bodies</p>
January 2011 to April 2011	<p>Development of draft Table of Content for Report</p> <p>Agreement on list of surface- and groundwater bodies to be dealt with on the sub-basin level</p> <p>Accomplishment of water categorisation, typology and water body delineation</p> <p>Definition of data and information requirements</p>
Jan 2011 to April 2011	<p>Discussion on methodologies for data assessment and clarification on data availability and gap analysis</p> <p>Development of draft data templates for data delivery</p> <p>Exchange with and input to Joint Danube Delta Survey working group (data availability and data requirements, pressures, ...)</p>
April 2011 to October 2011	<p>Collection of readily available information</p> <p>First preliminary drafts for report chapters</p> <p>Finalisation of data templates for data delivery</p> <p>Agreement on methodology for data assessment</p> <p>Agreement on Danube Delta specific issues</p>
October 2011	Finalisation data templates and agreement on assessment methods
End 2011 / Beginning 2012	Finalisation data collection, including information from JDDS
Spring 2012	Finalisation draft report
(Late) spring 2012	Planned public information and consultation activities in Tulcea (RO), Izmail (UA) and Kahul (MD)
Aug 2012	Deadline finalisation Danube Delta Sub-basin Analysis Report
April 2011	1st meeting Danube Delta River Basin Management Group
October 2011	2nd meeting Danube Delta River Basin Management Expert Group
2012	2 meetings (t.b.d.)?
2011 / 2012	Additional meetings with small "core group" to perform work as required, e.g. meeting of small "core group" already before April 2011

8. Working arrangements (issues t.b.d.)

- Nomination of appropriate experts and members of the Danube Delta River Basin Management Expert Group (DD RBM EG) – ideally experts who have already been involved in WFD implementation and observer organisations (stakeholders, NGOs, ...)
- Nomination of national coordinators for each country who are the main national contact points, organising work on nat. level

- Drafting of chapters - country contributions from RO, UA, MD and merging information by CRS
- Chairing the meetings - shared responsibility of the countries

For details see (ANNEX 6.1)

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## Working group 2: Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS)

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An important component of the project will be field activities to collect original data to fill remaining knowledge gaps, but also to engage the countries in joint collection and verification of the data that can form an improved data basis for future needs. Specifically, a field study Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS) will be conducted following the approach of the Joint Danube Survey (i.e. JDS 2, 2007), including two main parts: survey of the Danube Delta itself and its coastal areas (main Danube branches, internal lakes of the delta, mouth of the Prut River) and field studies in the sub-basin area.

Surveys of the delta, its coast and the connected inland areas will be conducted in synergy and coordination with the Joint Ukrainian-Romanian monitoring programme in the Danube Delta (under development), and its itinerary will be developed in order to maximise synergies and avoid any possible duplication of efforts. The development and implementation of the JDDS programme will facilitate a harmonization of monitoring systems in the Danube Delta.

The key objective of the Joint Danube Delta Survey (JDDS) is to carry out an international ship survey that would produce comparable and reliable information on water quality for the whole area of the Danube Delta on a short-term basis. The outcomes of the JDDS should focus on harmonization and collection of information needed for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

To facilitate the working group discussion Franz Wagner together with Oleg Dyakov provided a presentation on the visions of the JDDS based on Project targets and constraints including the limited budget. The following topics were discussed:

1. Survey logistics:
  - Oleg Dyakov (Central of Regional Studies) was nominated as the Technical coordinator of the JDDS;
  - Mickhail Kornilov (UA), Marian Tudor (RO) and Gabriel Gilka (MD) have been suggested by the Working Group as National Coordinators (to be confirmed). At the same time Boris Alexandrov, who was unable to attend the event but was made familiar with the results of the meeting, has suggests to nominate two national coordinators: one for marine and one for the riverine part of the JDDS.
  - JDDS core team will be nominated based upon proposals of the national coordinators
  - JDDS will be done by Joint (Danube River and Delta branches (Prut – Chilia-Delta)) and National Teams (lakes, tributaries and coastal waters)
  - 3 vessels for JDDS are available from UA side. Number of vessels from RO and MD are under consideration. To be discussed by the national coordinators
2. Selection of sampling sites will be based on water body delineation and will be under responsibility of national coordinators in coordination with the DD RBM Group. Types include rivers, lakes and coastal waters:
  - Danube: whole length, all water bodies
  - Lakes: selection of types and countries
  - Tributaries: one exemplary study

3. Selection of quality elements / methods:

- The JDDS will be focused on substances that exceeded limits in the JDS2 and substances relevant for countries. Reduction of elements could be done if necessary due to the project budget limitation
- Hydromorphology has to be included into JDDS and to be done in coordination with the DD RBM Group
- All WFD- Biological Quality Elements for status assessment are important. The list should be realistic and will be prepared and agreed by the national coordinators

4. Analysis will be based on harmonized data set including one national specialist for one particular parameter and parallel sampling

5. Report preparation – its content will be drafted and suggested by the national coordinators

6. Public participation: Working Group stressed the importance of public participation for JDDS and will be under responsibility of Technical coordinator.

7. Work program – Timeplan

- A few meetings of the JDDS core team are needed
- Draft Cruise Manual has to be developed until February 2011
- Technical issues pertaining to organization of JDDS have to be finalised until April 2011

For details see (**ANNEX 6.2**)



## Final discussion and conclusions

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### Final discussion

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**Olga Lysiuk** requested a clarification on how the hydromorphological component will be reflected in the JDDS.

**Oleg Dyakov & Franz Wagner stated that** the hydromorphological component is very important for the survey. The level of hydromorphological assessment will be clarified within the JDDS EG.

**Alexei Yaroshewich** mentioned that he highly supports the idea of including the hydromorphological component in the JDDS. Recently the EU standard “The hydromorphological standards for the river quality assessment” has been adopted. We can follow it.

**Anna Tsvetkova** highlighted the importance of public participation in the preparation of the DDSA Report and the JDDS just from the beginning of the Project. She suggested to consider the ICPDR’s experience, methodologies and instruments for public participation used in the process of development and agreeing the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

**Oleg Dyakov** confirmed that public participation in preparing the DDSA Report and conducting the JDDS is very important and included in the Project activities.

**Franz Wagner** supported the idea of the promotion of the JDDS.

**Gerhard Winkelman** proposed to take into consideration an assessment of potentially dangerous units such as ports Galati (RO), Reni (UA) and Djurdjulesty (MD) as potential sources of transboundary water pollution during the development of the JDDS Program. Mr. Winkelman will present proposals for this particular issue.

**Raimund Mair** requested a clarification on what was discussed regarding the methods and sampling during the JDDS cruise and if it will involve two boats (UA&RO) and a mixed team of UA-RO-MD experts on the two boats.

**Oleg Dyakov & Marian Tudor** stated that the JDDS cruise would consist of riverine and marine parts. The riverine part of the JDDS cruise will be carried out by an international group of experts from Romania, Ukraine and Moldova on the boards of one Ukrainian and one Romanian vessel. Sampling will be conducted accordingly to a single coherent list of parameters and an agreed methodology. It will include a survey of the Danube and Kiliya branch from the city of Reni to the seaside. At the same time national teams in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova will carry out of JDDS on the national water bodies (tributaries, lakes) using vehicles and small motor boats.

It is expected that marine part of the JDDS cruise will be carried out by Romanian and Ukrainian vessels. Agreed single methodology and parameters will be used.

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## Conclusions

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**Nicolay Denisov** appreciated the contribution of the ICPDR and representatives of the Secretariat to the implementation of the Project and participation in the working session of the kick-off meeting. Mr. Denisov stressed the significance of the WFD as a platform for development of the DDSA. At the same time, it is very important to take into account the particularities of the Danube Delta. He supported the promotion of the JDDS through Facebook and other social networks.

**Tatiana Belous** on behalf of the Moldavian partners noted the support of the Project activities from Moldavian side. She emphasised the need for better cross-border cooperation in water management and exchange of information in the Danube Delta Region.

**Marian Tudor** on behalf of the Romanian partners expressed the value of the Project for the Danube Delta and noted the importance of the kick-off meeting for clarification of the Project activities.

**Olga Lysiuk** on behalf of the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management expressed the importance of the Project for improving water management in the Ukrainian Danube Region following WFD principals. The successful project results could be used as a good practice example for other river basins in Ukraine. The State Committee for Water Management and other state institutions are ready to be involved in the project and to provide technical, methodological and organizational support for its successful implementation.

**Philip Weller** emphasised the significance of the Project for sustainable management of the Danube delta as a very important and unique part of the Danube basin. Mr. Weller expressed support of the ICPDR to the implementation of the Project activities. He stressed the importance of the contribution from the Danube Delta countries in order to achieve a successful project implementation. This is of particularly significance taking into account the circumstance of limited funds for the Project. Clarification of the national coordinators for the Project activities are crucial for a good start of the Project.



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"Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta region"

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Mr. Weller expressed his gratitude to all participants and organizers for their great cooperation and support.

**Oleg Dyakov** on behalf of the hosting organisation expressed his appreciation to the meeting participants for their fruitful work and effective cooperation.